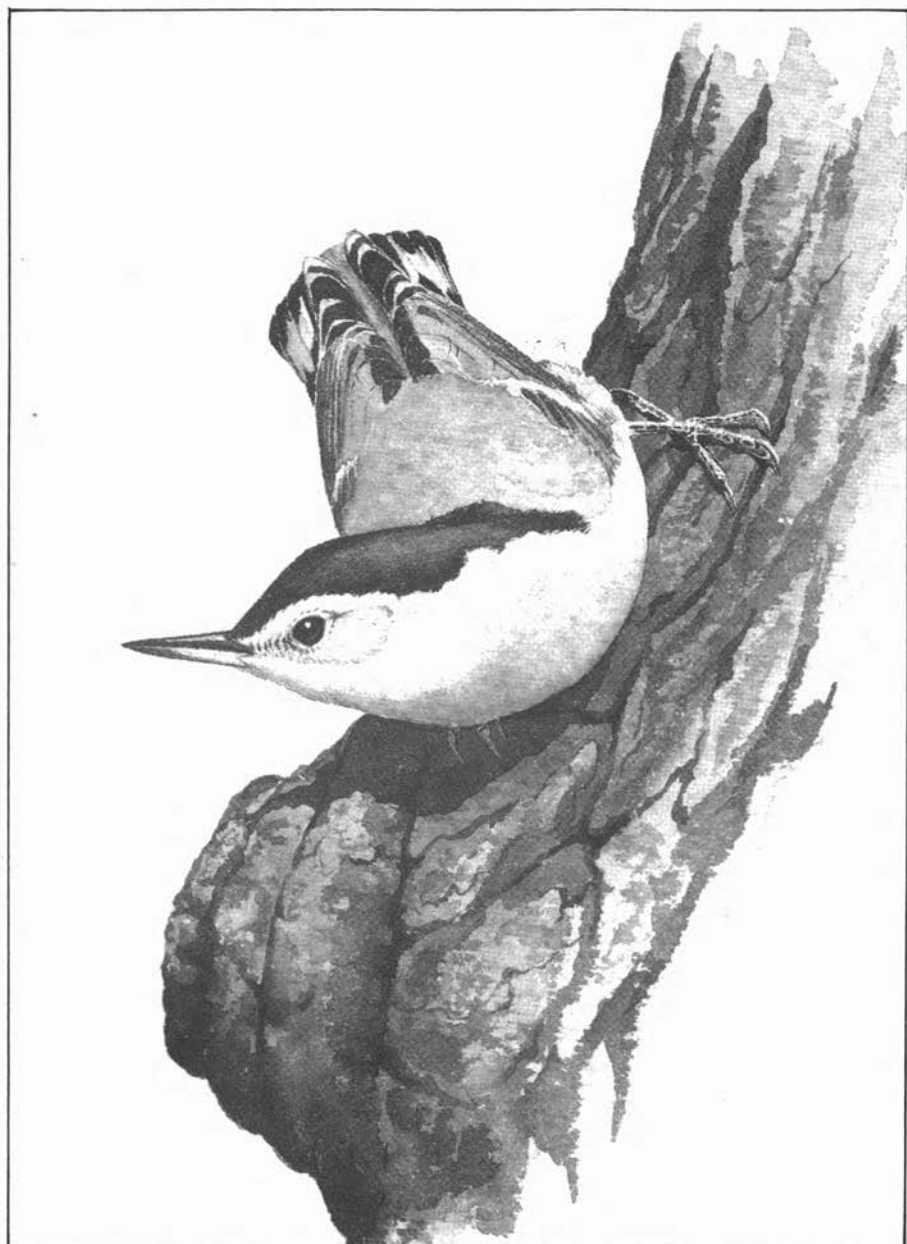


BIRD OBSERVER



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Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced on one side only of 8.5 x 11 inch paper with 1.5 inch margins all around. There is no limit on the length of manuscripts, but most do not exceed 10 double-spaced typewritten pages (about 3000 words). Use the 1983 A.O.U. Check-List for bird names and sequence. Type tables on separate pages. Black-and-white photographs and graphics are best. Include author's or artist's name, address, and telephone number and information from which a brief biography can be prepared if needed. Views expressed in *BIRD OBSERVER* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect an official position of Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc.

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ORNITHOLOGIST JOSEPH ARCHIBALD HAGAR: 1896-1989

We note with sadness the close on December 17 of a professional career that spanned seventy years and produced major contributions to our knowledge of the biology of the American Black Duck, Broad-winged Hawk, and Peregrine Falcon. For quarter of a century (1934-59) Archie Hagar was Massachusetts State Ornithologist in the Forbush pattern of distinguished activity. His writings were published in *The Auk*, *Wilson Bulletin*, in volumes 2 (1976) and 5 (1988) of Palmer's *Handbook of North American Birds* and in Bent's *Life Histories*. An old-time scientist/naturalist of rural background with ideas in advance of his era, Archie was actively protecting Peregrines in 1935-36 and concerned in 1947 about the increased destruction of their eggs in the nest. He was a trustee of MBO from its inception. He discovered Mt. Tom as a study site for hawk migration; added to our understanding of the dynamics of shorebird migration; reported the nesting of Hudsonian Godwits in Churchill and of Double-crested Cormorants, Little Blue Herons, and Black Skimmers in Massachusetts; and carried out studies of the Red Knot, Least Tern, and Black and Yellow rails.

BIRDING NORTHEAST QUABBIN

by Mark Lynch

Quabbin Reservation is a vast area offering a variety of exciting birding possibilities. This article presents an overview of several sites in the towns of Petersham and New Salem. Although hiking Quabbin has to be one of the great birding experiences in the state, the northeast Quabbin area has possibilities for seeing some of the Quabbin specialities close to the car. Patience and repeated visits will pay off.

Preparation.

Birders should be familiar with the regulations of this Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) water supply before starting a hike. A trip to the Visitor Center at the Administration Building in Belchertown off Route 9 will give the new Quabbin birder an opportunity to become familiar with the reservation and to obtain up-to-date regulations and maps. Bird clubs and individuals should be sure to keep informed about any changes in the rules. While visiting the Center, purchase a copy of the Quabbin Reservation Guide prepared by cartographer Christopher Ryan. I consider this guide map a prerequisite for hiking in the area.

Summer visitors are well advised to bring an ample supply of effective insect repellent, for the onslaught of mosquitoes and assorted flies and midges in June, July, and August can be daunting. Ticks are present, so proper precautions are recommended.

In the winter birders should use common sense to avoid exposure, frostbite, and exhaustion. Be aware that at the water's edge there are often strong winds that increase the chances of frostbite.

During the late November and December deer-hunting season, do not even think about hiking in this area. At the time of this writing, hunting is prohibited in the Quabbin Reservation. However, surrounding areas are popular hunting spots, and poachers sometimes wander onto the reservation near access Gate 37. So even within Quabbin's boundaries you may not be safe. Report all illegal hunters at once to the MDC headquarters. In the near future, deer hunting may be allowed at Quabbin to control the deer herds and the damage they do to plant and tree growth. Check at the Visitor Center for the latest information on hunting regulations.

Access.

The area described in this article comprises part of the town of Petersham (Worcester County) and a small part of New Salem (Franklin County) along Route 122. Petersham can be reached from Route 2 by going south at Athol on Route 32 or south on Route 202 to Route 122. From Worcester, Petersham can

be reached directly via Route 122. The tour outlined starts in Petersham at the intersection of Routes 122 and 32 and proceeds northwest along Route 122.

West Street Area.

A half mile along Route 122 after leaving the intersection with Route 32, you pass a left turn for Route 32A, the road to Hardwick, Gate 40, and a number of other Quabbin destinations. Shortly past the Route 32A exit, you reach the West Street intersection. Turn left. This road leads to Quabbin Gate 37 but offers birding opportunities of its own.

Although this is a rather typical, winding, residential street, a number of interesting birds nest along its two and a half miles. Red-shouldered Hawks, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkeys, Pileated Woodpeckers, Winter Wrens, Yellow-throated Vireos, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian warblers have all been seen or heard here during the breeding season. The Winter Wrens are rather thinly distributed, and generally only one or two can be heard in good years. Red-shouldered Hawks have consistently nested near the road and once tried to nest in a tree right on the road. They are most obvious in the early spring when they first return. Check along West Street from the cemetery to the farm described below.

Good birds can often be found at a small farm located 1.9 miles from the intersection with Route 122. Wild Turkeys are sometimes seen under the pines or in the fields pecking at cow manure. This is one of the most reliable spots for these birds in the Quabbin area, but even here they are far from a sure thing. Very early mornings and sometimes late afternoons in winter are best. Thoroughly check the woodland edges for the turkeys, but stay in your car, as they will flush back into the woods as soon as you get out. Birders should be cautioned that as of 1989 the owners of the farm have started to keep dark-colored domestic turkeys penned up in a barn. In winter, the owners often feed birds, and despite the plethora of cats, flocks of Evening Grosbeaks are usually present even in poor flight years. Other birds attracted to the spot have included all three accipiters (particularly if there are flocks around the feeders), Pileated Woodpeckers, occasionally Common Redpolls, flocks of migrant blackbirds in spring (mostly Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds), and House Sparrows (a bird that can be difficult to find, believe it or not, in this part of Quabbin).

West Street ends at the intersection with Monson Turnpike Road (labeled 1 on the map on page 292). Directly across from West Street is a narrow dirt road, often impassable in winter and spring, that runs along the back of the state forest and connects with the paved road through the forest. Driving this dirt road is usually not advisable, but birds to be found breeding along it include Wild Turkeys, Barred Owls, Winter Wrens, and Louisiana Waterthrushes.

A right turn at the intersection (1) at the end of West Street puts you on a

section, 1.7 miles long, of Monson Turnpike Road that intersects with Route 122. This road is less residential than West Street, although it is being built up. Part of this road is not paved and may not be passable in the winter and spring. Breeding birds include an occasional Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Wood-Pewees, Least Flycatchers, Veerys, Hermit and Wood thrushes, and a variety of warblers including Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian. A pond next to the road sometimes has Ospreys and Hooded Mergansers during migration. Eastern Bluebirds have been seen at a small farm near the intersection with Route 122.

A left turn at the West Street/Monson Turnpike Road intersection (1) leads to a dead end at the Gate 37 barrier. This 0.8-mile stretch is paved but deteriorating. The first half mile to the power lines is usually passable except in winter. If there is a lot of snow, ice, or mud, park your car well off the road near the power lines and walk. If you park at the barrier gate, pull off on the side of the road rather than in the small cleared space to the right of the entrance. This space is really a turnaround, and if you use it as a parking spot, expect the wrath of others who will not be able to turn their cars. There are birds even along this short road. Near the intersection there are several feeding stations that attract flocks in winter, especially Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks. Watch for turkeys, woodpeckers, thrushes, warblers, and also owls. At the power lines listen for Prairie Warblers and Field Sparrows, and scan for hawks and ravens.

One last note on West Street. Please remember this is a country residential area, owned by people who enjoy their privacy. Try to stay in your car, be discreet, and do not trespass. If you stop your car, realize that there is more traffic on this road than you might expect, and pull off out of the way.

Gate 37 Area.

The Gate 37 area offers a variety of birding possibilities for those willing to hike a bit. The terrain is mostly level, with few hills. The Quabbin Reservation Guide map is a necessity for exploring this complex of roads and trails. This area of Quabbin is subject to logging, and a spot that is good one year can be the scene of noisy cutting the next. Gate 37 is an excellent place to look for mammal species such as beaver, ermine, white-tailed deer, coyote, and bobcat.

Past the entrance gate, a dirt road descends through an area of mixed woodland. Breeding birds include Red-shouldered Hawks, Pileated Woodpeckers, Eastern Wood-Pewees, Red-breasted and White-breasted nuthatches, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Pine warblers, and Scarlet Tanagers. Watch for hawks high overhead.

After about 0.6 mile, the dirt road crosses a small stone bridge (2) over the West Branch Fever Brook. Here one can choose from several destinations, each of which is described below.

The Upper Marsh of the West Branch Fever Brook. To explore this marsh,

choose the rough path on the right just before you cross the bridge (2). This path (not shown on the Quabbin Reservation Guide map) runs along the east side of the brook. After following this trail for about 0.2 mile, you will reach an interesting wooded marsh and pond. Several beaver lodges are evident. In the breeding season Tree Swallows dart among the dead trees, on which one can occasionally find the more common woodpeckers (Downy, Hairy, and Northern Flicker). Listen for Louisiana Waterthrushes along the brook. In spring and fall this pond attracts diving ducks, chiefly Ring-necked Ducks and Hooded Mergansers, which may breed. Wood Ducks do nest here and should be looked for by carefully scoping the trees on the far side of the pond. There is a nice view of Soapstone Hill, which should be scanned for eagles and ravens, especially in late fall and winter. The walking distance from the entrance gate to the pond and back is about 1.5 miles.

Rattlesnake Hill, the East Branch Fever Brook, and Doubleday Village. If you take the obvious dirt road that turns left (south) from the main road just before the stone bridge (2), you find an area that has been subjected to much logging in recent years but offers interesting birding. This dirt road ascends gently and eventually turns into what is called Dugway Road. About a mile from the bridge two trails branch off to the right. The area just beyond has been extensively logged.

One of these branching paths takes an acute right turn and swings back toward a small arm of the reservoir where the West Branch Fever Brook enters. A better choice is to take the trail that goes south from Dugway Road and runs between Rattlesnake Hill and the East Branch Fever Brook. Watch for a low stone wall that borders the recently cutover area and the beginning of this trail. The path skirts areas where the East Branch Fever Brook widens into several marshy ponds offering very different birds than other parts of Gate 37. Wood Ducks, American Black Ducks, Tree Swallows, Swamp Sparrows, and Red-winged Blackbirds are common. Great Blue Herons breed, and Green-backed Herons, not widespread at Quabbin, are present. The ponds attract migrating waterfowl, and I have even seen flocks of Blue-winged Teal here, a species very local in distribution at Quabbin. The slope of Rattlesnake Hill offers another type of habitat, where in years past Worm-eating Warblers have bred. Other bird species noted along this trail include Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Wild Turkey, House Wren, Winter Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Wood and Hermit thrushes, a variety of warblers including Canada Warbler, and Fox Sparrow in migration.

This trail eventually leaves the ponds, passes Rattlesnake Hill, and enters an area of mixed forest. A little more than a mile from Dugway Road, the trail forks. The left-hand path leads to an impassable ruined bridge over the East Branch Fever Brook. Take the right-hand path that runs along a ridge where the

East Branch Fever Brook enters the reservoir. Eventually you come to the summit of a small hill with a magnificent overlook of the reservoir, including the Dana Flats, Mount L, and in the distance, Mount Zion and the Prescott Peninsula. At any time of year this is a great place to spend some time with a scope. In the spring and again in the fall until freeze-up (usually January), watch for loons, grebes, and ducks. Species that are often present include Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Green-winged Teal, American Black Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, and Common Merganser. Common Loons breed close by. Through a scope you can sometimes pick out shorebirds across the water on the Dana Flats. This can be convenient if high water levels prevent access to the flats by way of Dana Commons and Graves Landing. Raptors are often observed, particularly during fall migration and winter. Species seen include Turkey Vulture (common in summer), Osprey (during migration), Bald Eagle (anytime but especially in late fall and winter), Northern Harrier (during migration), all the accipiters, the common buteos, Golden Eagle (in late fall and winter), American Kestrel (common during migration; may breed), Merlin (in fall when shorebirds are present in numbers), and Peregrine Falcon (rare in fall). Rough-legged Hawks are very rare in late fall and winter. Occasionally flocks of Horned Larks and Snow Buntings can be spotted on the flats in late fall and winter, and Common Ravens are always to be looked for. The walking distance from the entrance gate to the overlook and back is about six miles.

If you stay on Dugway Road and do not take either of the branching trails, you cross an extensively logged area. In these fields several bluebird boxes have been erected, and Eastern Bluebirds have taken up residence. During migration check the edges of the fields for flocks of warblers and other landbirds. A field on the north (left) side of the road is surrounded by an electric fence to keep out deer. This is to protect new growth and will help to evaluate the effect that deer have on plant growth at Quabbin.

Beyond the fields Dugway Road crosses a bridge (3) over the East Branch Fever Brook. This spot provides a view of a pond not visible from the previously described trails. A few nesting platforms of Great Blue Herons are visible along the south edge of the marsh, and occasionally Great Blues still nest here. A closer view of the nests can be had by walking down a short path that branches from the road just after the bridge and runs along the east side of the pond.

Continuing east on Dugway Road brings you to an intersection with Doubleday Road, which runs southwest to the reservoir through the remains of Doubleday Village, one of the four villages of Dana. All of this region offers rich birding during the breeding season. Common birds include Downy and Hairy woodpeckers, Eastern Wood-Pewees, Least Flycatchers, nuthatches,

Veerys, Hermit Thrushes, Solitary and Red-eyed vireos, Scarlet Tanagers, and a good number of warbler species.

The distance from the entrance gate to the shore at the end of Doubleday Road and back is approximately ten miles. Please note that some maps make it seem possible to hike down Doubleday Road to the Quabbin shore and then to cut back up to Dugway Road via the Rattlesnake Hill trail. My experience has shown that even in times of low water you have to cross the East Branch Fever Brook at some point, risking precarious scrambling over boulders or at least getting very wet. Beyond Doubleday Road, Dugway Road continues eastward past junctions with Whitney Hill Road and then Tamplin Road, both of which eventually lead to Dana Commons and the Gate 40 area.

The North Dana Peninsula is another destination that can be reached from the bridge over the West Branch Fever Brook (2). Just beyond the bridge, there is a recent cutover area that has several bluebird boxes. The first trail on the left runs south along the eastern shore of the peninsula and leads toward the site of North Dana, another of the four villages of Dana. Hike this trail until you have a good view of the reservoir—Mount L to the west, "the Pass" between Mount L and Mount Zion to the south, and the Dana Flats to the south and east. From November through the winter, this is a great place to scope for raptors, including both eagles. Golden Eagles are rare, but usually one is around this part of the reservoir during December and January and occasionally will pass over this spot. Repeated visits and patience will lead to eventual success. Bald Eagles can show up at any time and are often noticed flying over Mount Zion and "the Pass." Until freeze-up, loons, grebes, and ducks (including scoters during migration) are usually present. Watch for flocks of Snow Buntings along the shore, and check carefully for Lapland Longspurs. As you hike back to the car, be sure to scope Rattlesnake and Soapstone hills for raptors and ravens. The distance from the entrance gate to the end of the North Dana peninsula and back is about five miles.

Other Hikes in the Gate 37 Area. I will mention two other hikes only briefly; they offer the same birds as previously mentioned. One hike is to continue on the Gate 37 road, crossing the West Branch Fever Brook at the bridge (2), walking across the peninsula, and eventually arriving at the trail from Gate 35. Another possibility is to leave the Gate 37 road after crossing the bridge (2) and to hike north along the west side of West Branch Fever Brook, passing through the "Gorge" and eventually reaching a camping and picnic area in Federation State Forest. Breeding White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos are evident along this trail, which is not well marked. A map and compass are advised. Various circular routes can be devised.

Brooks Pond.

Along Route 122 about a mile north of the West Street intersection, there is a pond on the north (right) side of the road. The pond is known by several names but is listed on most maps as Brooks Pond or Harvard Pond. A rough dirt road goes around the pond, but the water can be viewed with a scope from a pulloff on Route 122 or from a spot a short distance up the dirt road on the west side of the pond. Watch for the New Salem Road sign about 1.3 miles from West Street. Park well off the edge of this dirt road just before it crosses a small wooden bridge over a stream. Brooks Pond is good in fall and spring for waterfowl, including Wood Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, both scaups, Common Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, and Hooded Mergansers. Raptors, including Bald Eagles, are often around. Check the large dead trees on the islands and the far shore. In spring, if the water level is low, a few shorebirds, such as Spotted Sandpipers, Solitary Sandpipers, Greater ~~throated~~

Yellowlegs, and Least Sandpipers, may be present on the small mudflats. Spotted breed in the area. The surrounding forest holds the usual breeding birds and can be quite good for spring migration. I have seen flocks of Yellow-rumped and Palm warblers near the stream, and even rarities such as Yellow-throated Warblers have been found. Great Blue Herons and sometimes Green-backed Herons are present in the summer. This spot is also a popular fishing place.

Federation State Forest (sometimes called Federated Womens Clubs State Forest).

This small but interesting state forest can be reached from Route 122, 3.5 miles from West Street, just past the New Salem town-line sign. The marked entrance is on the south (left) side of Route 122. One paved road runs through the forest, and much birding can be done close to the car.

Breeding birds include Red-shouldered Hawks, Barred Owls, Eastern Wood-Pewees, Least Flycatchers, Tree Swallows, Winter Wrens, occasional Golden-crowned Kinglets, Veerys, Hermit Thrushes, Solitary Vireos, and Swamp Sparrows. Breeding warbler species include Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Canada, and occasionally Northern and Louisiana waterthrushes. About one half mile from the entrance, the road turns right. At the bend there is an interesting hiking trail that passes an overgrown marsh and an old Great Blue Heron rookery. A Cerulean Warbler was found along this trail in May 1989. About 1.5 miles from Route 122, the paved road swings right again. You can park at the pulloff on the left side of the road and walk down a trail leading to a small pond. Sometimes people camp here. Red-shouldered Hawks soar over the area, and goshawks also have been spotted. Wood Ducks, Great Blue Herons, Swamp Sparrows, and Red-winged Blackbirds frequent this beaver pond. The path continues to the

SPECIAL BIRDS OF NORTHEAST QUABBIN

- **Common Loon** - Breeder. Often seen in the summer from the Dana Flats overlook (Gate 37) or from the North Dana peninsula.
- **Migrant waterfowl** - Look for diving ducks in March and April and again in late October (after the boat fishing season) through January. Check the North Dana peninsula (Gate 37), Brooks Pond, and Gate 35. For dabblers, check the marshes of the East Branch Fever Brook and the Dana Flats (Gate 37).
- **Bald Eagle** - Breeder. In summer often seen over the Dana Flats. From late fall through the winter, regularly seen from the North Dana peninsula and Gate 35.
- **Northern Goshawk** - Very uncommon, probably breeds. Most sightings from winter into spring. Repeated reports from the North Dana area and along West Street.
- **Golden Eagle** - Rare, but at least one shows up every year. Look in November through February from the North Dana area or in the Gate 35 area. Deer carcasses on the ice increase the chances of seeing one.
- **Wild Turkey** - Most consistently and conveniently seen in recent years at the farm on West Street in the early morning in winter and spring. Even here they cannot be counted on. In summer look around the Rattlesnake Hill and Doubleday Village areas.
- **Barred Owl** - One of the two most commonly noted owl species of the area (the other being Great Horned Owl). Calling birds regular in the Gate 37 area during early spring. On several occasions, they have been seen and heard right from the entrance gate.
- **Pileated Woodpecker** - Common, but thinly distributed. Summer is the hardest time to find them. Most often seen in the early mornings. Try along West Street, Gate 37 to Dugway Road (most consistent location), or Gate 35.
- **Common Raven** - Uncommon in this area in summer when this species seems to prefer West Quabbin. During the rest of the year, particularly winter, try the North Dana area or Gate 35. Always be on the lookout, because ravens have been seen over every spot mentioned in the article.
- **Winter Wren** - In 1988 and 1989, the local population of this species seems to have bounced back to former levels, but Winter Wrens are still thinly distributed. Try listening for them in Federation State Forest, along the Doubleday Road section of Gate 37, near Rattlesnake Hill, and even along West Street. More common during early spring migration. Sometimes individuals linger until late in the year.
- **Eastern Bluebird** - With the erection in 1989 of nesting boxes in the cutover areas of Gate 37, this species may become as common here as in the Gate 40 region. Noted as a migrant along the shore. Also check along West Street and Monson Turnpike Road. Has bred in the marshes of the East Branch Fever Brook (Gate 37).
- **Louisiana Waterthrush** - Breeds along the streams in Federation State Forest and along the West Branch Fever Brook in the Gate 37 area.
- **Snow Bunting** - Regular in late fall and early winter around North Dana and over the Dana Flats.
- **Winter finches** - Irregular winter visitors. Evening Grosbeaks are usually around West Street. Pine Siskins and occasionally Common Redpolls can also be found here in flight years. Red Crossbills are less predictable, but the species may have bred in sections of Gate 37. Summering birds have been photographed. Pine Grosbeak is the least often recorded winter finch in this area. Watch and listen for winter finches flying overhead while looking for eagles in the North Dana and Gate 35 areas.

back of the pond where you may hear a Winter Wren singing.

The paved forest road continues along a stream where Louisiana Waterthrushes breed and can often be heard and seen close to the car. About 1.7 miles from Route 122, the paved road ends in a small parking area with one dirt trail running to the right and one dirt road heading to the left. The trail on the right goes under some power lines, through a camping and picnic area, and becomes the Gate 36 trail. To hike this complex of interesting paths, consult the Quabbin Reservation Guide map. All typical Quabbin breeding birds can be found here. The dirt road to the left runs along the back of the forest to the West Street/Monson Turnpike Road intersection (1). Do not try to drive this dirt road.

Winter birding in the state forest can be difficult because the road is not plowed and gets very icy, but in good flight years, winter finches are present.

Gate 35 Area.

Gate 35 is at the end of the South Athol/Dana Road, off Route 122, about a half mile beyond the state forest turnoff. Look for a sign advertising C & M Roughcut Lumber on the left (south) side of Route 122. The South Athol/Dana Road has little of interest for birders, but one should check for winter finches at any feeders along its one-mile length. The road dead-ends at the Gate 35 barrier. Please park along the edge of the road, and leave the small area to the right of the gate for a turnaround.

After walking past the gate, take the trail immediately on the left. After less than a half mile, the trail passes under some power lines. During the evening or just before dawn in winter or early spring, check the area for calling Northern Saw-whet and Long-eared owls. Both are found here, but they are rare. The cleared area under the power lines can also produce Northern Shrikes, Tree Sparrows, and finches in the winter and may have some migrants in the fall. Check the area for raptors.

The trail runs along the western shore of the North Dana peninsula for several miles and offers good overlooks of the northeastern section of the reservoir (Mount L to the south and the Prescott Peninsula to the west). In late fall to freeze-up, the water holds many diving ducks, including scoters. Please notice that this area may freeze earlier than other sections around the tip of the North Dana peninsula. Generally, the farther south you hike the better your chances of seeing the eagles that are often around Mount L. Check in the trees on the islands for perched raptors and Northern Shrikes.

In the fall the trees and bushes along the shore may have concentrations of migrants. Other birds found along the Gate 35 trail include Pileated Woodpeckers, Common Ravens, and a variety of winter finches in good flight years. I have recorded Golden Eagle here several times. Eventually, the Gate 36 trail enters on the left and farther along the path joins the trail that crosses the North Dana peninsula and leads to Gate 37.

Conclusion.

This article has touched on a few of the highlights of the northeast Quabbin area. There are numerous other roads, ponds, and marshes that one can explore from the car or on foot. Some of these spots have birds not mentioned in this summary. The Alder Flycatcher, for instance, is found in a few of the marshes nearby. Who knows what you will find?

MARK LYNCH is an instructor/docent at the Worcester Art Museum, does a talk show on the arts and sciences for radio station WICN-FM, and is a member of the advisory board of the Worcester branch of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. He has birded throughout the United States, in Central America and Europe, and has made two trips to Australia. Mark has also written an article on the birds of Quabbin's Gate 40, which appeared in *Bird Observer*, October 1987, 15(5): 220-229. He requests that birders send interesting sightings from the Quabbin area (unusual species, high counts, early and late dates, etc.) to him at 36 Carlisle Street, Worcester, MA 01610.

NEW ENGLAND HAWK WATCH CONFERENCE SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1990

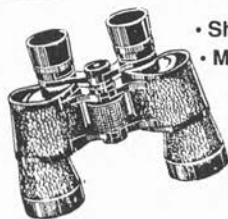
The New England Hawk Watch (NEHW) will hold a one-day conference on subjects related to raptors and raptor migration on Saturday, April 7, 1990, at the Holiday Inn in Holyoke, Massachusetts (the site of previous NEHW conferences). Following the day's events there will be a banquet at which Peter Dunne will be the guest speaker.

For more detailed information and preregistration, write to
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Anyone who drives the highways of Massachusetts in the winter is familiar with the sight of the perched or soaring Red-tailed Hawk or the hovering American Kestrel. How many raptors are hunting or resting at the edges of roads? If you would like to participate during the morning of March 3 or 4, 1990, in a coordinated attempt to survey the raptors utilizing the roadside edge habitat, send your name, address, and telephone numbers to Robert Stymeist, 98 Boylston Street, Watertown, MA 02172. Please indicate what highways you would be interested in covering and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

CHANGES IN THE RING-BILLED GULL POPULATION IN MASSACHUSETTS

by Richard A. Forster

Like many breeding "seabirds" the historical populations of Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) were decimated by human persecution for the plume trade in the late 1800s and early 1900s. At that time the breeding range encompassed the prairie region of the northern United States and Canada eastward to the Great Lakes with smaller populations in Lakes Erie and Ontario and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Ring-bills commonly wintered, and still do, along the Gulf Coast of the United States to Central Mexico, in the Great Lakes, and along the Atlantic Coast from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Florida, with greatest numbers in the southern portions of this range, although in early winter before freeze-up the greatest concentrations are found in the Great Lakes (Dolbeer and Bernhardt 1986). Once the species was afforded protection, the breeding populations stabilized and then increased slowly. In 1940 the total North American breeding population from the Great Lakes eastward was estimated at 20,000 pairs and in 1945 the total population at about 93,000 individuals (Ludwig 1974). Since that time a combination of factors has enabled Ring-bill populations to increase to unprecedented numbers. Both Ludwig (1974) and Lock (1988) have summarized the tremendous growth of the Great Lakes and eastern populations.

An important factor in the increase was an apparent explosive spread of herring (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) in the Great Lakes around 1950 after an increased sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) population had decimated predatory fish in the upper lakes. As a result, the increased amount of food available allowed for greater survival of chicks and young gulls. Then, in the 1960s a period of prolonged drought led to lower water levels and created barren islands, which provided greater site availability for breeding. At this time the population increase accelerated, and Ludwig estimated the total population of Ring-billed Gulls in 1967 to be 837,500 individuals. Since then the Great Lakes population has increased by an average of 7.9 percent per year from 1967 to 1976 and by 11.6 percent per year from 1976 to 1984 (Lock 1988). During the same time span the population has increased in both the upper and lower Gulf of St. Lawrence but at a less dramatic rate. By 1981 an estimated 5500 to 6000 pairs were breeding in Vermont on Lake Champlain, where Ring-bills were first confirmed breeding in 1939. In the maritime provinces of Canada (Labrador, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia) including the islands of St. Pierre-Miquelon (France), where probably less than 500 pairs bred in 1950, the population in 1986 was conservatively estimated at 7000 pairs (Lock 1988). The species is suspected of nesting (but not

confirmed) at Lake Umbagog in New Hampshire. To date, the breeding population has stopped just short of Massachusetts. Perhaps the picture is best summed up by considering Little Galloo Island on Lake Ontario in New York. One thousand pairs of Ring-bills were estimated breeding there in 1945, but by 1967 that figure had skyrocketed to 82,000 pairs.

In light of the remarkable increase and close proximity, one would expect the status of Ring-billed Gull in Massachusetts to have shown an equally dramatic change relative to the expected numbers of migrants and of summering and wintering individuals. However, on the surface this expectation does not



*Ring-billed Gulls:
adult (upper right);
immature (lower left).
Photos by Dorothy R. Arvidson.*

prove out. Both Bailey (1955) and Griscom and Snyder (1955) referred to Ring-billed Gull as a common migrant and wintering species along the coast and a recent (i.e., pre-1955) regular visitor inland in limited numbers. At that time, nonbreeding, summering Ring-bills were present, especially in the Newburyport area but were rarely seen elsewhere. Given that Massachusetts lies along the traditional migratory route, one would expect maximum counts today to be on a magnitude of at least four or five times greater than those reported in 1955. However, a casual glance at maximum counts reported in various local journals over the past decade reveals only a fifty percent increase over those of three decades ago, with just a few counts nearly double the former numbers.

How then can we account for the fact that the explosive increase in the breeding population seems not to be reflected in Massachusetts' gull counts? The answer can best be attributed to reporting apathy. If an observer checks the same field each year and it has only fifty individuals more than the previous year, the numbers might be considered near normal and unworthy of comment. Assuming there were 250 individuals in the first year, then five years later the actual numbers would have doubled but received no comment because there was no dramatic annual increase. If this hypothesis is true, is there any means by which we can document an increase in Ring-billed Gulls, or lack thereof, in Massachusetts? A logical solution is an analysis of the Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs).

Before looking at the CBC results, a few words of caution regarding the pitfalls of a strict interpretation of the data are in order, and a rationale for the method used must be given. Custom dictates that CBC results be presented in terms of birds per party hour. In this presentation, however, I have eschewed this conventional wisdom and utilized instead just total numbers, hoping to spare the reader unnecessary statistical gobbledygook. Until recently Ring-billed Gull was unusual enough inland for observers to check every gull to add an additional species to the CBC list. On coastal counts, however, it is likely that total numbers have been accurately counted or estimated regardless of the number of observers or parties involved. Counts that were continuous over the years were examined to elicit any long-term trends. Hence, the total figures presented here for all counts in Massachusetts encompass the eighteen years from 1970 through 1987, the last year for which figures were available at the time of writing. It is interesting that 1970 was only the second year (1968 was the first) that the total state count exceeded 1000 individuals (it has not fallen below that level since), and 1987 was the first time that Ring-billed Gull was recorded on all counts conducted within the state.

Ring-billed Gull as a wintering species has increased by slightly more than 700 percent from 1970 to 1987. In 1987 there were eight CBCs conducted that were not done in 1970. These eight counts, five of which were inland, accounted

for approximately one third of the 1987 total of 12,656 Ring-billed Gulls. Therefore, some adjustment should be made for this. If we extrapolate back to 1970 and add one third to that total of 1181, then the theoretical 1970 total, adjusting for the eight counts not run, becomes 1575 Ring-billed Gulls. Assuming this theoretical value has some basis in reality, then the 1970 wintering population was only 12 percent of the 1987 population. (If the eight counts not run in 1970 are deleted from the 1987 total, the percentage increase is almost exactly the same.)

A casual glance at Figure 1 and Table 1 indicates that the rate of increase in Ring-billed Gulls on CBCs has been fairly steady. Declines are apparent only in 1975, 1980, 1985, and 1986. Can these decreases be due to any identifiable

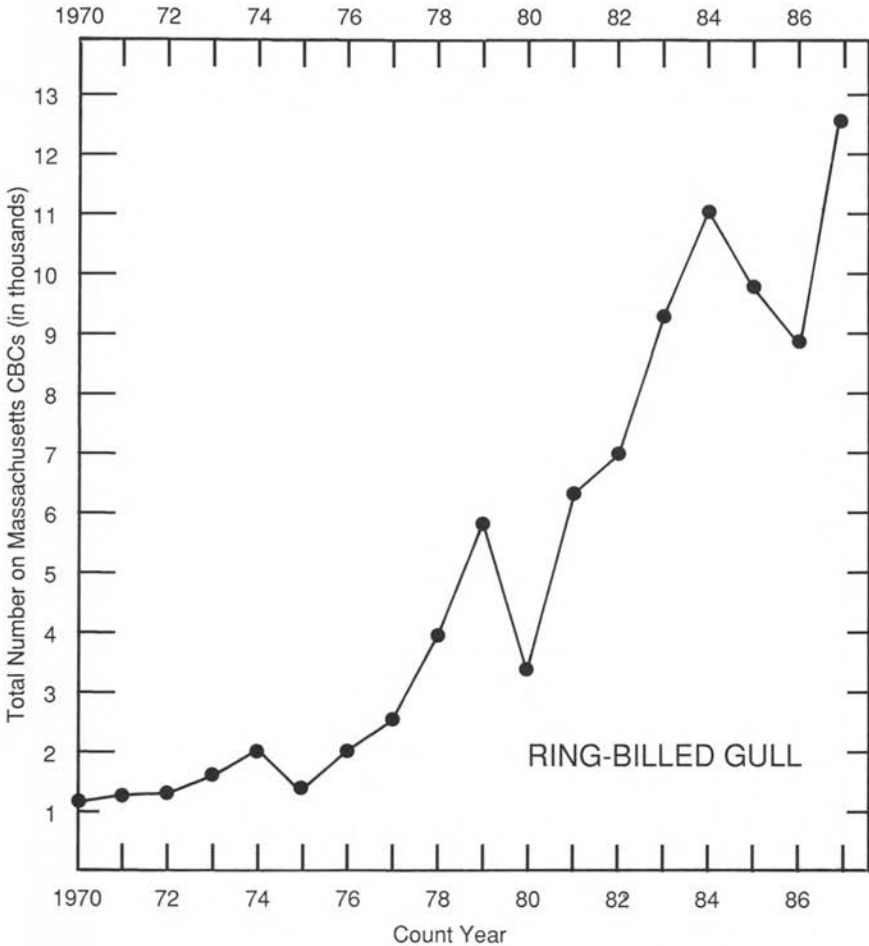


Figure 1. Massachusetts Christmas Bird Count data for Ring-billed Gull, 1970-1987.

factor—food supply, for example? An examination of feeding behavior of Ring-billed Gulls reveals that unlike the larger gulls, Ring-bills generally shun refuse dumps. Traditionally they fed at sewage outlets and along coastal mud flats where fish and other marine organisms comprised the bulk of their diet. Such traditional locations in Massachusetts include Newburyport Harbor, Plymouth Harbor, outer Cape Cod, and New Bedford Harbor. During migration in spring and fall, they also congregate in smaller numbers on cultivated fields, athletic fields, pastures, and the like, where they feed on earthworms and insects. They can be seen following plows, snatching up displaced insects. More recently and increasingly they have become acclimated to the urban and residential environment, where they frequent dumpsters and the parking lots of shopping malls and restaurants, especially fast-food establishments. Every duck-feeding area has a contingent of attendant Ring-billed Gulls. These last sites are at least partly responsible for their increase inland.

In some years a particular food item, e.g., sand lance (*Ammodytes americanus*), is so abundant that notably large numbers of Ring-bills concentrate to avail themselves of the food source while it persists. At inland locations a mild fall and early winter encourages more Ring-bills to linger, whereas a particularly harsh November pushes them farther south. A combination of food availability and weather probably determines the yearly population of Ring-billed Gulls. As a consequence annual fluctuations up or down, sometimes significant, are to be expected. Yet the general trend continues upward, reflective of the increased breeding population. A similar very dramatic upward trend over twenty-five years has been charted for the Ring-bill population on Lake Erie by Dolbeer and Bernhardt (1986).

TABLE 1. Totals for Ring-billed Gull from representative continuous CBCs at five-year intervals, 1955-1985.

Count	Year						
	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985
Cape Ann	1	5	0	6	13	97	132
Cape Cod	9	157	186	170	360	488	760
Concord	0	0	2	0	0	0	6
Marshfield	4	16	12	36	35	301	162
Newburyport	9	50	37	61	41	28	280
Quincy	14	18	62	191	260	637	1119
Springfield	2	0	2	11	8	14	148
Worcester	0	0	0	0	1	27	181

Ring-billed Gulls in different inland CBC areas show a pattern of sporadic occurrence for a number of years followed by a period of being continuously recorded on succeeding CBCs, but there is no consistent correlation between different inland areas. For example, Ring-billed Gulls have been recorded continuously in Springfield since 1970, in Worcester since 1975, beginning in 1978 in Millis, and since 1982 in Concord. Some rather surprising high counts have occurred inland such as Springfield where 1115 were counted in 1987 (the previous high count was 532), Worcester in 1984 where 990 were present, and Millis where 530 were seen in 1987 (previous high of 380). Inland counts began to escalate markedly in the mid-1980s.

Coastal locations are less easily analyzed since most areas have some Ring-bills with certain areas preferred over others. For instance, outer Cape Cod has always been a location favored by Ring-billed Gulls in winter, but only a few miles away on Nantucket the species was almost nonexistent until just ten years ago. At various coastal sites, mostly located south of Boston, there have been years when abnormally high counts are related to a locally abundant food supply, most likely sand lance, but other fish species might also be involved. Such inordinately large counts were made at Quincy in 1979, Nantucket in 1981 and 1982, Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod, and Quincy in 1983, Martha's Vineyard in 1984, Plymouth and New Bedford in 1985, and New Bedford again in 1987. In almost all cases these counts were more than double the figures of the year preceding and the year following the count and clearly fall outside the pattern of increase. The Greater Boston CBC which now reigns as the center of Ring-billed Gull winter distribution in Massachusetts exhibits no wild fluctuations but does demonstrate a rapid and dramatic increase since 1977 (from 302 to 2632 individuals). The random occurrence from year to year of these unusually high numbers and the widely separated geographical locations of incidence indicate the unpredictability of such locally abundant food supplies.

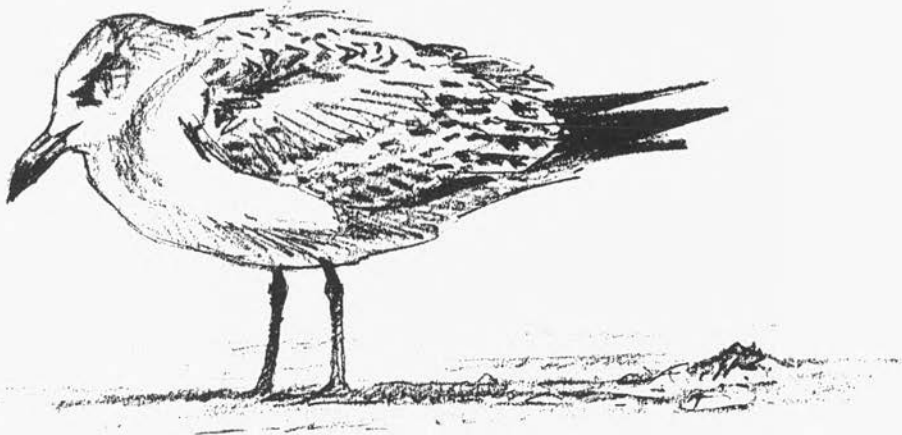
In 1950 there were 156 Ring-billed Gulls recorded on seven Massachusetts CBCs, and of that total 144 were on Cape Cod. Although the number of counts has grown to twenty-six in 1987, the total of 12,656 Ring-billed Gulls clearly reflects the tremendous growth in the breeding population to the north and west of Massachusetts. Both Ludwig and Lock suggest that the increase in number of this species will continue due to an abundant food supply, which leads to greater breeding productivity and survivability of both young and adult birds. Thus, we can expect a continued increase of Ring-billed Gull numbers on Massachusetts CBCs. Also, given the close proximity to the state of nesting Ring-billed Gulls at the present, it seems only a matter of time before the first Ring-bills colonize Massachusetts as breeders.

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RICHARD A. FORSTER has been concerned with bird distribution, breeding, and vagrancy throughout his career as a New England ornithologist. Although he has led bird tours throughout the world and is co-author with E. S. Gruson of *Checklist of the World's Birds*, the focus of much of Richard's work has been the Sudbury River Valley and Essex County in Massachusetts. Recently he recorded the first Little Egret to appear in the United States (see October 1989 *Bird Observer*).

Richard would like to thank Ian C. T. Nisbet and Trevor Lloyd-Evans for insightful comments during the inception of this article and Richard K. Walton for comments on a previous draft of the manuscript and to commend Dorothy R. Arvidson and Janet Lee Heywood for their patience and perseverance in making the piece a reality.



Immature Ring-billed Gull

Illustration by Barry W. Van Dusen

A CONVERSATION WITH TOM FRENCH: PART II

by Alden G. Clayton

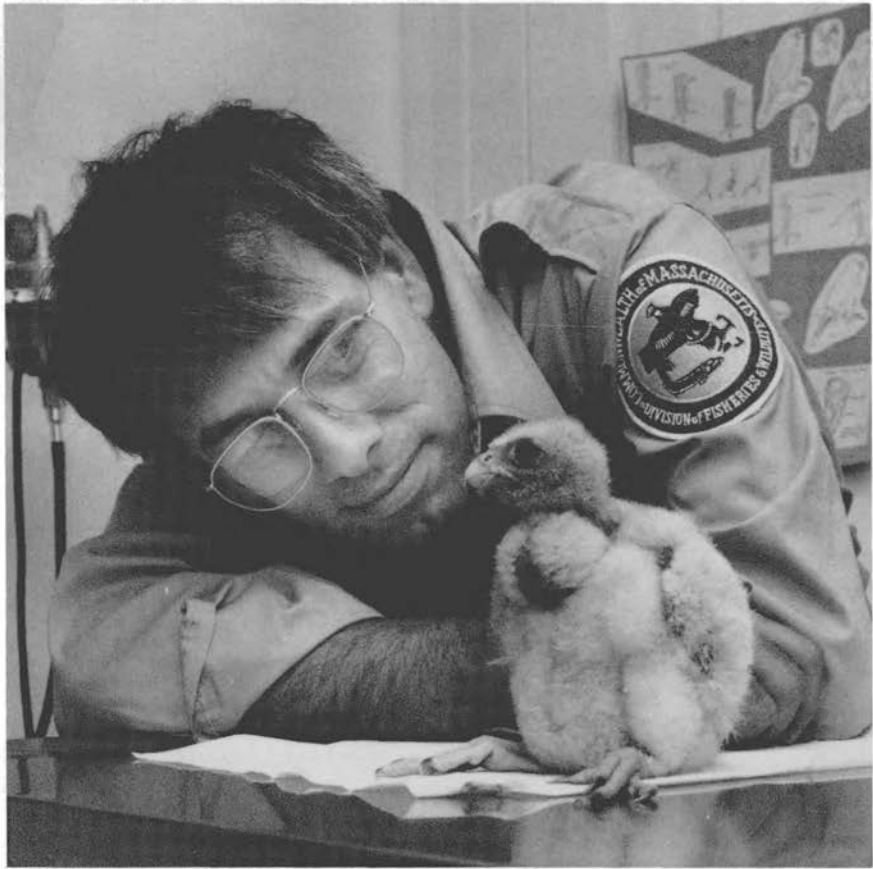
The first part of this interview was published in the October 1989 issue. Part I was concerned with the state Endangered Species Bill, which passed the Massachusetts Senate on December 11, 1989, and was sent to the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill must be reported out of that committee by January 4, 1990, or it will be returned to the senate. The following is the remainder of the edited transcript of the August 23, 1989 conversation with Dr. Thomas W. French, an Assistant Director of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Clayton: And now for a few questions about yourself. Many birders have favorite groups of birds—raptors, shorebirds, warblers, sparrows, for example. Because of your work with Peregrines and Bald Eagles, I would guess that many people think of you as a "raptor person." Is this true? If so, how did you become interested in raptors?

French: Not really; no, I am not solely a raptor biologist. I have probably had more experience with reptiles and amphibians and some seabirds, petrels and alcids. Peregrine Falcons and eagles are getting a fair bit of attention from the Division, because they are the highest priority federally listed birds that regularly occur here. There are specific actions that can be taken to help these birds. We include the Eskimo Curlew on the state endangered list, because it migrates through. There's not much we can do for it in Massachusetts, right now. Sometimes the problem is identifying what can be done.

The American burying beetle used to occur in the state, but no one can even locate it now. Burying beetles are named for their habit of finding small dead animals and burying them several inches underground. Then they lay their eggs and raise their young on the animal carcass in an underground chamber. They formerly were present on Penikese Island, which is a wildlife sanctuary. We have searched quite a bit for them there. We are proposing to do a reintroduction next year. It will be the first reintroduction of an endangered insect of this type in the eastern United States if not in the continent. There's a captive breeding population at Boston University, believe it or not. The original beetles came from Block Island, which is the only remaining population in the East. So we're proposing to do similar sorts of things with an insect that were done with eagles, although I guarantee it won't get the same publicity.

Clayton: There are many pathways leading to a career and life-style centered on nature. Some people grew up with a deep and abiding interest; others became "hooked" as a result of education or some extraordinary experience. Could you tell me something about your own background and education—where you came from, so to speak, with respect to wildlife and, particularly, endangered species?



Tom French is shown with the young Peregrine he rescued by rappelling down to the nest, 330 feet above the street, on the twenty-first-floor ledge of a Springfield building. When the young chick was twelve days old, people viewing the nest on twenty-four-hour cable television in the lobby noted that it was gasping and alerted the MDFW. Despite being "bumped on the head" twice by the excited Peregrine parent during the rescue rappel, Tom removed the young bird for treatment at Tufts Veterinary School's Wildlife Clinic in Grafton. It had choked on a bit of stringy meat tangled around the base of its tongue and blocking the windpipe. On June 1, 1989, on the rappel to return the youngster to the nest (after eight days of care), the adult falcon knocked Tom's helmet off. However, Tom survived unscathed as did the chick, which subsequently fledged.

Photo by Dennis Vandal.

French: I grew up with a creek and some woods behind the house but in a suburban setting just outside of Atlanta, Georgia. I did not grow up in the country, really, although my grandparents lived on a farm in Alabama. From as far back as I can remember, I spent an awful lot of time in that creek and nearby ponds catching turtles and frogs and salamanders. As I got older and was able to travel farther afield, I just did more and more and more of the same. I guess in a sense I started off catching frogs, and now I am paid for it, more or less. At that time, there were really no formal educational programs for wildlife management that dealt with endangered species. In fact, the Endangered Species Act wasn't passed until 1973, when I was already beginning to work on a Master's degree. The concept of endangered species is somewhat new, on a big scale. I earned an undergraduate college degree that was premed oriented. Not that I planned to be a doctor—it was just the biology degree that was available at Georgia State University in Atlanta. I went to Auburn University because it was well known for field studies, received a Master's in zoology and then went to Indiana State University and got a Ph.D. in ecology and systematics, again field oriented. I had a two-year postdoctoral stint at Cornell University. But, again, basically in zoology, not in wildlife management. Historically, wildlife management was game oriented—turkey, deer, and bear, and that was not what I was specifically interested in.

Clayton: The local birding folklore now includes a number of your daring encounters with Peregrines on Boston and Springfield skyscrapers. They bring to mind tales of rock-climbing exploits in Yosemite. Do you have a favorite "hair-raiser" that you might share with the readers of *Bird Observer*?

French: Well, first of all, people have asked how much I rock-climb for recreation, and the answer is none. My first climbing experience was in mines in New York. The first climb I ever did was a ninety-five-foot free-rope rappel—in other words, away from all walls, just free open air—down one of our mine shafts for bats with Al Hicks of New York's endangered species program. Al is an experienced climber. My first several climbs were in the dark. I didn't appreciate how far down it was. In Springfield I knew I was going to have to do it to band the Peregrine chicks, because there was no other good way of getting down there. I was hoping at first that we could do it with a window-washing scaffold, which wouldn't seem like it was so high because you have a floor under your feet. I did not plan to do the retrieval of the egg or the retrieval of the choking chick—they just happened as emergencies. There's no reason that you can't rappel with rock-climbing techniques off a building, but I had never tried it. Part of the reason for that is that building managers don't usually appreciate people jumping off their buildings! That's an opportunity that very few people ever get.

Clayton: It has been said that birding is one of the few areas where

amateurs can make a serious contribution to scientific knowledge through informed observations and data collection. As a scientist, what are your views on this topic?

French: Well, there's no doubt about that. In fact, I would hope to expand that to areas other than birders. We had a "salamander watch" program, which has been disbanded as a formal program, but we still get a lot of our important rare salamander sight records and the breeding-site localities turned in by volunteers. They're doing it recreationally, driving around in the spring looking for salamanders crossing the road. It's the same concept as birders going out on the weekend looking for birds. Our winter eagle survey is done primarily with volunteers, amateur energy. And that is, of course, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation nationwide. The data collected have been used to show the trends in eagle populations throughout the country. People do the same for Peregrines, trying to monitor historic eyries to see if there are any birds coming back in early spring. That has been done by the student Wildlife Society chapter at the University of Massachusetts. Observations of when the Peregrine Falcons fledged off the Customs House were very important for us to know. When I put together the calendar of events for the Peregrine Falcons this year, I looked at the dates, and most of these observations were reported to us from volunteer amateur observers.

We obviously have to be a little careful about taking reports from the public. I do get lots of calls about "your" Peregrines—it's always "your" Peregrines, or in other kinds of reports, it is, "'Your' red fox is in my yard." But with the Peregrines, we've gotten lots of calls of dead ones in Boston. They have turned out to be flicker, pigeon, kestrel, Merlin, red-shouldered, all sorts of raptors—lots of things other than Peregrines. Unfortunately, some have been Peregrines in the past. So we have to take every single report seriously. But what that points out to me is that you've got people that for the most part don't know a thing about birds but at least have heard about the Peregrines. So we are getting some information to people that something is going on and that it is something important. I was on Mount Horrid in Vermont this fall to help improve a natural Peregrine nesting site on a cliff. I was there with my Vermont counterpart and the Peregrine Fund—that is a private organization, which has captive-bred these birds that have been released. I met a woman hiking, and she was telling me all about the birds in Springfield and about these people who were helping them. I thanked her for the information. Great!

Clayton: Looking ahead into the future of wildlife conservation—let's say for the decade of the 1990s—what do you see as both the greatest problems and the greatest opportunities?

French: Well, our greatest problem for wildlife generally isn't really people shooting or killing it. Although people still occasionally shoot an eagle,

the loss of habitat and pollutants like acid rain, PCBs, and lead are much bigger problems. These are things that wildlife biologists really are not trained to cope with. It's going to take more than just wildlife biologists to improve the environment for wildlife. I think that preserving habitat is usually more important than most of the other management and restoration efforts that we can do. If you don't have the habitat, you will never be able to preserve the animal or the plant that requires that habitat. Fortunately, our endangered species land protection effort this past year spent just over two million dollars in Massachusetts for the habitats of rare species. As for environmental review, the Division is getting more and more involved, particularly through the Wetlands Protection Act, in reviewing proposed developments for their potential impact on wildlife, and particularly rare wetlands-dependent wildlife. The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species section of the agency does about eighteen hundred—pushing two thousand—environmental reviews a year. That is not traditional wildlife management but may have more long-term impact than the traditional types of things we have done. It's not glamorous; it's confrontational sometimes; and it's high stress for the staff who do it. Particularly when we have spotted turtles in the great cedar swamp in Westborough, and Conrail is proposing to cover up some of that wetland. It's hard for somebody who is paid peanuts by comparison to stand up to these high-powered teams of lawyers. But we are doing more and more of that.

ALDEN G. CLAYTON has described himself as "continuously awed by the wonders of the natural world and deeply concerned about its preservation." In June 1988 he and wife Nancy regularly monitored the Peregrines nesting on the Customs House tower. When Alden took off for Baffin Island, he missed the fledging of the young Peregrines. This happy event was, however, witnessed with wild delight on June 25 and 26 by Nancy and *Bird Observer's* editor, who was thus grandly rewarded for chauffeuring Nancy in Alden's absence through downtown Boston traffic.

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FIRST CONFIRMED NESTING OF CERULEAN WARBLER IN MASSACHUSETTS

by D'Ann W. Brownrigg and J. Thomas Brownrigg

On July 2, 1989, we observed a male Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) feeding a fledgling near Gate 40 at Quabbin Reservoir in Worcester County, Massachusetts. We were exploring an area a little off the beaten path when we heard a call that we did not recognize. The series of buzzy warbles, all on a single pitch and uniformly repeated, was distinguishable from the songs of the many American Redstarts present. While trying to locate the singing bird, we saw a fledgling in a thirty-foot-high shagbark hickory near the road. The youngster was perched, midway between the trunk of the tree and the outside of the canopy, on a branch about ten feet down from the top of the tree. The bird had nearly white undersides, a yellowish eyebrow, and two broad wing bars on darker wings. The tail was quite short, and not all of the feathers had erupted. While speculating about the identity of this quiet fledgling, we saw the singing bird approach and feed it. After carefully noting that the adult bird had two prominent white wing bars, black streaking on the sides, and a black breast band on an otherwise white underside, we consulted the National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* and concluded that both birds, as well as the song, matched the description of the Cerulean Warbler and that the adult bird was clearly a male.

We observed the birds clearly for thirty minutes or so. At one point the adult flew to a lower dead branch of a large red oak and perched for a few minutes, which gave us a particularly good view. The young bird sat quietly in one location the entire time that we watched it. The adult flitted from branch to branch just below the leaves at the tops of the oak trees, moving three to four feet at a time and staying within about fifty feet of the young bird. We saw him feed the fledgling two or three times.

We reported the sighting to Wayne Petersen by calling the Environmental Helpline and to Mark Lynch, who had requested information about unusual sightings at Gate 40 in his *Bird Observer* article about the area [15 (5): 221, October 1987]. Both Wayne and Mark told us that the Cerulean Warbler has been expanding its range and that the species had been seen in different parts of the Quabbin Reservation earlier in the summer. Both males and females and a copulating pair had been observed, but our report was the first observation of recently fledged young.

On a return trip on July 8, 1989, we checked the area three times during the day but did not see or hear either bird until about 3:00 P.M., when we heard a male singing. This time we watched him as he moved across a broader area,

singing and moving about near the tops of the trees. At one point he seemed to be part of a diverse mixed flock of chickadees, Tufted Titmice, a White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, redstarts, a Red-eyed Vireo, and an Ovenbird, all concentrated near us. We did not see the young bird on that occasion. We saw a Brown Creeper, a towhee, Least Flycatchers, and Veerys and heard a Black-billed Cuckoo in the immediate area where the Ceruleans had been observed. The entire area, which includes fields, a stream, and a logging road, was well worth birding.

The section where the Cerulean family was found is part of a mature deciduous forest (mostly oaks with a few maples, hickories, and an occasional white pine) on a long but irregular slope. This part has been fairly recently logged. The leaves on the trees are concentrated in a thin canopy with most of the inner branches bare, and the understory vegetation is sparse. On the hilltops, there are a few ferns, blueberries, and wild sarsaparilla. On the lower slope, there are boggy areas with more shrubs.

We wish to thank Wayne Petersen and Mark Lynch for their help regarding this sighting. On July 9, Wayne Petersen and David Ludlow visited the same area and located two singing male Cerulean Warblers, one of which was feeding two recently fledged young. As with the initial observation, at no time during the hour they spent in the area was a female bird seen.

D'ANN W. and J. THOMAS BROWNRIGG of Carlisle have been serious birders for about six years, largely inspired by Betty Valentine's "Birding for Fun" course at Massachusetts Audubon. Tom has been interested in natural history since his childhood in the Chicago area. Tom and D'Ann met in a chemistry lab when undergraduates at the University of Illinois in Champaign and have been married for twenty-three years. D'Ann has an M.S. in psychology (ethology) from the University of Chicago, where she worked with doves. Tom has a Ph.D. in chemistry from the same university and is applications manager at American Holographic in Littleton. They particularly enjoy outings to Quabbin Reservation and consider Gate 40, which they learned about from Mark Lynch's article in *Bird Observer*, one of the most rewarding areas in terms of variety of birds and interesting wild terrain.

Bird Observer Spring Workshops

The Vernal Renaissance — an introduction to spring _____

Spring is a season eagerly awaited by New England birders, naturalists, and gardeners. As the days lengthen in March and April, snow and ice begin to melt, and southwest winds usher in migrant birds. Maple sap begins to flow, pussy willows pop, spring peepers peep, and beneath the icy waters of vernal ponds, fairy shrimp and spotted salamanders engage in ages-old breeding rituals.

In this introduction to spring, we will discuss some of the principle features of the season as they occur in coastal and freshwater environments and in field and woodland habitats. The field trip will be designed to provide opportunities to experience some of the notions described during the lecture and to discover an assortment of the early spring migrant birds.

Seminar: Friday, April 20, 1990. Field Trip: Sunday, April 22, 1990. Cost: \$30.

Butterflies of the Bird World — a workshop on spring warblers _____

For many birders, warblers represent the zenith of songbird evolution. The thirty-five species regularly occurring in Massachusetts provide splendid examples of a number of ecological, behavioral, and conservation problems. Participants will be introduced to the topics of migration, breeding and foraging habitat, and song. These issues will be interwoven with the techniques of spring warbler identification. The field trip will be to Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge and to Crooked Pond in Boxford at a time when a variety of early spring warblers are passing through the region.

Seminar: Friday, May 4, 1990. Field Trip: Sunday, May 6, 1990. Cost: \$30.

The Barrens and their Beasts — a workshop on pine barren ecology _____

Southeastern Massachusetts lies close to the northern edge of a unique association of plants and animals called the pine barrens. To the uninitiated, pine barrens appear desolate and devoid of animal life, yet several of the state's rarest plant and invertebrate species occur there. Breeding birds in the pine barrens include species with a southern affinity, such as Whip-poor-will and Fish Crow, and more northern species like Hermit Thrush and Nashville Warbler. Participants will be introduced to the interesting and often understated ecology of the pine barrens. The indoor session will present an overview of the environment and its birdlife, and the field trip to the Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth will offer the opportunity to observe firsthand the representative birds and plants.

Seminar: Friday, June 8, 1990. Field Trip: Sunday, June 10, 1990. Cost: \$30.

WAYNE R. PETERSEN will present all three workshops. All seminar sessions will be held at Babson College, Tomasso Hall (Room 209), Forest Street, Wellesley, MA, from 7:30 - 9:30 P.M. Details about the field trips will be announced at the seminars preceding them. If you have questions, please call 617-293-5262 (Hanson). Preregistration is required. Each workshop is limited to twenty participants, so please register early.

TO REGISTER, send your name(s), address, and telephone numbers (day and evening) along with your check payable to Bird Observer to Bird Observer Workshops, c/o W.R. Petersen, 378 County Road, Hanson, MA 02341.

A BIRD IN THE HAND: THE MYSTERY NOVELS OF ANN CLEEVES

by Robert A. Campbell

Some years ago I had thought about writing a mystery story set in the world of birds and birders. During extended periods of idleness (such as homeward journeys of pelagic trips), I would mull over the idea. Slowly the concept began to crystallize. My story would be titled "Murder in the New Pines," the plot would be set in the Newburyport area, and it would include local color in the shape of characters whose distinctive plumages and vocalizations would make them instantly recognizable to us in the Massachusetts area, despite thinly disguised nomenclature.

Alas, while I was engaged in idle dreaming, someone else was pounding away at the typewriter. Early this summer I discovered that an Englishwoman named Ann Cleeves (the daughter of a village schoolteacher who lives near Droitwich, England, where she spends her time with her two small children and writing) had written not one but four mystery novels immersed in the birding milieu. These are *A Bird in the Hand* (1986), *Come Death and High Water* (1987), *Murder in Paradise* (1989), and *A Prey to Murder* (1989), all published by Fawcett as paperbacks. "Ann Cleeves" could be a pseudonym, as the name is similar to that of the historical personage Anne of Cleves, who was one of the celebrated six wives of Henry VIII. Regardless of the author's real name, the stories will be of interest to those birders who are also readers of mystery stories.

The first of the books, *A Bird in the Hand*, is the one that is the richest in the lore of birds and birders. The setting is the conventional classic British mystery scenario, which is familiar to anyone who has read Agatha Christie or played the board game *Clue*. A collection of people of both genders, various ages, and mixed backgrounds is isolated in a rural lodge (in this instance, a popular migration hot spot), where one of the group is murdered. Naturally we learn that other members of the group had varied relationships with and varied grudges against the lately departed and that many of them have little secrets of their own. The detective in this series is in the customary British fashion an elderly semiamateur sleuth, in this story a retired civil servant and an experienced birder. The book abounds in references to British birds and birders. If you are not familiar with British birding terms, expressions such as "ringing tick" and "twitcher," you had better "swot up" by studying *Bill Oddie's Little Black Bird Book* again.

According to the inside blurb, Ann Cleeves' "introduction to birdwatching, and her husband, came when she spent a season on Fair Isle working as an assistant cook at the Bird Observatory." I have not birded extensively in

England, but as far as I can tell, she seems to have her bird facts straight. The sought-after rarities and other birds described seem appropriate to the times and habitats mentioned. More experienced observers of British birds may find errors that I would not have noticed. After all, even the best mystery authors make occasional factual errors with background "business." Agatha Christie once referred to a Luger revolver, a weapon that does not exist.

The second book in the series, *Come Death and High Water*, tells of skullduggery at a bird-banding observatory. *A Prey to Murder* gets into the area of falconry and of the illegal trade in raptors, but in *Murder in Paradise*, birds are only a minor part of the background decor. Ann Cleaves may have felt that further emphasis on the subject of birding would have been too repetitious. There is a limit to how many times an author can go over the same ground, and this series may very well turn out to be a closed set. But birds aside, the books are well-written examples of the classic English mystery genre. If you like this sort of thing, you will certainly find these novels worth a look.

ROBERT A. CAMPBELL, who teaches fourth grade at the Archie T. Morrison School in Braintree, has been birding since 1976. His interest in natural history, however, began with an enthusiasm for herpetology. He has observed and photographed both species of pit viper found in the state and maintains a small collection of live reptiles for study. Bob states that he is still divided between the two avocations and when in the field, "I spend half my time looking up and half my time looking down."

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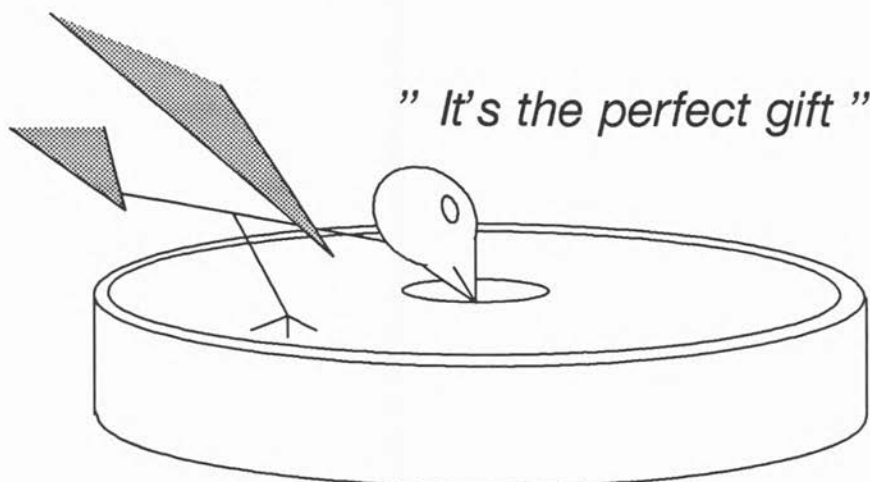
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FIELD RECORDS

JULY 1989



by Richard A. Forster

This month of July averaged 72.8 degrees, slightly below normal, and was cloudy and quite wet. The month's high temperature reading was 96 degrees on July 26, one of five days with a 90 degree or more reading. The low temperature was 59 degrees on both July 4 and 18. The total rainfall of 5.09 inches was double the July average and helped to alleviate near drought conditions. The greatest rainfall fell on July 28, 1.37 inches, and thirteen additional days had measurable rainfall. Sunshine was only 58 percent of normal, below average, with thunder heard on five days. Residents of the Greater Boston area were treated to a spectacular light display late in the evening of July 27. Violent winds and storms in eastern sections occurred on the tenth and eleventh.

R.A.F.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Summering, nonbreeding Common Loons totaled 18 from eight locations, a better than average showing. Shearwaters and storm-petrels were poorly reported with the exception of Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Stellwagen Bank and off Provincetown early in the month. Three Leach's Storm-Petrels in Cape Cod Bay were somewhat surprising by their inshore location. The **American White Pelican** seen at Pochet Inlet in East Orleans on July 13 was likely the same bird seen flying east over Quicksand Pond, Little Compton, RI, on July 3. This bird established the first midsummer record for the species in Massachusetts.

Three Least Bitterns and only one American Bittern were about average for recent years. A Great Egret at Quabbin was somewhat out of place. A single Tricolored Heron was present at Plum Island. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons are now standard at Plum Island, and the presence of two adults and an immature there along with two adults at Beverly is interesting and suggestive of breeding. Glossy Ibises were reported from the usual locations in typical numbers.

Gadwalls are obviously well established at Monomoy and Plum Island, but an American Wigeon at East Orleans was in an unusual location. Typically, a few summering sea ducks were reported, the most unusual being two Oldsquaws in Gloucester, single Surf Scoters in Marshfield and Plum Island, and a Bufflehead at Lynn.

R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1989
Common Loon				
1, 3; 3	Cape Cod Bay; Gloucester	1, 6; 1	P. Trimble; J. Berry	
7	P.I., Winthrop	1, 2	I. Lynch, T. Aversa	
12, 23	S. Dartmouth, S. Monomoy	1, 4	T. Aversa, B. Nikula	
27, 29, 30	Marshfield, Plymouth, Quabbin (G37)	1, 2,	C. Seeckts#, G. Gove, M. Lynch#	
Pied-billed Grebe				
4	P.I. (Stage Island Pool)	1	J. Berry	
Greater Shearwater				
3, 5	off Provincetown	6, 1	P. Trimble	
Sooty Shearwater				
5, 13, 14	off Provincetown	1, 1, 1	P. Trimble	
Manx Shearwater				
3, 4, 5	off Provincetown	2, 4, 2	P. Trimble	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
1	Cape Cod Bay, off P'town	150, 2500+	P. Trimble	
2; 3, 4, 5	Stellwagen Bank; off P'town	1000+; 400, 500, 300	J. Berry; P. Trimble	
13, 14	off Provincetown	250, 100	P. Trimble	
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
1	Cape Cod Bay	3	P. Trimble	
Northern Gannet				
4, 13, 14	off Provincetown	1, 1, 3 (all subadult)	P. Trimble	
Double-crested Cormorant				
thr	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	50 max 7/27, 11 max 7/19	W. Drew# + v. o., LCES (J. Hill)	
22	Elizabeth Islands	500	P. Trimble	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1989
American White Pelican (details submitted)				
13	E. Orleans (Pochet Inlet)	1	E. Williams	
American Bittern				
4-5	P.I.	1	J. Berry + v. o.	
Least Bittern				
1, 9, 12	P.I., Salem, DWWS	1, 1, 1 f	M. Lynch#, J. Brown, T. Aversa	
Great Blue Heron				
thr	P.I., Essex County	10 max 7/27, 33	W. Drew# + v. o., J. Berry	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2 or 3	LCES (J. Hill)	
4, 13, 29	Westboro	22, 20, 0	E. Taylor	
2, 15, 30	Petersham, Quabbin (G37), (G40)	1, 1, 1	M. Lynch#	
Great Egret				
thr	P.I., Essex County	22 max 7/27, 18	W. Drew# + v. o., J. Berry	
thr	S. Dartmouth	6 max 7/12	T. Aversa	
30	S. Monomoy, Quabbin (G37)	4, 1	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
Snowy Egret				
thr	P.I.	105 max 7/27	W. Drew# + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	12 max 7/19	LCES (J. Hill)	
Little Blue Heron				
24, 27	P.I., E. Orleans (Pochet)	4 imm, 1 imm	A. + B. Delorey, A. Williams	
19, 25	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	3, 2	LCES (J. Hill)	
Tricolored Heron				
2, 29, 31	P.I.	1	A. + B. Delorey + v. o.	
Cattle Egret				
thr	Ipswich	7 or 8 max 7/3	J. Berry	
Green-backed Heron				
thr	P.I.	7 max 7/1	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
9, 12	Annisquam, S. Dartmouth	2, 3	H. Wiggin, T. Aversa	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
thr, 9	P.I., Salem	8 max 7/3, 2	BBC (D. + D. Oliver), J. Brown	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
thr, 15	P.I.	2 ad, 1 imm	v. o., J. Berry	
6, 7, 19, 20	Beverly	1, 2, 1, 1 (all ad)	I. Lynch	
Glossy Ibis				
thr	P.I.	28 max 7/31	A. + B. Delorey + v. o.	
1	GMNWR, Ipswich	3, 6	E. Taylor, J. Berry	
20-21, 23	Essex, E. Boston	10, 1 juv	D. Rimmer, T. Aversa	
22, 26	N. Monomoy, E. Orleans (Pochet)	8, 3	B. Nikula, A. Williams	
30	N. Dartmouth	5	J. Hill	
Mute Swan				
thr	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	4 max, 13 max 7/11	v. o., LCES (J. Hill)	
3	Magnolia	3 (2 ad + 1 juv)	J. Berry	
Black Swan (escaped)				
22	W. Newbury (Cherry Hill Reservoir)	1	BBC (S. Charette)	
Canada Goose				
thr, 9	P.I., Stoneham	180 max 7/27, 200	W. Drew# + v. o., T. Aversa	
16, 30	Quabbin (G41), (G37)	23, 22	M. Lynch#	
Wood Duck				
1	GMNWR	39 (10 ad + 29 yg)	E. Taylor	
9, 16, 30	Quabbin (G40), (G41), (G37)	1, 1, 4	M. Lynch#	
Green-winged Teal				
thr, 22	P.I., Rowley	4 max 7/5, 1	T. Aversa + v. o., J. Berry	
American Black Duck				
thr, 4	P.I., S. Monomoy	65 max 7/27, 60	W. Drew# + v. o., B. Nikula	
15, 16, 30	Quabbin (G40), (G41), (G37)	17, 2, 1	M. Lynch#	
Mallard				
thr, 30	P.I., Quabbin (G37)	60 max 7/14, 2	W. Drew# + v. o., M. Lynch#	
Blue-winged Teal				
thr	P.I.	14 max 7/31	A. + B. Delorey + v. o.	
Gadwall				
thr, 30	P.I., S. Monomoy	115 max 7/27, 50	W. Drew# + v. o., B. Nikula	
American Wigeon				
26	E. Orleans (Pochet)	1	A. Williams	
Greater Scaup				
1-14	P.I.	2 max 7/14	W. Drew# + v. o.	
Common Eider				
1; 2, 3	Rockport; Gloucester	6; 40+, 18	J. Berry	
4	Chatham (S. Beach I.)	2	T. Aversa	
Oldsquaw				
3	Gloucester	2	J. Berry	
Surf Scoter				
24, 27	P.I., Marshfield (Brant Rock)	1 m, 1 m	A. + B. Delorey, R. Forster	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1989
White-winged Scoter 3; 21	Gloucester, Magnolia; Gloucester	2, 9; 1	J. Berry; I. Lynch	
Bufflehead 1	Lynn	1	J. Quigley	
Red-breasted Merganser 15, 22	Chatham (S. Beach I.)	40, 24+	B. Nikula	
5, 11	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2, 1	T. Aversa, LCES (J. Hill)	

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS

Reports of Turkey Vultures and Ospreys reflect the gains made by these species in the past decade or so. A Cooper's Hawk in Milford may not be too unusual for a species that seems to be making a modest comeback. The Peregrine Falcon in Manchester was possibly one of the Boston residents. A single report of Virginia Rail was the only rail report!

R.A.F.

Turkey Vulture thr 8, 11	Worcester County Dover, S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	8 total 8, 7	M. Lynch# E. Taylor, LCES (J. Hill)
19; 29, 30	Concord; Ipswich	1; 2, 1	D. Arvidson; J. Berry
Osprey thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	17 max 7/19	LCES (J. Hill)
thr	DWWS	pr w/ yg	v. o.
thr	Westport Rivers	76 active nests, 102 b yg	J. + G. Fernandez
22, 29	Elizabeth Islands, P.I.	4, 1	P. Trimble, M. Lynch#
Bald Eagle thr	Outer Cape Cod, Quabbin (G37)	3+, 1 imm	v. o., M. Lynch#
Northern Harrier 2, 3	Chatham (S. Beach I.), P.I.	2, 1	D. F. Oliver, BBC (D. + D. Oliver)
22	Cuttyhunk Island	1	P. Trimble
Cooper's Hawk 11	Milford	1	E. Taylor
Northern Goshawk 2	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#
Red-shouldered Hawk 2	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
Broad-winged Hawk 8, 23	Quabbin (G40), Hardwick	1, 1	M. Lynch#
23	Petersham (F.S.F.), Newbury	1, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Brown
Red-tailed Hawk 15, 22	Quabbin (G40), DWWS	1, 3 (ad + 2 yg)	M. Lynch#, E. Taylor
American Kestrel thr, 1	P.I., N. Middleboro	pr w/ yg, 2 ad + 3 yg	v. o., K. Holmes
4, 7	W. Roxbury, E. Boston	pr w/ 1+ yg, pr at nest	T. Aversa
4, 15	Salem, DWWS	6, 3	J. Brown, E. Taylor
Peregrine Falcon 9	Manchester	1	P. Alden
Ring-necked Pheasant 1	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#
Ruffed Grouse 15, 29	N. Middleboro, Ipswich	1, 1 or 2	K. Holmes, J. Berry
30	Quabbin (G37)	1	M. Lynch#
Wild Turkey 1	N. Andover	3	D. F. Oliver
Northern Bobwhite thr, 4	Belmont, Sherborn	1+ calling, 1	J. Heywood, E. Taylor
3, 14	N. Middleboro	1, 1	K. Holmes
22, 26	DWWS, W. Roxbury	1 f + 14 yg, 1	E. Taylor, T. Aversa
Virginia Rail 9	Salem	2	J. Brown

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH SKIMMERS

Reports of shorebirds were for the most part routine with no surprises. The timing of the early migration was normal, but peak counts of some species seemed to be on the low side. The situation may be improving for Piping Plovers at least at Crane Beach in Ipswich, where over 60 individuals, both adults and juveniles, were seen during the month. A postbreeding count of over 75 American Oystercatchers at N. Monomoy was about normal. A Solitary Sandpiper on July 2 in Wayland was a bit early, while 120 Willets at N. Monomoy on July 22 were indicative of a successful breeding season. By July 31, 471 Whimbrels were counted flying to the evening roost at N. Monomoy. A Marbled Godwit spent most of the month at N. Monomoy with the usual Hudsonians. A Western Sandpiper was found at S. Monomoy July 23, and two Ruffs were noted. Silt

Sandpipers and Long-billed Dowitchers occurred at the usual time in normal numbers. Three Red-necked Phalaropes that spent the month on S. Monomoy were noteworthy.

All was quiet on the gull front with the exception of two Common Black-headed Gulls and a Lesser Black-backed Gull. The only Royal Terns were two at Plum Island (one of which also appeared in Ipswich) and one at N. Monomoy, where over 140 nonbreeding, subadult Arctic Terns were present on July 16. A few Forster's and Black terns were seen, and a maximum of 3 Black Skimmers was present at N. Monomoy.

R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1989
Black-bellied Plover				
thr	N. Monomoy	150 max	B. Nikula	
thr, 18	P.I., Ipswich (Crane B.)	10 max 7/1, 2	M. Lynch# + v. o., D. Rimmer	
Semipalmated Plover				
16, 22, 30	N. Monomoy	15, 60, 250	B. Nikula	
17-31, 31	Ipswich, P.I.	100+ max, 90	D. Rimmer, W. Drew#	
Piping Plover				
thr	Ipswich (Crane B.)	63 total	D. Rimmer	
2, 3	Chatham (S. Beach I.), P.I. (south end)	7, 3	D. F. Oliver, BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
12, 15	S. Dartmouth, N. Monomoy	18, 8	T. Aversa, B. Nikula	
24	E. Orleans	5	A. Williams	
Killdeer				
thr, 28	P.I., Ipswich	23 max 7/31, 24	W. Drew# + v. o., J. Berry	
15, 30	Quabbin (G40), (G37)	10, 8	M. Lynch#	
American Oystercatcher				
4, 11	Chatham (S. Beach I.), S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	10, 3	T. Aversa, LCES (J. Hill)	
16, 22, 30	N. Monomoy	40, 60, 75+	B. Nikula	
22	Cuttyhunk, Naushon	3, 1	P. Trimble	
Greater Yellowlegs				
thr	N. Monomoy	50 max 7/30	B. Nikula	
1; 7, 20, 31	P.I.	33; 15, 36, 95	M. Lynch#; W. Drew# + v. o.	
23	E. Boston	20	T. Aversa	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
thr	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	50 max 7/30, 60 max 7/30	B. Nikula	
thr	P.I.	45 max 7/31	W. Drew# + v. o.	
7, 25	E. Boston, Rowley	35, 16	T. Aversa	
Solitary Sandpiper				
2, 7; 29	Wayland; P.I.	1, 1; 1	R. Forster; M. Lynch#	
Willet				
thr	N. Monomoy	120 max 7/22	B. Nikula	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	12 max 7/14	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr	P.I.	12 max (9 ad + 3 chicks)	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
8, 22	Ipswich, Rowley	2, 4	J. Berry	
Willet (western race)				
thr	N. Monomoy	10 max 7/30	B. Nikula	
Spotted Sandpiper				
thr, 1, 4	P.I., Rockport, W. Roxbury	3 max, 1, 1 juv	J. Berry#, J. Berry + v. o., T. Aversa	
15, 16	Winthrop, Quabbin (G40)	3, 10	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
30	Quabbin (G37)	4	M. Lynch#	
Upland Sandpiper				
5, 15; 26	Newbury (P.I. Airport); W. Roxbury	1, 1; 2	T. Aversa, J. Berry; T. Aversa	
Whimbrel				
12, 25	S. Dartmouth	3, 1	T. Aversa, LCES (J. Hill)	
15, 29-31	P.I.	1, 1	J. Berry, BBC (D. Deifik)	
22, 31	N. Monomoy	154, 471	B. Nikula	
24, 25	E. Orleans, Annisquam	4, 1	A. Williams, H. Wiggin	
Hudsonian Godwit				
thr; 1, 29	N. Monomoy; P.I.	45 max 7/30; 1, 3	B. Nikula; M. Lynch# + v. o.	
Marbled Godwit				
1-29	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula + v. o.	
Ruddy Turnstone				
16-31	N. Monomoy	60 max 7/30	B. Nikula	
17-31, 29	Ipswich (Crane B.), P.I.	2-6, 1	D. Rimmer, M. Lynch#	
Red Knot				
thr	N. Monomoy	150 max 7/30	B. Nikula	
Sanderling				
12-31	N. Monomoy	700 max 7/30	B. Nikula	
17-31	Ipswich (Crane B.)	50-250+	D. Rimmer	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
thr, 9-30	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	1400 max 7/30, 400 max 7/23	B. Nikula	
thr	P.I.	830 max 7/31	W. Drew# + v. o.	
17-31	Ipswich (Crane B.)	100-350+	D. Rimmer	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1989
Western Sandpiper 23	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
Least Sandpiper thr 1; 8, 15, 31 17-31 15, 30	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy P.I. Ipswich (Crane B.) Quabbin (G40), (G37)	700 max 7/12, 200 51; 10, 20, 10 10-50+ 26, 5+	max 7/23 B. Nikula M. Lynch#; J. Berry D. Rimmer M. Lynch#	
White-rumped Sandpiper 23, 30; 31	S. Monomoy; P.I.	1, 5; 2	B. Nikula; W. Drew#	
Pectoral Sandpiper 15, 25 30	Quabbin (G40), Rowley S. Monomoy	4, 1 2	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa B. Nikula	
Dunlin thr, 4	N. Monomoy, P.I.	2 max, 1 ad	B. Nikula, J. Berry	
Stilt Sandpiper 5; 15, 30 23, 30 22	P.I. S. Monomoy Cuttyhunk Island	1; 3, 22 26, 25+ 1	T. Aversa; G. Gove + v. o. B. Nikula P. Trimble	
Ruff 3, 23-25	S. Monomoy, Rowley	1 m, 1 m	B. Nikula; R. Heil + v. o.	
Short-billed Dowitcher thr 7, 20; 29	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy P.I.	2000 max 7/22, 250 141, 155; 80+	max 7/9 B. Nikula W. Drew#; M. Lynch#	
Long-billed Dowitcher 15, 30; 30	P.I.; S. Monomoy	1, 20; 1	G. Gove; B. Nikula	
American Woodcock 3 5, 15	Newbypt (Common Pasture) P.I.	3 (including 1 chick) 1, 1 or 2	J. Berry# T. Aversa, J. Berry#	
Wilson's Phalarope 1-8, 30	P.I., S. Monomoy	1-3 m (3 max 7/3), 3	J. Berry + v. o., B. Nikula	
Red-necked Phalarope thr	S. Monomoy	3 max	B. Nikula	
Laughing Gull 12, 14, 20	S. Dart., P.I., E. Boston	6, 2, 65	T. Aversa, W. Drew#, J. Quigley	
Common Black-headed Gull 12, 22; 20	N. Monomoy; E. Boston	1 (1S); 1	B. Nikula; J. Quigley	
Bonaparte's Gull thr 20, 31	Ipswich (Crane B.) Lynn (Flax Pd), Newbypt	25-100+ 9, 110+	D. Rimmer J. Quigley, J. Berry	
Ring-billed Gull thr 14; 18, 27	P.I. E. Boston; Lynn (Flax Pd)	150 max 7/31 31; 1 juv, 6 juv	W. Drew# + v. o. J. Dow; J. Quigley	
Herring Gull 13, 30	Lynn (Breed's Pd), Quabbin (G37)	160, 3	J. Quigley, M. Lynch#	
Lesser Black-backed Gull 8	Chatham	1 imm	G. Gove + J. Gordon	
Great Black-backed Gull 12	Lynn (Breed's Pd)	141	J. Quigley	
Royal Tern 3, 8 21, 22	P.I. Ipswich (Crane B.), N. Monomoy	2, 1 1, 1	BBC (D. + D. Oliver), J. Berry D. Rimmer, B. Nikula	
Roseate Tern 7, 27	Ipswich (Crane B.), Marshfield (Brant Rock)	2, 4	D. Rimmer, R. Forster	
Common Tern thr, 29	Ipswich (Crane B.), P.I.	2-10, 12	D. Rimmer, M. Lynch#	
Arctic Tern thr	N. Monomoy	140+ max 7/16	B. Nikula	
Forster's Tern thr, 29	N. Monomoy, P.I.	3 max, 1	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
Least Tern thr thr thr, 26	Ipswich (Crane B.) S. Dart. (Allens Pd) P.I., Squantum	4-30 max 40 max 7/12 22 max 7/20, 2	D. Rimmer T. Aversa W. Drew# + v. o., T. Aversa	
Black Tern 15-31	N. Monomoy	2 max	B. Nikula	
Black Skimmer thr, 8-31	New Island, N. Monomoy	4, 3 max	S. Hecker, B. Nikula	
Blue-crowned Parakeet (Conure) (escaped) 14	Wellesley	1	R. Forster	

CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

Reports for this group were sparse except at Quabbin where observer activity remained high. With the exception of those at Quabbin, reports of both cuckoo species were low, mirroring last year's skimpy showing. Although nearly gone from eastern sections, Least Flycatchers remained in good numbers in central areas. Tree Swallow numbers began building up at Plum Island by midmonth.

Early Red-breasted Nuthatches indicated a possible fall flight. Scattered Carolina Wrens continued to be seen away from traditional areas. Winter Wrens and gnatcatchers were well represented at Quabbin.

There was some news in the warbler group. The long-awaited first confirmed breeding of Cerulean Warbler was established at Quabbin in the Gate 40 area on July 2. (See the article by D. and J. T. Brownrigg on page 317.) A very early Bay-breasted Warbler provided the first July report for this species.

Sharp-tailed and Seaside sparrows were well reported from established locations. Two Orchard Orioles were observed. All in all it was a quiet month with virtually no surprises in the songbird department. R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1989
Black-billed Cuckoo				
4, 27	Sudbury, N. Middleboro	1, 1	R. Forster, K. Holmes	
8, 9, 15	Quabbin (G40)	8, 7, 3	M. Lynch#	
29, 30; 30	Ipswich, Hamilton; Quabbin (G37)	1, 1 or 2; 2	J. Berry; M. Lynch#	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
3, 4	Newbypt (Common Pasture), Acton	1, 1	J. Berry, R. Forster	
9, 15; 30	Quabbin (G40); (G37)	3, 4; 2	M. Lynch#	
27	Annisquam, N. Middleboro	1, 1	H. Wiggin, K. Holmes	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
29	Arlington	2	L. Taylor#	
Great Horned Owl				
1	GMNWR, N. Middleboro	1, 1 yg	J. Gordon#, K. Holmes	
4; 12, 13, 16	Chatham (S. Beach I); Ipswich	1; 1	T. Aversa; J. Berry	
Common Nighthawk				
7-19, 31	Salem, Boston	1 or 2, 2	I. Lynch, T. Aversa	
Chimney Swift				
8	Beverly	4	J. Brown	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
8, 9, 15	Quabbin (G40)	2, 8, 9	M. Lynch#	
1, 30	Sherborn, Quabbin (G37)	1, 15	E. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
Alder Flycatcher				
3, 8	Newbypt, Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
Willow Flycatcher				
4, 9	P.I., Salem	5, 2	J. Berry, J. Brown	
Least Flycatcher				
2; 8, 9, 15; 16, 30	Petersham; Quabbin (G40); (G41), (G37)	13; 8, 13, 8; 2, 6	M. Lynch#	
Eastern Kingbird				
1, 29; 7	P.I.; Watertown	8, 7; 1 mig	M. Lynch#; R. Stymeist	
8, 9, 15	Quabbin (G41)	5, 3, 10	M. Lynch#	
Horned Lark				
4, 12	Chatham (S. Beach I), Duxbury	10, 2	T. Aversa	
Purple Martin				
thr	P.I.	50 max 7/29	BBC (D. Deifik)	
Tree Swallow				
thr, 22	P.I., Cuttyhunk	5000-10,000 max 7/15, 250	J. Berry, P. Trimble	
N. Rough-winged Swallow				
9	Salem	6	J. Brown	
Bank Swallow				
3	P.I.	3	BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
Cliff Swallow				
3	P.I.	1	BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
Barn Swallow				
22	Cuttyhunk Island	80	P. Trimble	
Fish Crow				
5, 8-10	Burlington, Watertown	2, 6	J. Berry, R. Stymeist	
Common Raven				
15, 30	Quabbin (G40), (G37)	2, 7 (family of 5 + 2)	M. Lynch#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
8, 9, 15	Quabbin (G40)	13, 13, 13	M. Lynch#	
11, 16	Quabbin (G40), (G41)	12, 7	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
2, 3, 9, 15; 13	Ipswich; Beverly	1; 1	J. Berry; J. Brown	
White-breasted Nuthatch				
8, 9, 15; 30	Quabbin (G40); Quab. (G37)	14, 11, 9; 8	M. Lynch#; T. Aversa	
Carolina Wren				
thr, 5	Ipswich, Worcester	4 max 7/3, 1	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
17-31, 20 + 22	Acton, Arlington	1, 1	R. Forster, D. Arvidson	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1989
House Wren				
8, 9, 15	Quabbin (G40)	6, 14, 13	M. Lynch#	
29, 30	Newbury, Quabbin (G37)	1, 11	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
Winter Wren				
1-3, 25	Manchester, Boxford	1 m, 1	H. Weissberg, T. Aversa	
8, 9, 15	Quabbin (G40)	1, 3, 8	M. Lynch#	
19, 30	Quabbin (G40), (G37)	9, 2	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Marsh Wren				
thr	P.I.	16 max 7/1	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
9, 22	Beverly, Rowley	2, 2 or 3 m	J. Brown, J. Berry	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
15, 16	Quabbin (G40), Oakham	3, 4	M. Lynch#	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
8, 9, 15	Quabbin (G40)	6, 6, 5	M. Lynch#	
9, 30	Quabbin (G40), (G37)	pr w/ yg, 5	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
25	Boxford	1	T. Aversa	
Eastern Bluebird				
1, 8, 9	Sherborn	4, 2, 1	E. Taylor	
8, 9, 15	Quabbin (G40)	7, 5, 2	M. Lynch#	
2, 30	Petersham, Quabbin (G37)	4, 15	M. Lynch#	
22	Newbury	4	BBC (S. Charette)	
Veery				
4	Natick	6	E. Taylor	
8, 9, 15	Quabbin (G40)	14, 19, 23	M. Lynch#	
11; 16, 30	Quabbin (G40); (G41), (G37)	13; 5, 3	T. Aversa; M. Lynch#	
Hermit Thrush				
8, 9, 15	Quabbin (G40)	9, 9, 20	M. Lynch#	
16, 30	Quabbin (G40), (G37)	6, 24	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Northern Mockingbird				
18	Annisquam	6	H. Wiggin	
Brown Thrasher				
thr	P.I.	8 max 7/22	BBC (S. Charette)	
European Starling				
29	Natick	15,000 (roost)	E. Taylor	
Yellow-throated Vireo				
8, 9, 15	Quabbin (G40)	1, 4, 6	M. Lynch#	
2, 30; 19	Petersham, Quabbin (G37); (G40)	2, 1, 2	M. Lynch#; T. Aversa	
7, 25	Rowley, Wayland (Heards Pd)	1, 1	H. Weissberg, R. Forster	
Warbling Vireo				
9, 15; 9	Quabbin (G40); Salem	2, 2; 2	M. Lynch#; J. Brown	
Red-eyed Vireo				
2; 8, 9, 15; 30	Petersham; Quabbin (G40); (G37)	47; 18, 22, 48; 27	M. Lynch#	
Blue-winged Warbler				
16	Oakham	2	M. Lynch#	
Golden-winged Warbler				
1	Groveland	2	D. F. Oliver	
Northern Parula				
2	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	
Yellow Warbler				
1, 29	P.I.	19, 5	M. Lynch#	
8, 9, 15; 16, 30	Quabbin (G40); (G41), (G37)	1, 6, 1; 4, 1	M. Lynch#	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
8, 9, 15; 16	Quabbin (G40); Oakham	9, 6, 3; 9	M. Lynch#	
Magnolia Warbler				
16, 30	Oakham, Quabbin (G37)	4, 1	M. Lynch#	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
2, 23, 30	Petersham	4, 8, 1	M. Lynch#	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
8, 9, 15; 16, 30	Quabbin (G40); (G41), (G37)	11, 4, 15; 8, 20	M. Lynch#	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
2; 8, 9, 15	Petersham; Quabbin (G40)	19; 1, 3, 13	M. Lynch#	
13, 29	Beverly, Ipswich	1, 1	J. Brown, J. Berry	
Blackburnian Warbler				
2; 8, 9, 15	Petersham; Quabbin (G40)	9; 7, 7, 8	M. Lynch#	
Pine Warbler				
8, 9, 15; 22	Quabbin (G40); Cuttyhunk	17, 11, 10; 2	M. Lynch#; P. Trimble	
Prairie Warbler				
2, 12	Petersham, S. Dartmouth	3, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
3, 9	Newbypt (Common Pasture)	5, 2 m	J. Berry#	
Cerulean Warbler				
2-15	Quabbin (G40)	1 ad + 1 imm	D. + J. T. Brownrigg + v. o.	
9	Quabbin (G40)	2 m + 2 imm	W. Petersen + D. Ludlow	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1989
Bay-breasted Warbler				
29	Newton	1 m (bright plumage)	T. Estes + M. Gooley	
Black-and-white Warbler				
8, 9, 15; 16, 30	Quabbin (G40); (G41), (G37)	3, 2, 3; 6, 6	M. Lynch#	
1, 19	Ipswich	1 m	J. Berry	
American Redstart				
thr	P.I.	6 m max 7/4	J. Berry + v. o.	
2; 8, 9, 15	Petersham; Quabbin (G40)	10; 5, 13, 11	M. Lynch#	
16, 30	Quabbin (G41), (G37)	3, 8	M. Lynch#	
Ovenbird				
2, 4	Petersham, Annisquam	29, 1	M. Lynch#, H. Wiggin	
8, 9, 15; 16, 30	Quabbin (G40); (G41), (G37)	7, 18, 31; 11, 9	M. Lynch#	
Louisiana Waterthrush				
23, 25	Petersham, Boxford	1 ad + 1 yg, 2	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Common Yellowthroat				
1, 22	P.I., Cuttyhunk I.	18, 12	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
8, 9, 15	Quabbin (G40)	22, 32, 26	M. Lynch#	
Canada Warbler				
9, 23	Quabbin (G40), Petersham	1, 3	M. Lynch#	
22	N. Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	
Scarlet Tanager				
8, 9, 15; 29	Quabbin (G40); Ipswich	4, 8, 12; 6-8	M. Lynch#; J. Berry	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
22	Newbury	2	BBC (S. Charette)	
Indigo Bunting				
22	Newbury	4	BBC (S. Charette)	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
22	Cuttyhunk Island	12	P. Trimble	
Chipping Sparrow				
8, 9, 15	Quabbin (G40)	16, 29, 20	M. Lynch#	
Field Sparrow				
3, 9; 19	Newbypt (Common Pasture); Woburn	4, 1; 2	J. Berry	
8, 15; 30	Quabbin (G40); (G37)	2, 2; 2	M. Lynch#	
13, 22	Sherborn, Newbury	7, 20	R. Forster, BBC (S. Charette)	
Savannah Sparrow				
thr, 22	P.I., Rowley	7 max 7/1, 2	M. Lynch# + v. o., J. Berry	
4	Chatham (S. Beach I.)	12	T. Aversa	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
thr	P.I.	25+ max 7/3	J. Berry + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	17 max 7/11	LCES (J. Hill)	
22, 23	Rowley, E. Boston	15+, 6	J. Berry#, T. Aversa	
Seaside Sparrow				
thr	P.I.	3 max 7/1	M. Lynch#	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	6 max 7/12	LCES (J. Hill)	
Song Sparrow				
1, 29	P.I.	20, 14	M. Lynch#	
8, 9, 15	Quabbin (G40)	23, 27, 32	M. Lynch#	
11	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	10	LCES (J. Hill)	
Swamp Sparrow				
3, 8	Newbypt (Common Pasture), Ipswich	2 or 3, 4 or 5	J. Berry	
9	Lynnfield	6	J. Brown	
White-throated Sparrow				
8, 9, 15	Quabbin (G40)	2, 3, 3	M. Lynch#	
2, 16	Petersham, Oakham	2, 6	M. Lynch#	
Bobolink				
1, 4	P.I., Sherborn	8, 6	M. Lynch#, E. Taylor	
16, 22	Chatham (Morris I.), Rowley	1 mig, 50-60	B. Nikula, J. Berry	
Eastern Meadowlark				
4	Sherborn	2	E. Taylor	
Common Grackle				
15, 29	Natick	2500, 1850+ (roost)	E. Taylor	
Orchard Oriole				
4, 13	W. Roxbury, Wellesley	1+, 1 m	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
Purple Finch				
2; 8, 9	Petersham; Quabbin (G40)	1; 2, 1	M. Lynch#	
3, 10	Newbypt (Common Pasture), P.I.	pr, 6	J. Berry#, BBC (B. Howell)	
White-winged Crossbills				
15-31	Boxford	1+	J. Kousky + v. o.	
American Goldfinch				
22	Cuttyhunk Island	16	P. Trimble	

Brant
 Nauset, MA
 August 3, 1989
 Photo by Simon Perkins



FIELD RECORDS

AUGUST 1989

by Richard A. Forster, George W. Gove, and Robert H. Stymeist

August 1989 was wet and cloudy with seasonable temperatures. There were no notable extremes and no records were broken. The high mark of 90 degrees was reached on August 5. Low readings of 54 degrees occurred on August 25 and 27. The average for the month was 71.6 degrees, a little below normal. This month was in sharp contrast to August 1988, which averaged 75.5 degrees and had eleven days in the 90s.

It was a very wet month, the seventeenth wettest August in 119 years. Rainfall totaled 5.92 inches, 2.24 inches more than normal. Measurable amounts fell on thirteen days and traces on four days, leaving just fourteen days with none. Many suburbs south of Boston had more rain. For example, Hingham reported 8.23 inches and Mansfield even more. Fog was a frequent visitor, appearing on nineteen days mostly during the first three weeks of the month. Thunder was heard on six days, two more than average. Multiple storms on August 13 produced prolonged episodes of thunder and lightning. Northwest winds occurred on nine days. The period August 25-26 seemed particularly favorable for migrating birds. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Two Red-throated Loons were surprise summer visitors. Good numbers of summering, nonbreeding Common Loons continued from midsummer. Reports of shearwaters and storm-petrels from Stellwagen Bank were pathetically below what has been encountered there in recent years. A Leach's Storm-Petrel at Stellwagen Bank was a mild surprise due to its inshore location.

A report of an adult male *Anhinga* in Weston was received with details.

Hérons provided the bulk of the news in August, highlighted by the first United States record for Little Egret, found at Plum Island on August 12. The Little Egret was subsequently seen in Ipswich on August 18, and from then through the end of the month it was fairly regularly found on Plum Island at Stage Island Pool or in the evening roost of herons at Hellcat Swamp. [For a full report, see "First United States Sight Record of Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)" in *Bird Observer*, 17(5): 239-244, October 1989.] On September 7, a rather belated report by Jean Hoffman, a birder from Ohio, of a Little Egret at Plum Island on August 1 was received. The observer was reluctant to report the sighting due to her lack of familiarity with the species and the possibility of variations in Snowy Egret. Evening viewers at Plum Island were treated to maximum counts of 170 Great Egrets, over 1000 Snowy Egrets, and 13 Little Blue Herons. A Tricolored Heron was observed regularly at Plum Island, and up to 60 Cattle Egrets were in Ipswich. R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1989
Red-throated Loon 1, 2	Eastham, Chatham	1, 1	S. Perkins	
Common Loon 2	N. Monomoy + S. Monomoy	11 total	S. Perkins	
14, 23	Hull, Lakeville	2, 3	P. Thayer, R. Forster	
23, 27, 30	P.I., Cape Cod Bay, P.I.	2, 6, 1	R. Titus, P. Trimble, R. Forster	
Pied-billed Grebe 18, 30	Ipswich, P.I.	1, 1	W. Petersen#, R. Forster	
Greater Shearwater 5	N. Monomoy, Stellwagen	1, 4	BBC (G. d'Entremont), P. Trimble	
9	Stellwagen Bank	1	H. Wiggin	
Sooty Shearwater 5, 9	Stellwagen Bank	1, 1	P. Trimble, M. Lynch#	
Manx Shearwater 5	Stellwagen Bank	3	P. Trimble	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel 5	Stellwagen Bank	500	P. Trimble	
Leach's Storm-Petrel 5	Stellwagen Bank	1	P. Trimble	
Northern Gannet 9, 25	Stellwagen Bank	1, 1 subad	H. Wiggin, T. Estes#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1989
Great Cormorant 4, 26-27	Nantucket, Weston	2 imm, 1 imm	S. Perkins, J. Huntington#	
Double-crested Cormorant 5-26, 9 6, 27	P.I., Boston Harbor Cuttyhunk Island	10-50, 322 700, 450	D. Chickering + v. o., M. Lynch# P. Trimble	
Anhinga (details submitted) 26	Weston	1	J. Huntington	
American Bittern 5, 13	Bolton Flats, Wayland	1, 1	M. Lynch#, BBC (B. Howell)	
Least Bittern 5	P.I. (Stage I.)	1	R. Heil	
Great Blue Heron thr	P.I.	17 max 8/24	W. Drew# + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	8 max 8/31	LCES (J. Hill)	
Great Egret thr	P.I.	170 max 8/27	R. Abrams# + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	25 max 8/31	LCES (J. Hill)	
5, 26-31	E. Boston, Norfolk	10, 1	E. Taylor, B. Cassie	
Snowy Egret thr	P.I.	1000+ max 8/27	S. Perkins# + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	20 max 8/17	LCES (J. Hill)	
5, 15	N. Monomoy, Cohasset	25, 25	BBC (G. d'Entremont), P. Thayer	
Little Egret (details submitted) 12-31	P.I./Ipswich area	1	R. Forster + v. o.	
Little Blue Heron thr	P.I.	13 max 8/27	S. Perkins# + v. o.	
1-22	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	7 max 8/17	LCES (J. Hill)	
Tricolored Heron thr	P.I.	1	T. Aversa + v. o.	
Cattle Egret thr, 30	Ipswich, P.I.	60 max 8/18, 1	J. Brown, T. Aversa	
Green-backed Heron thr	P.I.	8 max 8/6	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1 or 2	LCES (J. Hill)	
9, 19	MNWS, Lakeville	4, 1	R. Forster, K. Anderson	
Black-crowned Night-Heron thr	P.I.	8 max 8/24	W. Drew# + v. o.	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron thr	P.I.	1	v. o.	
6	Cuttyhunk	1	P. Trimble	
Glossy Ibis thr	P.I.	40 max 8/15	W. Petersen + v. o.	
31	Ipswich	1	D. Rimmer	

WATERFOWL THROUGH GALLIFORMES

Searchers for the Little Egret were fortunate to find two **Fulvous Whistling Ducks** at Plum Island on August 19. After a spate of records from 1974 to 1980 there have been few reports of this species in our area. A Black Swan at Plum Island, an obvious escapee, added variety. The vanguard of the duck migration was noted, including both teal species, Northern Pintail, and American Wigeon.

Wandering Ospreys were noted as early as August 20, and Northern Harriers were conspicuous at Plum Island throughout the month. The number of Cooper's Hawks reported, at least 4 of which were immatures, is highly suggestive of local breeding. A Broad-winged Hawk at Cuttyhunk Island was well out of place. A Peregrine Falcon at Plum Island at the end of the month could well have been an early migrant. R.A.F.

Fulvous Whistling Duck 19	P.I.	2	R. McHale#
Mute Swan thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	9 -14	LCES (J. Hill)
thr	Cohasset	2 ad + 6 imm	P. Thayer
6, 13	P.I.	2, 2	M. Lynch#
Black Swan (escaped) thr	P.I.	1	v. o.
Brant 3	Nauset	1 ph	S. Perkins
Canada Goose thr, 10, 19	Sherborn, Stoughton, Concord	500, 300, 500	E. Taylor, J. Johnson, E. Taylor
Wood Duck 2, 13	W. Newbury, Wayland	26, 7	T. Aversa, BBC (B. Howell)

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1989
Green-winged Teal				
thr	P.I.	170 max 8/24	W. Drew# + v. o.	
24, 28	Rowley, E. Orleans	75, 1	R. Forster, A. Williams	
Mallard				
15	P.I.	325 arriving at dusk	W. Petersen	
Northern Pintail				
30	P.I.	11	R. Forster	
Blue-winged Teal				
thr	P.I.	25 max 8/24	W. Drew# + v. o.	
24	Rowley	15	R. Forster	
Gadwall				
thr	P.I.	145 max 8/10	W. Drew# + v. o.	
American Wigeon				
6	P.I.	4	D. Chickering	
Common Eider				
6, 9	Cuttyhunk, Gloucester	2, 110	P. Trimble, G. Gove	
13, 23	Pasque Island	20	E. Hiam	
White-winged Scoter				
12, 19	Orleans, Nahant	3, 1	S. Thompson, R. Forster	
24	P.I.	6	R. Forster	
Hooded Merganser				
2; 13, 19	S. Monomoy; P.I.	1; 1, 1	S. Perkins; R. Forster, W. Petersen	
Turkey Vulture				
1, 31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2, 2	LCES (J. Hill)	
17, 25, 31	Wachusett Mt.	2, 1, 1	E. Taylor	
19, 20	Ipswich, E. Middleboro	1, 1	W. Petersen#, K. Anderson	
31	Quabbin (G40)	1	M. Lynch#	
Osprey				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	8 max 8/1	LCES (J. Hill)	
6, 27	Cuttyhunk Island	4, 6	P. Trimble	
2, 5-26	Sampson's Pond	1 visiting nest platform	J. Shaw#	
19, 20	Lakeville, P.I.	3, 1	K. Anderson, BBC (S. Whittum)	
21, 27	Wellesley, Quabbin (G40)	1 mig, 1	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
22, 31	Framingham	1 mig, 1 mig	R. Forster	
Bald Eagle				
5, 6, 11, 25	Harwich	1, 1, 2, 1 (all imm)	R. Rozsa	
18	Ipswich (Northgate Farm)	1 imm	R. Forster#	
31	Quabbin (G40)	1 ad	M. Lynch#	
Northern Harrier				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1 or 2	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr	P.I.	12 max 8/28	R. Titus + v. o.	
12, 17	E. Orleans, Halifax	1 imm, 1	A. Williams, K. Anderson	
23	Middleboro	1	W. Petersen	
Cooper's Hawk				
18, 28	Essex	1 imm, 1 imm	W. Petersen#, S. Perkins#	
18, 23	Ipswich, DWWS	1 imm, 2	W. Petersen, D. Ludlow	
20; 24, 30	P.I.	1; 1 imm	BBC (S. Whittum); R. Forster	
27	P.I.	2 imm	R. Heil	
26	N. Scituate	1	T. Estes#	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
thr	E. Middleboro	1-3	K. Anderson	
8, 23	Framingham, Rowley	1, 2	R. Forster, R. Titus	
Broad-winged Hawk				
5, 27	Ipswich, Cuttyhunk	1, 1	J. Berry, P. Trimble	
28	Topsfield	1	R. Titus	
Red-tailed Hawk				
16	Wachusett Reservoir	1	D. Donovan	
24 + 30	P.I.	1 imm	R. Forster	
American Kestrel				
1-21	Marlboro	1-4	R. Graefe	
2, 5	Harvard, ONWR	8, 8	M. Lynch#	
Peregrine Falcon				
26	P.I.	1 imm	M. Lynch#	
Ring-necked Pheasant				
31	Canton	3	R. Titus	
Ruffed Grouse				
31	Quabbin (G40)	5	M. Lynch#	

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Soras and Virginia Rails continue to be poorly reported during summer. Is this indicative of a real, potentially serious decline in these species or rather an artifact of reporting? No moorhens were observed!

Reports of shorebirds were relatively routine with only a few notable high counts and oddities. This was particularly true of Monomoy Island, where the lack of counts for the traditional evening roost of Whimbrels vastly understates that species presence. The count of 64 Whimbrels at Plum Island on August 8 was the observer's highest one day total for Essex County. The shorebird highlight was an adult **Little Stint** observed by a few fortunate observers at Plum Island on the evening of August 19. This sighting represents a fifth state record for this species. Otherwise, the reader's attention is drawn to the fairly good numbers of both Pectoral and White-rumped sandpipers and the scattering of Western Sandpiper sightings at month's end. Reports of both Long-billed Dowitchers and Stilt Sandpipers at their Plum Island stronghold were equal to the expected norms. Very interestingly, the majority of reports of Lesser Golden Plovers and Baird's Sandpipers and the sole report of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were from inland localities. The few reports of phalaropes emanated only from the Plum Island area.

R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1989
Virginia Rail 2, 5	Rowley, Bolton Flats	3, 1	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Sora 6; 12, 20	GMNWR; P.I.	1; 1, 1	A. Williams, G. Gove, BBC (S. Whittum)	
Black-bellied Plover thr 1-16, 5 20, 23	P.I. Ipswich (Crane B.), N. Monomoy Halifax, Middleboro	436 max 8/26 50, 2-16 20, 50	M. Lynch# + v. o. D. Rimmer, BBC (G. d'Entremont) K. Anderson, W. Petersen	
Lesser Golden-Plover 18, 24	P.I. (south end), Concord (Nine Acre)	1 ad, 4 ad	R. Forster, S. Perkins	
Semipalmated Plover thr thr thr 5; 6, 27 23	P.I. S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Ipswich (Crane B.) N. Monomoy; Cuttyhunk Halifax	430 max 8/15 39 max 8/9 50-600+ 200; 30, 35 3	W. Drew# + v. o. LCES (J. Hill) D. Rimmer B. Nikula; P. Trimble W. Petersen	
Piping Plover 1-24	Ipswich (Crane B.)	7 juv max 8/7	D. Rimmer + J. Berry	
Killdeer 2; 15, 31 18, 24	P.I. Halifax, Hull	12 + 2 yg; 12, 9 35, 15	M. Lynch#; W. Drew# K. Anderson, P. Thayer	
American Oystercatcher thr 5; 6, 27	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) N. Monomoy; Cuttyhunk	7 max 8/1 70+; 2, 6	LCES (J. Hill) B. Nikula#; P. Trimble	
Greater Yellowlegs thr thr thr 17, 27	P.I. S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Ipswich (Crane B.) Halifax, Newbury	500 max 8/12 35 max 8/31 3-12 30, 150	BBC (C. Floyd) + v. o. LCES (J. Hill) D. Rimmer K. Anderson, D. Chickering	
Lesser Yellowlegs thr 5, 18	P.I. N. Monomoy, Halifax	155 max 8/31 100, 22	W. Drew# + v. o. B. Nikula#, K. Anderson	
Solitary Sandpiper 17; 19, 20	Halifax; P.I.	3; 1, 2	K. Anderson; M. Lynch#, D. Chickering	
Willet thr 3 3; 7, 14	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) N. Monomoy Newburyport; Ipswich, P.I.	7 max 8/17 80 2 + 2 yg; 9, 2	LCES (J. Hill) B. Nikula J. Brown; J. Berry#	
Willet (western race) 3	N. Monomoy	10	B. Nikula	
Spotted Sandpiper thr, 18 6, 27	P.I., Halifax Cuttyhunk	2-4, 3 6, 4	M. Lynch#, K. Anderson P. Trimble	
Upland Sandpiper 8 13, 16	Lincoln (Hanscom Air Field) Newburyport	2 1, 1	R. Forster J. Brown, T. Aversa	
Whimbrel 8-31 thr 2, 5 28	P.I. S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Annisquam, N. Monomoy E. Orleans	64 max 8/8 7 max 8/1 1, 5 2	R. Heil + v. o. LCES (J. Hill) H. Wiggin, BBC (G. d'Entremont) A. Williams	
Hudsonian Godwit 5 12-31 6, 16	N. Monomoy P.I. Newburyport	50 27 max 8/26 25, 39	B. Nikula# M. Lynch# + v. o. G. Gove, T. Aversa	
Ruddy Turnstone thr, 1-16	P.I., Ipswich (Crane B.)	11 max 8/13, 1-7	M. Lynch# + v. o., D. Rimmer	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1989
Ruddy Turnstone (continued)				
2, 5	Newbypt, Quincy	7, 15	T. Aversa, E. Taylor	
5, 13	N. Monomoy, Winthrop	50, 53	BBC (G. d'Entremont), T. Aversa	
6, 27	Cuttyhunk Island	4, 8	P. Trimble	
Red Knot				
thr	P.I.	12 max 8/13	J. Brown + v. o.	
5, 16	N. Monomoy, Ipswich (Crane B.)	200, 15	B. Nikula, D. Rimmer	
Sanderling				
thr	Ipswich (Crane B.)	200+ max 8/7	J. Berry + D. Rimmer	
5, 12	N. Monomoy, P.I.	500+, 60	B. Nikula, BBC (C. Floyd)	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
thr	P.I.	1500 max 8/12	BBC (C. Floyd)	
thr	Ipswich (Crane B.)	500 max 8/7	J. Berry#	
5	N. Monomoy	1400	B. Nikula#	
5, 16	Squantum, Wachusett Res.	200, 1	E. Taylor, D. Donovan	
Western Sandpiper				
20, 27, 28	P.I.	2, 3, 5	BBC (S. Whittum), BBC (D. Dillavou), R. Titus	
26, 27	Newbypt, Newbury	1, 6	G. Gove, D. Chickering	
Little Stint				
19	P.I. (Salt Pans)	1 ad (alternate pl)	R. Abrams#	
Least Sandpiper				
thr	P.I.	200 max 8/20	BBC (S. Whittum) + v. o.	
thr	Ipswich (Crane B.)	4-25	D. Rimmer	
5, 17	N. Monomoy, Halifax	25, 5	BBC (G. d'Entremont), K. Anderson	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
thr, 27	P.I., Newbury	46 max 8/20, 15	M. Lynch# + v. o., D. Chickering	
Baird's Sandpiper				
20; 26, 30	Newton; P.I.	1; 1, 1	O. Komar; v. o., R. Forster	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
14, 20	P.I.	1 or 2, 10	J. Berry, BBC (S. Whittum)	
15, 18	Newbury, Halifax	45+, 25	S. Perkins#, K. Anderson	
18, 23	Ipswich, Middleboro	20, 10	R. Forster, W. Petersen	
Dunlin				
26	Newburyport	2	M. Lynch#	
Stilt Sandpiper				
thr	P.I.	51 max 8/5	R. Heil + v. o.	
24	Newburyport Harbor	1	R. Forster	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				
27-31	Concord (Nine Acre)	2	B. LeBrie#	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
thr	P.I.	200 max 8/12	BBC (C. Floyd) + v. o.	
5	N. Monomoy	1000	B. Nikula	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
thr	P.I.	80 max 8/15	W. Drew# + v. o.	
Common Snipe				
6, 30	P.I.	3, 1	G. Gove, T. Aversa	
17	Ipswich, Halifax	2, 3	R. Forster, K. Anderson	
18	Ipswich	4	J. Brown	
American Woodcock				
5, 27	Bolton Flats	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
22, 24	Belmont, P.I.	1, 2	R. Stymeist, R. Forster	
Wilson's Phalarope				
thr	P.I.	2 max 8/30	T. Aversa + v. o.	
19	Rowley	2	P. Irranbino#	
Red-necked Phalarope				
14-30	P.I.	2	W. Petersen# + v. o.	

JAEGERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Parasitic Jaegers were seen at Nantucket and North Monomoy and on Stellwagen Bank, and Common Black-headed Gulls were noted at Wellfleet and East Boston. Up to 600 Bonaparte's Gulls were present in Newburyport Harbor throughout August, and an immature Lesser Black-backed Gull was photographed at Nauset in Orleans. Adult Sabine's Gulls were noted at North Monomoy and on Stellwagen Bank.

Both Caspian and Royal terns were seen this month. Juvenile Roseate Terns were present at Ipswich and Plum Island indicating postbreeding dispersal from farther south. A Black Tern in breeding plumage spent most of the month at Plum Island, and others were noted at three locations.

Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos were reported from several locations. Common Nighthawks started moving through the state by midmonth, and a total of 671 was counted from August 21 to 31 from a site in Watertown; overall, however, the nighthawk migration was light this year. Whip-poor-wills were noted from two locations. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were also seen at several locations, and an Olive-

sided Flycatcher was reported on August 27. A Western Kingbird seen the same day at Quabbin was not only early but unusual inland. An evening roost of Eastern Kingbirds in Norfolk produced an exceptionally high count. Thousands of Tree Swallows staged at Plum Island with estimates of their numbers ranging from 2000 to 300,000. Red-breasted Nuthatches were in evidence with numbers building toward month's end. G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1989
Parasitic Jaeger				
4, 5	Nantucket, N. Monomoy	1, 1	S. Perkins, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
18	Stellwagen Bank	2	T. Estes#	
Laughing Gull				
5, 9	N. Monomoy, Boston Harbor	15, 33	BBC (G. d'Entremont), M. Lynch#	
6, 27	Cuttyhunk Island	15, 550	P. Trimble	
17-31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	31 max 8/31	LCES	
16, 30	Ipswich, Lynn	5, 108	D. Rimmer, J. Quigley	
Common Black-headed Gull				
15, 26	Wellfleet, E. Boston	1, 1	R. Prescott, J. Quigley	
Bonaparte's Gull				
thr	Newburyport	600 max 8/27	S. Perkins + v. o.	
thr	Ipswich	10-150	D. Rimmer	
5, 28	Annisquam, Lynn	2, 230	H. Wiggin, J. Quigley	
Ring-billed Gull				
12, 29	Newburyport, Lynn	200, 234	BBC (C. Floyd), J. Quigley	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
3	Nauset	1 (2nd yr) ph	S. Perkins	
Sabine's Gull				
5, 9	N. Monomoy, Stellwagen	1 ad, 1 ad	K. Kaufman#, H. Wiggin	
Caspian Tern				
19	P.I.	1	R. McHale#	
Royal Tern				
9	Stellwagen Bank	1	M. Lynch#	
Roseate Tern				
4, 5	Nantucket, N. Monomoy	600, 150	S. Perkins, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
6, 27	Cuttyhunk Island	4, 10	P. Trimble	
7, 12	Ipswich, P.I.	5 ad + 1 juv, 2 ad + 3 imm	J. Berry#, BBC (C. Floyd)	
Common Tern				
thr	Newburyport-P.I.	21 max	v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	11 max 8/31	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr	Ipswich	6-65	D. Rimmer + v. o.	
5; 6, 27	N. Monomoy; Cuttyhunk	350; 80, 120	BBC (G. d'Entremont); P. Trimble	
Forster's Tern				
4-27	Lynn	1	J. Quigley	
5-30	P.I.	1 or 2	v. o.	
5, 23	N. Monomoy, M. V.	2, 1	BBC (G. d'Entremont), W. Petersen	
31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	7	LCES (J. Hill)	
Least Tern				
thr	P.I.	20 max 8/15	W. Drew# + v. o.	
1-22	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	3-5	LCES (J. Hill)	
5, 7	N. Monomoy, Ipswich	10, 10	BBC (G. d'Entremont), J. Berry#	
6, 27; 15	Cuttyhunk; Cohasset	12, 3; 10	P. Trimble; P. Thayer	
Black Tern				
5-30	P.I.	1 br pl	v. o.	
5, 18	N. Monomoy, Annisquam	2, 1	B. Nikula#, H. Wiggin	
15, 31	Barnstable	2, 2	R. Scott	
Black Skimmer				
1, 28	Annisquam, E. Orleans	3, 1	H. Wiggin, A. Williams#	
3, 5	N. Monomoy	2, 3	B. Nikula, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Mourning Dove				
18	Grape Island	570 at roost	K. Durham	
Black-billed Cuckoo				
17	Annisquam, Sudbury	1, 1	H. Wiggin, R. Forster	
27	Cuttyhunk Island	1	P. Trimble	
27, 31	Quabbin (G40)	1, 3	M. Lynch#	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
5, 6	Bolton Flats, GMNWR	1, 1	M. Lynch#, A. Williams	
6, 27	Cuttyhunk Island	1, 1	P. Trimble	
16-24	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1989
Eastern Screech-Owl				
6, 19, 28	Wellesley; Annisquam	1; 1, 1	R. Forster; H. Wiggin	
26, 28	Wellfleet, MNWS	1, 1	J. Heywood#, R. Titus	
29, 31	N. Andover, Beverly	1, 2	J. Berry, J. Brown	
Great Horned Owl				
thr, 31	Ipswich, Quabbin (G40)	2, 1	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
Barred Owl				
17	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	
Common Nighthawk				
10, 19	Somerville, Natick	2, 2	T. Aversa, E. Taylor	
17, 19, 21, 28	Wellesley	1, 3, 52, 22	R. Forster	
21-31	Watertown	671 total (198 max 8/30)	R. Stymeist	
21, 24	Lincoln, Yarmouthport	16, 2	S. Perkins, R. Scott	
27	Sherborn, Quabbin (G40)	4, 112	E. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
27-30	Lawrence	131 total	J. Hogan	
Whip-poor-will				
23, 24	M. V., E. Middleboro	1, 1 calling	W. Petersen, K. Anderson	
Chimney Swift				
13, 21	Wayland, Newton	10, 168 roost	BBC (B. Howell), O. Komar	
25	Stoneham	12	T. Aversa	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
1, 5	Ipswich, Bolton Flats	1 f, 1	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
19, 27; 29	Natick, Sherborn; MNWS	1, 1; 1	E. Taylor; R. Forster	
27, 31	Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
Belted Kingfisher				
21, 30	P. I., Beverly	1, 2	J. Brown	
Pileated Woodpecker				
27	Quabbin (G40)	1	M. Lynch#	
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
27, 31	Quabbin (G40), Nantucket	2, 1	M. Lynch#, N. Claffin	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
thr, 31	Sherborn, Quabbin (G40)	3, 5	E. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
15	Annisquam	1 calling	H. Wiggin	
Willow Flycatcher				
5	Bolton Flats	11	M. Lynch#	
"Traill's" Flycatcher				
27-29	Nantucket	3 b	E. Andrews	
Least Flycatcher				
27-29	Nantucket	4 b	E. Andrews	
<i>Empidonax</i> species				
9, 22	MNWS	1, 4	R. Forster	
Eastern Phoebe				
thr	Sherborn	5	E. Taylor	
13; 27, 31	Wayland; Quabbin (G40)	3; 11, 17	BBC (B. Howell); M. Lynch#	
Great Crested Flycatcher				
25, 30	Wellesley, P.I.	1, 1	R. Forster	
Western Kingbird				
27	Quabbin (G40)	1	M. Lynch#	
Eastern Kingbird				
thr	P.I.	23 max 8/2	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
13, 26	Wayland, Norfolk	8, 197 roost	BBC (B. Howell), B. Cassie#	
Purple Martin				
1-27	P.I.	70 max 8/27	S. Perkins + v. o.	
29	Westport	20	T. Aversa	
Tree Swallow				
thr	P.I.	300,000+ max 8/5 roost	R. Heil + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	250 max 8/17, 22	LCES (J. Hill)	
5; 6, 27	Wayland; Cuttyhunk	350; 350, 3500	R. Forster; P. Trimble	
Bank Swallow				
thr	P.I.	400+ max 8/5	R. Heil + v. o.	
6, 27	Cuttyhunk Island	2, 2	P. Trimble	
5, 7	Wayland, Ipswich	20, 40	R. Forster, J. Berry#	
Cliff Swallow				
2, 26	P.I.	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
15	DWWS	3	T. Aversa	
Barn Swallow				
2, 5-20	P.I.	15, 1 or 2	M. Lynch#, D. Chickering	
6, 27	Cuttyhunk Island	60, 15	P. Trimble	
13, 31	Wayland, Quabbin (G40)	40, 2	BBC (B. Howell), M. Lynch#	
Fish Crow				
thr; 17, 31	E. Middleboro; Wellesley	1-20; 1, 2	K. Anderson; R. Forster	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1989
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
17, 17-31	P. I., Annisquam	1, 1-3	J. Berry, H. Wiggin	
18, 27	Boxford, Waltham	6, 6	R. Forster#, L. Taylor	
27, 31	Quabbin (G40)	12, 29	M. Lynch#	
27	Cuttyhunk, E. Middleboro	2, 1 or 2	P. Trimble, K. Anderson	
27-29	Nantucket	4 b	E. Andrews	
Brown Creeper				
14, 31	Stoneham, Quabbin (G40)	4, 6	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Carolina Wren				
thr	E. Orleans, E. Middleboro	1, 1	E. Williams, K. Anderson	
thr	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	
6, 17	Newton, Wellesley	2, 2	O. Komar, R. Forster	
15, 27	Marshfield, Cuttyhunk	3, 1	T. Aversa, P. Trimble	
House Wren				
7, 20	Stoneham, MNWS	5, 2	T. Aversa	
27, 31; 31	Quabbin (G40); Wellesley	4, 6; 5	M. Lynch#; R. Forster	
Marsh Wren				
2-19	P.I.	18 max 8/2	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
11	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
10, 22	Annisquam, MNWS	1, 1	H. Wiggin, R. Forster	
27; 27, 31	Stoneham; Quabbin (G40)	1; 1, 2	T. Aversa; M. Lynch#	
Eastern Bluebird				
thr	Sherborn, E. Middleboro	9, 16 max 8/26	E. Taylor, K. Anderson	
27	Quabbin (G40)	19	M. Lynch#	
Veery				
27, 31	Quabbin (G40)	1, 3	M. Lynch#	
Swainson's Thrush				
23, 31	MNWS, Quabbin (G40)	1, 2	R. Titus, M. Lynch#	
Hermit Thrush				
3, 11	E. Middleboro, Ipswich	1, 1	K. Anderson, J. Berry	
16; 27, 31	Wachusett Res.; Quabbin (G40)	3; 5, 12	D. Donovan; M. Lynch#	
Wood Thrush				
16; 19, 26	Wachusett Res.; Stoneham	3; 1, 1	D. Donovan; T. Aversa	
12, 27	P. I., MNWS	1, 1	R. Forster	
Gray Catbird				
thr	P.I.	46 max 8/2	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
6, 27	Cuttyhunk Island	16, 30	P. Trimble	
Brown Thrasher				
1-26	P.I.	10 max 8/2	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
Cedar Waxwing				
2-20	Annisquam	30 max 8/20	H. Wiggin	
6, 27	Cuttyhunk Island	12, 20	P. Trimble	
31	Canton (F.M.), Quabbin (G40)	22, 73	R. Titus, M. Lynch#	

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

Many migrants were reported after a warm northwesterly air flow on August 25-26. The first fall Philadelphia Vireos appeared at this time and were reported from four locations. A total of 30 species of warblers was tallied during the month. Among the highlights were Prothonotary, early Connecticut, and Kentucky warblers at Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, additional Kentuckys at Chatham and Fowl Meadow in Canton, and a Hooded Warbler at Bolton Flats. Other notable warblers included an early Palm Warbler at Quabbin on August 31. High counts of Pine Warblers were again noted at Quabbin where family groups may be found in sizable flocks prior to migration.

A Dickcissel was found at Plum Island on August 27, and a Lark Sparrow was present at the Weston landfill August 26-27, days following ideal migration conditions.

White-winged Crossbills were noted from at least four locations in eastern Massachusetts, with many more reports from western parts of the state. Both crossbill species are highly erratic, and their movements can rarely be predicted. White-winged Crossbills as a rule breed even farther north than Red Crossbills. The presence of so many White-wings around in midsummer is unusual but not unprecedented. R.H.S.

White-eyed Vireo				
5	ONWR	1	M. Lynch#	
Solitary Vireo				
27, 31	Quabbin (G40)	1, 2	M. Lynch#	
Yellow-throated Vireo				
5, 31	Bolton Flats, Quabbin (G40)	2, 4	M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1989
Warbling Vireo 5, 27; 13	Bolton Flats; Wayland	6, 4; 1	M. Lynch#; BBC (B. Howell)	
Philadelphia Vireo 26, 27	MNWS	1, 3	E. Taylor, R. Forster	
27; 29	P.I., Bolton Flats; E. Orleans	1, 1; 1	BBC (D. Dillavou), M. Lynch#; A. Williams	
Red-eyed Vireo 16, 26	Wachusett Res., MNWS	2, 2	D. Donovan, E. Taylor	
31	Quabbin (G40)	21	M. Lynch#	
Blue-winged Warbler 2, 5	W. Newbury, Bolton Flats	1, 1	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
19, 24	MNWS, Stoneham	1, 2	R. Forster, T. Aversa	
27, 28	P.I., Wayland	1, 1	BBC (D. Dillavou), R. Forster	
Tennessee Warbler 27, 31	Bolton Flats, Quabbin (G40)	1, 2	M. Lynch#	
Nashville Warbler 27, 28	MNWS, Wayland	1, 1	R. Forster	
Northern Parula 27	MNWS	2	R. Forster	
Yellow Warbler 6, 17	P.I., Watertown	9, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Heywood	
27-29	Nantucket	21 b	E. Andrews	
Chestnut-sided Warbler 22, 27, 29	MNWS	3, 2, 2	R. Forster	
27; 27, 31	P.I.; Quabbin (G40)	1; 3, 3	BBC (D. Dillavou); M. Lynch#	
28	Wayland, Stoneham	1, 2	R. Forster, T. Aversa	
Magnolia Warbler 19, 27; 26	MNWS; Stoneham	1, 1; 1	R. Forster; T. Aversa	
27	P.I., Nantucket	2, 2 b	BBC (D. Dillavou), E. Andrews	
31	Quabbin (G40)	7	M. Lynch#	
Cape May Warbler 18-26	Annisquam	12 total (6 max 8/18)	H. Wiggin	
27	MNWS	2	J. Brown	
Black-throated Blue Warbler 31	Quabbin (G40)	4	M. Lynch#	
Yellow-rumped Warbler 24, 27	Ipswich, P.I.	2, 2	R. Forster, BBC (D. Dillavou)	
31	Quabbin (G40)	26	M. Lynch#	
Black-throated Green Warbler 27, 31	Beverly, Quabbin (G40)	1, 10	J. Brown, M. Lynch#	
Blackburnian Warbler 26, 28	MNWS, Nantucket	2, 1 b	E. Taylor, E. Andrews	
Pine Warbler 27, 31	Quabbin (G40)	42, 37	M. Lynch#	
Prairie Warbler 19, 28	Stoneham, Nantucket	1, 3	T. Aversa, E. Andrews	
Palm Warbler 31	Quabbin (G40)	1	M. Lynch#	
Bay-breasted Warbler 26, 28-29	P.I., Nantucket	1, 2 b	M. Lynch#, E. Andrews	
31	Quabbin (G40)	4	M. Lynch#	
Black-and-white Warbler 9, 27	MNWS	3, 3	R. Forster	
27-29, 31	Nantucket, Quabbin (G40)	2 b, 11	E. Andrews, M. Lynch#	
American Redstart 9, 12	MNWS, P.I.	2, 7	R. Forster	
27-29, 28	Nantucket, MNWS	7 b, 20	E. Andrews, R. Titus	
31	Quabbin (G40)	12	M. Lynch#	
Prothonotary Warbler 16	MNWS	1	R. Heil	
Worm-eating Warbler 31	Quabbin (G40)	1	M. Lynch#	
Ovenbird 22, 27	MNWS, Nantucket	3, 1 b	R. Forster, E. Andrews	
27, 31	Quabbin (G40)	4, 5	M. Lynch#	
Northern Waterthrush 9, 16	MNWS	3, 6	R. Forster, R. Heil	
17; 27, 29	Wellesley; MNWS	2; 4, 6	R. Forster	
26	Wellfleet	4	R. Stymeist#	
Kentucky Warbler 11, 31	Chatham, Canton	1, 1	F. Atwood, R. Titus	
20-25	MNWS	1	R. Heil	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1989
Connecticut Warbler 22, 26	Chatham, MNWS	1, 1	W. Bailey, R. Heil	
Mourning Warbler 26	Nantucket	1	A. Bennett	
27, 31	E. Gloucester, Bolton Flats	1, 1	S. Perkins#, E. Salmela	
Common Yellowthroat 5, 27	Bolton Flats	16, 14	M. Lynch#	
6, 27; 26	Cuttyhunk; Wellfleet	12, 12; 20	P. Trimble; R. Stymeist#	
27-29	Nantucket	26 b	E. Andrews	
Hooded Warbler 31	Bolton Flats	1	E. Salmela	
Wilson's Warbler 22, 27	MNWS	1, 1	R. Forster, J. Brown	
Canada Warbler 17; 19, 22	Wellesley; MNWS	1; 2, 2	R. Forster	
27, 31	P.I., Waltham	2, 2	BBC (D. Dillavou), L. Taylor	
Scarlet Tanager 27, 31	Quabbin (G40)	6, 14	M. Lynch#	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 25, 29	Sherborn, MNWS	6, 1	E. Taylor, R. Forster	
31	Canton (F.M.)	2	R. Titus	
Indigo Bunting 5, 9	Hamilton, Marlboro	1, 2	J. Berry, R. Graefe	
15, 27	W. Newbury, Quabbin (G40)	5, 6	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Dickcissel 27	P.I.	1	R. Heil	
Rufous-sided Towhee 6, 27	Cuttyhunk Island	18, 26	P. Trimble	
Chipping Sparrow 26; 27, 31	Stoneham; Quabbin (G40)	8; 25, 16	T. Aversa; M. Lynch#	
Lark Sparrow 26-27	Weston	1	L. Robinson + v. o.	
Seaside Sparrow thr	P.I.	9 max 8/19	R. McHale# + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	13 max 8/1	LCES (J. Hill)	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow thr	P.I.	28 max 8/2	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	22 max 8/9	LCES (J. Hill)	
Song Sparrow thr	P.I., Bolton Flats	44 max 8/2, 39 max 8/27	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
6, 27	Cuttyhunk Island	22, 20	P. Trimble	
27-29	Nantucket	16 b	E. Andrews	
White-throated Sparrow 19, 26	P.I., Topsfield	2, 1	R. Stymeist#, J. Brown	
Bobolink thr, 17	P.I., Watertown	43 max 8/19, 60	M. Lynch# + v. o., R. Stymeist	
Red-winged Blackbird 13, 19	Wayland, Concord	50, 100	B. Howell#, E. Taylor	
Eastern Meadowlark thr, 16	Marlboro, Newbypt	7 max 8/10, 12	R. Graefe, T. Aversa	
Common Grackle 5, 13, 19	Natick	1080, 2660, 1180	E. Taylor	
Northern Oriole 6, 27	Cuttyhunk Island	4, 3	P. Trimble	
24, 26	Stoneham, Norfolk	8, 17	T. Aversa, B. Cassie#	
White-winged Crossbill 9; 12, 17	Westwood; Boxford	1; 11, 1 f	E. Nielsen; J. Heywood#, D. Arvidson #	
18, 23	Annisquam, Cotuit	3, 30-40	H. Wiggin, J. Harris	

CORRIGENDUM TO MAY 1989 FIELD RECORDS (VOL. 17, NO. 5)

Eurasian Wigeon (page 260)

3 W. Harwich 1 B. Nikula

should read

Green-winged Teal (Eurasian form)

3 W. Harwich 1 B. Nikula#

The text of the third paragraph on page 259 should be corrected to read "... and a Green-winged Teal (Eurasian form) was reported from West Harwich."

BIRD OBSERVER FIELD RECORDS

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

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

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

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

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ABOUT THE COVER: White-breasted Nuthatch

Of the approximately three hundred species seen annually in Massachusetts on a regular basis, only about a sixth could be termed permanent residents—species in which individuals of the majority of the population remain throughout the year. Of these the most familiar are the widespread residents of deciduous woodlands—the predominant habitat across the state. Included in this category are Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Downy Woodpecker, and the White-breasted Nuthatch. These birds become most visible in fall and winter when they often band together to form foraging flocks. However, in such assemblages the nuthatch occurs singly or in pairs and is greatly outnumbered by chickadees and titmice. All are regular visitors to winter feeding stations where sunflower seeds comprise the major part of their diet although suet is freely taken if provided. Chickadees and titmice will grasp a seed firmly between the feet, pound it with the bill until the seed coat is cracked, and then extract the kernel. In contrast, the nuthatch will wedge a seed firmly in a crevice of a tree trunk and vigorously pound it. It is from this unique hammering or "hatcheting" that the nuthatch derives its name.

Another distinctive feature of the nuthatch is the manner in which it moves nimbly up and, especially, down tree trunks. From the latter trait is derived the colloquial name of "upside-down bird." This activity was described by Forbush (1929) thus:

They seem to have taken lessons of the squirrel which runs down the tree head first, stretching out his hind feet backward and so clinging to the bark with his claws as he goes down; but the nuthatch having only two feet has to reach forward under its breast with one and back beside its tail with the other, and thus, standing on a wide base and holding safely to the bark with the three fore claws of the upper foot turned backward it hitches nimbly down the tree head first—something that other birds hardly attempt—and it runs around the trunk in the same way with feet wide apart.

The White-breasted Nuthatch performs a curious, even comical, aggressive display. It crouches facing the threat, spreading its wings in the folded position and completely spreading the tail, and rocks deliberately from side to side. During winter the display is used, with surprising success, to intimidate species more than twice its size, and a mated male will adopt this pose to fend off the amorous approaches of a rival nuthatch.

Although outwardly very similar in appearance, the sexes can be distinguished by the color of the top of the head—black in males, somewhat grayer in females. During the breeding season and in summer, nuthatches become retiring and inconspicuous. They will nest in any available cavity including, on occasion, birdhouses.

Richard A. Forster

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

This publication once again expresses its appreciation to the **Stephen Greene Press** of Lexington, Massachusetts. This company, publishers of *The Bird Identification Calendar*, has generously permitted us to reprint from the calendar yet another of **John Sill's** beautiful birds, the fourth of our covers to be graced by one of this artist's watercolors reproduced in black and white. For this, we are very grateful, both to Stephen Greene Press and to the artist John Sill for his consent.

John Sill, a college major in wildlife biology, combined a knowledge of nature with his artistic gift to become an award-winning natural history artist focused primarily on the world of birds. When world-bird-tour leader Peter Alden of Massachusetts visited the Sill gallery with a tour group in tow, John's artistic reputation rapidly expanded beyond North Carolina. His work is now familiar countrywide through the bird calendar paintings and his illustrations of popular books such as *The Field Guide to the Birds Coloring Book* (Houghton Mifflin Company) and the Stokes' *Guide to Bird Behavior, Volume II* (Little, Brown and Company).

John is noted for the delicacy and precision of his transparent watercolor technique and received his training in that medium from his father, Charles Sill, a well-known artist and teacher. There is an abundance of talent in the Sill family, as evidenced by the publication in 1988 of *A Field Guide to Little-Known and Seldom-Seen Birds of North America* (Peachtree Publishers, Ltd., 494 Armour Circle, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30324), a collaborative creation of three Sill family birders—Ben L., Clemson University professor of civil engineering, Cathryn P., schoolteacher, and John C., the artist. This delightful volume can be found in the nature/humor section of most bookstores and madly exploits the foibles of birders and birding. The cover is a binocular view of the "Military Warbler (*Plutonia Pentagonus*)" depicted in basic camouflage plumage, perched on a thicket of barbed wire, and sporting chevron-shaped tail-barring which "indicates some sort of social rank" (pp. 50-51). A brief sampling of the rarities portrayed in color in this unique field guide will entrance any birder and whet the appetite for more. I was enchanted by the "Long-Range Target Duck," named for the bull's-eye pattern of belly and underwing; the "Waddley Grouse (*Obesia Rotundus*)"; the "American Bunting," in patriotic plumage colors and noted to have been a "common bird in Colonial times" (pp. 42-43); and the "Greater Wandering Vagrant," with an oropendola-like nest dangling from the bill. The paintings are precise depictions of avian morphology, so realistic that a nonbirder glancing through the book could be led astray. The text, whether subtle or blatant, is uproarious.

John Sill's more sober artistic works are displayed in the family gallery in Franklin, North Carolina, where he and wife Cathy live.

Dorothy R. Arvidson

Most notable about October's mystery species is the bold pattern of white bars and spots on the wings, particularly on the primaries. No other eastern landbirds possess this distinctive series of white markings except several species of woodpeckers. The impression that the pictured bird might be a woodpecker is further reinforced by the shape and the proplike posture of the tail.

Despite the fact that the bird's head is concealed, it is possible to note that the underparts are whitish and that the flanks are unbarred. Although the back appears to be uniformly dark, the bird is turned in such a way that both posture and shading may be obscuring the actual nature of the dorsal pattern. The Black-backed Woodpecker possesses a uniformly dark back, but it would also exhibit prominently barred sides and flanks. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, which also shows white primary spots, has a large white patch on the wing coverts, not white-spotted wing bars as shown on the bird in the photograph. Ultimately the most useful feature for identifying the pictured bird is the presence of prominent black bars on the outer tail feathers. These markings immediately eliminate the Hairy Woodpecker as a possibility.

Thus the relatively small size of the bird, especially when compared to the poison ivy berries on which it is feeding (provided you recognized them), along with the black bars on the outer tail feathers, the spotted primaries, unbarred flanks, and the lack of a white wing-patch all indicate that the mystery bird is a Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), the smallest and most numerous woodpecker in Massachusetts. If the bird's head were visible, the short stubby bill and rather neckless appearance would further separate the pictured bird from the larger and similar Hairy Woodpecker. The Downy Woodpecker shown here was photographed on Martha's Vineyard.



Downy Woodpecker

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen

AT A GLANCE

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



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