

# BIRD OBSERVER



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# BIRD OBSERVER

• a bimonthly journal •

To enhance understanding, observation,  
and enjoyment of birds.

VOL. 24, NO. 3 JUNE 1996

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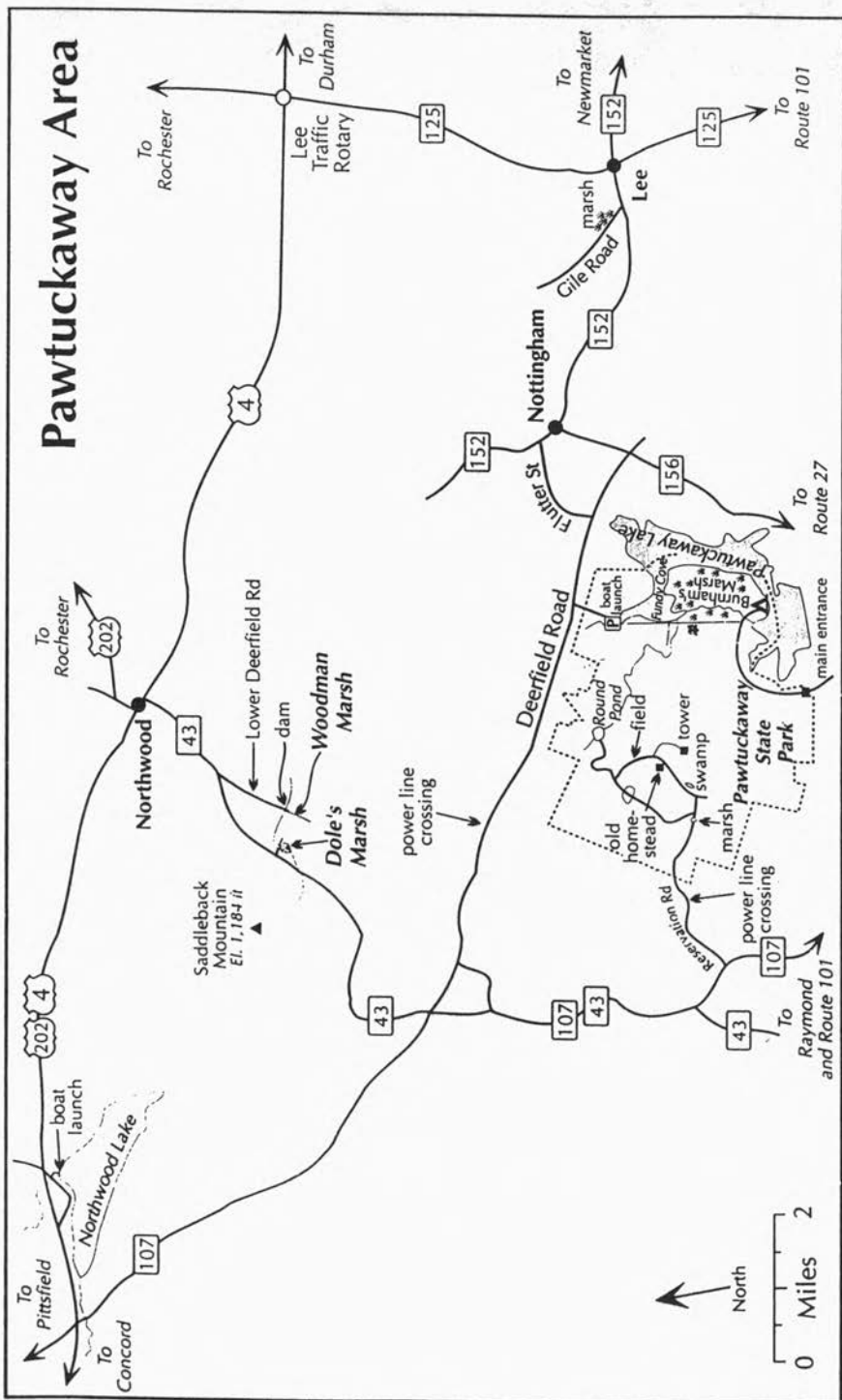
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## WHERE TO GO BIRDING

**Editor's Note.** This issue of *Bird Observer* has two articles excerpted from the latest bird-finding guides of New England states: *A Birder's Guide to New Hampshire*, published by the American Birding Association (paperback, 222 pages, Wire-O binding, \$16.95), and *A Birder's Guide to Maine* (paperback, 400 pages, \$23.95), published by Down East Books. *Bird Observer* is grateful to the publishers and the authors for permission to reprint these excerpts. To order these books or for more information, call ABA Sales (800-634-7736) or Down East Books (800-766-1670).

### BIRDING THE PAWTUCKAWAY AREA IN SOUTHEASTERN NEW HAMPSHIRE

by Alan Delorey

The main feature of this trip is Pawtuckaway State Park, which encompasses a 5500-acre natural area, including 800-acre Lake Pawtuckaway. The tent camping area at the park is open from late May through Columbus Day. For information on camping and other park facilities, call 603-895-3031. This area provides fruitful birding during spring and fall migration, but especially during the summer nesting season. Allow a full day for this trip.

**Gile Road Marsh.** From the junction of State Routes 125 and 152 in Lee, go west on Route 152 for 0.4 mile, turn right on Gile Road, and stop at the large marsh in 0.2 mile on the right. Look for Green Heron, Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Osprey (in migration), Red-shouldered Hawk, Virginia Rail, Chimney Swift, Tree, Bank, Cliff, and Barn swallows, Common Yellowthroat, Swamp Sparrow, and Red-winged Blackbird. From the woods opposite the marsh, you are more likely to hear than to see Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-breasted and White-breasted nuthatches, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-rumped and Black-and-white warblers, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, and Rufous-sided Towhee. During summer the marsh comes into bloom with yellow pond-lily (or spatterdock) and both the white and rare pink forms of fragrant water-lily.

**Fundy Cove.** Return to State Route 152 and continue west. In 3.0 miles you will come to the junction with State Route 156 in Nottingham. Continue on Route 152 for another 0.2 mile, and turn left onto Flutter Street, which goes 1.1 miles to end at Deerfield Road. Turn right, and proceed for 1.0 mile to an unmarked dirt road on the left. This 0.5-mile road leads to a boat launch at Fundy Cove on Pawtuckaway Lake.

This is a nice spot to launch a canoe or rowboat to explore the Lake. This is also a good starting point to hike a few trails to look (and listen) for woodland

birds such as Downy and Hairy woodpeckers, Tufted Titmouse, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Solitary Vireo, and Black-throated Green, Pine, Black-and-white, and Canada warblers. Pawtuckaway is a reliable area for nesting Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Listen carefully for its *mew* call.

Walk past the metal gate, just to the right of the boat launch, and over the bridge. Continue straight, following this trail to the south for about a half-mile to a small path on the left leading out to the edge of Fundy Cove. (You can also catch a glimpse of Burnham's Marsh off to the right.) Continue on the main trail for another few hundred feet to trail marker number 11. Turn right here, and walk a quarter-mile to a stream crossing and a marshy area. Look for Great Blue Heron and Belted Kingfisher.

When you return to trail marker 11, you can turn left to return to the parking lot at the boat launch, or you can turn right to follow the trail southwest along the edge of Burnham's Marsh. In about a mile this trail leads to the paved road near the group camping and picnicking area.

From the parking area at the boat launch, return to Deerfield Road, and turn left. In 3.0 miles you will come to a power-line crossing. This is a good spot to stop and check for birds such as Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Kingbird, Gray Catbird, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, and Prairie warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Field Sparrow. Watch the sky for soaring Turkey Vultures.

**Dole's Marsh.** Resume your route along Deerfield Road, and in 1.6 miles stay right at the fork, and drive another 0.8 mile to the junction of Routes 107 and 43. Turn right on Route 43, and proceed for 2.0 miles to a marsh on the left side of the road. Pull off here, and take a quick look at the marsh. As you drive along this section of State Route 43, you can see Saddleback Mountain off to your left.

Continue for another 1.0 mile to the Northwood town line at a stream crossing under the road. In just 0.1 mile after the town line, turn right on an unmarked dirt road which leads a short distance to Dole's Marsh in Woodman State Forest. Park near the dam, and check the marsh for such regular species as Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Belted Kingfisher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Common Yellowthroat, and Red-winged Blackbird. There are also beavers in the marsh.

**Woodman Marsh.** Return to State Route 43, turn right, go 1.2 miles, and take a sharp right onto Lower Deerfield Road. In 0.9 mile you will come to a small parking area next to a sign for Woodman Marsh - New Hampshire Fish and Game Waterfowl Management Area. Check for typical marsh birds, such as those at Dole's Marsh. Beyond the dam the road becomes too rough to drive, but you can walk along it to bird more of Woodman State Forest.

**Northwood Lake.** Return to State Route 43, turn right, and go 1.3 miles to U.S. Highway 4. Turn left to follow U.S. Highway 4 for 5.7 miles, and turn left

at a small crossroads. Take an immediate left into the gravel boat launch on the edge of Northwood Lake.

Bird along the edge of the trees for species such as Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Gray Catbird, and Yellow-throated and Red-eyed vireos. Scope the lake for nesting Common Loons and American Black Ducks. During spring and fall waterfowl migration, look for species such as Green-winged Teal, Canvasback (uncommon), Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, all three scoters, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and Hooded and Common mergansers.

As you leave the boat launch, turn left and drive slowly through the 0.8-mile loop that takes you back to U.S. Highway 4. There are several good vantage points where you can see the lake from the road.

**Pawtuckaway State Park.** Turn left on U.S. Highway 4, go 1.2 miles, and turn left on State Route 107. Follow State Route 107 south for 9.8 miles to Reservation Road. Turn left on Reservation Road at the small brown Pawtuckaway State Park sign indicating the way to the lookout tower. After 1.0 mile the road becomes dirt, and in another 0.1 mile you will come to a power-line crossing with easy access on both sides of the road. Stop at the power-line right-of-way to look for Gray Catbird, Chestnut-sided, Pine, Prairie, and Black-and-white warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Field Sparrow. Listen for Hairy and Pileated woodpeckers, Veery, Hermit Thrush, and Solitary Vireo in the adjacent woods. Watch the sky for Turkey Vultures, and listen for the guttural calls of the Common Raven.

Continue along Reservation Road; in 0.1 mile bear right at the fork, and in 1.0 mile stop at a small marsh visible on both sides of the road. About 100 feet past the marsh there is a trail leading into the woods on the right side of the road. This short path is an excellent place to look for flycatchers, nuthatches, vireos, and warblers.

Another 0.2 mile along Reservation Road will bring you to a T in the road. Turn left toward the lookout tower, and proceed 0.3 mile to a large swamp on the right. Park off to the edge of the road, and bird along the edge of the swamp and down to the next bend in the road.

This area attracts a great diversity of nesting species, including some that are usually thought of as more "northern," such as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Black-throated Green Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Purple Finch, White-throated Sparrow, and Evening Grosbeak. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is usually easy to find in migration if you are familiar with its call. Ruby-crowned Kinglet is a common migrant.

You can also expect nesting Belted Kingfisher, Downy, Hairy, and Pileated woodpeckers, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Least and Great Crested flycatchers, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Solitary, Yellow-throated, and Red-eyed vireos,

Chestnut-sided and Black-and-white warblers, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, and Swamp Sparrow. You may even find Northern Saw-whet Owl.

After thoroughly exploring the area near the swamp, driving another 0.4 mile will bring you to the trailhead (on the right) that leads to the lookout tower. There is usually room to park a few cars here. A Cerulean Warbler has been a regular in this immediate area in recent years. Listen for its song which is similar to that of the Black-throated Blue Warbler. However, be sure to *see* the bird, because one of the numerous local American Redstarts sings a fine copy of the normal song of the Cerulean. (This is a widespread phenomenon which has produced some dubious records of Ceruleans elsewhere.) This is the most reliable area in New Hampshire to find the Cerulean.

Along the trail to the tower listen for Swainson's Thrush during spring migration. You should be able to find Dark-eyed Juncos in summer. The base of the tower is at an elevation of 908 feet. This altitude presents you with an impressive panorama of southeastern New Hampshire. Look for Turkey Vultures and Common Ravens. The tower also provides a good viewing-site for observing fall hawk migration during September and October.

Diagonally opposite from the tower parking area you will find the remnants of an old homestead from the nineteenth century. Still visible are the foundation, a root cellar, and the old family graveyard. Louisiana Waterthrush can also be heard near the stream just below the old cellar-hole 100 feet down the hill. Lilacs, rhubarb, day-lilies, and forsythia have survived from this homestead. Check the trees and bushes carefully for warblers.

Beyond the observation-tower trailhead, continue for another 0.3 mile to a small clearing on the right side of the road. Park in the clearing, and bird the edge of the woods and along the road. An Acadian Flycatcher spent the summer here in 1991.

Beyond the small clearing the road becomes rough. You should continue only if your car has adequate ground-clearance. In 0.3 mile you will come to an area where the road starts to drop steeply downhill. There will be a steep uphill slope on the left side of the road. This area has been a hot spot for southern warblers. A few years ago, a singing male Kentucky Warbler was found here in mid-May. In May of 1994 a singing male Worm-eating Warbler was located on this same slope.

Continue for another 0.2 mile to a T in the road. Turn right, and proceed for 0.5 mile to the trail leading to Boulder Field, an area of large boulders and cliffs. The trail is marked with white blazes leading from the road to the Boulder Field. Listen for Winter Wren and Louisiana Waterthrush along this trail.

In 0.3 mile after Boulder Field you will come to a swamp on the left formed by beavers. Look for Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. In another 0.2 mile you will come to Round Pond on the right and the other end of the Boulder Trail



on the left. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Cedar Waxwings have been known to nest on the edge of the pond. Watch for Turkey Vultures soaring overhead. The pond usually floods the road so that you cannot continue. Even if not flooded, the road becomes too rough to drive beyond this point.

Turn around at Round Pond and backtrack to the T. Go straight across the tip of the T (as opposed to turning left, which would return you to the tower). From the T proceed for 1.2 miles to the junction with Reservation Road. Along this stretch you will pass by a swamp and drive through a red pine forest. Continue to listen for warblers, vireos, and flycatchers. Turn right on Reservation Road, and return 2.2 miles to State Route 107.

When you reach State Route 107, turn left to go south. In 3.0 miles you will come to the junction with State Route 27. Bear left to follow State Routes 107 and 27. In 4.0 miles, at a set of lights, turn right to stay on State Route 107 south. In 0.5 mile you will come to State Route 101. You can take State Route 101 west toward Manchester or east toward the seacoast.

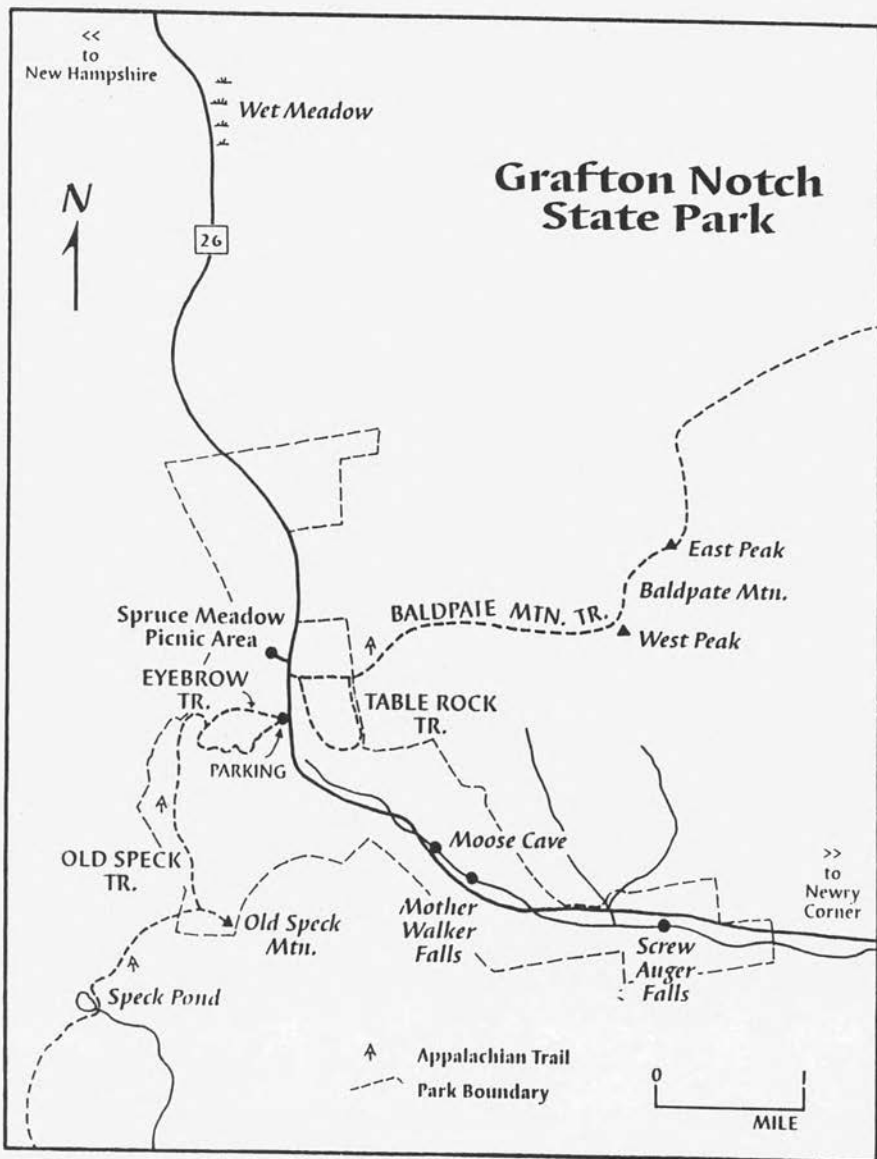
**ALAN DELORY** is a New Hampshire native and one of the most active birders in the state. Alan has published articles in *Birding* and *Birdwatcher's Digest*. He is a seasonal editor of the *New Hampshire Bird Records* and a member of the New Hampshire State Rare Birds Committee. Alan and his wife, Barbara, frequently lead field trips in New Hampshire and also serve as the New Hampshire state coordinators of the North American Migration Count.

## GRAFTON NOTCH (MAINE) STATE PARK

by Elizabeth C. Pierson, Jan Erik Pierson, and Peter D. Vickery

Grafton Notch State Park lies at the northern end of the Mahoosuc Mountains on the Maine-New Hampshire border in a beautiful glacier-sculpted area of cliffs, gorges, and waterfalls. Nine rugged peaks, all higher than 3500 feet, dominate the Mahoosucs. Best known as a major crossing point on the Appalachian Train (AT), Grafton Notch State Park is generally considered to be primarily a hiker's park, but it is also a wonderful birding area.

The bird life in Grafton Notch blends a rich combination of northern boreal species and more southerly deciduous breeders. It is an interesting area where you can find the unlikely combination of Eastern Towhees and Lincoln's Sparrows singing side by side. Although species such as Spruce Grouse, Gray Jay, Blackpoll Warbler, and Bicknell's (formerly Gray-cheeked) Thrush are restricted to the higher elevations (and thus require some moderate to strenuous hiking), almost all of the other nesting species in the park can be found along the road or on lower, flatter trail sections. The best time to visit the area is at the height of the breeding season in June, but you are likely to find much of interest



any time between mid-May and late July. You can cover the park in three or four hours if you stay in the lowlands, but you will need a full day or more if you intend to hike up to the higher elevations.

The park includes almost 3200 acres lying along either side of a 5.6-mile stretch of Route 26 in Grafton Township. Old Speck, at 4180 feet Maine's third highest mountain, rises along the west side of the road, and to the east rises Baldpate Mountain with its two open summits, the West Peak at 3680 feet and the East Peak at 3812 feet. Both mountains are accessible by trails in the park. Also included in the park are three narrow, twisting gorges and several small waterfalls and caves, all of which are well marked with park signs. These are not exciting stops for birds, but if you have an eye for unusual geological features and the beauty of the landscape, you won't want to miss them

There are two ways to bird Grafton Notch—by following Route 26 north and stopping along the way to bird the "lowlands" (you will find several well-marked stopping points within the park) and by hiking up to the higher elevations of Old Speck or Baldpate. For a full cross section of the area's birdlife, you will want to do both.

### Route 26

As it threads its way north from the Androscoggin River at Newry Corner and begins its steady climb toward Grafton Notch, Route 26 provides a dramatic contrast between the pine-oak forests typical of southern Maine and the birch and spruce forests of the north woods. The lower section of the highway is punctuated with farms and open fields where Eastern Kingbirds, Tree, Barn, and Cliff swallows, Cedar Waxwings, Chipping, Savannah, and Song sparrows, Bobolinks, and American Goldfinches are all regular. You might also find Eastern Bluebirds nesting in some of the roadside boxes. American Kestrels hunting over the fields or perched on telephone wires, or Chimney Swifts hawking for insects overhead. For many years there has been a large, active Bank Swallow colony in the sandpit on the east side of Route 26 just a short distance beyond the intersection of Routes 26 and 2.

Following the shallow, rocky Bear River, Route 26 rises steeply into a narrow valley covered with yellow and paper birches, American beech, sugar maple, and poplars. These hardwoods support many of the same breeding birds found farther south, among them Barred Owl, Pileated, Hairy, and Downy woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Least and Great Crested flycatchers, Black-capped Chickadee, Blue Jay, American Crow, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Veery, Wood and Hermit thrushes, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Black-and-white Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

One distinctive feature separating these deciduous woods from those to the south, however, is the presence of nesting Philadelphia Vireos. These

inconspicuous vireos are fairly common in Grafton Notch but can be frustrating to find and difficult to see well. They are often found in small, open patches of birch, aspen, and white ash, and they tend to stay up high in the canopy. The song can be maddeningly similar to that of a Red-eyed Vireo, and it is easy to become confused by an odd Red-eyed song. Philadelphia Vireos have a shorter, snappier song that is higher pitched, and they generally don't drone on all day long in the monotonous way typical of Red-eyed Vireos. We have had good luck finding Philadelphia Vireos in the birch aspen groves right along the roadside near the southern entrance to the park and between Screw Auger and Mother Walker Falls.

As Route 26 climbs higher in elevation, the hardwoods give way to spruces. Look along this portion of the highway for a varied cross section of breeding species, among them Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned kinglets, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Solitary Vireo, Northern Parula, and Nashville, Bay-breasted, and Cape May warblers. Be sure to check Spruce Meadow Picnic Area, 4.6 miles north of the park's southern boundary on the west side of the road. This is an open, level area with scattered spruces and is an excellent place to see Boreal Chickadees and Tennessee, Magnolia, and Blackburnian warblers. It is often easier to see the birds here than it is when you are looking up a mountainside. Spruce Meadow is also a good place to look for moose and a lovely vantage point from which to survey the valley below.

At the northern border of the park, continue north on Route 26 another 2.6 miles to a wet meadow on the right (east) side of the highway. The scattered alders here provide nesting habitat for Alder Flycatchers, Chestnut-sided and Wilson's warblers, Common Yellowthroats, and Swamp and Lincoln's sparrows. Curiously, Eastern Towhee, a species more typical of southernmost Maine, also occurs in this meadow. This is private property, but you can scan it from the roadside.

At any point along Route 26, keep an eye on the upper ridges across the valley. The Common Raven's loud, grating croaks are a familiar, pleasant sound frequently heard from the cliffs, and Northern Goshawks and Red-tailed Hawks sometimes soar on the updrafts.

Specific places where you may want to stop within the park, in addition to Spruce Meadow, include Screw Auger and Mother Walker Falls, Moose Cave, and the trailhead parking lot (see below; in years with tent caterpillar infestations, Yellow-billed Cuckoos can sometimes be found in the trees around this parking lot).

### **Old Speck and Baldpate Mountains**

Those who love the solitude of remote mountaintops, who thrill at the delicate, quavering notes of Bicknell's Thrush, who admire diminutive alpine

wildflowers, will undoubtedly seek the higher elevations of Old Speck or Baldpate. Both mountains offer a similar birding experience and are accessible from the trailhead parking lot located 3.7 miles north of the park's southern boundary on the west side of Route 26. (This is where the AT crosses Route 26.) A trail map at the parking lot will direct you, but we recommend having a park or AT map with you as well. (See the *AMC Maine Mountain Guide* or *Appalachian Trail Guide to Maine*.) You should be properly equipped and conditioned for strenuous hiking.

Four trails—two on each side of Route 26—start at or near this parking lot. On the west side of the highway, starting at the parking lot, are the Eyebrow Trail, a 2.3-mile loop that ascends about 1000 feet to the Eyebrow Cliff on Old Speck, and the Old Speck Trail, a 3.9-mile trail to the summit of the mountain. On the east side of the highway, on Baldpate, are the 2.4-mile Table Rock Trail Loop and the Baldpate Mountain Trail. Following the latter, it is 2.9 miles to the West Peak and 3.8 miles to the East Peak. Of the four hikes, we prefer the two to the summits. Old Speck is the longer of the two, Baldpate the steeper. Either one makes for a full and tiring day, but the birds, and the scenery, make it worth the effort.

Whether you climb Old Speck or Baldpate, you will soon start to climb above the beeches and maples and into the first scattered firs. Winter Wrens (all the way up the mountain and typically singing vigorously much of the day), Hermit and Swainson's thrushes, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Black-throated Blue and Canada warblers, White-throated Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Juncos can be seen or heard in the understory, whereas Nashville, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Yellow-rumped warblers occupy the upperstory.

The higher trail sections of both mountains are dominated by spruce forests with breeding Blackpoll (often surprisingly common), Cape May, and Bay-breasted warblers. Spruce Grouse are common at this elevation and can often be found dust-bathing in the trail. The degree of flaking on the spruce trunks indicates that Black-backed Woodpeckers are probably fairly regular (although always hard to find). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers reveal their presence with their subtle click note, whereas Purple Finches are more obvious with their rich warbling songs. Gray Jays, White-winged and Red crossbills, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks are irregular but always possible. At and near the summits of both mountains, listen for the slurred wee-you call note of Bicknell's Thrush (generally not present until late May). The Bicknell's magical fluting song, typically heard in the early evening or on cloudy days, is one of the pleasures to be found in Maine only near the summit of these isolated mountaintops.

As its name implies, the summit of Baldpate is open, with wonderful views in almost all directions. Clumps of alpine wildflowers, rare in a state where treeless mountain summits are uncommon, can be found on this exposed area, especially on East Peak. The summit of Old Speck is covered with spruce, but

for many years a fire tower has provided a stunning view in all directions, particularly of the White Mountains.

If you don't have time to do an all-day hike, try the Table Rock Trail, which ascends a shoulder of Baldpate; this is the shortest hike that provides both a spectacular view and a change in the avian community. The easiest route is to follow the white AT trail about 0.8 miles up Baldpate and then turn right on the blue trail to Table Rock. Another option is to take the very steep orange trail straight up the boulders to the base of the mountain and then return via the blue and white AT trails; you will cover more territory this way and will also get some spectacular views. Total round-trip hiking time is two to three hours depending on birding and rest stops.

If you have time for more than a full day's hike, you might want to explore the AT south of Old Speck. The trail continues south another mile to Speck Pond, which at 3777 feet is the highest pond in Maine. This part of the trail passes through large areas of thick subalpine heathlands, an interesting and uncommon vegetation type found along these ridgetops.

Wherever you are in Grafton Notch, watch for mammals, too. White-tailed deer, moose, and black bear are all spotted with some regularity.

It is also worth noting here that the mountain trails within the White Mountains National Forest in nearby New Hampshire support many of the same breeding species found in Grafton Notch State Park.

Grafton Notch State Park is open from May 15 to October 15 and has picnic and outhouse facilities. There is a small fee for day use.

### Directions

Grafton Notch State Park is located along route 26 in Grafton Township. At the intersection of Routes 26 and 2 in Newry (at the Androscoggin River), bear north on Route 26. The southern boundary of the park is 8.6 miles north, and the various trails and scenic spots are well marked. For information on local accommodations and services, write or call the Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 439, Bethel, Maine 04217-0439, telephone 207-824-2282.

**THE AUTHORS** are all long-time Maine residents and avid birders. **ELIZABETH C. PIERSON** is a freelance editor and writer with a special interest in ornithology and natural-history texts. Her husband, **JAN ERIK PIERSON**, is a partner in Field Guides Incorporated, a company offering birding tours worldwide. **PETER D. VICKERY** is an avian ecologist for the Massachusetts Audubon Society and a faculty member in the Department of Forestry and Wildlife at the University of Massachusetts.

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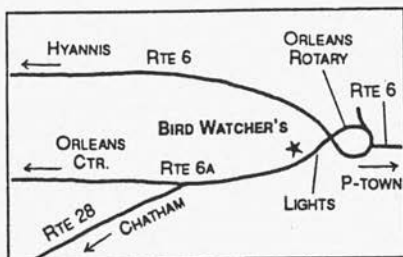
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## EXPERIENCE WITH CLAPPER RAILS IN THE BARNSTABLE GREAT MARSH

by Stauffer Miller

The Clapper Rail reaches the virtual northern limit of its breeding range on the Atlantic Coast in Massachusetts, and the Barnstable Great Marsh on Cape Cod is one of the more important breeding areas in the state for the species. I am fortunate to live only fifteen minutes from the marsh and have therefore been in a favorable location from which to study this rail, one of the state's scarcest and most secretive species.

The Barnstable Great Marsh, located largely in Barnstable, is the largest salt marsh on Cape Cod. It lies just south of the Sandy Neck peninsula and is drained by numerous tributaries of Scorton Creek. The best access is Navigation Road, which is easily reached by exit 5 of Route 6.

From the small parking area at the end of Navigation Road, a walk of about fifteen minutes will put one in the central marsh. Such a walk is not without difficulty, as you must leap across a number of deep ditches. I prefer to enter the marsh at low tide, when the margins of the ditches are more easily seen.

The walker will know when he has reached the central marsh, as the songs of Common Yellowthroats and Song Sparrows are no longer heard. Instead, one hears the asthmatic wheeze of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow and strident cry of the Willet. Seaside Sparrows can also usually be found.

Numerous wide, deep creeks branch in the central marsh. At low tide, these creeks have little water, and soft mud extends halfway up their banks. *Spartina* grass grows partway down the creek banks, and the rails appear to walk in and out of the interface of grass and mud on these banks. At other times they are in thick *spartina* grass that borders numerous salt pannes of the area. The birds are very hard to see in the dim early morning light.

If you can get into the marsh by 5:00 AM anytime from late May to late June, you most likely will hear one or two Clappers. The question is, however, what do you listen for? Both the National Geographic Society and Peterson records have a Clapper Rail vocalization that could be characterized as a repetitive "tick-tick-tick" call, at first slow, then somewhat faster. It was this sound that I was expecting to hear.

But what I noticed during observations made in 1994 and 1995 was a somewhat different sound, which at first confused me because it reminded me of one of the phrases from the King Rail repertoire. The sound is best described as starting with two or three closely repeated tick notes, which quickly move into a rapid slurred ticking. To the best of my knowledge, this vocalization, which I have managed to record, is the principal sound made by Clapper Rails at the Barnstable Great Marsh, and this is what one should be listening for.



I sent the taped rendition of the slurred ticking call to Wayne Petersen of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and he said that the recording was definitive for a "large rail," i.e., Clapper or King rail. He said that sequence and pattern matched the "hip-hip-hurrah" call of a King Rail but was faster and higher than the latter. Therefore, he thought this was probably a Clapper Rail call, although not one he had heard before.

Both King and Clapper rails can deliver a number of different calls, many of which are advertising and courtship calls. In addition, there are distress and alarm calls, and the slurred ticking described herein may be such a call.

Because it is so difficult to see Clapper Rails in the Barnstable Great Marsh, I have not yet seen a rail actually uttering the slurred ticking call. This is a point of study that remains uncompleted.

If you like the idea of making a long walk at 5:00 AM, leaping deep ditches, and then possibly seeing a shadowy form run along a muddy bank, then this is the outing for you. Seriously, just being in this fine marsh at this early hour is a heady experience that I would recommend to all.

**STAUFFER MILLER** has been a birder for about twenty years. He and his wife, Elinor, also a birder, moved to the Yarmouthport area of Cape Cod two years ago. He was formerly a veterinary pathologist in Frederick, Maryland, and is the author of *A Guide to Bird Finding in Frederick County, Maryland*. He would like to acknowledge the assistance that Wayne Petersen provided with this manuscript.

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**BOOK REVIEW: *Birdfinder: A Birder's Guide  
to Planning North American Trips***

by Bruce Hallett

*Birdfinder: A Birder's Guide to Planning North American Trips* (ABA Birdfinding Guide Series) by Jerry A. Cooper. Colorado Springs. American Birding Association, 1995, spiral binding, 374 pages, \$17.95.

Birding and travel go together like Tom Glavine and off-speed pitches. The home park is fun, but there is nothing like taking off on a birding trip to a new location. New birds, new photographs, new experiences and new laughs all combine to reduce adults to excited "power rangers." The difficulty, however, is not deciding to go tripping but where. Almost all of North America now has some type of birdfinding guide, but that means sifting through a huge stack of books and literature to determine a location. To the rescue along comes Jerry Cooper's new book, *Birdfinder: A Birder's Guide to Planning North American Trips*, published in late 1995 by the American Birding Association. As the author states in his introduction, the book is not intended to replace area birdfinding guides, only to supplement them. By providing enough elements of information in over thirty key locations, mostly in the United States and Canada, he has made the task of choosing and planning a trip much easier and more convenient.

Reading the introduction to the text, while a little long, is necessary not only for an explanation of how the chapters work but also for some overall information about developing a trip plan. The author also injects (and I think correctly) some of his philosophy about travel, companionship, appreciation, and ethics.

Chapters 1-19 cover the major birding areas (better known as hot spots) from California, Arizona, and Colorado in the west to Texas and the Maritimes in the east. Also included are winter trips to Minnesota and Oklahoma (the author was born there) plus a summer safari to western Washington and southwest British Columbia. The last chapter (20) is titled the Baker's Dozen and describes, in less detail, another thirteen prime locations that were omitted from the previous chapters: Cape May, Point Pelee, Churchill, the Platte River, and coastal Massachusetts are among the notable hot spots. Most of these locations will be quite familiar to veteran birders and high on the "wish-list" for newcomers. A nice organizational touch is that the main chapters and the Baker's Dozen are chronologically arranged by month so one can either pick a month and find a location, or one can go to Oklahoma in January in Chapter 2 and then hit west Texas in early July in Chapter 14.

In each of the ten chapters the contents are broken down into sections. First, there is a general section which summarizes information about the area followed

by a list of the appropriate birdfinding guides and a listing of rare bird alert numbers. The author provides a short paragraph about special equipment needs such as scope, gear, or bug sprays, and which towns have motels (no specifics). To keep travel costs down, the accommodations section discusses camping possibilities also. I found that the two most useful features of each chapter were the key species section and the sample itinerary. The key species are those birds that make that area unique and are most likely the main reason for taking the trip in the first place. The author annotates this list with short comments about location and the observation chances. The sample itinerary is quite detailed and extremely useful for planning purposes, especially if you have time constraints.

In addition to the target birds, three other lists for each area include probable, possible, and remotely possible species. These lists are nicely tucked away along the sides of the pages so they do not overwhelm the text. The bold-faced species in the probable list are there to tell the traveler that these birds appear no more than four times on all the other lists in the book. Thus, if possible, birders better make the effort to find these species. When the trips have been completed, there is a section in the chapter where actual totals may be compared with potentials. I have only two complaints about this aspect. First, I disagree with some of the choices for the probable list when I think they should be on the possible list, but then I always seem to find these types of guides a little too optimistic about finding certain species. Second, I thought the listing discussion a bit excessive when tallying up the results of the potential, expected, actual, and cumulative numbers. If you are into this, you will love it. If not, it can be easily ignored.

A very comprehensive birdfinding chart is at the end of the twenty chapters. The author lists the 650-odd species that were mentioned in the text and that you might find if you took every trip in the book. Every species is keyed to each chapter and location including the Baker's Dozen. The obvious advantage to this is that you can pick a species, such as Ferruginous Hawk or Connecticut Warbler and know where and when to give it a try. Furthermore, the latest nomenclature changes and the latest splits from the American Ornithologists Union (e.g., Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Bicknell's Thrush) have been incorporated into the chart. I was impressed with such an information-friendly chart.

It is worth mentioning the American Birding Association's (ABA) influence on this text. Since the ABA published the book as part of their ABA Birdfinding Guide Series, the production of the book is first-rate. The format is open and easy to read, the maps are great, there are some nice illustrations, and the book will lie flat on your desk or lap. ABA has a number of other publications such as a membership directory, a monthly newsletter, a magazine, and a sales catalog. The author, Jerry Cooper, makes a number of references to all of these ABA publications, and while they are very helpful, it is not totally necessary to be an

ABA member with access to these materials in order to benefit from the book.

When I first received a copy of this book, I was skeptical that it was going to be overly redundant when compared with other similar titles. I was pleasantly surprised that it fulfilled quite well its purpose as a planning guide. Several of the locations were ones that I have birded extensively both personally and with groups, and I found the information about them accurate. Yes, I have some quibbles with some of the species lists, but I feel that is small compared to the overall value. In short, two thumbs up. It would have been an "enthusiastic" two thumbs up but there were no directions anywhere for strawberry rhubarb pie!

**BRUCE HALLETT**, a resident of Brookline, Massachusetts, for eleven years, moved to Atlanta, Georgia, in August 1989 and conducts birding tours from there. Over the past 2.5 years, he has spent a considerable amount of time in the Bahamas archipelago photographing birds and researching birding locations. Although he still carries an old emotional attachment to the boys of summer from Fenway Park, he now does the tomahawk chop for the 1995 world champions, Atlanta Braves.

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# FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE \_\_\_\_\_

## A Report on the Bluebirds in Spencer, Massachusetts

I started my "Bluebird Trail" ten years ago with seven boxes within the town limits. In 1995 we now have 145 boxes. I make all my boxes during the winter and then give them to anyone with the suitable habitat for bluebirds. I also monitor them throughout the nesting season. When I spot a suitable location in my travels around town, I ring doorbells and in most cases, the owners allow me use their property to put up one of the boxes.

We hope to increase the bluebird population in our area. Bluebirds may nest two or three times a season, and thus we clean the boxes out when the young have fledged to allow for reuse of the boxes. Generally, the birds have three to five eggs per nesting attempt and hence may fledge more than half a dozen birds per season from a single box. Bluebirds tend to return to the same area the following year.

For Spencer, we have seen the following number of fledged bluebirds:

1987	37
1988	44
1989	51
1990	68
1991	55
1992	125
1993	99
1994	99
1995	168

To increase the odds of a given box being successful, I have found that the following procedure works very well. In late fall when the pine trees shed their needles, I gather several bags and store them until spring. When the bluebirds arrive, I put a few handfuls at the base of the boxes. In many cases these are accepted, and they build their nest. A neat compact bowl of pine needles.

The advantage gained is that the female does not have to go long distances to find nesting material. I have watched her start a nest at noon, and she had it finished the following afternoon. This has to save a lot of energy compared with the normal five or six days required.

Bill Allan, Spencer, Massachusetts

## The Birds of Post Office Square, Boston

Formerly a paved-over underground parking lot in the heart of Boston's financial district, Post Office Square was transformed into a beautifully designed and well-maintained park in 1991. Graced with two water sculptures, bowers, trees, and lawns, the Post Office Square park has become one of downtown Boston's most popular green spaces. On fine days, hundreds of people from the surrounding office complexes fill the park to eat lunch, meet friends, and enjoy the sunshine,

Early in 1995, I began to look more closely at the Post Office Square park to find out what species of birds could be seen. I was surprised at the results.

Although the park is quite small, the layout of the trees and shrubs ensures plenty of cover for feeding and protection. The density of the shrubs is such that it resembles a forest floor in miniature, attracting such species as Ovenbird and Hermit and Wood thrushes.

The park attendants continued to water the plants throughout the year, attracting birds such as Northern Waterthrush and Common Yellowthroat, which frequent damp habitats. Most warblers observed were arboreal, but other types, such as Blackpoll and Black-and-white Warbler, could often be observed alighting on the grass for short periods. In early spring and late fall the numbers of White-throated Sparrows begin to build up and compete with the ever-present House Sparrows.

In an effort to explain the attraction of the park for migrating birds, it must be realized that birds will use any habitat that is available to them in order to rest and feed before continuing their journey to their breeding or wintering grounds. Some birds merely pass through and tend not to linger for any great length of time. The Black-throated Blue Warbler that I observed flew in, landed on a bush, and took off again, all in the space of little more than a minute. Other birds such as Wood Thrush, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, and Blackpoll Warbler tended to remain for longer periods because of the suitability of the park for their feeding requirements.

The time of day does not seem to matter. Unlike other sites, such as Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, where birds are more abundant early in the morning or in the evening, birds can be observed throughout the day at Post Office Square.

The two records of Yellow-breasted Chat were noteworthy. They tend to favor the coast during migration which would explain Post Office Square's attraction due to its proximity to Boston Harbor.

Perhaps the most surprising record of all was the arrival of a Barred Owl on Halloween. It slept for most of the day in a tree by the fountain and was enjoyed by numerous observers.

Migration came to a slowdown after the first week in November, but the arrival of a Hermit Thrush on November 9 and a Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-

bellied Sapsucker on November 10 were interesting.

The occurrence of birds at the park is also related to the same but more extensive movement of birds at other sites in Massachusetts. For instance, three Blue Jays occurring on October 12 coincided with a much larger movement of over 1500 Blue Jays at Cuttyhunk Island around the same time.

One explanation for Post Office Square's attraction is obvious. Seen from the birds' perspective, the park is a green oasis in a sea of high-rise buildings, providing a convenient rest stop before the bird continues on the next leg of its long journey.

Due to its small size, the park will never attract great numbers of birds. However, with over thirty species observed so far, the surprising diversity of the birds passing through certainly makes it worth a visit the next time you are in the city and have some time to spare.

Joseph M. Adamson, Dorchester, Massachusetts

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#### BIRDS AT POST OFFICE SQUARE PARK

American Kestrel	Blackpoll Warbler
Peregrine Falcon	Black-and-white Warbler
American Woodcock	American Redstart
Ring-billed Gull	Ovenbird
Herring Gull	Northern Waterthrush
Great Black-backed Gull	Common Yellowthroat
Mourning Dove	Yellow-breasted Chat
Barred Owl	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Song Sparrow
Eastern Phoebe	White-throated Sparrow
Blue Jay	Dark-eyed Junco
Black-capped Chickadee	House Finch
Hermit Thrush	House Sparrow
Wood Thrush	
American Robin	
Gray Catbird	
European Starling	
Tennessee Warbler	
Northern Parula	
Yellow Warbler	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	

## TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE

**Editor's Note.** Below is an open letter (dated February 1996) from bird book authors on "Teaming with Wildlife." The letter has been disseminated to bird clubs, ornithological associations, and others. We thought you might be interested in this initiative.

We are writing to you because we know that you are interested in the prospects for birdlife in the United States. We signatories to this letter have written (or coauthored) books about birds, and we feel passionately about birds and about securing their future. But we are concerned about getting enough wildlife-funding to monitor and conserve our birds and their habitats, and to make the wonder of birds accessible to many more Americans.

One of the most creative wildlife-funding methods we have become familiar with is the "Teaming With Wildlife" concept, otherwise known as the Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative. As you undoubtedly know, hunters since the 1930s and anglers since the 1950s have paid user-fees on all the hunting and fishing equipment they buy to the tune of \$350 million per year. These funds, collected at the federal level and distributed to the states, have formed the basis for major conservation and restoration funding in the area of game fish and wildlife. Now it is the time for birders and other outdoor enthusiasts to pay their fair share for wildlife that otherwise has no paying constituency, wildlife that is not endangered and wildlife that is neither hunted nor fished. If a small user-fee (between one-quarter and five percent of the producer costs) were placed on outdoor products (such as binoculars, backpacks, canoes, feeders, field guides, camera equipment, birdseed, tents, mountain bikes, etc.), then up to \$350 million per year could be spent on the wildlife that we are concerned about and for us that especially means birds. All outdoors-oriented people should be willing to pay just a little bit more to conserve the natural world. We know that we are willing to do so, and we think that you should, too.

We hope that Teaming With Wildlife becomes the law, but we are not asking you to write to Congress, at least not yet. We want you to write outdoor businesses to encourage them to be open to this creative system. Already such birder-oriented optic companies such as Swarovski, Swift, and Zeiss have endorsed Teaming With Wildlife. We need to enlist more participants. That's where you come in.

[Teaming With Wildlife has developed a list of companies that] directly serve bird enthusiasts, either as producers of products or major distributors. We would like you to write to them. Tell them that the Teaming With Wildlife approach would help the wildlife we all treasure. Please tell them that you are willing to pay just a little bit more, and that they should support the idea. It would help the natural environment (by investing in major wildlife conservation programs), and the expenditures would simultaneously help their business



environment (helping create situations where their products could be used by an expanding customer base). Although these listed companies have not yet committed to Teaming With Wildlife, some are wavering. Use your own words, and encourage them to get on board and support the effort.

One beauty of Teaming With Wildlife is that it provides for wildlife conservation, education, and recreation without creating any new bureaucracy. The system already exists to collect and distribute these funds through the existing laws. Moreover, the law will specify that the collected funds for these wildlife purposes could not be diverted for other uses . . .

For more information [on this initiative and companies to write to] contact Naomi Edelson, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 444 North Capitol Street NW (Suite 544), Washington, D.C. 20001.

We know that there are plans for such programs as significant land acquisition, habitat enhancement, statewide bird-monitoring schemes, birding trails, observation platforms, and the creation of interpretive materials for birds that could enhance birdwatching and bird-maintenance in your state. What we and the birds need are the funds, and Teaming With Wildlife is a way to get those funds.

When Teaming With Wildlife is put into place, we will be better off. And so will the birds.

Thank you for your consideration.

**SIGNED BY:** William S. Clark, Herbert Clarke, Jack Connor, John V. Dennis, Pete Dunne, Frank Gill, George H. Harrison, Harold R. Holt, Paul A. Johnsgard, Kenn Kaufman, Paul Kerlinger, Stephen W. Kress, John C. Kricher, Roger Tory Peterson, Noble Proctor, Chandler S. Robbins, Arnold Small, Richard Stallcup, Donald Stokes, Lillian Stokes, Clay Sutton, Pat Sutton, John Tveten, Richard K. Walton, Roland H. Wauer, and Claudia P. Wilds.

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# BIRD SIGHTINGS

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1996

### SUMMARY



by Richard A. Forster, Marjorie W. Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist

January in Boston was very stormy, with a new record snowfall for the month. The temperature averaged 30.1°, 1.5° above normal and the first month above normal since October. The high was 60° on January 19, and the low was 3° on January 6. The big story was the snowfall, with a record 39.8 inches measured at Logan Airport, topping the previous record of 35.9 inches set in 1978. This January was the second snowiest single month in 106 years of records, exceeded only by 41.3 inches in February 1969. While much precipitation fell as snow, three significant storms in the last half of the month were all rain, resulting in the fifth wettest January on record, with a total of 7.44 inches of rain.

February was a month of wide temperature swings and excess snowfall. The temperature averaged 30.9°, just above normal, with a high of 58° on February 27 and a low of 4° on February 4 and 5. Rainfall totaled 3.17 inches, just 0.45 inch less than normal. Measurable amounts fell on eleven days. Snowfall totaled 15.5 inches, 3.8 inches over average. This brought the season total to 83.5 inches, a dramatic 50.2 inches above average, setting a new record for the period, exceeding 81.5 inches in 1993-1994. A wind storm on February 25 caused considerable damage in scattered locations in southern New England. At the Blue Hills Observatory in Milton a peak gust of 71 mph was recorded that day.

R. H. S.

#### LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Loon numbers were normal for the season. The most interesting report among the grebes was a sighting of two Red-necked Grebes in Wayland. Inland sightings of grebes that typically winter along the coast are attributed to hard weather freezes at large freshwater bodies, usually to our north or west. The most unusual aspect of this report is that inland sightings usually occur in at least several locations but the Wayland birds represented the only apparent inland sightings. Warm weather in late February saw Great Blue Herons returning to the Westboro rookery at a record early date. Unseasonably warm weather with a strong southerly flow in midwinter has the potential to bring unexpected strays to our area. Last year it was a Bridled Tern, and this year a Glossy Ibis made an unprecedented appearance.

Waterfowl are a staple fare for birders in winter. Unusual reports were an immature **Tundra Swan** that was very sporadic in Gloucester, a **Greater White-fronted Goose** in Maynard, and a **Tufted Duck** in Plymouth where one was seen in late December. There were more reports of Snow Geese than normal. Migrant Northern Pintails were noted during the warm weather in late February. Included among this year's wintering **Eurasian Wigeons** were two females which are infrequently reported. Reports of Redheads were confined almost exclusively to Nantucket. Of the several **King Eider** reports, one was a handsome drake that lingered obligingly in Ipswich. Barrow's Goldeneyes were widely scattered but in small numbers. Harlequin Ducks were observed in good numbers. A convincingly described hybrid Barrow's x Common Goldeneye visited Newburyport Harbor briefly in mid-January.

Bald Eagles were widely reported, but Northern Harriers were for the most part restricted to the southeastern coastal plain. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were reported in similar numbers. It was a below-average year for Rough-legged Hawks, with the best count being only three individuals. A **Golden Eagle** anywhere beyond the Quabbin area is a nice find, and the one observed in Newburyport must have surprised and delighted the observers. As in recent years, Merlins were well reported during the winter months. A **Gyrfalcon** at Plum Island was not necessarily unexpected but nonetheless a welcome addition. Other than American Coot, the only reports for the rail family were two Clapper Rails and a Common Moorhen at Nantucket. A **Sandhill Crane** lingered briefly into January.

With the exception of the unusual American Oystercatchers at Nantucket and South Harwich, shorebirds were limited to typical winter species in appropriate numbers. The warm weather late in February ushered in a small influx of migrant Killdeers. A Common Black-headed Gull away from the coast at the Cumberland

Farms fields was decidedly unusual. Away from Nantucket, Iceland Gulls were rather scarce until the latter part of February, the period when they usually reach peak abundance. Glaucous Gulls were widely distributed but only as single individuals. Black-legged Kittiwake was noted infrequently offshore. Razorbills were noted in fair numbers at Cape Ann and outer Cape Cod, but Black Guillemots were restricted primarily to Cape Ann. As is often the case in midwinter, only a few reports came in for Dovekie and Thick-billed Murre.

Snowy Owls were scarce this season. At least some of the influx of Barred Owls from last fall remained at non-traditional locations. In sharp contrast, the few reports of Northern Saw-whet Owls indicated that the fall flight kept moving south. Short-eared Owls were not much in evidence, and Long-eared Owls were scarce. The highlight of the winter for many was the magnificent **Great Gray Owl** in Rowley that was present the entire month of February. This was the most southerly locale for a minor flight that reached New England. Less publicized was a **Black-backed Woodpecker** in Sharon that spent much of the winter there. Judging from the number of reports, Red-bellied Woodpeckers appear securely entrenched. Several Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in early January are not atypical.

R. A. F.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
<b>Red-throated Loon</b>				2/24	Provincetown	14	E. Stromsted
1/1	Westport	1	E. Nielsen#	<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>			
1/14	Eastham	6	M. Lynch#	1/1	Cambridge	6	R. Stymeist#
1/14	Gloucester	1	J. Berry	1/28	Falmouth	2	S. Hennin
2/19	P'town (R.P.)	12	S. Arena#	<b>American Bittern</b>			
2/20	Eastham	3	R. Forster	1/1	Nantucket	1	G. d'Entremont#
2/23	Nant. Sound	6	S. Perkins	<b>Great Blue Heron</b>			
<b>Common Loon</b>				1/1, 1/28	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	4, 3	LCES (J. Hill)
1/14	Cape Ann	14	J. Berry	1/18	Falmouth	5	M. Lynch#
1/15	Ipswich	10	J. Berry	1/27	Chatham	6	A. Hirschkop#
1/20	Westport	9	M. Lynch#	1/3	Nantucket	2	E. Ray#
2/10	Ipswich	12	R. Lockwood	1/6	Framingham	4	K. Hamilton#
2/19	N. Scituate	6	M. Lynch#	2/1-28	Cambridge	1-2	J. Campbell#
2/19	P.I.	12	R. Lockwood	2/19	Falmouth	5	R. Heil
2/23	Nant. Sound	38	S. Perkins	2/28	Westboro	4	E. Taylor
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>				<b>Black-crowned Night-Heron</b>			
1/1	Gloucester	1	B. Parker	1/1	Nantucket	1	G. d'Entremont#
1/1	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	LCES (J. Hill)	1/11	Winthrop	1	fide L. Cocco
1/11	Wareham	9	M. LaBossiere	1/13	Eastham	3	W. Petersen#
1/18	Falmouth	4	M. Lynch#	2/6	Charlestown	2	L. Bowman
1/28	Marstons Mills	1	S. Hennin	<b>Glossy Ibis</b>			
2/5	Ayer	1	T. Pirrou	1/28	Eastham	1	C. Thomas
2/19	Plymouth	1	M. Lynch#	<b>Tundra Swan</b>			
2/25	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins	1/1, 2/11	Gloucester	1	v.o.
2/29	Lakeville	3	T. Aversa	<b>Whooper Swan</b>			
<b>Horned Grebe</b>				1/29	Little Herring Pond		1B. Harrington
1/16	Cape Ann	67	M. Lynch#	2/27	P.I.	1	F. Bouchard
2/4	Boston H.	21	TASL (M. Hall)	<b>Mute Swan</b>			
2/19	P.I.	15	R. Lockwood	1/20	Westport	226	M. Lynch#
2/19	Plymouth	6	M. Lynch#	<b>Greater White-fronted Goose</b>			
2/24	Provincetown H.	10	E. Stromsted	1/6	Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>				2/28	Littleton	1	M. Resch
1/16	Gloucester	10	M. Lynch#	<b>Snow Goose</b>			
1/21	Rockport	27	R. Heil	1/1	Newburyport	5	D. Chickering
1/22	Wayland	2	N. Patterson	1/9	Framingham	2	K. Hamilton
2/4	Nahant, Hull	1, 1	TASL (M. Hall)	1/20	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
2/19	N. Scituate	3	M. Lynch#	1/23	Yarmouthport	4	S. + E. Miller
2/23	Nant. Sound	1	S. Perkins	1/27-31	Duxbury	1 ph	E. Cleveland
2/26	Scusset B.	1	M. LaBossiere	1/28	Orleans	4	fide J. Sones
<b>Northern Gannet</b>				2/15-20	DWWS	1 ad	D. Ludlow
1/14	Provincetown	1	M. Lynch#	2/25	Lynnfield	1	P. + F. Vale
1/28	Rockport (A.P.)	12	F. Bouchard	2/28	P.I.	1	C. Ralph
2/19	P'town (R.P.)	38	S. Arena#	<b>Brant</b>			
2/19	Eastham	30	E. Banks#	1/13	Eastham	400	W. Petersen#
<b>Great Cormorant</b>				1/14	Nantucket	37	E. Ray#
1/1	Westport	70	E. Nielsen#	1/7	Boston H.	448	TASL (M. Hall)
1/14	Amesbury	65	R. Forster	2/4	Boston H.	772	TASL (M. Hall)
1/20	Newburyport	85	J. Berry	2/25	Nantucket	130	S. Perkins
1/21	Nantucket	20	E. Andrews#	<b>Canada Goose</b>			
2/19	N. Scituate	94	M. Lynch#	1/20	Westport	1158	M. Lynch#
2/23	Nantucket	52	S. Perkins	1/20	Newburyport	400	J. Berry

<b>Wood Duck</b>				1/28	Falmouth	30	S. Hennin
1/6	Nantucket	1	E. Ray#	2/6	Yarmouth	37	T. Aversa
1/9	Wareham	1	M. LaBossiere	2/19	Falmouth	175	R. Heil
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>				2/19	Nantucket	40	F. Gallo#
1/1	Nantucket	7	G. d'Entremont#	2/24	Dennis	200	B. Gette
1/1-2/29	Cambridge	8	max J. Campbell#	2/25	Lakeville	8	R. Shore
1/1-31	Roslindale	6	max T. Aversa	<b>Redhead</b>			
1/19	W. Roxbury	5	T. Aversa	1/1	Nantucket	18	G. d'Entremont#
2/23	Scituate	1	m T. Aversa	1/18	Falmouth	1	m M. Lynch#
2/24	Bridgewater	1	S. Arena#	2/4, 2/25	Nantucket	2, 69	E. Ray
2/25	P.I.	2	W. Petersen#	<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>			
2/25	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins	1/6	Framingham	9	K. Hamilton#
<b>American Black Duck</b>				1/18	Plymouth	3	M. LaBossiere
1/7	Boston H.	1171	TASL (M. Hall)	1/18	Falmouth	51	M. Lynch#
1/19	Cumb. Farms	200+	K. Anderson	1/18	Wareham	29	M. Lynch#
1/20	Westport	1525	M. Lynch#	1/18	Medford	7	M. Rines
1/21	Rowley	350	J. Berry	1/20	Cumb. Farms	6	K. Anderson
2/4	P.I.	250+	M. Lynch#	1/30	W. Barnstable	20	T. Aversa
2/4	Boston H.	1299	TASL (M. Hall)	1/6, 2/25	Nantucket	25, 31	E. Ray#
2/4	Salisbury	600+	M. Lynch#	2/6	Waltham	3	C. Ralph
2/19	Plymouth	750+	M. Lynch#	2/26	Arlington Res.	12	M. Pelikan
<b>Mallard</b>				2/26	Concord (NAC)	7	S. Perkins
1/7	Boston H.	454	TASL (M. Hall)	2/26	Sudbury	13	D. Burke
2/4	Boston H.	316	TASL (M. Hall)	2/28	Wayland	18	N. Patterson
<b>Northern Pintail</b>				<b>Tufted Duck</b>			
1/1	Nantucket	2	G. d'Entremont#	1/27	Plymouth	1	m J. Hoye#
1/1, 1/14	Westport	2, 7	E. Nielsen	<b>Greater Scaup</b>			
1/18	Cumb. Farms	3	T. Aversa	1/18	Falmouth	80	M. Lynch#
1/21	Seekonk	1	D. Zimmerlin	2/4	Boston H.	947	TASL (M. Hall)
2/3	Nantucket	3	E. Ray	2/18	Winthrop	250+	M. Lynch#
2/9	Marlboro	3	S. Hennin	2/25	Nantucket	14	S. Perkins
2/25	Bolton	20	M. Lynch#	<b>Lesser Scaup</b>			
2/25	Wellesley	2	K. Hamilton#	1/18	Falmouth	2	M. Lynch#
2/25	P.I.	14	R. Forster#	1/27	Plymouth	3	J. Hoye#
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>				2/19	Plymouth	1	W. Petersen
1/1	Marstons Mills	1	m B. Nikula#	2/25	Nantucket	110	S. Perkins
1/6	Barnstable	1	J. Liller	<b>Common Eider</b>			
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>				1/1-31	Ipswich	400	J. Berry
1/1-28	Marlboro	1	B. Parker	1/18	Scusset B.	550	M. Lynch#
1/1-30	Marstons Mills	1	v.o.	1/18	Newburyport	660	R. Heil
1/23-2/29	Cambridge	1	f J. Campbell#	1/7	Boston H.	8970	TASL (M. Hall)
1/25	Nantucket	1	N. Brooks	2/4	Boston H.	8606	TASL (M. Hall)
2/22	Arlington Res.	1	f M. Rines	2/19	Plymouth	1700	M. Lynch#
<b>Gadwall</b>				<b>King Eider</b>			
1/1	Marstons Mills	75	B. Nikula#	1/1	Rockport	1	C. Ralph#
1/1	Dennis	70+	B. Nikula#	1/2	Nantucket	1	E. Ray#
1/2-25	Nantucket	1	E. Ray#	1/13-2/18	Ipswich	1	m J. Nove + v.o.
1/14	Gloucester	27	J. Berry#	<b>Harlequin Duck</b>			
1/30	W. Barnstable	45	T. Aversa	1/1-2/18	Rockport	30+	max v.o.
2/6	Yarmouth	80	T. Aversa	1/14	Nantucket	5	E. Ray#
2/11	Plymouth	4	E. Kile	1/17	Orleans	5	fide W. Bailey
2/23	Marshfield	14	T. Aversa	1/18	Magnolia	8	L. High
2/25	P.I.	2	K. Hamilton	2/4	Nahant	1	TASL (M. Hall)
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>				2/11	Manomet	4	E. Kile
1/1-2/18	Stoneham	1	m S. Elliot#	2/15	Nantucket	7	E. Ray
1/1-31	Quincy	1	f D. Brown#	2/18	Eastham	4	E. Banks
1/17	Chatham	3	R. Clem	<b>Oldsquaw</b>			
1/6-2/19	Nantucket	1	f E. Ray#	1/16	Ipswich	100	M. Lynch#
2/16	Marstons Mills	1	S. + E. Miller	1/28	Rockport	40	E. Nielsen#
<b>American Wigeon</b>				2/18	Salisbury	300+	E. Taylor
1/1-31	Quincy	7	D. Brown#	2/25	Nantucket	150,000	S. Perkins
1/17	Camb. (F.P.)	3	M. Rines	<b>Black Scoter</b>			
1/21	Gloucester	2	R. Heil	1/14	Sandwich	30	M. Lynch#
1/28	Nantucket	13	E. Andrews#	1/26	P.I.	15	D. Chickering
2/1-29	Belmont	8	max J. Campbell#	2/26	Nantucket	25	A. Wood
2/24	Cumb. Farms	6	S. Arena#	<b>Surf Scoter</b>			
2/25	Topsfield	3	W. Petersen#	1/7	Hull	336	TASL (M. Hall)
<b>Canvasback</b>				1/14	Cape Ann	8	J. Berry#
1/18	Medford	1	M. Rines	1/20	Westport	71	M. Lynch#
1/27	Nantucket	2	E. Andrews	2/4	Boston H.	36	TASL (M. Hall)
1/28	Westport	189	M. Boucher	2/23	Nant. Sound	380	S. Perkins

<b>White-winged Scoter</b>			
1/7	Boston H.	666	TASL (M. Hall)
1/14	Cape Ann	80	J. Berry
1/20	Ipswich	50	J. Berry
1/20	Westport	65	M. Lynch#
2/4	Boston H.	207	TASL (M. Hall)
2/23	Nant. Sound	200	S. Perkins
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>			
1/6	Framingham	22	K. Hamilton#
1/7	Boston H.	1028	TASL (M. Hall)
1/20	Westport	69	M. Lynch#
1/20	Newburyport	100+	J. Berry
2/1-29	Wayland	15	max N. Patterson
2/4	Boston H.	597	TASL (M. Hall)
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>			
1/1	Nantucket	3	mG. d'Entremont#
1/1	E. Boston	1	R. Stymeist#
1/1	Winthrop	1	m R. Stymeist#
1/1-31	W. Dennis	1	S. + E. Miller
1/1-31	Osterville	1	S. + E. Miller
1/1-21	Rockport	1	C. Paine + vo
1/11	Ipswich	1	D. + I. Jewell
1/14	Wollaston B.	1	mG. d'Entremont#
1/14	New Bedford	2	G. Gove
2/11	Gloucester	3	D. Chickering
2/18	Winthrop	1	m M. Lynch#
2/24	Westport	1	m S. Arena#
<b>Barrow's x Common Goldeneye</b>			
1/7	Newburyport	1	m K. Griffis
1/13	Newburyport	1	m T. Young#
<b>Bufflehead</b>			
1/20	Westport	288	M. Lynch#
1/28	Gloucester	60+	E. Nielsen
1/7	Boston H.	1005	TASL (M. Hall)
2/4	Boston H.	744	TASL (M. Hall)
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>			
1/6	Framingham	75	K. Hamilton#
1/6	W. Brookfield	6	M. Lynch#
1/17	Sudbury R.	17	M. Lynch#
1/18	Marstons Mills	11	M. Lynch#
1/18	Falmouth	17	M. Lynch#
1/21	Nantucket	5	E. Ray#
1/27	Chatham	8	J. Hoye#
2/3	Framingham	15	E. Taylor
2/6	Yarmouth	36	T. Aversa
2/7	Nantucket	10	E. Ray
2/15	Mattapoisett	4	F. Smith
2/19	Falmouth	138	R. Heil
2/19	Blackstone	7	T. Pirrou
2/25	Wakefield	4	P. + F. Vale
2/25	Medford	5	P. Roberts
<b>Common Merganser</b>			
1/20	Newburyport	45	J. Berry
1/21	Westport	15	E. Nielsen#
2/1	Medford	75	M. Rines
2/1-29	Belmont	11	J. Campbell#
2/1-29	Wayland	14	max N. Patterson
2/3	Framingham	20	E. Taylor
2/24	Belmont	18	F. Bouchard
2/25	Medford	57	P. Roberts
<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>			
1/14	Cape Ann	50	J. Berry#
1/20	Westport	97	M. Lynch#
1/7	Boston H.	573	TASL (M. Hall)
2/1	Arlington	6	M. Rines
2/4	Boston H.	388	TASL (M. Hall)
<b>Ruddy Duck</b>			
1/1	Arlington	20	M. Rines
1/6	Nantucket	1	E. Ray#
1/6	Framingham	1	K. Hamilton#
2/10	Dennis	2	E. Banks#
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>			
1/21	Westport	7	E. Nielsen#
1/21	S. Orleans	1	S. Thompson#
2/10	Mattapoisett	1	F. Smith
2/11	Millbury	2	E. Banks#
2/12	Peabody	1	K. Abbott
2/18	Sandwich	1	P. Trimble
2/25	N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher
2/28	Saugus	4	L. Nachtrab
2/29	Hudson	1	B. Parker
<b>Bald Eagle</b>			
1/1-31	Brewster/Harwich	2	ad v.o.
1/5	Newburyport	4	D. + I. Jewell
1/7-21	Gloucester	1	lad M. Rines + v.o.
1/9	Maynard	1	imm L. Nachtrab
1/13	W. Newbury	1	imm R. Heil
1/14	Westport	3	imm E. Nielsen
1/14	Lakeville	3	R. Turner
1/17	Sherborn	1	lad L. Willitts
1/17	Beverly	1	lad G. Leet
1/21	Fall River	1	E. Nielsen
1/21	Haverhill	5	J. Hogan
1/21	Wayland	1	N. Clafin
1/25	Marshfield	2	F. Garretson
2/5	Tyngsboro	1	B. Francisco
2/7	Ipswich	2	R. Heil
2/9-19	Wareham	pr	R. Turner
2/10	Salisbury	1	ad E. Taylor
2/10	Dennis	1	E. Banks#
2/10	Wayland	1	S. Arena#
2/11	Newburyport	2	ad B. Parker
2/13	Lakeville	pr at n	N. Yates
2/18	Athol	1	adG. d'Entremont
2/19	Marshfield	2	ad R. Heil
2/20	Raynham	1	K. Brissette
<b>Northern Harrier</b>			
1/1	Westport	2	E. Nielsen
1/14	Dartmouth	3	E. Nielsen
1/18	Salem	1	J. Berry
1/28	Cumb. Farms	2	K. Anderson
1/30	Sandwich	1	T. Aversa
2/1	P.I.	1	M. Rines
2/6	Eastham (F.H.)	2-3	T. Aversa
2/23	Cumb. Farms	2	K. Anderson
2/29	Fairhaven	2	T. Aversa
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>			
thr	Reports of individuals from 28 locations		
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>			
thr	Reports of individuals from 28 locations		
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>			
1/3	Bolton	1	S. Hennin
1/4	Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab
1/13	Pepperell	2	E. Stromsted
1/16	Nantucket	1	N. Brooks
1/17	Grafton	1	ad M. Lynch#
1/17	Chatham	1	R. Clem
1/20	Worcester	1	ad E. Banks#
1/20	IRWS	1	lad J. Smith
1/23	Petersham	1	ad T. Aversa
1/26	Middleton	1	R. Heil
2/9	Maynard	1	imm L. Nachtrab
2/17	Rowley	1	J. Gordon#
2/18	Eastham	1	J. Moore #
2/19	Plympton	1	W. Petersen
2/23	DWWS	1	imm T. Aversa
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>			
1/1-31	Marstons Mills	1	S. + E. Miller
1/7	Acushnet	1	M. LaBossiere
1/13	Eastham	1	imm W. Petersen#
1/14	Fairhaven	1	M. Boucher
1/18	S. Dartmouth	1	imm T. Aversa

<b>Red-shouldered Hawk (continued)</b>			
1/20	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
1/20	Wayland	1 ad	B. Parker
1/28	Lincoln	1 ad	M. Rines#
2/11	Marshfield	1	E. Kile
2/23	Sudbury	1 ad	J. Hoye
2/26	Acushnet	2	M. LaBossiere
2/27	E. Middleboro	4	K. Anderson
2/28	W. Newbury	1	C. Ralph
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>			
1/1	Nantucket	10	G. d'Entremont#
1/20	Westport	10	M. Lynch#
1/20	Salisbury	5	J. Berry
2/18	Middleboro	7	N. Smith
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>			
1/1	Rockport	1	C. Ralph
1/1	Westport	1	E. Nielsen
1/1, 2/27	Cumb. Farms	1, 2	K. Anderson
1/6	Essex	1 lt	J. Berry#
1/7	Concord (NAC)	1 lt	L. Nachtrab
1/11	W. Barnstable	1	E. + S. Miller
1/14	Truro	1 lt	M. Lynch#
1/16	Nantucket	1	J. Papale
1/20	Salisbury	1 lt	J. Berry
1/26	P.I.	2	M. Rines
2/18	Bolton	1 lt	M. Lynch#
2/18	Middleboro	3	N. Smith
2/19	P.I.	2	R. Lockwood
2/21	Nantucket	1 dk	E. Ray
<b>Golden Eagle</b>			
1/28	Quabbin (G43)	1 imm	R. Heil
1/28	Newburyport H.	1 sub ad	D. Brown#
<b>American Kestrel</b>			
1/10	Revere	1	J. Young
1/18	Salisbury	1 m	R. Heil
1/18	Lynn	1	J. Berry
1/18	Everett	1	J. Berry
1/20	Newburyport	1 m	J. Berry
1/21	Nantucket	1 f	E. Ray
1/26	Roslindale	1 m	T. Aversa
1/28	Danvers	1	H. D'Entremont
1/28	Milton	1	G. d'Entremont#
2/8	Cambridge	1	M. Rines
2/10	Boston (Logan)	2	N. Smith
2/18	Sandwich	1	P. Trimble
2/21	Quincy	1	M. Ciccarello
2/25	Salisbury	1 m	J. Hoye#
<b>Merlin</b>			
1/1	Westport	1	E. Nielsen#
1/1	P.I.	1	D. Chickering
1/7	Fairhaven	1	M. Boucher
1/14	Seekonk	1	D. Zimmerlin
1/16	Nantucket	1	G. Frost
1/17	Chatham	1	R. Clem
1/20	Wellfleet	1	G. Ferguson
1/21	N. Quincy	1	J. Young
1/28	Gloucester	1	E. Nielsen#
2/17	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan
2/18	Sandwich	1	P. Trimble
2/21	Orleans	1 ad	E. Banks#
2/23	Salisbury	1	J. Hoye#
2/25	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>			
1/1-31	Lawrence	1 ad	J. Hogan
1/30	Scusset B.	1 imm	M. LaBossiere
2/10	Boston (Logan)	2	N. Smith
2/10	Cape Ann	1BBC	(R. Petersen)
2/17	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan
2/18	S. Wellfleet	1	J. Moore#
2/25	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins
2/27	Saugus	1	J. Berry
2/29	Nantucket	3	S. Hecker
<b>Gyrfalcon</b>			
2/19	P.I.	1	K. Anderson
<b>Ring-necked Pheasant</b>			
2/6	W. Newbury	6	R. Heil
<b>Wild Turkey</b>			
1/1	Petersham	18	M. Lynch#
1/1-31	Marshfield	6	D. Ludlow#
1/11	Topsfield	3	D. + I. Jewell
1/20	Worcester	16	E. Banks#
1/23	W. Newbury	3	R. Heil
1/23	Athol	37	T. Aversa
1/28	Barre	27	M. Lynch#
1/6	Templeton	60	R. Stymecist#
2/1-23	Marshfield	6	D. Ludlow#
2/18	Petersham	40	G. d'Entremont#
2/28	Middleboro	36	R. Shore
2/7	Newbury	4	R. Heil
<b>Northern Bobwhite</b>			
1/19	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa
1/28	WBWS	14	J. Hoye#
<b>Clapper Rail</b>			
2/24	Nantucket	2	E. Ray#
<b>Common Moorhen</b>			
2/2-8	Nantucket	1	E. Ray#
<b>American Coot</b>			
1/1	Harwich	110+	B. Nikula #
1/1, 1/18	Arlington	77, 40	M. Rines
1/26	Lynn	8	R. Heil
1/28	Nantucket	13	E. Andrews#
2/1-29	Boston	11	T. Aversa
2/19	Plymouth	8	M. Lynch#
2/25	Nantucket	50	S. Perkins
2/25	Medford	30	P. Roberts
<b>Sandhill Crane</b>			
1/2, 1/6	Nantucket	1	E. Ray + v.o.
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>			
1/1	Nantucket	1	G. d'Entremont#
1/1	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	4	LCES (J. Hill)
<b>Killdeer</b>			
2/6	Orleans	1	T. Aversa
2/27	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan
2/28	Bedford	1	R. Lockwood
2/28	W. Newbury	1	C. Ralph
2/28	Peabody	2	R. Heil
2/29	Fairhaven	5	T. Aversa
<b>American Oystercatcher</b>			
1/4	Nantucket	1	B. Perkins
1/9	S. Harwich	1	J. Chase
2/2	Nantucket	1	B. Perkins
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>			
2/25	Nantucket	20	S. Perkins
<b>Sanderling</b>			
1/1	Nantucket	20	G. d'Entremont#
1/14	Dartmouth	35	E. Nielsen#
1/14	E. Gloucester	5	J. Berry#
1/28	Eastham (F.E.)	9	J. Hoye#
2/11	Salisbury	8	W. Petersen#
2/18	Westport	110	M. Boucher
2/25	Revere	350	F. Bouchard
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>			
1/1	Marblehead	22	R. Lockwood
1/1	Westport	6	E. Nielsen
1/14	Dartmouth	1	E. Nielsen
1/14	Gloucester	7	J. Berry#
1/21	Nahant	4	B. Parker
2/3	Rockport	13	J. Berry#
2/11	P.I.	12	W. Petersen#
2/19	N. Scituate	60+	M. Lynch#
2/19	Salisbury	16	R. Lockwood
2/25	Nantucket	30	A. Wood

<b>Dunlin</b>				1/16	Rockport (A.P.)	1	M. Lynch#
1/1	Westport	26	E. Nielsen#	1/21	Provincetown H.	1	R. Comeau#
1/1	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	112	LCES (J. Hill)	<b>Razorbill</b>			
1/25	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	11	LCES (J. Hill)	1/1	Nantucket	9	G. d'Entremont#
2/18	Westport	77	M. Boucher	1/16	Rockport	145	M. Lynch#
2/6	Yarmouth	10	T. Aversa	1/18	Magnolia	3	L. High
<b>Common Snipe</b>				1/21	Rockport	140+	R. Heil
1/14	Newburyport	2	R. Forster	1/28	Rockport	120	E. Nielsen
1/19	Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller	2/10	Orleans	40	E. Banks#
1/26	S. Peabody	1	R. Heil	2/10	Eastham	50	fide E. Banks
2/18	Sandwich	2	J. Trimble	2/19	Nauset	100	E. Banks#
2/21	Sudbury	1	S. Arena	2/19	P'town (R.P.)	720	S. Arena
<b>American Woodcock</b>				2/23	Nant. Sound	2	S. Perkins
2/28	Concord	1	B. Garrett	2/27	Provincetown	120+	(3/4 hr.) J. Sones
<b>Common Black-headed Gull</b>				<b>Black Guillemot</b>			
1/3	Nantucket	1 imm	E. Ray#	1/6	Rockport	2	J. Berry#
1/12	Sandwich	1imm	M. LaBossiere	1/14	Cape Ann	18	J. Berry#
1/14	Winthrop	5	R. Lockwood	1/20	Rockport	3	J. Brown#
1/21	Cumb. Farms	1	J. Hoye#	2/10	Cape Ann	9	R. Forster#
2/11	Winthrop	8	G. d'Entremont#	2/11	Gloucester	6	D. Chickering
2/11, 2/26	Newburyport	1	W. Petersen	2/19	P'town (R.P.)	2	S. Arena
2/17-29	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan	<b>Monk Parakeet</b>			
2/19	Nantucket	1	F. Gallo	1/14	Taunton	3	at nest K. Anderson
<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>				2/11	Blackstone	2	B. Volkle
1/14	Newburyport	10	R. Forster#	<b>Barn Owl</b>			
2/19	Nantucket	4	F. Gallo	1/1	Nantucket	2	G. Frost
<b>Iceland Gull</b>				2/2	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
1/1	Nantucket	50	G. d'Entremont#	<b>Eastern Screech-Owl</b>			
1/1	Worcester	1	E. Banks#	1/1-2/29	Mt. A.	1-2	R. Stymeist#
1/6	Cape Ann	3	J. Berry#	1/17	Watertown	1	N. Dane
1/6	Winchendon	3	M. Rines#	1/21	Dartmouth	1	E. Nielsen
1/13	Provincetown	5	W. Petersen#	1/4	Hamilton	1	J. Berry#
1/14	Newburyport	6	ad R. Forster#	1/6	Ipswich	1	J. Berry#
1/28	Gloucester	5	E. Nielsen	2/11	Halifax	1	E. Weinheimer
2/6	W. Newbury	2	R. Heil	2/15	Duxbury	1	D. Ludlow#
2/19	P'town (R.P.)	3	S. Arena	2/25	Wayland	1	J. Hoye#
2/25	Newburyport	19	R. Forster#	2/27	Newbury	1	I. + D. Jewell
2/26	Nantucket	8	A. Wood	<b>Great Horned Owl</b>			
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>				1/1	Paxton	1	M. Lynch#
1/3	Nant. (Low B.)	1 ad	E. Ray#	1/1	N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher
1/12	Marlborough	1 (2 yr)	D. Goodrich	1/1	E. Boston	1	M. Rines#
1/23	Nant. (dump)	1 2W	S. Papale	1/1-2/29	Mt. A.	pr	v.o.
1/28	Nant. (Miacomet)	1 ad	E. Andrews#	1/1-31	Ipswich	pr	J. Berry
2/18	Newburyport	1 2W	J. Brown	1/6	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>				1/16	Bolton	2	S. Hennis
1/6	Gloucester H.	1 ad	J. Berry#	1/20	Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab
1/6	Winchendon	1	I. Giriunas#	1/23	Marlboro	1	B. Parker
1/13	Provincetown H.	2	W. Petersen#	1/31	Worcester	1	C. Phillips
1/16	Lynn	1 1W	J. Quigley	2/6	Eastham	1	T. Aversa
1/26	Nant. (jetties)	1 1W	A. Wood	2/11	Concord	2	I. + D. Jewell
1/26	Scusset B.	1	M. LaBossiere	2/25	Milton	1	G. d'Entremont#
1/26	Newburyport H.	1 1W	M. Rines	<b>Snowy Owl</b>			
1/27	Nant. (Cisco)	1 1W	E. Ray	1/20-2/25	P.I.	1-3	v.o.
1/28	Sandwich	1	S. Hennis	1/21	Rowley	1 ad	J. Berry
1/28	Nant. (Miacomet)	1 2W	E. Andrews#	2/4	Salisbury	1	v.o.
1/31	New Bedford	1	M. LaBossiere	2/5-12	Nantucket	1	J. Marks + v.o.
2/4	P.I.	1 1W	M. Lynch#	<b>Barred Owl</b>			
2/11	Lynn	1 ad	J. Quigley	1/1	Essex	1	I. Giriunas#
2/19	P'town (R.P.)	1 1W	S. Arena	1/1	Salisbury	1	C. Paine
2/25	Acton	1	S. Perkins	1/1-31	Cambridge	1	M. Rines#
2/26	Sandwich	1	M. LaBossiere	1/6	Wayland	1	G. Long
<b>Black-legged Kittiwake</b>				1/12	Boston (B.U.)	1	P. Perry
1/21	Rockport	23 ad	R. Heil	1/19, 2/2	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa
1/28	Eastham (F.E.)	70	J. Hoye#	1/2	Roslindale	1	T. Aversa
2/25	P.I.	1	W. Petersen#	1/23	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil
<b>Dovekie</b>				1/26-31	Winthrop	1	S. Wallace
1/7	Rockport	5	E. Salmela	1/29	Ipswich	1	D. + I. Jewell
1/13	P'town (R.P.)	1	W. Petersen#	2/1-29	E. Boxford	1-2	J. Brown#
1/22	P.I.	1	D. + I. Jewell	2/13	Maynard	1	J. Messier
2/27	Provincetown	2	J. Sones	2/14	Melrose	1	I. + D. Jewell
<b>Thick-billed Murre</b>				2/18	Rowley	1	R. Stymeist#



Barred Owl (continued)								
2/21 Boston (Forest Hills)	2	T. Aversa	1/1-2/29 Mt.A.	pr			v.o.	
2/21 Weston	1	P. Sellen	1/1-31 Ipswich	pr			J. Berry	
2/9 Lincoln	1	C. Ralph	2/13 Dover	2			L. Peterson	
<b>Great Gray Owl</b>			2/20 Nantucket	2			E. Ray	
2/1-2/29 Rowley	1	N. Sullivan, C. Richter#	thr				Reports of individuals from 20 locations	
<b>Long-eared Owl</b>			<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>					
1/30 Sandwich	2	T. Aversa	1/1 Westport	1			E. Salmela#	
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>			1/11 Chatham	1			R. Clem	
1/1 Westport	1	E. Nielsen	1/8 Nantucket	1			J. Manley	
1/1 Nantucket	2	G. d'Entremont#	<b>Hairy Woodpecker</b>					
1/1 S. Dart. (A.Pd)	4	LCES (J. Hill)	1/1-31 Maynard	4			L. Nachtrab	
1/4 Sandwich	1	M. Labossiere	2/1-29 Pepperell	3			E. Stromsted#	
1/20 Fairhaven	1	D. Zimmerlin	2/1-29 Mattapoisett	2 f			F. Smith	
1/28 P.I.	1	M. Pelikan	2/1-29 E. Boxford	2-3			v.o.	
2/3 Cumb. Farms	1	K. Anderson	2/12 Nantucket	2			E. Ray	
2/8 S. Boston	1	B. Zuzevich	2/4 Berlin	2			B. Parker	
2/10 Boston (Logan)	1	N. Smith#	<b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b>					
<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>			1/21-2/29 Sharon	1 f			N. Boucher + v.o.	
1/1 Nantucket	2	G. d'Entremont#	<b>Northern Flicker</b>					
1/1 Brewster	2	B. Nikula#	1/1 Lakeville	2			K. Anderson	
1/14 Chatham	1	R. Clem	1/1-31 Marlboro	3			B. Parker	
1/16 Nahant	1	B. Crawford	1/1-31 Wellesley	2 m			R. Forster	
2/23 Orleans	1	S. + E. Miller	1/18 S. Dartmouth	7			T. Aversa	
2/27 P.I.	1	I. + D. Jewell	1/18 Cumb. Farms	5			T. Aversa	
<b>Belted Kingfisher</b>			1/2 Nantucket	2			F. Gallo#	
1/17 Winthrop	2	M. Lynch#	2/1-29 Wellesley	2			R. Forster	
1/6 Framingham	3	K. Hamilton#	<b>Pileated Woodpecker</b>					
2/19 Falmouth	3	R. Heil	1/1 Petersham	2			M. Lynch#	
<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b>			1/5 Boxford	1			J. Brown#	
1/1-2/29 Maynard	pr	L. Nachtrab	1/26 Pepperell	1			E. Stromsted	
1/1-2/29 Mattapoisett	3-4	F. Smith	2/10 Wayland	1			N. Patterson	
1/1-2/29 E. Boxford	pr	J. Brown#	2/23 Pepperell	1			E. Stromsted	
			2/23 Groton	1			T. Pirrou	

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

This group of birds appeared to be victims of the severe winter weather. The numbers of semi-hardy winterers were down from last year, when we were blessed with a mild and snowless winter. Only one Ruby-crowned Kinglet was reported for the two-month period, compared with over 17 last season. Other species showing a big decline were Carolina Wren, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, and Rufous-sided Towhee. If the cold and snowy weather did not get to these birds, the invasion of Northern Shrikes probably did. Over 50 individuals were noted, many of which were reported chasing or eating avian prey.

The severe winter also had some pleasant results. Two **Boreal Chickadees** were noted at feeders, and a **Dickcissel** was found in Framingham. **Bohemian Waxwings** were well reported, with large flocks noted in Royalston, Athol, Chatham, and Nantucket. Other winter finch reports included Pine Grosbeaks, Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, and Common Redpolls in fairly good numbers. There were reports of Red Crossbills from three locations, and a **Hoary Redpoll** was easily picked out of a flock of 35 Common Redpolls at a feeder in West Newbury. R. H. S.

<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>			1/21 Haverhill	4000		J. Hogan
1/1 Nantucket	1	G. d'Entremont#	1/21 Lawrence	11,000		J. Hogan#
<b>Horned Lark</b>			1/28 Worcester	500+		M. Lynch#
1/6 Essex	55	J. Berry#	2/24 Stoneham	1500		P. + F. Vale
1/7 Rowley	49	B. Parker	<b>Fish Crow</b>			
1/9 Cumb. Farms	75	K. Anderson	1/14 Watertown	5		R. Stymeist
1/10 Winthrop	21	J. Young	1/4 Newton	2		G. Long
1/26 N. Attleboro	24	G. Valade	2/1 Waltham	1		C. Ralph
2/10 Boston (Logan)	25	N. Smith#	2/19 Worcester	1		M. Lynch#
2/18 Bridgewater	45	S. Arena	2/20 W. Roxbury	7		T. Aversa
2/18 Sandwich	20	P. Trimble	2/24 Mt.A.	6		M. Pelikan
2/18 S. Dartmouth	65	M. Boucher	2/25 Milton	4+		G. d'Entremont#
2/19 Plympton	20	W. Petersen	2/26 Woburn	1		M. Pelikan
2/19 Newbury	100+	D. Chickering	<b>Common Raven</b>			
2/25 Bolton	30+	M. Lynch#	1/1 Petersham	3		M. Lynch#
2/4 Salisbury	70+	M. Lynch#	1/6 Templeton	1		R. Stymeist#
<b>American Crow</b>			1/6 Winchendon	12		R. Stymeist#
1/1-2/29 Framingham	7200	E. Taylor	1/23 Quabbin (G39)	8		T. Aversa
1/7 Watertown	1000+	E. Taylor	1/28 Athol	2		R. Heil

<b>Common Raven (continued)</b>			
2/5	Ashland	2	R. Wolanin
2/18	Athol	2	G. d'Entremont#
<b>Boreal Chickadee</b>			
2/17-29	Groveland	1	F. Smith + v.o.
2/18	Wakefield	1	C. Neeley
<b>Red-breasted Nuthatch</b>			
1/1-31	Ipswich	pr	J. Berry
1/18	Mt. A.	6	M. Rines
1/2	Nantucket	4	F. Gallo#
2/19	Falmouth	4	R. Heil
2/23	Boxford	3	R. Heil
<b>Brown Creeper</b>			
1/1-31	E. Boxford	3 max	J. Brown#
1/18	Wayland	2	N. Patterson
1/18	Marstons Mills	3	M. Lynch#
1/18	Mt. A.	3	M. Rines
2/10	Braintree	2	G. d'Entremont#
2/23	Boxford	4	R. Heil
<b>Carolina Wren</b>			
1/1	W. Newbury	1	D. Chickering
1/1-31	Brighton	1	R. Hastie
1/2	Attleboro	3	M. Sweet
1/9	Bolton	1	S. Hennin
1/18	Falmouth	17	M. Lynch#
1/20	IRWS	2	J. Smith
2/10	Lexington	1	M. Pelikan
2/16	Billerica	1	M. Rines
2/19	Falmouth	13	R. Heil
2/25	Rowley	1	W. Petersen
<b>Winter Wren</b>			
1/17	Chatham	1	R. Clem
1/18	Falmouth	1	M. Lynch#
2/5	Acushnet	1	M. LaBossiere
2/5	Duxbury	2	H. Pissano
<b>Golden-crowned Kinglet</b>			
1/1	E. Middleboro	2	K. Anderson
2/4	S. Orleans	1	C. Thompson
2/18	Lakeville	5	S. Arena
<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b>			
1/12	Nantucket	1	E. Ray#
<b>Eastern Bluebird</b>			
1/1-31	Lincoln	6	A. Jones
1/13	Spencer	6	M. Lynch#
1/13	Truro	12	W. Petersen#
1/13	N. Attleboro	5	G. Valade
1/14	Dennis	7	M. Lynch#
1/30	Westwood	4	S. Sweet
1/31	Nantucket	12	W. Buskirk
2/2	Wellfleet	6	fide J. Sones
2/3	Middleboro	8	R. Shore
2/7	Rowley	5	M. Rines#
2/12	Pepperell	5	S. Hill
2/13	Mattapoisett	6	F. Smith
2/19	Mashpee	9	R. Heil
2/23	Groton	21	T. Pirrou
2/24	Wayland	4	N. Patterson
thr	Reports of 2-3 indiv. from 15 locations		
<b>Hermit Thrush</b>			
1/1	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
1/6	Worcester	1 dead	J. Bombard
1/12	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell
1/14	Eastham	1	B. Parker
1/18	S. Dartmouth	1	T. Aversa
1/18	Falmouth	1	M. Lynch#
1/2	Nantucket	1	F. Gallo#
1/20	IRWS	1	J. Smith
1/20	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
2/2	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
2/6	Wellfleet	1	T. Aversa
2/19	Eastham (F.H.)	1	S. Arena
<b>American Robin</b>			
1/1	Westport	120	E. Nielsen
1/23	W. Newbury	40	R. Heil
1/27	Westboro	200	H. Wilkinson
1/29	Worcester	40+	E. Banks
2/2	Braintree	64	R. Malloy
2/3	Middleboro	50	R. Turner
2/9	Wellesley	35	R. Forster
2/15	Nantucket	200	E. Ray
2/19	Falmouth	75	R. Heil
2/27	Wayland	45	H. Parker
<b>Gray Catbird</b>			
1/1	Westwood	1	E. Nielsen
1/2	Wareham	1	M. LaBossiere
1/17	Belmont	1	J. Campbell
1/18	S. Dartmouth	3	T. Aversa
2/4	Nantucket	4	H. Ferrea
2/4	Cummaquid	2	S. + E. Miller
2/19	Falmouth	2	R. Heil
2/19	Lakeville	1	R. Turner
<b>Brown Thrasher</b>			
2/20	Orleans	1	R. Forster
1/1	Acushnet	1	M. LaBossiere
2/23	Chatham	1	fide J. Sones
2/24	Falmouth	1	D. Lange#
<b>American Pipit</b>			
1/1	Lynn	1	J. Nove#
1/7	Hyannis	1	S. + E. Miller
1/26	Nantucket	3	A. Wood
<b>Bohemian Waxwing</b>			
1/6	Royalston	80	E. Salmela#
1/13	N. Attleboro	1	G. Valade
1/13	Orleans	11	C. Goodwich
1/13	Chatham	4	R. Clem#
1/14	Provincetown	2	M. Lynch#
1/15	Athol	30	D. Lange
2/2	Harwichport	2	B. Nikula
2/4	Nantucket	9	H. Ferrea
2/4	Yarmouth	10	fide R. Prescott
2/6	Nantucket	50+	E. Andrews#
2/15	Brewster	15	S. + E. Miller
2/23	Chatham	23	J. Sones#
2/25	Byfield	1	fide S. Grinley
<b>Cedar Waxwing</b>			
1/1	Wayland	65	G. Long
1/7	E. Boxford	80	J. Brown#
1/13	Westwood	50	E. Nielsen
1/14	Provincetown	35	M. Lynch#
1/15	Maynard	72	L. Nachtrab
1/21	Hardwick	80	G. d'Entremont#
1/30	Harwichport	70	B. Nikula
2/11	Concord	35	I. + D. Jewell
2/19	Lincoln	50	S. Perkins
2/20	Wayland	30+	N. Patterson
<b>Northern Shrike</b>			
1/1	E. Boston	2	R. Stymeist#
1/1-2/23	P.I.	1-3	v.o.
2/24	Cumb. Farms	2	S. Arena
1/1-31	Reports of individuals from 32 locations		
2/1-29	Reports of individuals from 13 locations		
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>			
1/1	Westport	45	E. Nielsen
2/18	Westport	4	M. Boucher
2/25	Nantucket	180	S. Perkins
<b>Pine Warbler</b>			
1/1	Ipswich	1 m	J. Berry
1/15	Cotuit	1	S. + E. Miller
1/30	Falmouth	1	L. Juskiewicz
2/13	Mattapoisett	1	F. Smith
<b>Cedar Waxwing</b>			
1/1	Wayland	65	G. Long

Cedar Waxwing (continued)			1/1	Gardner	15	S. Hennin	
1/13	Westwood	50	E. Nielsen	1/2	E. Orleans	15	A. Williams
1/14	Provincetown	35	M. Lynch#	1/4	Scusset B.	3	M. LaBossiere
1/15	Maynard	72	L. Nachtrab	1/4	Cumb. Farms	50	K. Anderson
1/21	Hardwick	80	G. d'Entremont#	1/5	Littleton	5	M. Resch
1/30	Harwichport	70	B. Nikula	1/16	Nantucket	25	G. Frost
1/7	E. Boxford	80	J. Brown#	1/21	Petersham	25	G. d'Entremont#
2/11	Concord	35	I. + D. Jewell	1/21	P.I.	200+	D. Chickering
2/19	Lincoln	50	S. Perkins	2/4	Salisbury	100+	M. Lynch#
2/20	Wayland	30+	N. Patterson	2/5	Yarmouthport	40	S. + E. Miller
Dickcissel			2/19	P.I.	250+	R. Lockwood	
1/1-2/9	Framingham	1 m	K. Hamilton	2/25	Salisbury	200	K. Hamilton#
Rufous-sided Towhee			Red-winged Blackbird				
1/1	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher	1/13	Eastham	50	W. Petersen#
1/1-13	Worc. (BMB)	1 m	C. Phillips	1/15	Harwichport	85	B. Nikula
1/1-8, 2/13	Mattapoiset	2, 1	F. Smith	1/26	Acushnet	20	M. LaBossiere
2/24	Dartmouth	3	S. Arena#	1/27	Quincy	25	G. d'Entremont#
2/4	Nantucket	1	N. Brooks	1/31	Salisbury	3	D. + I. Jewell
2/6	Yarmouth	1	T. Aversa	2/4	Harwich	35+	B. Nikula
American Tree Sparrow			2/24	Cumb. Farms	25	S. Arena#	
1/1	Sandwich	100	B. Nikula#	2/25	Westboro	18	M. Lynch#
Chipping Sparrow			2/25	Nantucket	30	S. Perkins	
1/18	S. Dartmouth	1	T. Aversa	2/27	Peabody	50+	R. Heil
2/19	Yarmouthport	1	K. Hamilton#	2/27	Maynard	30	L. Nachtrab
Field Sparrow			2/29	Fairhaven	140	T. Aversa	
1/1	S. Dartmouth	6	M. Boucher	2/29	Wayland	45+	N. Patterson
1/1	Cumb. Farms	2	K. Anderson	2/23-29	General arrival		
2/10	Mattapoiset	1	F. Smith	Eastern Meadowlark			
Savannah Sparrow			1/1	Nantucket	3	G. d'Entremont#	
1/1	Sandwich	200	B. Nikula#	1/28	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	2	LCES (J. Hill)
1/1	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	3	LCES (J. Hill)	2/5	Nantucket	1	A. Manning
1/18	Falmouth	2	M. Lynch#	2/19	Harwich	3	B. Nikula#
2/18	N. Dartmouth	3	M. Boucher	Rusty Blackbird			
Sharp-tailed Sparrow			1/21	Wayland	2	J. Hoye#	
1/9	W. Barnstable	1	S. + E. Miller	1/30	Marstons Mills	1	T. Aversa
2/19	Eastham (F.H.)	1	S. Arena	2/11	W. Barnstable	20	S. + E. Miller
Seaside Sparrow			2/15	DWWS	2	D. Ludow#	
1/13	Eastham (F.H.)	1	W. Petersen#	2/17	Lynnfield	26	P. + F. Vale
Fox Sparrow			2/25	Westboro	1	M. Lynch#	
1/5, 2/5	Nantucket	1	M. Gibbs	Common Grackle			
2/3	Orleans	1	fide J. Sones	1/7	W. Newbury	1	B. Parker
Lincoln's Sparrow			1/9	E. Middleboro	2	K. Anderson	
2/4	Nantucket	1	H. Ferrea	2/5	Nantucket	2	M. Gibbs
Swamp Sparrow			2/9	Wayland	1	N. Patterson	
1/6	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	2/15	N. Dartmouth	80	M. Sylvia
1/30	Cotuit	1	T. Aversa	2/27	W. Roxbury	12	D. Lahaise
2/2	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa	2/27	Easton	6	D. Keith
2/19	Falmouth	3	R. Heil	2/27	Peabody	15	R. Heil
2/23	Scituate	3	T. Aversa	2/29	Framingham	300	E. Taylor
White-throated Sparrow			2/23-29	General arrival			
1/9	E. Middleboro	3	K. Anderson	Brown-headed Cowbird			
1/2	Nantucket	5	E. Gallo#	1/1	Sandwich	50+	B. Nikula#
2/10	Braintree	10	G. d'Entremont#	1/23	Petersham	1	T. Aversa
2/19	Falmouth	25	R. Heil	2/29	Fairhaven	30	T. Aversa
2/29	Fairhaven	32	T. Aversa	Northern Oriole			
White-crowned Sparrow			1/8	Nantucket	3	B. Manley	
1/1	Sandwich	2	P. Trimble#	Pine Grosbeak			
1/18	S. Dartmouth	2	T. Aversa	1/1	Royalston	8	M. Lynch#
1/20	Fairhaven	1	D. Zimmerlin	1/17	Westminster	2	B. Longley
1/7	Fairhaven	5	M. Boucher	1/31	Royalston	8	C. Ralph
"Pink-sided" Dark-eyed Junco			2/4	Athol	12	R. Forster#	
1/3	Lincoln	1	S. Perkins	2/4	Gardner	8	T. Pirrou
1/8-31	Hanson	1	W. Petersen#	2/5	Baldwinville	8	T. Pirrou
Lapland Longspur			2/18	Provincetown	1	J. Moore#	
1/21	Salisbury	8	C. Ralph#	2/18	Athol	7+	G. d'Entremont#
2/4	Salisbury	20+	M. Lynch#	Purple Finch			
2/4	P.I.	3	R. Stymeist#	1/21	W. Brookfield	1	M. Lynch#
2/10	Boston (Logan)	1	N. Smith	1/5	E. Middleboro	2	K. Anderson
2/19	Middleboro	1	W. Petersen	1/6	Framingham	1	R. Forster#
Snow Bunting			1/8	Hanson	1	W. Petersen	
1/1	P.I.	55	D. Chickering	2/9	Rowley	1	M. LaBossiere

<b>Red Crossbill</b>				2/19-31	Sutton	1	D. Boyle
1/1	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#	<b>Pine Siskin</b>			
1/1	Royalston	2	M. Lynch#	1/1	Nantucket	2	M. Gibbs
1/14	P.I.	3	J. Hoye#	1/1	Royalston	100	J. Hoye#
<b>Common Redpoll</b>				1/1, 1/21	Bolton	5, 5	S. Hennis
1/13	W. Newbury	35	R. Heil	1/1-29	Rockport	25	G. Soucy#
1/19	Pepperell	70	L. High	1/1-31	Scituate	4	E. Burbank
1/20	Worcester	20	E. Banks	1/2	Wareham	2	M. LaBossiere
1/25	Wellesley	138	K. Winkler	1/28	Royalston	225	R. Heil
1/28	Hardwick	200+	R. Heil	1/31	Yarmouthport	13	K. Hamilton
1/28	Royalston	8	R. Heil	2/4	Harwich	5	fide J. Sones
1/31	Princeton	6	C. Ralph#	2/7	Framingham	5	K. Hamilton#
2/11	P.I.	30	C. Ralph	2/24	Wayland	4	N. Patterson
2/11	Princeton	3	C. Ralph	<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>			
2/11-12	Northboro	12	P. Lebau	1/1	Nantucket	2	M. Gibbs
2/14	Princeton	75	J. Choiniere	1/6	Acushnet	4	M. LaBossiere
2/17	Maynard	10	L. Nachtrab	1/6	Royalston	35	M. Rines#
2/23	Harvard	40	C. Kopkowski	1/17	Westminster	20	B. Longley
2/26	Pepperell	96	E. Stromsted	1/23	Petersham	50+	T. Aversa
thr	Reports of 1-2 individuals from 10 loc.			1/31	Royalston	100+	C. Ralph#
<b>Hoary Redpoll</b>				2/4	Petersham	45	R. Forster#
1/13	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil				

### HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

This publication prints monthly compilations of reports of birds seen in the ten counties of eastern Massachusetts (Worcester County and east) and offshore waters. Space does not permit the inclusion of all material submitted. However, bird sightings sent to *Bird Observer* are archived at the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Our compilers select and summarize for publication sightings that provide a snapshot of birdlife during the reporting period. These sightings include early and late dates for migratory species, maximum counts of migrants and some common birds, and species found beyond their normal ranges.

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month. Send to *Bird Sightings*, Robert H. Stymeist, 94 Grove Street, Watertown, MA 02172. Please organize reports by month and by species in current A.O.U. checklist order. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, number of observers, and information relevant to age, sex, morph, etc.

Reports of difficult identifications, vagrants, rarities, or species unusual as to place, time, or prior nesting activity in Massachusetts also should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Wayne Petersen, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773. Include, in addition to the above information, time of day and light available, weather conditions, the optics used and approximate distance from the bird, length of observation, observer's prior experience with the species, and field guide or other references used. Provide a description of the bird based solely on personal observation. Comment on the distinguishing field marks (observed and unobserved), vocalizations, activity, general behavior, habitat, and other birds present. Include with your report copies of any field notes and sketches.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

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## South Shore Bird Club

The South Shore Bird Club was founded in Quincy in 1946 and is celebrating its fiftieth year of birding this year. The club is essentially a field club, sponsoring at least one walk almost every weekend from September through June, plus two to four summer trips. The club tries to schedule at least one trip a month on the South Shore, and regular destinations include Cape Cod, Quabbin Reservoir, and Plum Island.

The club traditionally has had a number of special projects, including the Quincy and Marshfield Christmas Bird Counts and breeding bird censuses every June. We are always looking for new projects where we can make a contribution to birding and cannot wait for the next breeding bird atlas to begin. In the meantime, members get involved in herp and butterfly projects. The South Shore Bird Club always looks at more than birds.

In addition to an annual potluck supper on the last Saturday in January (not to be missed by gourmet or gourmand), the club often sponsors one or two other indoor meetings a year. These meetings typically feature either a speaker or an identification workshop. Every few years, a weekend trip to an island, Cape May, or the Connecticut Lakes makes the schedule.

Membership costs \$5 for an individual and \$8 for a family. Anyone is welcome to join, and nonmembers are welcome on all trips.

The officers of the club are

Helen Cross (president),

3 F Street, Hull, MA 02045, 617-925-5866;

Nancy Swirka (vice-president and field trip chair),

35 Bay Street, Hull, MA 02045, 617-925-5833;

Susan Shapiro (secretary/treasurer),

8 Tyler Street, Norwell, MA 02061, 617-659-4797;

Robert P. Fox (recorder),

44 Old Village Lane, North Andover, MA 01845, 508-682-9553.

To join, send dues to the secretary/treasurer.

To find out what's going on, call any of the above.

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## ABOUT THE COVER: BOBOLINK

To many people the Bobolink's bubbling song and courtship flight on stiff wings low over green meadows are synonymous with spring. Its common name presumably is derived from a word description of the song, "Bob-o'-link" in the poem by William Cullen Bryant "Robert of Lincoln." The striking appearance of a male Bobolink—black below with flashes of white above—has earned it the nickname "skunk blackbird." Other nicknames include "rice bird" for its eating habits during migration and "butter bird" for its enormous premigratory fat deposits.

The Bobolink male is the only North American passerine to be totally black below and light above. He has white scapulars, lower back, rump and upper tail, and a distinctive buff hindneck collar. The species is strongly dimorphic. The female is buffy, and heavily streaked above and on the flanks, and with a distinctive brown striped crown. She resembles an oversized sparrow. Young birds and winter-plumaged males resemble the female, but young birds lack the streaked flanks.

Bobolinks breed in a broad swath across the northern United States and southern Canada in patches where suitable habitat occurs. In Massachusetts they are common in Berkshire County and the Connecticut Valley, and more sparsely distributed elsewhere. They are a premier long-distance migrant, wintering in the grassland pampas of eastern Bolivia, southwestern Brazil, Paraguay, and south to Buenos Aires in Argentina. Their round-trip migration may take them more than 12,000 miles! Experimental evidence suggests they employ an "integrated" navigation system during migration, using the Earth's magnetic field in conjunction with stellar patterns to guide them to their destination.

In spring males arrive first, beginning in the first week of May, and establish territories. The peak of the Massachusetts migration occurs during the second and third weeks of May. As many as 400 have been reported from Plum Island on a single day. In July and August they form large premigratory flocks (more than 1000 birds have been reported in a single day) and are widely distributed in the state where there are weed or agricultural fields. By the end of September they are on their way to South America.

Bobolinks have a strongly polygynous breeding system, and usually produce a single brood. Males pair with multiple females that nest in their territory, but blood sample analysis has demonstrated multiple paternity for eggs in the same clutch. One study estimated that fifteen percent of the young were sired by males other than the pair-bonded male. What's good for the goose is good for the gander.

The preferred nesting habitat is moist meadows and hay fields. Males are aggressively territorial, and their song serves the dual purpose of territorial defense and mate attraction. The song is musical, complex, and long (three to

four seconds), and may be given either from a perch or in flight. At least nine identifiable calls have also been identified. The males have a variety of nuptial displays, including a song flight in which they hover or bounce along with the downward stroke of the wingbeat emphasized and white scapular feathers prominently displayed. In one display males spread out their tails, partially extend their wings, and erect nape and scapular feathers. Males defend territories by strutting along boundaries, presenting their brightly feathered backs and bill-flipping, among an assortment of displays.

In Massachusetts nesting commences in the first week of June. The female chooses the nest site, collects the nesting material, and builds the nest in one or two days. The nest is a cup of coarse grass, stems, and leaves, lined with fine grass. The clutch is usually five eggs, variable in color from bluish to reddish gray, blotched in reds, browns, and lavender. The female alone develops a brood patch, and does all the incubation, which lasts just under two weeks. In this polygynous system, males with more than one mate mostly help with brooding and feeding the chicks of the primary (first female with which he paired) nest, and to a lesser degree secondary nests. The young are fed exclusively insects and other invertebrates. The young depart from the nest in ten or eleven days, several days before they can fly, but may be fed by adults for up to a month. The young join flocks prior to migration. Bobolinks forage mostly on the ground or low in vegetation on weed seeds or rice, oats, corn, and other agricultural leavings. In fall they may gain a third of their body weight in fat reserves for the long migratory flight.

As ground-nesting birds, Bobolinks are subject to predation by a variety of mammals, and in wet meadows they are subject to flooding and vulnerable to storm damage. Presumably because of their aggressive territorial defense, however, they are seldom parasitized by cowbirds. Sadly, Bobolink populations have been declining in the United States for most of this century due to habitat alteration and persecution in some southern states as an agricultural pest, where they were even slaughtered at night by torchlight. Breeding Bird Census data suggest that significant declines occurred in all of North America during the 1980s. They are still shot as agricultural pests on their wintering grounds in South America, and in North America declining acreage in hay fields and earlier mowing cycles may have contributed to the decline. Locally, Stephen Eells estimated an 80 percent mortality for nestlings and fledglings for hay fields in Lincoln from normal hay-cropping activities (see Eells, 1995, *Bird Observer*, 23:98-112, for a detailed assessment of the problem).

Like most other grassland species, the Bobolink is in trouble, and habitat preservation, altered mowing schedules, and other conservation initiatives will be necessary to keep this beautiful bird our harbinger and symbol of spring.

William E. Davis, Jr.



## ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

Long-time subscribers to *Bird Observer* are very familiar with Barry Van Dusen's work. Barry continues to garner international acclaim for his artistry. Recently he was elected as a full member to the international Society for Wildlife Artists. Barry will be doing a one-man exhibition at the New England Wildflower Society, Garden in the Woods, in Framingham, Massachusetts, from June 3-June 30, 1996. Barry can also be reached at 13 Radford Road, Princeton, Massachusetts 01541.

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### **AT A GLANCE** *April 1996* \_\_\_\_\_ *Wayne R. Petersen*

This month's mystery species is a tough one. The first challenge is to place the bird into the correct family. A quick inspection might suggest that the bird is some species of flycatcher, wood-warbler, vireo, or possibly even an oriole, except that the nest is all wrong for an oriole. How about a Pine Warbler? The bird has a smooth unstreaked back, white wing bars, and the appearance of some white around the eye, all features that fit a Pine Warbler. However, the rather long bill appears to have a slight hook at the tip (not a wood-warbler feature); it does not show any trace of white spots in the tail (although these could be concealed); and there appears to be an excessive amount of pale edging to the folded tertials and secondaries for any of the Massachusetts wood-warblers. But perhaps most importantly, the bird's nest is not saddled into a dense tuft of pine needles, a characteristic practically as reliable for Pine Warblers as any plumage feature.

Although a few other wood-warblers may look somewhat similar to the pictured bird, only the Cerulean Warbler shares the combination of wing bars and unstreaked back shown in the photograph. However, the Cerulean Warbler has a prominent eyebrow stripe and would appear smaller and more compact. It also builds a neat cup nest, very unlike the sloppily constructed nest shown in the photograph.

The vireo species having wing bars can variously be eliminated because of their thicker bill shape, different head pattern (i.e., spectacles or eye rings), and iris color. Also, vireo nests tend to be neat cups saddled in a fork and trimmed with lichens, moss, and spider webs. They tend to be tidy, not messy like the pictured nest.

We are left with flycatchers as a possible family for the mystery bird.

Again, a knowledge of nest type can be useful. Eastern Wood-Pewees characteristically saddle their nests on branches; other larger flycatchers look sufficiently different not to pose a problem. This leaves only the Empidonx flycatchers as possibilities.

If by now you have gone to the nest guide, good for you. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher usually nests on the ground, while the Least Flycatcher typically puts its cup nest in a tree crotch. This leaves only the Willow, Alder, and Acadian flycatchers as choices.

In most cases, neither Willow nor Alder flycatchers show much of an eye ring, a feature the pictured bird clearly possesses. Furthermore, these two very similar species frequently do not have wing bars as pronounced as in some other empids. And most importantly they tend to build their nests in a crotch of a bush or low shrub.

We have reduced the possibilities to Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax vireescens*). The pictured bird clearly has a distinct eye ring, noticeably long primaries that extend well below the tips of the folded secondaries and tertials, a long bill for a small flycatcher, and a rather broad tail. But regardless of how difficult these features may be to decipher, the sloppy nest construction, with long roots and grasses trailing off the bottom, and the nest location, which is in a horizontal fork, are quintessential Acadian Flycatcher characteristics.

A steadily colonizing species from the south, the Acadian Flycatcher is increasingly frequent as a late spring migrant and breeding bird in a number of scattered locations across Massachusetts.



*Acadian Flycatcher*

*Photo by Hugo H. Schroder. Courtesy of MAS.*

## AT A GLANCE

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Photo by Hal H. Harrison. Courtesy of MAS.



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Cover Illustration: Bobolink by Barry W. Van Dusen

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