

BIRD OBSERVER



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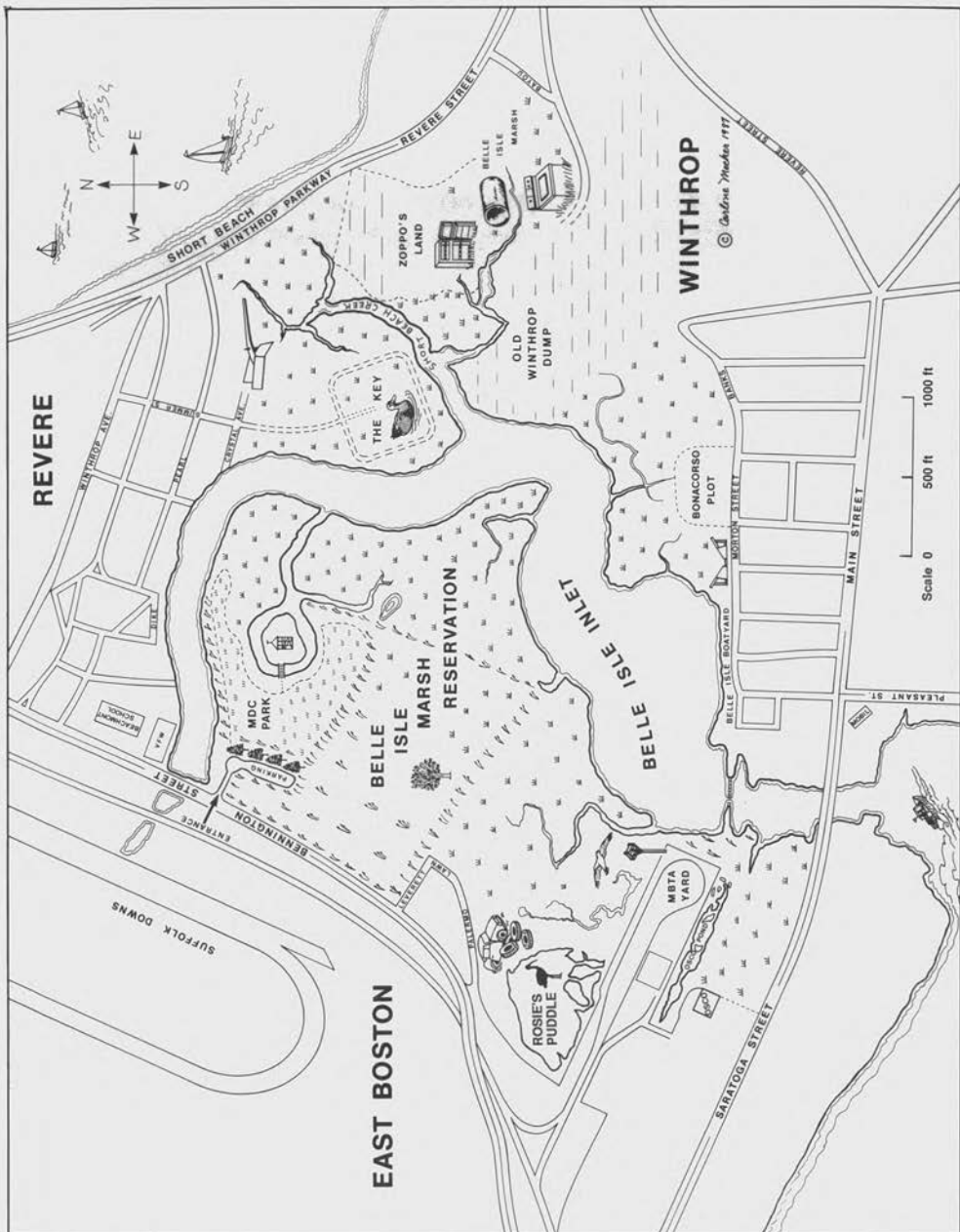
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FRED HAMLEN: DECEMBER 17, 1922 - DECEMBER 7, 1987

A figure in a bulky army jacket and bright red wool cap hunched over a scope on a cold, cold day, smoke curling from his pipe - a birdwatcher "playing the waiting game" for some elusive quarry - this was Fred Hamlen. His enthusiasm and sheer delight in getting "a good, detailed look" at any bird was unbounded, especially after seeing a "cigar bird" - his term for a real rarity.

He went out of his way to interest new people in the pursuit that so delighted him. I recall a zero-degree morning when he was determined to share the King Eider he had in his scope with a passing policeman; and the Milton Academy student he tutored who went on to become well-known in this field. Fred was known and will be remembered for many wonderful qualities - as a man, for his devotion to his family and his caring visits to those who could no longer venture out and, as a birder, for his journals, his exquisite work on range maps, and his recordings of bird song.

Ted Raymond



WHERE TO FIND BIRDS AT BELLE ISLE MARSH, EAST BOSTON

by Jane Cumming

Belle Isle Marsh is two hundred and seventy-five acres of tidal wetlands located along the boundaries of East Boston, Revere, and Winthrop. Belle Isle Inlet runs south out of the marsh into Boston Harbor separating Winthrop from the city of Boston, and its fingers almost reach the ocean below Revere Beach where a causeway attaches Winthrop to the mainland (except on the stormier winter tides, when seawater floods across the road and into the marsh by the back door). Created by a glacier whose drumlins still surround it, this is the largest salt marsh left in the city of Boston, a remnant of the vast marshes that dominated the area three hundred years ago. At different seasons, it is home to a wide variety of salt marsh plants, animals, birds, and fishes. Even with the towers of downtown Boston lining the horizon and planes screaming in low to Logan Airport just across the harbour, this urban wilderness can seem a world away from the city. Here too can be found some of Boston Harbor's best birding.

It is probably most quiet in winter, when Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers quarter the marsh, and an occasional Snowy Owl drifts over from the airport to try out the hunting. American Black Ducks line the creek where other dabbling species and Hooded Mergansers may join them in November and March. Buffleheads, Greater Scaup, and Red-breasted Mergansers bob and dive in the channel. Brants from the harbour fly back and forth over the marsh to Revere Beach, as do other coastal species such as loons. It is worth scouring the marsh and sparsely vegetated areas in the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Park for Ipswich Sparrows, which are scarce but regular at Belle Isle in winter.

Red-winged Blackbirds return first, their raucous songs filling the marsh with the sound of spring. They sometimes arrive early enough to provide a target for a hungry Snowy Owl, which can be seen terrorizing the blackbird flocks as it hunts over the reeds. April brings the breeding herons back to the harbour islands and into the marsh to feed. Snowy Egrets and Glossy Ibis visit throughout the summer, but April and September are best for variety. Clapper Rails regularly turn up on migration but are frustratingly more often heard than seen.

A regular hawkwatcher, Soheil Zende, has found a steady stream of accipiters, harriers, and Ospreys, though not many buteos. This seems to be typical of the Massachusetts coast. Peregrines show up regularly but may be either migrants or the introduced birds that are breeding in downtown Boston. I have kept a successful hunting Peregrine in my telescope view as it carried a

shorebird off across the airport, over the harbour, and in amongst the city buildings, presumably to its nest, since this was in July. Flyovers in the fall are more likely to be genuine "wild" falcons, but immatures lingering into the winter are probably the local city-bred birds.

The marsh has few trees or bushes and is rarely any good for passerines except for sparrows, which can be found in some numbers during migration. Sharp-tailed Sparrows breed, and Seaside Sparrows have also nested; Marsh Wrens have tried. Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks linger in April and September to November, but the only other landbirds commonly seen are Northern Flickers and swallows. Migrant Belted Kingfishers spend months here in spring and fall but do not stay to breed.

Common Terns have nested for several years on a pile of junk out in "Rosie's Puddle," a tidal pool behind the railway yard where Least Terns also come in to feed. Caspian and Forster's terns have been found here in the fall. Blue-winged Teal summered in 1987 and probably nested somewhere in the marsh. Most of the herons will be here at high tide when there is also a shorebird roost consisting mainly of yellowlegs, peeps, and dowitchers. Both yellowlegs species hang around all summer with only a couple of weeks separating the two migration seasons, but Hudsonian Godwits fly north over the Great Plains and do not appear on the coast before July. Spotted Sandpipers turn up along with the godwits, giving way later in the summer to occasional Whimbrels, Willets, and Wilson's Phalaropes. A Marbled Godwit spent nearly two months here in the fall of 1982. Snipe are among the last to leave (and the first to arrive in spring), but both yellowlegs species will also hang on here well into November.

Like most coastal spots, Belle Isle has a better hawk flight in the spring, but with enough patience, a good fall migration day can also be witnessed, especially when the wind is blowing from points west. On October 10, 1987, there were thirteen Ospreys, four Sharp-shinned Hawks, two Northern Harriers, and two Peregrine Falcons seen during a three-hour hawkwatch.

Later in the year, bitterns and rails move out to the salt marsh after their freshwater haunts have iced over. Common Black-headed Gulls loaf at Rosie's Puddle or feed over the tidal waters in the creek, mainly from October until the puddle freezes. They then repair to Lewis Lake in Winthrop, joining the gulls roosting on the ice there at high tide. October has brought some of the best oddities, as various as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Marsh Wren, Bald Eagle, and Snow Goose. But rarities have turned up at all seasons. One of the strangest records is a White Pelican that was seen flying over the marsh by Soheil Zendei in May 1983.

Belle Isle has had a chequered history in recent years, but for the time being seems to have been saved from most of the plans to develop it. One section in

East Boston used to be a drive-in cinema until mosquitoes and low-flying aircraft finally drove away the clientele. Many of its neighbours have been expanding their boundaries into the marsh and erecting around the edges structures that are illegal. A housing development has been planned for the area behind the Revere Beach Causeway, despite local protestors' arguments that it would be flooded out by every big tide. Finally, after years of plans that evaporated before they could be put into effect, 168 acres in East Boston were declared an MDC reservation in 1986. Cinder paths were laid out, the hillock was mown, trees were planted, and park interpreters were hired to introduce the public to the natural inhabitants and explain the natural history of the marsh. It seems less likely at last that the area will suffer the fate of nearby Wood Island Park, which was wrecked by bulldozers one night while East Bostonians slept.

One of the attractions of Belle Isle is that you do not need a car to get to it. You can take the Blue Line "T" from Boston to Orient Heights (nearest station to the puddle), Suffolk Downs (MDC Park main entrance), or Beachmont (within walking distance of the Summer Street pool). All these stations are on Bennington Street, East Boston.

To reach Belle Isle by car from downtown Boston, follow signs to Logan Airport and drive north on Route 1A past the airport exit. Take the next exit, signposted to Orient Heights and Winthrop, and keep straight on at the bottom of the ramp. You will merge into Bennington Street. Follow it for a mile to the junction with Route 145, go straight over, and you will see the Orient Heights station on your right just after the junction.

From the north, follow Route 1 south through Saugus and past the Route 99 exit; then take Route 60 exit, signposted to the airport. Follow Route 60 east until it ends in Revere; and then take Route 1A (and the airport signs) south past the Suffolk Downs racecourse on the left. There is a large crucifix on the hilltop beyond. Just over the brow of the hill you will see the Orient Heights turn on the left. Turn left here, and follow the road, bearing left at the small rotary until it meets Bennington Street at a big junction with traffic lights. Turn left again onto Bennington Street, and you will then see Orient Heights "T" station on the right.

To get to Rosie's Puddle from here, walk or drive two hundred and fifty yards north from Orient Heights on Bennington Street to the New England Casket Company on the right. The factory and the railway yard behind it are private (though they generally tolerate birders), but the dirt road to their left is not. Walk fifty yards down it for a view of the puddle; this is Palermo Street.

Next, if you are driving, follow the edge of the marsh up Palermo Street, Lawn Street, Leverett Avenue, and Bennington Street to the main entrance of Belle Isle Marsh Reservation (gate, signpost, and drive-in parking lot) to investigate the salt marsh. There is a grassy hilltop where the cinema used to be, a lookout tower, and paved walks with seats, all of which does more to

encourage local joggers and kite-fliers than birds, but from this park you can head out into the marsh to explore less domesticated territory. If you are walking, you should approach this area across the marsh rather than by road; look for a beaten path through the bushes at the corner of Lawn and Leverett, where the high fence starts. If you clap your hands while you are walking through the tall phragmites, you will flush the night-heron roost. No one has found a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron with them yet, but it has to happen one day. Farther in, the shorter reeds surrounding dried or muddy pools may hold the two marsh sparrows. Listen for Marsh Wrens here too.

Then, if you have a car or the energy to walk another mile around the perimeter of the marsh, try the other tidal pool at Summer Street. This one seems to be preferred by Glossy Ibises and some of the shorebirds, possibly because it is the least disturbed part of the marsh. Go up Bennington Street to the big junction at Beachmont and turn right over the hill. This is one of the glacial drumlins. Summer Street is not well marked, but there are stop-signs on all the roads that cross it. Turn right to follow it down to the dead end at the marsh, where there is parking for about three cars in front of a metal gate, and walk into the marsh. There is a circular dike around the pool, which consequently is known by local birders as the Donut (or the Key). The south end of this pool takes in so much seawater at high tide that it rarely freezes early in the winter; it produced a Virginia Rail for the 1986 Christmas Count.



Belle Isle Marsh

Photo by Jane Cumming

Finally, try the Winthrop side of the creek, especially in fall and winter. From Orient Heights, take Route 145 (Saratoga Street) across the inlet into Winthrop, and turn left at the first traffic light after the bridge. This will lead you to Morton Street; scan the creek from the boat yard. You might try the Winthrop dump, which has been closed for some years now, at the other end of Morton Street. It affords an excellent view over the marsh and used to be good for sparrows (including a Grasshopper Sparrow for the 1984 Christmas Count), but nothing much has been found there since it was bulldozed level and all the bushes were burned. There are plans afoot to turn it into a cemetery eventually, which could prove very beneficial from a birding point of view, so keep an eye on developments there.

Meanwhile, raptors and owls enjoy the vantage point and can be flushed from its lunar landscape, usually between September and March. If you don't want to trudge up there, you can scan the top of the dump while walking around the Donut. It is still worth checking the sparrow flocks near the dump's entrance in October, when typically there should be Field, Chipping, and perhaps White-crowned sparrows around for a week or two. A Northern Shrike here on January 1, 1988 was the first recorded at Belle Isle.

The Friends of Belle Isle Marsh (FBIM), in cooperation with the MDC interpretive staff, run a program of free guided walks, heron censuses, marsh clean-ups, and other activities. For more information, contact FBIM president John Kilmartin, P.O. Box 575, East Boston 02128 or MDC public information at 727-5215. For birding information, call Soheil Zendeh (to whom I am indebted for help with this article) at 628-8990. Soheil keeps a computerized bird list for Belle Isle that I hope will eventually be published for the benefit of visitors to the Park. So if you see anything unusual during your visits to the marsh, please let him know.

JANE CUMMING has birded since childhood in Britain and elsewhere in Europe, but her introduction to North American birding was a spring 1981 trip to Point Pelee on Lake Erie that produced two hundred species in three weeks. The following year she took a computer programming job in a Boston financial house in order to get to know the Nearctic avifauna better. This transatlantic vagrant expected to find her way home within a year or two but instead formed a pair-bond with a native and has been resident in Winthrop since 1982. After March 1988, Jane's mailing address will be 172 Kent Farm Road, Hampstead, New Hampshire 03841.

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WHY DON'T RED-BILLED TROPICBIRDS NEST ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD?

by Richard R. Veit

In September of 1986 a Red-billed Tropicbird was discovered flying about the Gay Head cliffs on the island of Martha's Vineyard (Arvidson 1986, Rosenwald 1986, Jones 1987). This spectacular tropical seabird predictably drew hundreds of birders and other wildlife admirers who watched and photographed it for the eight weeks that it remained. Many of those birders with whom I discussed the Martha's Vineyard tropicbird had the common reaction expressed by one of them as, "Man, was that bird ever lost!" But was this particular tropicbird lost at all? This is a question I would like to explore.

I would like to examine why it is that many birders and ornithologists assume automatically that a bird that appears far outside of its normal range must have made a major navigational error. I think there are two components of the reasoning that leads to this conclusion. One is the observation that Red-billed Tropicbirds appear in Massachusetts only at infrequent intervals: therefore, individuals that do so must be "abnormal." The other component involves our human perception of the great physical difficulty involved in traveling from the Caribbean to New England under one's own steam. Because such a feat would be extremely difficult for a human, it must therefore be extraordinarily difficult for a tropicbird.

Extending this line of reasoning leads to two conclusions. Since tropicbirds appear as vagrants in New England infrequently, these occurrences must be unimportant, and if traveling from the Caribbean to New England represents a great physical hardship for a tropicbird, then there must be strong selection against such behavior.

In this article I would like to postulate that long-distance vagrancy is a normal and adaptive behavior of tropicbirds and is of fundamental importance in their life history, despite its relatively infrequent occurrence. In support of this premise, I shall examine just how difficult it is for a tropicbird to fly from the Virgin Islands to Massachusetts, and finally, provide a possible explanation for the fact that tropicbirds do not nest on the cliffs at Martha's Vineyard.

Ornithologists know very little about the causes of long-distance vagrancy, although its significance is belittled because it does not happen very often and seems to involve only a few members of any given bird species -- not very good reasons for dismissing its importance. After all, Darwin's theory of natural selection (now doctrine) was pooh-poohed for sixty years, because many biologists could not conceive of the vast lengths of time required for the proposed process to occur. That is, Darwinian evolution takes place on a time

scale that is very different from the time scale of human lifetimes. I believe that the significance of vagrancy is underestimated for similar reasons.

It is interesting to speculate why it may be advantageous for a tropicbird to travel to Massachusetts. During such speculation, it is critical to compare the disadvantages of dispersing with those of remaining at home. Too often we suppose that a certain behavior will be selected against because it is dangerous, without considering the dangers inherent in alternative behaviors. For example, if a bird is **likely** to perish during dispersal, it could still be to that bird's advantage to disperse -- if the bird is **certain** to perish by remaining in place.

One possible cause of vagrancy might be a dramatic reduction in the amount of some resource essential to survival within the bird's normal range. This is presumably what happens immediately prior to southward irruptions of northern owls or winter finches. In this sort of scenario vagrancy occurs as an emergency measure, an attempt to avoid starvation. On the other hand, vagrancy might be a beneficial option long before resource availability reaches a critically low level. In the case of many seabirds that do not breed until they are several years old, there are advantages to spending their prebreeding years searching for the best possible place to nest; so why shouldn't they? In order to withstand such a long-distance voyage, a bird must eat enough food to lay down reserves of subcutaneous fat, just as a long-distance migrant does. Therefore, in this situation, birds can only afford long-distance dispersal **when food is abundant** - the complete reverse of the previous scenario. There is some evidence for this: Grant (1978) has found that voles initiate dispersal at times when food supply greatly exceeds the needs of the population, which suggests that dispersal in that instance is a positive venture.

Observations of vagrancy patterns of a wide variety of species of birds reveals that there is a great range in the frequency with which vagrancy occurs. Great Gray Owls seem to move south in large numbers once every eighty years or so, whereas several species of eastern North American warblers appear in California **every** fall, although in varying numbers from year to year. Red-billed Tropicbirds seem to fall somewhere between these extremes, with four New England records in fifteen years.

The **sighting** of a Red-billed Tropicbird in Massachusetts is a rare event, but is their **occurrence** equally rare? It is important to note the sighting of a Red-billed Tropicbird in Maine at about the same time as the Vineyard occurrence. I feel that the likelihood that the two sightings involved the same bird is remote. (I'll bet that a hundred Red-billed Tropicbirds could be released along the New England coast in such a way that not a single one would be seen. Recall the Spotted Redshank of July 28, 1981, that was photographed on Plum Island, yet was not seen by a single Massachusetts birder.) The occurrence of two vagrant individuals of a single species during the same year strongly

suggests that vagrancy is reflective of population dynamics, rather than of haphazard navigational errors. From the pattern of Red-billed Tropicbird vagrancy to the northeast, we may surmise that conditions within its tropical range are only conducive to vagrancy in certain years. Perhaps those are years when exceptional numbers of young are raised (an abundant food supply might have this effect), or perhaps they are years when a massive failure of the food supply occurs. Who knows? The main point of my argument is that just because Red-billed Tropicbirds are not seen in Massachusetts every year does not mean that vagrancy is not a regular aspect of their life history or that it has not been critical in shaping their current world distribution.

Vagrancy is frequently thought of as a maladaptive behavior in birds because it is supposed that vagrants either die or are unable to return to a location where they might successfully breed. I don't believe these suppositions are generally true. Naturally, many vagrant individuals have proved to be underweight, but this is an inevitable consequence of having just completed a lengthy flight. In the case of the Martha's Vineyard tropicbird (apparently in the pink of condition), what was to prevent it from flying right back to the Caribbean at the end of its Vineyard stay?

Let us now consider the sophistication of a bird's navigational system. Imagine yourself a Wilson's Storm-Petrel pattering over the surface of the waves on Stellwagen Bank. At six inches above the water, the horizon is on the order of a few hundred yards away, yet you will have to find, when breeding season approaches, some particular crevice in a rock, perhaps two inches across, a good **12,000 miles away on the Antarctic continent**. Consider that you are unlikely to have any view of the sun or stars for the last 1500 miles of the voyage and that fog or rain will likely preclude any view of the shoreline until you are within a hundred yards of your nest.

We should remember also the G. V. T. Matthews' Manx Shearwaters taken from their nests off Wales and released at Logan Airport to be found back on their nests 12.5 days later. My point is that in order for seabirds to navigate that well, their perception of the world must be dramatically different from ours, and it is therefore inappropriate for us to judge the likelihood of a bird navigating from point A to point B by what we think is difficult.

How much energy is required for a Red-billed Tropicbird to fly to Massachusetts from the Caribbean? I have attempted to calculate this based on equations provided in Pennycuick (1974) and Bartholomew (1982). Using Pennycuick's equations 12 and 13, I find a maximum range speed of 4.23 meters/second (about 10 mph) and a maximum range power of 20.28 watts. These values represent the speed at which a 750-gram tropicbird should fly to cover the maximum distance per unit of energy expended and the rate at which energy would be expended at that speed. By burning only subcutaneous fat (i.e.,

not stopping to feed), the tropicbird could cover 625 kilometers on 75 grams of fat, or 10 percent of its body mass. As birds are able to carry up to an additional 50 percent of their body mass as fat, it would seem reasonable to suppose that a tropicbird could lay down the 300 grams of fat required to fly the 2600 kilometers from the Virgin Islands to Massachusetts. Of course, the Gulf Stream approaches to within about 150 miles of Martha's Vineyard; so it seems likely that a tropicbird could manage to feed during some daylight hours on the voyage and would therefore require only modest fat reserves.

This estimation of flying range is probably a conservative one. For example, I think tropicbirds fly faster than the theoretical maximum range velocity of 4.23 meters per second. Laughing Gulls, approximately the same size as Red-billed Tropicbirds, have been shown to fly at almost three times this velocity at only a 20 percent increased rate of power. This suggests that a tropicbird could cover a greater range per gram of fat burned than I have estimated. Thus, so long as the tropicbird is not tied to a particular location, such as a nest site, why shouldn't it travel in search of areas where it might find a more suitable breeding site with fewer competing tropicbirds?

This now brings me to my last point. Why do we not have tropicbirds nesting at Gay Head? Answering this sort of question --What limits the distribution of a particular species of animal or plant? -- is one of the most important and difficult aims of ecology, and I certainly cannot hope to answer the question for tropicbirds in Massachusetts, but I can speculate. Perhaps there is not enough food for them off Gay Head or perhaps the cliffs are too crumbly for nesting. Yet there have been at least six Red-billed Tropicbirds in the western North Atlantic north of Long Island in the last twenty-five years. Martha's Vineyard has been at its present location in more or less its present shape for at least five thousand years. This suggests to me that perhaps a more substantial number of Red-billed Tropicbirds must have scanned the multicolored cliffs of Gay Head with a critical gaze in years gone by but have decided that these cliffs just would not do.

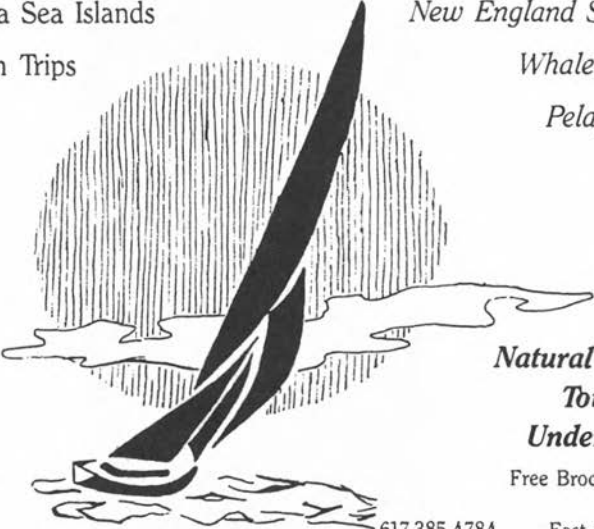
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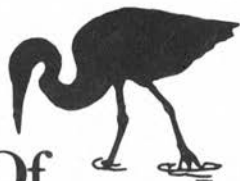
RICHARD R. VEIT, a former records compiler for *Bird Observer*, is working on his doctorate in ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of California, Irvine. He has published several papers and produced for his master's thesis at the University of Massachusetts *The Birds of Massachusetts* (awaiting publication). His field of specialization is spatial dispersion patterns of Antarctic seabirds.

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300 SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS IN ONE YEAR: MARCH AND APRIL

by Herman D'Entremont and Dorothy R. Arvidson

Red-winged Blackbirds arrive early in March, sometimes before the ice has left the marshes, the first birds to proclaim that spring is coming. They will be abundant in any marshy area such as the Sudbury River Valley and Great Meadows and will be joined before the month is over by Brown-headed Cowbirds, Common Grackles, and Rusty Blackbirds. Learn to identify the high-pitched squeaks that pass for song in the blackbird group so that you can pick out Rusty Blackbirds, the migrant that you might miss, unless you learn its song.

Before the month of March is gone, you should see Tree Swallow, Eastern Phoebe, Water Pipit, and Fox Sparrows. Of these, pipits and Fox Sparrows are the birds to focus on for your list. Water Pipits can be found in numbers wherever there is a newly plowed field. Nine-Acre Corner in Concord is a likely spot for pipits. Learn to recognize the sweet, rising song of the Fox Sparrow, and you will easily find this migrant, hopping and scratching away with both feet at once under scrub bushes and tangles, along with White-throated Sparrows, who produce one of the most beautiful songs of our New England spring.

March will also witness the arrival of Pied-billed Grebes, Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night-Herons, American Coots, the first Turkey Vultures, and migrating Ring-billed Gulls. These birds are all easily found and will be around for several months, if not throughout the year. Waterfowl returning in March include migrating Wood Ducks, Green-winged and Blue-winged teal, Northern Pintails, Gadwalls, American Wigeons, Hooded Mergansers, Ruddy Ducks, and Snow Geese. Every spring a flock of Snow Geese spends one or two weeks in the Plum Island area, so here's another chance to check this species on your list.

If you missed seeing Purple Sandpipers at Rockport (*Bird Observer*, February 1983, II: 5) during the winter, look for them at Nahant, Lynn, or Scituate, or take a trip to the Dartmouth and Westport area (April 1976, 4: 36). The beach south of Richmond's Pond is also a good place for Sanderling, Dunlin, and Piping Plover. Keeping your distance so as not to disturb this diminishing species, you can watch for Piping Plovers along the beaches of Cape Cod (April 1978, 6: 40), Plymouth Beach (April 1985, 13: 61), the beach at the state reservation on the southern tip of Plum Island (June 1985, 13: 116), and on the beaches of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. Other shorebirds to be watched for in March are Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Common Snipe, and American Woodcock. Woodcock can be found in wet woodlands in April and will continue their mating maneuvers into June. The best spots around Boston to

witness this are the Belmont incinerator on Concord Avenue, Rock Meadow in Belmont, Fowl Meadow in Milton, Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield, and a number of marshy meadows throughout the Sudbury River Valley. To hear and see them displaying, you must arrive at one of these locations just before dusk.

April is the month when most of the raptors return. The better hawk spots are Mount Tom in Northampton, Wachusett Mountain in Princeton, the Blue Hills of Milton, Plum Island's dunes, and the Pilgrim Heights area of outer Cape Cod. Northern Harriers, Turkey Vultures, Osprey, and Broadwings appear first, followed shortly by Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks, Merlins, and migrating Peregrines and kestrels. The west border of the Westport River has the highest number of Osprey nests in the state, and the birds are back in late March. In April, Red-shouldered Hawks can be found in the Lakeville/Bridgewater area and at Crooked Pond in Boxford, a spot where the Northern Goshawk is often seen.

Before April is over, you may have seen Chimney Swifts, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, several flycatchers - Least, Great Crested, and Eastern Kingbird, and most of the swallows. The Tree Swallow appears in March, Barn Swallows and Purple Martins (check the houses on every visit to Plum Island) arriving next, followed closely by the other three species - Northern Rough-winged, Bank, and Cliff. Great Meadows and Plum Island are the best places for swallows. Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Bank, and Barn swallows can be seen in both places, but Purple Martins are found only on Plum Island and a few places near the coast where houses are provided for them. Cliff Swallows have traditionally nested on buildings at various spots in Essex County, including the warden's building on Plum Island.

April brings to Massachusetts three wren species -- House, Winter, and Marsh. Wrens are best located by listening for their songs. The House Wren has a lively, noisy song emerging from woodpiles around houses. In marshes with tall reeds the Marsh Wren's song rattles like a toy sewing machine. Great Meadows is a good spot for this bird. The prolonged and gentle warble of the Winter Wren is best listened for at traditional sites such as Crooked Pond. This area, a good place to visit in late April, may add several species to your list: Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Black-throated Green Warbler, Louisiana and Northern waterthrushes, as well as Barred Owl and Eastern Phoebe. (If you miss seeing the Winter Wren now, you can find it at a nesting area later on in June, e.g., Mount Greylock.) There is no problem seeing most of the landbirds that appear in early April -- Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit and Wood thrushes, Gray Catbirds, and Brown Thrashers, but some like Blue-gray Gnatcatchers must be specially sought in wet woodlands such as Heards Pond in Wayland, Pikes Bridge Road in West Newbury, and Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge.

A number of sparrows may be added to your "300" list in April. These are Blue Grosbeak, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping, Field, Vesper, Savannah, and Swamp. These are generally distributed and, except for the Blue Grosbeak and Vesper Sparrow, easily found in appropriate habitat. Blue Grosbeak usually makes a yearly appearance at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in the spring, but you may have to wait until the fall migration to find this species (on Nantucket or in Truro on Cape Cod), and Vesper Sparrows may also be easier to find in the fall.

The earnest novice will do well to bird often and early during March and April when the pace is leisurely, and there is more time to learn. It is easier to hear and remember the calls and songs when there are fewer bird sounds, and it is much less difficult to see the birds before the trees leaf out. When May arrives with the flocks of migrating warblers and the swarms of flocking birdwatchers, the new birder will find that the year's list grows rapidly. In May listing is easier than learning.



Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch

SPRING 1988 EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS HAWK WATCH (EMHW)

The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch (EMHW) needs volunteer observers for coordinated hawkwatching on the **weekends** of April 23-24, April 30-May 1, and May 7-8 (coastal sites only this weekend) and on **weekdays** during the peak migration period from April 15-May 10 at points near Newburyport, on the Outer Cape, or on Wachusett Mountain. Last year, EMHW recorded the best spring flight ever documented for eastern Massachusetts, with the majority of the birds seen in May. For more information, write Paul M. Roberts, EMHW, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155, or call 617-483-4263 after 8:00 P.M.

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1974 ANHINGA SIGHTING IN MASSACHUSETTS

On May 14, 1974, I was birding off Stackyard Road looking across the Parker River to Plum Island, taking advantage of the superior light conditions. I spotted a large bird beginning to spiral up in the sky much as buteos do on migration. I immediately recognized it as a female Anhinga because of several familiar characteristics. First, it has what I refer to as a Greek cross look; that is, the tail is as long as the neck and head with the wings in the middle of the body. The buffy head and breast contrasted sharply with the black body. Since owning a house in the Florida Keys, I had been birding in the Keys and the Everglades at least twice a year. Needless to say, Anhingas were totally familiar birds to me. That same day I called Dick Forster at Massachusetts Audubon to report a bird that I was aware might be new for the state. I was amazed when Dick questioned the identification and asked if I realized that cormorants soared also. I called Alexander Sprunt, one of Florida's most respected ornithologists, and described my sighting to him. He said that it could be nothing but an Anhinga.

Nancy Claflin, Belmont

Editor's Note: Nancy Claflin's sighting was duly reported in *B.O.E.M.*, July-August 1974, 2: 114: "A possible sighting of an *Anhinga* was made on May 14th at Hellcat Swamp, Plum Island, by Nancy Claflin and Mary Baird. Details were received on this bird, but, unfortunately, it will have to go into the records as a hypothetical sighting since it would constitute a first state record and no photograph was obtained."

Richard Forster's statement that the *Anhinga* he observed on May 25, 1987 (*Bird Observer*, October 1987, 15: 263) is the "first documented sighting of the species in Massachusetts" appears to be incorrect.

EAGLES IN THE NEWS

On January 8, 1988, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife held its twelfth annual eagle survey. It was a stormy day, with near blizzard conditions by midday. Ground observations were difficult, but project leader Jack Swedberg conducted a helicopter survey of the Quabbin Reservoir. He found 36 Bald Eagles, 24 adults and 12 immatures. Massachusetts began its eagle surveys in 1977, when 13 Bald Eagles were recorded. The state survey has been part of a nationwide program conducted since 1979. Eagle numbers in Massachusetts have fluctuated from a low of 8 eagles in 1979 to a high count of 56 eagles in 1986. In 1987 a total of 43 Bald and 2 Golden eagles was reported. Thirty-five of the Bald Eagles and both Golden Eagles were found at Quabbin. In the current census, 8 Bald Eagles were spotted along the Merrimac River in addition to the 36 birds that were logged at Quabbin.

On January 22, 1988, a young Bald Eagle was turned over by quarantine authorities in New York to Brad Blodget, state ornithologist of Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and taken by car to the Wildlife Clinic of the Tufts-New England Veterinary Medical Center in North Grafton. This bird is the famous eagle Iolar found in debilitated condition in a field in Killarney, County Kerry, Ireland, on November 18, 1987, by wildlife ranger Pat O'Connell of the Irish Department of Forests and Wildlife, who nursed the bird back to health on a diet of venison from his freezer. After it was finally identified as an immature Bald Eagle, wildlife officials could only speculate about its origin. Had the eagle flown three thousand miles across the Atlantic from North America or was it an escaped captive bird from some place in Europe? This issue remains unsettled.

On December 22, the Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey chose Aer Lingus to fly the bird to New York, where its health continued to improve during a thirty-day quarantine. It was then taken to the North Grafton clinic where Doctor Mark Pokras, wildlife veterinarian, tested Iolar to determine the bird's fitness for release.

A few weeks later, on February 17, a large crowd of Irish and American dignitaries, wildlife biologists, and media folk gathered at Quabbin for the eagle's return to the wild. Upon release, the bird flew to a tall pine tree and perched quietly for about fifteen minutes while an apprehensive audience wondered whether it would ever move. At last, to the immense relief of all, the bird took off moving along the tree tops and then "soared and soared and soared." The eagle, estimated to be eight months old, has been equipped with a radio transmitter and can be tracked and studied until the tail feathers molt and the device is lost. By that time, we should know more about the success of this Irish-American rehabilitation effort.

Robert H. Stymeist, Watertown

MYSTERY SOLVED: DEATH OF BABY WRENS

[Editor's Note: A field note by Barbara Hoglund (*Bird Observer*, August 1987, 15: 186) reported the discovery of nestling wrens, too young to fly, on the ground below a wren nest box. The baby wrens were ignored by the parents and subsequently died. She wondered how the nestlings had gotten out of the nest.]

Barbara Hoglund's account of the mysterious death of baby wrens matches an experience I had with wren nest boxes. I suspect the problem is House Sparrows or starlings that are pulling the young birds out. Wrens are particularly vulnerable to this problem if the nest box is not wide enough from front to back to let them place the cup of the nest sufficiently far back from the entrance hole. Most other cavity-nesting birds place the cup of their nest low in a nest box so that the depth of the box offers protection. But since wrens often stake out several nest sites to use for successive broods during the summer, they always fill each nesting site with twigs right up to the level of the entrance hole to make it unattractive to chickadees and other native cavity-nesters. This helps the wrens to keep control of unguarded nest sites. However, it also makes the nestlings vulnerable to jays, starlings, and House Sparrows if the shape of the box forces the wrens to place the cup of the nest too close to the entrance hole. Even if an intruder is too large to enter the nest box, he may be able to reach in far enough with his beak to grab hold and pull out small nestlings. Even if nestlings that are pulled from the nest are still alive, the adult wrens will not tend them on the ground.

I suspect the culprit in Barbara Hoglund's case is a House Sparrow or starling, not a jay, because jays pull young birds from nests to eat them, not to try to take over the nest site. The solution is to replace the current nest box with one that enables the wrens to position the cup of the nest well back from the entrance hole. I did that eight years ago and never had the problem again.

Richard F. Graefe, North Kingstown, RI

A SLEEPING CHICKADEE

On a cool afternoon in the fall, I was visiting Crooked Pond, Boxford, in search of a Barred Owl or Northern Goshawk. The path was rather silent except for distant aerial Golden-crowned Kinglets. Suddenly a small, familiarly patterned, black-and-white form flitted left to right across the road and disappeared just above eye level under a little spruce frond beside the path, not twenty feet away. It was a Black-capped Chickadee, and I pished at it gently as I approached softly. The bird was totally immobile, instantly frozen in his shaded spot. I came closer, gave a buzzy "dzeee-zee" -- no reaction. At three feet, I hissed a little; the bird ignored me totally. In the fading light, I could not tell whether his eyes were shut. I looked about me to see whether some nearby raptor had put the little fellow into this catatonic state but saw none. Nor was there evidence of other chickadees. Not wanting to bother the bird further, I made my rounds of the place and had another look some forty-five minutes later in deep dusk. The bird was in the same spot, evidently asleep. A mild screech-owl imitation had no effect. I asked myself whether birds are able to fall asleep in a matter of five seconds.

Have other observers had occasion to watch a passerine go to sleep?

Fred Bouchard, Dorchester

Editor's Note: When starlings fly into a roost tree at dusk, there is a period of much flying about accompanied by a great din until each bird finds a roost. Then, as if a switch is flipped, the conversation ceases in a moment. This abrupt silence was also observed when watching Jamaican Euphonias coming into a roost. One envisions several hundred sleepyheads nodding off at once.

After consulting J. C. Welty's *The Life of Birds* (Knopf, 1963, pp. 125-130), I think this abrupt quietude may be an adaptative reflex of small birds to conserve energy during the cool of the night. The smaller the bird, the greater the fluctuation in body temperature during a twenty-four-hour period. The House Wren has a variation of eight degrees C., the robin six degrees, and the domestic duck only one degree. In the cool dusk, as soon as a small bird ceases physical activity, its body temperature rapidly falls, and metabolism slows, producing somnolence as a reflex. This results in an adaptive lowering of energy requirements. A small bird alone like Fred's chickadee in the field note above would drop off at once. Communally roosting birds like the starlings can maintain body temperatures longer before sleep because of the heat produced by crowding. Hence there is a brief period of activity and chatter, but the same principle applies, and they fall abruptly silent.

D.R.A.

CRABBING HERON

At dawn one day in late summer I was driving by a salt water creek and saw there the lone silhouette of a heron. I stopped and scoped and found myself looking at an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*). Other than an occasional Greater Yellowlegs quickly passing by, the view in my scope remained motionless. There was no breeze, and for fifteen minutes the bird was frozen in position, upright and surprisingly long necked. Once every few minutes a drop of water dripped from the tip of its stout bill. Its head turned slowly right, craned out a bit, and after three quick steps, the heron plucked a green crab the size of a walnut from the shallow pool. It shook it many times never seeming hurried, and several of the crab's legs were broken off. The heron dropped its prey once, casually picked it up, and continued maneuvering it. The legs of the crab that were missing were all on the same side of the shell. When it swallowed this morsel, the heron adjusted it so that the legless side went down first. I thought -- could this have been done intentionally to allow easy passage or was it haphazard? I continued watching the bird, its neck feathers protruding out where the crab bulged in its throat. One upward stretch and the plumage of the neck was again smooth. The heron remained still but only for a moment. It quickly strode out of the water onto the mud bank where it turned to face the creek, then readjusted its posture to a more night-heronlike crouch. It stood among the old pilings and periwinkles, bold orange eyes staring with a level gaze across the stream and marsh. Again the bird was still, an occasional drop of water falling from the tip of its bill.

Robert Abrams, Milton

CORRIGENDUM

CORRIGENDUM to "Birding Duxbury Beach" by Mark J. Kasprzyk in *Bird Observer*, December 1987. The **Acknowledgments** paragraph on page 281 should read

Acknowledgments. I would like to thank Charlie Wood, Joe Grady, and Brian Harrington for supplying information and for offering helpful comments on this article. The Duxbury Reservation and the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society kindly gave us permission to use *The Duxbury Book, 1637-1987*, as a source of historical material.



Photo by Jane Cumming

FIELD RECORDS

AUGUST 1987

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

August 1987 was very sunny and on the cool and dry side. The temperature averaged 70.3 degrees, 1.6 degrees below normal. The highest temperature was 96 degrees on August 17; no other days reached 90 degrees. The low mark was 54 degrees on August 30. Rain totaled 2.93 inches, a little less than normal. Sunshine totaled 73% of possible. This August ties for the ninth sunniest August in ninety-five years of records. There was no heavy fog. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

A few Common Loons were scattered along coastal areas, and at Quabbin, 3 adults and 2 young were seen. Eighteen reports of Pied-billed Grebes were encouraging. A **Western Grebe** was observed by many people for two days in Newburyport Harbor.

It appeared that the concentration of seabird food had shifted from Stellwagen Bank to an area ten to twenty miles off Chatham. Only 9 shearwaters of 3 species were reported from Stellwagen Bank; no Cory's Shearwaters were found. Wilson's Storm-Petrels occurred in lower numbers than in recent years, and there were two reports of Leach's Storm-Petrels.

A **Red-billed Tropicbird** appeared at Gay Head in August, possibly the same bird as in 1986. Although the bird was seen only a few times, some birders who missed the bird last year made good use of the second chance. This was only the second sighting of this species for Massachusetts.

A subadult Great Cormorant was reported in Lakeville, the same location where an immature was observed last month. Four American Bitterns were reported from three locations. Great Blue Herons were well distributed. Great Egrets were found in good numbers, and the Plum Island roost of Snowy Egrets reached a maximum of at least 540 birds on August 2. A Cattle Egret on Plum Island was unusual. All other heron and ibis species were found in near normal numbers. G.d'E.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1987
Common Loon				
thr	Quabbin (G37)	3 ad + 2 yg max	M. Lynch#	
2, 30	Cuttyhunk	1, 2	P. Trimble	
1, 16	Nantucket Sound, P.I.	3, 1	B. Nikula, BBC (S. Whittum)	
Pied-billed Grebe				
1, 30	S. Monomoy	1 juv, 8	B. Nikula#	
20-30	P.I.	2 max	v. o.	
26, 30	E. Orleans, E. Sandwich	2, 1	A. + E. Williams, B. Porter	
22, 31; 23	DWWS, Scituate	2, 1; 1	D. Ludlow; W. Petersen#	
Western Grebe				
3-4	Newbypt Harbor	1	H. + N. Ober + v. o.	
Greater Shearwater				
1	off Chatham	30	W. Petersen#	
2	10-15 mi ESE Chatham	400+	R. Humphrey#	
8, 9	Stellw., 15-20 mi SE Chatham	3, 20	K. Holmes, B. Nikula#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1987
Sooty Shearwater				
2	10-15 mi ESE Chatham	50+	R. Humphrey#	
8	Stellwagen Bank	3	K. Holmes	
9	15-20 mi SE Chatham	4	B. Nikula#	
Manx Shearwater				
1;14, 16	off Chatham; Stellw.	2; 1, 2	W. Petersen#, P. Trimble	
9	15-20 mi SE Chatham	3	B. Nikula#	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
1	off Chatham	500	W. Petersen#	
2	10-15 mi ESE Chatham	500	R. Humphrey#	
9	15-20 mi SE Chatham	40+	B. Nikula#	
14	Stellwagen Bank	10	P. Trimble	
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
8	28 mi NE Plymouth	1	K. Holmes	
14	Stellwagen Bank	1	P. Trimble	
Red-billed Tropicbird				
6-30	Gay Head, M. V.	1 ad	v. o.	
Great Cormorant				
18	Lakeville	1 subadult	W. Petersen	
Double-crested Cormorant				
9	Belmont	45 migr	L. Taylor	
20	Milton	75 migr	W. Petersen	
20, 22	Monomoy, P.I.	900, 68	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
30	Lanesville, Cuttyhunk	150+, 200	J. Berry, P. Trimble	
American Bittern				
6	Bolton Flats	2	E. Salmela	
20, 22	Yarmouthport, P.I.	1, 1	J. Aylward, M. Lynch#	
Great Blue Heron				
thr	P.I.	13 max	v. o.	
5, 24	Bolton Flats	4, 3	E. Salmela	
9, 19	GMNWR	32, 19+	BBC (D. + D. Oliver), L. Taylor#	
20, 30	Lexington, Milford	7, 3	J. Carter, R. Hildreth	
Great Egret				
thr	P.I.	32 max	v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	25 max	LCES (J. Lyons)	
4; 1, 30	Duxbury; S. Monomoy	7; 3	K. Anderson; B. Nikula#	
23-28, 30	Scituate, Cuttyhunk	29 max, 1	v. o., P. Trimble	
Snowy Egret				
thr	P.I.	540+ roost (8/2)	v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	71 max 8/19	LCES (J. Lyons)	
5	Saugus	87	J. Nove	
14, 23	N. Monomoy, Scituate	20+, 125+	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen#	
Little Blue Heron				
2	P.I.	8 (3 ad, 2 pied, 3 imm)	J. Berry + R. Heil	
6; 23, 28	Scituate	1 ad; 1 imm	W. Petersen	
30	P.I.	1 imm	M. Lynch#	
Tricolored Heron				
8	P.I.	1	BBC (A. Bennett)	
8, 30	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	1, 1	B. Nikula#	
Cattle Egret				
2, 5	Ipswich	27, 46	J. Berry, J. + J. Nove	
9, 11	P.I., Essex	1 imm, 5	v. o., J. Brown	
Green-backed Heron				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5 max	LCES (J. Lyons)	
2	Milford, S. Carver	5, 2	M. Lynch#, N. Barry	
30	P.I.	6	M. Lynch#	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
thr	P.I.	8 max 8/1	v. o.	
thr	Yarmouthport	158 max	J. Aylward	
9	GMNWR	7	BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
2-9	P.I.	2 max	v. o.	
23, 30	Cuttyhunk	1 juv	P. Trimble	
29	Eastham	3 imm	W. Petersen	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1987
Glossy Ibis				
1	S. Monomoy	8+	B. Nikula	
2; 9, 22	P.I.	24; 3, 4	J. Berry; M. Lynch#	
4-11	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2	LCES (J. Lyons)	
23	Cuttyhunk	1	P. Trimble	

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

Wood Ducks were reported from several locations in average numbers. Northern Pintails with young and 150 Blue-winged Teal were present on South Monomoy. One male Eurasian Wigeon was found on Plum Island. Ring-necked Ducks were seen at two locations, and a single Lesser Scaup was observed at South Monomoy. There were small groups of eiders along the coast, but no scoters were reported, which is unusual for August. Eight Hooded Mergansers on Plum Island were more than usual, and there were 6 Ruddy Ducks on South Monomoy.

Vultures were scattered throughout the region with singles in six locations and 11 at Quabbin. Two reports of Ospreys from the Newburyport area were the first ones in August in the 1980s. Immature Bald Eagles were observed at Quabbin and South Monomoy. A Cooper's Hawk was noted at Bolton Flats, and an adult Northern Goshawk was present at Quabbin. A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks with 2 young was seen in East Middleboro. An early migrating Merlin was reported August 28; there were three reports last August all in the narrow span of August 28-31.

The Petersham flock of turkeys had young and numbered at least 21. Mount Auburn Cemetery had a Northern Bobwhite. A King Rail was seen and heard in Milford. Virginia and Sora rails were well represented. G.d'E.

Mute Swan				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	6 max 8/4	LCES (J. Lyons)	
9, 30	Ipswich, Cuttyhunk	6, 1	J. Brown, P. Trimble	
Canada Goose				
1, 18	Quabbin (G37)	45, 61	M. Lynch#	
16, 22	P.I., E. Sandwich	93, 72	M. Lynch#, B. Porter	
30	Cuttyhunk	160	P. Trimble	
31	Worcester (airport)	59	M. Lynch#	
Wood Duck				
1, 23	Quabbin (G37)	11, 38	M. Lynch#	
1, 16	P.I., Bolton Flats	9, 9	BBC (T. Prince), M. Lynch#	
9, 30	GMNWR, Uxbridge	50, 8	BBC (D. + D. Oliver), R. Hildreth	
2; 22, 30	Milford	20+; 10, 8	M. Lynch#, R. Hildreth	
Green-winged Teal				
1, 22	S. Monomoy, P.I.	8+, 34	B. Nikula#, M. Lynch#	
American Black Duck				
1, 30	S. Monomoy	40, 150	B. Nikula#	
21, 22	Winchester, P.I.	48, 152	B. Porter, M. Lynch#	
Mallard				
1, 30	S. Monomoy	20, 25	B. Nikula#	
Northern Pintail				
1, 30	S. Monomoy	25+/w yg, 15	W. Petersen#, B. Nikula#	
20	P.I.	1	W. Petersen	
Blue-winged Teal				
1, 30	S. Monomoy	15, 150	B. Nikula#	
1, 30	P.I.	8, 1	BBC (T. Prince), D. Chickering	
9, 14	GMNWR, DWWS	9, 22	BBC (D. + D. Oliver), D. Clapp	
23, 25	Quabbin (G37), Nauset Marsh	36, 75	M. Lynch#, J. Aylward#	
Northern Shoveler				
1, 30	S. Monomoy	5, 5	B. Nikula#	
Gadwall				
thr	P.I.	10	v. o.	
1, 30	S. Monomoy	5, 30	B. Nikula#	
9	Ipswich	2	J. Brown	
Eurasian Wigeon				
30	P.I.	1 m	M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1987
American Wigeon				
1, 22	S. Monomoy, P.I.	1, 9	W. Petersen#, M. Lynch#	
Ring-necked Duck				
18, 23	Lakeville, Quabbin (G37)	5, 1 imm f	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
Lesser Scaup				
1	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#	
Common Eider				
2, 30	Cuttyhunk	12, 3	P. Trimble	
30	N. Scituate, Gloucester	7, 22	G. d'Entremont#, J. Berry	
Hooded Merganser				
20, 30	P.I.	1, 8	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
23	Quabbin (G37)	2 imm	M. Lynch#	
Red-breasted Merganser				
2, 8	P.I.	1, 7	D. Chickering, BBC (A. Bennett)	
19	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Ruddy Duck				
1	S. Monomoy	6	v. o.	
Turkey Vulture				
1	Randolph	1	G. d'Entremont	
11	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Lyons)	
15, 16	Bolton Flats, N. Middleboro	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, K. Holmes	
23	Quabbin (G37)	11	M. Lynch#	
23	Ipswich, Essex	1, 1	J. Berry, R. Stymeist	
Osprey				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5 max 8/19	LCES (J. Lyons)	
2, 30	Cuttyhunk	5, 2	P. Trimble	
18, 20	Lakeville, P.I.	1 ad + 2 imm, 1	W. Petersen	
30	Milford, Newbypt	1, 1	R. Hildreth, M. Lynch#	
Bald Eagle				
1, 23	S. Monomoy, Quabbin (G37)	1 imm, 1 imm	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
Northern Harrier				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	3 max 8/11	LCES (J. Lyons)	
1, 30	S. Monomoy	1 f, 3 imm	B. Nikula#	
23, 30	Cuttyhunk, Naushon	3, 5	P. Trimble	
Cooper's Hawk				
16	Bolton Flats	1 imm	M. Lynch#	
Northern Goshawk				
1	Quabbin (G37)	1 ad	M. Lynch#	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
thr	E. Middleboro	pr + 2 yg	K. Anderson	
1, 23	Quabbin (G37)	4, 1	M. Lynch#	
30, 31	Tewksbury, DWWS	1, 1	M. Lynch#, D. Clapp	
Red-tailed Hawk				
16, 23	N. Middleboro, Quabbin (G37)	3, 3	K. Holmes, M. Lynch#	
30	S. Monomoy	1 imm	B. Nikula#	
American Kestrel				
16	Bolton Flats, ONWR	3, 2 ad + 3 imm	M. Lynch#	
22	P.I.	2	M. Lynch#	
30	Worcester (airport), Newbypt	3, 2	M. Lynch#	
Merlin				
28	Scituate	1 migr S	W. Petersen	
Peregrine Falcon				
21, 23	N. Monomoy, Hull	1, 1	D. Bechar, P. Thayer	
30	P.I.	1	D. Chickering	
Ring-necked Pheasant				
8, 20	P.I., Beverly (airport)	3, 1	BBC (A. Bennett), J. Brown	
Wild Turkey				
thr	Petersham (West St.)	21 max (w/ yg)	M. Lynch#	
Northern Bobwhite				
30	Mt. A., Canton (F.M.)	1, 2	R. Stymeist, BBC (D. Brown)	
King Rail				
2	Milford	1 seen + heard	M. Lynch#	
Virginia Rail				
1, 22	P.I.	3, 2	D. Chickering	
2	Milford	17 ad + 2 yg	M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1987
Virginia Rail (continued)				
2, 30	Westboro, Uxbridge	2, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Hildreth	
Sora				
1, 2	S. Monomoy, Milford	2 ad, 1	B. Nikula#, M. Lynch#	
9, 23	P.I., Ipswich	1, 1 juv injured	M. Lynch#, J. Berry#	
20, 29	GMNWR	1, 2	P. Overby	
Common Moorhen				
8	P.I.	1	BBC (A. Bennett)	
2; 22, 30	Milford	1; 1, 1	M. Lynch#; R. Hildreth	
23	Quabbin (G37)	1	M. Lynch#	

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

The annually recurrent Lesser Golden-Plover at Plymouth Beach that was discussed in the July records continued through most of August. Piping Plovers were noted at six locations, and Upland Sandpipers were noted at seven with 23 birds counted at Hanscom Air Force Base (AFB). Western Willets were observed at North Monomoy, where up to 600 Whimbrels came to an evening roost throughout the month. Forty-one Whimbrels were seen from a boat on the Parker River in the marshes behind the salt pans at Plum Island.

An observer in Annisquam noted a Whimbrel flying and calling overhead. This reminded him that he had hosted a friend there for the night some time ago, and they were sitting on the front porch with their drinks. He told his friend that he got one or two Whimbrels there every summer, whereupon the friend said, "This place? Nonsense!" Ten minutes later, they heard two Whimbrels. After the call was imitated, the two birds came down low, circled around about thirty feet from the porch, and flew off.

Also at North Monomoy were up to 100 Hudsonian Godwits and a maximum of five Marbled Godwits. Red Knot numbers were very low this year at Plymouth and Duxbury beaches and at North Monomoy. Numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers at those two beaches totaled over 3000 birds, and up to 2500 were seen at North Monomoy.

The Little Stint at Duxbury (for which details were received) continued from July. Previous records of this species were July and August of 1985 at Scituate, June 1986 at Monomoy, and August 1986 at Duxbury. Baird's Sandpipers were noted at three locations at month's end, and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was also seen at that time. A Curlew Sandpiper was reported from Plum Island, but no details were provided. A Spotted Redshank was reported from Plymouth by one observer. This species has been recorded in the state only once before. This was the bird at Plum Island on July 28, 1981, that was photographed (*BOEM* 9: 264, Oct. 1981). In the present case, only one observer saw the bird in question, and it must be left as problematical.

Two breeding-plumaged Atlantic Puffins were reported in Cape Cod Bay.

G.W.G.

Black-bellied Plover

8, 16, 23	N. Monomoy	150, 400, 800	B. Nikula
9, 30; 22	Newburyport-P.I.	125, 260; 500	M. Lynch#; J. Berry
24, 25	Duxbury, Plymouth	359, 342	M. Kasprzyk

Lesser Golden-Plover

1-25	Plymouth	1 (from July)	M. Kasprzyk
23, 24	Scituate, Duxbury	1 or 2, 2	M. Kasprzyk
23, 30	N. Monomoy, Newburyport	4 ad, 1	B. Nikula#, M. Lynch#
30-31	Hanscom AFB	4	J. Carter

Semipalmated Plover

thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	77 max 8/4	LCES (J. Lyons)
4, 18	Duxbury	200, 540	M. Kasprzyk
8, 23	N. Monomoy	300, 450	B. Nikula
9, 22	P.I.	200, 321	M. Lynch#
20, 28	Plymouth, Nahant	526, 94	M. Kasprzyk, G. Wood

Piping Plover

thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	8 max 8/4	LCES (J. Lyons)
1, 4	S. Monomoy, Duxbury	1 ad + 1 juv, 1 juv	W. Petersen, M. Kasprzyk
2, 23	Cutthunk	1, 2	P. Trimble

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1987
Piping Plover (continued)				
22, 23	N. Monomoy, Scituate	4, 1	B. Nikula, M. Kasprzyk	
Killdeer				
thr	P.I., Quabbin (G37)	21 max 8/23, 14	max 8/18	M. Lynch#
23	Squantum, Hamilton	20, 33	G. d'Entremont, R. Stymeist#	
American Oystercatcher				
thr	N. Monomoy, Hull	30 max 8/8, 3	B. Nikula#, P. Thayer	
2, 30	Cuttyhunk	5, 3	P. Trimble	
Greater Yellowlegs				
8, 22	N. Monomoy	100	B. Nikula	
9, 22	P.I.	70, 123	M. Lynch#	
29	Eastham	300	W. Petersen	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
9, 22	P.I.	60, 42	M. Lynch#	
Solitary Sandpiper				
6, 20	Bolton, P.I.	1, 1	E. Salmela, W. Petersen	
20, 30	Lexington, Northbridge	3, 2	J. Carter, R. Hildreth	
Willet				
1; 8, 22	Plymouth; N. Monomoy	4; 65, 10	K. Holmes; B. Nikula	
22, 23	P.I., Scituate	25, 1	G. d'Entremont, W. Petersen	
Western Willet				
8, 22	N. Monomoy	15, 6	B. Nikula	
Spotted Sandpiper				
thr	P.I.	9 max 8/2	v. o.	
1, 15	Quabbin (G37), N. Monomoy	4, 6	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
23, 30; 30	Cuttyhunk; Mt. A.	4, 3; 3	P. Trimble; R. Stymeist#	
Upland Sandpiper				
9, 22	Newburyport	1, 6	M. Lynch#	
16-21	DWWS	1-4	D. Ludlow	
17, 19	Hanscom AFB	23, 13	J. Carter	
18	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
19	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2	LCES (J. Lyons)	
30	Halifax, Worcester	6, 2	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
Whimbrel				
1-23	N. Monomoy	600 max 8/1	W. Harrington#, B. Nikula# + v. o.	
6, 28	Scituate	5, 6	W. Petersen	
18, 26	Annisquam, P.I.	1, 41	H. Wiggins, R. McHale#	
Hudsonian Godwit				
thr	N. Monomoy	100 max 8/8	B. Nikula + v. o.	
2-30	Newburyport-P.I.	54 max 8/16	v. o.	
23	Squantum	2	G. d'Entremont	
Marbled Godwit				
8, 8-22	P.I., N. Monomoy	1, 5 max	D. Chickering, v. o.	
Ruddy Turnstone				
thr	Winthrop	157 max 8/19	J. Cumming	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	7 max 8/19	LCES (J. Lyons)	
5-31	Hull	30-40	P. Thayer	
8, 23	N. Monomoy	170, 100	B. Nikula	
20, 24	Plymouth, Duxbury	61, 127	M. Kasprzyk	
Red Knot				
thr	Scituate	650 max 8/29	v. o.	
4; 8, 22	Duxbury; N. Monomoy	32; 350, 25	M. Kasprzyk#; B. Nikula	
Sanderling				
thr	N. Monomoy	1200 max 8/16	B. Nikula	
4, 18	Duxbury	300, 633	D. Clapp, M. Kasprzyk	
7; 28	Plymouth; Lynn, Nahant	372; 413, 117	M. Kasprzyk; G. Wood	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
4; 8, 22	Duxbury; N. Monomoy	1643; 2500, 700	M. Kasprzyk#, B. Nikula	
8, 13	E. Boston, Plymouth	60, 1400	J. Cumming, M. Kasprzyk#	
22; 28	P.I.; Lynn, Nahant	400; 73, 147	M. Lynch#; G. Wood	
Western Sandpiper				
6, 28; 18	Scituate; Halifax	1 ad, 6; 1	W. Petersen	
8, 22	N. Monomoy	1 ad, 1 juv	B. Nikula	
14, 24	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), Duxbury	2, 1 juv	LCES (J. Lyons), M. Kasprzyk	
30	P.I.	2	G. Gove	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1987
Little Stint (from July)				
1-8	Duxbury	1	M. Kasprzyk#	
Least Sandpiper				
thr	P.I.	350 max 8/22	v. o.	
2, 30	Halifax	24, 3	K. Anderson	
8, 22	N. Monomoy	220, 100	B. Nikula	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
thr	P.I.	40 max 8/9	v. o.	
thr	N. Monomoy	6 max 8/23	v. o.	
30	S. Monomoy	20	B. Nikula	
Baird's Sandpiper				
24, 30	Duxbury, S. Monomoy	1, 1	M. Kasprzyk, B. Nikula	
30, 31	P.I.	3, 3	L. Robinson#, R. Forster	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
1, 2	Quabbin (G37), Halifax	1, 3	M. Lynch#, K. Anderson	
1, 30	S. Monomoy	40, 2	B. Nikula	
12, 23	Lexington, Scituate	1, 1	J. Carter, M. Kasprzyk	
Dunlin				
1, 16	N. Monomoy	1, 1 br pl	W. Petersen#, E. Salmela	
Curlew Sandpiper (no details)				
11	P.I.	1	fide H. Weissberg	
Stilt Sandpiper				
1-22	P.I.	23 max 8/8	v. o.	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				
30	P.I.	1	G. Gove	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
2-22	P.I.	120 max 8/9	v. o.	
4, 7	Duxbury, Plymouth	100, 13	M. Kasprzyk#	
8, 16, 23	N. Monomoy	1500, 700, 40	B. Nikula	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
1, 20	P.I.	17, 60	G. Gove, W. Petersen	
1	N. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#	
Common Snipe				
9	Newburyport	1	M. Lynch#	
American Woodcock				
1, 15	Canton (F.M.), GMNWR	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, A. Williams	
20, 30	P.I., Uxbridge	1, 2	W. Petersen, R. Hildreth	
Wilson's Phalarope				
9; 13, 15	P.I.; N. Monomoy	5; 1, 2	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula	
8-9, 22	P.I., Newbury	1, 3	D. Chickering, J. Brown	
21	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Lyons)	
22	E. Boston	1	J. Cumming	
Red-necked Phalarope				
8, 30	Mass. Bay, N. Monomoy	1, 2	K. Holmes, B. Nikula	
Red Phalarope				
8	Mass. Bay	3	K. Holmes	
Parasitic Jaeger				
8, 15	N. Monomoy, Mass. Bay	2, 1	S. Perkins#, K. Holmes	
29	Eastham	1	W. Petersen	
Laughing Gull				
thr	Cuttyhunk	250 max 8/23	P. Trimble	
thr	Winthrop	70 max 8/4	J. Cumming	
14, 20	N. Monomoy, P.I.	70, 10 juv	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen	
25	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	75	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Little Gull				
5, 31	Winthrop, Newburyport	1 (2W), 1	J. Cumming, R. Forster	
Common Black-headed Gull				
8	Winthrop	3	J. Cumming	
20, 25	Newburyport	1 ad, 1	W. Petersen, D. Oliver	
31	Newburyport	1	R. Forster	
Bonaparte's Gull				
thr	Winthrop	400 max 8/30	J. Cumming	
thr	Newburyport	450 max 8/16	v. o.	
Ring-billed Gull				
4, 20	Duxbury, Newburyport	60, 700	D. Clapp, W. Petersen	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1987
Caspian Tern 18	P.I.	1	J. Brown	
Royal Tern 8	Mass. Bay	1	K. Holmes	
Roseate Tern 1, 20 25	N. Monomoy Muskeget	6, 2500 700	D. Morimoto#, B. Nikula B. Sorrie	
Common Tern 2, 23 2, 20	Cuttyhunk P.I., N. Monomoy	160, 60 20, 5000	P. Trimble J. Berry, B. Nikula	
Arctic Tern 1, 14	N. Monomoy	3, 3	D. Morimoto#, M. Lynch#	
Forster's Tern thr 9, 30 22, 24 23	N. Monomoy P.I., Newburyport DWWS, E. Orleans Rowley, Scituate	5 max 4, 4 2, 2 imm 4, 10	B. Nikula# M. Lynch# D. Ludlow, A.+E. Williams R. Stymcist, M. Kasprzyk	
Least Tern 2, 9 2, 30; 31	P.I. Cuttyhunk; Hyannis	10, 10 40, 1; 15	J. Berry, M. Lynch# P. Trimble	
Black Tern 15, 25 28, 30	N. Monomoy, Annisquam Barnstable, S. Monomoy	1, 1 2, 6	P. Trimble, H. Wiggin J. Aylward, B. Nikula	
Black Skimmer thr	N. Monomoy	7 max (4 ad + 3 juv)	B. Nikula# + v. o.	
Atlantic Puffin 15	Cape Cod Bay	2 br pl	R. McHale#	

CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

Common Nighthawks were on the move a little earlier than usual this year, with the bulk coming after August 20. The largest number seen on a single day was 1728 from nine locations on August 30.

Post-breeding dispersal and the start of fall migration for many species was evident during the month. A high count of 27 Eastern Wood-Pewees at Quabbin probably represents the last of family groups still together. Eastern Kingbirds were reported in large flocks at Bolton Flats in midmonth, and with them was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher that was present for two days, August 11 and 12. Over 10,000 Tree Swallows assembled at Plum Island on August 22, occupying almost every Phragmite stalk in Hellcat Swamp. Fish Crows continued to expand their range on the South Shore, with a flock of 35 birds noted together at Scituate. A nest with young was found on the rather late date of August 7 in Hanson. House Wrens had a late second brood of 6 in Annisquam, and on August 30 a pair of adults and 4 freshly-plumaged young were all taking a dirt bath together in a flower bed at Mt. Auburn Cemetery. Only 24 species of warblers were noted during the month, as compared with 30 last August. One observer stated the this year was positively the worst migration season ever, and he predicted a disaster for winter finches based on the complete absence of Red-breasted Nuthatches in his area.

Sparrow reports included good numbers of Sharp-tailed and Seaside, especially at Allens Pond in South Dartmouth, a traditional spot for these two species.

Unusual reports this August included a Loggerhead Shrike and Connecticut and Hooded warblers from Marshfield, a Blue Grosbeak in Cuttyhunk, and 1 or 2 Red Crossbills at Quabbin. R.H.S.

Black-billed Cuckoo 1, 2 21	Chatham, P.I. Winchester	1, 1 1	W. Petersen#, G. Gove B. Porter
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 6, 25 26-30	Bolton Flats Topsfield	1, 1 1	E. Salmela J. Brown
cuckoo species 21	Topsfield	1	J. Berry
Eastern Screech-Owl 23 23, 25	Quabbin (G37), Marshfield Ipswich	1, 1 1, 1	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen J. Berry

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1987
Great Horned Owl				
thr, 12	Ipswich, N. Middleboro	2, 2	J. Berry, K. Holmes	
12, 24	E. Orleans	1 ad + 1 yg, 1	E. Williams, A. + E. Williams	
18, 25	DWWS, E. Middleboro	1, 1	D. Ludlow, K. Anderson	
Barred Owl				
2, 12	Lincoln, N. Middleboro	1, 1	D. Bechar, K. Holmes	
23	Quabbin (G37)	1	M. Lynch#	
Long-eared Owl				
21	Topsfield	1	J. Brown	
Short-eared Owl				
15, 30	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	1, 1	P. Trimble, B. Nikula	
Common Nighthawk				
16-31	central MA	2176	v. o.	
20-31	Greater Boston	1551	v. o.	
18-31	South Shore	7	v. o.	
23-31	Cape Cod	5	v. o.	
21, 30	Topsfield, Tewksbury	1, 14 (at 1 P.M.)	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
Chimney Swift				
16	Stellwagen Bank	2	P. Trimble	
26	Worcester	60+	M. Lynch#	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
thr	E. Middleboro	2 or 3 at feeder	E. Salmela	
1	Canton	1	G. d'Entremont	
2, 9	P.I.	1, 1	G. Gove, D. Chickering	
6	N. Middleboro, Bolton Flats	1, 1	K. Holmes, E. Salmela	
16	Bolton Flats, E. Sandwich	1, 2	M. Lynch#, B. Porter	
23	Quabbin (G37)	1	M. Lynch#	
27-31	S. Carver	3 at feeder	J. Shaw	
Belted Kingfisher				
2, 9	Peabody, GMNWR	3, 2	J. Brown, BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
23	Quabbin (G37)	3	M. Lynch#	
Downy Woodpecker				
2, 30	Topsfield, Canton (F.M.)	5, 9	J. Brown, D. Brown#	
Hairy Woodpecker				
thr, 30	Quabbin (G37), Canton (F.M.)	5 max, 4	M. Lynch#, D. Brown#	
Northern Flicker				
30	Canton (F.M.)	15	D. Brown#	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
thr	Quabbin (G37)	27 max 8/23	M. Lynch#	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
23, 30	Marshfield, Waltham	1, 2	D. Ludlow, L. Taylor	
Willow Flycatcher				
2	P.I.	2	BBC (C. Floyd)	
9	GMNWR	2	BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
Least Flycatcher				
1, 16, 23	Quabbin (G37)	4, 7, 1	M. Lynch#	
23, 30	Marshfield, Canton (F.M.)	1, 1	W. Petersen, D. Brown#	
Empidonax species				
30	Waltham, Canton (F.M.)	10, 2	L. Taylor, D. Brown#	
Eastern Phoebe				
1, 30	Canton (F.M.)	3, 3	G. d'Entremont, D. Brown	
Great Crested Flycatcher				
1	P.I., Quabbin (G37)	2, 5	BBC (T. Prince), M. Lynch#	
7, 30	Topsfield, Canton (F.M.)	5, 1	J. Brown, D. Brown#	
Eastern Kingbird				
11, 16	Bolton Flats	100+, 109	E. Salmela#, M. Lynch#	
20, 23	P.I., Essex (Island Rd)	40+, 15	W. Petersen, R. Stymeist	
30	Cuttyhunk, DWWS	7, 10	P. Trimble, D. Morimoto	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher				
11-12	Bolton Flats	1	E. Salmela + v. o.	
Purple Martin				
thr	P.I.	20 max 8/2	v. o.	
Tree Swallow				
1, 23	Quabbin (G37)	568, 72	M. Lynch#	
2, 22	P.I.	100s, 10000+	J. Berry	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1987
N. Rough-winged Swallow				
2	Cuttyhunk	2	P. Trimble	
Bank Swallow				
thr	P.I.	5 max 8/16	v. o.	
2, 30	Cuttyhunk	10, 5	P. Trimble	
Cliff Swallow				
2, 11	Newbury, P.I.	7, 5	D. Chickering, D. F. Oliver	
Barn Swallow				
thr	P.I.	25 max 8/29	v. o.	
2, 30	Cuttyhunk	30, 100	P. Trimble	
11, 30	Bolton Flats, Uxbridge	60+, 10	M. Lynch#, R. Hildreth	
Fish Crow				
thr	Hanson	nest w/ yg 8/7	W. Petersen	
23	Scituate	35+	W. Petersen#	
Black-capped Chickadee				
thr	Quabbin (G37)	51 max 8/23	M. Lynch#	
Tufted Titmouse				
30	Canton (F.M.)	14	D. Brown#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
1	Quabbin (G37), Ipswich	3, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
18	Lakeville	4	W. Petersen	
White-breasted Nuthatch				
23, 30	Quabbin (G37), Canton (F.M.)	8, 6	M. Lynch#, D. Brown#	
Brown Creeper				
23	Quabbin (G37)	7	M. Lynch#	
Carolina Wren				
thr, 18	E. Middleboro, Bridgewater	1, 1	K. Anderson, W. Petersen	
19, 23	Hanson, Marshfield	1, 5	W. Petersen	
25	E. Orleans	2	A. Williams	
House Wren				
thr	Annisquam	pr raised 2 broods (6+ yg)	H. Wiggin	
8	Braintree	4	G. d'Entremont	
9, 25	Nantucket, Bolton Flats	1 b, 3	E. Andrews#, E. Salmela	
30	Mt. A.	6 (2 ad + 4 yg)	R. Stymeist	
Marsh Wren				
8	P.I.	30+	BBC (A. Bennett)	
9	GMNWR	8	BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
18	Lakeville	6 (breeders)	W. Petersen	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
1, 23	Quabbin (G37)	3, 6	M. Lynch#	
24, 26	E. Orleans	1	A. Williams	
Eastern Bluebird				
thr	E. Middleboro	pr w/ second brood	K. Anderson	
2, 5	Milford, Bolton Flats	1, 1 imm	M. Lynch#, E. Salmela	
23	Quabbin (G37)	1	M. Lynch#	
Veery				
1, 23	Quabbin (G37)	6, 3	M. Lynch#	
25, 30	E. Orleans, Holliston	1, 1	H. Williams, R. Hildreth	
Hermit Thrush				
1	Ipswich	1 singing	J. Berry	
1, 18, 23	Quabbin (G37)	18, 8, 7	M. Lynch#	
Wood Thrush				
1	Quabbin (G37), Winchester	1, 1	M. Lynch#, B. Porter	
30	Canton (F.M.)	4	D. Brown#	
American Robin				
16, 30	Bolton Flats, Worcester	64, 200+	M. Lynch#	
Gray Catbird				
16, 30	Bolton Flats, P.I.	18, 16	M. Lynch#	
30	Canton (F.M.)	75	D. Brown#	
Northern Mockingbird				
thr	P.I.	6 max	v. o.	
6, 30	Bolton Flats, Canton (F.M.)	10, 5	E. Salmela, D. Brown#	
Brown Thrasher				
8	P.I.	12	BBC (A. Bennett)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1987
Cedar Waxwing				
thr, 5	P.I., Bolton Flats	20+ max, 35	v. o., E. Salmela	
Loggerhead Shrike				
22-25	DWWS	1	D. Ludlow + v. o.	
Solitary Vireo				
1, 23	Quabbin (G37)	6, 4	M. Lynch#	
Yellow-throated Vireo				
16	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	
Warbling Vireo				
16	Bolton Flats	2	M. Lynch#	
23, 30	P.I., Waltham	1, 2	BBC (D. Dillavou), L. Taylor	
Philadelphia Vireo				
14, 24	DWWS, Chatham	1, 1	D. Clapp, R. Humphrey	
Red-eyed Vireo				
1, 23	Quabbin (G37)	21, 14	M. Lynch#	
30	P.I., Canton (F.M.)	6, 6	M. Lynch#, D. Brown#	
Blue-winged Warbler				
1, 30	Canton (F.M.)	4, 1	G. d'Entremont, D. Brown#	
4, 9	Nantucket, Waltham	1, 1	E. Andrews, L. Taylor	
23	MNWS	4	R. Stymeist#	
Golden-winged Warbler				
22	Marshfield	1 m	D. Clapp	
Tennessee Warbler				
24, 28	Nantucket, Worcester	1 b, 1	E. Andrews, M. Lynch#	
Nashville Warbler				
23, 29	Quabbin (G37), P.I.	1, 1	M. Lynch#, BBC (S. Moore)	
Yellow Warbler				
thr, 9	P.I., GMNWR	20+ max 8/8, 4	v. o., BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
30	Waltham, Canton (F.M.)	2, 2	L. Taylor, D. Brown#	
Magnolia Warbler				
23, 29	Quabbin (G37), P.I.	2, 4	M. Lynch#, BBC (S. Moore)	
Cape May Warbler				
2, 29	Annisquam, P.I.	2, 1	H. Wiggin, BBC (S. Moore)	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
29	P.I.	1	BBC (S. Moore)	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
1, 23	Quabbin (G37)	9 + 2 yg, 9	M. Lynch#	
8	P.I.	10+	BBC (A. Bennett)	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
29	P.I.	2	BBC (S. Moore)	
Blackburnian Warbler				
1, 23	Quabbin (G37)	2 ad + 1 nestling, 4	M. Lynch#	
16, 30	M.V., Waltham	1, 2	G. d'Entremont, L. Taylor	
Pine Warbler				
5-31, 23	E. Middleboro, Quabbin (G37)	2 m, 9	K. Anderson, M. Lynch#	
Prairie Warbler				
1, 22	S. Monomoy, Marshfield	1, 3	W. Petersen#, D. Clapp	
29, 30	P.I., Canton (F.M.)	1, 1	BBC (S. Moore), D. Brown#	
Bay-breasted Warbler				
11, 13	P.I., Annisquam	2, 1	D. F. Oliver, H. Wiggin	
23	Quabbin (G37), Chatham	2, 15+	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula	
Black-and-white Warbler				
1, 23	Quabbin (G37)	6, 6	M. Lynch#	
8, 9	P.I., Waltham	1, 1	BBC (A. Bennett), L. Taylor	
American Redstart				
9, 11, 30	Waltham (Met. State)	1, 2, 15+	L. Taylor	
23	Quabbin (G37), P.I.	6, 2	M. Lynch#, BBC (D. Dillavou)	
28, 30	Worcester, Canton (F.M.)	8, 5	M. Lynch#, D. Brown	
Ovenbird				
1, 23	Quabbin (G37)	11, 3	M. Lynch#	
Northern Waterthrush				
1	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	1, 1	D. Morimoto#, W. Petersen#	
7, 16	Nantucket, P.I.	1 b, 1	E. Andrews, BBC (S. Whittum)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1987
Connecticut Warbler				
23	Marshfield (Ferry Hill)	1	D. Ludlow, D. Clapp	
Mourning Warbler				
25	Nantucket	1 f b	E. Andrews#	
Common Yellowthroat				
thr	Canton (F.M.)	40 max 8/1	G. d'Entremont + v. o.	
thr	P.I.	15 max	v. o.	
1, 23	Quabbin (G37)	12, 6	M. Lynch#	
9, 23	GMNWR, Bolton Flats	6, 22	BBC (D. + D. Oliver), M. Lynch#	
Hooded Warbler				
31	DWWS	1 f	D. Ludlow	
Canada Warbler				
4, 18	Norwell, Quabbin (G37)	1, 5	D. Clapp, M. Lynch#	
30	Waltham, Canton (F.M.)	3, 1	L. Taylor, D. Brown#	
Scarlet Tanager				
1, 18, 23	Quabbin (G37)	5, 4, 8	M. Lynch#	
2, 30	Lincoln, Canton (F.M.)	1, 4	D. Bechar, D. Brown#	
30	Waltham (Met. State)	6	L. Taylor	
Northern Cardinal				
8, 30	E. Sandwich, Canton (F.M.)	7, 8	B. Porter, D. Brown#	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
16	Bolton Flats	5	M. Lynch#	
30	Canton (F.M.)	7	D. Brown#	
Blue Grosbeak				
30	Cuttyhunk	1	P. Trimble	
Indigo Bunting				
6, 25	Bolton Flats	3, 3	E. Salmela	
Chipping Sparrow				
1, thr	S. Monomoy, Hopkinton	1, 16-20	W. Petersen, G. Gove#	
Field Sparrow				
22	Milford	7	R. Hildreth	
Vesper Sparrow				
19	DWWS	1	D. Ludlow	
Savannah Sparrow				
16, 31	Bolton Flats, Worcester	10, 4	M. Lynch#	
Grasshopper Sparrow				
4-11	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	25 max 8/11	LCES (J. Lyons)	
2	P.I.	9 or 10, 4 yg in nest	J. Berry	
14	N. Monomoy	20+	M. Lynch#	
Seaside Sparrow				
9, 26, 30	P.I.	1, 1+, 2	M. Lynch#, I. Giriunas#, G. Gove#	
11	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	7	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Song Sparrow				
thr	P.I.	20+ max	v. o.	
1, 23	Quabbin (G37)	11, 9	M. Lynch#	
2, 9	Milford, GMNWR	15+, 19	M. Lynch#, BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
11, 16	Bolton Flats	30+, 87	M. Lynch#	
30	Canton (F.M.)	30	D. Brown#	
Swamp Sparrow				
11	Bolton Flats	15+	M. Lynch#	
White-throated Sparrow				
23	Quabbin (G37)	1 imm	M. Lynch#	
Bobolink				
11, 16	Bolton Flats	120+, 157	M. Lynch#	
19, 30	GMNWR, Northbridge	25, 15	L. Taylor#, R. Hildreth	
30	DFWS, Halifax	50, 100	P. Overby, W. Petersen	
Red-winged Blackbird				
16	Bolton Flats	300+	M. Lynch#	
30	P.I.	1 f feeding yg	M. Lynch#	
Eastern Meadowlark				
11, 18	Essex, Newbypt	5, 3	J. Brown	
30	Worcester (airport)	3	M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1987
Common Grackle				
11	Bolton Flats	1000+	M. Lynch#	
23	Quabbin (G37)	123	M. Lynch#	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
1	Quabbin (G37)	1 yg	M. Lynch#	
Northern Oriole				
2, 8	Winchester, Randolph	3, 7	B. Porter, G. d'Entremont	
28	Worcester, E. Sandwich	4, 6	M. Lynch#, B. Porter	
Purple Finch				
thr	P.I.	4 or 5	v. o.	
Red Crossbill				
1, 18, 23	Quabbin (G37)	1 m, 1, 2	M. Lynch#	
American Goldfinch				
9	GMNWR	14	BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
15	Wayland	30	BBC (B. Howell)	

CORRIGENDUM TO JUNE 1987 RECORDS

Brown Pelican				
15-17	Lawrence	1	fide B. Blodget + v. o.	
should read				
15-17	Lawrence	1	S. Moore + v. o.	
American Oystercatcher				
3	Orleans (South B.)	pr at nest	R. Humphrey#	
should read				
3	Chatham (South B.)	pr at nest	R. Humphrey#	

CORRIGENDUM TO JULY 1987 RECORDS

Kentucky Warbler				
23	Westminster	1 ad feeding yg	C. Quinlan, R. Jenkins	
should read				
23	Westminster	1 ad	C. Quinlan, R. Jenkins	

It was suggested that a young bird may have been present but no feeding was actually seen; in fact, no nest was ever found, and breeding should remain unconfirmed in Massachusetts.

FIELD RECORDS



SEPTEMBER 1987

by George W. Gove and Robert H. Stymeist

September was a very cloudy and wet month. The temperature averaged 65.4 degrees, and no temperature records were broken. The high mark was 86 degrees on September 9, and the lowest temperature was 48 degrees on September 26. Rain totaled 7.29 inches, 3.88 inches more than normal, and the most in September since 1958. Sunshine was only 47% of possible. Fog was rather frequent. Northwest winds were recorded on September 1, 3, 10, 25, and 27. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

Common Loons appeared at coastal locations with 24 at Marshfield, and one was heard calling at Duxbury. Pied-billed Grebes increased through the month with 13 counted at Lakeville. Poor pelagic birding continued through September, and the numbers of birds seen were low compared to previous years.

The reporter of the two Leach's Storm-Petrels said that they were picked up by a friend after landing on a cruise ship at an estimated 100 miles off the Massachusetts coast a day or two prior to September 22. The weather was foggy. When the reporter examined them, the smudgy stripe down the rump and the forked tail were evident. The reporter and friend took them to the beach and released them, and after some strenuous flapping, the birds got underway.

An evening roost of Double-crested Cormorants at Monomoy contained 500 birds, and an estimated 5000 in a migrating flock passed over Ipswich in a 20 to 30 minute period. G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1987
Common Loon				
5, 6	Scituate, N. Monomoy	2, 2	W. Petersen, BBC (W. Drummond)	
19, 20	Marshfield, Duxbury	24, 7	D. Clapp#, M. Lynch#	
24, 27	Duxbury, Cuttyhunk	2 (1 calling), 2	J. Berry#, P. Trimble	
Pied-billed Grebe				
thr	DWWS	2	D. Ludlow + v.o.	
3, 26	S. Monomoy	8, 4	B. Nikula	
5, 27	Lakeville	6, 13	W. Petersen	
10-26, 26	P.I., Arlington	6 max 9/26, 6	v. o., L. Taylor	
Northern Fulmar				
13	E of Wellfleet	1	B. Nikula	
Cory's Shearwater				
13, 16	E of Wellfleet, off Nantucket	1, 1	B. Nikula, J. Brown	
Greater Shearwater				
13, 15	E of Wellfleet, Provincetown	20, 1	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
16	off Nantucket	100	J. Brown	
Sooty Shearwater				
16	off Nantucket	2	J. Brown	
Manx Shearwater				
13, 27	E of Wellfleet, Cape Cod Bay	1, 1	B. Nikula, P. Alden#	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
13, 16	E of Wellfleet, off Nantucket	100, 60	B. Nikula, J. Brown	
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
19, 22	Provincetown, "at sea"	1 or 2, 2	W. Petersen#, fide J. Berry	
Northern Gannet				
15, 19	Provincetown	22, 3	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen#	
22	Duxbury	1	D. F. Oliver	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1987
Great Cormorant				
5, 6	Lakeville, Provincetown	1, 1 imm	W. Petersen#, G. d'Entremont#	
17, 18-30	Orleans, Lexington	2, 1 imm	B. Nikula, R. Forster	
24, 27	Rockport, Cuttyhunk	3, 2	D. F. Oliver, P. Trimble	
Double-crested Cormorant				
4, 12	N. Monomoy, Clinton	500, 200	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
17, 26	Ipswich, P.I.	5000, 100	R. McHale, BBC (G. Gove)	
27	Cuttyhunk	250	P. Trimble	

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Up to 50 Great Egrets and 105 Snowy Egrets were at Allens Pond, and 35 Great Egrets and 400 Snowy Egrets were at Plum Island where 11 Little Blue Herons were also seen. Only one Tricolored Heron was reported this month. Cattle Egrets were present at Ipswich early in the month, and Green-backed Herons were noted throughout the month. There were four reports of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, and Glossy Ibis were present to September 20.

Male Eurasian Wigeons were seen at Plum Island and at Great Meadows NWR; both appeared to be first-year males. Numbers of Ring-necked Ducks built up through the month, and in Scituate, 200 Common Eider included no adult males.

G.W.G.

American Bittern				
5, 26	P.I.	1, 1	v.o., BBC (G. Gove)	
15, 24	N. Monomoy, GMNWR	1, 1	B. Nikula, S. Sclesky#	
Great Blue Heron				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	22 max 9/4	LCES (J. Lyons)	
6, 15	Westport, Eastham	42, 32	R. Stymcist#, M. Lynch#	
26	P.I.	30	BBC (G. Gove)	
Great Egret				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	50 max 9/4	LCES (J. Lyons)	
1, 1-26	P.I., S. Monomoy	35, 3	J. Berry, B. Nikula	
6	Westport, S. Dartmouth	25, 10	R. Stymcist#	
Snowy Egret				
thr	P.I.	400 max 9/1	v.o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	105 max 9/4	LCES (J. Lyons)	
4, 6	Cohasset, N. Monomoy	93, 50	D. Clapp, BBC (W. Drummond)	
6, 17	S. Monomoy, Nantucket	20, 25	P. Trimble, J. Brown	
Little Blue Heron				
5	Scituate, Essex	2, 1 ad.	W. Petersen#, K. Griffis#	
5	P.I.	11	I. Giriunas#	
4, 10, 15	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	4, 6, 2	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Tricolored Heron				
3-15	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#	
Cattle Egret				
3	Ipswich	14	J. Berry	
Green-backed Heron				
6	P.I., Westport	4, 3	M. Lynch#, R. Stymcist#	
19, 26	Weymouth, Scituate	1, 2	G. d'Entremont#, W. Petersen	
15, 24	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5, 1	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
1-25	Yarmouthport	137 max	J. Aylward	
6, 27	S. Monomoy, Squantum	18, 40	P. Trimble, G. d'Entremont#	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
10; 14, 16	P.I.; Eastham	1 ad + 1 imm; 1, 1	R. Forster; B. Nikula#	
Glossy Ibis				
1; 3, 5	P.I.; S. Monomoy	3; 4	J. Berry; B. Nikula#	
20	Duxbury	1	M. Lynch#	
Mute Swan				
6, 26	Acoaxet, P.I.	82, 3	R. Stymcist#, BBC (G. Gove)	
13	M. V.	50	J. Brown	
Canada Goose				
thr	P.I.	400 max 9/5	BBC (J. Center)	
Wood Duck				
6, 27; 7, 26	Holliston; Milford	12, 9; 13, 20	R. Hildreth	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1987
Green-winged Teal				
thr	S. Monomoy	300 max	v.o.	
26	P.I.	200	BBC (G. Gove)	
American Black Duck				
3, 26; 12	S. Monomoy; P.I.	120, 150; 120	B. Nikula; M. Lynch#	
24, 29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	149, 223	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Northern Pintail				
5, 26	P.I.	1, 4	G. d'Entremont#, BBC (G. Gove)	
3, 26; 26	S. Monomoy; E. Sandwich	15, 6; 3 f	B. Nikula; B. Porter	
Blue-winged Teal				
3, 26; 19	S. Monomoy; Provincetown	200, 60; 40	B. Nikula; P. Trimble	
5, 13	P.I., M. V.	35, 30	I. Giriunas, J. Brown	
Northern Shoveler				
3-26	S. Monomoy	30 max 9/26	v.o.	
5-26	P.I.	12 max 9/10	v.o.	
19	Provincetown	10	P. Trimble	
Gadwall				
3, 26; 6	S. Monomoy; P.I.	40, 8; 4	B. Nikula; M. Lynch#	
Eurasian Wigeon				
2, 29	P.I., GMNWR	1 m, 1 m	D. F. Oliver, S. Selesky#	
American Wigeon				
3, 26	S. Monomoy	6, 80	B. Nikula	
6-26	P.I.	20 max	v.o.	
Ring-necked Duck				
5, 27	Lakeville	85, 250	W. Petersen#	
5, 27	W. Newbury	8, 50	R. Forster, D. F. Oliver	
Greater Scaup				
27	Lakeville, W. Newbury	2, 3	W. Petersen, D. F. Oliver	
scaup species				
26	S. Monomoy	10	B. Nikula	
Common Eider				
5, 26	Scituate	125, 200	W. Petersen, G. d'Entremont#	
6, 27	S. Dartmouth, Cuttyhunk	6, 16	R. Stymeist#, P. Trimble	
King Eider				
27	Rockport	1 imm m	M. Lynch#	
Oldsquaw				
27	Rockport	7 (1W)	M. Lynch#	
Black Scoter				
27	Cuttyhunk	6	P. Trimble	
Surf Scoter				
27	Rockport, Cuttyhunk	43, 20	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
White-winged Scoter				
5, 6	Scituate, S. Monomoy	1, 4	W. Petersen, P. Trimble	
26, 27	P.I., Cuttyhunk	24, 35	BBC (G. Gove), P. Trimble	
Hooded Merganser				
26	P.I.	2	BBC (G. Gove)	
Common Merganser				
20	Duxbury	2	P. Trimble	
Red-breasted Merganser				
6, 27	N. Monomoy, Rockport	4, 20	BBC (W. Drummond), M. Lynch#	
Ruddy Duck				
3, 26	S. Monomoy	2, 40	B. Nikula	
26, 27	Arlington, Lakeville	2, 2	L. Taylor, W. Petersen	

HAWKS THROUGH GROUSE

A Mississippi Kite was seen at the Bolton Flats Wildlife Management Area. It appeared to be hawking for insects as its flight was similar to a swallow or a nighthawk with a lot of banking and gliding. The bird was described as appearing like a large falcon having long pointed wings and a long triangularly-shaped tail. It appeared totally dark ventrally when the observer was not using optics but with binoculars, appeared grayish with a lighter head. It was about the size of a Peregrine or slightly smaller. The observer concluded that it was an adult Mississippi Kite and consulting a field guide confirmed this. It was apparently seen again the next day.

A total of 18 migrant Turkey Vultures was reported from Wachusett Mountain; many others were seen but were considered local birds. The reports from the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch (EMHW) and the totals listed are for 21 days of hawkwatching. Both Bald and Golden eagles were noted, the latter a single bird. The Broad-winged Hawk reports were interesting; note the dramatic rise and fall in the numbers reported up to and after September 17.

Broad-winged Hawks at Wachusett Mountain

September	3	15	16	17	21	28
Number	1	3820	5368	10095	1045	2

Of interest in the Peregrine Falcon reports is that there were none from Boston.

G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1987
Turkey Vulture				
thr	Wachusett	7 max 9/15, 18 total	EMHW	
9, 16	W. Boylston, Lancaster	3, 2	M. Lynch#	
26, 27	Quabbin (G40), Salisbury	5, 8	M. Lynch#, R. McHale	
Osprey				
thr	Wachusett	41 max 9/17, 271 total	EMHW	
1, 6	Mt. A., Westport	2, 18	R. Stymeist#	
16	Bolton	4	D. F. Oliver	
16-27	Reports of 1 or 2 from 8 locations.			
Mississippi Kite				
14, 15	Bolton	1 ad, 1 ad	E. Salmela, J. Barton	
Bald Eagle				
thr	Wachusett	3 max 9/17, 7 total	EMHW	
17, 24	Lancaster	1, 1	EMHW	
Northern Harrier				
thr	P.I., Wachusett	1-6, 42 total	v.o., EMHW	
6, 10-27	S. Monomoy, Bolton	8, 1-3	P. Trimble, E. Salmela	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
thr	Wachusett	100 max 9/24, 499 total	EMHW	
1; 5, 15, 26	Mt. A.; Waltham	2; 1, 1, 2	R. Stymeist#; L. Taylor	
16, 26	Bolton, Quabbin (G40)	10, 5	D. F. Oliver, M. Lynch#	
21, 27	Lancaster, Cuttyhunk	41, 3	EMHW, P. Trimble	
Cooper's Hawk				
thr	Wachusett	4 max 9/16, 7 total	EMHW	
6; 9, 16	Truro; Bolton	1; 1, 1	G. d'Entremont#; v. o.	
27	Cuttyhunk, Belmont	1, 1	P. Trimble, BBC (R. Clayton)	
Northern Goshawk				
3, 23, 24	Wachusett	1, 1, 2	EMHW	
26	Quabbin (G40)	1 imm	M. Lynch#	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
5, 27	Bridgewater, Lakeville	1, 3	W. Petersen	
9, 16	Bolton	1, 2	M. Lynch#	
10, 22, 23	Wachusett	2, 2, 1	EMHW	
Broad-winged Hawk				
thr	Wachusett	21704 total	EMHW	
3, 16	Hanscom AFB, Bolton	1, 9	J. Carter, D. F. Oliver	
27	Cuttyhunk, W. Newbury	1, 1	P. Trimble, D. F. Oliver	
Swanson's Hawk				
9	P'town (Race Pt)	1	R. Guthrie	
Red-tailed Hawk				
thr	Wachusett	35 total	EMHW	
Golden Eagle				
17	Wachusett	1	EMHW	
American Kestrel				
thr	Wachusett	85 total	EMHW	
1	Carlisle, P.I.	2, 4	P. Overby, D. F. Oliver	
5, 6	Otis AFB, Wellfleet	8, 4	P. Trimble, G. d'Entremont#	
7-16	Bolton	29 total	M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1987
Merlin				
6, 12	P.I., Bolton	1, 3	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont#	
19	Truro, Provincetown	3, 2	P. Trimble	
22, 27	Duxbury, Cuttyhunk	2, 3	D. F. Oliver, P. Trimble	
12-27	Reports of a total of 22 birds from 10 locations.			
Peregrine Falcon				
1, 5, 14	P.I., Newbury, Wachusett	1, 1, 1	J. Carter#, D. F. Oliver, EMHW	
20, 27	Duxbury, Cuttyhunk	2, 2	P. Trimble	
25, 26	Nantucket, P.I.	1, 1 ad + 1 imm	E. Andrews#, BBC (G. Gove)	
26, 27	S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy	1, 1	B. Nikula	
Ruffed Grouse				
26	Quabbin (G40)	2	M. Lynch#	

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A **Yellow Rail** was seen very briefly in the edge of a saltmarsh at Third Cliff, Scituate. The observer noted a small, tan-colored rail with a short, stubby bill flush and fly, with legs dangling, a few yards into the marsh. The bird was about the size of a Fox Sparrow but with longer wings. Because of the angle of flight and the brief look, the observer did not see the white wing patches of the Yellow Rail. A search of the area of the marsh where the bird apparently landed proved fruitless, and the bird was not seen again. The observer had no doubt that what he had seen was a Yellow Rail, a species that he had seen previously in Massachusetts and in Canada. The location, date, and the flood tide conditions were in keeping with the species' status in the state.

A **Purple Gallinule** was photographed on South Monomoy, and American Coot appeared in late September. There were reports from many locations of Lesser Golden-Plover. The most reports and the highest numbers of Killdeer occurred around September 5. American Oystercatcher numbers were low for September; the Monomoy birds may be dispersing to South Monomoy and to the new island formed by the breach of North Beach in Chatham. Two **American Avocets** were found. Hudsonian Godwit numbers were high for September on North Monomoy, where up to 6 Marbled Godwits were also present. Red Knots continue in low numbers. The 250 White-rumped Sandpipers at North Monomoy compares to 100 there and 600 to 800 at Plum Island last September. Baird's and Buff-breasted sandpipers continued from August. Note the impressive increase in Dunlin numbers over the month.

The bird record of the year, if not the century, was that of the **Cox's Sandpiper**, of course. That record was discussed at length in the last issue of *Bird Observer* and will undoubtedly be discussed in the future in this journal and elsewhere. Of interest also is the fact that Cox's Sandpiper was found again in Australia this fall. G.W.G.

Yellow Rail			
26	Scituate	1	W. Petersen
Clapper Rail			
15	Eastham	1	M. Lynch#
Sora			
15, 22	GMNWR	1, 1	D. F. Oliver
24, 26	Peabody, Milford	2, 1	P. Comas#, R. Hildreth
Purple Gallinule			
5-6	S. Monomoy	1 imm (ph)	B. Nikula
Common Moorhen			
5	P.I., S. Monomoy	1 imm, 1 imm	R. Forster, B. Nikula
26, 28	Milford, GMNWR	1, 1 imm	R. Hildreth, R. Forster
American Coot			
27, 28	Lakeville, GMNWR	1, 2	W. Petersen, R. Forster
Black-bellied Plover			
1; 5	P.I.; P.I., Newbury	500; 400, 150	J. Berry; D. F. Oliver
5, 18, 27	N. Monomoy	700, 1000, 900	B. Nikula
24	Duxbury	200	J. Berry
Lesser Golden-Plover			
thr	P.I.	1-3	v. o.
1-16	Hanscom AFB	2 or 3	J. Carter
1, 8, 20	Nantucket	8, 1, 3	E. Andrews#
3-15, 15-27	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	2-5, 1 or 2	B. Nikula

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1987
Semipalmated Plover				
1-6	P.I.	300 max 9/5	v.o.	
5, 18, 27	N. Monomoy	300, 50, 35	B. Nikula	
Piping Plover				
6; 18, 27	N. Monomoy	4; 1, 5	BBC (W. Drummond); B. Nikula	
Killdeer				
5	Bridgewater, Rockland, Plymouth	36, 31, 40	W. Petersen	
5	Otis AFB, Hamilton	10, 30	P. Trimble, R. Stymeist#	
6, 19	Ipswich, Truro	20, 12	J. Berry, P. Trimble	
American Oystercatcher				
thr	N. Monomoy	22 max 9/14	v.o.	
27	Cuttyhunk	2	P. Trimble	
American Avocet				
5-7	P.I.	1 basic pl	D. F. Oliver + v.o.	
10	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Greater Yellowlegs				
4, 5	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), P.I.	53, 250	LCES (J. Lyons), BBC (J. Center)	
6, 26	N. Monomoy, E. Sandwich	50, 24	BBC (W. Drummond), B. Porter	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
2; 6, 12	Topsfield; P.I.-Newburyport	3; 32, 40	B. Porter; M. Lynch#	
Solitary Sandpiper				
1, 5	DFWS, S. Monomoy	1, 2	P. Overby, B. Nikula	
6	Truro, Provincetown	8, 3	G. d'Entremont#	
15, 26	WBWS, Belmont	3, 2	M. Lynch#, L. Taylor	
Willet				
5	Newbury, P.I.	3, 3	D. F. Oliver, R. Forster	
5, 15, 27	N. Monomoy	5, 20, 1	B. Nikula	
10, 26	Ipswich, P.I.	3, 1	R. Forster, BBC (G. Gove)	
Spotted Sandpiper				
6, 19	S. Dartmouth, Duxbury	8, 1	R. Stymeist#, W. Petersen	
12, 27	Provincetown, W. Newbury	2, 2	D. F. Oliver	
Upland Sandpiper				
1-6, 5	Hanscom AFB, Halifax	7 max 9/1, 1	J. Carter, W. Petersen#	
6	P.I., Nantucket	1, 8	M. Lynch#, E. Andrews#	
Whimbrel				
thr	P.I.	16 max 9/6	v.o.	
2, 5	Chatham, Scituate	35, 8	J. Aylward, W. Petersen	
15, 17	N. Monomoy, Nantucket	25, 11	B. Nikula, J. Brown	
Hudsonian Godwit				
thr	P.I.	15 max 9/6	v.o.	
5, 15, 18	N. Monomoy	45, 12, 2	B. Nikula	
Marbled Godwit				
5, 15, 18	N. Monomoy	2, 6, 4	B. Nikula	
Ruddy Turnstone				
2, 3	Winthrop, Lexington	4, 1	J. Cumming, J. Carter	
6	N. Monomoy, S. Dartmouth	12, 25	BBC (W. Drummond), R. Stymeist#	
20, 24	Duxbury	30, 10	M. Lynch#, J. Berry#	
Red Knot				
5, 18, 27	N. Monomoy	50, 40, 15	B. Nikula	
10, 26	P.I.	6, 2	D. F. Oliver, BBC (G. Gove)	
20	Duxbury	30	M. Lynch#	
Sanderling				
5, 18, 27	N. Monomoy	500, 500, 1100	B. Nikula	
24	Duxbury	50	J. Berry	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
1, 24	P.I., Duxbury	200, 300	J. Berry#	
5, 18, 27	N. Monomoy	150, 80, 30	B. Nikula	
Western Sandpiper				
4-12	P.I.	10 max 9/12	v.o.	
5, 7	Newbury, Scituate	3, 8	D. F. Oliver, W. Petersen	
17, 18	Eastham, N. Monomoy	15, 2	B. Nikula	
20	Duxbury	4	M. Lynch#	
Least Sandpiper				
5, 18, 27	N. Monomoy	50, 15, 15	B. Nikula	
6, 10	P.I., Newbury	175, 20	M. Lynch#, D. F. Oliver	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1987
White-rumped Sandpiper				
1, 4; 5	P.I.; Newburyport	3, 11; 86	D. F. Oliver; G. Gove	
5, 18, 27	N. Monomoy	5, 250, 20	B. Nikula	
10, 12	Newburyport, P.I.	90, 35	R. Forster, G. d'Entremont#	
Baird's Sandpiper				
1-6, 7	P.I., Scituate	3 max, 1	v.o., W. Petersen	
15, 27-28	S. Monomoy, Squantum	5, 1	L. Jonsson#, G. d'Entremont#	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
1, 12	P.I.	3, 2	D. F. Oliver, J. Berry#	
Cox's Sandpiper				
16-22	Duxbury Beach	1 ph	M. Kasprzyk# + v. o.	
Purple Sandpiper				
26	N. Scituate	1	W. Petersen	
Dunlin				
5, 26	P.I.	1, 150	I. Giriunas#, BBC (G. Gove)	
5, 18, 27	N. Monomoy	1, 100, 1000	B. Nikula	
Stilt Sandpiper				
1-27	P.I.	10 max 9/6	v. o.	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				
1-7, 8	P.I., Nantucket	1 (from Aug), 2	v. o., E. Andrews#	
5, 15; 16	S. Monomoy, WBWS	1 or 2, 2; 1	S. Perkins#, L. Jonsson#; B. Nikula	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
1-4, 5	Barnstable, P.I.	55, 100	J. Aylward, BBC (J. Center)	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
6, 27; 20	P.I.; Duxbury	10, 15; 1	M. Lynch#; W. Petersen	
Common Snipe				
1, 27	P.I., Peabody	1, 1	D. F. Oliver	
12	S. Monomoy	4	D. Holt	
American Woodcock				
27	Hamilton	1	J. Berry	
Wilson's Phalarope				
3, 5	S. Monomoy	2, 3	B. Nikula	
6, 8	Acoaxet, Nantucket	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, E. Andrews#	
Red-necked Phalarope				
13, 16	E of Chatham, Nantucket	10, 1	B. Nikula, E. Andrews#	

GULLS THROUGH SKIMMERS

As many as 2500 Laughing Gulls were noted at Cuttyhunk at month's end, perhaps congregating for a southward flight since most individuals of this species should be gone from our area by mid-November. Little Gulls have been uncommon in the records this year, and there was but one report of this species and of Common Black-headed Gull this month. A young Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen sporadically during the month in the Brighton area; others were seen at Plum Island, Nantucket, and Scituate, the latter being the youngest of this species that the reporter has seen in Massachusetts. Two Sabine's Gulls were also noted, one inshore.

A **Gull-billed Tern** was found in Lynn, apparently ill. It was caught, nursed back to health, and released. This is the first September record of this species in *Bird Observer* records. The roost of Common and Roseate terns on Monomoy was down from the past few years' totals of 10 to 15 thousand. Up to 20 Black Terns were present on South Monomoy through most of the month, and 8 were noted on North Monomoy, where a maximum of 10 Black Skimmers was also seen. G.W.G.

Pomarine Jaeger				
16, 19	off Nantucket, N. Truro	4, 1	J. Brown, P. Trimble	
24	Nantucket	2	A. Bennett#	
Parasitic Jaeger				
19	Eastham, Marshfield	3, 1	W. Petersen, D. Clapp#	
19, 20	N. Truro, Dennis	4, 1	P. Trimble, B. Nikula	
Laughing Gull				
6	N. Monomoy, Westport	150, 300	BBC (W. Drummond), R. Stymeist#	
12, 27	Winthrop, Cuttyhunk	35, 2500	J. Cumming, P. Trimble	
Little Gull				
6	Newburyport	1	M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1987
Common Black-headed Gull				
12	Winthrop	1	J. Cumming	
Bonaparte's Gull				
2, 12	Winthrop	228, 300	J. Cumming	
6, 12	Newburyport	60, 80	M. Lynch#	
Ring-billed Gull				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	55 max 9/15	LCES (J. Lyons)	
2, 12	Winthrop	268, 250	J. Cumming	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
thr	Boston-Brighton	1 (2W)	O. Komar + v. o.	
5, 7	P.I., Scituate	1 ad, 1 (1W)	R. Forster, W. Petersen	
17-18, 20	Nantucket	1, 1 ad	J. Brown, A. Bennett	
Black-legged Kittiwake				
13, 15	Stellwagen, Provincetown	2, 2	J. Cumming, M. Lynch#	
19	P.I.	2	BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Sabine's Gull				
12	Orleans	1	J. Barton	
27	N of Provincetown	1 imm	P. Alden, V. Laux	
Gull-billed Tern				
23-25	Lynn	1	J. Quigley + v. o.	
Caspian Tern				
25, 27	Manomet, Newburyport	2, 3	J. Atwood#, v. o.	
Roseate Tern				
5, 13-14	N. Monomoy, M. V.	200, 2000	M. Lynch#, J. Brown	
Common Tern				
5, 13-14	N. Monomoy, M. V.	300, 100	M. Lynch#, J. Brown	
7, 12	Scituate, P.I.	250, 65	W. Petersen, J. Berry#	
19, 30	P.I., Cuttyhunk	30, 30	BBC (I. Giriunas), P. Trimble	
Common/Roseate Tern				
4, 7	N. Monomoy	6000	B. Nikula	
Forster's Tern				
1-26, 5	Nantucket, P.I.	2-4, 31	E. Andrews#, I. Giriunas#	
7	N. Monomoy, Scituate	4, 10	R. Humphrey#, W. Petersen	
17, 26	Orleans, P.I.	54, 2	B. Nikula, BBC (G. Gove)	
Least Tern				
4, 7; 15	N. Monomoy; S. Monomoy	30, 15; 6	B. Nikula	
4, 20	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), Duxbury	3, 3	LCES (J. Lyons), W. Petersen#	
Black Tern				
3-26, 7	S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy	20 max 9/15, 8	B. Nikula, R. Humphrey	
2, 14	Barnstable, New Bedford	2, 4	J. Aylward, B. Sorric#	
19, 24	Manomet, Nantucket	1, 1	W. Petersen#, E. Andrews#	
Black Skimmer				
1-18	N. Monomoy	10 max 9/3	v. o.	
5-6, 17	P.I., Orleans	1, 1 imm	v. o., B. Nikula	

DOVES THROUGH SHRIKES

A total of 7 Yellow-billed Cuckoos was reported this September compared with just one bird last year. Black-billed Cuckoo numbers remained the same, with two reports both this year and last. A Common Barn-Owl was picked up dead on the Southeast Expressway in Dorchester by a commuter whose daily routine is inching along in stalled traffic.

Common Nighthawks were migrating in good numbers during the first week of the month when a total of nearly 8700 individuals was recorded, over 6100 of which were seen in the Worcester area. Few were noted after September 7, and very late birds were noted on September 28, 29, and 30.

A roost of Chimney Swifts in Watertown totaled about 165 individuals on a late date of September 6, and very late birds were seen in small groups from September 24 to 26 from seven locations. A total of 21 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was counted by hawkwatchers (they do look at other birds!) at Wachusett September 4-17.

Two Western Kingbirds were reported during the month, one more than last year. September 5 on South Monomoy was a good day for *Empidonax* flycatchers with over 16 birds tallied. At Great Neck in Ipswich on Labor Day over 250 Purple Martins were counted on the water tower; on September 3, 1984, a similar count of over 175 birds was noted on the same water tower. In both cases, all the birds

appeared to be immatures. Blue Jays were moving in large flocks from about midmonth and were reported from many locations.

With the exception of Quabbin, Red-breasted Nuthatch migration was a fizzle; only 9 birds were reported. Good numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets were noted near month's end.

Unusual reports included a Sedge Wren at Bolton Flats and another on Cuttyhunk Island, a Gray-cheeked Thrush in Scituate, and 3 reports of Loggerhead Shrikes.

R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1987
Mourning Dove				
6, 24	Holliston, Peabody	122, 98	R. Hildreth, D. F. Oliver	
Black-billed Cuckoo				
6	S. Monomoy, S. Dart.	1, 1	P. Trimble, R. Stymeist#	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
6, 15	S. Monomoy, Nantucket	1, 1	P. Trimble, J. Brown#	
24, 27	DWWS, Truro	1, 1	D. Clapp, R. Comeau	
27	Nahant, P.I.	1, 1	J. Cumming, D. F. Oliver	
29	Boxford (C.P.)	1	J. Brown	
Common Barn-Owl				
3	Dorchester (SE Expressway)	1 dead	F. Gardner	
Great Horned Owl				
3, 5	Hanson, Middleboro	2, 2	W. Petersen	
7, 30	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	
12, 19	Hopkinton, Centerville	1, 1	G. Gove, P. Trimble	
Short-eared Owl				
thr, 15	S. Monomoy, Nant.	1+, 1	v. o., J. Brown#	
Common Nighthawk				
1-10	Worcester	6108	B. Kamp + F. McMenemy	
28	Worcester	1	S. Whittum#	
1-6, 6	Watertown, Newton	974, 625+	R. Stymeist#	
3-5, 7	Lexington, Westwood	343, 114	L. Taylor, E. Nielsen	
1-5; 15, 22	GMNWR	423; 12, 2	C. Stoops, S. Selesky	
1-6	Holliston	12	R. Hildreth	
1, 8	Topsfield	1, 1	J. Brown	
5, 7	Wakefield, Lowell-Lancaster	25, 68	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch#	
14	DWWS, Cuttyhunk	2, 2	D. Ludlow, B. Sorrie#	
21, 29	Duxbury Beach, Wayland	6, 4	M. Martinek#, G. Gove	
30	Haverhill	1	V. Yurkunas	
Chimney Swift				
1-4	Mt. A.	50+	R. Stymeist#	
6	Watertown	165 (in chimney)	R. Stymeist#	
12, 19	Hanson, Hingham	20, 25	W. Petersen, G. d'Entremont	
24, 25	Watertown, Lynn	2, 4	R. Stymeist, D. F. Oliver	
26	E. Middleboro, Scituate	3, 1	K. Anderson, G. d'Entremont#	
26	Milford, Holliston	4, 9	R. Hildreth	
26	E. Sandwich	2	B. Porter	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
3, 5	Nahant, Waltham	1, 2	J. Cumming, L. Taylor	
4-17	Wachusett	21 total	EMHW	
7; 14, 16	Milford; Bolton Flats	1; 1, 1	R. Hildreth; M. Lynch#	
Belted Kingfisher				
6, 13	S. Monomoy, Orleans	3, 2	P. Trimble, M. Lynch#	
24	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	3	LCES (J. Lyons)	
26	E. Sandwich	3	B. Porter	
Reports of single birds from 5 locations.				
Red-headed Woodpecker				
25, 27	Marshfield, Cuttyhunk	1, 1	D. Clapp, P. Trimble	
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
14	M. V.	3	J. Brown#	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
15	Bolton Flats, WBWS	1, 1	E. Salmela, M. Lynch#	
26	P.I., Quabbin (G40)	1, 2	BBC (G. Gove), M. Lynch#	
27	Cuttyhunk, Nantucket	1, 2	P. Trimble, E. Andrews + v. o.	
Northern Flicker				
5, 6	Winchester, S. Dart.	9, 27	B. Porter, R. Stymeist#	
7; 14, 17	Ipswich; Bolton Flats	12; 17, 7	BBC (J. Berry); M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1987
Northern Flicker (continued)				
15, 21	Bolton Flats	21, 24	E. Salmela	
Pileated Woodpecker				
26	Quabbin (G40)	2	M. Lynch#	
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
5, 10	S. Monomoy, Bolton Flats	1, 1	B. Nikula#, E. Salmela	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
10, 13	MNWS, Chatham	1, 4	D. F. Oliver, R. Stymeist	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
6, 8	P'town, Bolton Flats	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, E. Salmela	
Least Flycatcher				
12, 14	P.I., M. V.	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, J. Brown#	
<i>Empidonax</i> species				
5	S. Monomoy	16+	S. Perkins#	
Eastern Phoebe				
7, 9, 14, 16, 17	Bolton Flats	4, 4, 11, 4, 12	v. o.	
26	Scituate, Quabbin (G40)	4, 29	W. Petersen#, M. Lynch#	
Great Crested Flycatcher				
1, 4	P.I., Marblehead	1, 1	D. F. Oliver, J. Cumming	
15	Nantucket	1	J. Brown#	
Western Kingbird				
8-9, 12	Bolton Flats, Eastham	1, 1	E. Salmela + v. o., D. F. Oliver	
Eastern Kingbird				
1, 6; 2	P.I.; DWWS	42, 19; 27	D. F. Oliver, M. Lynch#; D. Clapp#	
8, 11, 17	Bolton Flats	30, 4, 1	E. Salmela + v. o.	
24	Rockport (A.P.)	1	D. F. Oliver	
Horned Lark				
15, 17	P'town, Nantucket	2, 7	M. Lynch#, J. Brown#	
Purple Martin				
6, 7	Dartmouth, Newbury	2, 7	B. Sorrie, M. Lynch#	
7	Ipswich	250+	BBC (J. Berry)	
Tree Swallow				
1, 6	P.I., S. Dart.	10000+, 3500+	J. Berry, R. Stymeist#	
7	Ipswich, Barnstable	3000+, 2000+	BBC (J. Berry), J. Aylward	
20, 27	Sandwich (S.N.), Cuttyhunk	3000+, 5000+	W. Petersen, P. Trimble	
27	Halifax-Middleboro	2500+	W. Petersen	
Bank Swallow				
6	P.I.	2	M. Lynch#	
Cliff Swallow				
5, 6	S. Monomoy, P.I.	2, 4	S. Perkins#, D. Chickering	
7	Ipswich	1 or 2	BBC (J. Berry)	
Barn Swallow				
1, 6	P.I., Boxford	100s, 4	J. Berry, J. Brown	
7	Scituate, Ipswich	100, 20+	W. Petersen, BBC (J. Berry)	
15	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	3	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Blue Jay				
14, 15, 17	Bolton Flats	101, 100+, 104	M. Lynch#, E. Salmela, M. Lynch#	
16, 26, 27	Chatham	80, 100, 150	B. Nikula	
26, 27	Quabbin (G40), Cuttyhunk	53, 80	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	65	LCES (J. Lyons)	
American Crow				
27	Scituate, Beverly	400, 200+	D. Clapp#, J. Brown	
29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	59	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Fish Crow				
5, 10	Halifax, Hanson	1, 1	W. Petersen	
22	Watertown	1	R. Stymeist	
Common Raven				
4, 26	Wachusett, Quabbin (G40)	1, 2	EMHW, M. Lynch#	
Black-capped Chickadee				
26	Quabbin (G40)	39	M. Lynch#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
5	Ipswich, Lakeville	1, 4	J. Berry#, W. Petersen#	
15, 17	WBWS, Nantucket	2, 2	M. Lynch#, J. Brown#	
26	Quabbin (G40)	36	M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1987
White-breasted Nuthatch 26	Quabbin (G40)	18	M. Lynch#	
Brown Creeper 12, 25	Chatham, Winchester	1, 1	D. F. Oliver, B. Porter	
26	P.I., Quabbin (G40)	1, 5	BBC (G. Gove), M. Lynch#	
Carolina Wren 3, 5; 5	Nahant; Lakeville	1; 6	J. Cumming; W. Petersen#	
6, 10	S. Dart., Manomet	6, 1	R. Stymeist#, J. Brown#	
12	Eastham, Whitman	1, 1	D. F. Oliver, W. Petersen	
15, 20	Marshfield, Manomet	2, 2	D. Clapp, P. Trimble	
House Wren 5, 6	Winchester, S. Dart.	3, 2	B. Porter, K. Griffis#	
24, 26	Peabody, Quabbin (G40)	2, 3	D. F. Oliver, M. Lynch#	
Winter Wren 4, 26	Boxford, Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	J. Brown, M. Lynch#	
Sedge Wren 14, 15	Bolton Flats, Cuttyhunk	1, 1	M. Lynch#, B. Sorrie	
Marsh Wren 6, 27	P.I.	3, 1	M. Lynch#	
Golden-crowned Kinglet 5, 19	Lakeville, P.I.	6, 1	W. Petersen#, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
26	Scituate, P.I.	4, 25	W. Petersen, BBC (G. Gove)	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 25	Scituate, Lynn	7, 1	D. Clapp, D. F. Oliver	
26	Scituate, P.I.	1, 6	J. Brown, W. Petersen	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 6, 12	S. Dart., P'town	1, 1	J. Heywood#, D. F. Oliver	
15, 27	Eastham, Rockport	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
Eastern Bluebird thr	E. Middleboro	20 max 9/12	K. Anderson	
26	Quabbin (G40)	35	M. Lynch#	
Veery 5	Nahant, MNWS	6, 4	R. Stymeist#	
5, 13	Marshfield, M. V.	4, 1	W. Petersen#, J. Brown#	
Gray-checked Thrush 26	Scituate	1	W. Petersen	
Swainson's Thrush 4	P.I., Cambridge	2, 1	D. F. Oliver, F. Bouchard	
5	Nahant, MNWS	3, 3	R. Stymeist#, J. Cumming	
24	DWWS	1	D. Ludlow	
Hermit Thrush 26	Quabbin (G40)	9	M. Lynch#	
Wood Thrush 1, 4; 5	P.I.; MNWS	1; 1	D. F. Oliver; R. Stymeist#	
6	S. Dart., Topsfield	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, J. Brown	
7, 10	Newbury, MNWS	1, 1	D. Chickering, D. F. Oliver	
American Robin 3	Lexington (Whipple Hill)	304 in 30 min.	L. Taylor	
6, 14	S. Dart., DWWS	70, 610	R. Stymeist#, D. Ludlow	
7, 9, 14	Bolton Flats	75+, 15+, 25+	M. Lynch#	
12	P.I.	84	M. Lynch#	
Gray Catbird thr	Bolton Flats	26 max 9/14	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
5, 12	Winchester, P.I.	12, 36	B. Porter, M. Lynch#	
27	Rockport (Halibut Pt)	8	M. Lynch#	
Northern Mockingbird 6, 14	Holliston, Bolton Flats	14, 5	R. Hildreth, M. Lynch#	
15, 24	S. Monomoy, Peabody	2, 7	B. Nikula, D. F. Oliver	
Brown Thrasher thr	P.I.	11 max 9/1	D. F. Oliver + v. o.	
27	Squantum	3	G. d'Entremont	
Water Pipit 20, 24	Nantucket, Wachusett	1, 1	F. Bouchard, EMHW	
27	Peabody	1	D. F. Oliver	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1987
Cedar Waxwing				
10, 15	MNWS, Belmont	21, 55	D. F. Oliver, L. Taylor	
27	Cuttyhunk	25	P. Trimble	
Loggerhead Shrike				
10, 16	WBWS, Bolton Flats	1, 1	R. Prescott#, E. Salmela#	
27	P'town (Race Pt)	1 ph	R. Stymeist#	

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

White-eyed Vireos were still singing in South Dartmouth early in the month. Nearly as many Philadelphia Vireos were reported this September as last year, but Yellow-throated Vireos totaled 8 individuals, compared with 5 last year.

A total of 33 species of warblers was reported during the month, better than average and two more than last year. Uncommon warblers included a Golden-winged on Plum Island, 3 Orange-crowned, 2 Worm-eating, 2 Prothonotary, 5 Connecticut, 9 Mourning, 2 Hooded, and an amazing 31 Yellow-breasted Chats. Last September only 2 Yellow-breasted Chats were reported. The real passerine highlight of the month was the **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Morris Island in Chatham, which was seen in a few trees September 9-13. This is just the eighth record for Massachusetts.

Seven Blue Grosbeaks were found at Nantucket while 5 were found at Hillside Farm in Truro during the month. A total of 8 Dickcissels was reported, as compared with just 2 last year. Sparrow highlights included 8 Clay-colored and 5 Lark sparrows. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was found in Chatham, and Pine Siskins were noted at Quabbin and in Truro.

R.H.S.

White-eyed Vireo				
6	S. Dart., S. Monomoy	3, 1	R. Stymeist#, P. Trimble	
27	Cuttyhunk	1	P. Trimble	
Solitary Vireo				
26, 27	Quabbin (G40), Lakeville	3, 1	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen	
27-28	Topsfield	1	J. Brown	
Yellow-throated Vireo				
14, 16, 17	Bolton Flats	3, 3, 1	M. Lynch#	
26	Boxford (C.P.)	1	J. Brown	
Warbling Vireo				
5, 6	Brookfield, Topsfield	2, 1	R. Hildreth, J. Brown	
6; 7, 17	S. Dart.; Bolton Flats	1; 1, 1	R. Stymeist; M. Lynch#	
Philadelphia Vireo				
4, 5	Marshfield, S. Monomoy	1, 8	D. Clapp, S. Perkins#	
5	Nahant, MNWS	2, 4	K. Griffis#, R. Stymeist#	
5, 12	Winchester, P.I.	1, 2	B. Porter, M. Lynch#	
12, 14	Chatham, Waltham	4, 2	B. Nikula#, L. Taylor	
Red-eyed Vireo				
5	Nahant, MNWS	8, 26	R. Stymeist#	
26, 27	Quabbin (G40), Cuttyhunk	2, 2	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
Blue-winged Warbler				
4, 5, 6, 10	MNWS	1, 2, 2, 1	v. o.	
6	Topsfield, Nahant	1, 1	J. Brown, G. Gove#	
14, 15	Bolton Flats, Marshfield	1, 1	M. Lynch#, D. Clapp	
23-24	Manomet	1 b	J. Atwood	
Golden-winged Warbler				
2, 5	MNWS, P.I.	1, 1	D. F. Oliver, R. Forster	
Tennessee Warbler				
1, 5	P.I., MNWS	1, 1	D. F. Oliver, R. Stymeist#	
14, 15	Bolton Flats, Nantucket	2, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Brown#	
Orange-crowned Warbler				
26	Quabbin (G40), N. Scituate	1, 1	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont#	
27	Wellfleet	1	R. Stymeist#	
Nashville Warbler				
5, 7	MNWS, Ipswich	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, BBC (J. Berry)	
14, 16	Bolton Flats, Waltham	2, 3	M. Lynch#, L. Taylor	
Northern Parula				
5, 12	MNWS, ONWR	3, 3	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
25	Lawrence	1	V. Yurkunas	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1987
Yellow Warbler				
6	P.I.	2 (Labrador race)	J. Gordon#	
14	Bolton Flats	3	M. Lynch#	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
2, 6	MNWS	3, 1	D. F. Oliver, R. Stymeist#	
5, 12	Waltham, ONWR	3, 6	L. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
Magnolia Warbler				
5	Nahant, MNWS	6, 4	K. Griffith#	
12	P'town	1	D. F. Oliver	
Cape May Warbler				
1, 7	P.I., MNWS	6, 7	D. F. Oliver, R. Stymeist#	
13	Chatham	8	R. Stymeist#	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
5, 12	MNWS, P'town	1, 2	K.Griffis#, D. F. Oliver	
13, 27	Chatham, P.I.	6, 1	R. Stymeist#, D. F. Oliver	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
12	P'town, ONWR	1, 3	D. F. Oliver, M. Lynch#	
26	Quabbin (G40), P.I.	63, 15	M. Lynch#, BBC (G. Gove)	
Black-throated Gray Warbler				
9-13	Chatham (Morris I)	1	R. Guthrie# + v. o.	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
26, 27	DWWS, Quabbin (G40)	2, 6	D. Ludlow, M. Lynch#	
Blackburnian Warbler				
2, 12	MNWS, ONWR	1, 1	D. F. Oliver, M. Lynch#	
Pine Warbler				
thr	E. Middleboro	1-3 singing daily	K. Anderson	
6, 19	Boxford, Hingham	7, 6	J. Brown, G. d'Entremont#	
25, 26	Winchester, Quabbin (G40)	1, 48	B. Porter, M. Lynch#	
Prairie Warbler				
5, 12	S. Monomoy, P'town	10, 2	S. Perkins#, D. F. Oliver	
12, 14	ONWR, Bolton Flats	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
Palm Warbler				
10, 15	MNWS, GMNWR	1, 3	D. F. Oliver, P. Comas#	
15, 16	Belmont, Bolton Flats	1, 5	L. Taylor, E. Salmela	
20, 26	Nantucket, Quabbin (G40)	8, 14	F. Bouchard, M. Lynch#	
27	Holliston, Scituate	2, 3	R. Hildreth, D. Clapp#	
Bay-breasted Warbler				
5, 26	MNWS, Quabbin (G40)	9, 1	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
27	Beverly (airport)	1	J. Brown	
Blackpoll Warbler				
6, 26	P.I.	2, 3	M. Lynch#, BBC (G. Gove)	
27, 29	Holliston, Boxford	5, 1	R. Hildreth, J. Brown	
Black-and-white Warbler				
3, 12	Lexington, ONWR	3, 7	P. Overby, M. Lynch#	
American Redstart				
2, 5	Mt. A., S. Monomoy	6, 18	P. Overby, S. Perkins#	
5, 6	Nahant, MNWS	4, 16	R. Stymeist#, D. F. Oliver	
12, 13	ONWR, Chatham	4, 8	M. Lynch#	
14, 27	Bolton Flats, Beverly	8, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Brown	
Prothonotary Warbler				
10, 13	Nantucket	1 imm f b	E. Andrews#	
12-13	Chatham (Morris I)	1	W. Bailey# + v. o.	
Worm-eating Warbler				
12, 26	Nantucket, Scituate	1 b, 1	E. Andrews#, W. Petersen	
Ovenbird				
1, 7	Cambridge, Holliston	1, 1	F. Bouchard, R. Hildreth	
26	DWWS	1	D. Ludlow	
Northern Waterthrush				
5, 27	Marshfield, Bridgewater	4, 1	W. Petersen#	
Connecticut Warbler				
10	MBO, Nantucket	1, 1	J. Brown#, E. Andrews#	
12, 14	ONWR, M. V.	1, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Brown#	
15	Bolton Flats	1	E. Salmela	
Mourning Warbler				
2, 4, 25	Nantucket	2, 1, 1 (all b)	E. Andrews#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1987
Mourning Warbler (continued)				
5	S. Monomoy, Halifax	1, 1	S. Perkins#, W. Petersen#	
10, 15	Manomet, Nantucket	1, 1	J. Brown#	
14	Waltham (Met. State)	1	L. Taylor	
Common Yellowthroat				
7, 14	Bolton Flats	15+, 22	M. Lynch#	
Hooded Warbler				
2, 11	MNWS, Bolton Flats	1 m, 1	D. F. Oliver, E. Salmela	
Wilson's Warbler				
6, 7	S. Monomoy, P'town	3, 2	P. Trimble	
14, 24	Bolton Flats, Peabody	3, 1	M. Lynch#, D. F. Oliver	
27	Truro	2	L. Taylor#	
Canada Warbler				
4-5, 6	MNWS, S. Monomoy	1, 1	J. Cumming, P. Trimble	
13, 14	Chatham, Bolton Flats	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
Yellow-breasted Chat				
3-25	Nantucket	16 b	E. Andrews#	
5	S. Monomoy, MNWS	2, 2	S. Perkins#, R. Stymeist#	
5, 7	Nahant, Bolton Flats	1, 1	J. Cumming, M. Lynch#	
10, 12, 14	MBO, P.I., M. V.	1, 1, 1	J. Brown#, G. Gove#, J. Brown#	
12, 27	Chatham	1, 1	W. Bailey, B. Nikula	
15, 27	Bolton Flats, Scituate	1, 1	E. Salmela, D. Clapp#	
27	Truro, Wellfleet	1, 1	G. Gove#, L. Taylor#	
Scarlet Tanager				
25, 26	Worcester, Quabbin (G40)	3, 2	M. Lynch#	
27	Wellfleet	1	L. Taylor	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
4, 5	P.I., Nahant	3, 8	D. F. Oliver, R. Stymeist#	
7, 31	Ipswich, Hudson	5 or 6, 6	J. Berry#, E. Salmela	
Blue Grosbeak				
13, 16	M. V., Nantucket	1, 7	J. Brown#	
19, 27	Marshfield, Truro	1, 5	D. Clapp#, R. Stymeist#	
Indigo Bunting				
19, 27	Marshfield, Halifax	2, 2	D. Clapp#, W. Petersen	
27	Truro, P'town	4, 3	R. Stymeist#	
Dickcissel				
10, 12-13	P.I., Truro	1, 1	R. Forster, D. F. Oliver + v. o.	
15	S. Monomoy, Chatham	1, 1	L. Jonsson#, B. Nikula#	
27	Peabody, Scituate	1, 3	D. F. Oliver, D. Clapp#	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
1, 26	P.I.	6, 6	D. F. Oliver, BBC (G. Gove)	
26	Quabbin (G40)	8	M. Lynch#	
Chipping Sparrow				
27	P'town, Wellfleet (Marconi)	30, 60+	R. Stymeist#, L. Taylor#	
Clay-colored Sparrow				
6-7, 27	P.I., Peabody	1, 1	M. Lynch#, D. F. Oliver	
27	P'town, Cuityhunk	1, 2	R. Stymeist, P. Trimble	
27	Beverly (airport)	1	J. Brown	
Field Sparrow				
24	Peabody	10	D. F. Oliver	
Vesper Sparrow				
5, 13	Plymouth, Orleans	1, 1	W. Petersen, P. Trimble	
27	P'town, Wellfleet	3, 12	R. Stymeist#, G. Gove#	
Lark Sparrow				
13-14	Nantucket (Squam)	1	N. Claffin + v. o.	
19, 26-27	Scituate	3, 1	D. Clapp# + v. o.	
Savannah Sparrow				
7, 14, 16	Bolton Flats	5, 18, 5	M. Lynch#	
26, 27	P.I., Scituate	8, 30	BBC (G. Gove), D. Clapp	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
5, 10	N. Monomoy, S. Dart.	25+, 8	M. Lynch#, LCES (J. Lyons)	
12	Newbypt (across airport)	25	G. d'Entremont#	
16, 17	Bolton Flats, Nantucket	1, 4	M. Lynch#, J. Brown#	
26	P.I., Scituate	8, 5	BBC (G. Gove), W. Petersen	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1987
Seaside Sparrow				
5	Scituate, Monomoy	2, 1	W. Petersen#, M. Lynch#	
10, 26	P.I.	4, 2	R. Forster, BBC (G. Gove)	
12	Newburyport	6	G. d'Entremont#	
Song Sparrow				
6; 7, 14	P.I.; Bolton Flats	20+; 35+, 41	M. Lynch#	
Lincoln's Sparrow				
5; 14, 16, 26	P.I.; Belmont	1; 1, 1, 1	R. Forster; L. Taylor	
26, 27	Quabbin (G40), Scituate	2, 1	M. Lynch#, D. Clapp#	
27	Peabody	1	D. F. Oliver	
Swamp Sparrow				
7, 9, 14	Bolton Flats	15+, 15+, 26	M. Lynch#	
White-throated Sparrow				
12, 15	P.I., Belmont	3, 2	M. Lynch#, L. Taylor	
16, 17	Bolton Flats, Nantucket	1, 1	D. F. Oliver, J. Brown#	
26	Quabbin (G40), P.I.	7, 8	M. Lynch#, BBC (G. Gove)	
White-crowned Sparrow				
22, 29	Bolton Flats	1, 1	E. Salmela	
26	Quabbin (G40)	1	M. Lynch#	
Dark-eyed Junco				
26, 30	P.I., Watertown	6, 3	BBC (G. Gove), R. Stymeist	
Bobolink				
6-30, 6	Nantucket, Ipswich	25, 85+	E. Andrews#, J. Berry	
14, 15	M. V., DWWS	20+, 28	J. Brown#, D. Ludlow	
27	Scituate, Peabody	6, 8	D. Clapp#, D. F. Oliver	
Red-winged Blackbird				
15, 16	Bolton Flats	400+, 600+	E. Salmela + v. o.	
29	Wayland	240	G. Gove	
Yellow-headed Blackbird				
13	Chatham	1	G. Gove + v. o.	
Rusty Blackbird				
19, 25	Hingham, Peabody	5, 1	G. d'Entremont#, D. F. Oliver	
Common Grackle				
6	Newbury	1 part albino	M. Lynch#	
blackbird species				
10, 17	Danvers	3000+	J. Berry	
Northern Oriole				
12, 26	P.I., Scituate	6, 2	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen	
27	Wellfleet	6	R. Stymeist#	
Purple Finch				
3; 5	Hanson; Scituate, Lakeville	1; 2, 1	W. Petersen	
20	MBO	2	P. Trimble	
Pine Siskin				
26, 27	Quabbin (G40), Truro	6, 1+	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
American Goldfinch				
1	DWWS	160	D. Clapp	

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

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ABOUT THE COVER: NORTHERN BOBWHITE

The Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) is resident throughout virtually the entire eastern United States from the southern portions of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont south to the Gulf of Mexico. It is most abundant in the south and central states.

Bobwhites prefer unforested land with plenty of briar tangles and brushy thickets where they feed on a variety of seeds, berries, and waste grains. This bird loves insects too. In 1910 the renowned American ornithologist Margaret Nice took the trouble to document a captive bobwhite's appetite. She recorded 568 mosquitoes taken in two hours, 5000 plant lice (aphids) in a day, and 1000 grasshoppers in a day.

Pairs form in the spring and become territorial during the nesting season. During autumn and winter they form coveys or flocks of ten to fifteen birds. At roosting time, these birds assemble close to each other on the ground in a circle with heads pointed outward and tails toward the sky. Their bodies are packed together to conserve heat. If disturbed when grouped like this, they explode upward and outward like a small bomb, scattering in all directions and then reassembling when the intruder has passed. The bobwhite's practice of holding still until the last second and then flushing with a whirl of wings has made it a challenging game bird, much sought after by hunters. In the deep and solid South, there is a long, nearly legendary history of quail-shooting as a grand and classic sport.

Most people recognize bobwhites by the male's rising whistled song - "bob-white" or "bob-bob-white" - heard chiefly in the spring and summer. The image conveyed by that song was probably best expressed by Edward Howe Forbush in his book *A History of the Game Birds, Wild-Fowl and Shore Birds of Massachusetts and Adjacent States*:

What other sound in nature is so heartening? And now, as ever, in the grassy fields of New England, in the wide rolling lands of the west, or under a burning southern sky, wherever that call is heard it gladdens the hearts of men. Psychologists may tell us that the bird is merely wound up like a clock and set to run for a certain time, or until the sexual impulse runs down, but there is in his call the gladness of spring days, a quality unmistakable and unquenchable, and "all the world" loves it.

J. B. Hallett, Jr.

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

Gordon Morrison is an accomplished artist who has illustrated more than a dozen books that include *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide*, *The Birdwatcher's Companion* by Christopher Leahy, and several Peterson field guides. His work has appeared in periodicals that range from *Bird Watcher's Digest* to *Fortune*, from *Ranger Rick* to *Playboy*, and from *Seventeen* to *New York Conservationist*. His murals grace high schools in Sharon and Stoughton and his diaramas, the Boston Zoological Society, the Public Service Company of New Hampshire, and Massachusetts Audubon Society. Gordon's work is in art galleries and collections in New York, Massachusetts, Florida, and Pennsylvania.

This artist regards his talent as a family trait. His father attended Massachusetts College of Art, but an artist's career gave way to supporting a family of ten children growing up in Boston. However, Gordon recalls that his father had a "nice way of encouraging by being constructively critical" when the boy early evidenced artistic gifts. An interest in art sparked a lackadaisical student into becoming a high school honor graduate and senior class president. He attended the School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, graduated from the Butera School of Art, and put in a two-year stint as a commercial artist before discovering that this was not his field. He began working in 1969 as a free-lance artist, soon forming an alliance with Massachusetts Audubon Society, with zoos, and with sanctuaries, committing his talent to portraying wildlife. Gordon feels that "experience is the basis for understanding and interpreting nature." To paint a subject, human, bird, or animal, he must get to know the individual. And it is this quality that gives the ring of truth to his work. Gordon Morrison accepts commissioned work at his home studio at 52 Bulfinch Street, North Attleboro, MA 02760.

Dorothy R. Arvidson



Gordon Morrison

Photo by Thomas F. Maguire, Jr.

AT A GLANCE: December 1987 _____ by Wayne R. Petersen

The **At a Glance** bird for December represents one of the small sandpipers that are collectively called "peep," i.e., Baird's, White-rumped, Western, Semipalmated, and Least. The fine, slightly curved, and pointed bill, extremely long primaries, strongly scalloped scapulars and wing coverts, and the absence of a dusky shoulder mark all eliminate the Sanderling as a possibility. The larger Pectoral Sandpiper, which has light colored and longer legs, would show streaked, not scaled, upperparts, a less extensive white throat, and would exhibit heavier streaking across the breast -- the streaks extending to a point at the midbreast.

The obviously long wings of the pictured bird (actually seen to cross in both photos) give it a pointed and streamlined appearance that virtually limits the bird to being either Baird's Sandpiper or White-rumped Sandpiper. The absence of either a pronounced eyebrow stripe or conspicuous spots along the flanks, along with the scaly back and wing coverts, serve to remove the White-rumped Sandpiper as a possibility. Consequently, this shorebird can only be a Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*). The broadly margined feathers of the back, scapulars, and wing coverts, as well as the heavy breast wash, all indicate that the bird is a juvenile -- like the vast majority of Baird's Sandpipers seen in Massachusetts. The individual pictured was photographed in September at Plum Island by Alden Clayton.



Baird's Sandpiper



Photos by Alden Clayton

AT A GLANCE

Photo by Roger Everett



Can you identify this bird?

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