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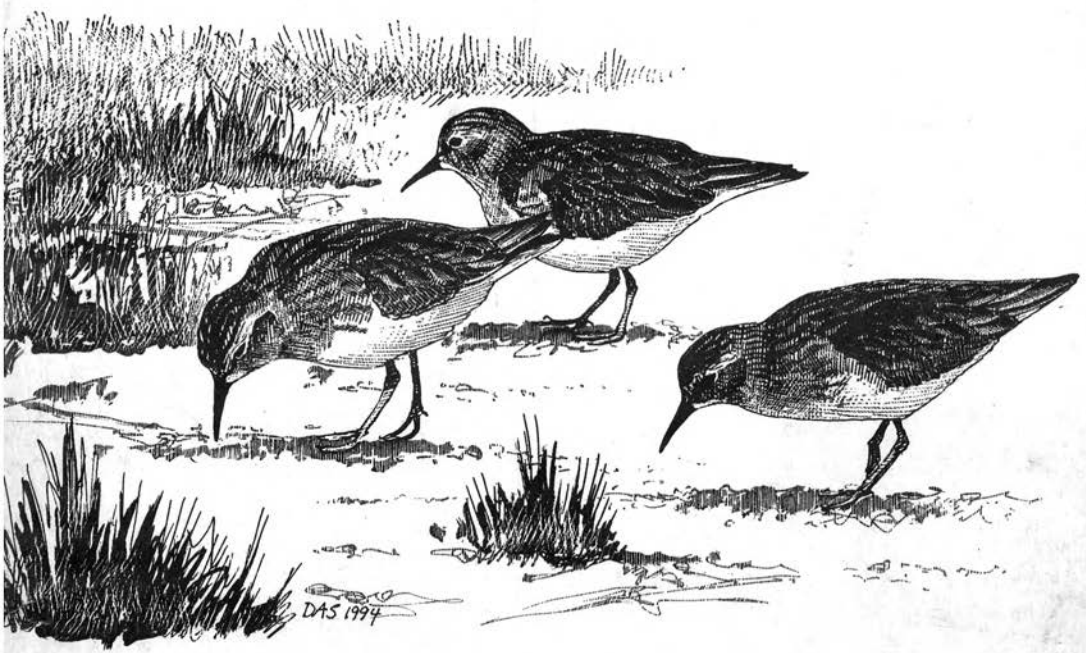

HOT BIRDS

While it appeared in Hot Birds in the last issue, the first Massachusetts **Eurasian Kestrel** since the 1880s deserves another look. This image of the Chatham bird in flight was taken by Shawn Carey on May 5, 2002.

A **Pacific Golden-Plover** was discovered by Rick Heil on April 21 on Plum Island and lingered long enough to satisfy many visitors. Tom Carrolan took this image on April 21.

A first state record **Lazuli Bunting** was found and photographed by Edie Ray on Nantucket on May 13.

A very cooperative **Prothonotary Warbler** spent the spring at Triphammer Pond in Hingham, singing incessantly. Many birders and photographers visited, but no female Prothonotaries were reported. This image was captured by Shawn Carey on June 1, 2002.

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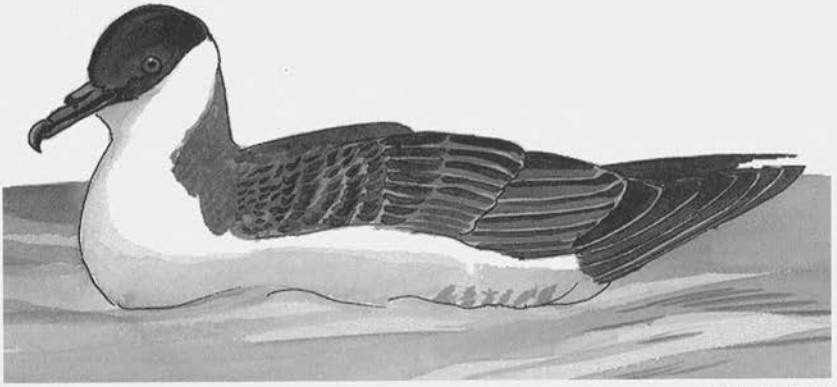

GEORGE C. WEST

Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal — to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds

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Birding Baxter State Park

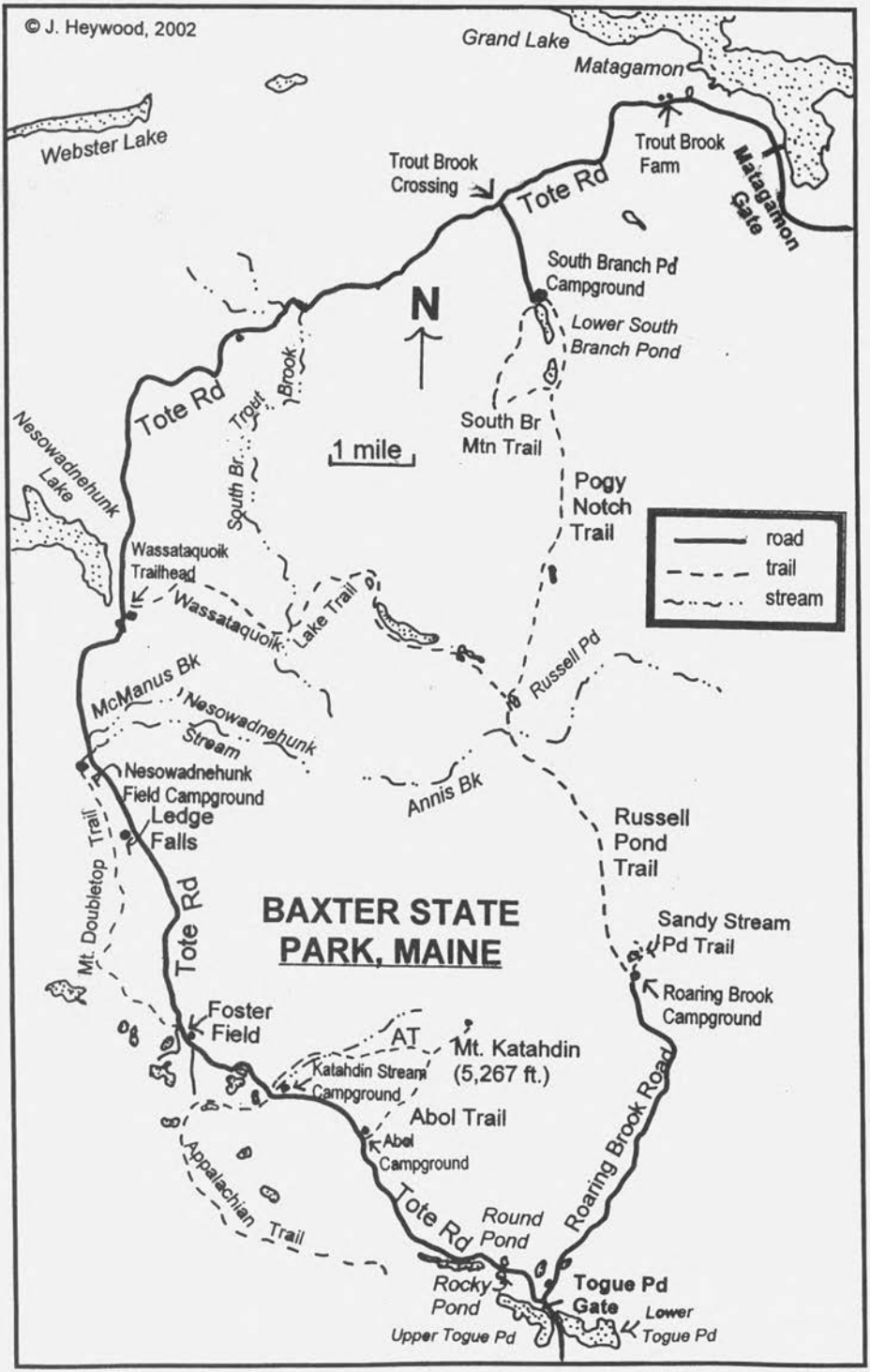
Jim Sweeney

On August 31, 1846, Henry David Thoreau left Concord, Massachusetts, via railroad and steamboat, for Bangor and the backwoods of Maine. His destination was Mount Katahdin, Maine's highest peak and enduring symbol of the northern forest. Today access to the wilderness surrounding Mount Katahdin is much more convenient than it was in Thoreau's day. However, the pristine conditions and natural splendor, so beautifully described in his writings, remain unchanged after more than 150 years.

Thoreau made three trips to the Maine woods from 1846 to 1857. A list of the birds he saw on his last visit appears as an appendix in his book *The Maine Woods*. In addition, Thoreau's book provides the reader with florid descriptions of the ethnohistory and sociology of the region in the mid-nineteenth century.

The wilderness below Mount Katahdin lies within the boundaries of Baxter State Park, a 200,000-acre preserve bestowed to the people of Maine by former governor Percivel P. Baxter. The land was purchased in twenty-eight parcels and donated to the state between 1931 and 1962. Baxter State Park covers an enormous area compared with other state parks in New England. The Tote Road, the park's main access road, is primitive and traverses spruce-fir forest, stands of paper birch, moss-clad glacial erratics, gushing streams, and quaking bogs. In some places, when two cars meet on the Tote Road, one vehicle may be required to pull off to the side to accommodate the other. There are no trash receptacles in the park. Visitors are required to carry out what they carry into the woods. Moreover, the amenities frequently associated with family-style camping (e.g., snack bar, arcade) are absent. In short, Baxter State Park is designed for people interested in a pristine experience of the natural world.

The aim of this article is to provide the reader with a sampling of some of the more productive birding areas within Baxter State Park. The species accounts for each site should not be construed as an exhaustive list. Some areas containing the "right" habitat have consistently failed to produce the expected species on more than ten trips to the park. Conversely, unanticipated species have been observed by the author on just about every trip to the park over the past eight years. Therefore, the species described at each site are the ones most likely to be encountered from May to September. The best time to bird the park is from late May to early June, when most of the neotropical migrants have returned to their breeding grounds. Of course, the reason these birds have risked predation, starvation, and exhaustion during their arduous flights is to exploit the swarms of insects that abound at this time of year. Black flies and midges have the capacity to diminish one's enjoyment of spectacular wilderness encounters. The best way to combat these pests is to don a head net at all times.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Grand Lake
Matagamon
Webster Lake
Trout Brook Crossing
Tote Rd
Trout Brook Farm
Matagamon Gate
South Branch Pd Campground
N
Lower South Branch Pond
Tote Rd
South Br. Trout Brook
South Br Mtn Trail
1 mile
Nesowadnehunk Lake
Pogy Notch Trail
road
trail
stream
Wassataquoik Trailhead
Wassataquoik Lake Trail
Russell Pd
McManus Bk
Nesowadnehunk Stream
Nesowadnehunk Field Campground
Ledge Falls
Annis Bk
Russell Pond Trail
Mt. Doubletop Trail
Tote Rd
BAXTER STATE PARK, MAINE
Sandy Stream Pd Trail
Roaring Brook Campground
Foster Field
AT
Mt. Katahdin (5,267 ft.)
Katahdin Stream Campground
Abol Trail
Abol Campground
Appalachian Trail
Tote Rd
Roaring Brook Road
Round Pond
Rocky Pond
Togue Pd Gate
Lower Togue Pd
Upper Togue Pd

Because Baxter State Park is so vast, a visitor should plan to spend several days birding this area. A drive from the Togue Pond Gate at the south end to the Matagamon Gate in the northeast corner of the park can take up to two hours. There are many places to stop to view birds between the areas discussed in this article. Stop and explore the pockets of interesting habitat along the road. The birding may be relatively slow for miles, but frequent changes from northern hardwood to boreal forest may yield species such as Black-backed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, and Spruce Grouse. The drive along the Tote Road invariably affords a sighting of Ruffed Grouse.

Sandy Stream Pond

This is one of the most popular areas in the park. Photographers have unparalleled access to Katahdin's aesthetic nuances from the boardwalk at the pond's edge. Naturalists of every stripe can find something of interest in, on, or around this body of water. Furthermore, the pond is one of the best locations in the park for viewing moose. Look for them as they feed on aquatic plants in the early morning and early evening. From the Togue Pond Gate take Roaring Brook Road on the right (at the fork) for 8.1 miles to Roaring Brook Campground. The lot at this campground is large and accommodates day-use hikers who wish to ascend Mount Katahdin from the east. Birding is best at this location before and after mid-August, since there are fewer visitors.

Philadelphia Vireos can be found near the parking lot of Roaring Brook Campground. If you are fortunate enough to secure a campsite, you may have the opportunity to view this species in the paper birch crowns directly overhead. Bird the campground carefully since Blue-headed Vireo, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, American Redstart, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Least Flycatcher are reliable here. Next, take the Sandy Stream Trail out to the pond. The trailhead is at the north end of the parking lot (near the Ranger's quarters). The trail forks only a short distance from the trailhead. Be sure to stay on the Sandy Stream Pond Trail (look for the short bridge over Roaring Brook).

JIM SWEENEY

Mt. Katahdin from Sandy Stream Pond (May, 1998)

This section of the trail usually provides excellent views of Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, and Black-throated Green warblers, and White-throated Sparrow. In late May and early June, the songs of these last two species resonate throughout the dense, wet forest. Continuing along the trail, look for a boardwalk crossing a small cedar swamp. Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Northern Waterthrushes can be seen and heard. From this

location it is only a short walk to the edge of the pond. In the spruce-fir forest surrounding the pond there is a good chance of observing Magnolia and Yellow-rumped warblers, Cedar Waxwings, and, occasionally, Boreal Chickadees. Look for Lincoln's Sparrows closer to the pond's rocky shore.

Between moose sightings, be sure to look for Ring-necked Ducks and Common Mergansers on the pond. Spotted Sandpipers are sometimes seen on the rocks at the pond's edge. For those birders with a botanical bent, the rocky edge of Sandy Stream Pond is a good place to find the carnivorous pitcher plant.

Round and Rocky Ponds

From the Togue Pond Gate take the Tote Road (Perimeter Road on some maps) on the left at the fork for approximately 1.5 miles. The Tote Road rises above Round Pond to the north and Rocky Pond to the south. There are places to park on the side of the Tote Road if you continue over the ridge toward the northwest sides of the ponds. Park at this location, and walk back up the ridge. There are several places at the top of the ridge that afford great views of Mount Katahdin (to the north) and bird activity on the shores of both ponds. This is a reliable spot to observe Common Loons. Scan the shores of these ponds for Great Blue Heron and American Bittern. Blue-headed and Red-eyed vireos, and Yellow-rumped Warblers are easy to locate in the trees on this ridge.

Nesowadnehunk Field Campground

Continuing north on the Tote Road, travel past the popular Ledge Falls swimming area until you arrive at Nesowadnehunk Field Campground (pronounced Nah-So-Dah-Hunk). There is a parking area located in front of the Ranger's quarters. Be sure to bird the field and edges to the east of the Ranger's quarters. The field has produced sightings of Merlin on a few occasions. Occasionally, black bears are seen ambling across this clearing. Golden Eagles have been observed from this location too. Reportedly, this species has bred on the inaccessible mountain cliffs in the area.

JIM SWEENEY

Nesowadnehunk Field

The spruces behind the Ranger's quarters can be very productive. Look for Evening Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, and Pine Siskin in this area. Furthermore, the small clearing northwest of the Ranger's quarters is sometimes teeming with warblers. Later in the summer there are many immature birds quietly skulking in this densely vegetated spot. Species

observed with some regularity include Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackpoll, Northern Parula, Magnolia, Canada, and Black-and-white warblers.

The campsites at this location are situated at the edge of Nesowadnehunk Stream. Lean-to sites are available for those who prefer awakening to the heavy scent of balsam fir. Philadelphia and Blue-headed vireos, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and a variety of warblers can be seen in the vicinity of the camping area. A short hike along the nearby Mount Doubletop Trail may yield sightings of Winter Wren, Veery, and Hermit Thrush. The exceptionally tame Spruce Grouse has been reported from the Nesowadnehunk Campground and environs. Crepuscular birding may provide a glimpse of American Woodcock on the Tote Road north and south of the campground.

There are several interesting mammals in addition to the black bear that are sometimes observed at this location. Coyote, bobcat, and pine marten have been reported in the immediate area. Watch for moose at twilight on the Tote Road north of the campground.

Tote Road South of Nesowadnehunk Lake

Although Nesowadnehunk Lake actually lies outside the boundary of the park, the dense patches of spruce forest just south of the lake's southeastern shore provide excellent opportunities to observe boreal species from the park's Tote Road. About 1.5 miles south of the Wassataquoik Trailhead, there is a small parking area near the entrance to an unmarked dirt road (on the left side of the Tote Road). Park and walk down the road until you reach Nesowadnehunk Stream. Look for Boreal Chickadees in the spruces in this area.

When you return to the Tote Road, walk slowly along the edge of the road listening for the tapping of a Black-backed Woodpecker. In August of 2001, a walk along this stretch of road produced excellent views of a Three-toed Woodpecker.

In the early 1980s, the spruce-fir forest in this part of the park sustained heavy mortality as a result of a spruce budworm outbreak spanning the years 1970-1985. By 1987, all the mature fir and most of the spruce along the Tote Road, from McManus Brook (near Nesowadnehunk Field Campground) to a distance 1600 meters to the north, had died from spruce budworm defoliation, bark beetle infestation, and windthrow (Oliveri 1993).

Since the mid-1980s Black-backed Woodpeckers have not been as common in northern Maine. It appears that these woodpeckers had benefited from the high fir mortality resulting from the spruce budworm outbreak. In the early 1980s, Black-backed Woodpeckers were observed, in the forest along the Tote Road described above, removing the bark from standing dead fir trees to feed on insects. But by 1987 most of these dead firs had been blown down or had lost their bark, and the Black-backed Woodpecker had disappeared from the area. Interestingly, during the same year, Three-toed Woodpeckers were observed foraging on live spruce trees infested with bark beetles along this same section of the Tote Road. The bark beetle infestation was a consequence of the spruce budworm outbreak that affected so much of the park and surrounding areas (Oliveri 1993).

In 1982 Cape May Warblers reportedly held territory in the spruce-fir forest north of McManus Brook (Oliveri 1993). Cape May Warbler populations fluctuate more than the populations of most other warbler species. Throughout its range, the highest breeding densities for this species are reached during spruce budworm outbreaks. Like the Black-backed and Three-toed woodpeckers, this warbler's presence, in the area described, appears to have been connected to the spruce budworm outbreak of the early 1980s.

Opposite the Wassataquoik Trailhead there is a small parking area with a trail leading to Nesowadnehunk Lake. The parking area is a short distance from the park boundary. Birding along the Tote Road in this area can be rewarding. Check the spruces for Boreal Chickadees and Golden-crowned Kinglets. Listen for the raucous *caw* of the Common Ravens overhead.

Trout Brook Crossing

Located near the access road for South Branch Pond Campground, Trout Brook Crossing is a picnic area that warrants a visit. From the nearby bridge, look for Belted Kingfishers, Barn Swallows, and Spotted Sandpipers. Cross the bridge and scrutinize the birches and maples for Northern Parulas, American Redstarts, Nashville Warblers, Cedar Waxwings, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Evening Grosbeaks, and Ruffed Grouse may be seen on the stretch of Tote Road for three miles east and west of this location.

South Branch Pond Campground

From the Tote Road take the access road south from Trout Brook Crossing. Keep a careful watch on the road ahead of you, since Evening Grosbeaks have been sighted here. The campground is located at the northern end of Lower South Branch Pond. This camping area is scenic and provides access to low-impact hiking trails close to the pond. The day hiker's parking lot is a good place to start looking for birds. Least Flycatchers, Red-eyed and Blue-headed vireos, American Redstarts, and Yellow-rumped and Black-throated Green warblers are easy to find in this area. As you approach the pond, look for Philadelphia Vireos and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. The campground's beach is an excellent spot for viewing Common Loons and, closer to twilight, Common Nighthawks.

The campground is a popular destination for park visitors. Interesting birds can be seen and heard from the comfort of your site. At night, Great Horned Owls may compete with the eerie calls of Common Loons. At dawn, the scratching of a Ruffed Grouse, a few feet from your tent, may alert you to the cacophony of bird song emanating from the treetops. Extensive hiking is not required to experience an impressive array of avian sightings at this location.

If a low-impact hike is desired, take the South Branch Mountain Trail (west of the beach area) over South Branch Ponds Brook. Search the grassy shoreline of the pond for Lincoln's Sparrows. Common Yellowthroats can be found in the tangles along the edge of the brook. Follow the trail as it enters dense stands of birch, maple,

and spruce. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are easily detected at this location. Look for the neatly aligned sap "wells" of this species in the paper birches near the trail.

A short hike along this trail is likely to yield a Winter Wren. Listen for the mellifluous rattle of this species in the ravine near the trail. Furthermore, Wood Thrushes, Ovenbirds, Hairy Woodpeckers, and Ruffed Grouse may be observed without hiking too far from Lower South Branch Pond. The hiking becomes much more difficult as you travel farther from the pond.

Mount Katahdin

Mount Katahdin (elevation 5267 feet) is the highest mountain in Maine and one of the highest in New England. The mountain is the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail and should not be approached casually. If you decide to hike Mount Katahdin, start early, since the entire trip may require a significant amount of time depending on pace, stamina, and weather conditions.

American Pipits breed above timberline. Look for this bird in the alpine plateau known as the Tableland. The Tableland is situated on the northwest slope of Baxter Peak and is one of only two known breeding sites for this species in New England. While exploring this habitat, you may be fortunate enough to see a gray-brown butterfly of the genus *Oeneis*. Lepidopterists know this butterfly as a subspecies of Polixenes Arctic (*Oeneis polixenes katahdin*). Usually found on moist tundra, this arctic species is geographically isolated at the top of Mount Katahdin.

JIM SWEENEY

Mt. Katahdin from the Abol Trail

The Appalachian Trail, at higher elevations, is a good place to look for Gray Jays. In general, the park's interior trails are the most reliable places to see this species (the same is true for Spruce Grouse). The Appalachian Trail approaches Mount Katahdin from the west and can be accessed from Katahdin Stream Campground. On some maps this section of the Appalachian Trail is called Hunt Trail. At Abol Campground (southeast of Katahdin Stream Campground) there is access to Mount Katahdin from the southwest. The Abol Trail is steep and rocky and requires much physical exertion to ascend. The trail becomes more difficult to negotiate as you approach treeline. Please remember to register at the Ranger's quarters before hiking the mountain. Mount Katahdin can be ascended from the east as well. Several trails can be accessed from Roaring Brook Campground. These trails are popular with day hikers during midsummer, and the parking lot is sometimes full by midmorning.

Directions and Important Information

To reach Togue Pond Gate, take I-95 to Exit 56 in the town of Medway. From the exit ramp, travel west on Route 157-11 into the town of Millinocket. Look for signs for Baxter State Park as you approach downtown Millinocket. Follow Golden Road (the road is a short distance from the downtown area) for approximately sixteen miles to the fork with Millinocket Road on the right. Be sure to follow the signs to the park entrance. If you stay on Golden Road past the fork, you will arrive at a toll booth. This section of Golden Road does not provide access to the park. However, for a fee of several dollars, you may travel on this section to reach productive birding sites southwest of the park.

To enter the park at Matagamon Gate (from the north), stay on I-95 North to Exit 58 in the town of Sherman. Take Route 11 (north) to the town of Patten. Once you reach Patten, look for Route 159 North, a left turn off Route 11. Follow Route 159 to the village of Shin Pond. From there, take Grand Lake Road to the entrance of the park at Matagamon Lake.

JIM SWEENEY

Mt. Katahdin from Sandy Stream Pond

Baxter State Park is open from May 15 to October 15. Moreover, the park is open for day use (depending on weather conditions) from October 15 to December 1 and from April 1 to May 15. A permit is required for winter use from December 1 to April 1. There is a year-round fee of eight dollars to enter the park.

If you visit between May and September, expect some rain. If you plan to hike above treeline, keep a close watch on the forecast. The weather at Baxter State Park is extremely variable. Be sure to have enough fuel, food, and supplies before entering the park. There are supply stores a short distance from Togue Pond Gate (south) and Matagamon Gate (north), but the drive to these locations from most places in the park is far from convenient.

There are ten campgrounds in the park. Eight of these are accessible by vehicle, and two are backcountry (hike-in only). Because summer camping at Baxter State Park is so popular, reservations are recommended. There are several sites within the park designed for group camping. To make reservations, contact the park headquarters at 64 Balsam Drive, Millinocket, ME 04462, phone 207-723-5140, or visit <http://www.baxterstateparkauthority.com>. The park headquarters are located at the intersection of Central and Sycamore streets in Millinocket. You will see the headquarters on the left as you travel west on Route 157-11. If you pass the IGA supermarket on the left, you have gone too far.

If camping is not an option, there are accommodations on Route 157-11 in Millinocket. There are also several motels in the towns of Patten and Sherman. The motel rates at these last two locations are reasonable, but access to the park may require more than an hour of driving.

For rare-bird information, contact the Maine Rare Bird Alert (operated by the Maine Audubon Society) at 207-781-2332. A good map to have while birding around the park is DeLorme's *Map and Guide of Baxter State Park and Katahdin*. This map is available at most stores and gas stations in Millinocket and other towns near the park.

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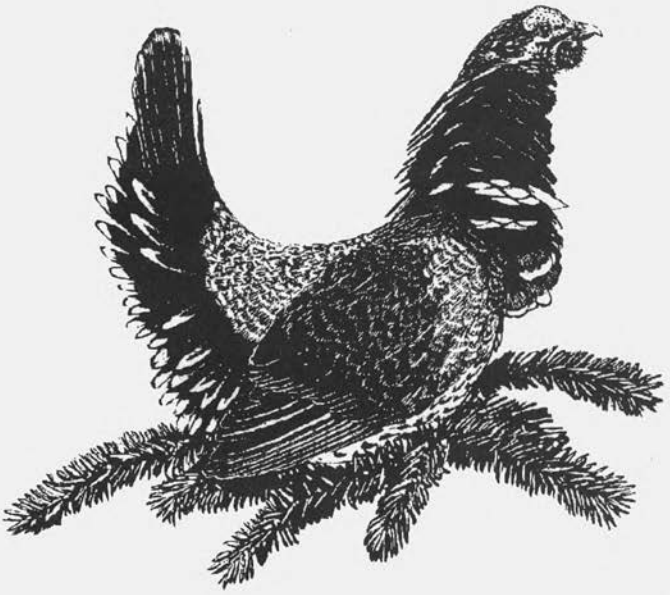
An avid birder since 1980, ***Jim Sweeney****, of Providence, RI, has birded extensively in New England, the mid-Atlantic states, and Arizona. He wishes to thank Jean Hoekwater, park naturalist, and John Slonina for helpful comments regarding the natural history of the park. This is his first article for* Bird Observer.



GEORGE C. WEST

Interspecific and Intraspecific Aggression Among Foraging Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs

William Moskoff

Introduction

Studies of shorebird foraging behavior have largely ignored the implications of mixed-species social associations (but see Burger et al. 1979 and Barnard and Thompson 1985), even though shorebird social organization during migration differs from that of the breeding period (Recher and Recher 1969). Here I examine the influence of intra- and interspecific foraging associations between Lesser Yellowlegs and Greater Yellowlegs on their aggressive interactions during their southward migration. Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) and Greater Yellowlegs (*T. melanoleuca*) are two shorebirds well known to associate with each other on both their wintering grounds (Dott 1985, Bolster and Robinson 1990, Hayes and Fox 1991) and during migration (Burger et al. 1977, Paulson 1993). From one perspective, the association between the yellowlegs species may seem surprising in view of the substantial overlap in their behavior and habitat use. They use similar foraging techniques, pecking for their prey, making repeated stabs at the water surface, rather than probing in mud or sand for their prey (Zusi 1968, Paulson 1993). They also consume many of the same foods: snails (*Physa* sp.), dragonflies (*Epicordulia princeps* and *Erythemis simplicicollis*), soldier flies (*Odontomyia* sp.), and predaceous diving beetles (*Agabus disintegratus* and *Hygrotus* sp.) (Brooks 1967). In addition, based on studies of migratory shorebird interactions in California, Recher and Recher (1969) predicted that morphologically similar shorebird species such as the yellowlegs should be interspecifically aggressive.

The similarity in prey, foraging microhabitats, and foraging techniques between the two yellowlegs species creates the basis for potential competitive interactions. However, the two species may be different enough in size that competition for food does not occur (Abrams 1975, 1983); Greaters (about 170 g) are about twice the mass of Lessers (about 80 g) (Cramp and Simmons 1983). There is also a difference in absolute bill size, suggesting that the two species may partition prey based upon size. The fact that they regularly differ in the use of vertical habitat suggests that the two species encounter a different category of prey at least part of the time. This is not unusual for species that share the same horizontal habitat (Schoener 1974): for example, in south central Alaska, Greater Yellowlegs eat many small fish, whereas Lesser Yellowlegs concentrate on small invertebrates (L. Tibbitts, pers. comm.).

Study Area and Method

The study was conducted at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on Assateague Island, Virginia (37° 52' N, 75° 22' W), approximately 70 km northeast of Norfolk, Virginia, in July and August 1995, 1996, and 1997. Birds were

observed either through 10 x 40 Zeiss binoculars or a tripod-mounted scope with a 25X lens.

During this three-year period, the foraging activities of 121 Lesser Yellowlegs and 83 Greater Yellowlegs were studied. Observations on focal individuals were made daily during the morning (0630-1130) and late afternoon (1600-1800). Work was not conducted in the early afternoon because birds were seldom seen in open areas, likely because of the high heat and humidity. On the migratory grounds Lessers and Greaters foraged in loosely integrated associations, rather than in dense and highly organized flocks. Flock sizes were generally small, ranging typically from 3-12 individuals. The criterion for selection of a focal animal was that it had to be within 9 m of a conspecific or congener when observations of a foraging bout began. I examined the frequency of aggression when the individual was foraging with conspecifics only, with congeners only, and with both congeners and conspecifics. Aggressive behavior largely took the form of short chases on the water, but in some cases there were aerial chases. Focal animals were observed until an aggressive interaction ended the foraging bout, or for a maximum of 15 minutes. These observations were used to establish the presence or absence of aggression by social association and the number of foraging bouts ended by aggression.

Results

The pattern of intraspecific aggression under the different social associations for Lesser Yellowlegs closely resembled that of Greater Yellowlegs (Table 1). There was no consequential difference in the distribution of aggression by social association

Table 1. Percent of foraging bouts involving intraspecific aggression by social association for yellowlegs (number of foraging bouts involving aggression / total foraging bouts observed)

	Lesser Yellowlegs	Greater Yellowlegs
w/Conspecifics only	40.0 (16/40)	57.9 (22/38)
w/Consp. and Congeners	10.0 (3/30)	13.0 (3/23)
w/Congeners only*	7.8 (4/51)	4.5 (1/22)

*Intraspecific aggression occurred in this foraging association when a conspecific flew in and initiated some form of aggression with the conspecific that had heretofore been the only member of the species present in the group.

between the two species. Intraspecific aggression was high when an individual foraged only with conspecifics. It fell dramatically when foraging with the other yellowlegs species, to about one-fourth the level occurring when foraging only with conspecifics. When there were aggressive interactions, it ended the foraging of the focal animal in 68.8 percent of the conspecifics-only foraging bouts among Lesser

Yellowlegs (11/16) and 81.8 percent of the conspecifics-only foraging bouts among Greater Yellowlegs (18/22).

Discussion

Foraging associations are believed to benefit individuals in two ways: predator avoidance (Waite and Grubb 1987, Lovvorn 1989, Cresswell 1994) and the facilitation of food acquisition (Barnard and Thompson, 1985). Foraging associations in shorebirds have been shown to achieve both of these benefits as well, although not for all species under all conditions (Abramson 1979, Fleischer 1983, Goss-Custard 1984). Goss-Custard (1970) argued that shorebirds flock to protect against predation and increased bird density may lead to a reduction in per capita vulnerability to predators, as Myers (1980) showed for Buff-breasted Sandpipers (*Tryngites subruficollis*). Moreover, for species responsive to alarm calls given by conspecifics, as is the case with both Lessers and Greaters, associating with conspecifics may be justified by the sentinel function. Flocking, however, may also raise interference costs (Puttick 1984). The evidence from the foraging behavior of both yellowlegs species suggests high intraspecific interference costs.

Secondarily, group foraging provides public information about the quality of a foraging patch that may not be found during solitary foraging (Valone and Giraldeau 1993). Sometimes the costs of intraspecific aggression may be less than the costs of searching for one's own patch and having to obtain information on one's own about where food is available. The fact that intraspecific aggression was low when conspecifics associate with at least one congener is an important outcome, because it suggests that yellowlegs can reduce the energy they expend on aggression by foraging with congeners. One possible explanation for reduced aggression when individuals simultaneously associate with conspecifics and congeners is that, because any given patch will permit only a certain number of birds, the encounter rate of an individual with conspecifics is reduced and so too is the opportunity for intraspecific aggression. A second possible explanation is that the foraging behavior of one species facilitates access to food by the other. That is, one species in essence acts as a beater for the other, a phenomenon documented in other waterbirds (Emlen and Ambrose 1970). Nevertheless, the primary way in which yellowlegs probably reduce aggression is by spacing themselves on the migratory grounds, foraging as single individuals, a phenomenon noted among other waders (Vines 1980). When birds avoid each other, as yellowlegs seem to, it decreases the possibility that a foraging individual will be attacked (Puttick 1984).

A possible reason for the absence of interspecific aggression between Greater and Lesser yellowlegs is that, in spite of consuming some of the same foods, their feeding niches are sufficiently different to effectively reduce competition (Connell 1980, Rosenzweig 1991), an outcome facilitated by bill size differences in the two species (Eldridge and Johnson 1988).

Mixed-species foraging may be more efficient because there is less intraspecific aggression for both species, and that, in turn, lowers the expenditure of energy. Why, then, do not all Lessers and Greaters affiliate with their respective congener? The

desirability of associating with congeners may be density dependent. For instance, as the number of Lesser Yellowlegs associating with Greater Yellowlegs in any given patch increases, there may be diminishing marginal returns to additional Lesser Yellowlegs and vice versa. As the latter's numbers increase and density increases, intraspecific aggression will concomitantly rise due to increased competition for the remaining resources in the patch. The high density of Lesser Yellowlegs and the accompanying aggressive behavior would, under these circumstances, swamp out the moderating influence represented by a Greater Yellowlegs. Thus, some Lesser Yellowlegs could be better off foraging alone because of reduced intraspecific aggression and a higher return to their foraging effort. But, all other things being equal, if there were Greater Yellowlegs on one of these patches, Lesser Yellowlegs should use that patch because the number of aggressive encounters will be lower. They can relax with congeners, but not when alone or with conspecifics. Associating with Greater Yellowlegs, in essence, increases the benefit per unit of foraging time. The analysis is the same when assessing Greater Yellowlegs behavior.

The approach taken in this work has been to measure two effects: that of congeners on a Greater or Lesser Yellowlegs, and that of conspecifics on a Greater or Lesser Yellowlegs. But there are other pathways that may explain yellowlegs behaviors, and therefore additional studies of the Lesser Yellowlegs-Greater Yellowlegs relationship that may be valuable. For example, independent of social association, prey size and distribution may influence the behavior of yellowlegs. Resource depression through either prey depletion or prey exploitation may also be important. This is potentially a two-way relationship. Yellowlegs can depress the level of food abundance through interference behavior and overt aggression. Prey abundance, in turn, can affect the level of vigilance and the peck rate, for example. In view of the evidence on aggressive behavior, it may also be useful to measure the encounter rate of conspecifics per unit time. Since there may also be some behavioral effect of one species upon the other, an effort to control experimentally for this may be in order.

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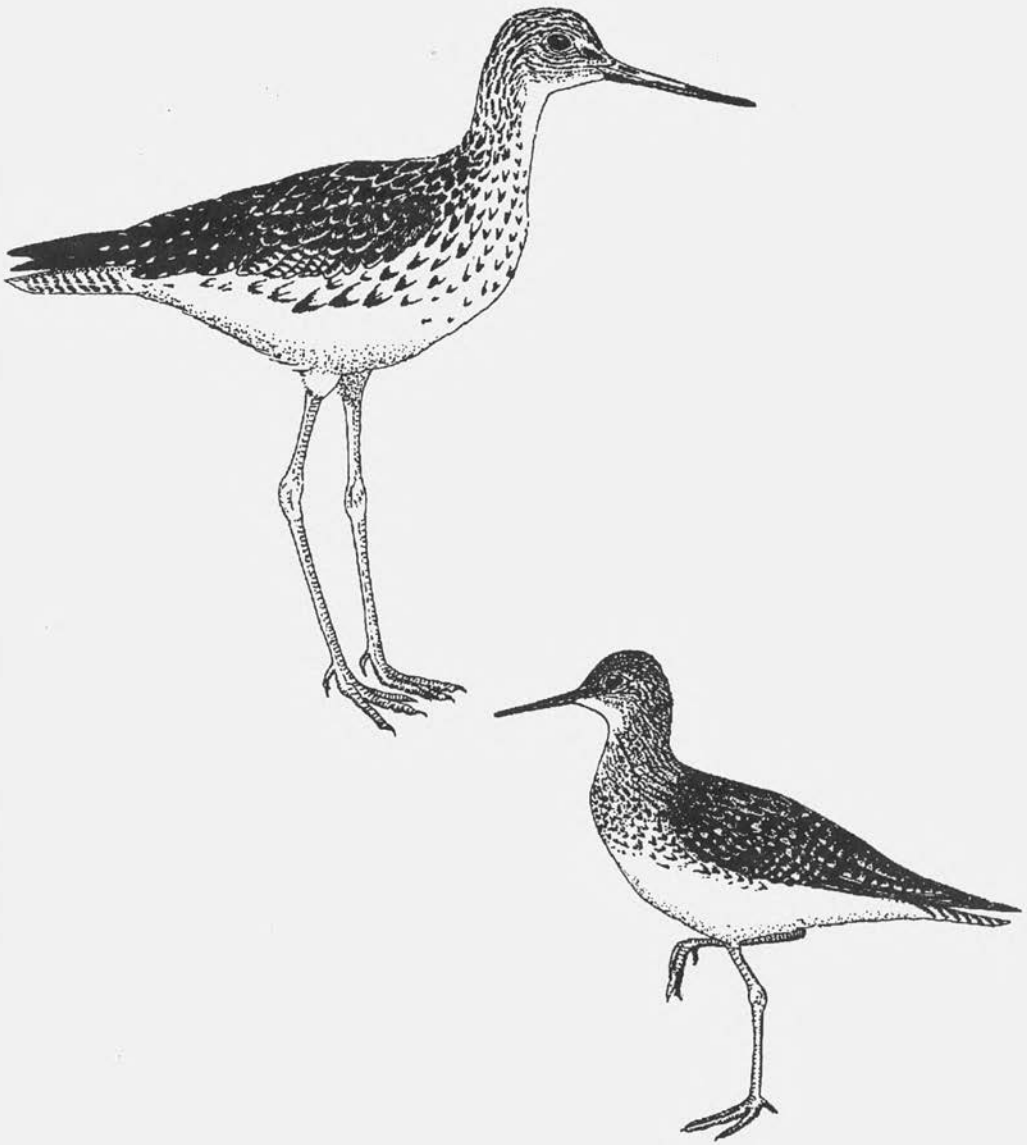


GREATER AND LESSER YELLOWLEGS, GEORGE C. WEST

Seeing the World in a Bird

Rob Gough

It is early August, and right now, somewhere I have never been — on a hillside in the Arctic tundra — there is a bird standing. Its feet are treading lightly upon a boggy ground that I will never tread. Its eyes are seeing a vista that I will probably never see. Its lungs are filling with an air that is clean and crisp beyond that which mine have ever felt. The bird is enjoying days filled with sunlight that never ends.

But in just a few short days, our lives, this bird's and mine, will cross paths right here in Massachusetts. For tomorrow, this bird will lift off and set forth on an incredible journey beyond the horizon and across international borders. It will leave its birthplace beneath the endless sun and venture into a new world, a world where darkness is a part of every day.

Then one day, perhaps this Tuesday, I will be walking beside Joppa Flats near the mouth of the Merrimack River in Newburyport. The tide will be receding, and I will look out over the newly exposed mudflats glistening in the sun. At that moment, I will hear a high-pitched whistling call from the sky above. I will turn in the direction of the sound to see, after many hours of flight, the bird descending upon the mudflats. I will lift my binoculars to my eyes and see the bird begin to probe the mud for tiny invertebrates.

Perhaps I will identify it right away — attach a species name to it. Or perhaps I will need to study it carefully, taking note of its field marks, and flipping through the shorebird section of my field guide. But the inscrutability of many shorebirds is a small price to pay for their aesthetic appeal.

"The restlessness of shorebirds, their kinship with distance and swift seasons, the wistful signal of their voices down the long coastlines of the world make them, for me, the most affecting of wild creatures," writes Peter Matthiessen, a nature writer and naturalist.

To me, shorebirds represent the ends of the earth — brief visitors from lands that I may never see. The Hudsonian Godwits that I will see on the mudflats within the harbor will have just nested on the coast of James Bay and will spend the winter in Argentina. The tiny White-rumped Sandpiper that will be feeding at the edge of a salt panne in the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge will have just arrived from somewhere near the top of the world — Arctic North America. When it flies away, it will be on its way to spend the winter in southern South America.

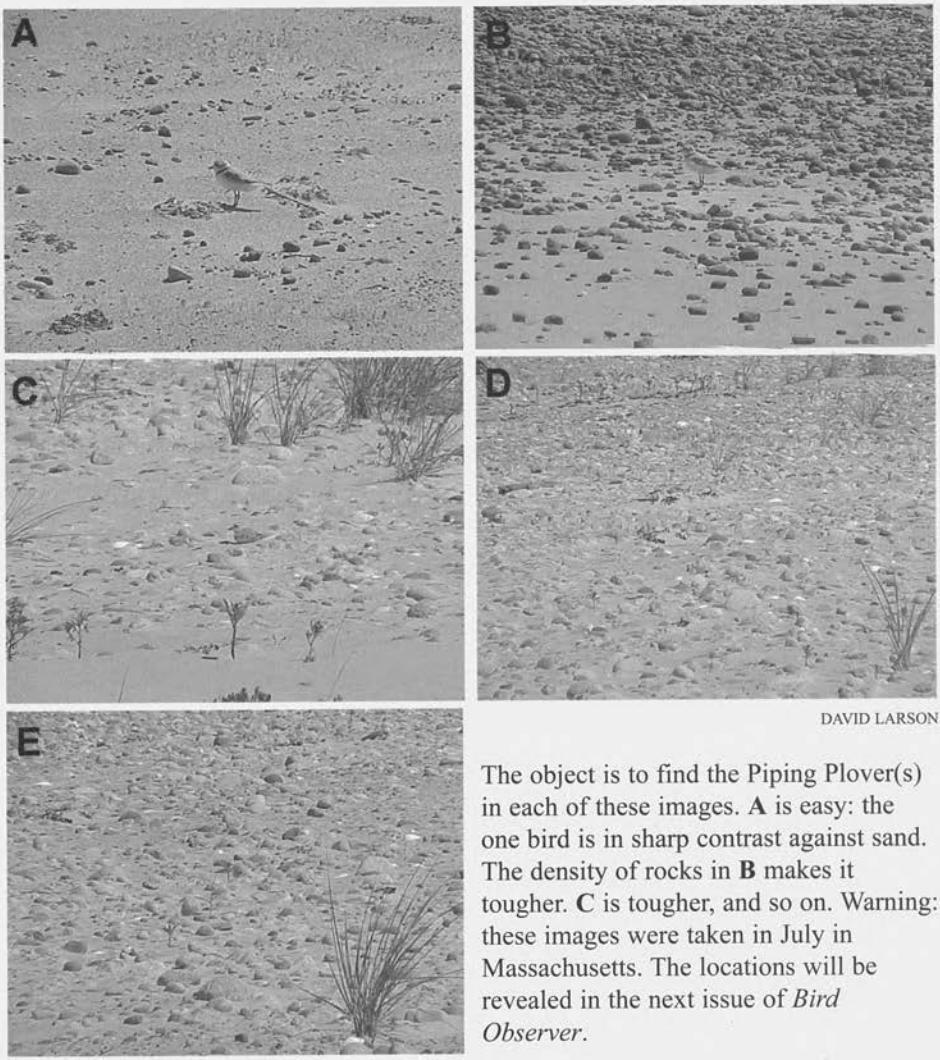
So strong is my affection for these shorebirds that they have become a part of my world. When they arrive near the end of each summer, they enter into my mind and heart. When they fly off, continuing their miraculous journeys, a tiny part of me goes with them to these far-off lands. I marvel at their restless spirit, their incredible will to survive, and their intricate tie to the seasons.

Low tide this Tuesday is going to be just before 1:00 p.m., and I know where I will be: Newburyport, Siberia, Arctic Canada, Guatemala, Tierra del Fuego . . . .

Rob Gough *works in Salem, Massachusetts, as a Regional Coordinator for the Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program. He also works as a freelance illustrator and graphic designer from his home in Newbury, Massachusetts. His drawing of a Piping Plover* (Charadrius melodus) *appeared on the cover of the June 2000 issue of* Bird Observer. *"Seeing the World in a Bird" was first published as part of the series, Nature In Our Backyard, in the* Daily News, *Newburyport, Massachusetts, August 4, 2000.*

Alternate Photo Quiz: Piping Plovers on the Beach

Here are a series of images of Piping Plovers. Can you find the birds?



DAVID LARSON

The object is to find the Piping Plover(s) in each of these images. **A** is easy: the one bird is in sharp contrast against sand. The density of rocks in **B** makes it tougher. **C** is tougher, and so on. Warning: these images were taken in July in Massachusetts. The locations will be revealed in the next issue of *Bird Observer*.

Bird Behavior When Encountering Airborne Helicopters Along the California Coast

William Moskoff and Lt. John Andrew Cromwell

Observations of the relationship between helicopters and birds have been confined to the impact of the aircraft on birds that are on the ground, either breeding, in the process of migration, or molting (Miller 1994, Grubb and Bowerman 1997, Ward et al. 1999). But no attention has been given to the interaction between helicopters and birds when both are flying. This is important because, while helicopters are typically less prone to bird strikes than fixed-wing aircraft are, likely because the latter are noisier and fly more slowly, accidents occur, and they can be fatal. On February 3, 1981, a Bell 206 helicopter struck a Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) in Vancouver, British Columbia, and all four occupants were killed when the aircraft crashed (Transport Canada 2000). In Israel, a nation on the migratory path of 500 million birds, military helicopters struck birds 696 times in the quarter century following 1972 (Rosenthal 1998). Canadian military helicopters also experience bird hits (Transport Canada 1993). An understanding of how birds react to helicopters is useful because it may assist pilots in making good decisions on how to avoid collisions.

Based on interviews with three helicopter pilots with a combined total of about twenty-five years of flying helicopters along the California coast, we assembled a picture of the reactions of several bird species encountering helicopters in the area. Two of these pilots flew an H-65 Alpha Dolphin search and rescue helicopter for the United States Coast Guard out of Los Angeles International Airport, one flying between Dana Point on the south to Morro Bay on the north as well as to the Channel Islands, the other flying as far south as 100 miles south of the California-Mexico border and as far north as Morro Bay. The third pilot has flown both a Bell 206 and a Bell 412 for the Los Angeles City Fire Department.

Encounters with gulls (*Larus sp.*) are a daily occurrence for all three pilots. They described gull reactions at altitudes of 150-2500 feet. It is typical of gulls to diverge from aircraft early, without close confrontations. Gulls dive away from aircraft, turning 45-90 degrees, always descending and never climbing. In those instances where gulls maintain their flight line and get close to the helicopter, they generally deviate from their line of flight when they get to within 20-30 m of the aircraft. Then they turn belly up and throw themselves into a dive. Consequently, Coast Guard pilots always flew above gulls once they were sighted because of the predictable response of the birds.

Encounters with raptors yielded a different set of responses on the part of the birds. Coauthor JAC encountered three raptor species. The responses of Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) were extremely predictable. In more than 50 encounters up to altitudes of 4000 feet, the bird would either maintain its flight pattern and the helicopter would be forced to move, or a hawk would move laterally or down, but never climb. The responses of Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) and Bald Eagles

(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) were considerably more confrontational. In a half dozen confrontations with Peregrines, they would often fly directly at the helicopter, bring their legs forward, and bare their talons in an aggressive posture. The same was true of the lone meeting with an eagle. It flew toward the helicopter and, while holding its flight line, turned upside down while baring its talons aggressively. Again, the helicopter was forced to take evasive measures. A second pilot said that while many soaring Red-tailed Hawks would dive downward, turning 45-90 degrees once they became aware of the aircraft, others would stand their ground, and helicopters would often have to maneuver to avoid the hawks. As a result of the greater likelihood that hawks will come closer to a helicopter, this pilot has hit hawks more frequently than gulls, although they were mostly glancing blows. The third pilot also described hawks as much more likely to remain in the air space that they were occupying when the helicopter approached, making little effort to avert a collision with the aircraft, forcing the pilot to do so.

There were approximately 100 encounters with both White and Brown pelicans (*Pelicanus erthyrorhynchos* and *P. occidentalis*). Their behavior depends on whether they are flying in a flock or singly. Pelican flocks hold their flight line, and it is incumbent upon the helicopter to take evasive action. When flying singly, however, a pelican dives straight down to avoid the aircraft in much the same way as it would when it dives into the sea to forage.

The experiences of these pilots suggest that there is no single response by birds. While some species take evasive action to escape from a helicopter, others treat the helicopter as a threat and engage in some form of attack behavior. Birds never seem to climb above a helicopter, so when in doubt, a pilot may be safer if he or she goes above the bird. Pilots may benefit from appreciating the interspecific differences in behavior.

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WIRED BIRDER

Sneaking a Peek at Birds

David M. Larson

If you're wired, you've seen them on the web. Even if you don't have a computer, you've probably heard of them. But what is a web cam? How do they work? Is there a web cam in your future? In this issue the Wired Birder grapples with bird web cams, from cam to web.

Basically, a web cam is a camera connected to the World Wide Web (not really the same as the internet, but close enough for our purposes). Typically, the camera's image is displayed on a web page. Every so often, the image is updated. The frequency of updates can range from whimsical (whenever the originator feels like it) to continuous (streaming video).

The world's first web cam was a small black and white video camera focused on a coffee maker in the hallway outside of the computer lab (the Trojan Room Coffee Machine) at Cambridge University. The service was first set up in 1991 on a local network so that those in distant parts of the building could check the coffee status before heading off for a cup. The service went online on the brand-new World Wide Web in 1993 when a web server became available, and it was an instant hit throughout the world. When it finally went offline in 2001, it had had well over two million virtual visitors. The German magazine *Der Spiegel* bought the broken coffee maker on E-bay, had it repaired, and it lives on.

Clearly, a web cam may be focused on anything from the ridiculous to the sublime. And of course, bird web cams are the most sublime. Many focus on nest sites and are only active during the nesting period. A local example is the nest cam for the Bald Eagle nest at Turners Falls, MA (two young eagles this year!). The Owl Cam, located in Eastern Massachusetts, has been following the antics of Ward and June, a pair of Barred Owls, since 1997. Other well-known nest cams include those of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in New York and several Peregrine Falcon and Osprey nests. Other bird cams focus on feeders or birdbaths. Wild Birds Unlimited claims to have set up the first feeder cam. The listings at the end of this article include these sites and links to lists of many more.

Setting up your own web cam

Setting up a web cam can be as simple as plugging a camera into a computer and installing some software – maybe fifteen minutes or so. Of course, more functional installations will take a bit more time and thought. Fundamentally though, all that is required is a suitable camera and a means of connecting the camera to the web (Figure 1).

First, you will need a camera that has electronic controls (no, your old 35mm will not work). The camera can be a digital still or analog or digital video. Most advertised

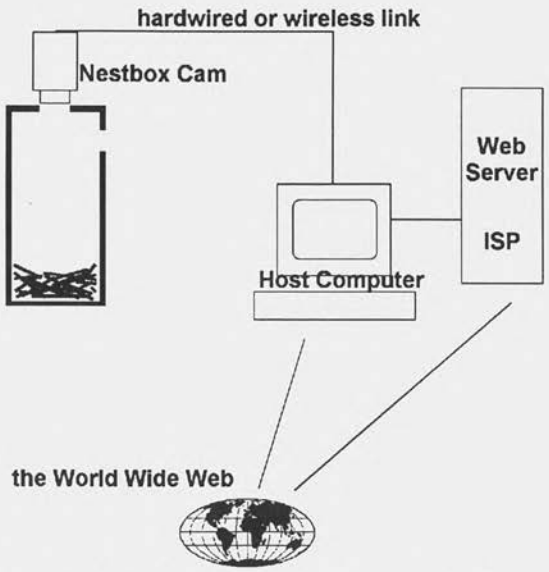

Figure 1: *Bird web cams transmit images via cables or radio frequencies to a host computer. The images are available over the web through a web server — either the host computer or the server of an internet service provider.*

web cameras are merely low-resolution digital cameras and can cost from thirty to hundreds of dollars. Generally, you get what you pay for: cheap cameras are fixed focus, fixed aperture, low resolution, and may have plastic rather than glass lenses. More expensive cameras will have quality, auto-focusing lenses with aperture adjustment, higher resolution sensors, and adjustable gain. When you get into the thousands-of-dollars range, the cameras have remote control of all of these functions, as well as of tilt, pan, and zoom.

The use of video versus still cameras is a matter of choice, although video is far more prevalent. While digital still cameras have far higher pixel resolutions than video, this may be largely irrelevant since bandwidth constraints usually limit image resolution to at or below that of standard video (640 x 480 pixels). Although the images sent to the web have to be digital, the original image can be taken through an analog camera and then converted to digital format. Several adapters are available for connecting (for example) an analog video camera to a computer (video capture cards that plug into an expansion slot in your camera, or external video camera adapters like the Snappy Video Snapshot or Buz multimedia producer).

If you are contemplating an outdoors web cam, you will have to consider weather. Ordinary consumer web cams, and digital cameras in general, are anything but weatherproof. Specially weatherproofed cameras exist (and are used widely in security systems — see the NuSpectra web site for a very nice setup), but they are pricey. A less expensive option for feeder cams might be to use an indoor camera with a zoom lens to image the feeder (Figure 2). If you are setting up a nest-box cam, try an attic over the nest box to contain the camera (and low intensity lights, if desired) while protecting it from the elements.

Second, you will need a computer. While cameras with direct cable connections to the web are available (and very pricey), most cameras in the consumer market require the intervention of a local host computer. This computer could be your regular computer (assuming it is a fairly recent PC or Mac) and, depending on the

connections, the web cam functions of grabbing, processing, and uploading images could run unnoticed in the background.

Third, you will need an appropriate connection between the camera and computer. If you want to update your web image frequently, you will need a fast connection. Current cameras and computers mostly communicate via speedy USB (Windows98 or later required) or Firewire cables, rather than the older, slower, serial or parallel cables. Another option (particularly if the camera is distant from the computer) is a wireless connection. Several wireless cameras are on the market (e.g. the ubiquitously advertised X10), making it possible to free your web cam from its tether. With a wireless web cam, and lots of battery power, you could take your web cam out in the field, or at least the back yard.

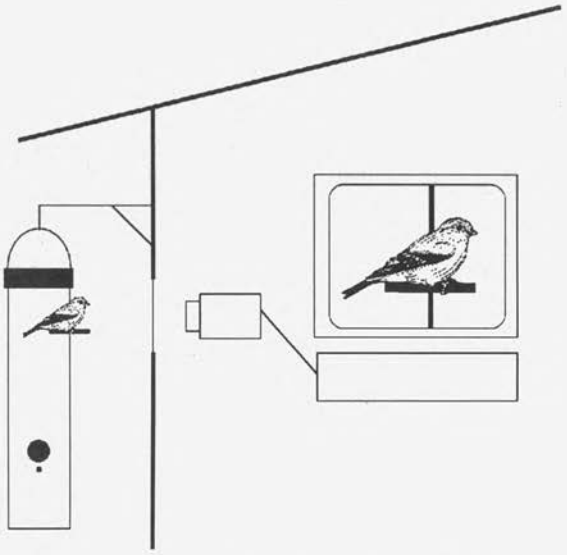

Figure 2: *This feeder cam images the feeder through a window, obviating the need for an expensive weatherproof camera. Bird images courtesy of William E. Davis, Jr.*

Similarly, the connection between the host computer and the web server needs consideration. If you want a rapid refresh rate on images and continuous updates, you will need a cable modem, DSL line, or a dedicated telephone line, since you have to be connected all of the time. Of course, if the link goes down, or the power goes, your viewers will see just the last uploaded image. If you do not want or need to do frequent updates, then manually upload images whenever appropriate or convenient.

Finally, the software that grabs the image from the camera and uploads it to your web server has to be able to work well with all components. Probably the most widely used software is Webcam32. Another, simpler but widely-used package is ISpy. If you do not want to configure your host computer as a server, you will want to make sure that you get software that grabs an image from the camera, processes it to the desired degree, sends it by ftp (file transfer protocol) to an ISP's server, and then repeats the procedure at a specified interval.

If the foregoing seems daunting, one strategy for assembling the package might be to buy a camera that will work with your computer (e.g. one that is Video for Windows compatible if you are in a Windows environment) and then get the software recommended by the camera manufacturer. If you have a digital video camera,

another approach would be to get the software (e.g. Webcam32) and necessary cabling and play around with a simple setup until you are ready to try something more elaborate.

While you are trying out options, note that many of the software or hardware suppliers provide server space for displaying your images on the web. They do not do this out of the goodness of their hearts, and so pop-up ads and other annoyances are to be expected. Of course, you can present the images on your own web site, either by hosting it yourself (turning your computer into a web server) or by renting space on a web server (either through your internet service provider or on another commercial service). The Wired Birder uses a paid service for his web sites.

While web-site design is beyond the scope of this article, it should be noted that it is relatively easy to set up a simple web page, with an included image, using any of the commercial, freeware, or shareware web-design programs. Your computer may even come with a simple program, perhaps included with your internet browser or with a software bundle. For a discussion of simple web design and issues of refresh rate and modalities see either of the books noted at the end of this article, or the extensive support pages on the Webcam32 site. As you gain experience, you can add archives of interesting shots or of the most recent images, explanatory materials, or whatever you wish.

On the high end

Once you break into the wonderful world of web cams, you can experiment with upgrades at the higher end. One simple upgrade is to use a camera and software combination that allows for motion detection (e.g. Homewatcher software). Using this strategy, your web page will be updated only when something changes. It is possible to add audio so that your viewers can hear as well as see what the cam is focused on.

With a sufficiently fast connection, you can set up your web cam for streaming video. Check out the Belmar Beach web cam to watch folks stroll the beach and see the gulls fly by. Finally, some of the high-end web sites now allow viewers to control the camera. This feature requires a motorized camera mount with pan, tilt, and scan controls (see the Surveyor Corp. or NuSpectra Corp. web sites). An example of a really neat web cam with this feature is the TundraCam at 11,600' on Niwot Ridge in Colorado.

Web cams can provide a fun adjunct to your birding passion, a potentially useful research tool, or an immense time sink (and maybe all three at once). Try a few of the sites listed below. If you decide to set up your own bird cam, send the address to Bird Observer. We would love to take a look.

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The Trojan Room Coffee Machine <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/coffee/coffee.html>

Der Spiegel's site <http://www.spiegel.de/netzwelt/netzkultur/0,1518,189302,00.html>

Lots of web cam sites:

Web Cam World	<http://www.webcamworld.com/>
Earth Cam	<http://www.earthcam.com/>
Cam Central	<http://www.camcentral.com/>
Africam	<http://www.africam.com/public/index.jsp>

More Bird Web Cams:

Turners Falls Eagle Cam	<http://www.nu.com/eagles/>
schematic of the system	<http://www.nu.com/eagles/eaglewebcam2.pdf>
The Owl Cam	<http://www.owlcam.com/>
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology nest cams	<http://birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse/nestboxcam/>
Wild Birds Unlimited feeder cam	<http://www.wbu.com/feedercam_home.htm>
Cohasset Bird Houses	<http://cohassetbirdhouses.com/>
Mr Goodbeer (honest)	<http://mrgoodbeer.com/>
Florida Gold Rose	<http://www.floridagoldrose.com/>
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	<http://www.rspb.org.uk/>
James Reserve	<http://www.jamesreserve.edu/>
EuroBirdwatching	<http://www.eurobirdwatching.com/>
Simon Knott	<http://www.eko.clara.net/birdvideo.html>
A backyard feeder cam	<http://www.cbird.com/cam.html>
Ivy's birdfeeder cam	<http://ivyjoy.com/webcam/>
Center for Conservation Biology FalconCam	<http://fsweb.wm.edu/ccb/vafalcons/falconcam/falconcam.htm>
Osprey cams	
Maryland	<http://www.friendsofblackwater.org/camhtm.html>
New Hampshire	<http://www.nhaudubon.org/research/ocam.htm>

Cool Nonbird Cams

Kennedy Space Center	<http://www.science.ksc.nasa.gov/shuttle/countdown/video/>
Butterfly Conservatory	<http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/butterflies/cams.html>
TundraCam (remote control)	<http://tundracam.colorado.edu/>
Clearwater Beach, FL (remote control)	<http://www.wtsp.com/skycams/clearwater.htm>
Belmar Beach cam, NJ (streaming)	<http://www.belmarbeachcam.com/>
Cape Cod cams	<http://www.capecodlivecam.com/>

Cameras, software, and other useful stuff

X10 cameras	<http://www.x10.com/>
Snappy Video Snapshot (PC)	<http://www.play.com/>

Buz multimedia producer (Mac)	<http://iomega.com/buz/>
Surveyor Corp. (Webcam32, ISpy, and camera mount)	<http://www.surveyorcorp.com/>
NuSpectra Corp. (cameras, mounts, and systems)	<http://www.nuspectra.com>
Webcam 1-2-3	<http://www.webcam123.com/en/ezcast.html>
NetSnap software	<http://www.netsnap.com/>
Homewatcher software	<http://www.homewatcher.com/>

David Larson *is the Production Editor of* Bird Observer. *He laments the apparent demise of one of his favorites, LobsterCam <http://www.midcoast.com/~lobcam/>. He can be reached by e-mail at redpoll@attbi.com. He would like to emphasize that mention of goods and services in this articles does not imply endorsement by* Bird Observer *or the Wired Birder. Web addresses change unpredictably, so if any of the above do not work, try using key words on an internet search engine or find other interesting sites.*

Update on Leach's Storm-Petrel Nesting (*Bird Observer* June 2002)

On June 11, 2002, I returned to Noman's Land Island with Stephanie Koch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a two-night stay. During the first night we located ten nests along one section of wall. Nests were identified by the presence of a storm-petrel calling from under the rocks and by the characteristic storm-petrel odor. After considerable effort, we were able to view three actual nests, two containing a single white egg each, and one that was empty. We captured and banded three of the nesting adults from under the rocks, each of which had a bare and vascular brood patch. We also captured and banded two birds that were presumed to be subadults because they had nearly bare but completely nonvascular brood patches. One of these birds was captured by hand after it landed on the ground by the wall, and the other was captured in a mist net that was set for a short time by the wall with a tape. Considering the numerous other walls that occur across the island that we did not visit, it is very likely that the number of nesting Leach's Storm-Petrels on Noman's Land is much greater than the ten we were able to locate.

GEORGE C. WEST

Tom French

POCKET PLACES

Sanford Ponds Wastewater Recycling Facility

Nancy McReel

Old weather saw: *When ditches and ponds offend the nose, Watch for rain and stormy blows.*

A birder soon learns that sewer ponds attract birds. It may be more pleasant to go to a town's sewer ponds in fair weather because birds, especially ducks, like these places for the small plants and microorganisms they find there. The food is great and most birds do not have a keen sense of smell. In Sanford, Maine, there are four ponds with a connecting roadway around each, all inside a gated chain-link fence. The gate is open when the rest of the facility is open. Outside the fence is woodland with the Mousam River running through it.

Migration time is most productive for a visiting birder. Ducks are most abundant from September to freeze-up in early December, with a high concentration in October. There has been a report of a Snowy Owl sitting on a post there in January, gazing silently at the snow- and ice-covered ponds.

Some high counts are 150 Ruddy Ducks, 250 Ring-necks, 50 Green-winged Teal, 10 Blue-winged Teal, 200 Mallards and Blacks. Northern Pintail, Barrow's Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Gadwall, American Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, and Wood Duck — all are fairly regular partakers of the available goodies.

Open spaces and mown verges around the ponds appeal to grassland species. Some of the regulars are Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, American Pipits, and a variety of sparrows including Swamp, Lincoln's, Savannah, and Song.

Shorebirds working the edges are Spotted and Pectoral sandpipers. The shrubs and trees bring in Pine Siskins and migrating warblers. Yellow-rumped Warblers in the hundreds may be spouting up from the bushes like popcorn.

Naturally all these birds interest hawks and other predators. Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, and Rough-legged hawks zoom in for a catch, while Northern Harrier, Osprey, or Common Raven may be curious about all the activity.

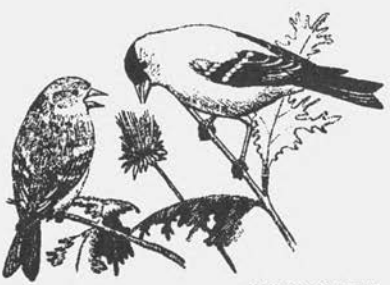
Inside the entrance gate the driveway curves through acres of lawn with some planted evergreen trees, all surrounded by a maple-oak woodland. This is an appealing invitation to come and see. A number of Maine birders now visit the Sanford ponds regularly and report sightings on maine-birds@mainebirding.net or Maine Audubon birdalert. A trip could be combined with a visit to the Kennebunk Plains or Wells Harbor to cover additional habitats.

Directions: From Wells drive West on Route 109 toward Sanford. At the traffic light at the junction with Route 4, turn North toward Alfred. Go about 1 mile to a

blinker. Turn East on Gavel Rd. and drive another mile to the end, traveling through the open gate of the Wastewater Recycling Facility. The gate is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. The first time that you visit, please stop in at the office to sign a liability agreement. The area is not shown on my copy of Delorme. It is, however, on Topozone.com and on the USGS topo map.

__Nancy McReel__ has conducted monthly bird surveys in southern Maine for Woodlot Alternatives, Inc. and the Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge for 15 years, and has participated in a bird banding project at the Wells Reserve for 10 years. Responsible for all this interest in birding was a small Yellow Warbler that flew by her window thirty years ago.

Note from Arcadia



GEORGE C. WEST

We have a PhD student who is studying goldfinch mating and nesting behavior, mostly out near the Ibis Pool area. She is recording vocalizations as well as color banding. So if you see some goldfinches with bands, they are her study birds. She has a notebook in the lobby at Arcadia if you have any goldfinch observations. A female kestrel has been hanging out for quite some time now, with multiple observations, including sitting on the kestrel box. But if it is nesting, I'm not sure where. We've also been seeing a female harrier in June and early July. Hopefully they are nesting or considering the area for future nesting. Keep an eye out for the juveniles. There is also a nesting pair of kestrels off Munn's Ferry Road in Gill and by the horse barns near UMass, Amherst.

In the newly planted grasslands, no Bobolinks or Savannah Sparrows nested, only Red-wings and Song Sparrows. I'm advocating for a planting of shorter grasses in the large cucumber field if and when we get that piece. Grasshopper and Vesper sparrows prefer the shorter grasses, rather than the sea of tall Canada wild rye and timothy.

Cooper's Hawk continues to breed here. We had our first nesting pair of Blue-headed Vireos at Arcadia. The Great Blue Heron colony is going strong with over 12 nests. We had 33 Bobolink territories in the older, established grasslands, but only 2 Savannah Sparrows. Eight additional Savannah Sparrows nested in adjacent fields, including the cucumber fields, which weren't cultivated until July. Chestnut-sided Warbler is just hanging on, and Veery was low.

Dave McClain, Conservation Caretaker
Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton, MA

FIELD NOTES

A Foot-vibrating Solitary Sandpiper

Richard W. Hildreth

On August 25, 2001, along Alligator Lake Road in Maine, I stopped near a small beaver pond hoping to find some dragonflies. At the edge of the road is a narrow strip of alders which screens the view of the pond. I walked along the road looking for an opening in the alders so I could peer out over the pond. When at last I found a small opening I saw no dragonflies, but I did see a Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria*, busy feeding about fifteen inches away. It did not seem to be disturbed by my presence, so I stopped to watch it for about fifteen minutes.

The sandpiper was wading around in the shallow pond with water up to its knee joint. It was probing with its bill, sometimes deeply so the water surface reached its eye, but mostly just inserting the tip of the bill into the water. The bill was rapidly opening and closing; the bird appeared to be snapping up many small prey items. The water in the pond was very clear so that I could see the bottom, which was muddy. The bird was sinking into the soft mud as it waded along.

What especially caught my attention was the body movement of the bird as it fed. Spotted Sandpipers almost constantly teeter as they feed; Solitary Sandpipers also sometimes teeter. This bird, during feeding or just prior to feeding, appeared to be trembling, the entire body vibrating. Close examination through my ten-power Swarovski binoculars revealed what was going on. Just before and sometimes during feeding episodes, the bird would move its leg up and down in the mud very rapidly. One leg at a time was moved in this manner, and the bird frequently switched legs. The effect of this rapid leg vibration was to shake the entire bird and give the impression that it was trembling.

Since these episodes of foot vibrating were usually immediately followed by vigorous episodes of probing and feeding, it might be that the foot vibrating caused small prey items to move and reveal themselves, to be snapped up by the bird.

Odonate Hunting at Wizard Pond

Richard W. Hildreth

The Maine Public Reserve Land tract at T10 SD includes Black Mountain. The well-maintained and relatively easy trail up the mountain climbs through the woods to a glacially rounded bedrock knob at about 960 feet, descends steeply into a narrow ravine to about 830 feet, and then ascends steeply to the main, bare, rounded bedrock summit of the mountain at 1094 feet. In the ravine, between the two peaks, is a small (about 500 feet long), elongated body of water called Wizard Pond.

On September 1, 2000, at about 10:00 a.m., I was standing on the shore of the pond at the southern end, hunting for odonates. I had already collected one yellow-legged meadowhawk (*Sympetrum vicinum*), one lake darner (*Aeshna eremita*), and one variable darner (*Aeshna interrupta interrupta*). I had netted (and released) six more darners, all *interrupta*. I saw several pairs fly by in the "wheel" position, also *interrupta*. From my vantage point I could see the entire pond; about forty large darners, presumably *interrupta*, were flying just above the water, mostly along the edges of the pond.

I was not the only odonate hunter present. I saw a Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) fly out of the woods and chase the big darners over the pond. It flew down from the trees and pursued the darners rapidly just above the water. The darners were grabbed in the bird's talons. Not every sortie made by the Merlin was successful, but there was a capture for every two or three attempts. When a darner had been captured, the Merlin flew to a perch and ate it. Through my ten-power binoculars I could see the bird holding the darner with one foot while eating it. I saw the Merlin catch and eat four big darners in about fifteen minutes. It then flew off into the trees and was not seen again.

GEORGE C. WEST

ABOUT BOOKS

Who Are We and What Exactly Are We Doing?

Mark Lynch

Birders: Tales of a Tribe by Mark Cocker. 2001. Boston, MA: Atlantic Monthly Press. 240 pp. $24.00

Recently while standing in the early morning cold fog without my coat looking for the Eurasian Kestrel, not visible at the time, with a scrappy bunch of like-minded fanatics, I paused to momentarily reflect. I often do at times like this. What am I doing? Who are these people? What is birding all about? How does this look to the nonbirder? Are we crazy? You probably have had similar flashes of soul-searching. Perhaps while lugging a heavy scope over the soft sands of South Beach in the midsummer sun, causing your back and neck all sorts of expensive trouble. Or while standing on a residential street in the wee hours of a winter morning, waiting for some feeder visitor to show up, while neighbors peer through the blinds. There can be little doubt that birding certainly has its moments of intense eccentricity and just plain weird behavior. But we are hooked body and soul. We are bird junkies. Which is why I love Mark Cocker's *Birders: Tales of a Tribe*. It is always therapeutic to read that others are just as obsessive as you are.

Cocker starts with an account of his search for the Satyr Tragopan high in the Himalayas in 1996. He uses this event to begin his personal history of birders in Britain: "In a sense, the purpose of this book is to explain why that tragopan is so special and to make that moment intelligible to someone who has perhaps never even been birding. It is to let you understand and feel what I felt on that May morning" (p. 3). What follows is Cocker's account of his growing into a life devoted to watching birds, from 1968 when he was a child looking at feral pigeons in Derbyshire, to 1993 when he was in the Extremadura region of Spain admiring displaying Great Bustards. Sightings from his many handwritten journals mark the beginning of each chapter as if they were historical markers to his life. Along the way, he also traces the general history of British birding, discussing topics like twitching and stringing, and telling tales of the birding community. In many ways, *Birders: Tales of a Tribe* is the *Little Black Book* by Bill Oddie (*Bird Observer*, April 2001, pp. 139-140) for this generation.

For American birders reading this very British book, it is interesting to learn about the ways in which birding here and there is both similar and different. As in America, birding in Britain was once solely the realm of the wealthy and the powerful. But probably only a Brit would express this notion of avocation and class in quite this way: "Earlier in the century it was the domain of millionaire bankers, famous explorers, the sons of famous explorers and millionaire bankers, the officer

classes, landed gentry and the odd country vicar. Since then birding has made a long, seemingly irreversible journey down the social ladder" (p. 46).

Cocker dwells on those everyday details that make all birders the eccentric tribe we are. Take our peculiar fashion statement of wearing our bins not only while out birding, but also while in a restaurant, while at a conference meeting, or simply "whenever," just in case something interesting flits by. I immediately identified with this because I confess I wore my bins during my son's wedding a few years back. After all, it was outdoors in spring at Castle Hill and I even ticked a Gannet during the vows. But Brits seem to have some birding obsessions that are particular to that isle. Cocker devotes a chapter to the love of field notebooks. Not just any notebook, mind you, but the "Alwych" black laminated cloth one with the "All Weather Cover." He starts with the small model A 38/90 but soon graduates to the choice of serious field birders, the fatter A68/140 model. This very British tradition of keeping detailed daily notes of what was seen on a birding jaunt and illustrated with field sketches seems to have totally missed New England birders for the most part. How many of us keep regular journals written by hand and keep them filed by year? This is a shame, because Cocker lovingly describes pulling some of these old notebooks off the shelves and describes how they magically evoke the fine details of birding days gone by.

The British also have a genuine oral tradition of classic "ripping yarns" of going through hell and high water for some rarity. Perhaps part of the reason that this body of oral birding lore exists is that British birders seem to be more social than American birders. In the chapter "The Loop, 1," Cocker describes the famous birder's hangout near Cley, a dining room called Nancy's:

> Nancy's, which is what everyone called it, was legendary. Every birder knew of it. Most birders of sufficient age visited it. Many went there weekly. Some almost lived there. One or two actually did. And even those who never went there spoke to its occupants on a regular basis. It was routinely mentioned in that naff comedy series about birdwatching set in Liverpool called *Watching*. When the café finally closed, the event was recorded in the press and on regional and national TV. I believe it should have one of those blue English Heritage plaques commemorating its former status (p. 98).

I cannot think of a New England equivalent of Nancy's. I also cannot imagine spending so much time with most birders I know. At Nancy's, birders just hung out. The owners welcomed the muddy, sodden, and bedraggled lot with open arms. The food was cheap and plentiful. The phone was always ringing with the latest birding news, and folks sat around on off moments telling great birding stories.

Cocker includes a chapter on "hitching stories." Apparently, some of the most hard-core listers in Britain did not have a car in the 1970s and 1980s, so when a rarity was sighted in some odd part of the Isles, they just stuck out a thumb and went for it. Or, even if they did have a car and had a flat tire or got into an accident en route, they ended up hitching to the scene of the rarity. And therein lies the start of these sometimes humorous, sometimes scary tales. There are also thrilling stories of birders

being chased off cliffs in Afghanistan or devoured by a tiger in India. These stories are peopled with a wide range of quintessentially British characters. Some of these tribe members Cocker writes about with true respect and awe, legends in the annals of British birding and ornithology. Other people are close birding friends that are remembered fondly after years sharing the joys of the field. Still others are more than a bit odd, which is to be expected, because, after all, this is Britain, a country that has a yearly event consisting of wildly careening down a steep hill chasing after a wheel of cheese.

For me, no person in Cocker's book was more fascinating than the allegedly fictitious composite Robert Barry Shutbill, an archetypal "stringer." A stringer is a birder who purposefully reports rare birds that are not there, the bane of serious birders everywhere. The stories in this chapter are so filled with rich details that seem close to the truth, that this becomes the birder's equivalent of *Primary Colors.* Also in this exposé of a chapter is a nice summary of the infamous Hastings Rarities: "These were 595 records of rarities that were all claimed from one small area of East Sussex between 1892 and 1930" (p. 167). All of these formerly accepted records are now highly suspect, since it is believed that the birds had been "killed in the Middle East and elsewhere and shipped back to Britain on ice, where they were being sold as genuine British vagrants" (p. 168). The Brits seem to go all out in every aspect of birding, even when it is bad birding.

Birders: Tales of a Tribe is also filled with quintessential British birding lingo. New words I learned included "blocker": "a rare bird that a few *have* seen but most *haven't*" (p. 121). The Massachusetts equivalent would be the Terek Sandpiper at Plum Island years back. The term "fazed" is something I hope never to experience: "In times of great stress birders usually make one of two responses. Either they temporarily abandon birding — a condition known as having *fazed* — or they bird more intensively than ever. I've tried both therapies and definitely favor the latter" (p. 214).

Birders: Tales of a Tribe lets you eavesdrop on the inner workings of the mind of a very serious and somewhat obsessive British birder. It explains why nobody birds like the Brits. That said, birders everywhere share this same obsessive and crazy passion for the feathered set. *Birders: Tales of a Tribe* will resonate with anyone who has ever staked out a feeder or suddenly come across that *really* good bird. This book is a joy to read whether you are a birder from Aden, a twitcher from Zanzibar, or even a hardcore lister from the rebellious former colonies across the pond.

***Mark Lynch** is an instructor, trip leader, and ecological monitor at Broad Meadow Brook, Massachusetts Audubon Society property in Worcester. He hosts* Inquiry, *an interview show of arts and sciences on WICN 90.5 FM. He is also an instructor and docent at the Worcester Art Museum. His list from his son's wedding also included Baltimore Oriole and Cedar Waxwing and many other species.*

News from MassWildlife

First Successful Peregrine Nesting. The first cliff-nesting peregrine falcons in more than half a century have produced 4 chicks at the Farley cliffs in Erving. MassWildlife District Manager Ralph Taylor confirmed the successful hatching by using a spotting scope to observe the nest site from Route 2. Peregrines have been displaying territorial tendencies at the cliff for the past two summers but were not known to breed until this year. This represents the first successful peregrine nesting at a natural site in Massachusetts since young were fledged from Hanging Mountain in Sandisfield and Monument Mountain in Great Barrington in 1951. The Farley cliffs aerie last produced chicks in 1942 and the last report of a peregrine on the territory was of a single male in 1957. By that time the pesticide DDT had devastated the peregrine falcon population in Massachusetts and by 1966 there were no nesting peregrines in the U.S. east of the Mississippi River. The banning of DDT in 1972 and subsequent restoration efforts brought the peregrine back from the brink of extinction in Massachusetts and across the country. In 2001, 54 peregrine pairs nested in New England producing 219 chicks. Five of the pairs and 13 of the chicks were found on buildings and bridges in Massachusetts. The peregrine has been removed from the federal Endangered Species list.

Bay State Eagles Fledge 15 Chicks. MassWildlife biologists have completed their annual visits to active bald eagle territories across the state and report 15 eagle

(continued on page 275)

chicks produced during the 2002 nesting season. Of the dozen known eagle nesting territories, 8 successfully produced chicks, three failed and one was vacant. From west to east the southern Berkshire pair had two chicks, four pairs nesting along the Massachusetts reach of the Connecticut River had a total of 8 chicks, one Connecticut River territory was vacant, two Quabbin Reservoir pairs had a total of 3 chicks, while two additional Quabbin pairs failed. The Quaboag Pond pair in Brookfield failed while the Assawompsett Pond pair in Middleboro had two chicks. MassWildlife's Connecticut Valley District personnel checked each territory and banded 13 of the chicks. Two chicks were not banded as the nest tree was unsafe to climb.

GEORGE C. WEST

"Eagles continue to make a dramatic comeback in Massachusetts and elsewhere in the United States," said Dr. Tom French, Assistant Director for MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. "People who have followed eagle recovery in Massachusetts will remember that we jump started the process by releasing 41 young eagles at Quabbin Reservoir back in the 1980s, at a time when there were zero nesting eagles in the Commonwealth. Many of those released birds survived, nested and formed the foundation for today's nesting success. The wild nesting pairs have fledged a total of 151 chicks since 1989 and we're now seeing second and third generation nesting birds. I think we'll see the southern New England eagle population increase even more dramatically in the years to come, especially along our larger rivers and lakes." Massachusetts' eagles fared better in 2002 than they did last year, when late season snow and prolonged cold rains caused significant nest failures resulting in only 10 chicks fledged. Massachusetts is a distant second to Maine's 269 nesting pairs of eagles. New Hampshire had 8 pairs in 2001 while Connecticut had 6. Vermont and Rhode Island had no nesting eagles. The bald eagle is slated to come off the federal Endangered Species List once habitat protection issues are resolved in certain parts of the country.

Young Eagles Take a Dive. The two bald eagle chicks banded by MassWildlife biologists at the West Springfield site along the Connecticut River took an unexpected swim when the giant cottonwood tree supporting the eagle nest fell into the River. MassWildlife's Ralph Taylor reports that the tree was uprooted and appeared to have fallen slowly, leaving the nest suspended at a severe angle just 15 feet above the water. Taylor and his District crew located both chicks along the riverbank's floodplain forest and returned them to the nest tree where the adults were still present. The chicks will remain in the vicinity of the nest where the adults will continue to bring food, caring for them through their first flights later in June and until the young disperse from the territory in early October.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

March/April 2002

Richard S. Heil, Seth Kellogg, Marjorie W. Rines, Robert H. Stymeist

March came in like a lamb and the weather continued pleasant through midmonth, but a lion closed the month cold and wet. While the temperature was near normal and precipitation and sunshine close to normal overall, in Boston the temperature averaged 40.2 degrees, 1.3 degrees above normal, making this the eighth above-normal month in a row. The high reached 66 degrees on March 9 with a low of 19 degrees on March 22. Rainfall was recorded at 3.52 inches in Boston with measurable amounts noted on thirteen days. Snowfall was just 1.4 inches, 6.8 inches less than the average for March. The ground was bare all month except for those few days when snow fell. The seasonal total for Boston was 14.8 inches, 25.8 inches below average. Winds were from a southerly direction on eleven days.

April was warm and sunny and unusually dry, despite frequent rain. The temperature averaged 49.8 degrees, 1.5 degrees above normal. A high of 93 degrees on April 17 was 24 degrees above normal for the date and an all-time record high for so early in the year. That afternoon a cold front came in and the temperature plummeted 32 degrees in just one hour. This day was preceded by nine days of above normal temperatures which contributed to advancing the foliage of the trees by nearly three weeks. No birder appreciates this warm weather so early in the season! Rainfall was 2.64 inches, just about an inch under the average, and measurable amounts were noted on twelve days. There was only a trace of snowfall in Boston, but measurable amounts fell in many inland suburbs on April 5 and again on April 23. Thunder was heard on four days in the Boston area, double the average for April, and heavy fog was recorded on three days. Winds were out of the southwest on April 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 19, and on April 30, with southerly winds noted on April 1, 4, and 24. *R. Stymeist*

LOONS THROUGH ALCIDS

Reports of individual **Pacific Loons** continued to emanate from both the Andrew's Point, Rockport and Race Point, Provincetown areas, both during March. Regular and expected in small numbers in the interior in spring, inland grebes included fourteen Horned and five Red-necked on the Connecticut River at Turners Falls April 15. No large staging flocks of Red-necked Grebes developed along the coast this spring, with the largest assemblages consisting of a meager fifty-seven at Nahant and forty-three at Winthrop. The Gloucester **Eared Grebe** was last reported April 14. Possibly the same bird present along the New Hampshire coast earlier in the winter, a **Western Grebe** loitered off the beach at Plum Island from March 16 into May. The only tubenoses reported were forty Northern Fulmars that were wind-driven past Andrew's Point in Rockport during a modest storm March 15.

The recent increase in the beaver population and the ensuing creation of new wetlands, often containing large stands of dead, waterlogged white pines, has been beneficial to Great Blue Herons who utilize these sites for rookeries and for foraging. One such site in West Boxford contained nearly fifty herons on nests by March 27. The advance front of arriving "southern" herons began early, with the first Snowy Egret at Salem March 14, a Great Egret at Squantum March 16, and a Little Blue Heron at Salisbury March 28. How long before the vanguard begins to arrive in February? Several weeks later, herons counted flying to the Kettle Island, Manchester rookery at dusk the evening of April 13 included 59 Great Egrets, 152

Snowy Egrets, 25 Little Blue Herons, and 31 Glossy Ibis. The sole Tricolored Heron of the period was in Essex April 29. A Cattle Egret that lingered in Amesbury for a week in late April was a surprise, while the one or two pairs of Salem Harbor nesters were seen a couple of times in the Beverly Farms area, as is usual. Three flocks of Glossy Ibis migrating north along Plum Island totaled 109, April 16-17. A kettle of fifty Turkey Vultures was observed along Route 1 in Lynnfield, just before an unseasonable strong thunderstorm April 3.

Up to four Greater White-fronted Geese were reported, but no details that might help determine subspecies, and thereby origin, were submitted. The precise status of the Taiga (*gambelli*) and Greenland (*flavirostris*) races in New England is still to be determined, although Greenland birds are thought to predominate. Again, like last year, a **"Dark-bellied Brant"** (*Branta bernicla bernicla*) appeared at Newburyport. This spring one was closely studied among the Pale-bellied Brant April 25-26. Peak counts of some dabbling ducks, particularly American Black Duck and Green-winged Teal, appeared somewhat subdued this spring as a mild February apparently resulted in an early movement and a more protracted migration in general. The two drake **"Eurasian Teal"**, singles at Scituate and Plum Island, continued from the winter. A flock of seven Redheads at Cherry Hill Reservoir in West Newbury was a surprise March 14, representing a recent if not all-time high for Essex County. The Worcester area **Tufted Duck** visited Shrewsbury in mid-March before departing for regions unknown, while a female Tufted was found in Acoaxet March 17, where perhaps the same individual has made several appearances in recent years. A new record count for Harlequin Duck was established with a tally of 116 at Rockport March 6, as the wintering population in the state continues to expand. Excellent counts of Bufflehead were made on Cape Cod during the peak of migration in mid-April, including 1621 in Harwich and 520 in Orleans. A total of only seven Barrow's Goldeneye for the period, although a near-average number for recent years, is only about one-half to one-third of March/April totals from back in the 1970s and 1980s, indicative of this duck's decline in the state since that time. Perhaps this may be accounted for by the prevailing milder winters, which allow more individuals to remain farther north, rather than representing a true population decline in the Northeast. (Note that 331 Barrow's were recorded on a New Brunswick CBC last winter, a regional record and further evidence of a possible northward winter range shift.)

At least five Broad-winged Hawks were observed during the last week of March, an unprecedented early arrival. In fact, there are only two prior March records in the past fifteen seasons, both of single birds. The largest flight of Broad-winged Hawks detected occurred on April 24 when 478 passed over Barre Falls. Only three Rough-legged Hawks were reported, the lowest for the period in at least ten years. One of the events of the season, a male **Eurasian Kestrel** was found in Chatham on April 18, along the causeway connecting Morris Island to the mainland. It was originally reported from South Wellfleet on April 14, but word did not reach the birding community until it was rediscovered. Delighting hundreds of journeying birders, the kestrel remained in the vicinity throughout the month, although it became more sporadic in its appearance toward the end of its stay. There are several prior regional records between New Jersey and New Brunswick, including one from Massachusetts, an old record, of a female collected at Nantasket Beach in Hull on September 29, 1887. The prevalence of cold fronts and resultant west and northwest winds, along with expanded coverage, resulted in record counts of migrating American Kestrels along the coast on the Plum Island hawkwatch this spring. A total of 1501 were counted there for the spring season (through May), with 1100 passing by just during April. Some peak single-day counts of raptors during April at the Plum Island vigil, where birds often wing past observers nearly at eye level, included 22 Ospreys and 74 Sharp-shinned Hawks April 27, and 29 Northern Harriers and 298 American Kestrels April 4.

Single Clapper Rails arrived in the salt marshes at Eastham and Plum Island by April 20 and 25, respectively. A rare Common Moorhen was found at Amherst April 26. Two Sandhill Cranes were found. One lingered around Nantucket and Muskeget Islands April 8-27, and another was noted over Reading April 27.

Following just three days after the appearance of the Eurasian Kestrel in Chatham, a **Pacific Golden-Plover** (*Pluvialis fulva*) was discovered in the salt marsh at Plum Island (just a couple of hundred yards from *the* famous "salt pans") on the Parker River NWR in Newbury on April 21. It was the first Massachusetts record and only the third for eastern North America. An adult male in alternate plumage, the plover cooperatively foraged and roosted in the vicinity of several small pans about 100 yards from the refuge road for two weeks. Careful and critical observations for the duration of the bird's stay consistently revealed the salient features separating this species, only recently split in 1993, from its very similar congeners, the American (*dominica*) and European (*apricaria*) Golden-Plovers. Some of these field marks include the bright golden, coarsely patterned upperparts; the white stripe along the neck and chest extending along the flanks and under the tail; the long bill and the very long, "knitting-needle" legs; the rather short primary extension/ long tertials, with only two primaries apparent beyond the longest tertial; and the grayish underwings, apparent on several occasions when the bird was viewed preening or in flight. This striking bird was enjoyed by hundreds of observers and well photographed. Prior documented records of *fulva* in the East include an adult in prebasic molt just this past September in New Jersey, and an adult female shot at Scarborough, Maine, September 11, 1911.

It is interesting to note the timing of the prealternate molt among the three species of golden-plovers. The American Golden-Plover begins this molt, on average, up to a month later than the other two species (initiating migration north in the spring while still in basic plumage, whereas Pacifics and Europeans begin their prealternate molt earlier, on the wintering grounds), such that any golden-plover in North America in or near alternate ("breeding") plumage during April is unlikely to be *dominica*. Certainly, all spring golden-plovers in the Northeast warrant detailed scrutiny.

Four Lesser Yellowlegs from the wintering flock continued at Newburyport into March. An extremely early Willet, very likely of the western race *inornatus*, given the date, was found at the Plum Island salt pans March 9. The first eastern Willets, the local breeding form, began to filter in to local salt marshes pretty much on schedule during the latter half of April. Other early shorebird arrivals of note included a Semipalmated Plover in South Dartmouth April 9 and a Least Sandpiper in Essex April 3. In spring, Pectoral Sandpipers are reliably irregular in Massachusetts, sometimes engaging in pronounced eastward incursions, sometimes not. Despite the occurrence of numerous cold fronts and plentiful northwest winds, few Pectoral Sandpipers were deflected to the coast this spring from their normal interior continental migration route. Only five individuals were found in the state during April, a very low number. Only a single Ruff appeared, at the usual Joppa Flats, Newburyport location April 24-28, surely still among the most reliable sites for this species on the continent. Common Snipe made the weakest showing in at least six springs, with the few "high counts" only in the 40-50 range.

The maximum count of Bonaparte Gulls was of a paltry 320 at Nahant April 20, while a flock of seven was a good find inland at Turners Falls April 14. For the second spring, very few bonies appeared at Newburyport. Unlike the previous two Aprils, no Little Gulls were detected in the state. The 35+ Lesser Black-backed Gulls reported included a high proportion of adults. Where and whence will the long overdue first North American breeding record be revealed, the Arctic, Atlantic Canada, or . . . Monomoy? The first-winter "Nelson's Gull", the *nom de guerre* for a Glaucous X Herring hybrid, continued at Plymouth to March 26. Two Caspian Terns

migrating north over the Boxford forests were snagged by a diligent observer April 6. A Common Tern identified at Turners Falls was early April 15, and always rare and unexpected inland. The resident pair of Forster's Terns returned to their lonely Newburyport-Plum Island outpost, the northernmost known breeding site on the East Coast, by April 24. Following a rather poor winter for alcids (or at least for alcid watchers), Razorbills in particular were virtually nonexistent in March and April. Common Murres were the exception: four were still present at Race Point, Provincetown March 2, following the remarkable count of twenty-one there in late February.

R. Heil

Red-throated Loon			
3/6, 4/25	P.I.	37, 65	R. Heil
3/10	Boston H.	15	TASL (M. Hall)
3/17	Westport	30	M. Lynch#
4/7	Truro	37	R. Heil
4/8	Agawam	1	S. Kellogg
4/14	W. Newbury	1 migr	R. Heil
4/16	P'town (R.P.)	5	R. Titus
4/28	Wellfleet	9	B. Packard#
Pacific Loon			
3/2, 4	P'town (R.P.)	1	G. Hirth, C. Buelow
3/23	Rockport (A.P.)	1	B. Stevens#
Common Loon			
3/1	Ipswich	15	J. Berry
3/2	Rockport (H.P.)	11	BBC (J. Nove)
3/6	P.I.	48	R. Heil
3/7	Dennisport	14	P. Flood
3/29	W. Dennis B.	23	P. Flood
3/31	P'town	25+	B. Nikula
3/31	Lakeville	2	R. Heil
4/7	Holyoke	1	T. Gagnon
4/16	P'town (R.P.)	10	R. Titus
4/20	Truro	27	M. Lynch#
Pied-billed Grebe			
3/2	P'town	1	R. Lockwood#
4/thr	Ipswich	pr	J. Berry
4/2	Turners Falls	2	M. Williams
4/5	S. Athol	2	M. Lynch#
3/15-4/30	Reports of indiv. from 18 locations		
Horned Grebe			
3/1	Pepperell	4	E. Stromsted
3/2	Squantum	25	SSBC (R. Min)
3/6	P.I.	41	R. Heil
3/7	S. Harwich	27	P. Flood
3/10	Barnstable (S. N.)	50	G. d'Entremont#
3/25	Nahant	64	R. Heil
4/6	Westport	23	M. Lynch#
4/7	N. Scituate	15	G. d'Entremont
4/15	Turners Falls	14	M. Fairbrother
4/17	Holyoke	2	B. Bieda
Red-necked Grebe			
3/1	Cape Ann	2	C. Buelow
3/25	Nahant	57	R. Heil
3/30, 4/13	Winthrop	43, 43	P. + F. Vale
4/1	Turners Falls	4	B. Bieda
4/7	N. Scituate	23	G. d'Entremont
4/20	Marblehead	2	R. Heil
Eared Grebe*			
3/1-4/14	Gloucester	1	v.o.
Western Grebe (details) *			
3/6-4/30	P.I.	1	R. Heil + v.o.
Northern Fulmar			
3/15	Rockport (A.P.)	40+	R. Heil
4/21	Wellfleet	1	M. Lynch#
Northern Gannet			
3/1, 14	N. Truro	137, 274	D. Manchester
3/10	Nantucket	150	E. Ray
3/15	Rockport (A.P.)	94 ad	R. Heil
3/28	P.I.	60+ ad	R. Heil
3/31	P'town	750+	B. Nikula
4/1	Lynn B.	25	J. Quigley
4/7	Truro	250	R. Heil
4/10	Chatham (S.B.)	150+	P. Flood
4/19	Eastham	171	M. Lynch#
4/28	Rockport (A.P.)	250	J. Soucy
4/28	Barnstable (S.N.)	150	W. Petersen
Great Cormorant			
3/2	N. Scituate	139	SSBC (R. Min)
3/10	Boston H.	10	TASL (M. Hall)
3/16	P'town H.	300+	J. Hoye#
3/24	N. Truro	59	D. Manchester
3/25	Nahant	160	R. Heil
3/31	Lakeville	5	R. Heil
4/1-22	Turners Falls	1	M. Fairborther
4/7	N. Scituate	88	G. d'Entremont
4/17	Stoughton	3	R. Titus
Double-crested Cormorant			
3/26	W. Newbury (C.H.)	2	R. Heil
3/30	Squantum	15	G. d'Entremont
3/31	DWWS	8	D. Furbish
4/3	Turners Falls	3	M. Williams
4/13	Manchester	140+	R. Heil
4/17	Stoughton	121	R. Titus
4/19	Nauset	120	M. Lynch#
4/24	P.I.	650	R. Heil
4/25	Barre Falls	894	B. Kamp
4/30	Northampton	25	H. Allen
American Bittern			
3/9	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
4/4	Ipswich	1	J. Berry
4/14	Pittsfield	1	Hoffmann Club
4/14	Tyringham	1	K. + M. Conway
4/19, 25	DWWS	1	D. Furbish
4/20	Eastham (F.H.)	4	M. Lynch#
4/24	Newbypt.	1	R. Heil
4/27	P.I.	2	D. + S. Larson
4/29	Pepperell	1	J. Holmes
Great Blue Heron			
3/3	Lynnfield	7+	D. Williams
3/8	W. Boxford	14	J. Berry
3/27	W. Boxford	49	R. Heil
3/30	Boxboro	26	J. Michaels
3/31	Sudbury	15+	E. Salmela
3/31	Hanson	15	J. Sweeney#
4/14	Westboro	10	E. Taylor
4/14	Northampton	18	T. Gagnon
4/16	P.I.	20	T. Carrolan
Great Egret			
3/16	Squantum	1	W. Nelson
3/21	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
3/27	W. Gloucester	1	J. Nelson
3/30	Essex	10	J. Hoye#
3/31	P.I.	4	S. Mirick#
4/3	Ipswich	19	R. Heil
4/3	Turners Falls	1	M. Williams
4/4	Hingham	26	D. Peacock
4/7	S. Dartmouth	6	E. Nielsen
4/9	Manchester (K.I.)	60	R. Heil
4/14	Pittsfield (Onota)	1	S. Poulin
Snowy Egret			
3/14	Salem	1	K. Haley
3/24	Quincy	1	K. Ryan
3/26	Craigville	2	B. Kunkel
3/30	Hingham H.	7	C. Dalton
3/30	Westport	10	R. Stymeist#
4/3	Essex	35	R. Heil
4/4	Hingham	18	D. Peacock
4/6	Acoaxet	35	M. Lynch#

Snowy Egret (continued)

4/7	Westport	25	E. Neilsen
4/9, 13	Manchester (K.I.)	109, 152	R. Heil
4/19	Orleans	13	M. Lynch#

Little Blue Heron

3/28	Salisbury	1	J. Soucy
4/9, 13	Manchester (K.I.)	17, 25 ad	R. Heil
4/29	Essex	1	P. Brown

Tricolored Heron

4/29	Essex	1	P. Brown

Cattle Egret

4/14	Beverly Farms	1	L. Jodrey#
4/22-29	Amesbury	1	C. Chapman

Green Heron

4/14	Bolton Flats	1	R. Lockwood
4/15	Ashfield	1	S. Sauter
4/16	MNWS	1	K. Haley
4/16	Salisbury	1	D. Tambasco
4/17	Hingham	1	S. Carey

Black-crowned Night-Heron

3/4	Nantucket	12	B. Marks
3/27	W. Harwich	10	M. Dettrey
3/30	Hingham H.	86+	C. Dalton
4/13	Manchester (K.I.)	10 ad.	R. Heil
4/15	Medford	10	R. LaFontaine

Glossy Ibis

3/31	Cumb. Farms	2	R. Heil
4/4	W. Bridgewater	1	G. d'Entremont
4/5	Ipswich	36	J. Berry
4/8	Petersham	1	J. Baird
4/9, 13	Manchester (K.I.)	18, 31	R. Heil
4/11	DWWS	2	D. Furbish
4/16	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
4/16-17	P.I.	109 migr	R. Heil

Black Vulture

3/1	Gr. Barrington	3	D. St James
3/3	Granby	1	W. Lafley
3/17	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
3/27-28	Sheffield	1	D. St James
3/28	Ashley Falls	1	T. Collins
3/30	Raynham	1	G. LeBaron
3/31	Sudbury	1	E. Salmela
3/31	Sunderland	1	M. Williams
4/4	Cumb. Farms	1	M. + J. Halloran
4/12	N. Egremont	2	K. Reed

Turkey Vulture

3/2	Hardwick	11	C. Buelow
3/9	Maynard	8	L. Nachtrab
3/11	E. Sandwich	7	D. Manchester
3/23-29	N. Truro	34	D. Manchester
3/28	W. Townsend	17	T. Pirro
3/30	W. Gloucester	8	J. Nelson
3/31	Sunderland	10	M. Williams
4/2-30	N. Truro	222	D. Manchester#
4/3	Lynnfield	50	D. Saffarewich
4/4	Foxboro	7	C. Buelow
4/4	Nantucket	7	K. Blackshaw
4/4	Hingham	8	D. Peacock
4/7	Westport	12	E. Neilsen
4/8	Barre	19	C. Buelow
4/14	Petersham	9	M. Lynch#
4/23	W. Boylston	7	M. Lynch#

Greater White-fronted Goose

3/4-5	Richmond	2	D. St. James + v.o.
3/9	Westwood	1	J. Nelson
3/25-29	Deerfield	1	H. Allen + v.o.

Snow Goose

3/1-6	P.I.	16	R. Heil
3/16	S. Egremont	54	J. Johnson
3/16	Westfield	75	J. Weeks#
3/22	Northampton	275	G. LaBaron
3/23-24	Katama	16	J. Curelli#
3/24	Warwick	30	M. Taylor
3/24	Huntington	100	T. Gagnon
3/26, 4/25	DWWS	4, 1	D. Furbish
3/28	Ipswich	31	R. Heil
3/29	N. Andover	100	D. Duxbury-Fox#
3/30	Holyoke	80	Allen Club
3/31	Sunderland	68	M. Williams
4/19	Pittsfield (Onata)	5	B. Garver
4/20	Granville	1	K. + M. Conway

Richardson's Canada Goose

4/4	Whately	1	M. Williams

Brant

3/2	Squantum	145	SSBC (R. Min)
3/3	Richmond	1	E. Nemuth
3/5	Duxbury B.	600+	D. Furbish
3/10	Boston H.	1245	TASL (M. Hall)
3/17	P.I.	250	D. Landry
3/24-26	Deerfield	1	I. Dukovski
3/25	Nahant	380	R. Heil
3/26	Whately	1	M. Williams
4/7	P'town	140	R. Heil
4/19	Orleans	330	M. Lynch#
4/26	Newbypt.	350	R. Heil

Dark-Bellied Brant

4/25-26	Newbypt.	1	R. Heil#

Tundra Swan

3/2	Marion	1 ad, 3 juv	R. Sawyer

Whooper Swan

3/1	Ipswich	3	J. Berry

Wood Duck

3/3	Worcester	14	M. Lynch#
3/8	Northfield	100	M. Taylor
3/18	W. Newbury	16	J. Berry
3/24	Southwick	19	J. Weeks
3/24	Bolton Flats	26	S. Sutton#
3/28	Northampton	100	S. Rayer
3/31	Duxbury	15	N. Swirka
3/31	Sudbury	15+	E. Salmela
4/7	Longmeadow	15	B. Packard
4/13	Northbridge	12	M. Lynch#
4/14	Bolton Flats	13	R. Lockwood
4/21	IRWS	20	BBC (F. Vale)

Gadwall

3/2	DWWS	14	SSBC (R. Min)
3/6-4/1	Pittsfield (Onota)	2-5	K. + M. Conway
3/10	Barnstable	10	G. d'Entremont#
3/21	W. Peabody	18	R. Heil
3/23	Turners Falls	9	H. Allen
3/24	Cheshire	7	K. + M. Conway
3/28	Ipswich	46	R. Heil
4/6	Acoaxet	12	M. Lynch#
4/14	P.I.	17	P. + F. Vale

Eurasian Wigeon

3/thr	Newbypt.	1 m	v.o.

American Wigeon

3/7	Arlington Res.	5	G. Tepke
3/8	Northampton	4	R. Packard
3/10	Sterling	8	R. Lockwood
3/10	Barnstable	14	G. d'Entremont#
3/13	Pittsfield (Onata)	12	E. Nemuth
3/15	Ludlow	2	H. Allen
3/16	Newbypt. H.	25	E. Nielsen#
3/17	Bolton Flats	4	R. Lockwood
3/20	Hadley	8	H. Allen
3/24	Cheshire	6	K. + M. Conway
4/6	Acoaxet	15	M. Lynch#
4/17	Turners Falls	1	C. Buelow

American Black Duck

3/8	Northfield	400	M. Taylor
3/10	Boston H.	477	TASL (M. Hall)
3/31	Cumb. Farms	250	R. Heil
4/6	Acoaxet	234	M. Lynch#

Mallard

3/8	Northfield	350	M. Taylor
3/10	Boston H.	124	TASL (M. Hall)

Blue-winged Teal

3/15	Chilmark	1	A. Keith#
3/17	Oxford	1 m	P. Meleski
3/29	DWWS	2	B. Machover
4/7	W. Bridgewater	6	G. d'Entremont
4/7	Longmeadow	4	B. Packard
4/11	Bolton Flats	3	T. Pirro
4/15	Turners Falls	3	M. Fairbrother
4/17	Newbury	4	R. Heil

Blue-winged Teal (continued)			
4/28	Northampton	7	E. Labato
4/30	GMNWR	5	S. Perkins
Northern Shoveler			
3/16	Arlington Res.	8	A. Ankers
3/26-28	Longmeadow	2	S. Kellogg
3/30	Whately	3	H. Allen
3/31	Bolton Flats	3	R. Lockwood
4/1	Turners Falls	2	A. Richards
4/7	Topsfield	2	S. Leonard
4/8	GMNWR	2	T. Pirro
4/14	Pittsfield	3	Hoffmann Club
4/26	Nantucket	2	N. Slavits
thr	Reports of indiv. from 10 locations		
Northern Pintail			
3/5	GMNWR	18	R. Lockwood
3/6-7	Pittsfield (Onota)	22	K. + M. Conway
3/10	Barnstable	8	G. d'Entremont#
3/23	Westport	36	SSBC (D. Larson)
3/28	P.I.	280	B. Miller
3/28	W. Bridgewater	6	G. d'Entremont
3/28	Newbury	56	R. Heil
3/28	Chicopee	4	H. Allen
3/31	Bolton Flats	5	R. Lockwood
4/6	Acoaxet	5	M. Lynch#
4/30	Hadley	100	C. Gentes
Green-winged Teal			
3/3	Scituate	20	J. Hoye#
3/6, 4/16	P.I.	75, 110	R. Heil
3/17	W. Harwich	35	B. Nikula
3/17, 4/14	Bolton Flats	24, 178	R. Lockwood
3/24, 30	Cumb. Farms	8, 74	J. Sweeney#
3/28, 4/3	Ipswich	35, 60	R. Heil
3/28, 4/2	Newbury	80, 130	R. Heil
3/28	Rowley	42	R. Heil
3/31	Halifax (C.F.)	300	R. Heil
4/6	W. Bridgewater	250	W. Petersen
4/15	Turners Falls	102	M. Fairborther
Eurasian Teal			
3/2-3	N. Scituate	1	R. Min + v.o.
3/20-4/6	P.I.	1	N. Soulette + v.o.
Canvasback			
3/2-16	W. Newbury	2-5	J. Soucy#
3/3	Braintree	5	S. Carey
3/3-23	Arlington Res.	2	L. Ferraresso
3/14	Cotuit	4	St. Miller
3/23	Westport	9	SSBC (D. Larson)
4/2	Braintree	3	D. Larson
Redhead			
3/1	Pepperell	4	E. Stromsted
3/3-5	Richmond	1	E. Nemuth
3/14-19	W. Newbury	7	R. Heil
3/16	Boston	1 f	G. Tepke
3/17	Pittsfield	1	G. Shampang
3/24	Cheshire	3	K. + M. Conway
Ring-necked Duck			
3/thr	Framingham	50	E. Taylor
3/2	W. Newbury	500	J. Soucy#
3/3	Richmond	138	E. Nemuth
3/13, 27	Stow	100, 36	S. Sutton#
3/24	Stoughton	63	G. d'Entremont
3/26	Turners Falls	116	W. Lafley
3/30	Holyoke	111	C. Gentes
4/5	Granby	140	W. Lafley
4/6	New Salem	140	W. Lafley
4/7	Turners Falls	103	B. Packard
4/8	Cheshire	100	D. St James
4/11	GMNWR	48	R. Lockwood
4/17	Holyoke	40	B. Bieda
4/30	Topsfield	7	J. Berry
Tufted Duck			
3/14-19	Shrewsbury	1 m	M. Lynch#
3/17	Acoaxet	1 f	M. Lynch#
Greater Scaup			
3/10	Boston H.	426	TASL (M. Hall)
3/10	Barnstable	40	G. d'Entremont#
3/10	Sterling	21	R. Lockwood
3/10, 24	Lakeville	24, 7	J. Sweeney#
3/17	Acoaxet	41	M. Lynch#
3/24	Pittsfield (Onata)	7	K. + M. Conway
3/30, 4/27	Randolph	30, 10	G. d'Entremont
4/6	Acoaxet	34	M. Lynch#
4/8	Cheshire	1	D. St. James
Lesser Scaup			
3/10	Barnstable	6	G. d'Entremont#
3/17	Acoaxet	35	M. Lynch#
3/31	Lakeville	110	R. Heil
4/13	Wakefield	8	P. + F. Vale
4/15	Turners Falls	9	M. Fairbrother
King Eider			
3/3	Gloucester	1 m	T. Pirro
3/10	Nantucket	1	J. Carlson
3/25	Lynn	1 ad m	R. Heil
Common Eider			
3/5	Duxbury B.	1300+	D. Furbish
3/9	Barnstable	5500	G. d'Entremont#
3/10	Nantucket	26590	E. Ray
3/10	Boston H.	6227	TASL (M. Hall)
4/7	Nahant	630	L. Pivacek
Harlequin Duck			
3/2, 16	Rockport (H.P.)	35, 20	BBC (J. Nove)
3/2	N. Scituate	23	SSBC (R. Min)
3/6	Rockport	116	W. Harrington#
3/9	Orleans	8	T. Prince#
3/10	Nantucket	30	E. Ray
3/10	Boston H.	1	TASL (M. Hall)
4/14	N. Scituate	14	G. d'Entremont
Surf Scoter			
3/10	Boston H.	96	TASL (M. Hall)
3/10	Fairhaven	100+	J. Sweeney#
3/25	Nahant	80	R. Heil
4/20	Marblehead	80	R. Heil
4/20	Truro	68	M. Lynch#
4/21	Dennis	57	M. Lynch#
White-winged Scoter			
3/10	Boston H.	279	TASL (M. Hall)
3/10	Fairhaven	150+	J. Sweeney#
3/16	P.I.	60	E. Nielsen#
3/25, 4/20	Nahant	770, 200	R. Heil
4/20	P'town	289	M. Lynch#
Black Scoter			
3/9	Orleans	125	T. Prince#
3/14	P.I.	75	R. Heil
4/19	Nauset	157	M. Lynch#
4/21	Chatham	450	R. Titus
Long-tailed Duck			
3/3	Gloucester	20	T. Pirro
3/24	Boston H.	10	S. Zendeh#
3/28, 4/25	P.I.	350, 800	R. Heil
4/1	Gardner	1 m	T. Pirro
Bufflehead			
3/2	Squantum	273	SSBC (R. Min)
3/8	Turners Falls	2	W. Lafley
3/10	Boston H.	884	TASL (M. Hall)
3/17	Acoaxet	222	M. Lynch#
3/21	Chatham (S.B.)	278	P. Flood
3/25	Nahant	630	R. Heil
4/7	N. Andover	27	J. Berry
4/7	Randolph	45	G. d'Entremont
4/15	Orange	4	W. Lafley
4/16	P.I.	24	R. Heil
4/19	Orleans	520+	M. Lynch#
4/20	Harwich	1621	M. Lynch#
Common Goldeneye			
3/2	Westboro	3	S. Moore
3/2	Chatham (S.B.)	56	P. Flood
3/2	Squantum	310	SSBC (R. Min)
3/8	Turners Falls	28	H. Allen
3/10	Boston H.	386	TASL (M. Hall)
3/14	Shrewsbury	28	M. Lynch#
3/16	P.I.	40	E. Nielsen#
3/17	Westport	56	M. Lynch#
3/26	Newbypt.	185	R. Heil
3/31	Gardner	9	T. Pirro
4/7	Turners Falls	17	B. Packard

Barrow's Goldeneye

3/3	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 m	T. Pirro
3/10	Barnstable	1 m	G. d'Entremont#
3/14, 26	Newbypt.	2	R. Heil
3/28	P.I.	2	J. Berry#
4/6-23	Turners Falls	1 f	J. Hutchison#

Common x Barrow's Goldeneye

03/26	Newbypt.	1 m ad	R. Heil

Hooded Merganser

3/3	Ipswich	7	J. Berry
3/7	Richmond	19	R. Packard
3/13	Ware	12	D. Norton
3/19	N. Andover	13 f	T. Wetmore
3/24	Cheshire	33	K. + M. Conway
3/24	Pittsfield (Onata)	49	K. + M. Conway
3/25	Mt.A.	13	D. Cowell
4/5	New Salem	6	M. Lynch#
4/11	Bolton Flats	8	T. Pirro
4/27	HRWMA	1	C. Caron

Red-breasted Merganser

3/2	Chatham (S.B.)	700+	P. Flood
3/10	Boston H.	1002	TASL (M. Hall)
3/21	Turners Falls	1	H. Allen
3/30	Egremont	2	K. + M. Conway
4/6	Acoaxet	166	M. Lynch#
4/20	Truro	429	M. Lynch#

Common Merganser

3/1	Turners Falls	150	H. Allen
3/2	Stoneham	180+	D. + I. Jewell
3/6	Westboro	424	N. Paulson
3/8	Northampton	134	R. Packard
3/12	Northboro	564	E. Morrier
3/14	W. Newbury (C.H.)	198	R. Heil
3/27	Groveland	56	R. Heil
3/29	Taunton	15	J. Sweeney
4/4	Leominster	11	C. Caron
4/14	Bolton Flats	2	R. Lockwood

Ruddy Duck

3/2	Eastham	16	R. Lockwood#
3/16	W. Newbury	47	E. Nielsen#
3/17	Gloucester	19	P. + F. Vale
3/21	Danvers	45	R. Heil
3/24	Melrose	43	P. + F. Vale
4/5	Jamaica Plain	17	M. Kanaracus
4/6	Arlington Res.	26	M. Rines
4/14	W. Newbury (C.H.)	28	R. Heil

Osprey

3/3	W. Harwich	1	S. McGrath
3/28	Barnstable (S.N.)	3	M. Dettrey
3/29	W. Dennis B.	3	P. Flood
4/4	Mashpee	5	C. Buelow
4/6	Acoaxet	43	M. Lynch#
4/6	Westport	24	M. Lynch#
4/9-30	N. Truro	11 total	D. Manchester#
4/10	Hyannis	3	C. Buelow
4/11	DWWS	3	D. Furbish
4/15	Barnstable (S.N.)	3	G. Ferguson
4/15-30	Barre Falls	69 total	B. Kamp
4/16	Groton	4	T. Pirro
4/24	WBWS	2 pr	D. Silverstein#
4/27	P.I.	22	T. Carrolan
4/27	Eastham	4	G. Hirth
3/17-4/30	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 36 locations		

Bald Eagle

3/3	Brookfield	pr	M. Lynch#
3/4, 4/4	Sunderland	1, 1	M. Williams
3/8	Hadley	1 ad at nest	R. Packard
3/13	W. Newbury	1 ad	S. McGrath
3/23	Newbypt.	1 ad	S. Grinley
3/23, 4/30	N. Truro	1, 1	D. Manchester
3/29-4/30	Barre Falls	11 total	B. Kamp
3/30	W. Boylston	1 ad, 1 imm	R. Brill#
3/31	Sunderland	1 ad	M. Williams
3/31	Lakeville	1 ad	R. Heil
4/7	Gill	1	B. Packard
4/16	Groton	1 imm	T. Pirro
4/17	Easthampton	1 ad	M. Williams
4/17	Turners Falls	pr	C. Buelow
4/20	Pepperell	1	M. Torpey
4/29	Newbypt.	1 imm	B. Machove
4/30	P.I.	1	T. Carrolan#

Northern Harrier

3/1-2	N. Truro	7 total	D. Manchester
3/2	Salisbury	3	P. Guidetti
3/24-29	N. Truro	12 total	D. Manchester
3/24	Cumb. Farms	2	J. Sweeney#
3/30-4/30	P.I.	113	T. Carrolan
4/2-25	N. Truro	34 total	D. Manchester#
4/4	Salisbury	2	S. McGrath
4/4	DWWS	4	D. Furbish
4/23	Bolton Flats	2	C. Buelow
4/25	DWWS	1 pr	D. Furbish

Sharp-shinned Hawk

3/7	Groton	2	T. Pirro
3/17	Bourne	2	J. Sweeney#
3/29-4/30	Barre Falls	103 total	B. Kamp#
3/31	Sunderland	3	M. Williams
4/2-30	N. Truro	112 total	D. Manchester#
4/11	Groton	2	T. Pirro
4/14-30	Ipswich	pr n	J. Berry
4/16-30	P.I.	139 total	T. Carrolan
4/16	Groton	5	T. Pirro
4/16	Newbypt.	34	R. Heil
4/20	P'town (R.P.)	3	M. Lynch#
4/20	Pepperell	2	M. Torpey

Cooper's Hawk

3/7-4/30	Ipswich	pr n	J. Berry
3/9	Cumb. Farms	2	R. Titus
3/9	Holyoke	4	M. Williams
3/11	Canton	2 ad	K. Ryan
3/14	Stoughton	3	R. Titus
3/15	Sagamore	2	D. Manchester
3/23	Belchertown	2	M. Faherty
3/23, 28	N. Truro	3, 2	D. Manchester
3/29, 4/25	Barre Falls	2, 4	B. Kamp#
3/29	Groton	3	T. Pirro
3/31	Sunderland	2	M. Williams
4/2-30	N. Truro	17 total	D. Manchester#
4/27	P.I.	3	T. Carrolan

Northern Goshawk

3/3	Scituate	1	J. Hoye#
3/7, 27	Groton	1	T. Pirro
3/14	Stoughton	1	R. Titus
3/23	Belchertown	1	M. Faherty
3/27, 4/21	Whately	1, 2	M. Williams
3/28	N. Truro	1	D. Manchester
3/29	Boxford (C.P.)	2	P. + F. Vale
4/2	Sunderland	1 ad	M. Williams
4/2	Ipswich	1 ad	R. Heil
4/6	P.I.	1	EMHW (J. Barton)
4/14	Bolton Flats	1	R. Lockwood
4/16-30	N. Truro	3 total	D. Manchester#
4/25	Barre Falls	pr	B. Kamp

Red-shouldered Hawk

3/3	Lincoln	2	J. Collins
3/9	Holyoke	3	M. Williams
3/9	Cumb. Farms	3	R. Titus
3/9	Carlisle	2	D. + T. Brownrigg
3/13	Taunton	2	R. Titus
3/14	Stow	pr	T. Carrolan
3/14	Stoughton	3	R. Titus
3/22	Easton	2 ad	G. d'Entremont
3/28, 29	Barre Falls	10, 7	B. Kamp#
3/29	Bourne	2	St. Miller
3/29	Boxford (C.P.)	3	P. + F. Vale
3/30	GMNWR	pr	M. Rines
3/31	Lakeville	pr	R. Heil
4/2	Norton	2	D. Janas
4/11	Groton	pr	T. Pirro
4/14	Chesterfield	2	B. Packard
4/16	Middleton	2	J. Berry
4/16	Newbypt.	2 imm	R. Heil

Broad-winged Hawk

3/29	Stoughton	1	D. Larson
3/30	Holyoke	3	C. Gentes#
3/31-4/30	Barre Falls	857	B. Kamp#

Broad-winged Hawk (continued)

4/14	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
4/16	Groton	9	T. Pirro
4/17	Northampton	2	M. Williams
4/19	Sunderland	4	M. Williams
4/19	Whately	35	M. Williams
4/20	Pepperell	12	M. Torpey
4/30	N. Truro	4	D. Manchester#

Red-tailed Hawk

3/4	Sunderland	6	M. Williams
3/9	Cumb. Farms	8	R. Titus
3/14	Sunderland	10	M. Williams
3/15	Sagamore	10	D. Manchester
3/29	Barre Falls	31	B. Kamp#
4/2-30	N. Truro	36 total	D. Manchester#

Rough-legged Hawk

3/4	Medfield	1 lt	E. Morrier
3/16	Wayland	1	S. Perkins#
3/29	P.I.	1	P. Guidetti

Golden Eagle

3/31	Barre Falls	1 ad migr	B. Kamp#
3/31	S. Quabbin	1	M. Lynch
4/19	Whately	1	M. Williams

Eurasian Kestrel (details submitted) *

4/14	S. Wellfleet	1 m	L. Bostrom#
4/18-30	Chatham	1 m ph	R. Clem + v.o.

American Kestrel

3/30-4/27	P.I.	1067 total	T. Carrolan
3/30-4/15	Barre Falls	38 total	B. Kamp#
3/31	Sunderland	6	M. Williams
3/31	Cumb. Farms	7	R. Heil
3/31	DWWS	22	D. Furbish
3/31	W. Bridgewater	10	R. Heil
4/2-30	N. Truro	122 total	D. Manchester#
4/5	Amesbury	9	S. McGrath
4/6	Essex	6	S. Hedman#
4/9, 15	Barre Falls	13, 8	B. Kamp
4/12	Lancaster	19	R. Lockwood
4/16	Groton	8	T. Pirro
4/16	Newbypt.	63	R. Heil
4/21	Hingham	7	S. Donovan

Merlin

3/28	Chicopee	2	H. Allen
3/28, 29	Barre Falls	2, 3	B. Kamp#
3/29	Salisbury	2	P. + F. Vale
3/30-4/27	P.I.	33	T. Carrolan
3/31	Rockport (H.P.)	2	S. Mirick#
4/4	P.I.	2	T. Carrolan
4/8-30	N. Truro	7 total	D. Manchester#
4/11	Boston	2	G. Tepke

Peregrine Falcon

3/2	Salisbury	1	J. Nelson
3/10	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw#
3/11	P.I.	1 ad	T. Carrolan
3/24	Boston	2	P. Brown
3/24	Hadley	1	E. Labato
3/24	Amherst	1	E. Labato
3/26	DWWS	1 imm	D. Furbish
3/29	Worcester	1 ad	M. Lynch#
3/30	Hingham	1	C. Dalton
4/14-30	P.I.	7	T. Carrolan#
4/14	Northampton	1	S. Surner
4/20	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	G. Leet
4/27	Barre Falls	1	B. Kamp
4/28	Chatham (S.B.)	1 ad	B. Packard#

Gyrfalcon *

3/1-4/30	Boston	1	N. Smith + v.o.

Ring-necked Pheasant

3/17	W. Newbury	2	S. Grinley
3/27	N. Andover	1 m	R. Heil
3/28	Rowley	1 m	R. Heil
4/13	Boston	1	M. Kanaracus#
4/21	IRWS	1	BBC (F. Vale)
4/30	Quincy	1	K. Ryan

Ruffed Grouse

3/9, 14	Westboro	1	S. Sutton#
3/25	DWWS	1	D. Furbish
4/4	Hingham	1	D. Peacock
4/5, 15	Essex	1, 1	J. Berry
4/10	Ashfield	3	S. Sauter
4/10	Sunderland	1	M. Williams
4/11	Lancaster	2	R. Lockwood
4/14	Northampton	5	C. Gentes#
4/14	Stoughton	2	D. + S. Larson
4/15	Hardwick	3	C. Buelow
4/18	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller
4/21	Stow	5	R. Lockwood
4/27	W. Newbury	2	G. Tepke#
4/27	Boxford (C.P.)	1	P. + F. Vale

Wild Turkey

3/20	Royalston	12	M. Taylor
3/24	Bridgewater	8	J. Sweeney#
3/27	Sheffield	67	D. St James
3/27	E. Longmeadow	8	G. Kingston
3/28	Essex	5	R. Heil
3/29	N. Plymouth	8	J. Sweeney
4/1	Burlington	20	J. Brown
4/4	P.I.	8	T. Carrolan
4/6	Amherst	36	H. Allen
4/6	Stow	21	R. Lockwood
4/14	Petersham	14	M. Lynch#
4/25	Templeton	14	C. Caron
4/29	Pepperell	43	J. Holmes
thr	Easton	9-13	K. Ryan

Northern Bobwhite

3/9	Wellfleet	2	G. d'Entremont#
3/28	N. Truro	1	D. Manchester
4/18	Hyannis	2	C. Buelow
4/20	Eastham (F.H.)	8	M. Lynch#

Clapper Rail

4/20	Eastham (F.H.)	1	M. Lynch#
4/25	P.I.	1	R. Heil

Virginia Rail

4/13	Holyoke	1	T. Gagnon
4/14	Northampton	2	C. Gentes
4/18	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller
4/20	Salem	1	I. Lynch
4/23	Bolton Flats	7	C. Buelow
4/26	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins
4/29	Pittsfield	10	D. St James
4/29	Lenox	1	D. St James
4/30	HRWMA	1	C. Caron
4/30	Pepperell	1	J. Lisk

Sora

4/23	Bolton Flats	4	C. Buelow
4/29	Pittsfield	3	D. St James

Common Moorhen

4/26	Amherst	1	H. Allen

American Coot

3/15	Brookline	3	E. Taylor
3/23	Westport	7	SSBC (D. Larson)
3/23	Arlington	52	K. Hartel
3/29	Boston	19	M. Kanaracus#
4/5	Jamaica Plain	21	M. Kanaracus
4/7	Woburn	7	R. LaFontaine#
4/11	DWWS	1	D. Furbish

Sandhill Crane

4/8-27	Nantucket	1	R. Lay + v.o.
4/20	Muskeget I.	1	I. Nisbet
4/27	Reading	1	M. Daley

Black-bellied Plover

3/2	Chatham (S.B.)	32	P. Flood
3/14	Nantucket	30	E. Ray
3/22	Duxbury	1	D. Clapp
4/10	P.I.	1	MAS (N. Soulette)
4/13	Winthrop	25+	P. + F. Vale
4/27	Eastham	6	G. Hirth
4/27	E. Boston	27	R. Stymeist#

Pacific Golden-Plover (details) *

4/21-30	P.I.	1 ad m alt pl ph	R. Heil + v.o.

Semipalmated Plover

4/7	S. Dartmouth	1	E. Nielsen

Piping Plover

3/16	P'town (R.P.)	1	J. Hoye#
3/17	Chilmark	2	T. Whiting
3/23	Acoaxet	2	SSBC (D. Larson)

Piping Plover (continued)

3/24	Mashpee	3	C. Buelow
3/24	Nantucket	3	E. Ray
3/30	Westport	6	R. Stymeist#
4/4	P.I.	8	T. Wetmore
4/7	S. Dartmouth	5	E. Nielsen
4/10	Chatham (S.B.)	16	P. Flood
4/15	Barnstable (S.N.)	15	G. Ferguson
4/27	W. Dennis B.	7	P. Flood
4/27	Eastham	20	G. Hirth

Killdeer

3/16	Easton	10	D. Larson
3/16	Concord (NAC)	27	S. Perkins
3/16	W. Bridgewater	18	M. Faherty
3/21	Topsfield	22	R. Heil
3/26	Rowley	17	R. Heil
3/28	W. Townsend	15	T. Pirro
3/28	Ipswich	27	R. Heil

American Oystercatcher

3/12	Edgartown	1	A. Keith
3/16, 28	Nantucket	3, 18	E. Ray
3/28	Gloucester	2	G. Griffis
4/6	Winthrop	2	J. Soucy#
4/7	Chatham	10	R. Heil
4/7	Fairhaven	4	M. Boucher
4/27	Hingham H.	2	R. Carroll
4/30	Squantum	4	K. Ryan

Greater Yellowlegs

3/10	Barnstable	3	G. d'Entremont#
3/29, 4/27	P.I.	3, 24	P. + F. Vale
3/31	W. Harwich	6	B. Nikula
4/3	Newbypt.	12	R. Heil
4/7	Chatham	21	B. Nikula#
4/7	Wellfleet	10	R. Heil
4/14	Newbypt.	27	P. + F. Vale
4/19	Orleans	15	M. Lynch#
4/21	Yarmouth	44	M. Lynch#
4/21	Eastham (F.E.)	62	M. Lynch#
4/27	Squantum	20	G. d'Entremont
4/28	Newbypt. H.	100+	P. + F. Vale
4/28-30	Northampton	4-7	E. Labato

Lesser Yellowlegs

3/1	Newbypt.	4	C. Buelow
3/9	P.I.	1	P. Morlock
4/3	Ipswich	1	R. Heil
4/7	Chatham	2	B. Nikula#
4/13	Winthrop	4	P. + F. Vale
4/27-30	Northampton	2-3	T. Gagnon
4/28	Newbypt. H.	14	P. + F. Vale

Solitary Sandpiper

4/21	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon

Willet

3/9	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
4/21	Yarmouth	3	M. Lynch#
4/21	Chatham	1	B. Nikula
4/27	Eastham	3	G. Hirth
4/27	Essex	1	D. + S. Larson
4/27	W. Dennis B.	13	P. Flood

Spotted Sandpiper

4/17	Goshen	1	B. Packard
4/20	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon
4/29	Winchester	1	A. Ankers
4/29	Bolton Flats	1	T. Pirro
4/29	Arlington Res.	1	M. Rines

Upland Sandpiper

4/24	Lancaster	4	R. Lockwood
4/24	P.I.	2	S. Grinley

Ruddy Turnstone

3/10	Boston H.	6	TASL (M. Hall)
4/11	Nantucket	30	O. Spalding
4/13	Winthrop	4	P. + F. Vale

Sanderling

3/2	Chatham (S.B.)	900+	P. Flood
3/4	P'town	300	C. Buelow
3/16	P'Town (R.P.)	100+	J. Hoye#
3/21	Chatham (S.B.)	263	P. Flood
3/25, 4/20	Nahant	380, 800	R. Heil
3/30	Lynn B.	750+	P. + F. Vale
4/21	Dennis	108	M. Lynch#
4/21	P'town (R.P.)	25	G. Hirth
4/27	Winthrop	65	R. Stymeist#
4/28	Chatham (S.B.)	150	B. Packard#

Least Sandpiper

4/3	Essex	1	R. Heil
4/22	P.I.	1	R. Heil
4/25	Newbypt.	3	R. Heil
4/27	W. Dennis B.	3	P. Flood

Pectoral Sandpiper

3/28	Ipswich	1	R. Heil
4/4	W. Bridgewater	1	G. d'Entremont
4/5	Bolton Flats	2	T. Murray
4/17	Ipswich	1	R. Heil
4/23	Hadley	1	C. Gentes

Purple Sandpiper

3/9	N. Scituate	50	J. Hutchison#
3/17	Westport	48	M. Lynch#
3/24	Boston H.	30	S. Zendeh#
4/11	Nantucket	40	O. Spalding
4/13	Manchester	60	R. Heil
4/14	Scituate	150+	SSBC (N. Swirka)
4/27	Winthrop	55	R. Stymeist#

Dunlin

3/2	Chatham (S.B.)	3500	P. Flood
3/25	Nahant	100	R. Heil
3/30	Westport	180	R. Stymeist#
3/30	Lynn B.	300+	P. + F. Vale
4/7	S. Dartmouth	160	E. Nielsen
4/13	Winthrop	100+	P. + F. Vale
4/15	Barnstable (S.N.)	250+	G. Ferguson
4/21	Dennis	113	M. Lynch#
4/28	Newbypt. H.	100+	P. + F. Vale

Ruff

4/24-28	Newbypt. H.	1 m	R. Heil + v.o.

Short-billed Dowitcher

4/21	P.I.	2	R. Heil
4/24	Newbypt. H.	3	M. + J. Halloran

Common Snipe

3/8	Newbypt	10	J. Berry
3/31, 4/14	Bolton Flats	25, 21	R. Lockwood
3/31	Cumb. Farms	26	R. Heil
4/6	Sheffield	12	K. Ryan
4/7	W. Bridgewater	55	G. d'Entremont
4/10	Newbury	40	R. Heil
4/10	Concord (NAC)	19	G. Ferguson
4/13	Ipswich	50+	J. Berry#

American Woodcock

3/8	N. Reading	7	D. Williams
3/9	DWWS	15	P. Guidetti
3/9	Barnstable	6	T. Prince#
3/12	Cambridge	9	M. Rines
3/14	Sutton	26	M. Lynch#
3/16	Worcester	20	M. Lynch#
3/23	Hardwick	6	C. Buelow
3/24	Gloucester	6	J. Barber
3/24	Taunton	6	J. Sweeney
3/28	Burlington	6	P. + F. Vale

Laughing Gull

3/27	Plymouth	1	J. Sweeney
3/29	W. Dennis B.	1 ad	P. Flood
3/31	Wellfleet H.	1	B. Nikula
4/7	Chatham	65	R. Heil
4/7	Wellfleet	7	R. Heil
4/19	Nauset	200+	M. Lynch#
4/28	Chatham (S.B.)	150	B. Packard#

Black-headed Gull

4/1-4	Lynn	1	J. Quigley
4/7	Chatham	1 ad	R. Heil#
4/24	Newbypt. H.	1	M. + J. Halloran

Bonaparte's Gull

3/10	Barnstable	8	T. Prince#
3/30	Lynn B.	145	P. + F. Vale
4/15	Turners Falls	7	M. Fairbrother
4/17	Newbypt.	25	R. Heil
4/20	Nahant	320	R. Heil

Iceland Gull

3/6	Newbypt.	3	G. Leet#

Iceland Gull (continued)				
3/9	P'town (R.P.)	7		G. d'Entremont#
3/11	Nantucket	40		E. Ray
3/15	Oak Bluffs	1		A. Keith
3/15	Lynn	1		J. Quigley
3/21	Chatham (S.B.)	1	1W	P. Flood
3/29	N. Truro	2		D. Manchester
4/7	Chatham	1	1W	R. Heil
4/20	Gloucester (E.P.)	1		G. Leet
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
3/thr	Boston	1		v.o.
3/11	Nantucket	27		E. Ray
3/24, 4/21	Brewster	2, 1		B. Nikula
4/7	Chatham	4		R. Heil
4/15	Barnstable (S.N.)	1		G. Ferguson
Glaucous Gull				
3/10	Boston	1	imm	P. Roberts
3/14	Nantucket	1		E. Ray
3/17	Gloucester	1		P. + F. Vale
4/13	Manchester	1	1W	R. Heil
4/14	Wellfleet	1		J. Young
4/21	Chatham	1		M. Williams#
Nelson's Gull				
3/23	Plymouth	1		S. Moore
Black-legged Kittiwake				
3/2	P'town (R.P.)	2		G. Hirth#
3/2	Chatham (S.B.)	1		P. Flood
3/3	Rockport (A.P.)	10+		T. Pirro
3/31	P.I.	1		P. + F. Vale
Caspian Tern				
4/6	Boxford	2		T. Martin
Common Tern				
4/15	Turners Falls	1		M. Fairbrother
4/18	Nantucket	5		J. Hatch
4/27	Newbypt.	2		M. Lynch#
Forster's Tern				
4/24	Newbypt.	2	ad	R. Heil
Common Murre				
3/2	P'town (R.P.)	4		R. Lockwood#
Thick-billed Murre				
3/2	Rockport (H.P.)	1		BBC (J. Nove)
3/4	P'town	3		C. Buelow
3/17	P.I.	1		D. Landry
Razorbill				
3/1	Cape Ann	1		C. Buelow
3/2	P'town (R.P.)	3		R. Lockwood#
3/31	off West Chop	7		R. Cohen
4/11	Nantucket	3+		O. Spalding
Black Guillemot				
3/1	Cape Ann	13		C. Buelow
3/10	Boston H.	7		TASL (M. Hall)
3/30	Gay Head	1		V. Laux#
4/7	Marshfield	9		G. d'Entremont
4/17	Gloucester	1		R. Heil
4/20	Marblehead	1		R. Heil
Atlantic Puffin				
3/17	Nantucket	1		J. Hatch

PARAKEETS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

Ah spring! The weather can certainly be a big factor for the success of spring migration; the wrong winds can just frustrate the birding world that anxiously awaits the returning songbirds. This March through April was a birder's dream and hope with lots of southerly winds. March saw winds from the south on eleven days, and in April the winds came from the southwest seven days, those considered the most favorable for migration in the spring. Last year winds out of the southwest were recorded on just one day in March and just one day in April. There were several days in which observers noted an increase in migrants coinciding with the weather. The last five days of March had temperatures above normal with strong southerly winds on March 29-31. Good numbers of Eastern Phoebes, Tree Swallows, Eastern Meadowlarks, and northbound Fox Sparrows were widely reported throughout our area. An Eastern Kingbird was recorded on March 29 in Raynham, a day of a strong south wind that brought the temperature up in the sixties. This represents the earliest arrival date for this species, surpassing a March 30, 1994, bird from Fort Hill in Eastham. On Plum Island, Rick Heil witnessed one of his best ever early spring fallouts on April 16. A front had stalled over our area the previous 36 hours with an easterly wind. This was followed by a surge of warm air from the southwest which saw temperatures rise as much as 11 degrees above normal on April 16 and an amazing 24 degrees on April 17. Reaching the coast overnight, the migrants encountered dense fog and an easterly breeze that resulted in a major spring fallout for several species. Rick recorded 54 Northern Flickers, 11 Eastern Phoebes, 2 Blue-headed Vireos, 60 Tree Swallows, 26 Golden- and 110 Ruby-crowned kinglets, 42 Hermit Thrushes, 120 American Robins, 60 Yellow-rumped , 9 Pine and 130 Palm (*hypochrysea* or "yellow") warblers, 3 Chipping, 41 Savannah, 2 Seaside and 145 Song sparrows, and 165 American Goldfinches. In addition, Rick noted 4 "western" Palm Warblers; this nominate race (*palmarum*) is a common fall migrant and occasional winterer in southeastern Massachusetts, but a rare spring migrant in our area. The mild and almost snowless winter was certainly a contributing factor.

The mild weather produced a new early arrival date for several species in western Massachusetts. Seth Kellogg reports the earliest ever arrival dates for Wood Thrush, Gray

Catbird, Northern Waterthush (this bird found in Pittsfield on April 3 was ten days earlier than the previous record of April 13, 1991) and Common Yellowthroat. Seth also reports a tie for the earliest arrival for Warbling Vireo and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (April 25). In eastern Massachusetts some of the early migrants included a Yellow-billed Cuckoo that was banded at Manomet on April 26, a Whip-poor-will calling in Shrewsbury on April 13, and an Orchard Oriole found in Medford on April 27.

Monk Parakeets, now accepted by the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, were noted from Somerset and in Dartmouth. Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Carolina Wrens, on the other hand, continue to expand their ranges; of note are the nineteen Carolina Wrens in Northbridge in the summary that follows. The invasion of this species has been rapid and unprecedented. Mark Lynch, one of the icons of Worcester County birders, notes that this species was essentially nonexistent in Worcester County until the mid-1990s, but now they are found in increasing numbers. Northbridge, according to Mark "is very much riparian habitat and there are tons of Carolina Wrens there now." Another species increasing into our area from the north and west is the Common Raven. Notice the reports from Boxford, the Blue Hills, and from South Beach in Chatham.

At Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary in Marshfield a single Long-eared Owl continued along the Secret Trail through the end of April; during early March as many as six individuals were present there. Snowy Owls continued through the end of April at Logan Airport and another late Snowy was found on Sandy Neck in Barnstable on April 28. There were many reports of nesting and young Great Horned Owls throughout our area.

Seventeen species of warblers and four species of vireos were noted during the period, compared with a record number of twenty-two species of warblers and all five vireo species last year during the same period. Fallouts of warblers were noted (in addition to the previously mentioned major fallout at Plum Island) from Nahant, Marblehead Neck, and at Mount Auburn, although not at the same magnitude as Plum Island. Five species of warblers were found at Franklin Park on April 30. Nine Orange-crowned Warblers were reported, most of them in March, most likely survivors of the mild winter. A Wilson's Warbler found singing at Fresh Pond in Cambridge on April 10 was most probably another survivor of the winter rather than a neotropical migrant. A Prothonotary Warbler found at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield brightened the early spring landscape as well as the spirits of many birders.

Among the more unusual species reported during this period were Red-headed Woodpeckers (three reports, all holdovers from last year), **Boreal Chickadees** from Granby and Windsor, a **Summer Tanager** in Belmont, a **Harris's Sparrow** in Westport, a **Painted Bunting** in Lexington, and **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** in Northampton and Weymouth.

Flocks of both White-winged and Red crossbills continued in the Salisbury State Park camping area and Common Redpolls were noted in larger numbers, especially in the last few days of March, coinciding with the strong southerly winds sending those birds back north.

R. Stymeist

Monk Parakeet
- 3/7 Dartmouth 2 D. + D. Oliver
- 4/7 Somerset 6 S. Hunt

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- 4/26 Manomet 1 b T. Lloyd-Evans

Eastern Screech-Owl
- 3/2-5 Jamaica Plain 2 M. Kanaracus
- 3/6 Essex pr J. Berry#
- 4/10 Brewster 2 D. Silverstein#
- thr Reports of indiv. from 16 locations

Great Horned Owl
- 3/thr Westboro 1 ad, 1 yg v.o.
- 3/9 Douglas 7 M. Lynch#
- 3/14 Sutton 7 M. Lynch#
- 3/15 W. Newbury 3 T. Wetmore
- 4/thr Rowley 2 pr n J. Berry#
- 4/thr Ipswich pr n J. Berry#
- 4/4 DWWS 2 D. Furbish
- 4/17 Hingham 1 ad, 2 yg S. Carey
- 4/20 Westwood 1 ad, 2 yg J. Soma
- 4/21 Northampton 3 ad T. Gagnon
- 4/24 P'town 2 D. Silverstein#
- thr Reports of indiv. from 22 locations

Snowy Owl
3/1-14, 4/16 P.I. 2 ad m, 1 R. Heil
3/2 Chatham 1 P.Trull#
3/2 Salisbury 2 P. Guidetti
3/11 Duxbury B. 1 L. Cleveland
3/16 Boston 5 C. Cook#
3/17 New Salem 1 B. Lafley#
3/26 Newbypt. 1 imm R. Heil
3/28 Ipswich (C.B.) 1 R. Heil
4/thr Boston (Logan) 4 max N. Smith
4/3 Nahant 1 L. Pivacek
4/4 Nantucket 1 K. Blackshaw
4/28 Barnstable (S.N.) 1 W. Petersen

Barred Owl
3/9 Douglas 3 M. Lynch#
4/thr Pepperell 2 E. Stromsted
4/7 Middleton-N. And. 4-5 J. Berry
4/18 Ashfield 2 S. Sauter
thr Reports of indiv. from 14 locations

Long-eared Owl
3/thr DWWS 3-6 D. Furbish
4/thr DWWS 1 D. Furbish

Short-eared Owl
3/8 Boston (Logan) 5 N. Smith
3/9 DWWS 2 P. Guidetti
3/16 Salisbury 2 P. + F. Vale
3/17 Northampton 1 D. McLain
3/27 P.I. 2 M. Resch
4/10 DWWS 1 D. Furbish

Northern Saw-whet Owl
3/9 Douglas 3 M. Lynch#
3/30 Ashfield 2 S. Sauter
thr Reports of indiv. from 15 locations

Whip-poor-will
4/13 Shrewsbury 1 N. Paulson
4/16 Nantucket 1 K. Blackshaw
4/17 Plymouth (MSSF) 2 G. d'Entremont
4/18 Lancaster 3 R. Lockwood
4/18 Florence 1 T. Gagnon
4/21 Northampton 2 B. Packard#

Chimney Swift
4/14 Pembroke 1 D. Furbish
4/14 Braintree 1 D. Larson
4/20 W. Roxbury 1 G. Long
4/21 W. Bridgewater 48 R. Titus
4/30 IRWS 40+ J. Berry

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
4/30 Canton 1 m M. Ross#

Belted Kingfisher
3/31 Bolton Flats 3 R. Lockwood
4/9 Manchester 3 S. Hedman

Red-headed Woodpecker
thr Melrose 1 D. + I. Jewell + v.o.
3/1-4/14 Weymouth 1 R. Min# + v.o.
3/thr Vineyard Haven 1 A. Keith

Red-bellied Woodpecker
3/14 Sutton 3 M. Lynch#
3/17 Hingham 3 G. d'Entremont
4/thr Mt.A 2-3 R. Stymeist#
4/13 Medford 6 M. Rines
4/27 Northampton 3 E. Labato

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
3/8 Taunton 1 f J. Sweeney
3/9 Maynard 1 L. Nachtrab
3/31 Mt.A. 2 R. Stymeist
4/thr Boston 1-3 G. Tepke
4/7 IRWS 2 F. Vale#
4/7-13 Winchester 2 R. LaFontaine#
4/10 Sunderland 3 M. Williams
4/17 Goshen 3 B. Packard
4/17 P.I. 2 R. Heil
4/20 Northampton 3 T. Gagnon
4/20 Gloucester (E.P.) 3 m G. Leet
4/thr Reports of indiv. from 16 locations

Hairy Woodpecker
3/thr Maynard 3 L. Nachtrab
3/23 Hardwick 3 C. Buelow
3/25 Wayland 3 G. Long
3/29 Boxford (C.P.) 3 P. + F. Vale
3/31 Bolton Flats 3 S. Sutton#
4/6 Medford 3 M. Rines
4/6 Stow 3 R. Lockwood
4/14 Petersham 3 M. Lynch#

Northern Flicker
4/7 Holyoke 48 T. Gagnon
4/10 MNWS 50 K. Haley
4/11 Blandford 20 K. + M. Conway
4/12 Lancaster 13 R. Lockwood
4/16 P.I. 54 R. Heil

Pileated Woodpecker
3/8 N. Andover 2 J. Berry
3/10, 25 Stoneham 2 D. + I. Jewell
3/24 Magnolia 2 BBC (D. Peloquin)
3/29 Hardwick 2 C. Buelow
4/1-18 Stoneham 2 pr D. + I. Jewell
4/10 Sunderland 3 M. Williams
4/11 Lancaster 2 R. Lockwood
4/14 Petersham 2 M. Lynch#
4/14 Chesterfield 4 B. Packard
thr Reports of indiv. from 14 locations

Eastern Phoebe
3/1 Sheffield 1 T. Collins
3/12 Plymouth 1 T. Maloney
3/15 Amherst 1 H. Allen
3/15 Middleboro 1 A. Brissette
3/16 Mt.A. 2 L. Ferraresso
3/16 Northfield 2 M. Taylor#
3/30 Hingham 15 C. Dalton
3/31 Mt.A. 11 R. Stymeist
4/6 Medford 12 M. Rines
4/7 Holyoke 19 T. Gagnon
4/13 Northbridge 24 M. Lynch#
4/16 P.I. 11 R. Heil

Eastern Kingbird
3/29 Raynham 1 E. Giles
4/21 Nantucket 1 E. Ray
4/21 Uxbridge 3 MAS (J. Liller)
4/24 Southwick 1 S. Kellogg
4/29 Wayland 1 E. Taylor
4/29 Winchester 1 A. Ankers

Northern Shrike
3/2 Savoy 1 ad T. Gagnon#
3/6 P.I. 1 1W R. Heil
3/23 Bolton Flats 1 P. Savage#

White-eyed Vireo
4/17-18 Chatham 1 R. Clem
4/20 MNWS 1 R. Heil
4/20 Medford 1 P. Vale#
4/20-27 P'town 1 B. Nikula#
4/21-25 Mt.A. 1 L. Ferraresso

Blue-headed Vireo
4/14, 18 Hingham 1, 2 G. d'Entremont
4/15 Arlington 1 S. Simpson
4/16 P.I. 2 R. Heil
4/17 Holyoke 2 B. Bieda
4/27 Medford 3 R. LaFontaine#
4/27 Oxford 2 P. Meleski#
4/27 Petersham 5 C. Buelow
4/27 Boxford (C.P.) 4 P. + F. Vale
4/30 HRWMA 14 C. Caron
4/30 Mt.A. 3 L. Ferraresso

Yellow-throated Vireo
4/20 MNWS 1 R. Heil

Warbling Vireo
4/21 Uxbridge 2 MAS (J. Liller)
4/25 Sheffield 1 D. St. James
4/27 Agawam 2 J. Hutchison
4/29 Bolton Flats 1 T. Pirro
4/30 Melrose 3 P. + F. Vale

Fish Crow
3/15 DWWS 51 D. Furbish
3/16 E. Sandwich 6 D. Manchester
3/28 WBWS 10+ P. Flood
3/29 Gr Barrington 2 E. Nemuth
4/thr Mt.A 6-8 R. Stymeist#
4/3 Stoughton 10 R. Titus

Fish Crow (continued)			
4/4	Weymouth	2	K. Vespaziani
4/4	Marshfield	28	D. Furbish
4/9	Pittsfield	2	D. St. James
4/13	Boston	2	M. Kanaracus#
4/14	Hadley	2	S. Surner
4/23	Concord	2	M. Rines
4/24	Medford	2	M. Rines
Common Raven			
3/2	Plainfield	1	T. Gagnon#
3/14	Sunderland	2 pr	M. Williams
3/24	Huntington	4	T. Gagnon
3/30	Belchertown	2	M. Faherty
4/3	Turners Falls	4	M. Williams
4/14	Chesterfield	10	B. Packard
4/17	Worcester	2	M. Lynch#
4/17	Boxford (C.P.)	2	J. Paluzzi
4/18	Windsor	4	B. Packard#
4/24-25	Canton	1	K. Ryan
4/25	Barre Falls	2 pr	B. Kamp
4/27	Petersham	3	C. Buelow
4/30	Chatham (S.B.)	1	P. Flood
Horned Lark			
3/9	Lincoln	36	M. Rines#
3/9	Cumb. Farms	32	R. Titus
3/9	P'town (R.P.)	27	G. d'Entremont#
3/10	P.I.	10	S. Haydock
3/25	Northampton	200	W. Lafley
3/26	Topsfield	150	R. Heil
3/27	Boxford	23	R. Heil
3/28	Newbury	10	J. Berry#
3/28	P.I.	36	B. Miller
4/3	Ipswich	38	R. Heil
4/28	Chatham (S.B.)	10	B. Packard#
Purple Martin			
3/31	DWWS	3	D. Furbish
4/thr	DWWS	27 max	D. Furbish
4/7	P.I.	1	S. Haydock
4/16	P.I.	11	T. Carrolan
4/17	Rochester	2	M. Boucher
Tree Swallow			
3/10	Gill	19	T. Gagnon
3/17	S. Middleboro	50+	J. Hoye#
3/17	GMNWR	80	S. Perkins
3/22	Agawam	100+	G. LeBaron
3/30	Stow	120+	S. Sutton#
4/4	Southwick	125+	J. Weeks
4/6	Ayer	300	J. Duprey
4/6	New Salem	100	T. Pirro
4/6	Athol	100	T. Pirro
4/21	Wayland	150	G. Long
4/21	IRWS	225+	BBC (F. Vale)
Northern Rough-winged Swallow			
3/30	Turners Falls	3	T. Gagnon
3/31	Canton	1	J. Young
4/4	Hyannis	5	C. Buelow
4/6	Arlington Res.	4	M. Rines
4/7	Longmeadow	5	B. Packard
4/12	Wakefield	40	P. + F. Vale
4/13	Northbridge	8	M. Lynch#
4/17	Gloucester	11	R. Heil
4/21	Milton	10	G. d'Entremont
4/27	Oxford	8	P. Meleski#
Bank Swallow			
4/14	Burlington	10	M. Rines
4/21	Wayland	2	G. Long
4/23	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
4/23	Whately	2	M. Williams
Barn Swallow			
3/31	DWWS	1	D. Furbish
4/4	Ipswich	1	J. Berry
4/8	GMNWR	1	T. Pirro
4/10	P.I.	6	R. Heil
4/21	Uxbridge	3	MAS (J. Liller)
4/21	Milton	3	G. d'Entremont
4/23	Whately	5	M. Williams
4/29	Wayland	15	E. Taylor
Cliff Swallow			
4/18	Pittsfield	2	R. Ferren
4/26	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins
4/27	Richmond	1	T. Gagnon
4/27	Pittsfield	1	T. Gagnon
4/28	Haydenville	1	M. Williams
4/28	Northampton	1	E. Labato
Boreal Chickadee			
3/1-4	Granby	1	F. Pike
3/18	Windsor	1	C. Blagdon
Tufted Titmouse			
4/17	P.I.	2	R. Heil
Red-breasted Nuthatch			
3/1	Ipswich	4	J. Berry
3/9	Wellfleet	2	G. d'Entremont#
3/15	Harwich	3	D. Silverstein#
4/thr	Mt.A	1-3	R. Stymeist#
4/3	P'town	3	P. Flood
4/10	Ashfield	3	S. Sauter
4/16	P.I.	7	R. Heil
4/18	Squantum	5	P. O'Neill
4/20	Pepperell	2	M. Torpey
4/27	Needham	2	G. d'Entremont#
4/27	Agawam	5	J. Hutchison
Brown Creeper			
3/15	Harwich	4	D. Silverstein#
3/17	Hingham	4	G. d'Entremont
3/30	ONWR	4	E. Neilsen
3/30	Holden	4	M. Lynch#
3/31	Sudbury	5	E. Salmela
4/7	Hyannis	8	C. Buelow
4/8	Barre	6	C. Buelow
4/9	Wayland	5	G. Long
4/10	WBWS	6	D. Silverstein#
4/11	Lancaster	5	R. Lockwood
4/14	Chesterfield	6	B. Packard
4/14	Petersham	10	M. Lynch#
4/16	Boxford	7	J. Berry
4/20	Stow	5	R. Lockwood
Carolina Wren			
3/10	Barnstable	6	G. d'Entremont#
3/16	Rockport (H.P.)	7	BBC (J. Nove)
3/17	Hingham	6	G. d'Entremont
3/17	Acoaxet	14	M. Lynch#
3/24	Stoughton	8	G. d'Entremont
3/30	Blackstone	6	M. Lynch#
3/30	Lexington	5	M. Rines
3/31	S. Dartmouth	6	J. Hoye#
4/thr	Mt.A	3-6	R. Stymeist#
4/6	Westport	16	M. Lynch#
4/13	Northbridge	19	M. Lynch#
4/21	Dennis	6	M. Lynch#
House Wren			
4/12	Ipswich	1 m	J. Berry
4/17	N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher
4/17	Wayland	1	J. Hoye
4/17	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
4/17	Pittsfield	1	G. Shampang
4/18	Medford	2	M. Rines
4/20	Woburn (H.P.)	2	P. + F. Vale#
4/21	Oxford	5	P. Meleski
Winter Wren			
4/4	Hingham	4	D. Peacock
4/11	Boxford (C.P.)	2	M. + J. Halloran
4/11	Lancaster	2	R. Lockwood
4/14	Petersham	6	M. Lynch#
3/27-4/30	Reports of individuals at 11 locations		
Marsh Wren			
3/17	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#
4/11	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood
4/14	DWWS	2	SSBC (N. Swirka)
4/16	P.I.	2	R. Heil
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
4/11	Boxford (C.P.)	2	M. + J. Halloran
4/12	Pittsfield	1	T. Collins
4/13	P'town	2	P. Flood
4/15	Mt.A.	3	M. Rines
4/17	Montague	4	C. Buelow

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (continued)			
4/17	P.I.	3	R. Heil
4/18	Milton (F.M.)	2	H. Raymond
4/21	IRWS	3	BBC (F. Vale)
4/23	Bolton Flats	2	C. Buelow
4/27	W. Newbury	4	T. Raymond
Golden-crowned Kinglet			
3/13	Taunton	18	R. Titus
3/14	Sutton	11	M. Lynch#
3/31	S. Quabbin	20	M. Lynch
4/4	Ashfield	12	S. Sauter
4/7	Hyannis	18	C. Buelow
4/7	Oxford	12	P. Meleski
4/7	P'town	20	R. Heil
4/8	Barre	18	C. Buelow
4/9	Petersham	35	C. Buelow
4/10	Mt.A.	11	R. Stymeist
4/11	Medford	18	M. Rines
4/16	P.I.	26	R. Heil
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
3/9	Weymouth	1	J. Hutchison#
3/17	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
3/20	Norton	2	D. Janas
4/1	Belchertown	1	M. Faherty
4/7	Holyoke	4	T. Gagnon
4/10	Amherst	12	H. Allen
4/14	Petersham	10	M. Lynch#
4/16	P.I.	110+	R. Heil
4/16	Nahant	19	L. Pivacek
4/20	Truro	13	M. Lynch#
4/21	IRWS	14	BBC (F. Vale)
4/26	Mt.A.	10	BBC (P. + F. Vale)
Eastern Bluebird			
3/6	Newbury	6	S. McGrath
3/22	Longmeadow	17	G. LaBaron
3/31	Sudbury	6	E. Salmela
3/31	DWWS	10	D. Furbish
4/4	Weymouth	12	K. Vespaziani
4/12	Lancaster	6	R. Lockwood
4/21	Hingham	8	S. Donovan
Hermit Thrush			
3/19	Melrose	2	D. + I. Jewell
3/25	DWWS	2	D. Furbish
4/14	Petersham	9	M. Lynch#
4/15	Upton SP	6	M. Lynch#
4/16	Nahant	11	L. Pivacek
4/16	P.I.	42	R. Heil
4/16	Hingham	8	B. Machover
4/16	MNWS	10	K. Haley
4/17	Holyoke	6	B. Bieda
4/17	Plymouth (MSSF)	8	G. d'Entremont
4/18	Ipswich	12	J. Berry#
4/18	Ashfield	6	S. Sauter
4/18	Boston	7	G. Tepke
4/20	Stow	7	R. Lockwood
4/27	Boxford (C.P.)	8	P. + F. Vale
Wood Thrush			
4/16	Concord	1	E. Neilsen
4/17	Boxford (C.P.)	1	J. Paluzzi
4/20	MNWS	1	K. Haley#
4/21	Sunderland	1	S. Rayer
4/26	Pittsfield	1	T. Collins
American Robin			
3/1	S. Dartmouth	100+	J. Hoye#
3/2	Boxboro	250+	S. Sutton#
3/17	Methuen	2000+	J. Hogan#
3/28	Ashley Falls	200+	T. Collins
3/30	Holden	250+	M. Lynch#
Gray Catbird			
3/6	Longmeadow	1	J. LaPointe
3/28	N. Truro	1	D. Manchester
3/30	Marblehead	1	P. + F. Vale
4/6	Medford	1	M. Rines
4/12	Manchester	1	J. Nelson
4/21	IRWS	3	BBC (F. Vale)
4/25	Gloucester (E.P.)	2	J. Nelson
Brown Thrasher			
4/13, 24	Lancaster	1, 4	R. Lockwood
4/16	Deerfield	1	R. Ranney
4/18, 27	Medford	3, 11	M. Rines#
4/20	Northampton	3	T. Gagnon
4/20	MNWS	3	K. Haley#
4/20	Truro	2	M. Lynch#
4/20	Salem	2	I. Lynch
4/20	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore
4/21	Uxbridge	4	MAS (J. Liller)
4/21	Wellfleet	3	M. Lynch#
4/21	Mt.A	2	R. Stymeist
4/21	Oxford	4	P. Meleski
American Pipit			
3/9	Cumb. Farms	2	R. Titus
3/31	DWWS	3	D. Furbish
4/8	Hadley	150	W. Lafley
4/11	Orange	10	W. Lafley
4/26	Bolton Flats	11	T. Murray
4/30	Hadley	100	C. Gentes
Cedar Waxwing			
3/2	S. Lancaster	75	S. Sutton#
3/2	Rockport (H.P.)	58	S. Sutton#
3/4	Taunton	40	G. d'Entremont
3/20	Lancaster	35+	S. Sutton#
4/4	Hingham	215	D. Peacock
4/4	Belmont	40	B. Miller
4/7	Manchester	26	L. Fatalo
4/11	Ipswich	60	J. Berry
4/15	Winchester	30	M. Rines
4/30	N. Hadley	20	C. Gentes
Orange-crowned Warbler			
3/4	Nantucket	1	B. Kennedy
3/10	Saugus	1	D. Horvath
3/10-15	Chappaquiddick	1	R. Potter#
3/23	Everett	1	R. Stymeist
3/23	Lynnfield	1	P. + F. Vale
4/4	Boston	1	W. Cox
4/5-10	Somerville	1	J. Trimble
4/11	MNWS	1	K. Haley
4/21-24	Medford	1	M. Rines#
Nashville Warbler			
4/21	Stow	1	R. Lockwood
4/21	Uxbridge	1	MAS (J. Liller)
4/28	Medford	1	M. Rines
Northern Parula			
4/30	Boston (F.Pk)	1	J. Young
4/30	Mt.A.	1	L. Ferraresso
Yellow Warbler			
4/20	Nantucket	1	R. Rider
4/21	Wayland	1	D. Diggins
4/25	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
4/25	Sheffield	1	D. St James
4/26	Bolton Flats	1	T. Murray
4/26	N. Marshfield	1	MAS (D. Furbish)
4/27	P.I.	1	J. Nelson
4/27	Newton	1	G. d'Entremont#
Yellow-rumped Warbler			
3/10	Barnstable	5	G. d'Entremont#
3/17	W. Newbury	3	S. Grinley
3/25	DWWS	12	D. Furbish
4/4	Hingham	125	D. Peacock
4/7	Holyoke	48	T. Gagnon
4/16	P.I.	60	R. Heil
4/17	Arlington Res.	76	M. Rines
4/20	P'town	80+	B. Nikula
4/20	Longmeadow	50	C. Gentes
4/21	IRWS	75+	BBC (F. Vale)
4/21	Stow	29	R. Lockwood
4/29	Winchester	50	A. Ankers
Black-throated Green Warbler			
4/20	Hingham	1	G. Tepke#
4/20	Oxford	1	P. Meleski#
4/21	Sunderland	2	S. Rayer
4/27	P.I.	1	T. Seiter#
4/27	Boxford (C.P.)	3	P. + F. Vale
4/27	Petersham	3	C. Buelow
4/27	Hardwick	2	C. Buelow
Pine Warbler			
3/25	Wayland	1	G. Long

Pine Warbler (continued)

3/28	Pepperell	1	M. Resch
3/30	Holden	1	M. Lynch#
3/30	Weymouth	1	D. + S. Larson
3/31	Maynard	8	L. Nachtrab
4/13	P'town	20+	P. Flood
4/14	Hyannis	15	C. Buelow
4/14	Hingham	13	G. d'Entremont
4/14	Holyoke	18	S. Surner
4/17	Plymouth (MSSF)	20	G. d'Entremont
4/21	Stow	15	R. Lockwood

Prairie Warbler

3/10	Rockport	1	BBC (B. Drummond)
4/27	P.I.	1	T. Seiter#

Palm Warbler

3/1	Orleans	1	H. D'Entremont#
4/3	Easthampton	1	E. Labato
4/6, 16	Arlington	2, 25	S. Simpson
4/7	Holyoke	24	T. Gagnon
4/16	Woburn	56	M. Rines#
4/16	Nahant	140	L. Pivacek
4/16	P.I.	130+	R. Heil
4/16	MNWS	100	K. Haley
4/16	Wakefield	23	F. Vale
4/20	P'town	20	B. Nikula
4/21	Stow	24	R. Lockwood
4/21	IRWS	25	BBC (F. Vale)
4/22	Winchester	14	R. LaFontaine
4/25	Mt.A.	15	BBC (P. + F. Vale)
4/27	Boxford (C.P.)	15	P. + F. Vale

Western Palm Warbler

4/16	P.I.	4	R. Heil
4/20	MNWS	1	R. Heil

Black-and-white Warbler

4/18	Newbypt.	1	T. Wetmore
4/18	Andover	1	T. Wetmore
4/18	Ashfield	2	S. Sauter
4/18	Gr. Barrington	2	J. Johnson
4/20	Manchester	3	J. Berry#
4/21	IRWS	3	BBC (F. Vale)
4/25	Templeton	2	C. Caron
4/27	W. Newbury	2	G. Tepke#
4/27	Petersham	2	C. Buelow
4/30	Boston (F.Pk)	2	J. Young

Prothonotary Warbler

4/21-23	IRWS	1 m	F. Vale + v.o.

Ovenbird

4/27	Boxford (C.P.)	1	P. + F. Vale

Northern Waterthrush

4/3	Pittsfield	1	T. Collins
4/18	Middleboro	1	K. Anderson#
4/20	Manchester	4 m	J. Berry#
4/20	Oxford	1	P. Meleski#
4/21	Stow	2	R. Lockwood
4/30	W. Bridgewater	1	K. Ryan

Louisiana Waterthrush

4/4	Hingham	2	D. Peacock
4/7	W. Springfield	1	S. Kellogg
4/12	Boxford (C.P.)	1	P. Arrigo
4/13-14	Bolton	1	R. Lockwood
4/17	Holyoke	2	B. Bieda
4/18	Haydenville	1	M. Williams
4/21	Oxford	1	P. Meleski
4/27	Hardwick	1	C. Buelow
4/27	Agawam	3	J. Hutchison

Common Yellowthroat

3/10	DWWS	1 m	D. Furbish
4/4	Chatham	1	M. Dettrey
4/20	Medford	1	F. Vale#
4/20	Longmeadow	1	C. Gentes
4/27	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller

Wilson's Warbler

4/10	Cambr. (F.P.)	1	J. Trimble

Yellow-breasted Chat

4/7	Marblehead	1	K. Haley

Summer Tanager

4/20	Belmont	1	O. Russo

Eastern Towhee

3/5	Westboro	1 m	S. Sutton#
3/13	Taunton	1	R. Titus
3/20	Medford	1 f	M. Rines
3/26	Ipswich	1 m	R. Heil
3/30	Randolph	2 m	G. d'Entremont
4/6	Westport	4	M. Lynch#
4/14	Paxton	3	M. Lynch#
4/16	P.I.	8	R. Heil
4/17	Plymouth (MSSF)	8	G. d'Entremont
4/18	Hyannis	10	C. Buelow
4/20	Stoughton	22	G. d'Entremont#
4/20	Truro	11	M. Lynch#
4/21	Stow	28	R. Lockwood

American Tree Sparrow

3/9	Cumb. Farms	25	R. Titus
3/20	Bolton Flats	70+	S. Sutton#
3/26	Ipswich	28	R. Heil
3/27	N. Andover	27	R. Heil
3/31	W. Bridgewater	43	R. Heil
4/12	Sunderland	2	H. Allen
4/16	P.I.	1	R. Heil

Chipping Sparrow

3/31	W. Gloucester	1	J. Nelson
4/2	Sunderland	1	M. Williams
4/4	Boston	2	W. Cox
4/13	Northbridge	9	M. Lynch#
4/17	Holyoke	8	B. Bieda
4/17	Plymouth (MSSF)	18	G. d'Entremont
4/18	Hingham	10	G. d'Entremont
4/21	Mt.A	14	R. Stymeist
4/24	Stoughton	20	D. Cabral
4/30	HRWMA	14	C. Caron

Clay-colored Sparrow

3/8	Oak Bluffs	1	M. Pelikan
3/22	Pembroke	1	D. Clapp
3/27	N. Andover	1	R. Heil
4/6	N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher

Field Sparrow

3/9, 4/24	Stow	2, 17	R. Lockwood
3/13	Taunton	4	R. Titus
3/22	Bolton Flats	3	T. Murray
3/24	Bedford	5	M. Rines
3/27	N. Andover	5	R. Heil
3/28	Falmouth	15	C. Buelow
4/14	Oxford	7	P. Meleski
4/16	P.I.	11	R. Heil
4/20	Northampton	5	T. Gagnon

Vesper Sparrow

4/7	Hatfield	2	C. Gentes
4/12	Lancaster	7	R. Lockwood
4/12	Sunderland	2	H. Allen
4/13	Winchester	1	R. LaFontaine#
4/14	Hadley	4	T. Gagnon
4/21	Wellfleet	4	G. Hirth
4/24	Medford	1	M. Rines
4/25	Gardner	1	T. Pirro
4/30	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore

Savannah Sparrow

3/9	Cumb. Farms	18	R. Titus
3/28	Falmouth	18	C. Buelow
4/16	P.I.	41	R. Heil
4/16	Stoneham	10+	D. + I. Jewell
4/17	Boston	10	G. Tepke
4/27	Everett	35	R. Stymeist#
4/28	W. Bridgewater	35	K. Ryan

Ipswich Sparrow

3/6	P.I.	1	G. Leet#
3/9	Cumb. Farms	18	R. Titus
3/21	Nantucket	1	E. Ray

Grasshopper Sparrow

3/28	Falmouth	2	C. Buelow
3/31	W. Bridgewater	1	R. Heil

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow

4/27	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#

Seaside Sparrow

4/17	P.I.	3	R. Heil

Fox Sparrow

3/8-31	Maynard	3	L. Nachtrab
3/18	Washington	7	E. Nemuth
3/18	Northfield	5	M. Taylor
3/22	Belchertown	6	M. Faherty
3/23	Everett	3	R. Stymeist
3/27	Hardwick	5	C. Buelow
3/30	Lexington	7	M. Rines
4/2	P.I.	3	T. Wetmore
4/4	Boston	5	W. Cox
4/4	Burlington	3	J. Mullen
4/5	Paxton	3	M. Lynch#
4/6	Salem	3	I. Lynch
4/7	Woburn	3	R. LaFontaine#
4/12	Mt.A.	4	BBC (P. + F. Vale)

Song Sparrow

3/20	Bolton Flats	80	S. Sutton#
3/31	Cumb. Farms	113	R. Heil
4/16	P.I.	145	R. Heil

Swamp Sparrow

3/3	Westfield	1	S. Kellogg
3/21	Natick	1	D. Gibson
3/27	N. Andover	3	R. Heil
3/31	Cumb. Farms	16	R. Heil
4/14	Bolton Flats	5	R. Lockwood
4/14	Oxford	12	P. Meleski
4/14	Petersham	8	M. Lynch#
4/16	Nahant	12	L. Pivacek
4/30	HRWMA	6	C. Caron

White-throated Sparrow

4/10	Cambr. (F.P.)	35	J. Trimble
4/18	Boston	40	G. Tepke
4/20	Truro	127	M. Lynch#
4/21	Mt.A	51	R. Stymeist

Harris's Sparrow

3/24-4/7	Westport	1	S. Bolton + v.o.

White-crowned Sparrow

3/thr	Chilmark	1	A. Keith#
3/23	Lexington	1	M. Rines
3/31	Cumb. Farms	2	R. Heil
4/1	Westport	4	P. Brown
4/29	Pittsfield	1	T. Collins

Dark-eyed Junco

3/9	Westboro	35+	S. Sutton#
3/24	Stoughton	37	G. d'Entremont
4/12	Mt.A.	27	BBC (P. + F. Vale)
4/16	P.I.	95	R. Heil

Lapland Longspur

3/8	P.I.	3	C. Buelow
3/17	Newbury	6	S. Grinley
4/22-24	P.I.	1 male	R. Heil

Snow Bunting

3/2	P'town (R.P.)	20	G. Hirth#
3/10	Salisbury	4	S. Walch#
3/10	Boston H.	91	TASL (M. Hall)
4/10	P.I.	1	MAS (N. Soulette)
4/10	Ipswich (C.B.)	1	J. Berry

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

4/21	W. Bridgewater	1	R. Titus
4/25	Montague	1	K. Ryan
4/26	Deerfield	1	R. Ranney
4/27	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller
4/29	Northboro	1	B. Volkle
4/29	Beverly	1	G. Leet

Indigo Bunting

4/20	Nantucket	1	R. Rider

Painted Bunting

3/28	Lexington	1 m	R. Gantside

Dickcissel

3/21	Westwood	1	T. Raymond
3/27-30	Lynn	1 m	J. Woodbury + v.o.

Red-winged Blackbird

3/18	W. Newbury	1000+	J. Berry
3/20	Bolton Flats	15,000	S. Sutton
3/27	N. Andover	850	R. Heil
3/31	W. Bridgewater	1600	R. Heil

Eastern Meadowlark

3/14	Nantucket	17	E. Ray
3/16	Southwick	2	S. Kellogg
3/28	Essex	12	R. Heil
3/31	DWWS	15	D. Furbish
3/31	S. Dartmouth	6	J. Hoye#
4/12	ONWR	3	C. Caron
4/13	Ipswich	8	J. Berry#
4/13	Bedford	4	M. Rines
4/14	W. Newbury	3	R. Heil
4/14	Hadley	7	T. Gagnon
4/24	Lancaster	9	R. Lockwood

Yellow-headed Blackbird

3/thr	Northampton	1 1 yr	A. Magee + v.o.
3/10	Weymouth	1 m	H. Blackburn

Rusty Blackbird

3/2	Bolton Flats	15	S. Moore
3/12, 4/9	Wayland	36, 79	G. Long
3/25	New Braintree	15	C. Buelow
3/27	Groveland	10+	R. Heil
3/30	Longmeadow	30	S. Kellogg
3/31	Sudbury	50+	E. Salmela
4/3	Easthampton	29	E. Labato
4/14	W. Newbury	12	R. Heil
4/22	Gardner	43	T. Pirro
4/29	Northampton	23	E. Labato

Common Grackle

3/5, 4/15	Framingham	700, 800	E. Taylor
3/12	Littleton	3000	R. Lockwood
3/14	W. Newbury	340	R. Heil
3/16	W. Bridgewater	2200	M. Faherty
3/17	Methuen	200,000+	J. Hogan
3/23	Bolton Flats	5200	S. Sutton#
3/23	Boston N.C.	300+	M. Kanaracus
4/17	P.I.	1950 migr	R. Heil
4/17	Plymouth (MSSF)	400	G. d'Entremont

Brown-headed Cowbird

3/8	DWWS	6	D. Furbish
3/11	Woburn	20	E. Taylor
3/16	W. Bridgewater	100	M. Faherty
3/17	Bolton Flats	75	R. Lockwood

Orchard Oriole

4/27	Medford	1	M. Rines#

Baltimore Oriole

3/17	New Salem	1	W. Lafley
4/26	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
4/30	Georgetown	1	T. Wetmore#

Pine Grosbeak

3/2	Becket	1	R. Laubach
3/7	Windsor	9	R. Packard
3/22	Royalston	1 f	B. Stevens

Purple Finch

3/21	Ipswich	4	J. Berry#
4/12	Lancaster	5	R. Lockwood
4/14	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
4/16	E. Longmeadow	5	G. Kingston
4/16	P.I.	11	R. Heil
4/18	Ashfield	4	S. Sauter
4/18	Hingham	4	G. d'Entremont
4/20	MNWS	3	R. Heil
4/20	P'town	2	B. Nikula
4/20	Stow	7	R. Lockwood
4/21	IRWS	4	BBC (F. Vale)
4/25	Gardner	15	T. Pirro

Red Crossbill

3/13	Salisbury	12	M. Taylor
4/13	Florence	1	T. Gagnon
4/13	Holyoke	1	T. Gagnon

White-winged Crossbill

3/2	Nantucket	15	S. Langer
3/6	Andover	3	A. Bennet
3/8	Salisbury	9	C. Buelow
3/22	Concord	1	J. Ames
4/3	N. Weymouth	3	T. O'Neil

Common Redpoll

3/1	Ipswich	80	J. Berry
3/2	Blandford	4	K. + M. Conway
3/2	Lenox	1	R. Laubach
3/2	P.I.	30	P. Guidetti
3/6	Blandford	1	K. + M. Conway

Common Redpoll (continued)			
3/6	Melrose	6	B. Hodson
3/6	Westboro	6	N. Paulson
3/10	Shutesbury	2	L. de la Flor
3/10	Cambridge	10	Sa. Miller#
3/12	Worc. (BMB)	22	J. Liller
3/24	Bolton Flats	5	S. Sutton#
3/25	DWWS	40	D. Furbish
3/27	Hardwick	6	C. Buelow
3/30	ONWR	15	E. Neilsen
3/31	S. Quabbin	7	M. Lynch
4/3	Pittsfield	7	T. Collins
4/3	Hardwick	1	C. Buelow
Pine Siskin			
3/1	Stoughton	8	A. Johnston
3/5	Middleboro	28	J. Mason
3/16	New Salem	10	B. Lafley#
3/17	Pepperell	5	E. Stromsted
3/20	Royalston	20	M. Taylor
3/31	Halifax	7+	R. Heil
4/thr	Bolton	5 max	R. Lockwood
4/2	Hingham	4	C. Nims
4/18	Ashfield	60	S. Sauter
4/20	Pepperell	4	M. Torpey
4/28	Sunderland	5	M. Williams
American Goldfinch			
4/16	P.I.	165	R. Heil
Evening Grosbeak			
3/1-31	Blandford	8-20	K. + M. Conway
3/2	Windsor	6	T. Gagnon#
3/2	Savoy	6	T. Gagnon#
3/20	Royalston	12	M. Taylor
3/27	Washington	22	E. Nemuth
4/10	Ashfield	4	S. Sauter
4/14	Petersham	6	M. Lynch#
4/20	Westminster	4	C. Caron
4/21	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
4/28-30	Stoughton	1 f	R. Titus

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (indicated by an asterisk [*] in the Bird Reports), as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts, should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Marjorie Rines, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773, or by e-mail to <marj@mrines.com>.

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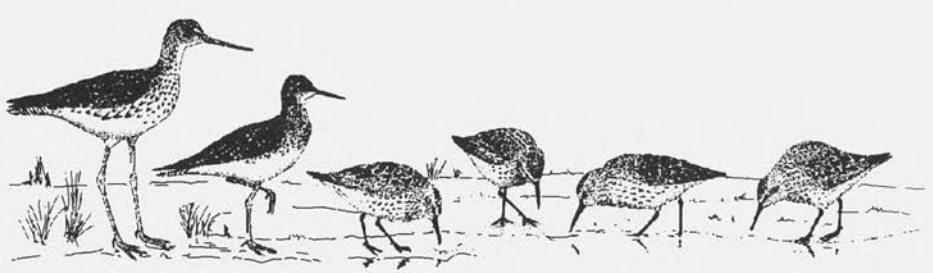
Bird Observer prints compilations of birds reported in Massachusetts and offshore waters. Our compilers select and summarize for publication reports that provide a snapshot of bird life during the reporting period.

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month, and may be submitted by postal mail or e-mail. Send written reports to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 94 Grove Street, Watertown, MA 02172. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). For instructions on e-mail submission, visit: <http://massbird.org/birdobserver/sightings/>.

DAVID LARSON

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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



GEORGE C. WEST

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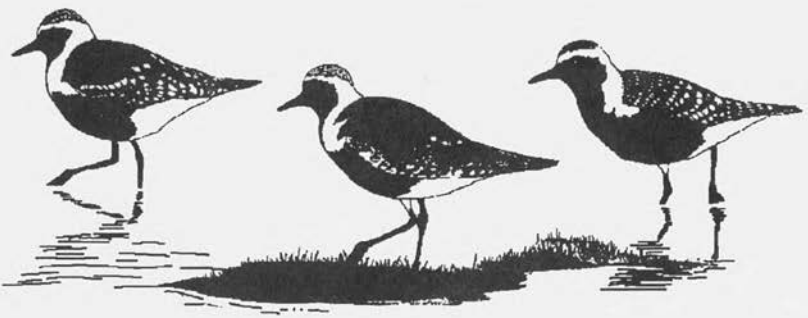
Managing Editor. Are you good at managing details, deadlines, and follow-up? You could be just the person we are looking for. Our editorial staff is responsible for bringing in and editing articles, but the Managing Editor pulls the pieces together and makes them into an issue of *Bird Observer*. It is definitely time consuming and requires excellent organizational skills. Preference will be given to someone with editorial experience, but it is not a necessity.

Mailing Manager. If you want to get involved but have limited time, this could be the job for you. The Mailing Manager works with the Production Editor, Circulation Manager, printer, and post office to see that each issue gets in the mail. Total time is roughly six hours every other month, and involves lifting heavy boxes of the printed journal. The printer, post office, and potential volunteers to help with the mailing are located in the Cambridge/Belmont area, so proximity is a plus.

Promotion Manager. We would like to see *Bird Observer* receive more attention from potential subscribers, sponsors, and advertisers. This is a new position, and we are looking for someone with imagination and creativity. Experience in promotion or advertising would be useful.

If you want to find out more, call or e-mail Marj Rines at 781-643-6128, marj@mrines.com.



GEORGE C. WEST

ABOUT THE COVER

Least Sandpiper

The Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) is the smallest sandpiper in the world, slightly smaller than the Semipalmated Sandpiper with which it frequently associates. It can be separated from the latter by its generally browner color, more slender bill, and by its yellowish or greenish legs. Juvenile birds in fresh plumage are more brightly colored than adults. Bright rufous edges to the crown feathers and upperparts create an orange-brown appearance, and they have a creamy white, incomplete V pattern on the sides of the back. This bright plumage rapidly wears and fades, so that by late October most Least Sandpipers are in drab winter plumage. Least Sandpipers are easily separated from other North American peeps, but closely resemble Temminck's and Long-toed stints, and provide a significant challenge to birders who think they may be viewing one of these, or other vagrant stint species.

Least Sandpipers show very little geographic variation and no subspecies are recognized. They are most closely related to the Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*), with which they constitute a superspecies. Their breeding range extends across subarctic North America from Alaska to Nova Scotia. The single lower forty-eight states' breeding record is from Monomoy in 1979. They winter from the southern United States to central South America, with some populations making transoceanic flights of more than 2000 miles. Birds using New England as a staging area probably winter mostly in the Lesser Antilles and northeastern South America. Least Sandpipers are considered locally abundant to very common coastal migrants in spring and fall, and common inland. In Massachusetts they are largely May spring migrants, arriving again in early July and leaving by the end of September, with highest counts in late July. In fall adults migrate earlier than juveniles.

Least Sandpipers are monogamous and produce a single brood. They nest in subarctic tundra and boreal forests, and exhibit breeding site fidelity. They prefer wet sedge and mossy, grassy bogs. Males establish a breeding territory that they advertise with shrill, repetitive *treees*, chatterings, and rich, complex song. In courtship these songs accompany hovering display flights or are given from a perch or from the ground. Males often chase each other and fight with feet extended toward each other in the air, or with one male landing on the back of another and attacking with its beak. Threat displays may include raised wings and tail. In nonbreeding season Least Sandpipers have a flight call described as *kreeep* or *threeep,* uttered singly or in a short series.

The male makes several nest scrapes and the female selects the final nest site. The nest is a simple scrape, lined with dead vegetation, in short marsh grass or in a damp area, usually near water. The clutch is typically four blotched buff-colored eggs. Both males and females develop brood patches and share incubation for the about three weeks to hatching. The young are precocial and downy, and have left the nest by the end of the first day. The chicks feed themselves and parental duties are limited to

brooding, leading chicks to good foraging habitat, and warning chicks of approaching predators. The male takes increasing responsibility for the young as nesting progresses. Adults and chicks eventually move to communal feeding grounds. Young birds can fly after about two weeks, but stay with their parents for a few additional days.

Least Sandpipers forage by probing, or more commonly pecking small food items from the substrate. Their major food consists of small invertebrates including gastropods, amphipods, isopods, and dipterans. In coastal areas they feed mostly on mudflats and in marsh vegetation. They tend to forage farther from the water than other peeps, often at the vegetation-mud flat interface.

The populations of Least Sandpipers appear to be fairly stable, although they are difficult to census due to their occurrence in mixed-species flocks, remote breeding habitat, and tendency to disperse on wintering grounds. They suffer extensive egg and young predation from foxes, gulls, corvids, and raptors, and extensive mortality from raptors during migration and on the wintering grounds. Large numbers were shot by market hunters in the early twentieth century, but populations recovered after the Migratory Bird Convention of 1916. The species appears secure on its remote and widespread breeding grounds, but habitat alteration on its stopover sites and wintering grounds may pose a long-term threat. They remain the tame little brown sandpipers that roam the *Spartina* edges of the shallow pannes at Plum Island and in similar habitats.

William E. Davis, Jr.

WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

About the Cover Artist

David Sibley has written and illustrated articles on bird identification for *Birding* and *North American Birds* as well as regional publications, and books including *Hawks in Flight* and *The Birds of Cape May*. Since 1980 David has traveled the continent watching birds on his own and as a tour leader for Wings, Inc. He wrote and illustrated the monumental *Sibley Guide to Birds*, a comprehensive guide to North American birds, which has been followed by a companion volume, *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior* (illustrated by David A. Sibley, edited by Chris Elphick, John B. Dunning, Jr., and David A. Sibley). You can see more of David's artwork at his website <http://www.sibleyart.com>. He lives in Concord, Massachusetts, with his wife and two sons.

AT A GLANCE

June 2002

DAVID LARSON

Through the years of selecting suitable photos for this column, I have usually tried to choose photos that would hopefully offer some particular identification challenge for the reader. Sometimes this has been done by depicting a seldom seen plumage (e.g., juvenile Snow Bunting), a plumage anomaly (e.g., leucistic Common Grackle), an interesting posture (e.g., Yellow-headed Blackbird with its head hidden by its wing), or simply a poor photograph (e.g., We won't go there!). In a few cases, with assistance from the printer, I have even depicted birds upside down (e.g., Black-headed Gull)! In most cases, however, I have tried not to lose sight of the reality that the images need to be at least potentially identifiable by the thoughtful reader. Even on this point, however, there have been exceptions (e.g., a possible hybrid shorebird on Martha's Vineyard). So what does all this have to do with this month's mystery photo? Everything.

June's challenge photo clearly depicts a "departing" species, that is, a bird taking flight. While it should be obvious to most readers, in order to properly unravel the identification problem presented in the photograph, it is critical to have the picture properly oriented. A close look at the position of the bird's legs and feet, as well as the fact that the photograph depicts the underside of its wings, indicates that the bird

is flying away from the photographer. A closer inspection reveals that the bird is clearly a long-legged species, such as a heron or egret, whose legs and feet are fairly stout, not slim and delicate as would be the case with most shorebirds. Also, with close scrutiny, it is just possible to see the suggestion of a slight palmation (web) between the inner and middle toe on the bird's right foot. This feature further suggests that the bird is a heron or egret of some sort.

Given the mystery bird's long leg length, coupled with the absence of complete webs between the toes, a feature that would be typical of a number of waterbirds other than herons and shorebirds, it is fair to assume that the bird is indeed a long-legged wader. Either because the pictured bird's lower back and tail are obviously not dark in color, or because the leg color is obviously pale with little contrast between the color of the legs and the feet, it is variously possible to eliminate species such as American Bittern, Least Bittern, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Tricolored Heron, adult Little Blue Heron, Green Heron, and Glossy Ibis as possibilities. The white "thighs," instead of rusty-brown, combined with the relative shortness of the legs, serve to remove Great Blue Heron as a candidate. The fact that the tail, lower back, and rump appear light gray instead of white takes immature Little Blue Heron and Cattle Egret out of the running.

Having thus substantially reduced the list of possibilities, the remaining candidates are either Black-crowned Night-Heron or Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. Since the underwings and ventral areas of a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron would be substantially darker than those of a Black-crowned Night-Heron, at this point it is safe to assume that the departing heron in the photograph is an adult Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax).*

Black-crowned Night-Herons are locally common coastal breeders in Massachusetts, and they regularly occur inland, especially in late summer after nesting. Small numbers occasionally winter along the coast from Boston to Cape Cod and the Islands. David Larson photographed the night-heron in the picture with a digital camera at World's End Reservation in Hingham. *Wayne R. Petersen*

Letter to the editor:

I have been reading the latest issue of Bird Observer and in my opinion it is the best magazine yet . . . The pictures inside the front cover are wonderful. I read from beginning to end the article on Charles Maynard. Hell, he was alive when I was 7 years old. The article on birds nesting in Essex County was damned interesting. I enjoyed the article on the Tree Swallow nesting, the At A Glance I BLEW. Never in a million years would I have guessed Blue Teal. During the many years I was birding with Margaret Argue we would often climb the tower at the South Pool and all these ducks would be in eclipse plumage — July/August. "Miserable things," Margaret muttered. "I'm not going even to look at you until you have changed into a plumage a normal person can identify." And she didn't!

Sincerely,
Henry Wiggin

AT A GLANCE

WAYNE R. PETERSEN

Can you identify this bird?
Identification will be discussed in next issue's AT A GLANCE.

Contribute to *Bird Observer*

Bird Observer gladly considers for publication manuscripts or article proposals from any member of the birding community. We are also interested in considering quality photographs with avian themes. The only requirement is that material be relevant to New England birds and birders.

Among the types of material we'd like to see:

- Articles presenting original scientific research
- Documentation of significant records
- "Hot Birds" photographs of rare or unusual birds in New England
- Field notes describing interesting encounters with birds
- Biographies of ornithologists or birders with regional ties
- Results of surveys and censuses
- "Where to Go" articles describing good birding locales
- "Pocket Places," brief descriptions of small hotspots
- Articles on birding equipment or methods
- Notices and news items

Send manuscripts or proposals to the Editor: Brooke Stevens, 5 Hemlock Road, Cambridge, MA 02138, or via e-mail attachments in Word doc or txt or rtf formats to brookestev@aol.com. Send photographs (prints or slides) to the Production Editor: David Larson, 1921 Central Street, Stoughton, MA 02072, or for digital images, via email at davlars@bu.edu.

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