

BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



DECEMBER 1985

VOL. 13 NO. 6



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BIRD OBSERVER'S FIRST FUND-RAISER

BIRD OBSERVER will hold a *FUND-RAISING PARTY* on February 22, 1986, at 14 Percy Road in Lexington (home of Mary Baird). *DAVIS FINCH*, well-known New England birder long associated with Wings, Inc., and *SUSAN ALLEN*, author, tour leader, and expert on South American birds, will present a slide show and lecture on *ARGENTINA*. Admission to this affair will require a *TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION* (amount to be specified) to *BIRD OBSERVER*. The invitations will be in the mail in January. For information, please call 244-0166.

RENEWAL TIME! GIVE YOURSELF A NEW YEAR'S GIFT.

BIRD OBSERVER wishes to thank those of you who have already taken advantage (and this includes the majority of our 1985 subscribers) of the *SPECIAL RATE OF \$10.50* available for renewals made *BEFORE FEBRUARY 10, 1986*, for either one or two years. Thereafter, the rate will increase to \$12.00. When you renew, please enclose the questionnaire so that we may know how best this publication can serve you in the future.

WHERE WE WENT: DRY TORTUGAS, FLORIDA

APRIL 28 - MAY 1, 1985

by Harriet E. Hoffman, Arlington

On Sunday night, April 28, at 10 P.M. or thereabouts, forty-three participants plus crew departed Key West aboard the *Yankee Cpts.* Our intention had been to use the Yankee Fleet's new luxury boat, *Yankee Freedom* (air-conditioned, showers, more private accommodations). However, several days before departure, vandals damaged the *Freedom*. The *Cpts.*, already en route to its summer berth in Gloucester, Massachusetts, was quickly recalled by the resourceful Yankee Fleet management. Our destination was the Dry Tortugas, specifically Garden Key, sixty-eight nautical miles away, about a five-hour voyage. The leaders were Wayne Hoffman and Kevin McGowan, of the University of South Florida, Tampa. The sleeping quarters on the *Yankee Cpts.* were three cabins, each containing fourteen bunks in two and three tiers. Because of the warm weather and calm seas, many people slept on deck. Personal gear was stowed on the bunk and environs.

Before dawn we tied up at the pier on Garden Key, the largest of the Tortugas Islands, to be on land at first light. We disembarked and started to walk around the key. First encountered were some shorebirds: Black-bellied Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, and Ruddy Turnstone. As light increased, we observed Sooty Terns



Magnificent Frigatebirds with Brown Noddy
Dry Tortugas, April 1985

Photo by Rick Cech

and Brown Noddys wheeling over Bush Key. We scoped the water, spotted Brown Boobys resting on a channel marker, and then turned back to go inside the Fort Jefferson courtyard area, a known land-bird trap.

Fort Jefferson, now a crumbling ruin, was begun in 1846 and was regarded at the time as an American "Gibraltar," guarding the Straits of Florida, but it was never completed. It was occupied by Federal troops during the Civil War, but its chief fame stems from being the jail where Dr. Samuel Mudd was imprisoned. Dr. Mudd treated John Wilkes Booth, assassin of Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Mudd was released after his heroic efforts during an outbreak of yellow fever among the prisoners. In the early 1900s, the Navy used the fort as the site of its first wireless station and as a seaplane base in World War I.

The fort is a more or less circular structure around a large grassy area studded with various species of trees. The trees were heavily leaved, and for the larger ones, it was necessary to stand next to the trunk to peer up into the branches to see what birds might be resting thereon. Visual sighting was important because migrants in Florida do not sing; they only chip - and quietly at that. A freshwater fountain, contaminated with guano, was located within the courtyard. There was also a drinking fountain for human use. Freshwater is in short supply on the Tortugas - hence the name "Dry." The Park Service personnel live in houses that are part of the circle of the fort and face



Dry Tortugas, April 1985

"Wade in the Water"

Photo by Rick Cech



Black Noddy
Bush Key, April 1985

Photo by Rick Cech



Brown Noddy
Bush Key, April 1985

Photo by Rick Cech

the courtyard. A conspicuous link to the outside world is a large satellite dish. Once inside this courtyard area, we saw large numbers of Cattle Egrets, Gray Kingbirds, several species of warblers, Indigo Bunting, and soaring high overhead, White-tailed Tropicbird. Since the tropicbird was a life bird for many of us, we spent a fair amount of time observing it. We saw tropicbirds - a total of six - only on our first day.

We returned to the boat for breakfast. Because the Park Service allows only a two-hour tie-up, we had to leave the pier. So we anchored a short way out and used the dory for shuttle service back and forth. After breakfast we broke into splinter groups, explored new areas, and rechecked old ones. Then the dory with leaders aboard went out to circumnavigate Bush Key, a nearby small key, where the Sootys and noddys nest.

When the dory returned, I was invited to go on the second trip. An interesting bird possibility intervened (a false alarm), and I became the thirteenth person for a twelve-person trip. Therefore, I went on the third trip - my very good fortune! On the back side of the key, Mark Lynch spotted what he thought was a Black Noddy, perched on a branch. Despite our presence, the bird remained mostly in the same place, allowing us looks from many perspectives. Because it was surrounded by many Brown Noddys, we had plenty of opportunity for comparison. After, perhaps fifteen minutes of observation and discussion, we reached consensus and agreed that, yes, we did have a Black Noddy! Then the trip shifted into high gear: nothing describes the search so accurately as to say it really was looking for a black needle in a brown haystack.

Any visitor to the Dry Tortugas can scarcely miss seeing Brown Noddys, which are numerous, but the great hope of any birder is to catch sight of the Black Noddy. Bill and Harriet Davidson report in the October 1985 issue of Birding (17: 213) that they camped on Garden Key for six consecutive springs before finding the bird on Bush Key in the spring of '85 - the same bird seen by us (the Bird Observer travel group). So similar are the two species that field guides are of little help. The Black Noddy is described as smaller and darker, with a whiter cap. But these differences are a matter of degree. Furthermore, the younger Black Noddys may lack white caps, and the extent and whiteness of the cap in the adults varies with the light. Hence, other features - body proportions and bill structure are the key. [See "Answer to August Photo Quiz" by Larry Balch in the October 1985 issue of Birding 17: 243.] The difference shows up well in the two photos taken on the Bird Observer trip by Rick Cech and printed in this issue.

We took one last look at our precious rarity and headed back to report. The next boatload went out, saw the bird, and returned. Elation! Subsequent trips that day did not have any luck sighting the bird. Gloom!

After lunch the options were swimming (it was very hot), snorkeling, land birding, or continued attempts to find the Black Noddy. Late in the afternoon we were again permitted to tie up to the Park Service pier and so were able to have cocktail hour, dinner (steak), and the day's checklist session on shore.

On Tuesday morning we again did some prebreakfast land birding on Garden Key. After breakfast, the Yankee Capts went to Loggerhead Key (about three miles away) for approximately a two-hour walk (very hot) to see what was passing through. A few who had not yet seen the Black Noddy decided to stay with the dory to continue to search Bush Key. The vegetation on Loggerhead (Spanish bayonet, cactus) was such that long pants were necessary. We turned up nothing unusual, but the large number of feathered remains of Yellow-billed Cuckoos indicated the presence of raptors. Two Merlins were observed. We returned to our anchorage for lunch and to rendezvous with the dory. Success! More people had seen the Black Noddy. After lunch the options were again swimming, snorkeling, chances to see "The Bird" again, or continue to check the fort area.

The latter part of the afternoon was spent in various activities, including a saltwater "bath," in a large box at the stern (Joy detergent for the body, Prell for the hair), followed by a freshwater rinse. Dinner was again on shore, featuring barbequed chicken, with provision for vegetarians. Many of us spent the evening chatting with old and new acquaintances and the crew. I tried my hand at fishing off the stern and managed one "keeper" and several pieces of seabottom.

We rose early on Wednesday for our final walk through the fort area and a group picture. We returned to the boat for breakfast and to prepare for the long, productive trip back to Key West via the Gulf Stream. Because the stream had moved south slightly, we had to travel at a somewhat higher speed than had been planned. Consequently, a few people experienced some short-lived seasickness.

As we worked our way along the sargasso weed line in the stream, we encountered large numbers of Bridled Terns. At first the sightings were few, but as we got fully into the stream, we observed them frequently, both in flight and in the water. The total for the day was forty. The presence of Sooty Terns afforded opportunity for comparison of the two species. We also had good looks at Masked Boobys (eight in all), which were standing on a sandbar.

We did observe some non-avian species: many kinds of reef fishes, flying fish, dolphin fish (not a mammal), and nurse sharks. Many visitors come to the Dry Tortugas just for the sport fishing or to scuba dive and "fishwatch." We also saw loggerhead turtles - the Tortugas were discovered in 1513 by Ponce de Leon who named them for the numerous turtles he found there - and Atlantic bottle-nosed dolphin.

We returned to Key West in the late afternoon. There was plenty of time for people to bird the keys for several hours and still reach Miami for a nighttime flight or to check into a motel and fly out the next day.

Advice for those planning to visit the Dry Tortugas. The Bird Observer trip was timed to coincide with the midpoint of spring migration through Florida. Fly to Miami or Fort Lauderdale, and then rent a car for the three-hour drive to Key West. Or take a commuter flight (Gullair, Southern Express, or PBA) from Miami to Key West. The overnight boat trip from Key West was on gentle seas. Once at our destination, very little boat travel was necessary. The only seasickness problem for some people was on the longer return trip to Key West via the Gulf Stream, but it did not last too long. For those for whom seasickness is a major problem, it is possible to charter a plane at Key West, Marathon, or Grassy Key for a trip to the Tortugas or Fort Jefferson National Monument. However, as there is neither housing, meals, drinking water, or supplies available, a plane trip has limitations.

The two and a half days that our group spent on the Tortugas is more time than most other organized trips spend there, and it provided an opportunity for repeated trips to find the Black Noddy and a satisfactory chance to meet and interact with birders of diverse backgrounds. And you can swim and snorkel in beautiful, uncrowded waters.

HARRIET E. HOFFMAN, Assistant Editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, has been on three pelagic trips to Georges Bank aboard the *Yankee Cpts.* She is interested in all aspects of natural history and has become especially intrigued by the flora and fauna of islands. She has been a member of *Bird Observer's* editorial board since 1981.

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THE DRY TORTUGAS

by Wayne Hoffman, Lawrence, Kansas

The Dry Tortugas are a series of about seven (it changes) sandy islands on a large oval coral reef sixty-eight nautical miles west of Key West, Florida. They form the western terminus of the Florida Keys and are thirty miles beyond the nearest islands (the Marquesas Keys). The reef, the islands, and the surrounding waters of the Gulf of Mexico form the Fort Jefferson National Monument, which is managed by the National Park Service.

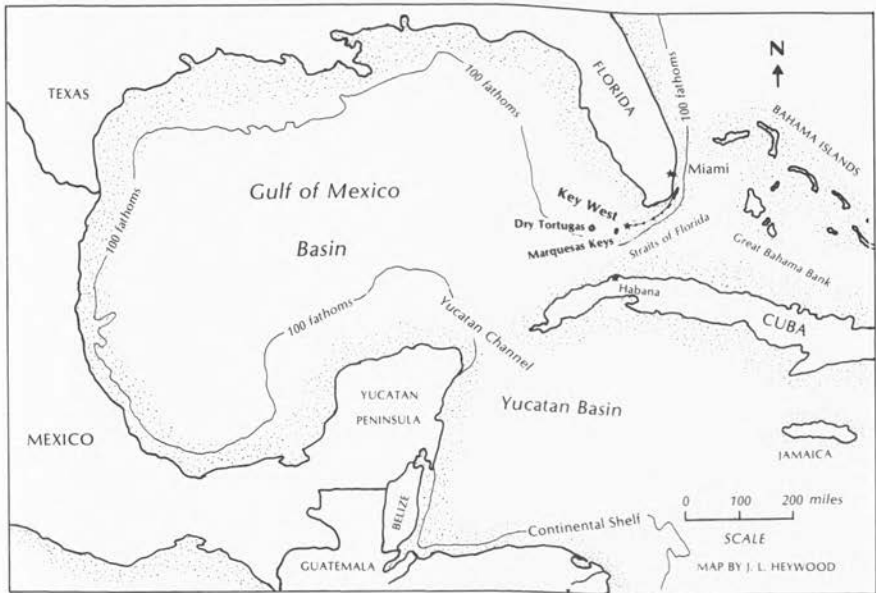
The Gulf of Mexico has a basin of deep oceanic water at its center, but it is virtually surrounded by shallow continental shelves one to two hundred miles wide. Warm tropical water enters the gulf through the Yucatan Channel between Cuba and the Yucatan Peninsula and leaves as the Gulf Stream flowing east between Florida and Cuba. Tropical oceanic birds, such as Sooty Terns, noddys, boobys, and tropicbirds, need remote islands near or even beyond the outer edge of the continental shelf. These birds feed over deep ocean waters and need to nest close to their feeding grounds. The gulf has few suitable islands, and the only ones in U. S. waters are the Dry Tortugas. Other bird colony sites are the islands north of the Yucatan Peninsula and along the north coast of Cuba.

Bush Key, in the Dry Tortugas, hosts nesting colonies of Sooty Terns (up to forty thousand pairs), Brown Noddys (a few thousand pairs), and Roseate Terns (about a hundred pairs). The Tortugas also provide roosts for Brown and Masked boobys, and for the last two years a single pair of Masked Boobys has attempted to nest on one of the islands.



*Bridled Terns
Dry Tortugas, April 1985*

Photo by Rick Cech



The location of the Dry Tortugas also makes the area a major migrant trap. Large numbers of herons, raptors, cuckoos, caprimulgids, flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, warblers, orioles, grosbeaks, and buntings migrate from Yucatan across the Gulf of Mexico to Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and northwestern Florida each spring. Occasionally these birds encounter cold fronts over the gulf and are blown east toward peninsular Florida. These cold fronts often produce spectacular fallouts at the Dry Tortugas and on barrier islands from Sanibel, Florida, to the Texas coast.

The Tortugas also provide the first landfall for Caribbean birds that overshoot or stray north from western Cuba. Antillean Nighthawks, Cuban Cave Swallows, Black Noddys, and Red-footed Boobys occur annually, and other strays reported have included Ruddy Quail-Dove, Zenaida Dove, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Thick-billed Vireo, and Bahama Mockingbird. White-tailed Tropicbirds have been prospecting the bastions of Fort Jefferson for potential nest sites for the last several years and are commonly seen performing their spectacular courtship flights.

WAYNE HOFFMAN, who has a doctorate in ornithology from the University of South Florida at Tampa, led the Bird Observer Tortugas Trip in April 1985 (described in this issue by Harriet Hoffman). Wayne has studied feeding behavior and systematics of terns and gulls and their allies in Florida. He is now censusing the birds at Cheyenne Bottoms for the Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

LIST OF SPECIES SEEN ON BIRD OBSERVER DRY TORTUGAS TRIP

April 28 to May 1, 1985

Compiled by Wayne Hoffman

Audubon's Shearwater 5-3*	Sandwich Tern 7-1
White-tailed Tropicbird 6-1	Roseate Tern 50-3
Masked Booby 8-3	Least Tern 5-3
Brown Booby 4-2	Bridled Tern 40-3
Brown Pelican 40-1,2	Sooty Tern many-1,2,3
Double-crested Cormorant 10-2	Brown Noddy many-1,2,3
Magnificent Frigatebird 300-1,2	Black Noddy 1-1,2
Great Blue Heron 2-1	White-winged Dove 2-1,2
Snowy Egret 5-1	Mourning Dove 3-2
Little Blue Heron 1-1,2	Yellow-billed Cuckoo 2+35 kills-2
Tricolored Heron 1-2	Short-eared Owl 1-1
Cattle Egret 50-2	Blue-crowned Parakeet 2 (escapes)
Green-backed Heron 5-2	Common Nighthawk 5-2
Black-crowned Night-Heron 1-1	Chimney Swift 2-1
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 2-2	Belted Kingfisher 1-1,2
Unidentified Night-Heron 2-2	Gray Kingbird 2-2
Blue-winged Teal 2-1	Purple Martin 1-2,3
Osprey 1-1,2	Northern Rough-winged Swallow 4-1
American Swallow-tailed Kite 2-1	Barn Swallow 30-2
Sharp-shinned Hawk 4-1	Bank Swallow 1-2
Broad-winged Hawk 3-1,2	Gray Catbird 1-1
Merlin 2-1,2	Black-whiskered Vireo 1-1
Black-bellied Plover 20-1,2	Tennessee Warbler 1-1,2
Semipalmated Plover 1-1,2	Nashville Warbler 1-1
Greater Yellowlegs 1-1	Northern Parula 1-1,2
Willet 1-1,2	Magnolia Warbler 1-1,2
Spotted Sandpiper 3-1	Cape May Warbler 25-1,2
Whimbrel 1-1,2	Black-throated Blue Warbler 2-1
Ruddy Turnstone 25-2	Black-throated Green Warbler 1-1
Sanderling 1-1,2,3	Prairie 2-1
Semipalmated Sandpiper 2-1,3	Palm Warbler 50-1,2
Least Sandpiper 2-3	Blackpoll Warbler 6-1
White-rumped Sandpiper 1-2	American Redstart 10-1
Common Snipe 2-2	Worm-eating Warbler 2-2
dowitcher sp. 3-1	Ovenbird 1-1,2
Red-necked Phalarope 10-3	Northern Waterthrush 1-1
Pomarine Jaeger 3-3	Common Yellowthroat 5-2
Laughing Gull 48-3	Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1-2
Herring Gull 10-2	Indigo Bunting 2-1,2
Great Black-backed Gull 1-1,2,3	Bobolink 2-2,3
Royal Tern 8-2	House Sparrow 1-1,2,3

*5=maximum number seen on single day; 3=day on which maximum seen.

Species represented only by carcasses or feather piles:

Chuck-will's-widow - partial carcass from Garden Key

Sora - feather pile from hawk kill on Loggerhead Key

Pectoral Sandpiper - feather pile from kill on Loggerhead Key



FOUR POINTS NATURE TOURS

with leaders **BENTON BASHAM** and **NOBLE PROCTOR**

THREE TRIPS TO THE DRY TORTUGAS IN SPRING 1986

- o Sunday, April 27, to Wednesday, April 30.
Wednesday, April 30, to Saturday, May 3.
Sunday, May 4, to Wednesday, May 7.
- o Boat leaves from Key West at 10 P.M. on day 1
and returns to Key West at 5 P.M. on day 4.
- o Cost per person: \$295 (includes food and
accommodations on board).

HIGHLIGHTS:

- o More time at Fort Jefferson, from dawn of day 2
through breakfast of day 4.
- o A full day of pelagic birding on the way back
to Key West.
- o A trip to Loggerhead Key and around smaller keys.
- o New 100' *Yankee Freedom*: sleeps 40 in semiprivate
bunkrooms, some with washbasins, two showers on
board.
- o 22' dinghy for trips to Bush Key for close looks
at Sooty Terns, noddies, and frigatebirds.

TARGET BIRDS:

Black Noddy, Brown Noddy, Magnificent Frigatebird,
White-tailed Tropicbird, Sooty Tern, Bridled Tern,
Masked Booby, Brown Booby, Audubon's Shearwater.

UPCOMING FOUR POINTS TRIPS:

COSTA RICA: March 15-24, 1986;
OREGON INLET (CAPE HATTERAS): 12 trips in summer 1986;
AUSTRALIA: July 20 - August 10, 1986;
HAWAII: January 3-15, 1987.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: FOUR POINTS NATURE TOURS
c/o Martha Vaughan, Coordinator, 15 Elmwood Park
Newton, MA 02160 (617) 244-0166

LEO: RIDING TO SIX HUNDRED
ON THE ABA GAME BOARD

by Pat Noyes Fox, Lexington

Probably being in the last quarter of my life, I thought it time to turn my attention from foreign lands to North America. Seeing 600 species north of Mexico seems like getting a high-school diploma when the big shots are getting their Ph.D.s with lists of 700 and 800 in the ABA area. The Six-hundred Club, once the goal, no longer exists but is still an objective for middling birders. Go for it, old girl, I thought; think about "Time's winged chariot hurrying near."

The Colima Warbler would be my last nesting wood warbler north of the Rio del Norte - the Rio Grande. (I discount the Bachman's, which is probably extinct. Even Roger Tory Peterson has never seen one. I note it is no longer on the ABA checklist.) The Colima nests only at Boot Springs in the Chisos Mountains of Big Bend National Park in southwest Texas. The very words beckoned. Boot Springs is reached by a rocky, sometimes steep trail, about five miles of it, above the Chisos basin. It would be impossible for me to hike it, but it can be done on horseback. I was brave enough. I signed up.

Embarrassing. The day before a call came from the Chisos remuda to Jim Lane that we must come to be weighed - lunch, water, camera, and avoirdupois. It was comforting that they cared about their horses and matching them to us - a Percheron perhaps? No backpacks are allowed unless worn, an unbalancing thought. Along the walls of the tack room were what looked like small feed bags. These were for our feed and whatever we felt we needed on the trail. (We called them ditty bags in WW2.)

The much anticipated, much dreaded day. Singly, our names are called out to mount. In the remote past, I could manage this on my own, but the powerful boost by the wrangler is much appreciated. Everybody is watching. Thus did I meet Leo, a bay gelding with a nice face, strong legs, good manners, and tempo largo - "a slow and solemn degree of movement."

Pretrip advice from a horsewoman daughter was to wear jeans with smooth seams. But ah! The western saddle. I hadn't sat on anything harder than a bleacher in years and not on that part of me. The saddle is shaped to pound the inside of your thighs and your pelvis with every move of the horse. It feels as if there is no padding between it and your bones - hardly the case. Tension mounted with me. I don't remember the scenery going up. The itinerary says it is spectacular, with awesome views and forested with oak, pinyon, and juniper. Out of the corner of my eye I could see there were ravines, but I looked only at the trail. The height of the horse was enough.

No steering is necessary. The horses know their places in line. Leo and I are last except for a kindly wrangler. Leo negotiated the rocky trail, the U-turns on the switchbacks and steep inclines with the aplomb and care of a dowager, or whatever the male equivalent. Most of the time the rest of the string were far above us, hooves rattling the stones. The wrangler kept telling me that I was letting Leo get away with being lazy. He got me a switch - surreptitiously dropped. I had no intention of hurrying Leo; his pace suited me well. It was all I could do to keep my two knobby bags from swinging against his withers, hold the reins, keep my hat on, and my mind on the sweet smell of horse. And why I was doing this.

The two hours up to Laguna Meadows Leo controlled me. There in a grove was an iron hitching rail, a rest stop. With the wrangler's help (de rigueur!) I slid off, legs like butter, and went and sat on a log to relish the relief. Colimas were heard, seen. I don't care.

Leo doesn't have to be hitched. He joins us. He loves people, a pet. Group members feed him snacks from their lunches until I protest lest they make him sick. My horse.

Off again across the meadows strewn with the charred logs from an old fire. The trail is grassy and flat for a while. Then back and forth, around the 180-degree turns, over the ridge and down. Down is worse. You can't just dangle; you must use those unused muscles in your legs. Hang in there. We get glimpses of the boot, a rocky spire for which the place is named.

A corral among the trees, a cabin - Boot Springs. Horses are tied, and we stagger on our own feet at the place dreamed of; we're there.

"Where shall we have our picnic?" I ask, ever naive. "No time," says Jim, "We walk and eat." And we do, and there are Colimas and other feathered wonders for the eastener. One warbler was vigorously bathing so we could see the yellow undertail coverts, the eye ring, and rufous crown-patch. An hour or so we walk the trail beside the stream, to listen, peer, munch our food, find a lark's nest - a euphemism for a place to relieve oneself in private. It is enchanting in this remote place. We should be camping overnight - for the night sounds, to look for owls, to watch the sun come up on the desert below.

The rear guard wrangler had left with two riders to go up the trail to a higher peak of the Chisos for the view toward Mexico. So I am really last going back, though I can often observe the rear end of my roommate's horse - anatomy whose reputation is unwarranted.

We pass a young couple with a baby. They have hiked. It would not be so bad being a senior (lots of company) if the young didn't make you feel so decrepit.



Colima Warbler

*Painting by Howard Rollin
Reprinted with permission from Roland H. Wauer's
Birds of Big Bend National Park and Vicinity, 1973.*

Three hours it takes to get down, back and forth. It must be so hard on the horses. I am way behind, and the wrangler worries, dashing back to me on his pinto. I am oblivious in my bubble of misery. We could see the lodge way below, but it never seemed to get closer. That last hour is forever. Did it take this long to cross the basin floor this morning? A couple of horses act up on a turn; not Leo. At the remuda I wait interminably while the wrangler lets us in the corral one by one. Some have to be helped, immobile on their feet on mother earth, legs unwilling. Pride moves me to our van.

Thank you Leo, for all your hard work, for carrying me safely for six hours, albeit with some misery. I love you more than seeing the Colimas. You were the greater event.

The spring issue of *American Birds*, 1985, reports that in 1983, Crescent-chested Warblers, normally a Mexican species, were in the Huachuca Mountains of Arizona. This is a verified sighting. Then, in 1984, in Ramsey Canyon, they were observed, "evidently a mated pair. . . . seen foraging for insects and then carrying the insects up the hillside, as if to feed young birds" (*American Birds* 39: 10). I have always wanted to go back to Arizona. There are also Montezuma Quail there. A black-looking quail, flushed from the roadside below the Davis Mountains, yclept a Montezuma, was less than satisfactory. Holy Grails come in multiples for birders.

For those not involved in the mystique of birding, ABA stands for the American Birding Association, of which I am a lowly, but almost a charter member. Other than the magazine *Birding*, they publish annually the number of species seen by birders who send in their records. This can be a world list, a country, state, or special areas list, or how many species were seen on a Big Day or in a year, etc. Many scorn this form of self-aggrandizement, but it has its pleasures.

The ABA area is artificial, north of Mexico and all the way to the last Aleutian island, Attu, not many miles from Russia. We play a game, but the restrictions of ABA make it a sporting one. This doesn't preclude the esthetics of birding or improving one's knowledge in spite of what the purists might claim. Adding new species is an exciting goal, but there is always the pleasure of seeing species with which you are not very familiar as well as those that are. Three weeks on Attu would be beyond me, but Big Bend was possible. Thanks to Leo, I finally reached my goal, and a bow to the tour leaders who are the ones with the skill and expertise. As I have, I expect that many birders set themselves mini-goals or become impressive local experts. Birding is on many levels and a lifelong challenge. Ask any birder. Ask Dillon Ripley.

PAT NOYES FOX has seen one-third of the world's species of birds and has visited all the continents except Antarctica. Her father hunted pheasant and quail but had Chester Reed's *Bird Guides* - first of the genre - and took her when very young behind the scenes of the Ornithology Department of the Museum of Natural History in New York. She recalls the excitement of a Red-headed Woodpecker and Barn Owls in Sharon, Connecticut. In World War II she spent three years in the Pacific, crossing that ocean three times by ship, ran a pet show on Guadalcanal, which included native birds, and spent some time in Japan and China. She remembers the Laysan Albatrosses that had to be shooed off the runway on Johnson Island. Years later she became an intensive backyard birder under the aegis of Felix Cutler, went on Pat Garrey's field trips, took courses with Jim Baird, and subscribed to the Cornell Lab's mail-order ornithology course, which she urges on all beginners.



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MY STINT WITH SCITUATE'S STINTS

by P. William Smith, Hingham

Inasmuch as I may have spent more time than anyone else over the summer of 1985 with the stints at Third Cliff, Scituate, I thought I would write up my assessment of what happened. I am doing so more as ornithohistory than as any attempt to document potential ornithological records. From 27 July through 20 August I visited Third Cliff eleven times, usually for several hours, using a Questar to study the birds at close range. Hereafter I shall be referring to Lars Jonsson's superb *Calidris* illustrations that appeared recently both in *American Birds* 38 (September 1984): 853-876 and *British Birds* 77 (July 1984): 293-315 by plate number and letter, i.e., as "Bird 5b" or "Bird 2c."

I first visited Scituate on 27 July with Sue Dolder after hearing of a little Stint there on the Voice of Audubon. At that time I knew nothing of its original discovery - observers, plumage, habits, etc. I studied the roosting flock of adult Semipalmated Sandpipers, then comprising about two thousand individuals, which contained some Least Sandpipers, Sanderlings, etc. After a couple of hours I found a bird, obscured behind several others, which looked to me like a possible stint, for it showed extensive rusty edgings on the face, back, and scapulars. Frustrated by the limited view, I finally asked Sue to approach slowly, to try to redistribute the birds for a better look. Alas, a passing person with a loose dog flushed the whole roost; so I gave up.

I returned the next day (28 July) and found that Dave Clapp of Massachusetts Audubon's Marshfield sanctuary was there. He had looked for the Little on the twenty-sixth with Wayne Petersen, who had found it while birding alone on the twenty-fifth; so Dave had some idea of what the individual Wayne saw looked like. Finally I located what appeared to be the same bird I had seen the day before and studied it briefly before turning the Questar over to Dave. I thought it looked like Bird 5a, and based on Dave's secondhand description (not to mention my own desire to see a Little Stint in North America), I concluded it must be Wayne's bird. (At that point, the thought of more than one stint at Scituate never entered my head.) Unfortunately, while Dave was viewing it, the bird moved away and could not be relocated. Unbeknownst to me, Dave later described this bird to Wayne, who indicated to him that it did not sound like the stint he had seen.

I was back at Third Cliff again on 1 August, a stormy day without a soul on the beach. After looking through the roost without finding a stint, I walked farther along and noticed a lone bird feeding at the tideline. In the brief look I had before it flew, I judged it to be a stint - it looked like a classic summer adult Rufous-necked (Bird 5d). Now I was really puzzled, but in the meantime, Wayne came by. In a slightly different area than I had been concentrating on, where he had seen the Little Stint the week before, he refound his bird of 25 July. I then had a good chance

to study that one in the Questar. It was not my bird of 27-28 July. Rather, it looked very much like Bird 5b, except it seemed to lack color in the tertials and had a more frosty appearance overall than Jonsson captures. I do not think it was the bird I had seen an hour earlier on the beach, either; I did not see that one again. In any event, now two people had seen the stint of 25 July (Wayne's bird) and agreed it was unquestionably a Little Stint.

Buoyed by the news of definite confirmation, about fifty people were present at Third Cliff on 3 August, including myself. Most of the people were together and found a stint; to the chagrin of some, I could confidently tell them it was the bird I found on 27-28 July, not the one Wayne discovered on 25 July. In the meantime I had done much more reading and was beginning to think this one might not be a Little. Now with a longer and better look, I felt reasonably sure that it was a fading adult or year-old Rufous-necked. The wing coverts were lead gray, lacking any rufous; the rufous on the cheeks, back, and scapulars had a more reddish tone than the more honey-colored shade of the Little; the throat was somewhat pinkish, not white; and both the bill and legs seemed a bit shorter than those of the Semipalmated Sandpipers around it. It was much more like Bird 5e - than like 5a as I had thought the week before, but it was warmer gray and less frosty-looking than Jonsson depicts.

Later that afternoon, Bob Abrams found Wayne's Little Stint in the area which that bird favored. Being there and having seen it before, I could confirm that indeed it was the same individual I saw with Wayne on 1 August. Many people had good looks at it that day.

On subsequent days many people came, and some may have seen a different bird and called it "the" Little Stint, as I had originally. Others may have been confused by juvenile Least Sandpipers. It became increasingly evident that different people were describing the same bird in different terms, while others were describing different birds similarly. It all seemed to hinge on a person's experience and skill in understanding and describing a bird's feather patterns and hues, plus the optics used, the light conditions, the bird's posture, and many other variables including the opinions of others present (group psychology). By mid-August, however, I started to believe that some people were indeed seeing still other stints, even though I was not.

The climax (for me) came on 16 August, another stormy day. I was there alone and saw Wayne's bird (now paler), my bird of 27-28 July, two birds that looked to me like classic juvenile Littles (Bird 2c), and another bird or two that may have been stints of some sort. One gave an unfamiliar trebled call-note. Unfortunately, disturbance by bathers on the following days made it difficult to study the roost, and a change in weather caused a large exodus of birds. On 18 and 20 August, there were many fewer people present and no apparent stints.

In summary, from my experiences, present at Scituate were

- a classic 5b adult Little Stint from 25 July through 16 August.
- a stint nearly like 5e, almost certainly an adult Rufous-necked from 27 July through 16 August.
- a possible 5d adult Rufous-necked Stint (1 August), not definitely seen by others.
- two probable 2c juvenile Little Stints, seen 16 August (and earlier?), plus possibly others, either Little or Rufous-necked.
- a hundred or more Least Sandpipers and a few thousand Semipalmateds, mostly adults but with an increasing number of juveniles as August wore on, in all sorts of plumages, not just the classic ones depicted by Jonsson.

Finally, I would like to comment a bit. Recent stint identification papers may revolutionize peep-watching and should result in many more claims of palearctic stint sightings. I am delighted to have my horizons broadened in this fashion, and Lars Jonsson, Dick Veit, and Peter Grant deserve a lot of credit for this great leap forward. Nevertheless, fine-point identification papers largely present snapshots of the species they discuss. They may not emphasize or even completely review the variation in plumage characters, measurements, behavior, etc. among individuals of each species, nor the inevitable perceptual, if not absolute, overlap between some individuals of different species. Even if they do, readers may not grasp everything as intended by the authors. Some juvenile Least Sandpipers at Scituate were brighter and more extensively rufous than even the juvenile Little Stint depicted by Bird 2c; they showed one or more prominent white Vs on the back, the legs seemed dark in shadow, and they did not look much like Bird 2e, the standard young Least. Many people expected Little Stints to look, well, "little" (which they do not compared to their American cousins). Some young Semipalmateds (based on webbing between the toes) had considerable rufous feather edgings and were much buffier overall than the Bird 1d standard; their plumage looked to me a lot like Bird 1b, the standard juvenile Rufous-necked Stint.

As records, I believe most peep identifications based on knowledge at this point should be considered hypothetical no matter how reputable the observers or how thoroughly described the bird. Birders, of course, want binary ticks for their lists, but the reality is that separation of many individuals of these species under field conditions is still more art than science. I would only except photographically-proven or well-documented reports of classic individuals based on lengthy studies by numerous, experienced, independent observers over an extended period of time under a variety of observational conditions (or in the hand). Thus, although there seem to have been multiple palearctic stints present at Scituate this summer, almost certainly of two species, in my view, only the classic adult 5b Little Stint seen 25 July through 16 August and diagnostically photographed by Rick Morus of Worcester [see W. R. Petersen, "A Second Record of Little Stint" in *Bird Observer* 13 (October 1985): 278-279] and possibly

by others, qualifies as an ornithological record. The rest of the sightings seem more like interesting and possibly instructive reports. I am thrilled to suspect now that a small fraction of the peep passing through Scituate this year were palearctic stints. We need to learn more about how to observe them, how to separate them from their nearctic cousins and from each other. Perhaps 1985's visitors were just isolated vagrants. But it would be very exciting if they were part of a yet-to-be-discovered pattern!

I especially want to thank George and Dot Tyler of Scituate. Without their hospitality and forbearance at the unnerving onslaught of visitors, most of us "peepers" would not have even reached Third Cliff during the summer of 1985!

P. WILLIAM SMITH, a research associate of Manomet Bird Observatory, has demonstrated a keen interest in the problem of establishing creditable records of vagrants in North America. He is a former regional editor for *American Birds* and has served on the New Jersey Bird Records Committee. He has addressed this subject in *American Birds* [39 (Fall 1985): 255], "Jackdaws reach the new world," and in *Bird Observer* [13 (August 1985): 190], "What Is A Record?"

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MORE THAN A NAME:

HENSLOW'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus henslowii*)

by Richard K. Walton, Concord

Learning the name of a certain plant or animal is where the naturalist begins. Given the diversity of living organisms, this is often no mean feat. Indeed, there was a time when the natural sciences were primarily concerned with describing and naming. Since that time, endless numbers of amusing games, both formal and unwritten, that pertain to naming have been devised. A certain sense of accomplishment and pride comes to the observer when he correctly names this animal or that plant. For some, speaking the name is an end in itself.

The name can also be the starting point for investigations into what lies behind the nomenclature. A little research may lead to a line of undiscovered facts, the life of a great naturalist, or to one or more of the underlying themes of natural history. Which path is taken, and hence where one ends up in such burrowings, is to a large degree determined by the digger.

Henslow's Sparrow is a rare migrant with a sporadic nesting history in Massachusetts. Nowadays one is lucky to get a glimpse of one of the few birds that are recorded annually (Komar 1983). There was a time, however, when this diminutive sparrow nested in the state in fairly good numbers. William Brewster made the following journal entry for June 16, 1886: "The road to Wayland is generally wild and little settled. I saw and heard many birds both going and returning; but nothing of much interest except Henslow's Sparrows, of which I heard no less than six males on the way home" (Walton 1984, p.79).

But what of the name? As may be expected, this sparrow was named to honor an individual - John Stevens Henslow. If this gentleman's name doesn't ring a bell, a quick trip to the library will soon immerse you in a story involving some rather more familiar folk - John J. Audubon and Charles Darwin.

It turns out that Audubon collected the "type" specimen for this species near Cincinnati in 1820. Audubon described the event in the species account he wrote for the first American edition of *Birds of America* completed in 1844. "Perceiving it [the sparrow] to be different from any which I had seen, I immediately shot it, and the same day made an accurate drawing of it" (Audubon 1844). There's at least one story behind that drawing as well. In December of 1820, Audubon set out on one of his frequent river boat excursions along the Mississippi. During the trip some of his luggage and the portfolio containing this drawing were misplaced (some things never change). Fortunately for Audubon, and our story, the portfolio was later recovered. In his description, Audubon goes on to explain why he chose to honor Henslow: ". . . my object has been to manifest my gratitude for the many

kind attentions he has shewn me." J. S. Henslow (1797-1861) was an English botanist and geologist who taught at Cambridge. He was one of a group of Englishmen and Europeans who befriended the American woodsman during the period in which he was struggling to have his monumental work published and promoted. Audubon's earlier attempts to have his drawings and accounts produced in America had been spurned. The politics of publication led a Philadelphia group including Alexander Lawson and George Ord to send Audubon packing. They had their money on Alexander Wilson's *American Ornithology* and certainly didn't need the type of competition Audubon was obviously capable of offering. Audubon's European journal mentions his meetings with Henslow and several invitations to dinner. Henslow was also a pastor, and one account by Audubon tells of attending a service at which Henslow's sermon was titled "Hope." Certainly this was a time in Audubon's life when large amounts of hope would have been useful. In order to promote both himself and his work, Audubon frequently gave lectures on American birds at the meetings of various natural history societies in England. Among the lecturegoers at one such meeting of the Wernerian Society was a young Charles Darwin.

In the early 1830s Darwin was in the middle of a not-so-illustrious career as a student at Christ's College, Cambridge. His father, noting his son's enthusiasm for horseback riding, hunting, and beetle collecting, was convinced Charles Darwin would amount to nothing. Professor Henslow, on the other hand, carefully nurtured the boy's enthusiasm for things natural. He botanized with his young student, took him on many field trips, and prompted Darwin to study geology. At the end of his years at Christ's College, Darwin became known as "the man who walks with Henslow." During the summer immediately following his graduation from Cambridge, Darwin received an offer, expedited by Henslow, to take the position of naturalist aboard *H.M.S. Beagle*. Darwin's father looked at this possibility with a jaundiced eye. Two years at sea with no pay - it would damage his reputation and just put off getting on with life's real work. But the younger Darwin was incorrigible. His father held out one last challenge. "If you can find one man of common sense who advises you to go I will give my consent." Charles Darwin found this advocate in the person of Josiah Wedgwood, his future father-in-law. The rest is history.

Professor Henslow was also there thirty years after Darwin's epic voyage on the *Beagle* when the debate heated up over *On the Origin of Species*. . . . It was Huxley, Hooker, and Henslow on one side of the aisle (Darwin's side) and the Bishop of Oxford, Samuel ("Soapy Sam") Wilberforce on the other. But that's another story.

So it was that John Stevens Henslow played a significant role in the lives of two of the greatest nineteenth century naturalists. What we find behind the nomenclature may not only be interesting in its own right but may as well add meaning to our field excursions.

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RICHARD K. WALTON, a teacher, naturalist, and author living in Concord, pursued in college the study of philosophy but expanded his field of interest to take a graduate degree in natural history education. He has been studying birds for about fifteen years, and all these interests melded in the writing of *Birds of the Sudbury River Valley: An Historical Perspective*, which was published in 1984.



Audubon's Henslow's Bunting
Photo by R. K. Walton



Chilean Flamingo
North Monomoy Island
August 1985
Photo by Roger Everett

Field Records

August 1985

by George W. Gove, Robert H. Stymeist, Lee E. Taylor

August 1985 was cool, wet and cloudy. The temperature averaged 70.4°, 1.5° below normal. The highest temperature was 93° on August 15. Only one other day (August 14) reached the 90's, one less than average. The lowest mark was 53° on the last day of the month. Rain totaled 6.67 inches, 2.99 inches more than normal. This was the twelfth wettest August in 115 years of record. The most precipitation in any 24 hours was 4.63 inches ending on August 1. Fog was fairly frequent but heavy fog was noted on only one day, half the average frequency. Hurricane Danny on August 19 brought very little rain to the Boston area, but some Cape Cod locales received very heavy totals. Thunder was heard on only two days.

LOONS THROUGH TURKEY

An Eared Grebe in breeding plumage was seen at Back Beach in Rockport on August 11; it could not be found the next day despite a widespread search. A Bird Observer sponsored trip to Hydrographer Canyon and the continental shelf was again most successful. High-lights included fifteen Audubon's Shearwaters, 3700 Wilson's, 150+ Leach's, two Band-rumped and one White-faced Storm-Petrel. At least two Band-rumps, possibly more, were seen over a slick with Wilson's and Leach's storm-petrels for immediate comparison. Broad wings, barely notched tail, horizontal wing profile, indistinct secondary bar and size greater than Wilson's were clearly noted on these individuals which constitute the second record for Massachusetts. The state's eighth recorded White-faced Storm-Petrel was well-observed (see Richard Bowen's photo in the September records) over a chum slick with Leach's and Wilson's nearby. Black and white facial pattern, white underwings, brownish dorsal color, white rump, long legs and bouncing flight were all noted. A fantastic count of 110 Manx Shearwaters was reported on Stellwagen Bank on August 4 where 8000+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels were estimated on the same day. Great Cormorants were noted from two locations. The Osterville bird may have been the same individual found there during June 1985.

Again this year no serious counts were made at Plum Island heron roosts during August. No Least Bitterns were reported at Plum Island; in fact, the only one regionally noted was from Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard where it is exceptionally rare. Little Blue Herons were found in three locations with four immatures noted at Plum Island on August 4. Tricolored Heron continued scarce with only two reports at separate sites, and fifty Cattle Egrets were counted at the Appleton Farm in Ipswich. Five Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported for the region, with three in Eastham alone. The most exciting bird of the month was certainly the Chilean Flamingo at Monomoy. The origin of this bird is still unknown, but captive individuals are not uncommon. There was no indication of feather wear, and the bird was capable of flight. It was not banded.

A Snow Goose was found in Wareham on August 13, and the Brant continued at Plum Island most of the month. Both these individuals were probably here as a result of unique circumstances rather than being early or late migrants. True migrants included Ring-necked Ducks in Lakeville on August 24.

At least three immature Bald Eagles were again reported this month from a wide area of Cape Cod, especially near the dump in Chatham. A Golden Eagle was well observed at tree top level as it flew over Route 495 near Norton. The observer made the following notes: "The tail seemed long whereas the head and neck were short. The wing linings and tail were all dark. The trailing edges of the wings had the distinctive "S" curves. The wing appeared pinched at the base, especially on the trailing edge. The beak was bluish-black and smaller than the beak of a Bald Eagle. The cere and toes were bright yellow. I saw the golden hackles. The plumage was solid dark brown except

for the golden nape." As many as five Cooper's Hawks were reported compared with none last August. Three Wild Turkeys were found in Mendon though it is not known if they were released birds. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>AUGUST 1985</u>
Common Loon: 24	Lakeville	1	W.Petersen	
Pied-billed Grebe: 24	Scituate, GMNWR	1, 1	W.Petersen, R.Forster	
Eared Grebe: 11	Rockport	1 br. pl.	L.Jodrey#	
Cory's Shearwater: 19-20	Georges Bank	20	BOEM (W.Petersen)	
Greater Shearwater: 4,5,24 19-20	Stellwagen Georges Bank	325, 55, 20+ 325	R.Heil, A.Williams, J.Berry BOEM (W.Petersen)	
Sooty Shearwater: 4,5,24 19-20	Stellwagen Georges Bank	140, 45, 1 53	R.Heil, A.Williams, J.Berry BOEM (W.Petersen)	
Manx Shearwater: 4,24 20	Stellwagen Georges-Stellwagen Banks	110, 6-8 19	R.Heil, A.Williams BOEM (W.Petersen)	
Audubon's Shearwater: 19	Hydrographer Canyon	15	BOEM (W.Petersen)	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 4 19-20	Stellwagen Georges-Stellwagen Banks	8000 3700	R.Heil BOEM (W.Petersen)	
White-faced Storm-Petrel: 19	Hydrographer Canyon	1 (details on file)	T.White (BOEM)	
Leach's Storm-Petrel: 19-20	Georges Bank (shelf edge)	150+	BOEM (W.Petersen)	
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel: 19	Off Continental Shelf, near Hydro. Canyon	2	C.Haney (BOEM)	
Northern Gannet: 5	Stellwagen	4	A.Williams	
Great Cormorant: 4,14	Gloucester, Osterville	1 imm., 1	R.Heil, R.Forster	
Double-crested Cormorant: 2,25	Rockport (Halibut Pt.), Newbypt	90, 100	J.Berry, BBC	
American Bittern: 10	Lakeville	1	K.Holmes	
Least Bittern: 4	Oak Bluffs	1	fide V.Laux	
Great Blue Heron: thr.,4 22,25	Saugus, P.I. N.Dartmouth, GMNWR	max.12 (8/21,28), 13, 10	18 J.Berry, A.Bennett K.Holmes, BBC	
Great Egret: 17,22 25	S.Monomoy, E.Orleans P.I.	2, 2 8	B.Nikula, A.Williams BBC	
Snowy Egret: 13 15,17 22,24	Spectacle I. (Boston Harbor) Yarmouthport, S.Monomoy Hingham (World's End), P.I.	150 50, 50 95, 115	W.Barron J.Aylward, B.Nikula J.Lincoln, J.Cumming	
Little Blue Heron: 4,6 22,24	P.I., Marshfield S.Dartmouth, P.I.	4 imm., 1 2, 1	A.Bennett, D.Clapp R.Maker#, J.Cumming	
Tricolored Heron: 6,17	Marshfield, S.Monomoy	1, 1	D.Clapp, B.Nikula	
Cattle Egret: thr.	Ipswich (Appleton Farm)	max. 50 (8/25)	J.Berry	
Black-crowned Night Heron: 5,16 3,24	Eastham, Yarmouthport P.I., Marshfield	139, 38 11, 25+	B.Nikula, J.Aylward M.Lynch#, W.Petersen	
Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 4,5 14	S.Monomoy, Eastham Osterville	1, 3 1 imm.	B.Nikula# R.Forster	
Glossy Ibis: 4,12 13,17	P.I., Halifax Spectacle Island (Boston Harbor), S.Monomoy	1, 2 8, 7	A.Bennett, K.Anderson W.Barron, B.Nikula	
Chilean Flamingo: (status unconfirmed) 7-14	N.Monomoy	1	R.Humphrey, L.MacIvor+v.o.	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>AUGUST 1985</u>
Snow Goose:				
13	Wareham (Onset Bay)	1 ad.	R. Bushnell	
Brant:				
thr.	P.I.	1	BBC + v.o.	
Green-winged Teal:				
17	S. Monomoy	75	B. Nikula	
Blue-winged Teal:				
17, 18	S. Monomoy, P.I.	50, 35	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
Gadwall:				
24, 31	GMNWR, P.I.	3, 6	R. Forster, S. Bolton#	
American Widgeon:				
24, 25	GMNWR, P.I.	2, 1	R. Forster, BBC + v.o.	
Ring-necked Duck:				
24	Lakeville	9	W. Petersen	
Common Eider:				
14	Gloucester (Eastern Pt.)	25	H. Wiggin	
Black Scoter:				
31	Eastham	3	W. Petersen#	
White-winged Scoter:				
25	Winthrop	8	J. Cumming	
Hooded Merganser:				
2-17, 25	S. Monomoy, Newbury	1, 2	W. deRagon, R. Forster	
Ruddy Duck:				
14, 17	S. Monomoy	7, 3	B. Nikula	
Turkey Vulture:				
4, 7	Barre, Sudbury	6, 1	M. Lynch, R. Forster	
17-18, 22	Ipswich, N. Dartmouth	1, 1	J. Berry, K. Holmes	
Osprey:				
11, 14	Cotuit, Mashpee area	3, 5+	J. Barton, R. Forster	
24, 29	Worcester, Lincoln (DFWS)	1, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
Bald Eagle:				
10	S. Chatham	3 imm.	J. Aylward, C. Smith + v.o.	
numerous reports of immature Bald Eagles on Cape Cod				
Cooper's Hawk:				
5, 23	E. Middleboro	1, 2 imm.	K. Anderson	
13, 26	Halifax	1 imm.	K. Anderson	
24, 29	Scituate, S. Dartmouth	1 imm., 1	W. Petersen, R. Maker#	
Red-shouldered Hawk:				
thr.	E. Middleboro	1-2 daily	K. Anderson	
<u>Golden Eagle:</u>				
23	Norton (Reservoir)	1 ad. (details)	K. Holmes	
Peregrine Falcon:				
5	P.I.	1	S. Moore	
Wild Turkey: (status unconfirmed)				
23	Mendon	3	K. Holmes	

RAILS THROUGH SKIMMER

A few Lesser Golden-Plover were reported this month. The American Oystercatcher population at North Monomoy seems to have leveled off and remained steady at thirty to forty birds since 1981. Shorebird numbers, particularly for species including Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Whimbrel, Semipalmated Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher, were abnormally low. Whether this reflects a population trend or, simply, lack of reports is difficult to say.

As for the rarer shorebirds, Baird's and Buff-breasted, there were no Buff-breasted Sandpipers and only four Baird's reported in August. Upland Sandpiper counts were also on the low side; however, there were no reports from Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford. The Little Stint remained at Third Cliff, Scituate through August 16. For a detailed description of this bird, see the October 1985 *BOEM* 13:278. One or more possible Rufous-necked Stints were tentatively identified there also. See P.W. Smith: "My Stint with Scituate's Stints," elsewhere in this issue. A Long-tailed Jaeger was seen by an MBO seabird observer at Stellwagen Bank. This bird was observed chasing and being chased by a Parasitic Jaeger. Also seen at Stellwagen Bank were 1000 Laughing Gulls, all juveniles, and three to five Sabine's Gulls. The latter species is being seen more regularly. Little Gulls and Common Black-headed Gulls were noted in Newburyport and at Winthrop. Late nesting Least Terns at Scituate had six to eight chicks; they were said to have been initially displaced by a rainstorm in late June. A maximum of approximately eight Black Skimmers was present at North Monomoy early in the month.

G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>AUGUST 1985</u>
Virginia Rail:				
22,25	S.Dartmouth, Lancaster	1, 4	K.Holmes#, M.Lynch#	
Sora:				
4,25	Halifax, GMNWR	1, 5	K.Anderson, N.+A.Clayton	
Common Moorhen:				
2	M.V.	1	V.Laux	
Black-bellied Plover:				
9,18	N.Monomoy, Halifax	500+, 2	BBC, K.Anderson	
24	P.I.	550+	J.Cumming	
Lesser Golden-Plover:				
4,21	M.V., Scituate	2, 1	V.Laux, W.Petersen	
27	Halifax	1	K.Anderson	
Semipalmated Plover:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 400 (8/17)	v.o.	
2-17,9	Halifax, N.Monomoy	1-2, 250	K.Anderson, BBC	
25	Winthrop	30	J.Cumming	
Piping Plover:				
9,28	N.Monomoy, Scituate	7, 1	BBC, W.Petersen	
Killdeer:				
2-18, 26	Halifax, Rockland	max. 25 (8/12), 30	K.Anderson, W.Petersen	
American Oystercatcher:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 40 (8/4)	v.o.	
Greater Yellowlegs:				
1-15,23	Halifax, E.Boston	max. 5, 65	K.Anderson, J.Cumming	
Lesser Yellowlegs:				
thr.	Halifax	max. 100+ (8/26)	K.Anderson	
25	N.Monomoy	30	W.Petersen	
Solitary Sandpiper:				
thr.	Halifax	max. 10 (8/1)	K.Anderson	
22,24	S.Dartmouth, Wenham	4, 2	R.Maker#, J.Berry	
Willet:				
9,14	N.Monomoy, Mashpee	25, 6	BBC, R.Forster	
Spotted Sandpiper:				
12,24	Halifax, Wenham	2 imm., 9	K.Anderson, J.Berry	
Upland Sandpiper:				
4	Newburyport, M.V.	1, 9	A.Bennett, V.Laux	
11,31	N.Monomoy, Eastham	1, 1	B.Nikula, W.Petersen#	
Whimbrel:				
9	Annisquam, N.Monomoy	1 flying over calling, 6	H.Wiggin, BBC	
25	P.I.	6	fide A.Blaisdell	
Hudsonian Godwit:				
3,9	N.Monomoy	100, 40	B.Nikula, BBC	
17, 18-25	Revere, E.Boston	18, max. 17 (8/23)	L.Pivacek#, J.Cumming	
Marbled Godwit:				
12,17	Chatham, P.I.	1, 1	P.Trull, A.Bennett	
Ruddy Turnstone:				
9,23-26	N.Monomoy, Winthrop	80, max. 65+ (8/23)	BBC, J.Cumming	
Red Knot:				
9, 23-26	N.Monomoy, Winthrop	50, max. 40 (8/25)	BBC, J.Cumming	
Sanderling:				
9,17	N.Monomoy, Revere	350, 100+	BBC, L.Pivacek	
31	Winthrop	75	J.Cumming	
Semipalmated Sandpiper:				
thr., 9	Halifax, N.Monomoy	max.500 (8/11,27),800	K.Anderson, BBC	
Western Sandpiper:				
24,28	Scituate	1, 1	W.Petersen	
Little Stint:				
(from July) 1-16	Scituate (Third Cliff)	1	W.Petersen+P.W.Smith+v.o.	
Least Sandpiper:				
thr.,9	Halifax, N.Monomoy	max. 350 (8/27), 100	K.Anderson, BBC	
White-rumped Sandpiper:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 30 (8/25)	v.o.	
Baird's Sandpiper:				
17,18	S.Monomoy, Scituate	1 imm., 1	B.Nikula, P.W.Smith	
17,19	P.I.	1, 2	R.Forster#, BBC	
Pectoral Sandpiper:				
thr.	Halifax	max. 25 (8/27)	K.Anderson	
Dunlin:				
11,17	Halifax, Revere	1, 1	K.Anderson, L.Pivacek	
Stilt Sandpiper:				
2	Halifax	3	K.Anderson	
17,31	P.I.	53, 1	R.Forster, S.Bolton	
25	P.I., Newbury, Rowley	19, 4, 22	R.Forster	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>AUGUST 1985</u>
Short-billed Dowitcher:				
1,14	Halifax, N.Monomoy	1, 50+	K.Anderson, S.Carroll#	
Long-billed Dowitcher:				
17,25	P.I.	29, 4	R.Forster, BBC	
Common Snipe:				
thr.	Halifax	max. 3 (8/12)	K.Anderson	
25	P.I.	1	BBC	
Wilson's Phalarope:				
4,21	P.I., Scituate	1, 1	A.Bennett, W.Petersen	
25	Rowley, N.Monomoy	1, 1	R.Forster, W.Petersen	
Red-necked Phalarope:				
9,21	N.Monomoy, Scituate	1, 1	R.Hamburger#, W.Petersen	
10,20	Stellwagen	3, 5	R.Forster, BOEM	
31	Eastham	50	W.Petersen#	
Red Phalarope:				
20	Georges Bank	3+	BOEM	
Pomarine Jaeger:				
20	Georges Bank	3	BOEM	
Parasitic Jaeger:				
4,20,24	Stellwagen	8, 26, 8	R.Heil, BOEM, J.Berry	
31	Eastham-P'town	20	W.Petersen#	
Long-tailed Jaeger:				
25	Stellwagen	1 ad. (details)	L.Selzer	
Laughing Gull:				
17,23	Scituate, Winthrop	70, 75	R.Forster, J.Cumming	
24	Stellwagen	1000	S.Kellogg	
Little Gull:				
25,26	Newburyport, Winthrop	2, 1 (ad.W)	BBC, J.Cumming	
Common Black-headed Gull:				
19;29,31	P.I.; Winthrop	1; 1 ad., 1 (ad.W)+1	BBC; J.Cumming	
Bonaparte's Gull:				
17,25	Revere, Winthrop	500, 105	L.Pivacek, J.Cumming	
Ring-billed Gull:				
25,26	Winthrop	245, 185	J.Cumming	
Lesser Black-backed Gull:				
26,28	Scituate	1 (1S), 2(1S)	W.Petersen	
Black-legged Kittiwake:				
20,31	Stellwagen, P'town	2, 15	BOEM, W.Petersen#	
Sabine's Gull:				
4,14	Stellwagen	1 ad., 1 ad. (both hooded)	R.Heil,H.Wiggin	
24	Stellwagen	1 ad.(details), 2 imm.	J.Berry, S.Kellogg	
Royal Tern:				
9+11	N.Monomoy	1	G.Gove#, B.Nikula	
Roseate Tern:				
9,19	N.Monomoy, P.I.	100, 1	BBC	
Arctic Tern:				
14	Stellwagen, N.Monomoy	2 (details), 3	H.Wiggin, M.Lynch#	
Forster's Tern:				
9,14	N.Monomoy, Mashpee	5, 1	BBC (R.Stymeist), R.Forster	
19;21,31	P.I.; Scituate, Eastham	2; 2, 1	BBC (V.Albee); W.Petersen	
Least Tern:				
4,5	P.I.	30, 138	S.Moore, A.Bennett	
28	Scituate	10+ + 6-8 chicks	W.Petersen	
Black Tern:				
13,19	M.V.	1, 1	W.Manter	
14,17	Mashpee, Scituate	1, 1	R.Forster	
31	P'town	6	W.Petersen	
Black Skimmer:				
3-25	N.Monomoy	max. 8+ (8/3)	B.Nikula + v.o.	
14	E.Orleans	1	D.Williams	

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKER

Cuckoo numbers, judging by the reports, were low this month continuing the situation of July. Migrating Common Nighthawks totaled 348 in Watertown and 417 in Lexington over a twelve-day period and 198 were seen in Mendon on one day. A Chimney Swift was seen at Stellwagen Bank, not the usual location for this species, although their close relatives, hummingbirds, are frequently seen migrating over the ocean. A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers fledged three young on August 5 in Boston and one or two Red-bellied Woodpeckers were seen in Lincoln. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>AUGUST 1985</u>
Black-billed Cuckoo:				
3,5	Annisquam, P.I.	1, 1	H.Wiggin, S.Moore	
14	Lakeville	1	K.Holmes	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo:				
6,24	E.Middleboro	1, 1	K.Anderson	
Eastern Screech Owl:				
thr.	E.Middleboro	1	K.Anderson	
10	Lakeville	1	K.Holmes	
Great Horned Owl:				
thr.	E.Middleboro	1-2	K.Anderson	
18,29;21	Lexington; Ipswich	1-2; 2	L.Taylor; J.Berry	
23	E.Orleans	2 ad. + 1 imm.	A.Williams	
Barred Owl:				
10	Lakeville	1	K.Holmes	
Common Nighthawk:				
17-29	Watertown	max. 97 (8/23)	Total: 348	R.Stymeist
18-29	Lexington	max. 245 (8/29)	Total: 417	L.Taylor
23	Mendon	198	K.Holmes	
Chimney Swift:				
10	Stellwagen	1	R.Forster	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird:				
thr.	E.Middleboro	1 f.	K.Anderson	
16,29,31	Watertown,Lakeville,P.I.	2, 1, 1	R.Stymeist, K.Holmes, BBC	
Belted Kingfisher:				
3,4	E.Middleboro, Hopkinton	1, 3	K.Anderson, R.Forster	
Red-headed Woodpecker:				
5	Boston	2 ad. + 3 yg.	R.Wilson	
Red-bellied Woodpecker:				
4-9	Lincoln	1-2	I.Nisbet#	
Pileated Woodpecker:				
12,26	Wayland, Acton	2, 1	M. Sandock, J.Horvath	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAK

Passerine migration was evident throughout the month of August. On the fourth, an Orchard Oriole was banded in Rockport. This compiler had acted prematurely in declaring the July 4 bird to be the last reported for the year! Orchard Oriole in August does, however, constitute a comparatively late record as the species has occurred in this month during only two of the last eight years. One of these individuals was encountered at sea. During the second week of August, reports of warbler movement began. Included were Tennessee Warbler and American Redstart at Brookline on August 9. At this early date, these were probably adult birds. The real migratory push, with numbers of flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers occurred from August 22 on. The total warbler species count for the month was twenty-five, about typical compared to recent years.

Among the more unusual species reported was a Common Raven at Annisquam on August 10, presumably the same individual as was observed there in June. The single Jackdaw continued on Nantucket. The sole "southern" warbler reported was a Prothonotary on Tuckernuck Island, a coastal site as would be expected, on the fifteenth. From westerly haunts, an exhausted immature male Cerulean Warbler was captured after landing on the boat for the Bird Observer Hydrographer Canyon trip and was subsequently released ashore. This species is in the record for only two of the last eight Augusts. Remarkably, this is the fourth month straight including a Cerulean Warbler report!

It is interesting to note indications in August of the coming winter's possible irruptive species. This year's August Red-breasted Nuthatch total was as large as in any of the last eight years. Also, two young Red Crossbills were reported, one at Barre and the second at Plymouth. Finally, four Evening Grosbeaks were seen and photographed on August 20 at a feeder in Hudson. The only other recent August reports were in 1978 and 1979. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATIONS</u>	<u>NUMBERS</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>AUGUST 1985</u>
Olive-sided Flycatcher:				
23,24	Annisquam, Wenham	1, 2	H.Wiggin, J.Berry	
Eastern Wood-Pewee:				
thr.,22	E.Middleboro, S.Dartmouth	1, 2	K.Anderson, R.Maker#	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:				
24,28;24-26	MNWS; Brookline	1, 1; 1	v.o.; B.Hallett	
27,29-30	Grape I. (Boston Harbor), Nantucket	1, 2 b.	W.Petersen, E.Andrews#	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVER	AUGUST 1985
<i>Empidonax</i> sp.:				
27	Grape I. (Boston Harbor)	3	W.Petersen	
Great Crested Flycatcher:				
17,18	MNWS, S.Dartmouth	2, 4	L.Pivacek, R.Maker#	
Eastern Kingbird:				
23,25	Annisquam, P.I.	4, 30	H.Wiggin, BBC	
Purple Martin:				
thr.	P.I.	30 max.	v.o.	
Tree Swallow:				
25,31	P.I.	4000, 6000	BBC	
Barn Swallow:				
4	P.I.	150	A.Bennett	
Fish Crow:				
23,24	Whitman, Scituate	2, 2	W.Petersen	
Common Raven:				
10	Annisquam	1 seen + heard	H.Wiggin	
Jackdaw:				
thr.	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch:				
thr., 9-30	E.Middleboro, Annisquam	1, 2 max.	K.Anderson, H.Wiggin	
18,24;26-30	MNWS; Nantucket	1, 1; 13 b.	R.Forster; E.Andrews#	
Carolina Wren:				
22,28	E.Middleboro, Newton	1, 1	K.Anderson, O.Komar	
30	S.Dartmouth	1	R.Maker#	
Marsh Wren:				
4,25	P.I., GMNWR	33, 4	A.Bennett, BBC	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:				
16,23	Chatham, S.Dartmouth	1, 2	W.Bailey, R.Maker#	
24	Scituate	4	W.Petersen	
Swainson's Thrush:				
25	P.I.	1	BBC	
Hermit Thrush:				
4	Petersham	6	M.Lynch#	
Wood Thrush:				
24	Brookline	1	B.Hallett	
Warbling Vireo:				
9,24;23	Brookline; Wayland	1, 1; 2	B.Hallett; R. Forster	
26	Scituate	1	W.Petersen	
Philadelphia Vireo:				
26,28	Scituate, Newton	1, 1	W.Petersen, O.Komar	
Blue-winged Warbler:				
12,17	MNWS, Chatham	3, 3	P.W.Smith, W.Bailey	
29	S.Dartmouth	2	R.Maker#	
Golden-winged Warbler:				
28	MNWS	1	B.Hallett#	
Tennessee Warbler:				
9,17	Brookline, P.I.	2, 1	B.Hallett, R.Forster	
28	Nantucket	1 b.	E.Andrews#	
Nashville Warbler:				
9	Brookline	1	B. Hallett	
Northern Parula:				
17	P.I.	1	R. Forster	
Yellow Warbler:				
4,9	P.I., Brookline	22, 6	A.Bennett, B.Hallett	
Chestnut-sided Warbler:				
24,26	MNWS, Brookline	1, 1	R. Forster, B. Hallett#	
29	Nantucket	1 b.	E.Andrews#	
Magnolia Warbler:				
26-30	Nantucket	3 b.	E.Andrews#	
Cape May Warbler:				
18,25	MNWS, P.I.	2, 4	R. Forster	
26-30,30	Nantucket, Annisquam	15 b., 5	E.Andrews#, H.Wiggin	
Black-throated Green Warbler:				
22,24	S.Dartmouth, MNWS	1, 1	K.Holmes, R.Forster	
Blackburnian Warbler:				
24	Brookline	1	B.Hallett	
Pine Warbler:				
13-17	E.Middleboro	1 max.	K.Anderson	
Prairie Warbler:				
24	MNWS	1	R. Forster	
Bay-breasted Warbler:				
12-24,26-30	MNWS, Nantucket	3 max., 24 b.	v.o., E.Andrews#	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>AUGUST 1985</u>
<u>Cerulean Warbler:</u>				
20	Georges Bank	1 imm. m.	BOEM	
<u>Black-and-white Warbler:</u>				
22,26	S.Dartmouth, Brookline	1, 1	K.Holmes, B.Hallett#	
<u>American Redstart:</u>				
9-24;18,24	Brookline; MNWS	2 max.; 7, 8	B.Hallett; R. Forster	
<u>Prothonotary Warbler:</u>				
15	Tuckernuck Island	1	D.Holt	
<u>Ovenbird:</u>				
12,24	MNWS	3, 1	P.W.Smith, R.Forster	
<u>Northern Waterthrush:</u>				
4,12-24	Hopkinton, MNWS	2, 3 max.	R.Forster, v.o.	
25-30,26-30	Annisquam, Nantucket	1, 4 b.	H.Wiggin, E. Andrews#	
<u>Louisiana Waterthrush:</u>				
4	Petersham	1	S.Carroll#	
<u>Mourning Warbler:</u>				
12,28;28	MNWS; Nantucket	1, 1; 1 b.	P.W.Smith; B.Hallett E.Andrews#	
<u>Common Yellowthroat:</u>				
26-30	Nantucket	36 b.	E.Andrews#	
<u>Canada Warbler:</u>				
4,12	Petersham, MNWS	1, 1	M.Lynch#, P.W.Smith	
18,24	MNWS, Brookline	1, 2	R.Forster, B.Hallett	
<u>Yellow-breasted Chat:</u>				
28-29	Nantucket	3 b.	E.Andrews#	
<u>Scarlet Tanager:</u>				
14	Lakeville	1	K.Holmes	
<u>Vesper Sparrow:</u>				
5	S.Wellfleet	1	R.Forster	
<u>Sharp-tailed Sparrow:</u>				
9-14	Monomoy	40 max.	v.o.	
<u>Seaside Sparrow:</u>				
4,14	P.I., Mashpee	1, 1	A.Bennett, R.Forster	
21	Scituate	1 juv.	W.Petersen	
<u>Eastern Meadowlark:</u>				
17	Ipswich	4	J.Berry	
<u>Orchard Oriole:</u>				
4	Rockport	1 f. b.	R.Norris	
<u>Northern Oriole:</u>				
29	Watertown	3	R.Stymeist	
<u>Red Crossbill:</u>				
4,15	Plymouth, Barre	1 juv., 1 imm.	P.W.Smith, K.David	
<u>Evening Grosbeak:</u>				
20	Hudson	3 m. + 1 f.(ph.)	A.Rathgeber	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad.	adult	F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham
alt.	alternate (plumage)	F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham
b.	banded	F.M.	Fowl Meadow, Milton
br.	breeding	gr.	greater as in Gr. Boston area
dk.	dark (phase)	I.	Island
f.	female	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
fl.	fledge	Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
imm.	immature	Nant.	Nantucket
ind.	individuals	Newburypt	Newburyport
loc.	locations	P.I.	Plum Island
lt.	light (phase)	P'town	Provincetown
m.	male	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
max.	maximum	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
migr.	migrating	Stellw.	Stellwagen (Bank)
N.S.E.W.	direction	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
ph.	photographed	BOEM	Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts
pl.	plumage	CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
pr.	pair	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
thr.	throughout	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
v.o.	various observers	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
W	winter (2W = second winter)	LCES	Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies
w/	with	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
yg.	young	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
#	additional observers	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	NEHW	New England Hawk Watch
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
Buzz.	Buzzards (Bay)	PNWR	Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
C.	Cape as in C.Cod or C.Ann	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
		WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary



White-faced Storm-Petrel
Hydrographer Canyon
August 19, 1985
Photo by Richard Bowen

Field Records

September 1985

by George W. Gove, Robert H. Stymeist, Lee Taylor

September 1985 was a little on the warm side and slightly dry, but the weather highlight was Hurricane Gloria's visit on the twenty-seventh. The temperature averaged 65.4° , 0.8° above normal and 3.4° warmer than a year ago. The high mark was 90° on the fourth and the low was 45° on the thirteenth, which tied the record low for that date set in 1945. Rain totaled 3.00 inches, 0.41 inch less than normal. The two hurricanes of the month left just small amounts of rain. The month's first tropical storm was Henri, which produced no notable winds and only 0.14 inch of rain in Boston on September 24. Hurricane Gloria did little better in bringing rain (only 0.28 inch resulted) but unfortunately, did bring seriously damaging winds. The 76 mph wind gust was the highest recorded at Boston since the blizzard of February 6, 1978, which had gusts to 79 mph. Gloria's rampage affected mostly trees and utility lines, with clean-up and repairs still underway at the end of the month.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

Hurricanes such as Gloria arouse keen hopes in birdwatchers of a storm-driven vagrant or great numbers of pelagic birds. Birders all over the state planned pre-dawn trips to the coast in anticipation of rarities, but the storm's potential, much publicized in the media all week, never fully developed. Gloria was indeed a strong hurricane, but its aftereffects were not lasting as far as the birds were concerned. During the storm, those able to get out saw some fancy southern species. These storms are a regular feature of the western North Atlantic during the late summer and early fall, usually passing offshore giving Massachusetts a northeast gale, but on some memorable occasions the centers have struck New England, notably in 1938, 1944, 1954 and 1960. These storms brought numbers of vagrants such as Sooty, Bridled, Sandwich, Royal and Gull-billed terns; Brown Pelicans and tropicbirds. Also landbirds from the South may appear as a result of reverse migration (blowback).

Gloria peaked just after noontime here in Massachusetts, and by early afternoon, hundreds of Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen at Cackle Cove in Chatham where an adult White-tailed Tropicbird was carefully observed, apparently flying backwards. The bird was headed south, but being blown northeastward by the wind. (See Blair Nikula's report of this sighting elsewhere in this issue.) The center of Gloria passed through central Connecticut, and Fran McMenemy was stationed at Wachusett Reservoir in Clinton where he observed a Northern Fulmar and three Leach's Storm-Petrels; another inland record was of a single Leach's Storm-Petrel in Littleton.

The day after Gloria, nearly a hundred birders were lined up at First Encounter Beach in Eastham before sunrise to a much diminished wind and a low tide. Just a few Leach's Storm-Petrels and three Black Skimmers were seen, dashing the hopes of most everyone present for great numbers of rarities. Some compensation was afforded by the sight of a competition between two Peregrines, with the winning falcon settling down on the beach to mantle and consume its kill.

The day was not a total loss for some lucky individuals. An immature White-tailed Tropicbird was found exhausted sitting on the soccer field of the Governor Dummer Academy in South Byfield. A member of the academy faculty took the bird home and cared for it for two weeks before escorting it on the plane (at the expense of the Governor Dummer Academy) to Bermuda for release. (See elsewhere in this issue for full details.) Several birders viewed this bird at the Abusamras' home, every one of them wishing that they had found it in the field. Another storm-related specialty was an immature (or two or three) Brown Pelican. The bird was first seen (and photographed) at Norton's Point (near Katama) on Martha's Vineyard by six observers. Later that afternoon, this bird (or another) was seen from the Nantucket ferry as it entered Nantucket Harbor at 5:45 P.M. The bird was observed flying down along Coatue Beach directly behind the ferry and then south to Nantucket Sound. On September 29 (the next day) an

immature landed on the fishing boat *Mandy-Ray* on Georges Bank; it was fed by the crew and remained on board until the boat returned to Boston on October 1. The bird was taken to Franklin Park Zoo to recuperate.

The Bird Observer trip to Hydrographer Canyon on September 7 found all the shearwaters including three Audubon's. A White-faced Storm-Petrel was well observed and photographed as it fed in a slick near the boat. At least one Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was carefully studied by observers familiar with this species. As many as twenty Leach's Storm-Petrels were also recorded on this pelagic trip.

Standard September fare included increased numbers of Pied-billed Grebes after September 20, and good numbers of Manx Shearwaters on Stellwagen Bank. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>SEPT. 1985</u>
Common Loon:				
2	Lakeville, Wareham	3, 5	W.Petersen, L.Robinson	
3,29	Barnstable (SN), Lakeville	5, 11	P.Trimble, W.Petersen	
Pied-billed Grebe:				
10,15	GMNWR, N.Dartmouth	1, 1	L.Babineau, K.Holmes	
21	Sandwich, Wareham	1, 1	P.Trimble, L.Robinson	
22,25	S.Monomoy, Nantucket	7, 8	B.Nikula, R.Forster	
Northern Fulmar:				
7,28	Hydrographer Canyon, P'town	2, 1	BOEM, W.Petersen	
27	Clinton (Wachusett Reservoir)	1	F.McMenemy	
Cory's Shearwater:				
2+8,7	Stellwagen, Hydrographer Canyon	1+2, 20	R.Stymeist#+BBC, BOEM	
Greater Shearwater:				
2,8	Stellwagen	85, 150	G.Gove#, BBC	
Sooty Shearwater:				
2,8,22	Stellwagen	35, 40, 5	C.Floyd#, BBC, J.Berry	
Manx Shearwater:				
2,8,22	Stellwagen	45, 75, 3	R.Stymeist#, BBC, J.Berry	
28	P'town	2	W.Petersen#	
Audubon's Shearwater:				
7	Hydrographer Canyon	3	BOEM (W.Petersen)	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel:				
2,8;7	Stellwagen; Hydrographer Canyon	1200+, 2400; 3500	J.Gordon#, BBC; BOEM	
White-faced Storm-Petrel:				
7	Hydrographer Canyon	1 (ph.)	N.Proctor (BOEM trip)	
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel:				
7	Hydrographer Canyon	1	B.Basham (BOEM trip)	
Leach's Storm-Petrel:				
7	Hydrographer Canyon	20	BOEM (W.Petersen)	
27	Chatham (2 locations)	100+, 3+	B.Nikula, P.Trull	
27,28	Littleton, Eastham	1, 3	J.Baird, v.o.	
27	Clinton (Wachusett Reservoir)	3	F.McMenemy	
Northern Gannet:				
8,14	Stellwagen	2, 1	BBC, K.Holmes	
White-tailed Tropicbird: (See details elsewhere in this issue)				
27	Chatham (Cockle Cove)	1 ad.	B.Nikula, P.Trull	
28-30	S.Byfield (Gov. Dummer Acad.)	1 imm. (ph.)	L.+D.Abusamra + v.o.	
Brown Pelican:				
28	M.V. (Norton's Pt.)	1 imm. (ph.)	V.Laux + v.o.	
28	Nantucket (Harbor area 5:45 P.M.)	1 imm.	M.Pakras	
29	Georges Bank (landed on fishing boat)	1 imm.	fide R.Wilson	
Great Cormorant:				
1,8	Newbypt., Boston Harbor	1, 1	J.Berry, J.Cumming	
15,21	Scituate, Lakeville	2, 5 imm.	W.Petersen	
28,29	Rockport, P.I.	2, 1	J.Berry, K.Griffis#	
Double-crested Cormorant:				
8,22	Monomoy, E.Boston (Belle Isle)	2000, 521	B.Nikula, S.Zendeh	

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Single American Bitterns were reported from five locations and the last Least Bittern of the season was noted on September 9. Snowy Egrets totaled 140 at Duxbury on September 7, which was the maximum number reported for this species all month. Little Blue Herons were noted from eight locations and Tricolored Herons were found in only two places. Hemenway Landing in Eastham was the spot to see good numbers of night-herons all month.

Snow Geese were seen migrating at two locations, and the Brant continued at Plum Island. An amazing 192 Wood Ducks were tallied at Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Norfolk.

This is the maximum number ever reported from a single location in Massachusetts!

An Eurasian Wigeon was present on Monomoy, where as many as thirty Northern Shovelers were found. Canvasback and other diving ducks were returning and Ring-necked Ducks continued to build up in Lakeville.
R.H.S.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1985
American Bittern:				
2;3,23	Monomoy; Eastham (Hemenway)	1; 1, 1	M.Lynch#; B.Nikula	
7,22,28	P.I.	1, 1, 1	BBC, E.Nielsen, BBC	
10,15,21	Marshfield,Lakeville,Harwich	1, 1, 1	D.Clapp,W.Petersen,P.Trimble	
Least Bittern:				
9	M.V.	1	R.Sargent#	
Great Blue Heron:				
thr.	Saugus-Revere	max. 15 (9/16)	J.Berry	
9,12	M.V., Scituate	15, 12	R.Sargent#, SSBC	
13,18,24	S.Dartmouth	13, 9, 7	LCES	
15,26,28	P.I., Eastham, GMNWR	12, 40, 12	S.Carroll#,R.Forster,F.Bouchard	
Great Egret:				
thr.	Eastham, Monomoy	4+, 2	B.Nikula	
13,18,24	S.Dartmouth	23, 11, 20	LCES	
15,18,22	S.Hanson, P.I., Yarmouthport	1, 4, 1	W.Petersen,R.Forster,J.Alyward	
29	Westport, Rowley	32, 9	W.Petersen#, R.Stymeist#	
Snowy Egret:				
thr.	Saugus-Revere	20+	J.Berry	
1	N.Monomoy, Ipswich	36, 25	J.Cumming, J.Berry	
7	Duxbury Beach	140	SSBC (D.Clapp)	
8:15,28	E.Boston (Belle Isle)	63; 14, 10	S.Zendeh; J.Cumming	
13,18,24;15	S.Dartmouth; P.I.	25, 19, 13; 125	LCES; S.Carroll#	
Little Blue Heron:				
5,7	N.Monomoy, Duxbury	1, 1	B.Nikula, SSBC	
14,15	Essex, Scituate	3, 2 imm.	J.Berry#, W.Petersen	
15,22	N.Dartmouth, Newbypt.	1, 1 imm.	K.Holmes, E.Nielsen	
24,26	S.Dartmouth, Orleans	1, 1 imm.	LCES, R.Forster	
Tricolored Heron:				
1-2,15	Monomoy, Eastham	1, 1	J.Cumming#+v.o., H.Wiggin#	
Cattle Egret:				
1,8	Ipswich (Appleton Farm)	35, 43	J.Berry	
1,2	Essex	12, 31	G.d'Entremont, J.Berry	
28,29	M.V., P.I.	2, 1	V.Laux, R.Stymeist#	
Green-backed Heron:				
22,25	Holliston, Eastham	3, 6	R.Hildreth, R.Forster	
Black-crowned Night-Heron:				
thr.	Yarmouthport	max. 124 (9/28)	J.Aylward	
3,14,23	Eastham (Hemenway)	162, 132, 133	B.Nikula	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:				
3,14	Eastham (Hemenway)	2, 4	B.Nikula	
7,17	Newbury, Yarmouthport	1 imm., 1	R.Forster, J.Aylward	
19	Nantucket (Eel Pt.)	1 imm.	R.Stymeist#	
Glossy Ibis:				
thr.	Monomoy	max. 12 (9/1)	W.Drummond# + v.o.	
7,27	P.I., S.Dartmouth	1, 2	BBC, LCES	
Mute Swan:				
thr.	Ipswich area, Nantucket	max. 5, max. 59	v.o., R.Stymeist#	
9,12	M.V., E.Gloucester	150, 2	fide S.Whiting, J.Berry	
Snow Goose: (all migrants)				
14,22	Wachusett Mt., Ipswich	50, 18	NEHW+SSBC (K.Ryan), R.Forster	
Brant:				
thr.	P.I.	1	v.o.	
Wood Duck:				
thr.	Quabbin (Gate 40)	max. 21 (9/11)	S.Carroll#	
12	Norfolk (Stony Brook)	192	B.Cassie	
14,15	Bolton/ONWR, S.Hanson	10, 35	M.Lynch#, W.Petersen#	
21,29	Harwich, Nantucket	35, 5	P.Trimble, M.Litchfield	
Green-winged Teal:				
7,28	P.I.	25, 65	BBC, SSBC	
15,22	S.Monomoy	100, 400	B.Nikula	
Mallard:				
2	Lakeville	150	W.Petersen	
Northern Pintail:				
15,22,29	S.Monomoy	20, 20, 35	B.Nikula	
Blue-winged Teal:				
7,9	P.I., M.V.	100, 165	BBC (I.Giriunas), fide V.Laux	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1985
Blue-winged Teal (cont.):				
15,22,29	S.Monomoy	50, 75, 20	B.Nikula	
23,24	GMNWR, Nantucket	50, 10	R.Forster	
Northern Shoveler:				
7;15,22	P.I.; S.Monomoy	4; 5, 30	BBC (I.Giriunas); B.Nikula	
Gadwall:				
7,15	P.I., Scituate	10, 1	BBC (I.Giriunas), W.Petersen	
15,22,29	S.Monomoy	10, 10, 20	B.Nikula	
Eurasian Wigeon:				
22,29	S.Monomoy	1	B.Nikula	
American Wigeon:				
7,28	P.I.	4, 23	BBC, SSBC	
15,22	S.Monomoy	30, 40+	B.Nikula	
25	Nantucket (Long Pd.)	47	R.Forster	
Canvasback:				
28	Cambridge (Fresh Pd.)	2	F.Bouchard	
Ring-necked Duck:				
2,15	Lakeville	44, 225+	W.Petersen	
15,22	S.Monomoy	4, 7	B.Nikula	
Greater Scaup:				
14;15,21	P.I.; Lakeville	1 f.; 1, 8	G.d'Entremont#; W.Petersen	
25	Nantucket	36	R.Forster	
Lesser Scaup:				
21	Lakeville	1	W.Petersen	
Common Eider:				
7,15	Duxbury Beach, Scituate	65, 40	SSBC, SSBC	
28	S.Dartmouth, Rockport	32, 20	LCES, J.Berry	
Black Scoter:				
2	Wareham	2	L.Robinson	
Surf Scoter:				
2:28	Wareham;P'town,Rockport	1; 18, 3	L.Robinson;M.Lynch#,J.Berry	
Hooded Merganser:				
1,23,29	Newbury,GMNWR,S.Monomoy	3, 1, 2	R.Forster,R.Forster,B.Nikula	
Ruddy Duck:				
15,22,29	S.Monomoy	4, 8, 35	B.Nikula	

RAPTORS

There was a good flight of Osprey this fall observed at Wachusett Mountain with 21 reported on September 1, and a total of 265 recorded by the New England Hawk Watch (NEHW) September 11-15. Six Bald Eagles and two Golden Eagles were recorded in all from that site, and another Bald Eagle was noted from Monomoy. A total of fifteen Cooper's Hawks was reported during the month. Sharp-shinned Hawks at Wachusett Mt. during the five-day NEHW tallied 325, and a count made at South Wellfleet on September 22 totaled 118. Seven Northern Goshawks were recorded at Wachusett. Northwest winds predominated from September 11-15 and resulted in the bulk of the Broad-winged Hawk movement. No massive migration was noted, but the total of 15,613 was considered about normal. The reports suggesting an increase in number of Peregrine Falcons were encouraging - a total of twenty-six sightings. A maximum of five birds was reported on Martha's Vineyard on September 28. There was also a good flight of Merlins noted.

R.H.S.

Turkey Vulture:				
1,8	Newbury, Newbypt.	1, 3	R.Forster, R.Boothroyd	
11,13	Wachusett Mt.	2, 3	NEHW (P.Roberts)	
14,15;22	Ipswich	1, 1; 1	J.Berry; R.Forster	
15	Wachusett Mt.,N.Dartmouth	10, 1	M.Lynch#, K.Holmes	
16,22	Quabbin (Gate 40), Hardwick	10, 9	M.Lynch#, S.Carroll#	
Osprey:				
1,11,12,13,14,15	Wachusett Mt.	21, 38, 21, 17, 9, 20	NEHW (P.Roberts)	
5,9	Boston	4, 2	K.Ryan	
9,12,15	M.V.,E.Gloucester,Bolton	12, 1, 8	fide V.Laux, J.Berry,NEHW	
16-30	Saugus	1-2 (2 on 9/30)	J.Berry	
28	7 locations	9 individuals	v.o.	
Bald Eagle:				
14	N.Monomoy	1 imm.	v.o.	
12,13;14,15	Wachusett Mt.	2, 1; 2, 1	NEHW;SSBC (K.Ryan), BBC (P.Roberts)	
Northern Harrier:				
1	Wachusett Mt.	13	P.Roberts	
7,13	P.I. area, S.Dartmouth	6, 5	BBC, LCES	
12,13,14,15	Wachusett Mt.	4, 5, 5, 4	NEHW	
14	Bolton-ONWR	5	BBC (M.Lynch)	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1985
Sharp-shinned Hawk:				
1;11,12,13,14,15	Wachusett Mt.	19; 108, 45, 41, 67, 64	P.Roberts; NEHW	
14	Nantucket (Great Pd.)	46	J.Husted	
15	Bolton, Cuttyhunk, Eastham (1 hr.)	17,8,27	NEHW,P.Trimble,H.Coolidge	
22,25	S.Wellfleet, Nantucket	118, 10	D.Morimoto#, R.Forster	
Cooper's Hawk:				
1;5	Halifax, P.I.; Boston	1 imm., 1; 1	W.Petersen, C.Floyd#; K.Ryan	
11,13;14	Wachusett Mt.; ONWR	2, 1; 1	NEHW; BBC	
14;15	Halifax, Essex; Bolton	1 imm., 1; 1	W.Petersen, G.Gove#; v.o.	
18,21;21	P.I.; Eastham	1 imm., 1; 1	C.Leahy#, BBC; M.Lynch#	
22	Holiston, Wareham	1, 1	R.Hildreth, L.Robinson	
Northern Goshawk:				
1,12	Wachusett Mt.	6, 1	P.Roberts, NEHW	
14,19	Lakeville, Canton	1, 1	K.Holmes, K.Ryan	
16,22	Quabbin (Gate 40)	1, 2	S.Carroll, M.Lynch	
Red-shouldered Hawk:				
11,12,13	Wachusett Mt.	1, 1, 2	NEHW	
22,29	Hardwick, Lakeville	1, 1	M.Lynch#, W.Petersen	
Broad-winged Hawk:				
1	Wachusett Mt.	16	P.Roberts	
14,15	Bolton-ONWR	43, 1725	BBC, NEHW	
11,12,13,14,15	Wachusett Mt.	4842, 4226, 4953, 1104, 448	NEHW (P.Roberts)	
22	S.Wellfleet, Petersham	10, 5	D.Morimoto#, J.Baird	
28	P'town	1	R.Heil#	
Golden Eagle:				
12	Wachusett Mt.	2	NEHW	
American Kestrel:				
1,14	Hanscom AFB,Ipswich-Essex	5, 5	J.Carter, J.Berry	
11,12,13;14,15	Wachusett Mt.	20, 2, 6; 10, 15	NEHW; SSBC (K.Ryan), BBC (P.Roberts)	
15;22	Bolton,S.Monomoy;Petersham	9, 4; 7	NEHW, B.Nikula; J.Baird	
Merlin:				
7	P.I., W.Newbury, Newbypt., Essex	2, 1, 1, 1	R.Forster	
8,9	Stellwagen, Boston	1, 1	BBC, K.Ryan	
14	P.I., Wachusett Mt.	5, 3	W.Petersen, NEHW	
22	S.Wellfleet, P.I.	1, 3	D.Morimoto, E.Nielsen	
24-25	Nantucket	11+	R.Forster	
Peregrine Falcon:				
1	Newbypt., P.I.	1, 1	R.Forster	
4,5,7	Hanscom AFB,Boston,P.I.	1, 1, 1	J.Carter, K.Ryan, J.Cumming	
14	Newbypt.,Dorchester (SE X-Way)	1 imm., 1	W.Petersen	
14,30	N.Monomoy	1, 2	P.Trull	
16,21	Canton, Nantucket (2 locations)	1, 2 ad.	K.Ryan, R.Stymeist#	
22,25	S.Monomoy, Nantucket	2+, 3	B.Nikula, R.Forster	
28	Eastham, M.V.	3, 5+	v.o., V.Laux#	

RAILS THROUGH SKIMMER

Clapper Rails were seen at three locations including three birds seen at high tide at Fort Hill. Among the many reports of Lesser Golden-Plover was one of a flock of thirty birds coming in off the ocean at Scituate and heading west. The four reports of Piping Plover noted only one or two birds each; these birds are in possible trouble due to encroachment by humans and due to consequent increased predation. Killdeer were seen in the usual autumn flocks of thirty to seventy birds. An American Avocet was present at Plum Island for at least four days, where it was photographed. This species has been reported in six of the last thirteen Septembers.

Among the Willets reported this month were four of the western race at Plum Island. There were at least nine to eleven Marbled Godwits seen this month with a maximum of five present at North Monomoy on September 29. The highest September total in the BOEM reports since 1973 was of ten birds at Monomoy in 1975. Twenty Western Sandpipers were noted at Orleans and thirty-five White-rumped Sandpipers were seen at North Monomoy. Reports of Baird's Sandpiper continue to be scant with only two birds reported this month. Pectoral Sandpipers were present in good numbers the last two weeks of the month. The first Purple Sandpipers of the winter were noted at North Scituate on September 4. A Curlew Sandpiper, constituting only the third September report in BOEM records, was found in a horse pasture in Ipswich on September 21 and was seen by many. The following is excerpted from the details provided by the initial observer:

While (the observer was) looking for a reported Buff-breasted Sandpiper, a shorebird appearing slightly larger than nearby Pectoral Sandpipers was noted. It had a long, decurved bill, long legs, and a relatively long neck. Because of its overall gray appearance, it was first thought to be

an adult Curlew Sandpiper, but a closer look revealed a buff tinge and faint streaking on the upper sides of the breast and a scalloped back, suggesting a juvenile plumage. The bird was observed with a 22x60 telescope for about 40 minutes at a distance varying between 30 and 150 yards. The following details were noted: crown dark gray (gray extending forward to bill); distinct white supercilium, widest behind eye; blackish lores and line behind eye; ear coverts dark gray; bill long (approx. 1.25 times head), black, fairly broad at base, decurved over entire length, and rather pointed at tip; hind-neck gray (lighter than crown). The underside was almost entirely white but with a buff tinge and faint streaking on sides of upper breast. Mantle dark, brownish-gray with wings appearing alightly lighter; fairly distinct whitish-buff edges to feathers on back giving bird a scaly appearance; white rump; tail dark gray; legs long and black (compared to Pectoral Sandpiper).

The observer added that he had previously seen Curlew Sandpiper feeding in a field, most recently in 1984, early September - a juvenile in a flock of about 300 Greater Golden-Plover! (in Europe, of course).

Two immature, or first-year, Sabine's Gulls were seen and photographed on a BBC pelagic trip to Stellwagen Bank. With the increasing numbers of observers and the increasing numbers of whale-watching trips to Stellwagen out of various ports, many more pelagic species are being reported. This is good as it will allow a better estimate of seabird populations and occurrences. However, there are instances of reports of widely differing numbers of birds on the same day. This is probably due to different observers being on different parts of the bank. Stellwagen extends from a few miles north of Provincetown to New Hampshire, so it probably would be helpful if observers would note on which part of the bank - North, Middle, or South - they are on. This information could be obtained from the boat's captain.

Several weeks after the September pelagic trips on which the birds were seen and photographed, two pictures of juvenile Long-tailed Jaegers surfaced. One photo was taken on September 7 over Georges Bank by Rick Cech on the Bird Observer Hydrographer Canyon trip and the other at Stellwagen Bank by Richard Forster on the next day on a BBC pelagic. Neither sighting was called on these trips. The reason for the oversight is very clear if the similarly-plumaged jaeger pictured in Harrison's seabird guide (drawing 201e of plate 55 on page 132) is studied. (See P. Harrison, *Seabirds: An Identification Guide*, 1983, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, pages 132 and 326.) Further details of this confusing plumage stage will be published in a future issue of *Bird Observer*.

Among the birds in this section of the records that were associated with Hurricane Gloria were the following: Parasitic Jaeger (60), jaeger species (75), skua species (1), Caspian Tern (20), Royal Tern (185), Sandwich Tern (75), Forster's Tern (200), and Sooty Tern (3). The skua was thought to be a South Polar Skua based on the apparent uniform dark tan body color. The Sooty Terns were all adults. A Forster's Tern was seen at Lakeville two days after the storm. G.W.G.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1985
Clapper Rail:				
20,29	N.Monomoy, Newbypt	1, 1	P.Trimble, C.Floyd	
21,25	Eastham	3, 1	M.Lynch#, R.Forster	
Virginia Rail:				
7,14	Newbypt., Lakeville	1, 1	J.Berry, K.Holmes	
15,20	Marshfield, Harwich	2, 3	W.Petersen, P.Trimble	
Sora:				
14,21;21	Halifax; P.I.	1, 2; 2	K.Holmes,W.Petersen;BBC	
26	Truro, Eastham	2, 2	R.Forster	
Common Moorhen:				
23,24	GMNWR, S.Dartmouth	3, 1	R.Forster, LCES	
29	S.Monomoy	1	B.Nikula#	
Black-bellied Plover:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 1600 (9/30)	B.Nikula# + v.o.	
28	P.I., Ipswich	250, 68	SSBC, J.Berry	
Lesser Golden-Plover:				
1,2	Newbypt., Bridgewater	7, 11	R.Forster, W.Petersen	
2,3	M.V., E.Quabbin	25, 3	S.Whiting#, T.Gagnon#	
2,8	Scituate, W.Newbury	30, 5	W.Petersen, L.Robinson	
7,21,22,29	P.I.	2 imm., 10, 4, 1 juv.	v.o.	
19,22	Nantucket, Monomoy	15, 9+	R.Stymeist, B.Nikula	
Semipalmated Plover:				
2	Monomoy, Scituate	350+, 250+	S.Carroll#, W.Petersen	
7	P.I., Duxbury	175, 40	BBC, SSBC	
Piping Plover:				
2	Monomoy, Scituate	2, 1	M.Lynch#, W.Petersen	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>SEPT. 1985</u>
Piping Plover (cont.):				
15,29	Cuttyhunk, Nantucket	2, 1	P.Trimble, M.Litchfield	
Killdeer:				
2,7	Bridgewater, Essex	50, 37	W.Petersen, R.Forster	
8	W.Newbury, Ipswich	66, 36	L.Robinson, J.Berry	
28,29	Ipswich, W.Newbury	40+, 62	J.Berry, R.Stymeist	
American Oystercatcher:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 44 (9/8,30)	B.Nikula	
thr.	M.V.	max. 30 (9/29)	V.Laux#	
15,28	Cuttyhunk, Nantucket	6, 17	P.Trimble, E.Andrews	
29	S.Monomoy	24	W.Bailey	
American Avocet:				
5,8	P.I.	1, 1 (ph.)	R.Kaufman, L.Robinson	
Greater Yellowlegs:				
thr.	E.Boston	max. 96 (9/22)	S.Zendeh	
7,14	Duxbury, Essex	45, 5	SSBC, J.Berry	
28	P.I.	60	SSBC	
Lesser Yellowlegs:				
thr., 1	E.Boston, Halifax	max. 12 (9/2), 50	S.Zendeh, K.Anderson	
14,18	Essex, Lincoln	32, 6	J.Berry, J.Carter	
Solitary Sandpiper:				
1,9	Carver, M.V.	5, 12	L.Robinson, fide V.Laux	
18,29	Lincoln, Weston	2, 2	J.Carter, L.Robinson	
	Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 8 locations throughout September.			
Willet:				
8,14	P.I., N.Monomoy	4 (Western), 5	L.Robinson, H.Coolidge#	
28,29	E.Boston, Westport	1, 1	S.Zendeh, W.Petersen#	
Spotted Sandpiper:				
15	Scituate	5	SSBC	
Upland Sandpiper:				
1,9	Essex, Chatham	1, 2	R.Forster, B.Nikula	
15	Plymouth	1	W.Petersen#	
Whimbrel:				
2,6	N.Monomoy, Nantucket	9, 14	S.Carroll#, N.Waldron	
14,15	P.I., N.Dartmouth	9, 6	G.Gove#, K.Holmes	
28,29	Eastham, P.I.	9, 1	M.Lynch#, J.Berry	
Hudsonian Godwit:				
2-22, 1-22	E.Boston, N.Monomoy	max. 7 (9/8), max. 15 (9/5)	S.Zendeh, B.Nikula	
2,7	M.V., Newbypt.	12, 7	R.Culbert, v.o.	
Marbled Godwit:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 5 (9/29)	v.o.	
14,15;17	S.Monomoy; Orleans	1; 1	v.o., B.Nikula	
28;28-29	M.V.; Nantucket	3; 1	V.Laux#; E.Andrews#	
Ruddy Turnstone:				
2,7	Winthrop, Duxbury	50, 35	J.Cumming, SSBC	
15	Scituate	50	SSBC	
Red Knot:				
2,7	Scituate, Duxbury	200, 45	W.Petersen, SSBC	
7	P.I.	12	J.Berry	
Sanderling:				
7,15	Duxbury, Plymouth	750, 1500+	SSBC, W.Petersen	
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 1200 (9/14,30)	B.Nikula + v.o.	
29	Nantucket	525	E.Andrews	
Semipalmated Sandpiper:				
2,12	Halifax, E.Gloucester	400, 125	W.Petersen, J.Berry	
17,28	Orleans, P.I.	200, 100	B.Nikula, SSBC	
Western Sandpiper:				
1,14	Scituate, P.I.	2, 4	W.Petersen	
8,17	Squantum, Orleans	3+, 20	G.d'Entremont#, B.Nikula	
29	Westport	5	W.Petersen#	
Least Sandpiper:				
1,thr.	Lincoln, Halifax	21, max. 200 (9/2)	J.Carter, v.o.	
7,15	Duxbury, Scituate	50, 80	SSBC	
White-rumped Sandpiper:				
8,22	N.Monomoy, P.I.	35, 17	B.Nikula, E.Nielsen	
Baird's Sandpiper:				
3;28	Squantum, E.Quabbin; P.I.	1, 1; 1	R.Abrams, T.Gagnon#; SSBC	
Pectoral Sandpiper:				
thr.	Halifax	max. 70 (9/21)	v.o.	
14-28	Ipswich	max. 70 (9/14)	J.Berry#	
22,29	S.Monomoy	80, 60	B.Nikula	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>SEPT. 1985</u>
Purple Sandpiper: 15	N.Scituate	4	SSBC	
Dunlin: 7,28;29	P.I.	1, 150; 200+	BBC, SSBC; J.Berry	
<u>Curlew Sandpiper:</u> 21,22	Ipswich	1 imm. (details)	E.Nielsen + v.o.	
Stilt Sandpiper: 7,18; 9	P.I.; M.V.	1, 1; 1	J.Berry, R.Forster; V.Laux	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 14-21,15-21	Ipswich, Nantucket	max. 2 (9/14), 2	v.o., R.Stymeist#	
Short-billed Dowitcher: 2-28,7 28	E.Boston, P.I. Ipswich	max. 14 (9/8), 30 2 (calling)	S.Zendeh, J.Berry J.Berry	
Long-billed Dowitcher: 2-28 14,18 22,28	E.Boston P.I. Ipswich	1-2 40, 50 2, 2 (calling)	S.Zendeh R.Forster R.Forster, J.Berry	
Common Snipe: 14,28	Lancaster, Ipswich	3, 5	SSBC, J.Berry	
American Woodcock: 14	ONWR	4	BBC	
Wilson's Phalarope: 1;22,29	Newbury,P.I.;S.Monomoy	1(same bird); 1,1	R.Forster,G.d'Entremont;B.Nikula#	
Red-necked Phalarope: 1,8,14	P.I., Stell., Plymouth	1, 5, 12	R.Forster, BOEM, K.Holmes	
Red Phalarope: 7,8	Stell., Georges Bank	12, 20+	K.Holmes, BOEM	
Pomarine Jaeger: 7,28	Hydrographer C., Eastham	3, 1	BOEM, S.Carroll#	
Parasitic Jaeger: 2,8,22 7,28 27	Stellwagen Hydrographer C., C.Cod Chatham (2 loc.)	15, 25, 5 10, 10 5, 40+	G.Gove#, BBC, J.Berry BOEM, W.Petersen# B.Nikula, P.Trull	
<u>Long-tailed Jaeger:</u> 7,8	Georges Bank, Stell.	1 imm.(ph), 1 imm.(ph)	R.Cech, R.Forster	
jaeger sp.: 27,28	Chatham, M.V.	40+, 35	B.Nikula#, V.Laux#	
skua sp.: 27	Chatham	1	B.Nikula + P.Trull	
Laughing Gull: 2,14 8-29,23 14,22	N.Monomoy E.Boston, Winthrop Nantucket, Stellwagen	150+, 60 max. 36 (9/29), 75, 10	M.Lynch#, H.Wiggin# 165+ S.Zendeh, J.Cumming M.Litchfield, J.Berry	
Little Gull: 22	Newbypt	3 ad.	R.Forster	
Common Black-headed Gull: 8,15	Boston, Winthrop	1, 1 ad.	M.Lynch#, J.Cumming	
Bonaparte's Gull: 2-11,22	Winthrop, Newbypt.	max. 725 (9/9), 500	J.Cumming, R.Forster	
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 4 18,19 24,25	Annisquam Nantucket Nantucket	1 ad. 1 ad., 2 (sub-ad.) 1 (2W), 1 ad.	H.Wiggin L.Taylor, R.Stymeist R.Forster	
Black-legged Kittiwake: 1,8 22	Barnstable, Stellwagen Stellwagen	3, 25 3 imm.	P.Trimble, BBC J.Berry	
Sabine's Gull: 8	Stellwagen	2 imm. (ph.)	BBC	
Caspian Tern: 8 28 28 28	N.Monomoy M.V., Nantucket N.Monomoy, S.Dartmouth Chatham	1 15, 1 2, 1 1	B.Nikula V.Laux, E.Andrews B.Nikula#, LCES R.Forster	
Royal Tern: 19,27 28 28 29	Nantucket, Chatham M.V., Nantucket Eastham,P'town,N.Monomoy Nantucket	1, 1 150, 20 1, 3, 3 8	R.Stymeist, B.Nikula V.Laux#, S.Perkins v.o. M.Litchfield	
<u>Sandwich Tern:</u> 28 28,29	M.V., Nantucket Chatham, Nantucket	40, 25-30 1, 7	V.Laux#, S.Perkins R.Heil#, E.Andrews	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>SEPT. 1985</u>
Roseate Tern:				
1	Barnstable, N.Monomoy	50, 250	P.Trimble, BBC	
8,25	Stellwagen, Nantucket	70, 250	BBC, R.Forster	
8	N.Monomoy	5000	B.Nikula	
Common Tern:				
8	Stellwagen, N.Monomoy	2000, 10000	BBC, B.Nikula	
22	Stellwagen	500	J.Berry	
Forster's Tern:				
1,6	N.Monomoy, Nantucket	10, 2	BBC, N.Waldron	
19,25	Nantucket	6, 6	R.Stymeist#, R.Forster	
28,29	M.V., N.Monomoy	200+, 5+	V.Laux#, B.Nikula	
29	Lakeville, Westport	1, 2-3	W.Petersen	
Least Tern:				
1,6	Barnstable, Hyannis	1, 6	P.Trimble	
Sooty Tern:				
27	Eastham	3 ad.	C.Goodrich	
Black Tern:				
8,15	Stellwagen, S.Monomoy	2, 5+	K.Holmes, B.Nikula	
22,29	P'town, Nantucket	1, 1	D.Morimoto#, M.Litchfield	
Black Skimmer:				
1-8	N.Monomoy	3	v.o.	
28	M.V., Eastham	13+, 3	V.Laux#, v.o.	

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Cuckoo reports continue to reflect low numbers of these two species. An "Owl Prowl" in Middleboro and adjacent towns garnered numbers of several species of owls. That area of the state is where A.C. Bent did a lot of his observations of raptors. The nighthawk migration continued through the fifth of the month in force with the latest date being September 29. Whip-poor-wills were found on the Vineyard on the ninth where 50 Chimney Swifts were noted on September 28.

A Black-backed Woodpecker was reportedly seen by several observers on Nantucket on the tenth. This fits in with reports of this species on the Cape in the fall in past years. A Green-winged Macaw was seen in the Common Pastures of Newburyport on September 14 and was said to be "an obvious escape" by the observers. Still, it must have been quite a thrill and surprise to find such a bird! G.W.G.

Mourning Dove:				
6,29	ONWR, Weston	140+, 100+	M.Lynch#, L.Robinson	
Black-billed Cuckoo:				
5,20	Annisquam, Manomet	1, 1 (b.)	H.Wiggin, MBO staff	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo:				
9,5	M.V., Annisquam	1, 1	V.Laux, H.Wiggin	
15,18	P.I., Lincoln	1, 2	S.Carroll#, J.Carter	
Common Barn Owl:				
9	M.V.	1	fide V.Laux	
Eastern Screech Owl:				
thr.	Ipswich	1	J.Berry	
9	M.V.	6	fide V.Laux	
21	Lakeville, Middleboro, Halifax, Bridgewater	13	K.Holmes	
	Reports of four other individuals in each		of four locations.	
Great Horned Owl:				
2,thr.	P.I., Ipswich	2, 1	J.Grugan, J.Berry	
14,21	Bridgewater-Lakeville, Middleboro-Halifax	4, 2	K.Holmes	
Barred Owl:				
11	Petersham	1	M.Lynch#	
21,29	Lakeville	2, 1	K.Holmes, W.Petersen	
Long-eared Owl:				
14	Lakeville	1	K.Holmes	
Northern Saw-whet Owl:				
28	P.I.	1	fide J.Baird	
Common Nighthawk:				
2-4	Watertown	293	R.Stymeist	
2,3	Worcester	95, 100	K.Powers	
4,5	Bedford	49, 65+	J.Carter	
21,29	Milton, M.V.	3, 1	K.Ryan, S.Perkins	
1-20	Other reports of small flocks from 8 locations.			
	On 9/2, there were 4 flocks of 7-34 plus singles in Worcester from 6:55-7:25 P.M., all moving southwest.			
Whip-poor-will:				
9	M.V.	10	fide V.Laux	

SPECIES/DATE.	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1985
Chimney Swift: 1,28	Canton, M.V.	20, 50	G.d'Entremont#, V.Laux#	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2,25	Lexington, Watertown Reports of 1-2 individuals from each of 8	1, 1	L.Taylor, R.Stýmeist#	
Belted Kingfisher: 26	Eastham	7	R.Forster	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 15,22	N.Scituate, P.I.	1, 3	SSBC, R.Forster	
Hairy Woodpecker: 24	Petersham	4	S.Carroll#	
Black-backed Woodpecker: 10	Nantucket	1 m.	N.Waldron#	
Northern Flicker: 9,11	M.V., Petersham	100, 13	fide V.Laux, S.Carroll#	
Pileated Woodpecker: 3:22,29	E.Quabbin;Petersham	4; 2, 2	T.Gagnon#; M.Lynch#	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

Five Olive-sided Flycatchers in a single day at one site, Plum Island on September 7, was indicative of the good magnitude of migration for this species, and compares well with other notable movements in 1977 and 1984. Western Kingbird reports for the month totalled five, which is right on the recent norms. The single-day count of 75,000 Tree Swallows around the Elizabeth Islands on September 15 is exceeded only by a report of 90,000 in 1978, and is significantly greater than the typical 10-20,000 highs. At least two swallow species, Northern Rough-winged and Cliff, were reported on notably late dates, possibly associated with the hurricane. During the last nine Septembers, Rough-wings have occurred in only four, and then typically earlier in the month than this year's two September 28 reports. The single Bank Swallow for the month, at Plum Island on September 18, constituted a low number compared to the more normal twenty.

Among the corvids, the report of seven Common Ravens at Wachusett Mountain on September 14 was the highest single-day count for this species in any month of recent years. The Nantucket Jackdaw continued to be seen, generally near Siasconsett. Swainson's Thrushes were quite lightly reported, and the only two Gray-cheeked Thrushes recorded were nabbed by banders. L.E.T.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 6,7	Nantucket, P.I.	1 b., 5	E.Andrews#, v.o.	
Eastern Wood-Pewee: 7,16	P.I., Petersham	2, 1	G.Gove#, M.Lynch#	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1-22,7	Nantucket, P.I.	5 b., 3	E.Andrews#, BBC	
7,9	Duxbury Beach, M.V.	2,1	SSBC, fide V.Laux	
"Traill's" Flycatcher: 1-13	Nantucket	5 b.	E.Andrews#	
Least Flycatcher: 1-22	Nantucket	3 b.	E.Andrews#	
<u>Empidonax</u> sp.: 7,26	Duxbury, Eastham	5, 1	D.Clapp, R.Forster	
Eastern Phoebe: 6,7	ONWR, P.I.	5, 6	S.Carroll#, BBC	
13,16	Wayland, Petersham	5, 12	R.Forster, M.Lynch#	
29	Holliston	2	R.Hildreth	
Great Crested Flycatcher: 2,7	MNWS, P.I.	3+, 2	J.Cumming, G.Gove#	
Western Kingbird: 4,7	M.V., P.I.	1, 1	W.Manter, J.Cumming#	
7,12	M.V., Middleboro	1, 1	W.Manter, K.Holmes	
29	Ipswich	1	BBC	
Eastern Kingbird: 7,25	P.I., Nantucket	40+, 4	M.Lynch#, R.Forster	
Purple Martin: 1-7,9	P.I., M.V.	4 max., 2	v.o., fide V.Laux	
Tree Swallow: 7,13	P.I., South Dartmouth	20000, 200	J.Berry, LCES	
15,29	Elizabeth Is., Halifax-Middleboro	75000+, 10000+	P.Trimble, W.Petersen	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 14-20,28	W.Harwich, M.V.	4 max., 1	B.Nikula#, V.Laux#	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>SEPT. 1985</u>
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (cont.): 28	E. Boston	1	S. Zende	
Bank Swallow: 18	P. I.	1	R. Forster	
Cliff Swallow: 15, 18 21, 28	S. Monomoy, P. I. Halifax, E. Gloucester	1, 4 1, 2	B. Nikula, R. Forster W. Petersen, J. Berry	
Barn Swallow: 5, 7 18, 29	Annisquam, Duxbury Beach P. I., Halifax	6, 30 25, 6	H. Wiggin, D. Clapp R. Forster, W. Petersen	
Common Raven: 12, 14, 15	Wachusett Mt.	1, 7, 2	NEHW, SSBC, BBC	
Jackdaw: thr.	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch: thr., 2 4-20, 16	Nantucket, MNWS 4 locations, Petersham	14 b., 5 11 total, 14	E. Andrews#, M. Martinek v.o., M. Lynch#	
White-breasted Nuthatch: 7, 29	Weston, Petersham	12, 18	L. Robinson, S. Carroll#	
Carolina Wren: thr., 2-28 15, 21 20-29	Easton, 4 locations Falmouth, Bridgewater Ipswich	2 max. (9/10), 4 7, 4 1	total K. Ryan, v.o. P. Trimble, W. Petersen J. Berry	
House Wren: 11, 28	Petersham, Marshfield	9, 3	M. Lynch#, R. Campbell#	
Winter Wren: 7, 22 28, 29	N. Scituate, Petersham P. I., Ipswich	1, 1 1, 3	G. d'Entremont, S. Carroll# E. Nielsen, BBC	
Marsh Wren: 7, 21	Newbypt., Harwich	3, 7	J. Berry, P. Trimble	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 7, 22	P. I., Petersham	1, 5	BBC, M. Lynch#	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2, 6 22, 28	Scituate, Cambridge P. I., Falmouth	3, 1 1, 2	W. Petersen, F. Bouchard R. Shriber, P. Trimble	
Eastern Bluebird: 11, 14 20, 22	Petersham, Middleboro Medford, Hardwick	7, 1 3 imm., 8	S. Carroll#, K. Holmes P. Roberts, M. Lynch#	
Veery: 1, 7, 9	MNWS, P. I., M. V.	2, 5, 1	R. Forster, S. Carroll#, V. Laux	
Gray-cheeked Thrush: 20, 23	Nantucket, Rockport	1 b., 1 b.	E. Andrews#, R. Norris	
Swainson's Thrush: 1-26, 11	4 locations, Petersham	5 total, 3	v.o., M. Lynch#	
Hermit Thrush: 21	Sandwich	1	P. Trimble	
Northern Mockingbird: 7, 14	N. Scituate, Essex	10, 12 together	G. d'Entremont, R. Forster	
Brown Thrasher: 1-29, 6 14	P. I., ONWR Wareham	max. 8 (9/7), 6 5	v.o., S. Carroll# L. Robinson	
Water Pipit: 14, 21 28, 29	4 locations, Halifax Ipswich, E. Boston	7 total, 5 25, 53	v.o., W. Petersen BBC, S. Zende	
Cedar Waxwing: 1, 9	Ipswich, M. V.	20, 600	J. Berry, fide V. Laux	
White-eyed Vireo: 14	Gloucester	1	R. Forster	
Solitary Vireo: 16, 21 26, 28	Petersham, Milford Nantucket, Chatham	7, 1 1 b., 1	M. Lynch#, R. Hildreth E. Andrews#, R. Forster	
Yellow-throated Vireo: 7, 22	P. I., Nantucket	1, 1	J. Berry, L. Taylor#	
Warbling Vireo: 1, 29	Rowley, S. Monomoy	3, 1	R. Forster, B. Nikula#	
Philadelphia Vireo: 2-29	11 locations	18 total	v.o.	
Red-eyed Vireo: 9, 21	M. V., Eastham	30, 7	fide V. Laux, S. Carroll#	

WARBLERS

A total of thirty-one species of warbler was reported for September. This compares quite closely with the average warbler species count of thirty-two over the preceding seven Septembers; the range is remarkably tight, with a high of thirty-four and a low of thirty-one. Many of the notably high counts were from the annual "Labor Day" census on Martha's Vineyard, and are the result of numerous parties combing the whole island on September 9.

The Yellow-rumped Warbler at Marblehead Neck on September 1 constituted a notably early migrant. Uncommon "southern" warblers reported included single Yellow-throated, Kentucky, and Hooded individuals, all at coastal sites as would be expected. A look at the last five years' September reports shows a pretty consistent single Yellow-throated, more times than not on Nantucket as was this year's September 15 individual. Reports of generally uncommon warbler species included a single Orange-crowned at Oxbow NWR on September 6, and totals for the month of nine Connecticut and eight Mourning Warblers. These *Oporornis* counts compare to averages over the last nine years of nine Connecticut and eleven Mournings. The three Connecticut Warblers banded in one day, September 20, at Manomet is noteworthy. Yellow-breasted Chat reports totaled fifteen for the month, with almost half of them coming out of banders' nets. This was the first month in five that Cerulean Warbler was NOT reported! L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>SEPT. 1985</u>
Blue-winged Warbler:				
6,7	ONWR, P.I.	2, 1	M.Lynch#, BBC	
9,21	M.V., Milton	1, 1	fide V.Laux, G.d'Entremont	
Tennessee Warbler:				
7,14	P.I., ONWR	10, 8	BBC, S.Carroll#	
Orange-crowned Warbler:				
6	ONWR	1	M.Lynch#	
Nashville Warbler:				
7,22	P.I., Petersham	4, 3	BBC, S.Carroll#	
Northern Parula:				
7,14	P.I., ONWR	9, 6	M.Lynch#, S.Carroll#	
Yellow Warbler:				
7,22	P.I., Holliston	8, 3	M.Lynch#, R.Hildreth	
25,30	Nantucket, Sudbury	1, 1	R.Forster	
Chestnut-sided Warbler:				
21,22	Milton, Petersham	1, 3	G.d'Entremont, S.Carroll#	
Magnolia Warbler:				
1-22,22	Nantucket, Petersham	7 b., 3	E.Andrews#, M.Lynch#	
Cape May Warbler:				
1-26,9	Nantucket, M.V.	27 b., 25	E.Andrews#, fide V.Laux	
15	Scituate	10	SSBC	
Black-throated Blue Warbler:				
3,8-14	Manomet, 3 locations	1 m.b., 3 total	MBO staff, v.o.	
Yellow-rumped Warbler:				
1,7	MNWS, P.I.	1, 10	R.Forster, M.Lynch#	
11,29	Petersham	26, 31	S.Carroll#	
Black-throated Green Warbler:				
14,22	Lakeville, Petersham	1, 6	K.Holmes, M.Lynch#	
Blackburnian Warbler:				
12,14	Annisquam, Lakeville	1, 1	H.Wiggin, K.Holmes	
21,22	Sandwich, Petersham	1, 2	P.Trimble, S.Carroll#	
Yellow-throated Warbler:				
15	Nantucket	1 m.	R.Stymeist#	
Pine Warbler:				
thr.,21	E.Middleboro, Wareham	2, 9	K.Anderson, L.Robinson	
22,28	Petersham, P.I.	31, 1	M.Lynch#, E.Nielsen	
Prairie Warbler:				
9,14	M.V., Wareham	12, 9	fide V.Laux, L.Robinson	
Palm Warbler:				
7,20	Duxbury, Manomet	1, 1 b.	SSBC, MBO staff	
Bay-breasted Warbler:				
1-25,1	Nantucket, MNWS	11 b., 8	E.Andrews#, R.Forster	
16,29	Petersham	16, 1	M.Lynch#	
Blackpoll Warbler:				
1,14	MNWS, Wareham	1, 5	R.Forster, L.Robinson	
15,29	Scituate, Petersham	6, 28	SSBC, S.Carroll#	
Black-and-white Warbler:				
7,9	N.Scituate, M.V.	5, 8	G.d'Entremont, fide V.Laux	
22,29	Petersham, Ipswich	4, 1	M.Lynch#, BBC	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1985
American Redstart:				
1-26,6	Nantucket, ONWR	28 b., 15	E.Andrews#, M.Lynch#	
7,9	Weston, M.V.	12, 25	L.Robinson, fide V.Laux	
Ovenbird:				
1,1-15	MNWS, Nantucket	6, 3 b.	R.Forster, E.Andrews#	
7,28	N.Scituate, Marshfield	2, 1	G.d'Entremont, R.Campbell#	
Northern Waterthrush:				
1-25,1	Nantucket, MNWS	9 b., 5	E.Andrews#, R.Forster	
7	P.I., N.Scituate	10, 9	S.Carroll#, G.d'Entremont	
9,22	M.V., Holliston	12, 1	fide V.Laux, R.Hildreth	
Kentucky Warbler:				
12	Manomet	1 b.	MBO staff	
Connecticut Warbler:				
5,7	P.I.	1, 1 (details)	J.Grugan, M.Lynch#	
8:13,20	Georges Bank; Manomet	1; 1 b., 3 b.	BOEM; MBO staff	
20,22	Nantucket, Petersham	1 b., 1 (details)	E.Andrews#, S.Carroll#	
Mourning Warbler:				
1-13,1	Nantucket, MNWS	2 b., 1	E.Andrews#, R.Walton#	
1,7	Milton, N.Scituate	1 f., 1	G.d'Entremont#	
7,9	Duxbury, M.V.	1, 1	SSBC, fide V.Laux	
15	Scituate	1	W.Petersen	
Common Yellowthroat:				
1-26,9	Nantucket, M.V.	37 b., 35	E.Andrews#, fide V.Laux	
Hooded Warbler:				
7	P.I.	1 m.	BBC	
Wilson's Warbler:				
1-22,1-7	Nantucket, P.I.	6 b., max. 3	E.Andrews#, v.o.	
7,9	N.Scituate, M.V.	6, 2	G.d'Entremont, fide V.Laux	
Canada Warbler:				
1,14-28	MNWS, 3 locations	8, 3 total	R.Forster, v.o.	
Yellow-breasted Chat:				
1-22,7-14	Nantucket, P.I.	7 b., 2 singles	E.Andrews#, v.o.	
7	Duxbury, N.Scituate	2, 1	SSBC, G.d'Entremont	
9,21	M.V., Eastham	2, 1	fide V.Laux, M.Lynch#	

SCARLET Tanager THROUGH EVENING GROSBEEK

At nine total individuals for September, Blue Grosbeaks were reported in very close to average numbers at least for the last few years. Similarly Lark Sparrow counts, at six individuals for the month, were very close to what should be expected. Yellow-headed Blackbird reports, always rare enough to be of interest, consisted of a single individual from Mashpee on September 15 and two birds on Martha's Vineyard on September 30. Additionally, several were said to be at Bartlett's Farm on Nantucket during mid-September, although no formal reports were submitted.

Early bare-ground species migrants from the north included Snow Bunting at Wachusett Mt. on September 9, and Lapland Longspur at Plum Island on the eighteenth. The bunting was close to two months early compared to arrival norms! Both species of crossbill, Red at Duxbury and White-winged at Medway, were reported on September 7. Crossbills are notoriously irregular in their movements, but early September records are uncommon.

L.E.T.

Scarlet Tanager:				
9:16,29	M.V.; Petersham	3; 5, 1	fide V.Laux, S.Carroll#	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak:				
9,14	M.V., ONWR	10, 6	fide V.Laux, M.Lynch#	
Blue Grosbeak:				
14,22	Halifax, Newton	1, 1	W.Peterson, B.Hallett	
24,28	Newton, 4 locations	1, 6 total	O.Komar, v.o.	
Indigo Bunting:				
1,15	Halifax	6, 18	K.Anderson, W.Petersen	
Dickcissel:				
2,15	Halifax	1, 1	W.Petersen	
9,25	M.V., Nantucket	1, 1	fide V.Laux, R.Forster	
Rufous-sided Towhee:				
9,15	M.V., Carver	40, 12	fide V.Laux, L.Robinson	
Chipping Sparrow:				
11-29,28	Petersham, P'town	max. 15 (9/11), 50	S.Carroll#, R.Forster	
Field Sparrow:				
2,26	Annisquam, Truro	6, 9	H.Wiggin, R.Forster	
28,29	P'town, Holliston	15, 10	R.Forster, R.Hildreth	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1985
Vesper Sparrow:				
21	Plymouth	1	W.Petersen	
Lark Sparrow:				
4,7	Nantucket, Duxbury	1, 1	N.Waldron, SSBC	
7,12	M.V., Annisquam	1, 1	R.Shriber, H.Wiggin	
29	Nantucket	2	M.Pokras	
Grasshopper Sparrow:				
15,18	Falmouth, Manomet	2, 1 b.	P.Trimble, MBO staff	
26,29	Belmont, Petersham	1 ad., 1	L.Taylor, M.Lynch#	
29	P.I.	1 ad.	J.Berry	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:				
2,9	Monomoy, M.V.	25, 3	S.Carroll#, fide V.Laux	
15,18	Scituate, S.Dartmouth	14, 16	W.Petersen, LCES	
26,29	Eastham, Newbypt.	19, 40	R.Forster, H.C.Floyd	
Seaside Sparrow:				
7,26	Newbypt., Eastham	3 juv., 2	J.Berry, R.Forster	
Song Sparrow:				
9,29	M.V., Petersham	25, 37	fide V.Laux, M.Lynch#	
Lincoln's Sparrow:				
3,21	E.Quabbin, Halifax	1, 2	T.Gagnon#, W.Petersen	
22,29	Nantucket, Petersham	1 b., 3	E.Andrews#, S.Carroll#	
White-throated Sparrow:				
11-29,22	Petersham, Salisbury	max. 42 (9/29), 110	M.Lynch#, R.Forster	
White-crowned Sparrow:				
22	Salisbury	1 imm.	R.Forster	
Dark-eyed Junco:				
14,15	P.I., Nantucket	1, 1 b.	R.Forster, E.Andrews#	
22,28	Salisbury, Ipswich	45, 6	R.Forster, J.Berry	
Lapland Longspur:				
18,22	P.I.	1, 4	R.Forster, E.Nielsen	
Snow Bunting:				
9	Princeton (Wachusett Mt.)	1	K.Durham#	
Bobolink:				
1,7	Halifax, Georges Bank	75, 18	K.Anderson, BOEM	
9,29	M.V., Bridgewater	350, 150	fide V.Laux, W.Petersen	
Red-winged Blackbird:				
13,27	Ipswich, Concord	4200, 3000	J.Berry, R.Forster	
Yellow-headed Blackbird:				
15,30	Mashpee, M.V.	1 m., 2	P.Trimble, S.Perkins	
Rusty Blackbird:				
15,27	Truro, Sudbury	12, 12	H.Coolidge#, R.Forster	
Brown-headed Cowbird:				
1-15	Ipswich	max. 100 (9/14)	J.Berry	
Northern Oriole:				
9	M.V.	40	fide V.Laux	
Purple Finch:				
9,28	M.V., P.I.	50, 40	fide V.Laux, E.Nielsen	
Red Crossbill:				
7	Duxbury	1	SSBC (D.Clapp)	
White-winged Crossbill:				
7,18	Medway, Millis	2, 1 f.	C.Quinlan, R.Forster	
Pine Siskin:				
29	Petersham	1	M.Lynch#	
American Goldfinch:				
11-29,12	Petersham, E.Gloucester	max.48 (9/22), 1 m.	feeding juv. S.Carroll#, J.Berry	
Evening Grosbeak:				
12,15	Norfolk, Wellesley	2, 3	B.Cassie, R.Forster	
28,29	P.I., Petersham	8, 9	E.Nielsen, M.Lynch#	

RUPICOLA ON THE MARKET

Ollie Komar, a young Newton birder who has contributed greatly to Bird Observer for several years as a field birder reporting records, as a member of the Field Studies Committee, and as an author, has announced that RUPICOLA, a trivia game created by him, is now generally available in stores throughout Boston and suburbs. Although named for a bird, it is not a bird-game; such a game is, however, in the works for the future.

SIGHT RECORD OF A WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD

(*Phaeton lepturus*) IN MASSACHUSETTS

Submitted by Blair Nikula, 23 Atwood Lane, Chatham, MA 02633.

Observers: Blair Nikula and Peter Trull

Location: Cackle Cove Beach, South Chatham, MA

Date: 27 September 1985

Weather: Overcast; temperature in the low 70s F; wind S at 50-70 mph. Hurricane Gloria was passing through central Connecticut at the time of the sighting.

Optics: 10 x 40 and 10 x 50 binoculars.

Description of the sighting.

At the time of the sighting, Peter Trull and I were sitting in our vehicles in the parking lot at Cackle Cove Beach watching for storm-blown seabirds over Nantucket Sound.

I had arrived first at 2:00 P.M. and during the next hour and a half recorded 50+ jaegers, mostly Parasitic. Shortly after 3:00 P.M., the intensity of the wind increased noticeably, followed by a pronounced increase in the number of birds, particularly Leach's Storm-Petrels, which had not been present until that point. Both jaegers and storm-petrels seemed to have great difficulty maneuvering against the wind, and some were actually over the beach at times, with a few storm-petrels even flying over the flooded marsh adjacent to the parking lot.

At 3:30 P.M., seconds after Peter Trull arrived, a skua species, probably South Polar, passed by at a distance of approximately 75 yards, and disappeared to the east, passing over the beach to our east at one point.

At 3:40 P.M., I spotted a bird through the windshield approximately 75 yards to the south, low over the water. I at first thought it was a small gull, based on its size and the presence of a dark W pattern across the upperwings. I called Trull's attention to the bird, and as it continued to move northeastward, it became more clearly visible out the open side window of my car. The bird was still facing south but was blown northeastward by the wind, apparently flying backward! At one point, the bird banked to the right, affording me a clear view of its dorsal surface, at which point I instantly recognized it as a tropicbird and began calling to Trull.

The bird gradually gained altitude as it continued to be pushed northward, eventually passing over the beach about 80-100 yards east of our position, at an altitude of 100-150 feet, and finally disappeared from sight over land approximately a quarter mile north-northeast of the parking lot.

The total viewing time was perhaps 45 seconds. Due to a lack of precipitation, visibility was fairly good, averaging nearly a mile or so, but the severe winds made the viewing difficult.

Description of the bird.

The bird was about the size of a large tern or small gull. The wings were narrow and appeared very attenuated, though this effect may have been exaggerated by the bird's labored flight. The body was pure white as was the entire dorsal surface of the bird except for a black bar running diagonally across the inner wing and black outer primaries, creating a bold W pattern against an otherwise strikingly white surface. I did not see the bill at all, nor did I notice any black around the eye. I also did not see any elongated tail streamers, though they may well have been present. A more likely explanation is that the elongated central tail feathers were absent, having recently been molted. Palmer reports in *Handbook of North American Birds*, volume 1, Yale University Press, 1962, that following completion of the nesting season, which extends into late summer on Bermuda, White-tailed Tropicbirds undergo a complete pre-basic molt.

While not all field marks were visible, the bird was seen well enough to eliminate all similar species. Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*) lacks the black bar across the inner wing and is heavily barred across the back in any plumage. The large terns all lack the black bar across the wing, have considerably less black on the primaries above and would show varying amounts of black on the rear portions of the head. The small gull species that show a similar W pattern across the dorsal surface in immature plumage differ in structure, being chunkier with broader wings and having extensive gray on the back and upperwing and black tailbands. Most also have dusky or blackish coloration on the hindneck.

Neither observer had previous experience with White-tailed Tropicbird, though the writer has seen Red-tailed Tropicbird in Tobago. While the details do not constitute a "textbook" sighting, there was never any doubt in my mind, once I had a clear view of the bird, as to its identity, and I am confident in reporting it as a White-tailed Tropicbird.

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MRS. ABUSAMRA AND THE TROPICBIRD

In the words of Chris Leahy, in "Field Notes" in the December 1985 issue of M.A.S.'s *Sanctuary* (25: 20), Hurricane Gloria produced some "'good birds' in listing jargon, but they represent[ed] a rather meager assortment compared to the anticipatory daydreams of windrows of noddies lined up on the sand at Plum Island, or a frigatebird coming to roost on the Custom House Tower in Boston."

However, the day after the hurricane, a German professor at Dummer Academy walking his dog at 7 A.M. observed on the school soccer field in South Byfield what he shortly thereafter described as an "injured seagull" to ten-year-old Ilse Abusamra. Ilse quickly reported this to her mother, Laurel Abusamra, a French teacher at the academy, and they went out to search for it. After some looking about, Ilse spotted a smallish white bird (much smaller than they had expected) sitting quietly on the ground. As they approached, it made a "few little sounds," but seemed unalarmed, and Laurel was able to pick up the bird and carry it back to her home on the school's campus. Realizing that the creature was exhausted and famished from battling the storm, Laurel offered it some frozen catfish from her freezer, which it ate eagerly. Later that day and the next, alerted by Steve Moore, a Byfield birder whose neighbors knew the Abusamras, the birders began to arrive. But, alas for the listers, the bird was securely ensconced in a box on the sunporch of the Abusamras' home (later taken indoors) and could not be "counted."

By Sunday, the bird had been identified as an immature Long-tailed Tropicbird (probably from Bermuda) and had been christened Kim. Because the bird was so beautiful and graceful, Laurel chauvinistically decided that it must be a female, and thereafter, Kim was referred to as "she." Fortunately for the tropicbird, the Abusamras provided the perfect sanctuary. According to husband David, also a language teacher at Dummer, Laurel is always very softhearted about wild creatures. So for the next two weeks, the Abusamra family cared for and fed the Bermuda stray and lived with the pervasive odor of fish. They took Kim to the Tufts Veterinary Hospital in Grafton where the bird was examined by the chief-of-staff, Dr. Charles Sedgwick and given two X-rays (the skeletal structure proved to be intact). A diet of vitamins, calcium powder, and live fish was recommended. The problem of providing the latter item was immediately solved by a contribution of live minnows from the S. P. Engineering company of Salem, and later, the ever-resourceful fosterparents were able to obtain live fish from a bait store in Salisbury.

The intention originally was to release the bird (in favorable weather) at Plum Island as soon as it had gained sufficient weight and strength. David Wingate, Bermuda's Conservation Officer and expert on Bermuda birds, was consulted by phone. Finally, thanks to the generosity of the Governor Dummer Academy, who underwrote the costs of the expedition, it was decided to fly Kim, accompanied by nurse-protector Laurel, to Bermuda to release the bird on its home territory.

On October 4 (five days before release), up to which time Kim had fed eagerly every day, she suddenly ceased to eat voluntarily, to Laurel's consternation. From then on, Laurel inserted food in the bird's bill, whereupon Kim would swallow it. On Wednesday, October 9, the bird was given its last meal in Massachusetts and promptly regurgitated it. Laurel had been briefed by the experts that this might happen. It was a signal that Kim was ready to be on her own! Mrs. Abusamra and the tropicbird caught the 9:00 A.M. plane for Bermuda. Despite all appeals, all the way up to the airline's corporate officers, Kim had to ride in the cargo bay but arrived safely in Bermuda shortly before noon.

Laurel and the bird were met and escorted by Elizabeth Wingate to a cliff at Warwick Long Bay, a nesting site for tropicbirds, where David Wingate awaited them. Thereafter, a short interval was allowed for the press people to arrive and do their stuff (ABC filmed the release and aired it on the evening news on October 14). After Kim had been duly photographed, the carrier was set upon the sand and the door opened. The bird left the cage without hesitation, looked about for a number of moments, and then began to preen industriously, but did not fly. She was then moved to another spot on the cliff and still another - more preening and more looking about. David Wingate then stepped forward, picked up the tropicbird, held her up in the air, and she took off - flying straight to the horizon.

Dorothy R. Arvidson



Laura Abusamra and David Wingate release the White-tailed Tropicbird in Bermuda. Photo courtesy of the Governor Dummer Academy.

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At a Glance . . .

October 1985

The October "At a Glance" species may appear particularly ambiguous due to the darkness of the printed photo. Nonetheless, several recognizable features should distinguish the bird from other possibly confusing species. Points to consider are the large, pale, conical bill, streaked flanks (visible between the goldenrod leaves), streaked back, unstreaked breast, broad, pale supercilium (eyebrow), and the dusky eyeline behind the eye. Taken together, these features readily identify the bird as a female Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*).

While superficially resembling a sparrow, a Bobolink is far too robust (six to eight inches) to be confused with a sparrow in real life. The flank streaks, dusky eyeline, broad supercilium, and absence of an eye ring should serve to distinguish the Bobolink in the picture from a Grasshopper Sparrow. The immature Dickcissel would fail to show such a broad supercilium and would not exhibit the dusky eyeline at all. The lack of obvious streaking on the nape should eliminate LeConte's Sparrow as a possibility. A final feature, and one not apparent in the photograph, that separates female, winter-plumaged male, and immature Bobolinks from sparrows is the sharply pointed tail of the Bobolink - a characteristic readily observed in the field. The adult female Bobolink in the picture was photographed during July in Marshfield, Massachusetts.

W.R.P.



Adult female Bobolink


Photo by Wayne R. Petersen

At a Glance . . .

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



Can you identify this bird? Identification will be discussed in next issue's *At a Glance*. Bird Observer will award a PRIZE to the reader who submits the most correct answers in 1985. Please send your entry on a postcard to Bird Observer, 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02178 before the answer is published.




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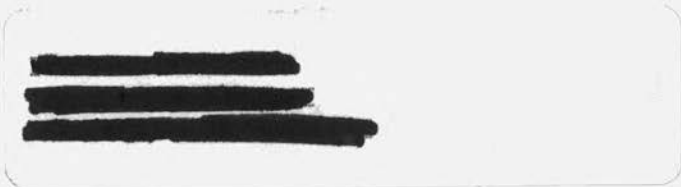
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