Bird Observer

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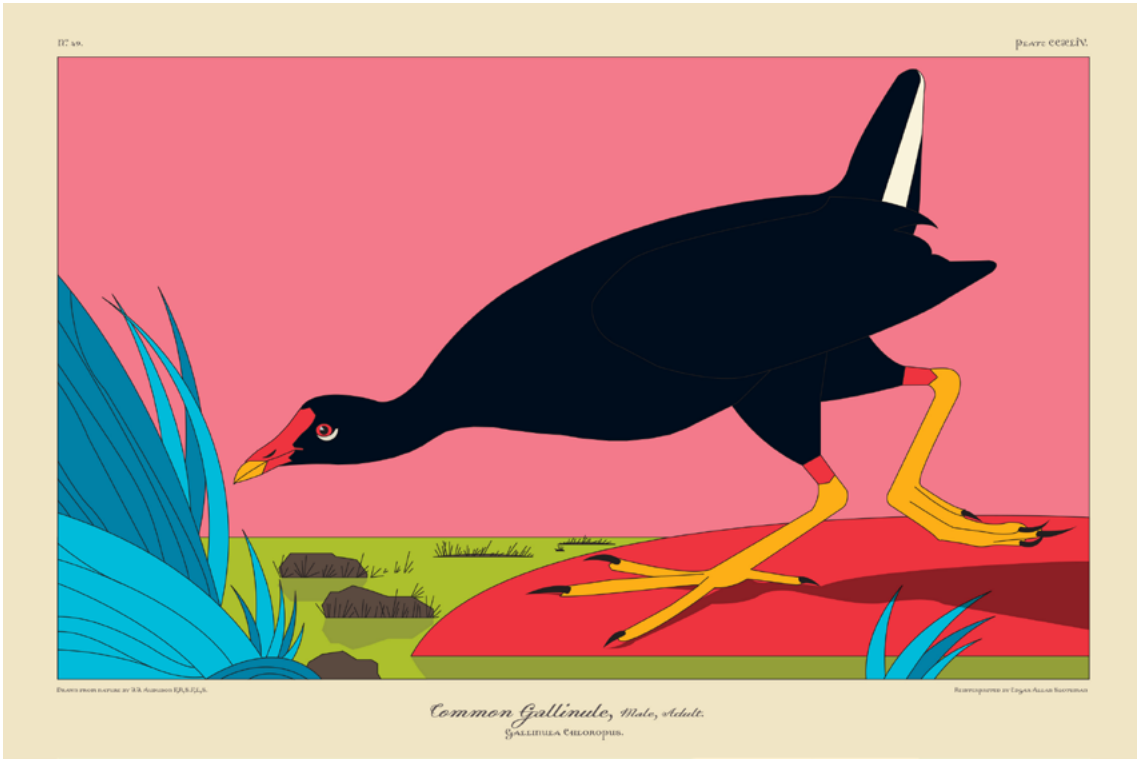

HOT BIRDS

Brown Booby is not as surprising a find in the state as it used to be, but this is ridiculous! No fewer than FIVE individuals were documented in the state in less than a month's time, between Skye Haas' pelagic sighting July 30 and Rick Heil's Rockport flyby September 2. But undisputably the most remarkable of them all was the bird that Rene Wendell discovered on Onota Lake near Pittsfield, in Berkshire County! Manuel Morales took the photo on the right.

On July 26, Homeowners in Peru noticed an unusual hummingbird at their feeders and contacted the local birding community. Ed Neumeth was the first to arrive and confirm that the stranger was an adult male **Rufous Hummingbird**. Ed alerted other birders and several managed to arrive and see it that day. Unfortunately the bird was not seen again after that. John Manuel Morales took the photo on the left.

Pelagic birders have had very good luck finding **South Polar Skuas** off New England this summer. After a few were initially reported on July 28, the Brookline Bird Club's annual overnight pelagic photographed several more on August 25. A pelagic off New Hampshire on September 4 encountered a couple as well. Sean Williams took the photo on the right.

Toward the end of a 14 hour day on Monomoy, Sean Williams and Maili Waters noticed a **Little Stint** sleeping among a group of roughly 600 other roosting shorebirds at South Beach. This is the seventh record for Massachusetts, of which four have been found in the same location. Fred Atwood reported the bird still present a few days later. Sean took the photo on the left.

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Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal—to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds
VOL. 46, NO. 5 OCTOBER 2018

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Fall Birding the Keene, New Hampshire, Area

Steven Lamonde

Introduction

Although Cheshire County is the second most birded county in New Hampshire according to eBird, it is often overshadowed by Rockingham County, which contains all 18 miles of coastline found in the state and all the coastal and pelagic species that come with it. However, Cheshire County's landscape of rolling hills, varied habitats, and scattered freshwater resources offer an entirely different birding vibe. And, for most of fall migration, birders can enjoy the exquisite fall foliage that adorns the region's forested hillsides.

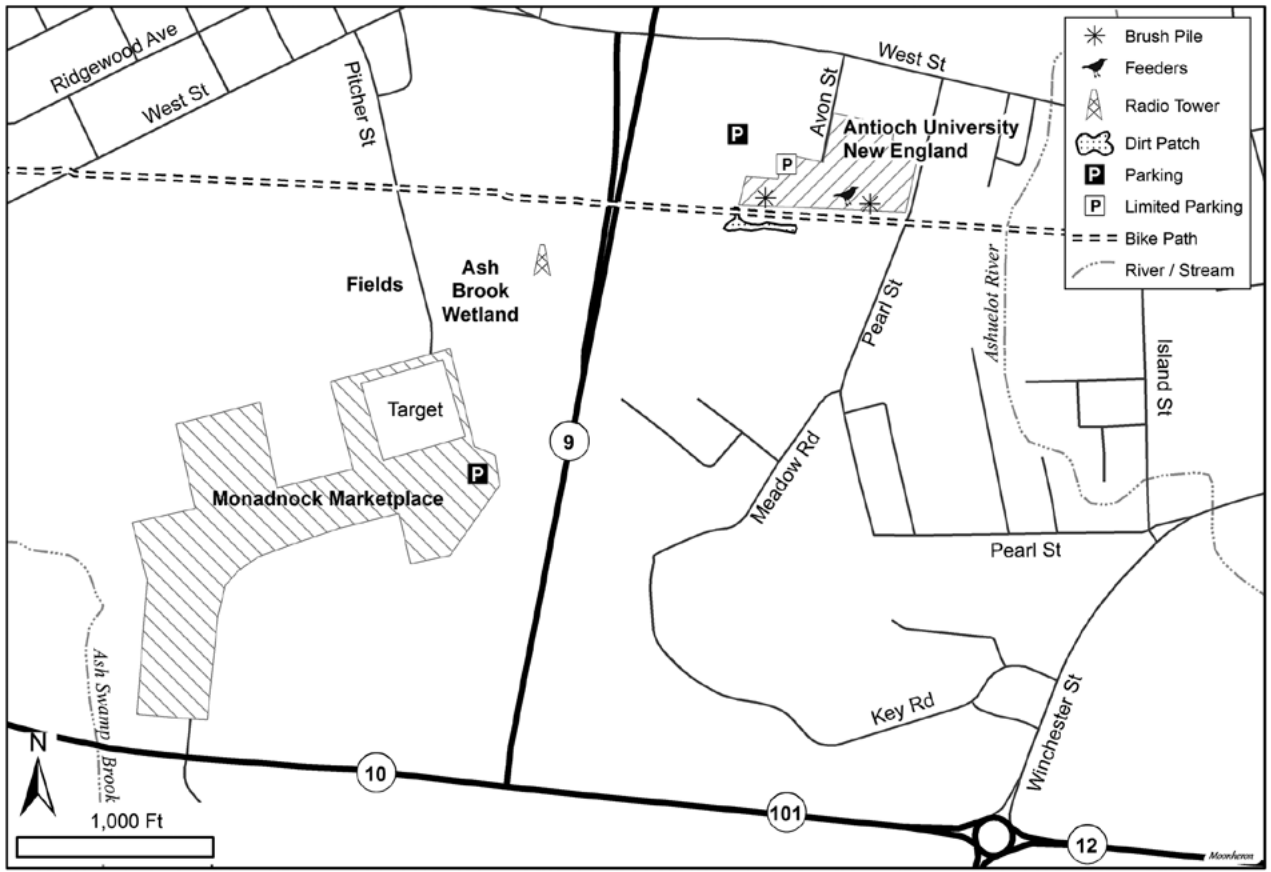
Within Cheshire County birders regularly flock to viewpoints along the Connecticut River during both migration seasons to witness large numbers of waterfowl taking advantage of the natural travel corridor and large agricultural fields in close proximity to the river. Others prefer to hike up Pitcher Mountain or Pack Monadnock on fair-weather days for a good day of hawkwatching. Yet, the city of Keene and the surrounding central area of Cheshire County offer numerous birding locations, many of which are tucked in among tracts of urban and suburban development. As a result, these spots act as enticing stopover patches for migrating songbirds in both spring and fall.

The greater Keene area is accessible on state highways from nine directions, making it a transportation hub for southwestern New Hampshire. Routes 10 and 12 connect Keene to northern Massachusetts, Routes 9 and 12 accommodate travel to and from Vermont, Routes 10 and 12A connect with points due north, and Routes 9 and 101 connect traffic from Concord and eastern New Hampshire. Once in Keene, the state highways quickly move cars through and around the city. West Street, Main Street, Winchester Street, and many of the other main roads through downtown are packed with local shops, restaurants, and attractions.

Fall birding in Keene starts warm, with August days reaching an average high of 81.5 °F and cooling to an average high of 48.6 °F in November. Early morning temperatures can be highly variable but average 55.9 °F in August and 29.5 °F in November.

Ash Brook Wetland

Despite hosting droves of breeding Red-winged Blackbirds during the summer, Ash Brook Wetland often lacks a strong icterid presence on autumn days. Yet on certain days in October and November, flocks numbering in the hundreds will pass through the wetland. Ash Brook Wetland is best accessed from the south, after parking near the Target store at Monadnock Marketplace (42.929317, -72.300871) and walking behind



Map 1. Ash Brook Wetland.

Ash Brook Wetland. All photographs by the author.

the store where a paved access road begins. See Map 1: Ash Brook Wetland. The access road stretches 0.2 mile before intersecting with the Cheshire Rail Trail, which runs nearly 35 miles from the Massachusetts border to Walpole, New Hampshire.

Just behind the Target store stands a row of conifer trees that can be a great place to locate foraging Cape May, Pine, and Blackpoll warblers during fall. Past the conifers the expanse of wetlands appears. Although little open water is visible from the access road, there are a few vantage points to check for ducks, geese, and grebes. Listen here for Swamp Sparrows singing late in the season, and look closely through the reeds for Marsh Wrens. Both species also occur in the wet drainage ditch west of the access road before the grassy field starts. Depending on the time of day, one of the best spots for photographing warblers is along the forest edge west of the access road at its southern terminus. A total of 21 warbler species have been observed at Ash Brook Wetland and, on some mornings in the fall, the branches seem to drip color as large, mixed-species foraging flocks of warblers and vireos move through the trees.

The grassy shoulders alongside the access road yield high numbers of sparrows during the fall, and some days can offer seven species in a single walkthrough. Lincoln's, White-crowned, and Field sparrows are good highlights here, and large flocks of Song and Savannah sparrows are noteworthy in their own right. Upon reaching the Cheshire Rail Trail (frequently referred to as the "bike path"), one has the option of traveling east, west, or continuing north to Pitcher Street. Dog-walkers and birders alike often park where Pitcher Street meets the rail trail (42.931576, -72.302302), but there is no designated parking area. Heading west veers away from Ash Brook Wetland but offers thicker patches of forest, several backyard bird feeders,

and a corridor of shrubby vegetation under the power line that runs parallel to the bike path. Heading east, on the other hand, offers additional wetland views and thick hedgerows. Northern Mockingbirds, Gray Catbirds, and Brown Thrashers enjoy the dense foliage and are most frequently observed foraging along the edges of the rail trail, perched in the trees, or surveying the wetland from the telephone wires. On the north side of the bike path, east of the access road, the wetter areas are worth checking for Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, and Palm Warbler.

Red-tailed Hawks enjoy scanning for prey from perches up and down the radio tower on the eastern side of Ash Brook Wetland. Although the wetland lacks the expansive views of many hawkwatch sites, the skies above the wetland and nearby field are devoid of trees, offering decent views of migrating raptors. Looking southwest over the wetland toward the Horatio Colony Preserve ridgeline can yield lone accipiters and buteos, Turkey Vultures, and small kettles of Broad-winged Hawks.

If time allows, or walking around the wetland turns up few birds, a quick stop by Antioch University New England can be fruitful.

Antioch University New England

Starting north of Ash Brook Wetland, head east along the Cheshire Rail Trail. Continue walking along the bike path, crossing the pedestrian bridge over Route 9, until you reach the University 0.4 mile from the junction with Pitcher Street. Alternatively, you could park at the University (42.931820, -72.294804), but this space is generally reserved for students, faculty, and staff. More parking is available in the Kohl's Plaza (42.932366, -72.295681), where a cut-through between the Famous Footwear and Great Clips businesses provides quick access to the rail trail.

Bird feeders are located all along the eastern side of the university building, with two main feeder stations positioned in front of the main entrance and library windows. This second feeder station is the largest and is a mere 20 yards from the rail trail. The feeders, maintained by the Antioch Bird Club, are nearly always active, and the wooded patches to the north and south of the bike path provide ample foraging opportunities for a diversity of songbirds. As with most feeders, the occasional Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks swoop by, and both species are most often seen perched in the trees above the feeders or along the rail trail. Across from the University, to the south of the rail trail, a dirt patch is indirectly maintained by the city of Keene, which uses the site for dumping excess snow during winter months. As a result, mixed-species sparrow flocks forage here throughout the fall. Highlights include Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and a pair of Dickcissels found in early October of 2017. Following rain showers, the dirt patch usually pools with water, which can attract songbirds and the odd shorebird.

Tucked into the trees on the north side of the bike path, two brush piles are hidden. The larger one is positioned near the open lawn on the west side of the university building, and the smaller pile is about 30 meters east of the bird feeders. Sparrows and the resident Carolina Wren frequently visit both locations. On the south side of the bike path, the powerline corridor is dominated by sumac trees and young aspen, which host

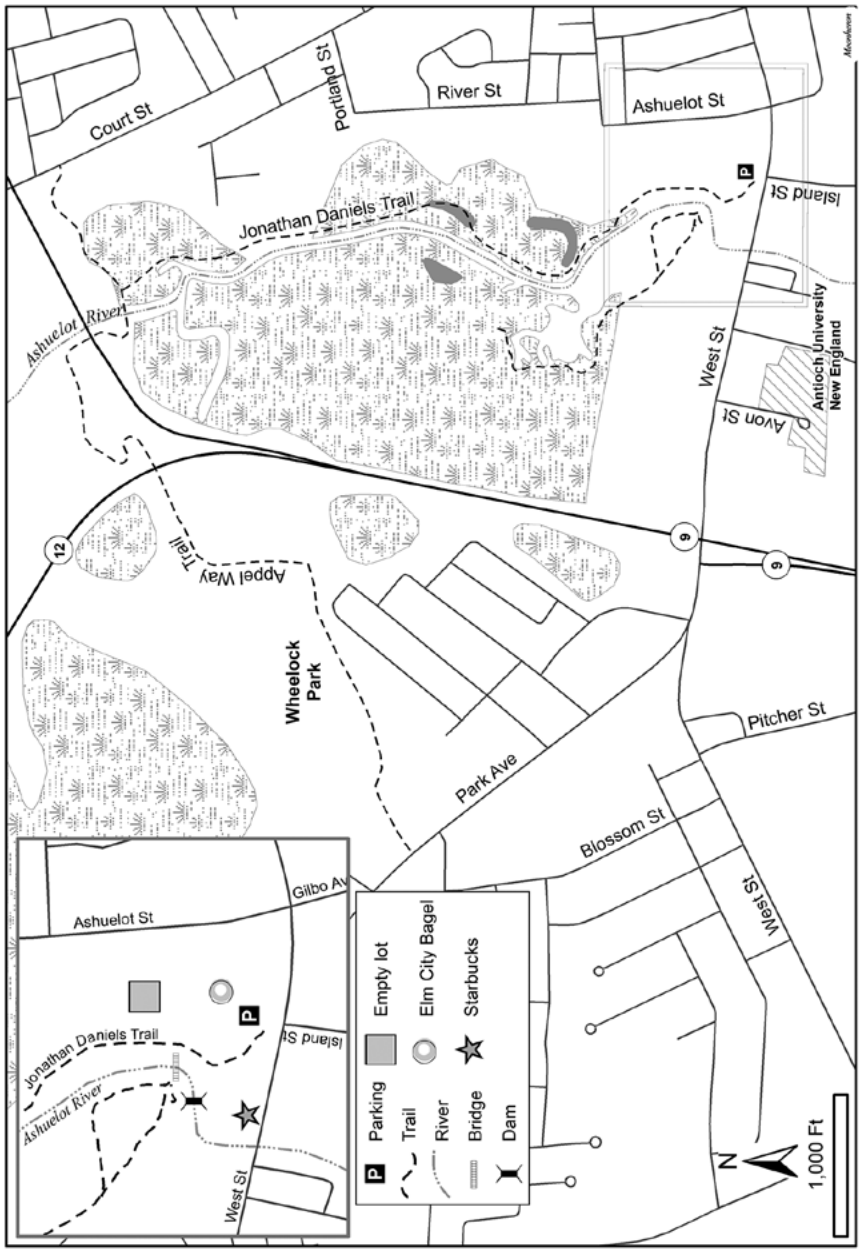
Dickcissel pair found October 2017.

early-successional forest obligates such as Prairie Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Brown Thrasher, and Indigo Bunting.

Ashuelot River Park

Parking is available in the Elm City Bagels plaza (42.932905, -72.287792) at the junction of Island Street and West Street. See Map 2: Ashuelot River Park. From the parking lot the main trail loops through a small open area before heading due north. Although the open green can be busy with people enjoying yard games in the afternoons and evenings, mornings are relatively quiet and devoid of human activity. West and a bit north of the green a dam-restricted impoundment of water often hosts waterfowl, including Mallards and American Black Ducks. Great Blue Herons frequently visit the down-river side of the dam to forage. A suspension bridge crossing the river (just north of the green) provides excellent viewing of the river upstream and downstream of the dam. This location is also a great place to watch flocks of Cedar Waxwings pick insects out of the air above the water's surface.

From the bridge, two options of travel present themselves: following a trail up the western side of the Ashuelot River, or following the Jonathan Daniels Trail (JDT) along the eastern side. Taking the western option offers a good mix of habitats, ranging from floodplain forest and open wetland, to shrubby habitat under the power line corridor. One of my best encounters on this trail, a Rusty Blackbird, was found in the shrubs along the river bank not 200 feet from the bridge. Checking this area and similar microhabitats on either side of the river can also turn up Northern Waterthrush. Listen and watch for Belted Kingfishers and swallows as they forage along the waterway.



Map 2. Ashuelot River Park.

Ashuelot River Park.

Taking the JDT offers more mixed deciduous-coniferous forests than the western trail and passes two oxbow ponds and forested wetlands. Additionally, an abandoned lot with patches of vegetation lies off the east side of the JDT about 200 feet north of the suspension bridge. I have yet to find any out-of-the-ordinary species here, but barring any redevelopment plans, I imagine the lot will turn into a sparrow haven over the next few years as nonwoody plants continue to proliferate. Continuing northward, the JDT meanders around the back of an apartment complex and passes the first, and largest, oxbow pond on the left. Not much farther along the trail, a second oxbow pond appears on the right, partially hidden by dense vegetation. Despite the dense canopy cover and thinness of the water feature, Wood Ducks are still attracted to these ponds throughout the fall.

Roughly 0.8 mile from the suspension bridge, the JDT forms a T-intersection with the Appel Way Trail. Moving west on the trail takes pedestrians underneath Route 9 to Wheelock Park (0.7 mile), which is a suitable place to watch for migrating Common Nighthawks in late August and early September. Heading east from the T-intersection, the trail ends at Court Street after an easy 0.2-mile jaunt along the forested pathway.

Perhaps one of the understated features of the JDT, at least from a birding perspective, is the relative quietness of the pathway underfoot. Despite being covered by forest canopy almost its entire length, falling leaves are constantly crushed by foot traffic. The popularity of the trail, especially for cycling commuters and joggers, helps maintain the quiet footing, which increases one's chances of hearing distant birds and decreases the likelihood of flushing birds out of sight.

For birders in need of a quick breakfast or energy boost, Elm City Bagels and the local Starbucks café are located on West Street adjacent to Ashuelot River Park.

Krif Road

Relative to other birding hotspots in and around Keene, Krif Road boasts the greatest amount of agricultural acreage. Additionally, most of the field edges have drainage ditches that supply a substantial amount of dense grasses and shrubs, much to the delight of sparrows. Clay-colored and Vesper sparrows have been found here in small numbers. Tennessee and Connecticut warblers have also been reported from the forested and shrubby edges around the field. Visiting Krif Road in the evening in early fall, you can witness flights of migrating Common Nighthawks or have a rare look at a Short-eared Owl. See Map 3: Krif Road, Dillant-Hopkins Airport, and environs.

At the corner of Comwell Drive and Krif Road, the southern end of the field often becomes flooded after rainstorms. This large, shallow pool often attracts migrating waterfowl, including teal, American Black Ducks, and Snow Geese. Mixed flocks can number in the hundreds. Shorebirds are an uncommon sight during migration in Keene, but Krif Road is one of the best places to look.

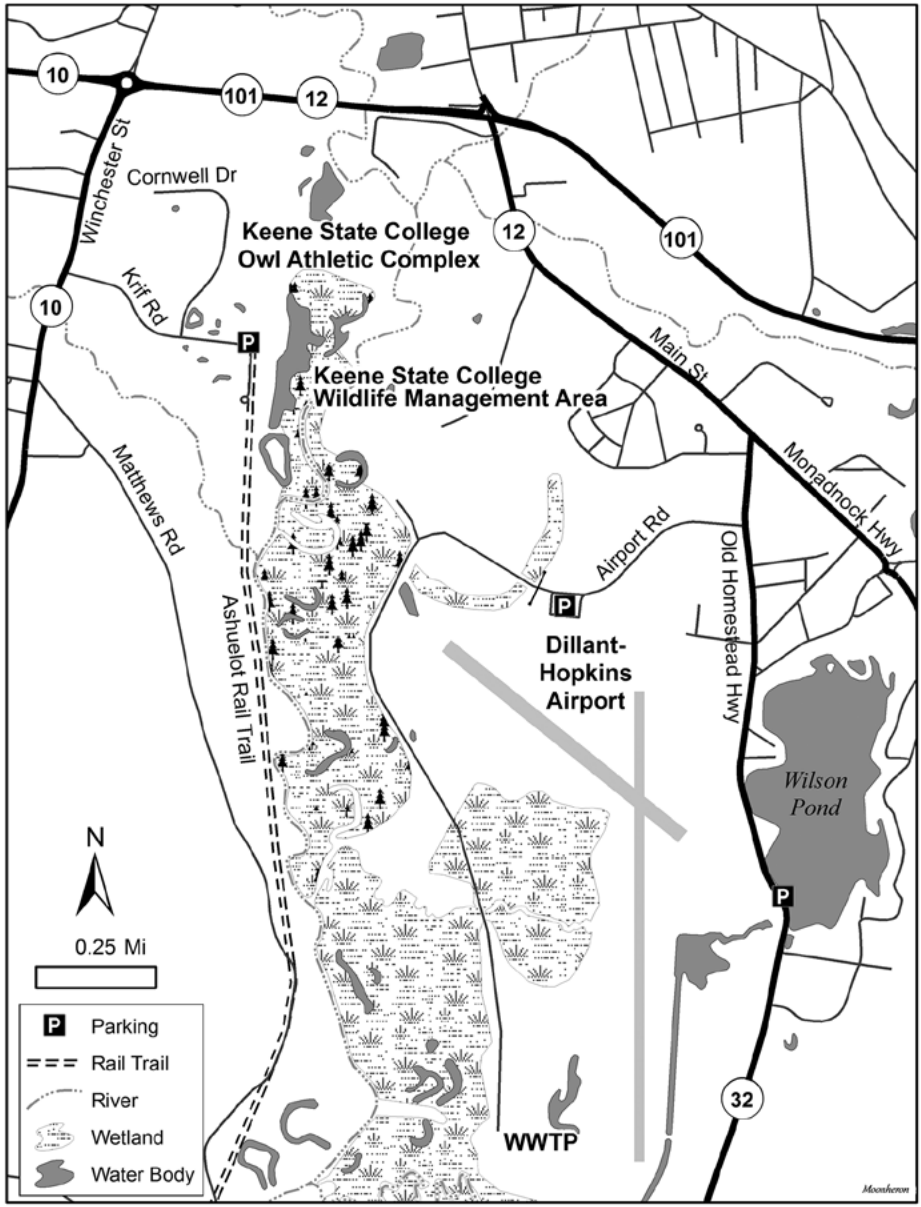
Birding Krif Road and Comwell Drive can be done by car, which is convenient during snaps of cold weather. Wide shoulders along the road allow for ample parking, but the best place to park is at the east end of Krif Road in the pulloff on the north side of the road (42.914714, -72.285658), at the gate to Keene State College's Owl Athletic Complex. Generally, Krif Road and Comwell Drive do not see much vehicular traffic, and pulling off to the side anywhere for a brief amount of time is not frowned upon. There is a UPS facility at the north end of Comwell Drive, so take care to leave plenty of room for large trucks to pass by.

Dillant-Hopkins Airport and Airport Road

Of all the local birding places around Keene, Dillant-Hopkins Airport and Airport Road along its perimeter boast perhaps the greatest diversity of habitat. Unique to the airport is the extensive grassland surrounding the airport's two runways. Mature deciduous and pine forests, forested wetland, freshwater marsh, and shrubland surround the airport in a complex, bird-rich mosaic.

To get to the airport from Keene, travel east on NH-101. Take a right onto main Street/NH-12 South, and travel 0.9 mile before turning right onto Old Homestead Highway/NH-32 South. Two-tenths of a mile after turning onto Old Homestead Highway, turn right onto Airport Road.

Driving down Airport road, the view opens to the right at 0.1 mile. This area is worth checking for American Kestrel and Vesper Sparrow perched on the fence line. Thirteen other sparrow species have been observed at the airport, most notably Grasshopper Sparrow, which is best found at airports across New England. In late fall, this open patch of land hosts American Pipit, Snow Bunting, and Horned Lark. At 0.5 mile, just after the airport parking lot, there is a gate. The gate blocks vehicular traffic to the Keene Waste Water Treatment facility on weekends, but it is open Monday-



Map 3. Krif Road, Dillant-Hopkins Airport, and environs.

Airport Road.

Friday from 6:30 am to 3:00 pm. Even if the gate is locked, public foot-traffic is welcome at any time. Free parking is available outside the airport building (42.906949, -72.272560), and the lot here is never full. When the gate is open, birders can drive in and park anywhere along the side of the road. Be courteous to drivers going to and from the plant, and pull off far enough to leave room for them to pass. Thankfully, the road is rarely busy.

Starting at the gate, Airport Road bisects a thin strip of wetland. Here you can see bitterns and herons in addition to the more standard Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow, and Red-winged Blackbird. After the wetland the road passes through a mixed deciduous-pine forest where all six common woodpecker species can be found until most Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Northern Flickers depart in late October.

After moving through the forest, the road curves to the southwest 0.3 mile after the gate. On the right, a short dirt road leads toward agriculture fields along the Ashuelot River. The forest at the end of the dirt road is the Keene State College Wildlife Management Area and is open to the public year-round. The start of the dirt road is a good place to park and has enough room for cars to pull completely off Airport Road. Just after the junction with the dirt road, Airport Road cuts through a large, open tract of wetland. The wetland itself hosts a variety of microhabitats, from dense stands of cattails to semi-dry clusters of shrubs. Ground crews at Dillant-Hopkins airport cut back the vegetation here every few years, which maintains a low-cut wet field with bushy patches. The shrubs here often attract a Northern Shrike during the winter months, but they can be seen as early as late fall. This general area can present large

mixed- and single-species blackbird flocks. Rusty Blackbirds are most frequent here in September and October.

The road begins to turn southeast 0.5 mile from the gate, and early-successional forest rises up on either side of the road. This corner of Airport Road is spectacular for photographing mixed-species foraging flocks of warblers in first light. After the turn, mature forested wetlands dominate both sides of the road. Relative to other areas near Keene, Pileated Woodpeckers can be observed here semi-regularly. Wood Ducks, with their adept maneuvering skills, can often been seen slowly swimming through the wetlands on either side of the road. Starting 0.9 mile after the gate, the forest on the east side of the road thins out, and views of the open airport lands are regained. The large wetland on the east side of Airport Road, beginning 1.1 miles after the gate, is another place to check for flocks of waterfowl. You can observe shorebirds, ranging from Spotted Sandpiper to Greater Yellowlegs, here and at the first wetland if the water is shallow enough. Approximately 1.5 miles after the gate, the road ends at the gate to the Keene Waste Water Treatment Plant. There is no convenient place to turn around, since the road past the facility's gate is off limits, but there is enough room for most cars to perform a three-point turn.

Similar to Krif Road, the wetlands often flood, providing a large expanse of shallow water for waterfowl to rest and forage. Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Green-winged and Blue-winged teal, and Wood Duck, among other waterfowl, typically stop over during the fall. Alas, many waterfowl at this location seem to be one-day wonders. Other notable fall migration sightings at the airport include large numbers of Great Egret, Northern Harrier, Sora, Upland Sandpiper, Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided flycatchers, Philadelphia Vireo, and Blackpoll Warbler.

Wilson Pond

Wilson Pond stands out as one of the most accessible bodies of standing water in the Keene area. Just a short drive from downtown Keene, Wilson Pond is a 72-acre pond with an average depth of seven feet. Just 0.8 mile south on Old Homestead Highway/NH-32 from the airport entrance, Wilson Pond is an easy addition to birding trips to the airport. Common species at Wilson Pond in the fall include Hooded and Common mergansers, Ring-necked Duck, Common Loon, and various dabbling ducks and geese. More notable observations include White-winged and Black scoters, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Red-throated Loon, and Double-crested Cormorant. Each of these species regularly occurs along the New Hampshire coast, but they are a treat for Cheshire County birders. A small dirt pulloff serves as a parking space (42.898245, -72.263581) and provides access to a public boat ramp.

Steven Lamonde *is an avid birder and recent graduate of Antioch University New England, where he obtained his MS in Conservation Biology. While at Antioch, Steven served as a Golden-winged Warbler graduate research assistant to Audubon Vermont., He also co-directed the Antioch Bird Club, which organizes regional birding trips and offers educational walks and talks for community members. Steven has traveled extensively throughout New England in search of birds, particularly wood warblers and raptors.*

The Secret Lives of the Gulls of Appledore

Sarah Courchesne

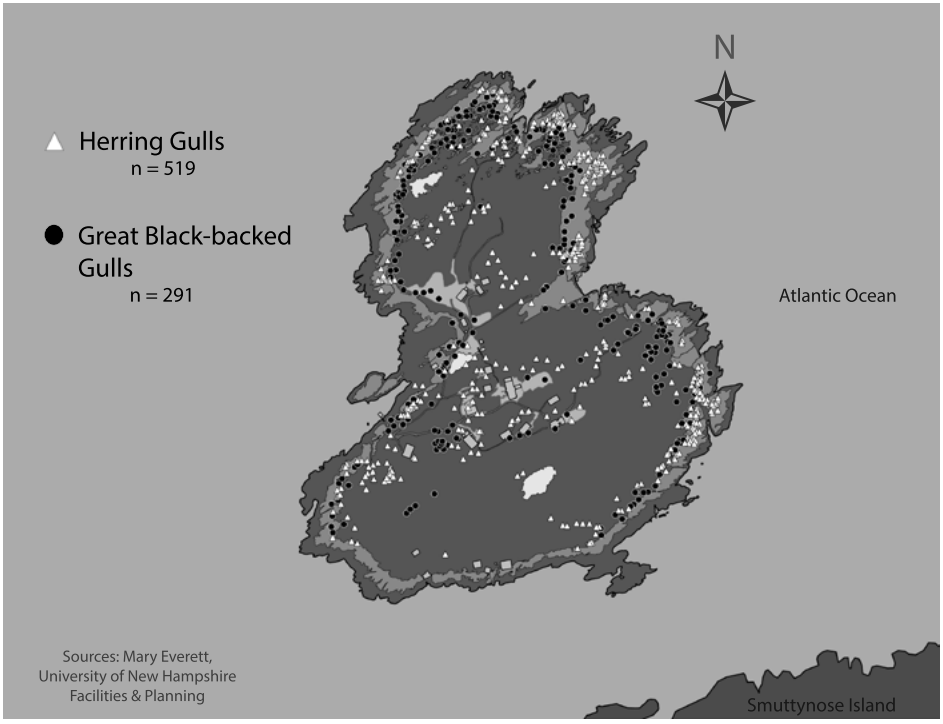


Figure 1. Map of all gull nests on Appledore Island in 2018. Great Black-backed Gull nests are shown as dots and Herring Gull nests as triangles. Photograph by Mary Everett.

As scientists, we try not to make moral judgments about the organisms we study. When I tell members of the general public that I work with the Gulls of Appledore Project, however, it is clear that many people practice no such restraint. They offer plaintive objections that we are wasting our time studying "trash birds," and make frequent comparisons to rats and pigeons. Notwithstanding that rats and pigeons are fascinating creatures themselves, the category of being to which people assign gulls is clear. It's true that gulls are conspicuous denizens of parking lots, dumps, beaches, and landfills. They abscond with unattended—or even well-guarded—picnic fare, and they are generalists that will eat almost anything, or so their reputation would indicate. In our work with gulls on Appledore Island in Maine, we find that aspects of their reputation may be deserved, but that most people's understanding of gulls is partial, skewed, and biased, and that includes our own.

Appledore is a tubby looking island on a map—roughly rubber-ducky-shaped, one of my students decided. It is the largest of the Isles of Shoals, an archipelago straddling the line between New Hampshire's and Maine's jurisdictions. In summer, the island is crawling with undergraduates taking classes and working research internships through

Figure 2. Banding and blood sampling a Great Black-backed Gull. Only a very small amount of blood is required to perform DNA sexing on the bird. Photograph by Luis Robles.

the Shoals Marine Laboratory, a project jointly overseen by the University of New Hampshire and Cornell University. Spring and fall migration seasons bring a cadre of songbird banders who work the mist nets from predawn until well past supper time. Tourists visit the historic site of nineteenth-century poet Celia Thaxter's garden (immortalized in paintings by American impressionist Childe Hassam), and groups of sustainability-minded engineering students work on thorny problems of life on an island six miles out.

For our team of researchers, student assistants, and interested gull enthusiasts, however, Appledore is first and foremost a gull colony. Herring Gulls build their grassy cup nests on the island's exposed rocky skirt, and Great Black-backed Gulls select the more vegetated sites a bit farther back (Figure 1). The gulls of Appledore are habituated to humans and will tolerate foot traffic close to their nests. Still, visitors to the island receive a cautionary talk upon arrival advising them to hold sticks above their heads while walking to draw the ire of particularly defensive gull parents—the birds will strike the highest point on their target—and to wear a bicycle helmet when entering the densest areas of the colony.

Our research on the gulls of Appledore was started by Dr. Julie Ellis, an ecologist, now at the University of Pennsylvania, who was interested in how gulls affected the island's ecology and trophic web. She started banding individual birds in 2004, and since then thousands of gulls have been captured, measured, and blood-sampled for DNA determination of sex by the project's team members (Figure 2). The focus of the project has changed over the years as different scientists have pursued their own interests. Sometimes the studies were on behavior, sometimes on eggshell pigment, sometimes on the observed hybridization between a Herring Gull and a Lesser Black-backed Gull—the first such successful breeding documented in North America, aside from Greenland. The project has now passed from Dr. Ellis into new hands, and is co-led by me, from my base at Northern Essex Community College in Massachusetts, and Mary Everett, a recent graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Lowell who has expertise in geographic information systems and mapping.

Figure 3. A worn band. Placed on a Herring Gull chick in 2005, it was removed and replaced after 11 years. The bird now wears band 13J.

Our current focus is on the Great Black-backed Gulls, in part because they are easier to trap and band, but mainly because far less is known about them as compared with their well-studied Herring Gull cousins. As we have for several years now, we place both a metal, federal band and a large, colorful, field readable band with an alphanumeric code on each bird—green for Herring Gulls and black for Great Black-backeds (Figure 3). Though these field readable bands are expensive at over five dollars each, the return is great in terms of sightings of our birds. People can often read the bands without binoculars, especially if the bird is one of our bolder, beach-going animals with little fear of humans.

Our project relies entirely on the contributions of sightings by members of the public. Indeed, two previous articles in *Bird Observer* have discussed sightings contributed to our project (Adrien 2016, Miller 2018). Sightings come from as far away as Indiana, Texas, and Florida, and although some gull spotters are dedicated larophiles who drive to known gull haunts on the lookout for birds, many of our sightings come from more casual observers who happen to notice a banded bird and, out of curiosity, search online for information.

Citizen scientists who contribute a sighting are often surprised to receive back a complete record on the bird: when and where it was banded, by whom, and where it has been seen since. This degree of detailed history is only possible through the efforts of long-time volunteer Bill Clark who has served the gull project in innumerable capacities over the years and now fields all the inquiries from the public about our birds. Some reports come from surprising quarters—this summer, our on-island banding team included Brad Natti, a lobsterman who sends us photos of our birds as they stand on the deck of his boat hoping for scraps. Like us, he has spent time observing gulls and has found them to be inquisitive, clever, and entertaining.

It seems a trend for humans to despise creatures that remind us too much of ourselves. Organisms that are common, that frequent urban or suburban environments,

are generalists that will eat almost anything, and are adaptable to many circumstances, as humans are, get ignored, or worse, viewed as pests to be exterminated. Gulls are often placed in that category. It's a curious psychology at play. Bald eagles and bears, too, feed opportunistically at dumps and dumpsters, but somehow retain their ability to impress a feeling of having been in the presence of something wild. Maybe it's context: bald eagles also soar over pristine wilderness, and bears stalk the deep forests of mountains, but Norway rats and pigeons are, if not confined to, then strongly linked with, our built-up habitations. To which category do we assign gulls? Are they human-reliant opportunists, or do they caucus with seabirds, albatross, and petrels, and gannets falling from the sky like javelins into schools of fish? From what we have seen of them in our work, it's both.

Gulls deftly straddle two worlds. They can be at home on land or out at sea; eating french fries or eating mackerel caught miles out on the continental shelf; seen on the same seawall day after day at a Connecticut beach fighting over a bag of chips or never seen by human eyes at all, save for the couple months a year they come back to Appledore to breed. Our banded gull data illustrate this duality. Year after year certain birds are seen repeatedly, often in a very circumscribed location, across a season or even the entire year. Other birds, in contrast, are seen all or most years on a nest on Appledore, but never sighted anywhere off the island. Finally, there are birds we band and are never seen again anywhere. Particularly in juveniles, we presume most of these birds are dead since mortality rates in the first years of life are high.

Great Black-backed Gulls are sexually mature at four years old, so we begin looking for them to breed at that age at the earliest. If they don't come back by six or seven years after banding as a fledgling, odds are high that they are dead. Most gulls show natal philopatry—a drive to return to breed in the same colony where they hatched and fledged. Appledore gulls, therefore, are generally Appledore gulls generation upon generation. However, there are surprising exceptions.

During this summer of 2018, for example, we received a resighting report from Kiah Walker, working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Thacher Island in Rockport, Massachusetts—about 25 miles from Appledore. Kiah found two of our banded Appledore gulls nesting there. Each had an unbanded mate. One bird was nine years old and the other was seven years old. We do not know if either had been nesting on Thacher every year since reaching maturity. We have a handful of reports over the years of Appledore gulls nesting on other islands in the Isles of Shoals archipelago, so not every gull remains an Appledore gull forever.

What drives some birds to select other colonies is unknown, but it seems unlikely that overcrowding or lack of territory on Appledore would be the cause. Gull populations in the Gulf of Maine are believed to have reached their peak sometime between the 1970s and the mid-1990s. In the state of Maine, both the overall number of breeding birds, and the number of islands that play host to gull colonies have been on the decline. Between 1977 and 2013, there was a 30% decline in the number of Great Black-backed Gull nests (Mittelhauser et al. 2016). In addition, Appledore specifically suffered a precipitous drop in the gull census in 2004 when raccoons were introduced

Figure 4. Banded bird 0J2 with GPS logger. Photograph by Kate Shlepr.

onto the island from the mainland and consumed large numbers of eggs (Ellis et al. 2007).

Though gull numbers on the island now are either stable or slowly declining, they never rebounded from the severe predation and nearly colony-wide breeding failure of 2004. As a result, the number of birds nesting on Appledore remains well below the known capacity of the island, at least in terms of nesting sites and territories. Why the gulls have not rebounded over the nearly fifteen years since 2004 raises questions about gull population trends in the region and beyond. Much of the research focus has been on what gulls eat and how food availability may have shifted over the decades.

Gulls associate with human habitations and, as inventive foragers, often make use of human-derived food sources. Just how reliant the various species are on anthropogenic food is not fully known and may be different not just between species of gull, but between individual gulls within each species. Data from southeastern Canada correlated declines in numbers of both Herring and Great Black-backed gulls with a moratorium on groundfish fishing put in place in 1992 (Wilhelm et al. 2016). The researchers posit that the resultant dearth of discarded fish and bait thrown overboard by fishing vessels left large numbers of gulls without their accustomed food source. While this correlation does not definitively demonstrate that the moratorium caused the drop in gull numbers, we have found that individual gulls are creatures of habit, often specializing in a certain type of food, or frequenting the same stretch of beach every day month after month. Gulls that had come to rely on fishery wastes may have struggled to adapt to their sudden absence and could have faced the additional challenge of having to compete for alternate food sources, which they might have been inexpert at obtaining.

To help answer these types of questions, we placed solar powered GPS loggers on five Great Black-backed Gulls nesting on Appledore Island in the summer of 2018. All five birds had been banded in a previous year, but most of them had never been observed anywhere but the island during breeding season. We have been curious about this phenomenon—why some banded birds are seen over and over again, and others never seen at all off the colony. The loggers are extremely lightweight and are mounted to the gull's lower back using a ribbon harness around the legs (Figure 4). The logger records the bird's position every fifteen minutes, and whenever the bird returns to the

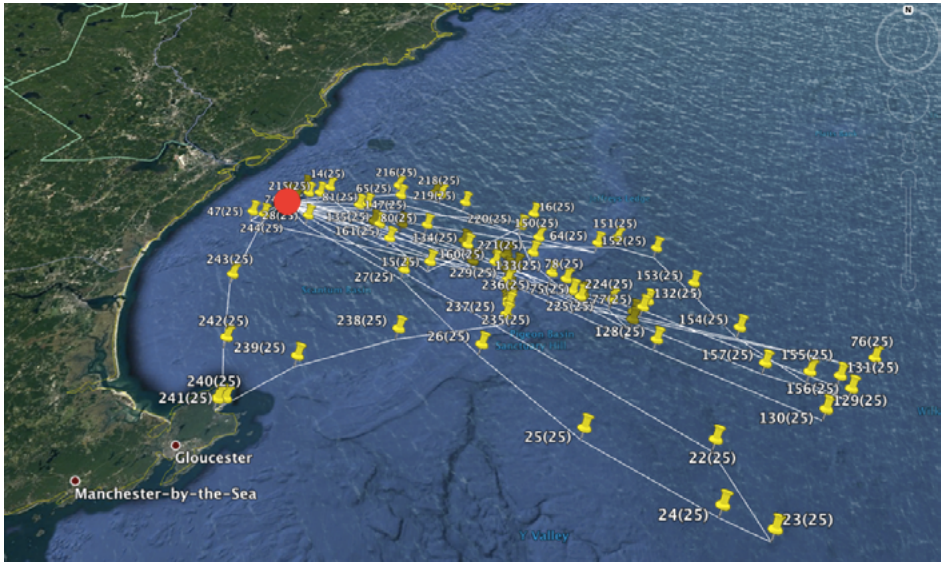


Figure 5. Band 4ET travel log. Bird's code is shown as (25) and locations are numbered sequentially. Photograph by Sarah Courchesne.

island, all the data are downloaded to a base station there. We now have almost two months of data on these five birds, and, as with most endeavors in science, what we have seen has raised as many questions as it answers. One of the birds flies straight to a landfill in Rochester, New Hampshire when it leaves the island to forage. Another frequents the mud flats near Rye, New Hampshire. Several others are spending most of their time at sea, ranging from north of Portland, Maine out to sixty miles east of the island (Figs. 5 and 6).

The loggers alone can't tell us exactly what the birds are doing, only where they are, and a bird out at sea might be fishing for itself or might be following fishing vessels foraging on scraps and discarded fish. We hope to obtain satellite data on ship traffic in the region and see how it aligns, or doesn't, with the paths taken by the birds. We do receive resight reports from individuals on board ships, lobstermen or fisheries observers working for NOAA, so we know at least some of our banded birds spend time riding on boats.

Whether all of our logger birds out at sea are eating fishery discards is not yet clear. It is a surprisingly difficult problem to solve. Many of the conventional ways of determining what food source an animal is utilizing cannot resolve the critical differences at issue. Techniques like stable isotopes or DNA barcoding can tell you whether a bird has been eating fish, or even what species of fish, but it can't tell you if the bird caught the fish itself or received it as a free handout off a boat. Making that determination is important for understanding population changes and making management decisions about gulls. A gull that fishes for a living will face different challenges than one reliant on the human fishing industry.

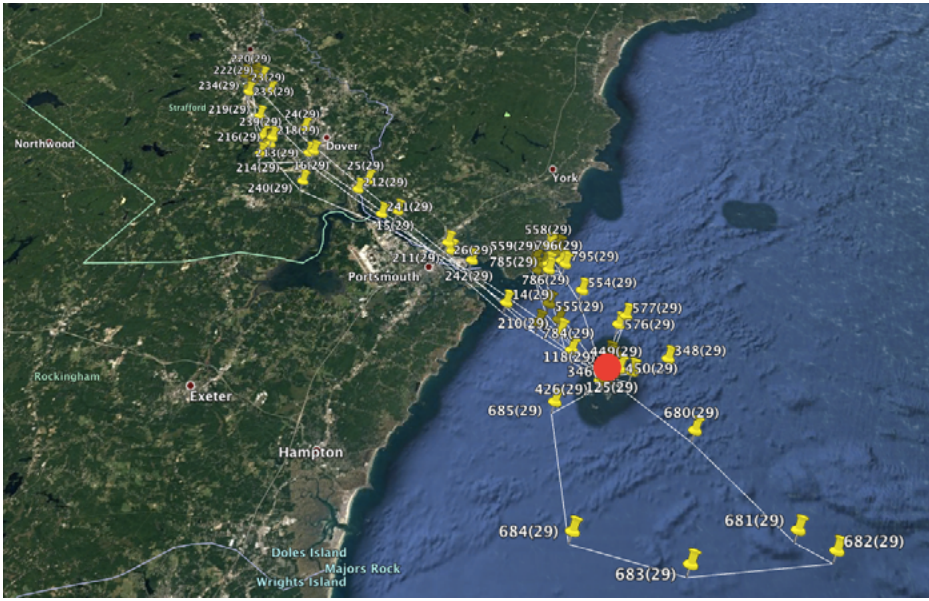


Figure 6. Band 0J2 travel log. Dot denotes Appledore Island. Each pushpin represents a position. The bird's logger code is shown as (29), and its locations are numbered sequentially as the bird traveled, i.e. 235(29), then moved to 236(29). Photograph by Sarah Courchesne.

For a long time, biology has treated individual organisms as representatives of their types and drawn conclusions at the population level. Gather up a large enough sample size, the idea was, and you could say everything about what that organism is like. Variation is the fundamental underpinning of natural selection, but that variation has often been subsumed by attention to the general behavior, the "average" bird, or the tendencies of the entire colony. What our study seeks to do is to tease apart that average and to know the birds as individuals. What is internally consistent in a particular gull? Is she an early nester every year or does the timing vary depending on conditions? Is he a crab specialist or a more generalist forager? Do all the gulls provide extensive post-fledging care to their young or are some birds more invested parents than their neighbors? Do these things make a difference, in the long run, in who survives and who doesn't? Who leaves a legacy of successful offspring and who is wiped off the genetic map?

For much of this work, we rely on observers who see our banded birds and send reports to us. The information we gather on adults continuing to feed their young even after leaving the breeding colony comes to us only because birders and casual gull watchers write in to tell us what they saw. A note that "M99 and Z09 were acting chummy," or that 2E2 and 5T9 were seen "sharing a skate meal" tells us who is caring for whom and when mates begin associating with each other before arrival on the colony.

The field season on Appledore is an intense flurry of activity. We capture and band birds, document their breeding success or failure, and identify birds that are visiting or surveying possible territories for future years. The rest of the year, when the gulls have left the island, we wait for these messages in bottles, our banded birds, to be seen and recorded on a beach, or at a wastewater treatment plant, or far out at sea on a ship's rail. Everyone who reports one of our birds is a collaborator in this research. To those who have already helped us, thank you. To those who have not yet, we offer an invitation to join us in studying these complicated, entertaining, sometimes frustrating, but always fascinating animals.

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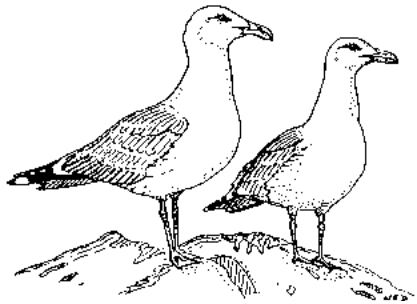
Sarah Courchesne *grew up in Massachusetts, lives in New Hampshire, and has been a bird enthusiast since childhood. She trained as a veterinarian at Tufts and is currently an Associate Professor of Natural Sciences at Northern Essex Community College in Massachusetts.*

To learn more about the Gulls of Appledore project, or to report a banded bird sighting, visit our website at gullsofappledore.wordpress.com



WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

Kathleen S. (Betty) Anderson
June 15, 1923–August 24, 2018

Betty Anderson receives Mass Wildlife's Sargent Award on September 10, 2007. Photograph by W. Petersen.

The conservation and ornithological communities of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts—along with the countless lives that Kathleen (Betty) Anderson touched—have sadly lost one of the Great Ones.

Betty, as she was known among her friends and colleagues, originally hailed from Montana, the state she often considered her "real home." Regardless, she spent most of her adult life living with her beloved husband, Paul, and raising two children in Carver and East Middleboro. In the 65 years she lived at Wolf Trap Hill Farm, Middleboro, Betty "kept track of every living critter [she] could identify…not just birds but also mammals, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and plants." (*Bird Observer,* February 2016) Her love and stewardship of the natural world radiated outward from the farm to the rest of Massachusetts as she taught and advocated on behalf of the environment, inspiring other people in all of her endeavors.

I want to paraphrase part of the speech Betty made upon receiving one of Mass Audubon's most prestigious awards, the Allen H. Morgan Award, in 2009:

> From the day in late October 1949 when I first came upon a group of Mass Audubon birders at the Lakeville Ponds, this organization has enriched my life in so many ways. Foremost, always, the friends I've made who share my interests and my concerns. But also the events, the publications, and the incentives for providing active participation in environmental issues.

Betty Anderson claimed that her 60 years as a Mass Audubon member offered a continuous learning and enriching experience, along with ongoing opportunities to contribute to various projects where she always felt she learned more than she produced.

Here I have to disagree. Betty Anderson gave so much of her knowledge, her friendship, and herself to so many people for so many years, that her greatest legacy

will forever be her love of other people and her own incalculable ability to enthuse, enlighten, educate, and motivate others to become the best that they can be. And I'm confident that there are legions of ornithologists and conservationists throughout the country who *learned from what she produced*, which will long withstand the test of time.

What Betty Anderson produced throughout her life is truly remarkable.

Always curious and ever-intrepid, Betty began her professional ornithological career in 1957, working with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Encephalitis Field Station in Lakeville, where she was employed trapping, banding, and bleeding birds in cedar swamps in Raynham as part of early research on Eastern Equine Encephalitis. When her two children were young, Betty became a Mass Audubon teacher where weekly she introduced hundreds of young children to birds and natural history in school systems in southeastern Massachusetts.

By the 1960s, Betty's enthusiasm for research and birdbanding led to her establishment of an Operation Recovery banding station on Duxbury Beach. Betty's active involvement with this cooperative banding project—coordinated by Chandler Robbins, James Baird, and other active banders of the day—and her long-standing friendship with John and Rosalie Fiske—whose summer home was in Manomet—ultimately led to the establishment of the Manomet Bird Observatory (now called Manomet, Inc.). She was the founding director from 1969–1983.

As Betty's reputation and expertise in conservation-related activities broadened, her influence and experience similarly grew. In 1973, she became a founding trustee of the Plymouth County Wildlands Trust (now the Wildlands Trust). From 1981–2018, she began a continuous run as a member and eventually chair of the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program's Advisory Committee. Betty received the prestigious Governor Francis W. Sargent Award from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in 2007.

While her many honors and tributes are legend, several of the most notable are: being among the first women elected to membership in the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1974 and being one of only two women to serve as president of that Club in 1987; receiving the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Arthur A. Allen Award in 1984; being elected a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union in 2005; and her service on the boards of Mass Audubon, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, the New England Wildflower Society, the North American Loon Fund, and the American Birding Association.

Throughout her career Betty authored more than 50 professional papers and published numerous popular articles in journals and magazines. However, her personal journals documenting and detailing indications of climate change as a result of 50 years of continuous observation of events on Wolf Trap Hill Farm, her 100-acre property in Middleboro, may be among her most valuable professional and valuable contributions.

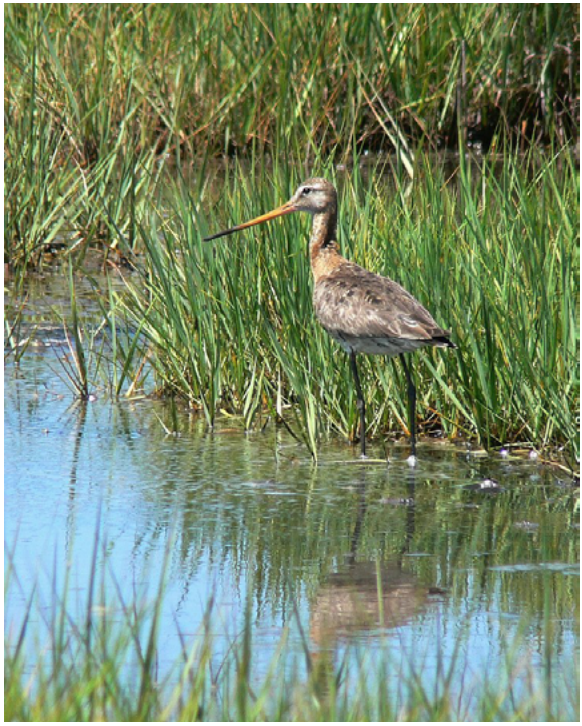
The beacon that was Betty's life for me was a brilliant beam that significantly shaped my life and career. May her rich legacy live on forever, and the lessons that she taught me always remain a beacon for others to follow. *Wayne R. Petersen*

PHOTO ESSAY

Godwits

Richard Johnson

Hudsonian Godwits. All photographs by Richard Johnson.



Top: Marbled Godwit. Bottom: Black-tailed Godwit.

MUSINGS FROM THE BLIND BIRDER

When Our Beloved Birds Are Not So Beloved

Martha Steele

At my mother's home in Vermont, we have raspberry and blueberry patches, as well as a modest garden where we attempt to grow about a dozen vegetables and fruits. Her house and gardens are within a five-acre area of open fields with shrubs and several apple trees, all surrounded by 115 acres of mixed hardwood and coniferous forest. As you might imagine, if you want a garden or fruit patches, you had better be prepared for more than a few visits from wildlife.

That wildlife includes our beloved birds, which, on occasion, are most certainly not beloved. My mother and her husband, until his death in 2003, cultivated gardens on this property for forty years, a practice that Bob and I are continuing under the supervision of my mother, now 93. Planting and cultivating a garden is hard but highly rewarding work. In the spring, we painstakingly place small seeds an inch or so deep in the soil spaced appropriately apart, then ensure that the seeds and young plants are sufficiently watered as they take hold. We constantly try to stay ahead of the weed game, never missing an opportunity, however short, to pull weeds whenever we are anywhere near the gardens.

Thus, especially in the days and weeks after planting the garden and as the plants start to emerge from the ground, I am not amused at seeing deer, bear, or other wildlife roaming in the garden that we have worked so hard to cultivate. You will not hear me say, "Oh, look at that beautiful deer chomping on our growing spinach and lettuce." Nor do I say, "Oh, well, the bear must have needed all the corn that he consumed overnight, so I guess it is okay that he destroyed our corn crop and we will have to wait for next year." No, indeed, we try to do what we can to protect the fruits of our labors from wildlife.

And the wildlife of which we speak most certainly includes birds. I nearly lost it this past spring when we put netting around our blueberry patch about one to two weeks before we predicted that the berries would start to ripen for picking. After completing the task in the afternoon, we discovered that evening six Blue Jays flapping frantically inside the enclosure, apparently easily gaining entrance but having no clue how to get out. After making an opening and shooing them out, we set about trying to figure out how they got in and shoring up the netting. Well, this went on for another two days, each time with us trying to shore up the netting only to come back an hour or more later and discover frantic Blue Jays unable to get out. This surprised us because the berries were not ripe, and usually we do not get problems until the food is ripe to eat. Still, their flapping knocked many unripe berries off the plants. Thus, in effect, even if they did not eat the berries, we lost part of the crop to them. Finally, we were able to seal everything and were able to harvest at least part of the crop.

For the rest of the summer, my mother was cursing every jay she saw, even as she could enjoy other birds, such as the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at the feeder or the Eastern Phoebe parents darting back and forth to feed young in a nest above our back door. Having been denied access to the blueberry patch, the jays took up residence on posts in and among our raspberry patch, which was also threatened by these birds. I would periodically go outside and clap my hands, yell at the jays, and ask them, "I wonder what Blue Jays taste like?" I doubt those words were much of a deterrent.

But jays are not the only avian culprits raiding gardens or fruit plants. Roving flocks of Cedar Waxwings can do a job on berry patches as well. Some years ago, my parents were about a day or two away from picking elderberries just about to ripen. When they went out to harvest them, they found all the berries gone, consumed by Cedar Waxwings over a matter of hours. Cedar Waxwings were also a major problem when my parents tried to cultivate strawberries, as the waxwings somehow managed to pick the berries through carefully placed netting. After only a couple of years, they gave up due to several factors, not the least of which was trying to protect their crop from marauding birds.

They also had memorable battles with American Crows. After carefully planting several rows of corn and seeing the beginning of stalks emerging from the seeds, they came out one morning only to discover very neat rows of small holes where the emerging stalks had been. The crows had dug up all the plants and that was it for the corn that year.

There are plenty of stories about birds and the damage they can do to crops. A commercial farmer growing strawberries about 10 miles from my mother's house was advertising for pickers as the harvest time neared. Then, overnight, approximately 50 Wild Turkeys descended onto the strawberry field and wiped his entire crop out for the year. This event, coupled with the previous loss of a crop due to a late frost, led the farmer to abandon any further attempt to grow strawberries commercially.

While electric fences are a common method to try to keep animals such as deer, bear, raccoon, or skunk out of gardens, they are not helpful when it comes to birds. So other methods, such as netting or flash tape, need to be tried with varying degrees of success. I must say, even with my deep passion and admiration for birds in general, I really am not happy, not happy at all, when they destroy something that I put a lot of work into and look forward to. After this summer, my appreciation of Blue Jays in particular has become much more subdued. Yes, they are beautiful birds, but, oh my goodness, are they trouble in the gardens and boisterous to boot!

***Martha Steele**, a former editor of* Bird Observer*, has been progressively losing vision due to retinitis pigmentosa and is legally blind. Thanks to a cochlear implant, she is now learning to identify birds from their songs and calls. Martha lives with her husband, Bob Stymeist, in Arlington. Martha can be reached at <marthajs@verizon.net>.*

FIELD NOTE

Chicken Little?

Megara Bell

Wild Turkey poult. Photograph courtesy of the author.

My daughter Nora found a tiny, uninjured chick in the road in Newton Centre. So we asked around to find out if anyone had lost a chicken. We knocked on the neighbor's door and she answered and asked me, "Are you sure it's a chicken?" It turns out it wasn't a chicken, but a wee lost wild turkey.

Now you might look at this poult and say it doesn't look like a chick, but it looked a lot like a less than one-week-old chick to me. Rumor was it had been lost for a couple of days. Anyway, it wasn't going to fare well in the middle of the road, so we rescued it. My kids brought it a mirror and a hot pack in a sock to keep it company and that calmed the poult down. My mother Christine King, the proofreader for *Bird Observer,* and I brought it to New England Wildlife, where they had another lone poult. Now they can be buddies.

New England Wildlife Center relies on contributions to rehabilitate wildlife. To learn more about them, support lost little poults, and more, go to their website: www.NEWildlife.org.

ABOUT BOOKS

The Wired Gannet

Mark Lynch

Far from Land: The Mysterious Lives of Seabirds. Michael Brooke. 2018. Princeton University Press: Princeton, New Jersey.

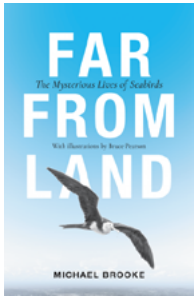
An interesting article in a recent *British Birds* (Smith 2018) describes how British ornithologists have tracked migrating Red-necked Phalaropes that breed in the Shetland Islands north of Scotland. In fall, these phalaropes first flew to the waters near the Outer Hebrides somewhat near the Shetlands, and then proceeded to the seas off northwestern Ireland. Instead of heading south, they flew far west across the Atlantic to Newfoundland and the Bay of Fundy in North America. Some of the tracking maps showed birds that were also along the coast of New England. From here they flew south along the coast of the United States, then across the Caribbean, most crossing Cuba. Then they crossed Panama to eventually winter off the coast of Ecuador. That means there is a slim chance that a Red-necked Phalarope you saw in Massachusetts waters in late summer could have originated in northern Scotland. This is a complicated migratory route that could not even have been guessed ten years ago. The ornithologists were able to precisely track these birds, who spend most of their non-nesting time far out at sea and out of sight, with tiny geolocator tags mounted on the birds' backs. Scientists retrieved the geolocators from the birds when they returned to the Shetlands to breed, and within an hour of retrieval they were at their laptops using a migrate technology decoder to look at maps the birds routed. This study published in *British Birds* has just reaffirmed earlier studies that are described in *Far from Land*.

Michael Brooke is the Strickland Curator of Ornithology at the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge. He has spent his life as a seabird biologist, beginning when he became a seabird assistant at Fair Isle "in that interval between school and university." (p. ix) *Far from Land* is his latest book.

Far from Land begins with an interesting overview of what species Brooke defines as "seabirds." This includes all tubenoses, alcids, cormorants, gannets, frigatebirds, tropicbirds, pelicans, gulls, terns, skuas, and phalaropes. What all these species have in common is that they spend most of their life at sea, often out of the sight of ornithologists. Because scientists could only study birds on their nesting areas, and sometimes even those were on remote islands, there were huge gaps in our knowledge of the movements and behaviors of many of these species. In some cases we didn't even know where they bred. This all began to change, first slowly and then more rapidly, beginning 20 years ago with the use of sophisticated electronic monitoring devices.

"Modern electronics are revolutionizing our knowledge of the activities of seabirds at sea." (p. 1) *Far from Land* describes what we now know of what seabirds do at sea, and at the same time traces the evolution of the methods and devices by which we have

gained that knowledge as well as the hard-working scientists who study the seabirds.



One of the most basic questions to ask about a seabird is: "where is it when it's not nesting?" Traditional ringing (banding) had only a limited use in answering these questions. A bird ringed at a nesting colony might be retrieved on the wintering ground, but we would have no idea where the bird was in between these two locations. Then came radio telemetry and radar and even the use of thermal imaging. New Zealand Petrels were thought to be extinct but were rediscovered in 2003. At that point we knew they were alive but had no idea where they nested. Scientists using radio telemetry discovered New Zealand Petrels' nesting burrows in 2013 on Little Barrier Island. Black-capped Petrel nesting areas in the mountains of Hispaniola have been found using thermal imaging and radar. But this was only the beginning of the electronic revolution in seabird monitoring.

"The overall impacts of VHF radio telemetry and radar have been slight compared to what has been learned from satellite telemetry." (p. 19) Satellite telemetry, or PTTs—platform transmission terminals—offers an accuracy of around 500 meters in locating the position of the birds and has been used in many seabird studies. Global positioning systems (GPS) are even more accurate and give the researcher more detailed information about where a bird flies. The one drawback is that the device needs to be retrieved from the bird in order to download the data stored on the GPS tag. Geolocators or GLS devices—global location sensing—are also used. They are cheap, weigh one gram, can run for two years, and can show the time of sunrise and sunset where the bird is located. Drawbacks are that their latitude information is poor around the equator and they are not as accurate as PTTs. These are just a few of the modern devices used to show us where seabirds travel.

We may now know *where* the birds are, but what are they *doing* while out to sea? Are the birds feeding, diving, or resting on the water? There are immersion loggers that can be attached to the legs of a seabird to tell if the bird was flying or sitting on the water at different times. Capillary tubes attached to seabirds can tell researchers how deep species of seabirds dive.

> If the species is bobbing on the sea, it might well dive for food. How deep does it dive? Early in the quest for answers capillary tubes were attached to birds. Because the capillary is sealed at one end, the air within becomes compressed when a bird dives and water under pressure enters from the other end. The deeper the dive, the further the water moves. The movement was recorded by an indicator powder (e.g. icing sugar or water soluble dye) dusted on the inside of the capillary that changes as it gets wet. Thus, when the device is retrieved from the bird, the capillary gives an indication of the maximum depth reached by the bird and the device during the period of attachment. (p. 22)

Other modern devices include time-depth recorders that digitally record the data of how long the bird spends under water and how deep it dives.

How successful are the seabirds at catching prey on every dive? Technology originally developed for use on Weddell seals glues a "reed-contact and magnet" to the mouth that records when the electrical contact is broken when the seal or bird opens its mouth to chomp on some prey item. This has now been used in studies of penguins and cormorants. Small cameras (45 grams) have even been attached to the central tail feathers of gannets to record their interactions with fishing vessels. *Far from Land* describes well the details of even more technology used to investigate seabirds' lives. Just as we have witnessed an electronics revolution in data storage and presentation in the last two decades, ornithologists and other biologists have also seen a revolution in monitoring electronics. Everything has become more powerful, smaller, and more precise. But it's not just all about the electronics and other measurements that can be recorded using tissue samples. Non-electronic methods, such as stable isotopes extracted from minute samples of a bird's blood, muscles, bones, or feathers can provide supplementary information on diet and travels. (p. 45)

> From the data, a picture of mastery emerges. Seabirds are not helpless morsels of life tossed hither and thither by wind and waves. Rather they employ strategies that enable them to cover huge distances and detect scattered food with relative ease, and with the advantage that they are less subject to day-to-day predation than are landbirds. (p. 27)

In each of its chapters, *Far from Land* follows different species through their lives, beginning with the birds' first trip out to sea from the colonies where they were hatched, through their acquisition of flying skills, to their first flights at sea. For many species, their immature years were considered lost to ornithologists because we knew nothing about where they went beyond the occasional anecdotal sighting. Species like albatrosses can fly around for a number of years before they are mature enough to breed. But where do they go during these lost years? The new monitoring technology is enabling ornithologists to fill in these formerly huge gaps in our knowledge with precise information. Some of what has been discovered is surprising:

> Again using a combination of geolocators and immersion recorders, Jannie Linnebjerg of Lund University found that male Brűnnich's Guillemot [the European name for Thick-billed Murre] parents and their chicks achieved the autumn journey southward of almost 3,000 km entirely by swimming. (p. 33)

When *Far from Land* turns to seabird migration, the reader cannot help but get caught up in how amazing seabirds are. Short-tailed Shearwaters breed on islands around southeast Australia, including Tasmania. Every year they travel north to the Sea of Okhotsk and the west end of the Aleutians.

> Immatures leave the breeding grounds in March, breeders follow in mid-April and fledglings make up the rear guard in late April-early May. The trans-equatorial movement north of perhaps 30 million of these shearwaters is surely one of the world's greatest bird migrations, a fluttering avalanche of 20,000 tonnes of sentient flesh, roughly half the weight of the Titanic. (p. 37-8)

It has been estimated that these shearwaters fly at about 50 km/hr for 20 hours a day, covering on the average 1,000 kilometers a day! Sometimes the distances traveled are difficult to comprehend. Arctic Terns are well-known long-distance migrants, but the distances traveled by certain well-monitored individuals are mind-boggling. This data was discovered using geolocators and a multi-national team of ornithologists that tracked 10 birds from Greenland and 1 from Iceland.

> The numbers gathered from these travels are exhausting. The journey totaled at least 72,000 km, comprising 35,000 km southbound at about 330 km/day; 11,000 km while (relatively!) dawdling in Antarctic waters, and finally 26,000 km northbound at 520 km/day. (p 55-6)

Some species of seabirds have evolved specific physiological mechanisms to aid them in their long hours gliding at sea.

> Sailors and biologists have long been fascinated by the ability of albatrosses to glide for hours with barely any movement of their wings. A key factor is anatomical; a shoulder lock in albatrosses and giant petrels has the effect of reducing or even eliminating the need for any muscle power to hold the wing outstretched and horizontal. (p. 113)

Gliding over the seas is next to effortless for species like albatrosses, even in heavy weather. As you might expect, researchers have done heart rate monitoring of albatrosses, and their findings are reported in detail in *Far from Land*.

> Languid is the word that comes to mind when watching a gliding albatross. And the efficiency of albatross flight is confirmed by modern heart rate measurements of gliding Wandering Albatrosses. Combining information from externally-attached heart beat monitors, leg mounted immersion recorders that reported whether bird was afloat or airborne, and a satellite pack for relaying the information back to Toulouse in France, French scientist Henri Weimerskirch discovered that the heart rate of flying Wandering Albatrosses, around 80 beats/min, was barely faster than the rate of birds resting on the water, around 60 beats/min. But take-off, involving flapping, was seriously hard work. The heart rate then topped 200 beats/min. (p. 115)

Sometimes in *Far from Land* the ornithologists are just as surprising as the seabirds they study. For decades, nobody knew where the wintering grounds were of Ross' Gulls, a particularly difficult bird to study because of its Arctic haunts. Mark Maftei, Shanti Davis, and Mark Mallory used data from geolocators and satellite tags to track the gulls' movements. When they delivered their findings at the 2015 World Seabird Conference, it was done partly "in impeccable rap." (p. 59) The lyrics are reproduced in *Far from Land*. It is now known that Ross' Gulls can be found in winter off Labrador in seas just south of the Arctic Circle, an area rarely visited by researchers at that time.

The last chapter of *Far from Land* is devoted to all the dangers seabirds face. These include ocean-mounted wind farms, longline fishing, direct pollution of the

oceans, light pollution, power lines near nesting colonies, the introduction of predators on breeding islands, and finally, climate change. This explains why so many species of seabirds are endangered or at risk of being endangered. The health of the world's oceans directly affects the health of all seabirds.

If you have ever enjoyed watching gannets plunge dive off the Cape in fall or marveled at the flight of Great Shearwaters on a local whale watch, *Far from Land* will give you a more complete picture of how these birds breed, migrate, and find food. We only may be able to enjoy these birds briefly from some beach or the deck of a ship, but thanks to the efforts of creative researchers, as well as the evolution of monitoring technology, we can now virtually follow these birds as they leave our sight and wander far from land.

> This book has attempted to paint a picture of how modern devices have enabled researchers to discover more about the lives of seabirds at sea. That simple sentence undersells the reality. Posed 50 or even 20 years ago, certain questions would have been totally unanswerable. Now, for many birds, they can be answered with confidence. (p. 203)

Reference

Smith, Malcolm et al. 2018. Further evidence of transatlantic migration routes and Pacific wintering grounds of Red-necked Phalaropes breeding in Shetland. *British Birds* 111|417-90: 428–37.


Masked Booby, by Dave Parish

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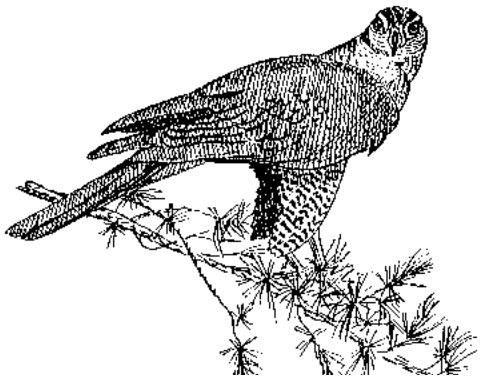
Seth Kellogg
A Massachusetts Birding Icon Steps Down

Anyone who has been birding in Massachusetts for many years either knows Seth Kellogg personally, or certainly knows his reputation. A long-time resident of Southwick in the lower Connecticut River Valley, Seth's influence in the raptor migration-watching community is epic. For many years he was not only an avid hawk counter in the Connecticut Valley, but he also long served as the compiler of regional migration summaries for the journal of the Hawk Migration Association of North America. In addition, Seth has been an active and supporting member of Springfield's Allen Bird Club for much of his adult birding life. A compiler of the Cobble Mountain CBC since its inception, Seth also regularly conducted breeding bird surveys in his beloved "birding patch" in Hampden County, and eventually he took an active role in both the *Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 1* and *2*.

Seth's long-time interest in bird record-keeping of migrating raptors, as well as birds in general in western Massachusetts, eventually led him to take an early role on the roster of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, where his even-handed approach to record-keeping made valuable contributions to that group's formative years. When *Bird Observer* first began publishing western Massachusetts bird records in 1999, Seth Kellogg's name soon graced the magazine's masthead as an associate staff member responsible for systematically collating and supplying western Massachusetts bird records for the journal's bi-monthly bird record archives. His knowledge and extensive experience with bird populations in central and western Massachusetts also made him a valuable member of the Important Bird Area (IBA) Program's Technical Committee during that program's seminal years in 2000–2002.

Sad to say, Seth Kellogg is stepping down from his illustrious and valued service to *Bird Observer*, but all of us on the staff want to wish him well, acknowledge his past efforts, and thank him for his valued service not just to *Bird Observer* but to the Massachusetts birding community as a whole. Nicely done, Seth!

Wayne R. Petersen



WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

A Birder's Quick Guide to HUNTING SEASONS

Hunting in Massachusetts ramps up in the fall, but that doesn't mean that birders and hunters can't share the outdoors. Learn where and when hunting may be taking place and review these safety tips to enjoy a more relaxed time outside!

2018 Seasons*

Deer	Youth Hunt	Sept. 29
	Archery	Oct. 15–Nov. 24
	Shotgun	Nov. 26–Dec. 8
	Primitive Firearms	Dec. 10–Dec. 31
Turkey	Youth Hunt	Apr. 27, 2019
	Fall	Oct. 22–Nov. 3
	Spring	Apr. 29–May 25, 2019
Pheasant		Oct. 13–Nov. 24
Waterfowl		Sept. 1–Feb. 15, 2019

*Season dates change annually. Full regulations and seasons can be found at mass.gov/masswildlife.

Tips

- Do what the hunters do! Wear a bright orange vest or hat to stay visible.
- If you see someone hunting or hear shots, call out to let them know you're there.
- Be courteous. Hunters and birders both want to reduce unnecessary noise.
- Most MassWildlife lands, including Wildlife Management Areas and Wildlife Conservation Easements, allow hunting.
- Most state parks and forests are open to hunting, and many towns allow hunting on municipal lands.
- Hunting is not permitted on Sundays throughout Massachusetts.

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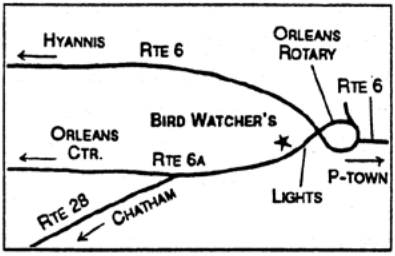

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BIRD SIGHTINGS

May–June 2018

Neil Hayward and Robert H. Stymeist

The strong southwest winds at the end of April continued into the first week of May. On May 3 the temperature in Boston reached 90 degrees, the highest reading for the month. A cold front on the night of May 11 brought a high of only 53 degrees the following day. Another burst of warm air with southerly winds occurred from May 20 through May 26. The month averaged 62 degrees, four degrees above normal. Total precipitation for the month was 1.9 inches, 1.59 inches below the average for Boston; the most on any one day was one inch on May 15. Severe thunderstorms coupled with heavy rain and gusts of up to 80 mph moved into western and central Massachusetts on May 15 prompting a tornado watch.

June 2018 was warm. A long stretch of excessive heat and humidity gripped the state from June 16 through June 21. Boston averaged 84 degrees for those six days while some areas in central Massachusetts saw readings as high as 103 degrees. A cold front approaching from the west on June 21 produced a few strong thunderstorms mainly in central Massachusetts. The mercury hit 90 in Boston on June 29 and the high for the month was 92 on June 30. Overall, the temperature in Boston averaged 68 degrees, which is average for the month. Precipitation for the month was 2.96 inches, nearly an inch less than average.

R. Stymeist

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBISES

June snow in Massachusetts? Living in New England requires an alternating mindset—complaining about how bitterly cold it is one month, and then how blisteringly hot it is the next. In the dog days of summer many of us are already looking forward to the snow that we so recently reviled. The closest we came to snow this period was of the goose variety; a Snow Goose lingering at Hyannis is the first June record since 2009. Brant are usually gone by Memorial Day, although a few stragglers typically hang on to figure out what the Cape Cod traffic fuss is all about. A flock of 15 Brant at Provincetown, though, is highly unusual, and is the latest double-digit count this century since an astounding inland sighting of 150 birds on June 7, 2001.

A potential state first spent almost a month sitting on a farm pond in Charlton, southwest Worcester County. **Trumpeter Swan**, however, is no stranger to Massachusetts; a record from Northampton in March 2004 was identified as this species, but was not accepted by the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee due to uncertainty over its origin. At the turn of the twentieth century the species was on the precipice of extirpation in the US, with only a small population hanging on at Yellowstone National Park. Then in the 1950s an aerial survey revealed several thousand trumpeters around the Copper River in Alaska. Based on a controversial and highly dubious claim that the species once ranged throughout the Eastern United States, a reintroduction program was started in the 1960s. An interior population was "re-established" from South Dakota east to Ohio and Ontario, and now numbers around 10,000 swans. This population is derived entirely from Yellowstone and Alaska stock. Most of these birds are resident, wintering close to their new breeding grounds. Trumpeter Swans are our heaviest bird, and their mass is only equaled by that of the headaches they've given to listers and state records committees: are these introduced birds wild and countable or unestablished exotics? The American Birding Association has criteria for the countability of introduced species (available

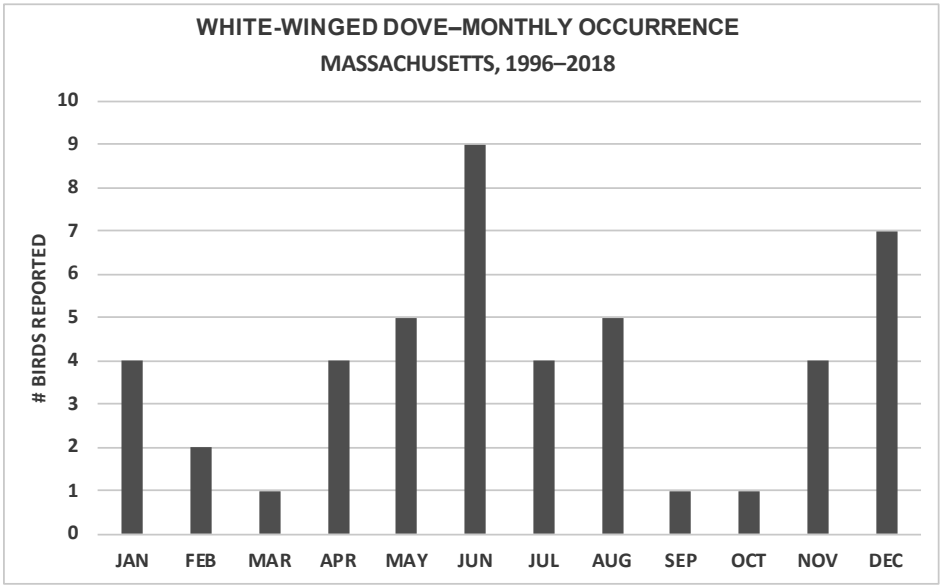

Figure 1. White-winged Doves in Massachusetts, 1996–2018. Data from eBird.org.

online at http://listing.aba.org/criteria-determining-establishment-exotics), which given the longevity and "success" of the restoration program, most of the interior trumpeters now meet. The situation is not unlike that of the House Finch, which was similarly translocated from another part of the country—the Southwest—to the east via Long Island in the 1940s.

The sight of downy Ring-necked Ducklings is one of the rarest in Massachusetts. This year's sighting in Royalston is the first since 1979 when a pair bred at Ashland. According to Veit and Petersen (1993), that record was one of only three confirmed breeding records for the state. A number of other ducks that are rare breeders in the state were reported this period, including sightings at Monomoy of up to five Northern Shovelers in May and three Blue-winged Teals in late June. Green-winged Teals numbered 18 at Plum Island at the end of the period. A Greater Scaup at Randolph represented only the sixth June record this century. The overwintering **Tufted Duck** held on at Nantucket until May 2 and single **King Eiders** continued into May at four locations.

Pied-billed Grebe is a state-listed endangered species. Pairs bred successfully last year at Monomoy and Fairhaven. This year a pair raised at least four young at Richmond, less than two miles from the New York state line. Fairhaven hosted a pair again but with no sign of young.

White-winged Doves have been recorded annually in the state since at least 2004 and in every month of the year. This year's May sighting in Orleans fits the late spring vagrancy pattern for this species, with records peaking in June (see Figure 1). A second peak occurs at the end of the year in December.

The first Yellow-billed Cuckoo of the year returned on May 5, almost a week later than the average arrival date for the species. It's still early to tell if this will be a good cuckoo year. Last year represented the peak in the invasion of the gypsy moth, which caused 923,000 acres of damage to the state (Forman Orth and Pelikan, 2017). This year is expected to bring fewer moths than last year, but probably enough caterpillars to excite hungry cuckoos. Author Matt Pelikan, commenting on 2018, noted that "Martha's Vineyard has had a pretty mild caterpillar year, but a better than average cuckoo year".

The Common Nighthawk is one of the most misnamed of North American birds. It's not a hawk, and it's not nocturnal. Plus, with a population plummeting over 60% in the last 50 years, its no longer even common—a result of habitat loss and pesticide use. The "bullbat", a more apt colloquial name based on its bat-like flight, has a much lower profile during spring migration than the large flocks encountered in the fall. However, a high of 13 birds at Great Meadows this spring is a low count for this species. **Chuck-will's-widow** was reported from six locations, including Pochet Island, Orleans, where it was last recorded in 2013. Given the reclusive nature of goatsuckers, breeding is hard to document, but multiple birds this year at Camp Edwards and in Plymouth are intriguing.

Common Gallinules were reported from four locations this period, with multiples at Bolton Flats and Great Meadows, though neither indicated successful breeding. Sandhill Cranes bred at Worthington, where they first nested in 2016. The species was reported from 11 other locations around the state during the period.

Shorebird highlights included at least one **American Avocet** at Plum Island and a female **Ruff** (Reeve) that was a one-day wonder at South Beach, Chatham. Any godwit in Massachusetts in the spring is a rare godwit. This year, a Marbled Godwit at Newburyport Harbor on May 7 was one of only a dozen or so spring records for the state. The western interior subspecies of Willet, *inornatus*, is even rarer as a spring migrant for the state. This year, a bird was found at Plum Island on May 12, the same date as the only other Massachusetts May record, from Cuttyhunk Island in 2013. An inland record of Dunlin at Hadley on May 24 was the first report for Hampshire County for five years. Single Red-necked Phalaropes were discovered inland at Turners Falls and Wachusett Reservoir at the end of May. A Red Phalarope on the beach at Chatham on June 17 was highly unseasonal.

A rare spring **Long-tailed Jaeger** was photographed off Race Point on May 26. However, Parasitic Jaegers stole the show at Provincetown this spring. In most years a count exceeding 10 individuals is exceptional and then only when there's a storm. In 2015, a new high of 24 was set, only to be beaten in 2017 with 33 birds. But nothing prepared observers for this year's triple-digit jaegerfest, when more than 100 birds were seen on at least four dates, including an amazing new high of 291 birds seen on May 13. Most of these birds appeared to be heading north past Race Point South. It's unclear what is responsible for such a large movement. Blair Nikula commented that, "there was nothing exceptional weather-wise, and the number of terns and small gulls in P'town this spring was much lower than recent norms".

A sea watch off Rockport on June 4 recorded some unusually late-lingering alcids: five Common Murres, four Razorbills, a Black Guillemot, and an **Atlantic Puffin**. The winds were out of the east at 15–32 mph.

In a dramatic departure from recent events, we have no super rare gulls to report for this period. Three records of **Little Gull** are about average for the period. Last year we reported on the intriguing pattern of large numbers of—mostly young—Black-legged Kittiwakes summering at Provincetown. This summering pattern is unusual as in most years the species has left our waters by mid-April. But more surprisingly, when this does happen (and it's happened before between 1978–1982), the summering birds visit every other year. In 2015 and 2017 the maxima were 180 and 200 respectively, with only 34 seen in 2016. Continuing the two-year periodicity, the trough this year was only 13 Black-legged Kittiwakes.

If you want to see a **Royal Tern** in Massachusetts most birders will tell you to look in June. And this year they'd be right again. Three reports came from Cape Cod during the month, plus a May sighting at Plum Island.

In one of the more unusual eBird checklists for the state, birders photographing a Red-headed Woodpecker at Manomet on June 11 snapped a second rarity at the site when an adult **Brown Pelican** flew by offshore. An additional Brown Pelican, which seemed to defy photography, was reported from Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

Kettle Island is a restricted access site owned by Mass Audubon. It lies off the coast of Manchester-by-the-Sea and hosts the largest heron rookery in the state. This year a census on May 9 counted the following nests: 194 Great Egret, 99 Snowy Egret, 30 Black-crowned Night-Heron, and 9 Glossy Ibis. Apart from Great Egret, most heron numbers are down from previous censuses. Little Blue Heron is on a particularly downward trend, with only four pairs found this year compared to the double-digit pairs that were the norm between 1990 through 2011. Also in Essex County, up to two **White-faced Ibis** continued through May.

N. Hayward

Snow Goose
thr Hyannis 1 S. Matheney#
Brant
5/4 Nbpt H. 87 P. + F. Vale
5/5 N. Scituate 26 BBC (G. d'Entremont)
5/5 Winthrop 10 J. Forbes
6/6 P'town 15 B. Nikula
6/30 PI 1 inj P. Sowizral
Trumpeter Swan*
5/26-6/24 Charlton 1 imm D. Lusignan + v.o.
Wood Duck
6/14 GMNWR 25 10ad+15juv A. Bragg#
6/17 Orange 21 M. Lynch#
6/20 Wayland 27 B. Harris
6/21 Royalston 41 E. LeBlanc
Blue-winged Teal
5/5 Burrage Pd WMA 2 L. Abbey#
5/7-5/8 Rowley 1 m P. + F. Vale + v.o.
5/12 PI 2 1pr E. Labato
6/21 Monomoy NWR 3 S. Williams#
Northern Shoveler
5/1-6/21 PI 2 max 1pr T. Wetmore#
5/6 Nantucket 6 S. Fee
5/12 Monomoy NWR 8 J. Junda#
5/12 N. Scituate 2 1pr G. d'Entremont#
Gadwall
5/5-6/26 Fairhaven 2 max 1pr G. d'Entremont#
5/6 Nantucket 10 S. Fee
5/22, 6/26 PI 9,12 R. Heil
6/21 Monomoy NWR 59 S. Williams#
6/28-6/29 Mattapoisett 9 N. Marchessault
American Wigeon
5/12 Nantucket 1 J. Trimble#
6/27-6/30 PI 1 D. Prima
American Black Duck
6/23 PI 22 T. Wetmore#
Northern Pintail
5/6 Nantucket 2 S. Fee
5/12, 6/21 Monomoy NWR 7,1 J. Junda#, S. Williams#
Green-winged Teal
5/6 Saugus 2 S. Zendeh#
5/11 Waltham 2 J. Forbes
5/11 Bolton Flats 2 C. Caron
6/21 Monomoy NWR 6 S. Williams#
6/23 PI 18 D. Adrien
Ring-necked Duck
5/1 New Salem 26 B. Lafley
5/1 Randolph 10 G. d'Entremont
5/6 Weston 4 M. Kiessig
6/29 Royalston 8 1f+7juv E. LeBlanc
Tufted Duck
5/1-5/2 Nantucket 1 m T. Pastuszak
Greater Scaup
5/14-6/14 Randolph 1 m ph D. Burton, M. Iliff
Lesser Scaup
5/1 Randolph 3 G. d'Entremont
5/1 New Salem 2 G. Watkevich
5/12 Quabbin Pk 3 L. Therrien
5/12 Plymouth 2 N. Marchessault#
King Eider
5/2-5/7 PI 1 imm m T. Wetmore + v.o.
5/12 Gloucester (BR) 1 ad m S. + J. Mirick
5/12-5/17 Swampscott/Lynn 1 fM.McCarthy + v.o.
5/18-5/31 P'town (RP) 1 imm m W. Lackey + v.o.
Common Eider
5/6 Acoaxet 32 M. Lynch#
5/8 BHI(Mid.Brewster I.) 87 n C. Trocki
5/8 BHI (Calf I.) 78 n C. Trocki#
5/9 Manchester(Kettle I.) 60 J. Berry#
5/9 Salem (Eagle I.) 40 nests J. Berry#
6/10 S. Dart.(APd)14 4ad+10yg G. d'Entremont
Harlequin Duck
5/6 Acoaxet 2 1m+1f M. Lynch#
5/11 Chilmark 10 S. Whiting
5/11-5/12 Eastham 1 K. Burke
5/12 Rockport 2 1m+1f A. Loveless
Surf Scoter
5/13 W. Brookfield 3 T. Crane
White-winged Scoter
5/3 Burlington 1 J. Keeley
5/11 PI 10 C. Cook
5/23 Gardner 2 1m+1f N. Beauregard
6/22 Westport 3 M. Iliff
Black Scoter
5/3, 6/22 Westport 80,9 L. Waters, M. Iliff
5/11 P'town 475 B. Nikula
5/11, 6/6 PI 28,1 C. Cook, T. Wetmore
5/12 N. Scituate 200 G. d'Entremont#
Long-tailed Duck
5/2 Nbpt H. 1100 G. d'Entremont
5/6, 6/1 PI 700,6 T. Wetmore#
5/10 Ipswich (CB) 2 J. Berry
6/21 Plymouth H. 1 J. Sullivan III
Bufflehead
5/5 N. Scituate 14 BBC (G. d'Entremont)
5/6 Acoaxet 44 M. Lynch#
5/7 Chatham 21 B. Nikula
5/12 Nantucket 5 J. Trimble#
6/29 Mattapoisett 1 N. Marchessault
Common Goldeneye
5/1-5/28 Randolph 2 max G.d'Entremont + v.o.
5/1 Westport 1 P. LoCicero
5/2 Nbpt H. 1 imm m G. d'Entremont
5/11 PI 1 C. Cook
Hooded Merganser
5/12 Petersham 9 M. Lynch#
5/24 GMNWR 13 3f+10juv A. Bragg#

Common Merganser
5/1 Leicester 3 M. Lynch#
5/3-5/7 Boston 1 R. Doherty + v.o.
5/12 PI 2 J. Benson
5/19 Randolph 1 M. Iliff
6/20 Chester 2 f M. Lynch#
Red-breasted Merganser
5/5 Winthrop 105 J. Forbes
5/12 Quabbin Pk 3 L. Therrien
5/14 PI 35 T. Wetmore
5/19, 6/3 P'town (RP) 150,70 G. d'Entremont, B. Nikula
Ruddy Duck
5/4 W. Newbury 4 P. + F. Vale
5/5-5/6 Nantucket 3 T. Pastuszak#
5/6 Waltham 4 J. Forbes
6/11-6/14 Woburn (HP) 2 R. Jilek + v.o.
Northern Bobwhite
5/12 Quincy 1 D. Burton
6/13 Eastham (FH) 2 J. Hoye#
6/16 Hardwick 1 C. Buelow
6/20 Cumb. Farms 2 J. Carlisle
Ring-necked Pheasant
5/21 Rockport (HPt) 1 S. Hedman
5/23 Westport 1 Z. Moser
6/2 Quabog IBA 1 m M. Lynch#
6/17 Lenox 1 m SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
Ruffed Grouse
5/11 Camp Edwards 2 J. McCumber
5/12 Wompatuck SP 1 E. Giles#
5/22 Freetown 1 L. Abbey
6/16 Mount Greylock 3 1ad+2yg SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
6/18 Oakham 3 1ad+2juv K. Van Schoick
6/30 New Salem 3 L. Therrien
Wild Turkey
6/14 PI 20 12ad+8yg T. Wetmore
6/23 New Braintree 23 12ad+11yg M. Lynch#
Pied-billed Grebe
thr Fairhaven 2 max C. Longworth + v.o.
5/3-12,6/30 GMNWR 1 A. Bragg#, S. Arena
6/21-6/29 Royalston 1 E. LeBlanc
6/29 Richmond 5 1ad+4yg J. Pierce + v.o.
Horned Grebe
5/1-5/7 Manomet 24,6 A. Kneidel
5/12 Nantucket 2 J. Trimble#
5/12 Quabbin Pk 1 L. Therrien
6/1 Gloucester 1 C. Haines
Red-necked Grebe
5/1 Quabbin Pk 3 D. Griffiths#
5/3-5/15 PI 2 T. Wetmore#
5/5 N. Scituate 7 BBC (G. d'Entremont)
5/7 Manomet 23 A. Kneidel
5/12 Nantucket 3 J. Trimble#
White-winged Dove
5/22 Orleans 1 C. Goodrich
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
5/5 PI 1 K. deKrafft
5/16 Wompatuck SP 4 D. Peacock
5/20 Marlborough 3 nfc T. Spahr
5/22 Cumb. Farms 4 J. Carlisle
5/22 Sharon 3 G. d'Entremont#
6/9 Quabbin (G8) 3 R. Lockwood
6/19 Ware R. IBA 9 M. Lynch#
Black-billed Cuckoo
5/5 Manomet 1 J. Barrett
5/20 MBWMA 5 D. Cooper#
5/24 Concord 16 nfc G. Dupont
5/26 Bolton Flats 4 G. d'Entremont#
6/5 Marlborough 6 nfc T. Spahr
6/8 PI 4 T. Wetmore
6/30 New Salem 5 L. Therrien
Common Nighthawk
5/6 Bolton Flats 1 D. Kembel
5/7, 5/20 GMNWR 1,13 T. Swain + v.o.
5/20 Uxbridge 8 N. Demers
5/26 Truro 8 S. Williams#
Chuck-will's-widow
5/8-6/22 Falmouth 1 v.o.
5/11-5/24 Camp Edwards 2 J. McCumber#
5/23 Nantucket 2 S. Kardell#
5/23 Orleans 1 S. Williams#
5/31 Tuckernuck I. 1 M. Fuirst
6/21-6/30 Plymouth 2 L. Schibley + v.o.
Eastern Whip-poor-will
5/2 W. Gloucester 1 J. Nelson
5/11 PI 11 N. Landry#
5/11 Quabog IBA 11 M. Lynch#
5/23 Camp Edwards 30 S. Williams#
6/20-6/21 MSSF 7 N. Marchessault + v.o.
Chimney Swift
5/15 PI 7 R. Heil
5/17 Worc. 17 M. Lynch#
5/18 MtA 10 F. Lehman
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
5/1 Lincoln 1 m G. Loud
5/1 Barre 1 m S. Meredith
5/10-5/24 MBO 29 T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/11 PI 9 B. Secatore#
Clapper Rail
5/5-6/27 Fairhaven 4 max M.Eckerson+v.o.
5/11 Westport 2 M. Iliff
5/23-6/16 Barnstable 2 max M.Keleher#+v.o.
5/26 Eastham (FH) 4 S. Williams
5/27 Wellfleet 3 S. Broker
5/28 Mattapoisett 6 N. Marchessault
King/Clapper Rail
5/7-6/20 Harwich 1 B. Nikula
King Rail
5/28-6/26 Fairhaven 1 f ph au C.Longworth + v.o.
5/29-6/17 E. Boston (BI) 1 ph au DCR (S. Riley) + v.o.
Virginia Rail
5/1 Ware R. IBA 6 M. Lynch#
5/24 Marlborough 3 nfc T. Spahr
6/16 Lenox 10 6ad+4yg SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
6/21 Monomoy NWR 3 S. Williams#
6/21-6/22 PI 2 1ad+1juv D. Adrien
6/22 Bolton Flats 17 S. Arena
6/30 GMNWR 16 15ad+1juv S. Arena
6/30 Quabog IBA 16 M. Lynch#
Sora
5/3-5/14 Brookfield 2 R. Jenkins
5/23 Orleans 2 S. Williams#
6/15 Concord 2 1ad+1juv C. Winstanley#
6/21 Monomoy NWR 3 S. Williams#
6/30 GMNWR 3 S. Arena
Common Gallinule
6/17 Plymouth 1 I. Davies
6/21 Monomoy NWR 1 S. Williams#
6/22 Bolton Flats 5 2pr+1 S. Arena
6/30 GMNWR 2 S. Arena
American Coot
5/3-6/22 Nantucket 1 v.o.
5/12 Belchertown 1 S. Johnas
Sandhill Crane
5/2 Eastham (FH), Truro 4 B. Albro, D. Clapp
5/3 P'town (RP) 4 P. Flood
5/3-5/28 Burrage Pd WMA 2 B. Vigorito + v.o.
5/5 W. Tisbury 1 L. Johnson#
5/7 Ashley Falls 2 R. Wendell#
5/8 Ware R. IBA 2 M. Lynch#
5/9-5/28 Windsor 1 C. Najimy + v.o.
5/11 New Marlborough 1 K. Schopp#
5/11 MtA 1 J. Keyes#
5/19 Belchertown 2 W. Duncan#
6/9 New Braintree 2 J. Smith#
6/20 Worthington 3 1pr+1yg M. Lynch#

American Avocet
6/13, 6/28 PI 1,1 ph C.Marchant + v.o.
American Oystercatcher
5/6 PI 1 N. Landry
5/9 Manchester(Kettle I.) 2 1pr+3eggs J. Berry#
5/11 Chatham 23 L. Waters#
5/24 BHI (Sheep I.) 6 3pr n C. Trocki#
5/31 BHI (Gallops I.) 5 C. Trocki#
6/4 E. Boston (BI) 9 P. Peterson
6/21 Monomoy NWR 18 S. Williams#
Black-bellied Plover
5/12 Essex 60 J. Nelson
5/17 PI 145 D. Adrien
5/23 Duxbury B. 107 R. Bowes
5/28 Agawam 1 S. Motyl
5/30 Chatham (SB) 300 S. Williams#
American Golden-Plover
5/3 Edgartown 2 K. Magnuson
5/11-5/20 Plymouth 1 ph L. Schibley + v.o.
5/23 Barnstable (SN) 1 S. Matheny
Semipalmated Plover
5/20 PI 120 S. Sullivan
5/23 Duxbury B. 51 R. Bowes
5/27 Plymouth B. 30 SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
Piping Plover
5/6 Winthrop B. 6 B. Burke
5/23 Duxbury B. 18 R. Bowes
6/3 Plymouth B. 25 V. Zollo
6/6 Ipswich (CB) 20 J. Berry#
6/10 PI 25 USFWS (K. Walker)
Killdeer
5/1 Arlington Res. 5 S. Beattie
6/13 PI 14 T. Wetmore
Upland Sandpiper
5/4 Westport 1 B. King
5/5 Plymouth Airport 3 BBC (G. d'Entremont)
5/11 Bedford 1 P. Vale
5/12 Boston (Logan) 2 J. McCoy#
5/14 MNWS 1 J. Smith
5/20 Edgartown 1 K. Magnuson#
5/23 Camp Edwards 5 S. Williams#
Whimbrel
5/5 Manomet 1 M. Gray
5/10 E. Boston (BI) 1 DCR (S. Riley)
5/12 Westport 1 J. Eckerson#
5/15, 5/20 PI 1,3 G. d'Entremont#, S. Sullivan
5/17, 6/21–28 Nantucket 1,1 B. Foering + v.o.
5/25, 6/30 Wellfleet 1,1 S. Broker, J. Wagner
6/8 P'town (RP) 1 ph J. Pratt
Marbled Godwit
5/7 Nbpt H. 1 J. Hoye#
Ruddy Turnstone
5/23 Duxbury B. 196 R. Bowes
5/27 PI 60 S. Perkins#
5/30 Chatham (SB) 355 S. Williams#
Red Knot
5/30 Chatham (SB) 109 S. Williams#
6/7 PI 8 T. Wetmore
Ruff
5/30 Chatham (SB) 1 S. Williams#
Sanderling
5/6 Acoaxet 5 M. Lynch#
5/11 PI 31 C. Cook
6/3 Ipswich (CB) 7 J. Berry
Dunlin
5/4 Plymouth B. 350 L. Schibley#
5/4 PI 300 T. Wetmore
5/6 Acoaxet 175 M. Lynch#
5/23 Duxbury B. 1282 R. Bowes
5/24 Hadley 1 L. Therrien
Purple Sandpiper
5/4 Scituate 81 T. MacAskill
5/6 Acoaxet 4 M. Lynch#
5/16, 5/26 PI 50,6 D. Adrien, T. Wetmore
5/25 Revere B. 2 D. Bates#
Least Sandpiper
5/3 Westport 1 L. Waters
5/4 E. Boston (BI) 15 DCR (S. Riley)
5/6 Acoaxet 19 M. Lynch#
5/14 Marlborough 40 nfc T. Spahr
5/22 PI 135 R. Heil
White-rumped Sandpiper
5/15 DWWS 4 N. Titelbaum
5/30 Chatham (SB) 42 S. Williams#
6/9 PI 8 P. + F. Vale
6/21 Monomoy NWR 2 S. Williams#
Pectoral Sandpiper
5/1 Fairhaven 5 C. Molander
5/4 E. Bridgewater 2 J. Carlisle
5/5 Newbury 2 S. Whitebread#
5/13 Quincy 2 D. Burton
Semipalmated Sandpiper
5/25 PI 360 T. Wetmore
5/27 Plymouth B. 250 SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
5/30 Chatham (SB) 1633 S. Williams#
6/3 Ipswich (CB) 235 J. Berry
Short-billed Dowitcher
5/2, 5/23 Duxbury 2, 261 F. Bowes
5/12 S. Dart. (APd) 7 J. Eckerson#
5/25 PI 145 T. Wetmore
5/27 GMNWR 5 M. Sovay
American Woodcock
5/12 Ware R. IBA 5 M. Lynch#
6/1 PI 9 N. Landry#
Wilson's Snipe
5/4 E. Boston (BI) 5 DCR (S. Riley)
5/28 Cumb. Farms 1 N. Marchessault
Spotted Sandpiper
5/6 Medfield 5 J. Bock
5/14 Marlborough 20 nfc T. Spahr
5/14 Huntington 12 M. Lynch#
5/17 W. Roxbury (MP) 5 M. Iliff
5/27 PI 6 S. Miller
Solitary Sandpiper
5/8 Ipswich 6 J. Berry
5/9 Petersham 3 M. Lynch#
5/14 Marlborough 12 nfc T. Spahr
Lesser Yellowlegs
5/8 Nbpt H. 77 R. Heil
5/11 PI 67 P. + F. Vale
Willet
5/3 Ipswich (CB) 8 J. Berry
5/6 Westport 19 M. Lynch#
5/15 PI 65 R. Heil
5/30 Chatham (SB) 80 S. Williams#
6/22 Marion 16 M. Lynch#
Willet (Western)
5/12 PI 1 au M. Iliff#
Greater Yellowlegs
5/2 Nbpt H. 270 P. + F. Vale
5/2 E. Boston (BI) 16 DCR (S. Riley)
5/6 PI 50 T. Wetmore#
Wilson's Phalarope
5/8, 5/25 Rowley 1,1 D. Bates#
5/11 E. Boston (BI) 1 ph A. Trautmann#
5/16-5/21 PI 1 m M. Halsey + v.o.
Red-necked Phalarope
5/12, 5/16 P'town (RP) 8,8 L.+ M.Waters, D. Burton
5/12 Gloucester Waters 2 J. Nelson
5/27-5/28 Turner's Falls 1 ph M.Fairbrother+v.o.
5/28 Wachusett Res. 1 ph B. Abbott#
Red Phalarope
6/17 Chatham 1 ph J. Junda#
Parasitic Jaeger
5/5 PI 1 D. Adrien
5/13, 6/3 P'town (RP) 291,120 S. Arena, B. Nikula

Parasitic Jaeger (continued)
5/27 Rockport (AP) 1 ad R. Heil
5/29 Westport 1 M. Iliff
Long-tailed Jaeger
5/26 P'town (RP) 1 ph B. Nikula
Common Murre
5/12, 5/21 P'town 10,1 L. Waters#, B. Nikula
5/27, 6/4 Rockport (AP) 3,5 R. Heil
Razorbill
5/13 P'town (RP) 38 P. Flood
5/14 PI 2 D. Larson
5/27, 6/4 Rockport (AP) 10,4 R. Heil
Black Guillemot
5/12 Gloucester (EP) 4 S. + J. Mirick
5/12 PI 1 J. Miller
6/4 Rockport (AP) 1 R. Heil
Atlantic Puffin
6/4 Rockport (AP) 1 ad R. Heil
Black-legged Kittiwake
5/12 Gloucester Waters 1 J. Nelson
5/26, 6/8 P'town 13,5 B. Nikula
Bonaparte's Gull
5/2 New Salem 4 G. Watkevich
5/4 Quabog IBA 4 M. Lynch#
5/6 Truro 600 B. Nikula
5/12 P'town 450 B. Nikula#
5/27 Plymouth B. 25 imm SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
5/29 PI 45 T. Wetmore
6/26 Wachusett Res. 2 E. Kittredge
Little Gull
5/5 P'town (RP) 1 ad S. Arena
5/27-5/29 PI 1 1cy S. Perkins + v.o.
5/28-5/29 Salisbury 1 A. Steenstrup + v.o.
Laughing Gull
5/4 P'town 1200 B. Nikula
5/20 Worcester 3 N. Paulson
5/27 Plymouth B. 250 SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
5/30 Chatham (SB) 1000 S. Williams#
Herring x Glaucous Gull (hybrid)
5/16 P'town 1 1S ph B. Nikula
Iceland Gull
5/1-5/20 Westport 1 R. Couse + v.o.
5/6, 5/12 P'town 30,25 L. Waters#, B. Nikula#
5/27 Revere B. 1 D. Glasco
6/10-6/14 PI 1 D. Chickering + v.o.
Lesser Black-backed Gull
5/6 Truro 10 B. Nikula#
5/12 P'town 20 B. Nikula#
5/30 Chatham (SB) 2 S. Williams#
Glaucous Gull
5/10-5/17 Revere B. 1 S. Jones#
5/11, 6/1 P'town (RP) 3,2 S. Arena#, J. Pratt
5/12 Monomoy NWR 1 J. Junda#
6/2 E. Boston (BI) 1 C. Kaynor
6/9 Gloucester 1 2cy J. Quigley
Least Tern
5/1 Westport 3 P. LoCicero
5/1 Hingham 2 D. Peacock
5/4 E. Boston (BI) 10 DCR (S. Riley)
5/19-5/22 PI 40 T. Wetmore + v.o.
5/30 Plymouth B. 200 L. Schibley
6/6 Ipswich (CB) 100 J. Berry#
6/13 P'town 80 B. Nikula
6/21 Monomoy NWR 240 S. Williams#
Caspian Tern
5/1 Randolph 1 G. d'Entremont
5/6 PI 1 M. Goetschkes#
5/12 Nbpt H. 1 ph S. Sullivan#
6/17 Eastham 1 ph K. Schopp
6/25 Wachusett Res. 3 ph E. Kittredge
Black Tern
5/11-6/20 P'town (RP) 4 max S. Arena + v.o.
5/11 Gill 1 ph E. Huston#
5/12, 5/27 PI 1 J. Miller#, E. Nielsen#
5/13 Plymouth 2 A. Kneidel
5/13 Nantucket 1 J. Trimble
5/24 N. Scituate 1 D. Peacock
Roseate Tern
5/6 PI 1 J. Keeley#
5/7 Mattapoisett 20 N. Marchessault
5/10 Ipswich (CB) 15 J. Berry
5/18 Westport 35 M. Iliff
5/27 PI 51 E. Nielsen#
6/22 Marion 30 M. Lynch#
Common Tern
5/8 Nbpt H. 100 R. Heil
5/10 Ipswich (CB) 140 J. Berry
5/11 Westport 110 M. Iliff
5/12 Wachusett Res. 3 M. Lynch#
5/22 PI 500 S. Williams
5/26 P'town 3100 B. Nikula
5/30 Chatham (SB) 15000 S. Williams#
6/8 Monomoy NWR 10000 M. Faherty#
6/22 Marion 150 M. Lynch#
Arctic Tern
6/21 Monomoy NWR 14 S. Williams#
Forster's Tern
5/29, 6/9 PI 1 T. Wetmore, S. Lauermann
6/23 Dennis 1 P. Flood
Royal Tern
5/27 PI 1 ph E. Nielsen#
6/3, 6/12 P'town 1 ph S. Cooper, P. Crosson#
6/17 Eastham 1 ph N. Villone
Black Skimmer
5/11 Edgartown 12 E. Johnson
5/22 Duxbury 2 W. Lackey
6/1 Plymouth B. 4 C. Gras
6/16 Eastham 1 K. Burke
6/21 Monomoy NWR 1 S. Williams#
Red-throated Loon
5/2, 6/3 P'town 70,10 B. Nikula
5/11 Westport 48 M. Iliff
5/22 PI 35 R. Heil
6/9 Cohasset 1 D. Burton
Common Loon
5/2 New Salem 17 G. Watkevich
5/6, 6/1 PI 50,8 N. Landry, T. Wetmore
5/6 Wachusett Res. 156 T. Pirro
5/11 Westport 169 M. Iliff
5/27 Rockport (AP) 16 R. Heil
6/22 Marion 4 M. Lynch#
Northern Fulmar
5/29 SE of Nantucket 7 J. Loch
Cory's Shearwater
6/22 Westport 2 M. Iliff
6/28 Rockport (AP) 1 R. Heil
6/30 E. of Chatham 3 P. Flood#
Sooty Shearwater
5/3 P'town (RP) 9 P. Flood#
6/4 Rockport (AP) 14 R. Heil
6/16 Gloucester Waters 3 M. Emmons#
6/30 E. of Chatham 425 P. Flood#
Great Shearwater
6/3 P'town 5 B. Nikula
6/4 Rockport (AP) 1 R. Heil
6/16 Gloucester Waters 7 M. Emmons#
6/30 E. of Chatham 500 P. Flood#
Manx Shearwater
thr Revere B. 17 max v.o.
5/27 Rockport (AP) 3 R. Heil
6/3 P'town 20 B. Nikula
6/22 Westport 1 M. Iliff
Wilson's Storm-Petrel
6/30 E. of Chatham 450 P. Flood#
Northern Gannet
5/4 P'town 2500 B. Nikula

Northern Gannet (continued)
5/10 PI 12 T. Wetmore#
5/11 Westport 30 M. Iliff
5/27 Rockport (AP) 79 R. Heil
Double-crested Cormorant
5/3 Medford 121 M. Rines#
5/6 Acoaxet 52 M. Lynch#
5/9 Salem (Eagle I.) 78 nests J. Berry#
5/25 BHI (Sheep I.) 275 n C. Trocki#
6/22 Marion 92 M. Lynch#
Great Cormorant
5/12 N. Scituate 4 G. d'Entremont#
5/12 Gloucester H. 1 J. Nelson
5/13 Cohasset 1 juv V. Zollo
6/22-6/26 Westport 1 M. Iliff + v.o.
6/22 Marion 1 ad M. Lynch#
Brown Pelican
6/11 Plymouth 1 ad ph S. Jones#
6/25 Nantucket 1 ! B. Foehring
American Bittern
5/4-6/2 Quabog IBA 1 M. Lynch#
5/4 Westboro 1 T. Spahr
5/12, 6/21 Monomoy NWR 2,1 J. Junda#, S. Williams#
5/22 Milton 1 P. Fellion
5/25 PI 1 D. Bates#
5/28 Ware R. IBA 2 M. Lynch#
5/29 Brookfield 1 R. Jenkins
6/2 Stow 2 N. Tepper
6/20 Chester 1 M. Lynch#
6/22 Bolton Flats 4 2pr S. Arena
6/23 New Braintree 1 M. Lynch#
Least Bittern
5/1 Marshfield 1 D. Furbish
5/11 Chatham 1 L. Waters#
5/26, 6/23 PI 3,3 D. Adrien
6/7-6/30 GMNWR 3 A. Bragg + v.o.
6/22 Bolton Flats 4 2pr S. Arena
6/30 Quabog IBA 1 M. Lynch#
Great Egret
5/2 PI 40 T. Wetmore
5/2 Orange 2 B. Lafley
5/9 Manchester (Kettle I.) 194 nests J. Berry#
5/25 BHI (Sheep I.) 82 n C. Trocki#
5/26 Uxbridge 2 N. Demers
Snowy Egret
5/9 Manchester (Kettle I.) 99 nests J. Berry#
5/24 BHI (Sheep I.) 25 n C. Trocki#
6/2 Brookfield 1 J. Lawson#
6/11 Manchester 88 M. Sovay
6/29 PI 50 T. Wetmore
Little Blue Heron
5/6 Mashpee 2 N. Villone
5/6 Wareham 1 C. Molander#
5/9 Manchester (Kettle I.) 6 4pr J. Berry#
5/12 Rockport 1 S. + J. Mirick
5/30 E. Boston (BI) 1 DCR (S. Riley)#
6/11 PI 1 ad T. Wetmore
Tricolored Heron
5/3-6/27 PI 1 ph T. Wetmore + v.o.
5/4 Barnstable 1 L. + M. Waters
5/4 E. Boston (BI) 1 ph DCR (S. Riley)#
5/6, 5/29 Westport 1 G. Gove#, M. Iliff
5/11 Duxbury B. 1 ph W. Petersen
5/31-6/2 PI 2 T. Wetmore + v.o.
6/7-6/11 Manchester 1 K. Seymour + v.o.
6/20-6/30 W. Dennis 1 ph J. Davis + v.o.
Cattle Egret
5/3-5/17 Newbury/Rowley 1 ph T. Martin + v.o.
5/8-5/11 Ipswich 1 ad P. Mamakos + v.o.
5/11 WBWS 1 ph C. O'Connor
5/15 N. Dighton 2 ph M. Eckerson#
5/30-5/31 Woburn (HP) 1 ph J. Brown + v.o.
Green Heron
5/2 Medford 2 M. Rines#
5/3 Milton 2 P. O'Neill
5/5 Gloucester (EP) 3 D. Brown
5/24 Marlborough 2 nfc T. Spahr
5/26 Bolton Flats 4 G. d'Entremont#
6/10 Fairhaven 2 G. d'Entremont#
6/14-6/29 Mattapoisett 2 N. Marchessault
6/20 Wayland 8 B. Harris
6/24 GMNWR 2 C. Cook
Black-crowned Night-Heron
5/8 BHI (Calf I.) 64 C. Trocki#
5/9 Manchester (Kettle I.) 30 nests
J. Berry#
5/23 Medford 26 K. Hartel
5/25 BHI (Sheep I.) 195 n C. Trocki#
6/30 PI 14 D. Adrien
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
5/15-5/18 Barnstable 1 C. Walz
5/26 Tisbury 1 C. Bangs
5/27-6/13 Mattapoisett 1 ad N. Marchessault
6/10 Ipswich 2 ad N. Dubrow
6/14 PI 2 D. Adrien
6/26-6/30 Barnstable 1 J. Rapp#
6/27 Nantucket 1 B. Griffin
6/28 S. Dartmouth 4 ad A. Morgan
Glossy Ibis
5/2 Newbury 48 P. + F. Vale
5/2 Lexington (DM) 22 R. Hodson
5/8 BHI (Calf I.) 25 C. Trocki#
5/9 Manchester (Kettle I.) 9 nests J. Berry#
5/12 Bolton Flats 11 R. Hodson
6/10 S. Dart. (APd) 5 G. d'Entremont
6/11 Manchester 68 M. Sovay
6/29 PI 40 T. Wetmore
White-faced Ibis
5/6-5/28 Newbury 1 ph K. Seymour + v.o.
5/11-5/12 Ipswich 1 B. Burke + v.o.

VULTURES THROUGH FINCHES

Black Vulture sightings continued to increase throughout the state including reports of up to two individuals foraging for food on the streets of downtown Lowell! Over 60 Ospreys were counted in Westport in early May, an area that has historically had the highest nesting success in the state. There were two reports of **Mississippi Kites** during the period. This species has been a regular spring migrant in the Truro-Provincetown area for several years with most records occurring from late May into early June. Hawk watchers at Plum Island on May 2 tallied impressive counts of 119 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 190 American Kestrels. Snowy Owls are unusual in June, and this year reports included singles at: Point of Pines, Revere, on June 1–2; Edgartown on June 11; and Great Point, Nantucket, through June 27. The latest historical record for the state is Logan Airport on July 7, 1990.

Southerly winds in the last days of April continued into the first week of May delivering high counts of some traditionally early spring migrants. Birders at Plum Island on May 2 recorded: 18 Blue-headed Vireos, 50 Palm Warblers, 165 Yellow-rumped Warblers, and over 300 White-throated Sparrows. The banding station on the island was busy throughout the month handling an impressive number of warblers: 322 Common Yellowthroats, 267 Magnolia Warblers, 254 American Redstarts, 106 Black-and-white Warblers, 72 Northern Parulas, 54 Black-throated Blue Warblers, and 47 Wilson's Warblers. Two of the most common warblers, though, somehow managed to avoid the banding nets; only 23 Yellow Warblers and 47 Yellow-rumped Warblers were caught.

Unseasonably chilly temperatures arrived during the second week of May when a high of just 53 degrees on May 12 put a temporary hold on migration. Clearing came from the south and a second wave of migrants appeared on May 15. Tim Spahr was positioned at the Felton Conservation area in Marlborough the previous night and listened to the calls of migrant songbirds passing overhead. Many of theses calls, especially those of the thrushes are distinct and diagnostic allowing the listener to tally: 150 Veeries, 240 Swainson's Thrushes, and another 200 unidentified *Catharus* species.

A total of thirty-five warbler species were reported during the period. The highlight was a **Swainson's Warbler** found at Santuit Pond in Mashpee, which was just the fifth record for the state. Other noteworthy reports included: **Golden-winged Warbler** in Rockport; four **Prothonotary Warblers**; three **Kentucky Warblers**; and four reports of Cerulean Warblers including an impressive six individuals noted from Skinner Park, Hadley, where they have nested in recent years. This spring saw significant numbers of reports of northern boreal-nesting warblers such as Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted. The favorite food of these species is the larvae of the spruce budworm and the last two years have seen an explosion in outbreaks of this destructive insect. Although that's bad news for conifers, it means more food and more egg-laying for these northern warblers.

Winter finches, especially crossbills, are nomadic and can occur at any time of the year. This period **Red Crossbills,** both adults and juveniles, were found in nine locations with significant numbers in Berkshire County at Mount Greylock and the Washington-Pittsfield area. Most of the recordings that were identified to type were Type 1/Appalachian and Type 10/Sitka Spruce. A few Evening Grosbeaks were reported from scattered locations in the hill towns of Worcester and Franklin counties.

Sought-after species this period included 11 reports of Acadian Flycatchers (compared with just six last year), and Philadelphia Vireos were reported from double-digit locations, which is more than double the number from last year. There were two reports of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** including an adult at Manomet that was still present at the end of June. Clay-colored Sparrows were found in seven localities with breeding expected again at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod. **Summer Tanagers** were noted from five areas with as many as five individuals from Nantucket. A pair of Blue Grosbeaks was on territory again this year at the Frances Crane Wildlife Management Area in Falmouth and a female **Painted Bunting** was found in Dorchester.

Breeding success can be measured through comprehensive surveys of an area between late May and the end of June. Mark Lynch and Sheila Carroll surveyed the town of Petersham, located on the east side of Quabbin Reservoir, on June 11 and tallied some impressive numbers of breeding birds: 23 Eastern Wood-Pewees, 10 Alder Flycatchers, 43 Veeries, 22 Hermit Thrushes, and 29 Black-throated Green Warblers. A similar breeding survey in Great Barrington, Berkshire County on June 16 recorded the following: 44 Least Flycatchers, 19 Blue-headed Vireos, 161 Red-eyed Vireos, 22 Hermit Thrushes, 61 Chestnut-sided Warblers, and 18 Black-throated Green Warblers. *R. Stymeist*

References

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Black Vulture
- 5/7 WBWS 1 J. Pratt
- 5/11 Foxborough 2 M. Waters
- 6/2 Hadley 3 BBC (M. Burns)
- 6/12 Plymouth 1 A. Lamoreaux#
- 6/19-6/27 Lowell 2 ph B.Harrison + v.o.
- 6/22 Wrentham 2 N. Block
- 6/28 Millbury 3 D. Miles

Turkey Vulture
- 6/20 Chester 21 M. Lynch#
- 6/27 Gill 51 M. Lynch#

Osprey
- 5/6 Westport 63 M. Lynch#
- 5/15 PI 13 R. Heil
- 6/22 Marion 19 14ad+5yg M. Lynch#
- 6/22 Westport 18 M. Iliff

Mississippi Kite
- 5/25 Truro 1 ad ph S. Williams#
- 5/26 Truro 1 imm S. Williams

Bald Eagle
- 5/5 Winchester 3 1ad+2juv C. Tibrewal#
- 5/11 Quabog IBA 3 1ad+2yg M. Lynch#
- 6/20 Milton 3 S. Baird

Northern Harrier
- 5/2 PI 11 Hawkcount (T. Mara)
- 5/8 Westboro 1 D. Lusignan
- 5/12 Essex 1 J. Nelson
- 5/19 Pepperell 1 D. Swain#
- 6/21 Monomoy NWR 4 S. Williams#
- 6/23 Orange 1 S. Schwenk

Sharp-shinned Hawk
- 5/2, 5/3 PI 119,15 Hawkcount (T. Mara)
- 5/3 Ipswich (CB) 2 J. Berry
- 6/10 Plymouth 2 L. Schibley
- 6/27 Colrain 3 1ad+2imm M. Lynch#

Cooper's Hawk
- 5/28 Boxford 1 J. Berry#
- 6/17 Orange 1 M. Lynch#

Northern Goshawk
- 5/5 N. Easton 1 E. Dalton
- 6/26 Sudbury 2 1ad+1juv C. Muise#

Red-shouldered Hawk
- 5/14 PI 1 T. Wetmore
- 5/18 Manomet 2 L. Schibley
- 6/29 Royalston 2 E. LeBlanc

Broad-winged Hawk
- 5/1 New Salem 2 1pr B. Lafley
- 5/1 Quabbin Pk 2 L. Therrien
- 5/16 Wompatuck SP 2 D. Peacock
- 5/19 Gloucester 1 S. Hedman
- 6/17 October Mountain 5 SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
- 6/29 Winchendon 5 M. Lynch#

Eastern Screech-Owl
- 6/4 MtA 3 1ad+2yg R. Stymeist#
- 6/8 Ipswich 4 2ad+2yg J. Berry#

Great Horned Owl
- 5/2 Newbury 2 juv J. Berry
- 5/8 Cambr. (FP) 2 P. + F. Vale
- 5/11 Quabog IBA 2 M. Lynch#
- 5/24 Lexington 3 juv J. Andrews
- 6/8 PI 2 T. Wetmore
- 6/22 Plymouth 3 1pr+1juv A. Kneidel

Snowy Owl
- thr-6/27 Reports of indiv. from 14 locations
- 5/5 Nantucket 4 H. Young
- 5/13 P'town (RP) 2 S. Arena
- 5/15-5/18 Duxbury B. 2 J. Chisholm + v.o.

Barred Owl
- 5/2 Oxford 2 M. Aldrich
- 5/11 Quabog IBA 6 M. Lynch#
- 5/21 Ware R. IBA 3 2ad+1yg M. Lynch#
- 6/5 W. Barnstable 2 P. Crosson

Northern Saw-whet Owl
- 5/12 Ware R. IBA 1 M. Lynch#
- 6/3 Hawley 1 M. Lynch#

Belted Kingfisher
- 5/2 PI 2 D. Prima
- 6/30 Quabog IBA 2 M. Lynch#

Red-headed Woodpecker
- 5/12-5/15 Ipswich 1 A. Steenstrup + v.o.
- 5/17-6/30 Manomet 1 ad S. Abele + v.o.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- 5/9 Petersham 14 M. Lynch#
- 5/14 Huntington 27 M. Lynch#
- 6/9 Quabbin (G8) 6 R. Lockwood
- 6/16 Great Barrington 10 M. Lynch#
- 6/17 October Mountain 7 SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
- 6/30 New Salem 11 L. Therrien

Northern Flicker
- 5/1 Ware R. IBA 10 M. Lynch#

Pileated Woodpecker
- 5/4 Nbpt 2 A. + R. Wallace
- 5/5 Ipswich 3 J. Berry#
- 5/12 Petersham 5 M. Lynch#
- 6/9 Wendell 6 M. Lynch#

American Kestrel
- 5/2 PI 190 Hawkcount (T. Mara)
- 5/5 Plymouth Airport 3 BBC (G. d'Entremont)
- 5/6 Saugus 2 S. Zendeh#
- 6/13 Uxbridge 3 2ad+1juv B. Marshall
- 6/25 Medford 6 1pr+4yg J. Nathan
- 6/29 Ipswich 7 2ad+5yg b J. Berry#

Merlin
- 5/2, 5/5 PI 13,4 Hawkcount (T. Mara)
- 5/10 Rochester 2 L. Gerrior

Peregrine Falcon
- 6/1-6/30 Watertown 6 2ad+4yg R. Stymeist#
- 6/8 Lawrence 4 1ad+3yg b T. French#
- 6/24 Woburn 4 1pr+2yg M. Sterling

Olive-sided Flycatcher
- 5/15-6/7 Reports of indiv. from 13 locations

Eastern Wood-Pewee
- 5/30 Quabbin Pk 6 L. Therrien
- 6/2 Hadley 6 BBC (M. Burns)
- 6/5 W. Barnstable 8 P. Crosson
- 6/9 Wendell 29 M. Lynch#
- 6/9 Ipswich 10 J. Berry#
- 6/11 Petersham 23 M. Lynch#

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
- 5/10-6/6 Reports of indiv. from 12 locations
- 5/22 PI 3 S. Williams
- 6/6 MBO 4 b T. Lloyd-Evans#

Acadian Flycatcher
- 5/16 Wompatuck SP 1 D. Peacock

Acadian Flycatcher (continued)

5/20	MtA	1	R. Jilek
5/22	Orleans	1	C. Goodrich
5/23, 5/24	MBO	1,1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/23	Newton	1	C. Dalton
5/25	Fall River	2	G. d'Entremont#
5/25-6/10	Quabbin (G8)	2 max	M.McKitrick+v.o.
5/26	Marblehead	1	L. Waters#
6/5	Douglas	1	N. Paulson
6/9	Wellfleet	1	B. Nikula
6/19-6/26	Freetown	2	L. Waters + v.o.

Alder Flycatcher

5/12	PI	1	J. Miller
5/23	MBO	5 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/28	Cumb. Farms	7	N. Marchessault
6/7	PI	5	P. + F. Vale
6/11	Petersham	10	M. Lynch#
6/17	October Mountain	8	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)

Willow Flycatcher

5/4	Nbpt H.	1 ad f	P. + F. Vale
5/4	Quabog IBA	1	M. Lynch#
6/3	Wayland	10	J. Hoye#
6/7-6/10	PI	15	T. Wetmore
6/17	Bolton Flats	27	S. Arena

Traill's Flycatcher (Willow / Alder)

5/20-5/31	PI	15 b	B. Flemer#

Least Flycatcher

5/3	Westboro	1	A. Barndt
5/13-5/18	PI	10 b	B. Flemer#
5/14	Huntington	43	M. Lynch#
5/15	PI	12	P. + F. Vale
5/15	MBO	8 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
6/16	Great Barrington	44	M. Lynch#

Great Crested Flycatcher

5/3	MtA	2	J. Trimble#
5/8	E. Brimfield	9	B. Zajda
5/11	Ipswich	7	J. Berry
5/21	Ware R. IBA	9	M. Lynch#
5/22	PI	8	R. Heil
6/9	Wendell	9	M. Lynch#

Eastern Kingbird

5/1	Cambridge	2	M. Sinclair
5/15	PI	14	R. Heil + v.o.
5/26	P'town	14	B. Nikula
6/2	Quabog IBA	29	M. Lynch#

White-eyed Vireo

5/4-6/22	Reports of indiv. from 12 locations		
5/9	PI	1 b	B. Flemer#
5/24	S. Dartmouth	4	J. Hoye#

Yellow-throated Vireo

5/3	N. Easton	1	M. Eckerson#
5/14	Huntington	16	M. Lynch#
5/30	Quabbin Pk	5	L. Therrien
6/11	Newbury	4	J. Berry
6/13	Quabog IBA	14	M. Lynch#

Blue-headed Vireo

5/2	PI	18	P. + F. Vale
5/4	MtA	14	S. Williams
6/16	Great Barrington	19	M. Lynch#
6/29	Winchendon	21	M. Lynch#

Philadelphia Vireo

5/10	Rockport (HPt)	1	B. Burke
5/17	Truro	1 ph	M. Waters#
5/17-5/20	MtA	1 ph	D. Hursh + v.o.
5/18	Wakefield	1	B. Lee
5/19	Barnstable	1 ph	M. Keleher
5/21, 5/22	PI	1,3	J. Young#, S. Williams#
5/21	Marblehead	1	S. Williams#
5/21	Natick	1	E. Nguyen
5/22	MSSF	1	W. Lackey
5/24	Reading	1	M. Daley
5/25, 5/29	MNWS	1,1	D. Bates#, J. Smith

Warbling Vireo

5/17	Cambr. (Alewife)	13	C. Cook
6/2	Quabog IBA	28	M. Lynch#

Red-eyed Vireo

5/3	N. Easton	1	M. Eckerson#
5/5	MtA	2	J. Benson
5/30	Petersham	149	M. Lynch#
6/16	Great Barrington	161	M. Lynch#
6/16	Mount Greylock	96	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)

Fish Crow

5/5	Nantucket	6	S. Kardell
5/9	PI	7	P. + F. Vale
5/27	Quabog IBA	4 2ad+2yg	M. Lynch#
6/22	Marion	11	M. Lynch#

Common Raven

thr	MtA	3 1pr+1yg	R. Stymeist#
6/2	Hadley	5	BBC (M. Burns)
6/16	Barre	6 1pr+4juv	M. Larson#
6/19	Lexington (DM)	5	J. Forbes

Horned Lark

5/27	Plymouth Airport	3	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
6/3	Plymouth B.	3	D. Burton
6/21	Monomoy NWR	16	S. Williams#

Purple Martin

5/6	Rochester	12	G. Gove#
5/29	PI	20	T. Wetmore
6/2	Hopkinton	4	D. Swain#
6/30	Mashpee	130	M. Keleher

Tree Swallow

5/12	Quabog IBA	325	M. Lynch#
6/30	PI	120	D. Prima

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

5/11	Nbpt H.	10	S. McGrath#
5/14	Huntington	13	M. Lynch#
6/13	Ipswich	6 2ad+4yg	J. Berry

Bank Swallow

5/7, 5/18	PI	1,18	T. Wetmore + v.o.
5/26	Plymouth	14	L. Schibley
5/27	Quabog IBA	50	M. Lynch#
6/20	Chatham	20	M. Faherty

Cliff Swallow

5/12	Westboro	3	T. Spahr
5/22	Newbury	8	J. Nelson
6/17	Sterling	3	G. Dresser

Barn Swallow

5/12	Quabog IBA	230	M. Lynch#
5/12	PI	50	S. Miller#

Red-breasted Nuthatch

5/20	Winchendon	30	M. Lynch#
6/9	Quabbin (G8)	4	R. Lockwood
6/10	Plymouth	5	L. Schibley
6/16	Ipswich	5	J. Berry#
6/17	October Mountain	3	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
6/24	PI	3	T. Wetmore
6/27	Colrain	19	M. Lynch#
6/30	New Salem	13	L. Therrien

Brown Creeper

5/1	Ware R. IBA	6	M. Lynch#
5/2	PI	1 b	B. Flemer#
5/5	Wompatuck SP	4	BBC (G. d'Entremont)
6/16	Ipswich	3	J. Berry#
6/17	Washington	4	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)

House Wren

5/4	Quabog IBA	21	M. Lynch#
5/4	W. Newbury	13	P. + F. Vale
5/21, 5/26	PI	1,1 b	B. Flemer#
6/22	Marion	15	M. Lynch#

Winter Wren

5/9	Petersham	9	M. Lynch#
6/9	Quabbin (G8)	4	R. Lockwood
6/17	October Mountain	2	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
6/27	Boxford	4	J. Berry#

Marsh Wren
5/15 PI 30 R. Heil
5/22 MtA 1 ph R. Jilek
5/24 GMNWR 25 A. Bragg#
6/2 Quabog IBA 11 M. Lynch#
6/17 Bolton Flats 34 S. Arena
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
5/3 Westboro 14 A. Barndt
5/3 Stoneham 9 C. Popp
5/4 W. Newbury 7 P. + F. Vale
5/4 MtA 6 S. Williams
5/5 P'town 18 L. Waters#
5/30 Quabbin Pk 8 L. Therrien
Golden-crowned Kinglet
5/4 PI 3 A. Bean
6/27 Colrain 5 M. Lynch#
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
5/2 PI 20 P. + F. Vale
5/2-5/17 PI 30 b B. Flemer#
5/2 Monson 9 M. Lynch#
5/5 P'town 11 L. Waters#
Eastern Bluebird
6/12 Ipswich 9 J. Berry
6/19 Ware R. IBA 23 8ad+15yg M. Lynch#
Veery
5/2-5/25 PI 17 b B. Flemer#
5/14 Marlborough 150 nfc T. Spahr
6/3 Fall River 9 G. d'Entremont
6/9 Quabbin (G8) 43 R. Lockwood
6/11 Petersham 43 M. Lynch#
6/16 Mount Greylock 13 SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
Gray-cheeked Thrush
5/12 Rutland 1 au R. Jenkins
5/14, 5/24 Marlborough 1,3 nfc T. Spahr
5/16 Chestnut Hill 1 au M. Garvey
5/16-5/17 Newton 1 D. Scott + v.o.
5/16 Wompatuck SP 1 au D. Peacock
5/17, 5/28 MtA 1 au ph C. Cook, C. Floyd
5/19-5/20 Dedham 1 ph M. Iliff + v.o.
5/21 Quabbin Pk 1 L. Therrien
5/23 MBO 1 b T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/27 PI 1 b B. Flemer#
5/27 Boston 1 ph T. Bradford#
Swainson's Thrush
5/9-5/30 PI 26 b B. Flemer#
5/14, 5/24 Marlborough 200, 480 nfc T. Spahr
5/17 MtA 17 C. Cook + vo
5/22 PI 18 S. Williams
5/23 MBO 17 b T. Lloyd-Evans#
6/16 Mount Greylock 2 SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
Hermit Thrush
5/2-5/18 PI 18 b B. Flemer#
5/2 E. Boston (BI) 12 DCR (S. Riley)
6/3 Hawley 16 M. Lynch#
6/11 Petersham 22 M. Lynch#
Wood Thrush
5/2-5/18 MtA 1 M. Badger + v.o.
5/5 PI 1 b B. Flemer#
5/6 Hadley 23 B. Zajda
5/10 Reading 4 D. Williams
5/14 W. Warren 39 B. Zajda
5/16 Wompatuck SP 6 D. Peacock
6/16 Great Barrington 6 M. Lynch#
6/16 Ipswich 5 J. Berry#
Gray Catbird
5/2-5/31 MBO 389 b T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/3-5/31 PI 114 b B. Flemer#
5/4 Quabog IBA 88 M. Lynch#
5/22 PI 98 R. Heil
Brown Thrasher
5/4 PI 14 P. + F. Vale
5/6 MtA 2 n C. Cook
5/14 W. Warren 4 B. Zajda
Cedar Waxwing
5/21 P'town 115 B. Nikula
5/22 PI 45 R. Heil
5/23 Worc. 29 M. Lynch#
5/25 Ipswich 35 J. Berry#
American Pipit
5/6 P'town 8 L. Waters#
5/24 Amesbury 5 A. Gurka
Evening Grosbeak
5/11 Warwick 4 2pr G. d'Entremont#
6/3 Hawley 3 M. Lynch#
6/8 Pelham 2 A. Hulsey#
6/19 Athol 2 pr D. Small
6/27 Winchendon 1 S. Williams
Purple Finch
5/5 S. Amherst 4 B. Zajda
5/11 PI 18 C. Cook
6/16 Mount Greylock 9 SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
6/29 Winchendon 14 M. Lynch#
Red Crossbill
5/1 Pepperell 1 M. Resch
5/8 Windsor 8 Type10 au T. Spahr
5/8 Savoy 6 Type10 au T. Spahr
5/8 Quabbin Pk 1 L. Therrien
6/17, 6/22 Mt Watatic 2,1 K. Wilmarth, C. Dalton
6/18 Mount Greylock 49 Type10 au S. Williams#
6/26 Dalton/Washington 31 10T1;1T3;20T10 au T. Spahr
6/30 New Salem 4 L. Therrien
Pine Siskin
5/15 Concord 2 J. Keyes
5/26 Windsor 1 M. Iliff
6/19 Westwood 1 E. Nielsen
Eastern Towhee
5/1 Ware R. IBA 36 M. Lynch#
5/2 MBO 9 b T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/8 E. Brimfield 27 B. Zajda
5/11 PI 40 C. Cook
6/5 W. Barnstable 56 P. Crosson
6/9 Wendell 69 M. Lynch#
American Tree Sparrow
5/5 PI 1 J. Kovner
5/18 Boston (AA) 1 M. Perrin
Clay-colored Sparrow
5/12-6/2 Camp Edwards 2 max ph J.McCumber + v.o.
5/12 Hadley 1 ph A. + D. Griffiths
5/15-5/21 Boston (McW) 1 ph P. Peterson + v.o.
5/18 E. Boston 1 ph S. Jones#
5/19-5/20 Medford (Tufts) 1 ph N. Dorian + v.o.
5/21 Boston (FPk) 1 ph S. Baird
5/23 Medford 1 ph R. LaFontaine#
Field Sparrow
5/4-5/16 PI 5 P. + F. Vale
5/30 Petersham 7 M. Lynch#
6/15 Concord 13 C. Winstanley#
6/16 Mount Greylock 3 SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
6/22 Plymouth 6 A. Kneidel
Vesper Sparrow
5/1 Lancaster 1 J. Hoye#
5/2 Orange 1 B. Lafley
5/5 Ipswich 1 J. Berry#
5/5 S. Amherst 1 B. Zajda
5/24 Amesbury 1 A. Gurka
5/25 Bolton 1 D. Bates#
Savannah Sparrow
5/15 PI 18 R. Heil
5/27 Plymouth Airport 3 SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
6/3 Hawley 6 M. Lynch#
6/10 Saugus 28 L. Pivacek#
Grasshopper Sparrow
5/7 Amherst 1 B. Zajda
5/10-6/19 Lancaster/Bolton 3 max A.Barndt + v.o.
5/17 Marlborough 1 nfc T. Spahr
5/21 Falmouth 13 S. Matheney

Grasshopper Sparrow (continued)

5/27	Plymouth Airport	2	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
5/27	MBWMA	1	G. Power
6/12	Cuttyhunk I.	1	C. Walz

Saltmarsh Sparrow

5/15, 6/26	PI	3,46	T. Wetmore, R. Heil
5/30	E. Boston (BI)	4	P. Peterson

Seaside Sparrow

5/3-6/30	PI	3 max	T. Wetmore
5/28	Barnstable	2	M. Keleher#
6/10	S. Dart. (APd)	3	G. d'Entremont

Lincoln's Sparrow

5/3-5/5	Boston (PG)	1	R. Timberlake + v.o.
5/6	Medfield	1	J. Bock
5/7	Manomet	1	A. Kneidel#
5/17-5/29	PI	7 b	B. Flemer#
5/17-5/25	MNWS	1	S. Simpson
5/19	New Salem	1	B. Lafley
5/20	Marlborough	1 nfc	T. Spahr
5/21	Quabbin Pk	1	L. Therrien
5/21	W. Roxbury	1	P. Peterson
5/21	Westboro	1	T. Spahr
5/24	Concord	1 nfc	G. Dupont

Swamp Sparrow

5/3-5/10	GMNWR	18	A. Bragg#
5/4	Quabog IBA	49	M. Lynch#
5/4	MBO	10 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/5	PI	15	E. Labato
5/5	PI	6 b	B. Flemer#
5/10	Concord (KF)	12	C. Cook
6/17	October Mountain	6	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)

White-throated Sparrow

5/2	PI	300	G. d'Entremont
5/2-5/23	PI	100 b	B. Flemer#
5/4	MBO	37 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/5	Winthrop	40	J. Forbes
5/5	P'town	17	L. Waters#
6/16	Mount Greylock	4	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)

White-crowned Sparrow

5/5	MtA	2	J. Benson
5/6-5/10	PI	6	M. Daley
5/7	Ipswich	2 ad	J. Berry#
5/8	Nbpt H.	2	R. Heil
5/19	P'town Airport	2 ad	G. d'Entremont
5/21	Rockport (HPt)	3	S. Hedman

Dark-eyed Junco

5/2	PI	1 b	B. Flemer#
5/11	Hadley (Skinner SP)	3	G. d'Entremont#
5/14	W. Gloucester	1	J. Nelson
6/16	Mount Greylock	16	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)

Yellow-breasted Chat

5/2	Westport	1	B. King
5/26	Cape Ann	1	B. Harris

Bobolink

5/14	Marlborough	6 nfc	T. Spahr
5/15	PI	34	R. Heil
5/24	Amesbury	35	A. Gurka
6/10	Saugus	28	L. Pivacek#
6/23	New Braintree	49	M. Lynch#

Eastern Meadowlark

5/8	E. Brimfield	6	B. Zajda
5/11	Essex	2	J. Nelson
5/14	Hadley	2	M. Lynch#
5/27	Plymouth Airport	3	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
6/13	Amesbury	4	MAS (D. Weaver)
6/16	Hardwick	2	C. Buelow

Orchard Oriole

5/3	Stoneham	2	C. Popp
5/15	PI	12	R. Heil
5/17	W. Roxbury (MP)	6	M. Iliff
5/26	Ipswich (CB)	4 2pr n	J. Berry
6/24	Hamilton	6	J. Berry

Baltimore Oriole

5/6	MtA	14	C. Cook
5/11-5/22	PI	10	C. Cook + v.o.
5/14	Huntington	28	M. Lynch#
5/17	Newton	20	C. Martone
6/2	Quabog IBA	37	M. Lynch#
6/11	Newbury	13	J. Berry

Rusty Blackbird

5/2	PI	1 m	G. d'Entremont#

Ovenbird

5/2-5/26	PI	50 b	B. Flemer#
5/9	Petersham	152	M. Lynch#
5/10	Wompatuck SP	53	P. + F. Vale
5/11	Ipswich	51	J. Berry
5/17	Marlborough	36 nfc	T. Spahr
5/22	MBO	9 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
6/5	W. Barnstable	89	P. Crosson
6/9	Wendell	115	M. Lynch#
6/9	Quabbin (G8)	72	R. Lockwood
6/17	October Mountain	53	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)

Worm-eating Warbler

thr	Reports of indiv. from 15 locations		
5/6	Hadley	8	B. Zajda

Louisiana Waterthrush

5/8	Seekonk	2	J. Eckerson#
5/9	Petersham	8	M. Lynch#
6/20	Chester	10	M. Lynch#

Northern Waterthrush

5/2-5/28	PI	28 b	B. Flemer#
5/5	Brookline	4	P. Peterson
5/20	Marlborough	13 nfc	T. Spahr
5/21	W. Bridgewater	8	B. Loughlin
5/21	Marblehead	5	S. Williams#

Golden-winged Warbler

5/19-5/20	Rockport	1 ph	B. Harris + v.o.

Blue-winged Warbler

5/5	Westport	5	A. Eckerson#
5/5	Wompatuck SP	4	BBC (G. d'Entremont)
5/6	Medfield	14	J. Bock
5/15	Westboro	11	T. Spahr
5/28	Cumb. Farms	8	N. Marchessault
5/30	Quabbin Pk	6	L. Therrien
6/15	Concord	6	C. Winstanley#

Brewster's Warbler (hybrid)

5/3-6/13	Amherst	1 ph au	L. Therrien + v.o.
5/13	MBWMA	1	J. Young
5/20	Pepperell	1	S. Miller#

Lawrence's Warbler (hybrid)

5/6	Boston (PG)	1 ph au	M. McCarthy + v.o.
5/13	Princeton	1 ph	K. L.
5/13-5/17	Uxbridge	1	R. Holden
5/21-5/24	W. Newbury	1	P. Reeser + v.o.

Black-and-white Warbler

5/2-5/25	MBO	125 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/7-5/28	PI	106 b	B. Flemer#
5/11	PI	43	C. Cook
5/17	MtA	24	C. Cook
5/18	P'town	28	B. Nikula

Prothonotary Warbler

5/6	PI	1 ph	S. Grinley#
5/8	Cambr. (FP)	1	P. Terry#
5/12	Sandwich	1 ph	S. Boutilier#
5/19-5/21	Oxford	1 m ph	J. Lawson + v.o.

Swainson's Warbler

5/6	Mashpee	1 ph	P. Crosson# + v.o.

Tennessee Warbler

5/5	Boston (PG)	1	R. Stymeist#
5/15	Nbpt	5	S. Grinley
5/16-5/17	MtA	4	F. Lehman, C. Cook
5/20	Pepperell	6	J. Forbes
5/21	Medford	6	M. Rines
5/21	Marblehead	5	S. Williams#

Orange-crowned Warbler
5/1, 5/8 Boston (FPk) 1,1 J. Young
5/2-5/6,5/13 MtA 1,1 J. Trimble#
5/3 P'town 1 S. Williams#
5/3 Waltham 1 J. Forbes
5/6-5/8 Boston (McW) 1 S. Jones#
5/9 Quincy 1 J. Young
5/13 Brookline 1 C.Wu
5/16 Amherst 1 L. Therrien
5/17 Pittsfield 1 G. Hurley
Nashville Warbler
5/5-5/16 PI 10 b B. Flemer#
5/8 Medford 9 M. Rines#
5/17 MtA 4 MAS (B. Stevens)
5/18 Marblehead 24 S. Simpson
Mourning Warbler
5/16-6/16 Reports of indiv. from 13 locations
5/21 Ware R. IBA 3 ph M. Lynch#
5/22 PI 3 1m+2f R. Heil
5/25-5/31 PI 6 b B. Flemer#
5/30 Quabbin Pk 2 L. Therrien
6/16 Mount Greylock 2 SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
Kentucky Warbler
5/7 Worc. 1 f ph B. Robo
5/20 Medford 1 M. Rines
5/22 Wrentham 1 J. Young
Common Yellowthroat
5/3-5/31 PI 322 b B. Flemer#
5/14 Huntington 97 M. Lynch#
5/20 Winchendon 79 M. Lynch#
5/22 PI 110 R. Heil
5/22 MBO 51 b T. Lloyd-Evans#
Hooded Warbler
5/1-6/25 Reports of indiv. from 20 locations
American Redstart
5/5-5/31 PI 254 b B. Flemer#
5/9-5/30 MBO 199 b T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/14 Huntington 79 M. Lynch#
5/17 MtA 15 C. Cook
5/18 P'town 13 B. Nikula
5/22 PI 126 R. Heil
5/22 MBO 62 b T. Lloyd-Evans#
Cape May Warbler
5/3-5/28 Reports of indiv. from 19 locations
5/5 PI 3 b B. Flemer#
5/6 Lowell 2 M. Baird
5/11 Boston (McW) 4 2m+2f S. Jones
5/12 Petersham 3 M. Lynch#
5/17, 5/20 Marlborough 13,9 nfc T. Spahr
5/16 Quabbin Pk 2 B. Zajda
5/17, 5/18 MBO 1,1 2m b T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/17 Marlborough 13 nfc T. Spahr
5/17 MtA 6 C. Cook
5/18 Marblehead 3 S. Simpson
Cerulean Warbler
5/2-thr Hadley (Skinner SP) 6 max K. Yakola + v.o.
5/2 MtA 1 m J. Keyes#
5/12 Medford 1 P. Ippolito#
5/26 Medford 1 M. Rines#
Northern Parula
5/5-5/28 PI 72 b B. Flemer#
5/6 MtA 46 C. Cook
5/6 Medford 27 M. Rines#
5/17 Marlborough 62 nfc T. Spahr
5/18 P'town 30 B. Nikula
5/18 MBO 16 b T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/22 PI 40 R. Heil
Magnolia Warbler
5/4-5/29 MBO 205 b T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/5-5/29 PI 267 b B. Flemer#
5/18 P'town 20 B. Nikula
5/21 Marblehead 38 S. Williams#
5/22 Medford 43 M. Rines
5/28 PI 65 D. Walters#
Bay-breasted Warbler
5/15 PI 8 7m+1f R. Heil
5/17, 5/20 Marlborough 16,13 nfc T. Spahr
5/18 MtA 12 F. Lehman
5/21 Marblehead 12 S. Williams#
Blackburnian Warbler
5/4, 5/23 PI 2,4 P. + F. Vale
5/14 Huntington 11 M. Lynch#
5/17 MtA 8 MAS (B. Stevens)
5/30 Quabbin Pk 8 L. Therrien
6/16 Mount Greylock 16 SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
6/17 October Mountain 9 SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
Yellow Warbler
5/4 Quabog IBA 39 M. Lynch#
5/4-5/30 PI 23 b B. Flemer#
5/6 Acoaxet 41 M. Lynch#
5/15 PI 102 R. Heil
5/17 Cambr. (Alewife) 35 C. Cook
5/28 Cumb. Farms 40 N. Marchessault
Chestnut-sided Warbler
5/5-5/25 PI 9 b B. Flemer#
5/14 Huntington 75 M. Lynch#
6/16 Great Barrington 61 M. Lynch#
6/16 Mount Greylock 20 SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
Blackpoll Warbler
5/3 Boston (FPk) 2 P. Peterson
5/17 MtA 10 MAS (B. Stevens)
5/18-5/29 PI 5 b B. Flemer#
5/23 Worc. 12 M. Lynch#
5/25 MBO 22 b T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/28 PI 26 D. Walters#
6/16 Mount Greylock 3 SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
Black-throated Blue Warbler
5/2-5/26 PI 54 b B. Flemer#
5/14 Marlborough 10 nfc T. Spahr
5/17 MtA 10 MAS (B. Stevens)
5/18 P'town 10 B. Nikula
5/18 MBO 7 b T. Lloyd-Evans#
6/9 Wendell 31 M. Lynch#
6/16 Mount Greylock 18 SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
Palm Warbler
5/2 PI 50 T. Wetmore
5/2-5/4 PI 29 b B. Flemer#
5/2 Medford 17 M. Rines#
5/2 Stoneham 7 C. Popp
5/3 Boston (FPk) 5 P. Peterson
Palm Warbler (Western)
5/5 Hatfield 1 ph A. Hulsey
5/5-5/8 Amherst 1 A. Griffiths
5/6 PI 1 D. Walters + v.o.
Pine Warbler
5/1 Ware R. IBA 56 M. Lynch#
5/5 Wompatuck SP 15 BBC (G. d'Entremont)
6/9 Quabbin (G8) 23 R. Lockwood
6/30 New Salem 22 L. Therrien
Yellow-rumped Warbler
5/2 PI 165 G. d'Entremont
5/2 Medford 103 M. Rines#
5/2-5/15 PI 47 b B. Flemer#
5/2 P'town 45 B. Nikula
Tennessee Warbler
5/2 MBO 39 b T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/3 Boston (FPk) 70 P. Peterson
5/4 Quabog IBA 88 M. Lynch#
5/6 MtA 82 C. Cook
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)
6/10-6/11 MtA 1 ph R. Gurule + v.o.
Yellow-throated Warbler
5/5 Boston (PG) 1 D. Hunneman
5/7 Mashpee 1 ph M. Keleher#
5/12 ONWR 1 B. Hodson#
5/28 Barnstable (SN) 1 ph S. Finnegan#

Prairie Warbler			
5/2-5/6	PI	3 b	B. Flemer#
5/30	Petersham	10	M. Lynch#
6/9	Wendell	11	M. Lynch#
6/10	Plymouth	11	L. Schibley
6/20-6/21	MSSF	6	N. Marchessault + v.o.
Black-throated Green Warbler			
5/14	Huntington	26	M. Lynch#
5/15	PI	28	P. + F. Vale
5/17	MtA	17	C. Cook
6/11	Petersham	29	M. Lynch#
6/16	Great Barrington	18	M. Lynch#
Canada Warbler			
5/11-5/29	PI	26 b	B. Flemer#
5/20	Marlborough	12 nfc	T. Spahr
5/22	PI	12	S. Williams
5/22	Medford	10	M. Rines
6/17	October Mountain	3	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
Wilson's Warbler			
5/5-5/28	PI	47 b	B. Flemer#
5/17	W. Roxbury (MP)	4	M. Iliff
5/18	MBO	8 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/20	MtA	5	C. Cook
5/21	Marblehead	10	S. Williams#
5/22	PI	16	S. Williams
Summer Tanager			
5/3-5/24	Nantucket	1-5 ph	E. Caune + v.o.
5/4	PI	1 m ph	T. Wetmore#
5/7	Boston (FPk)	1 m	J. Young#
5/8	Edgartown	1	I. Certner
5/8	Boston	1 m ph	S. Jones
Scarlet Tanager			
5/4	Medford	1	M. Rines#
5/11	Hadley (Skinner SP)	7	G. d'Entremont#
6/5	Douglas	36	N. Paulson
6/9	Wendell	28	M. Lynch#
6/16	Ipswich	9	J. Berry#
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
5/2	MtA	1	M. Badger
5/14	Marlborough	15 nfc	T. Spahr
6/6	Warren	19	M. Lynch#
6/11	Newbury	8 m	J. Berry
6/16	Mount Greylock	6	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
Blue Grosbeak			
5/1	MBWMA	1	S. Babbitt
5/1-5/7	Arlington Res.	1	J. Forbes + v.o.
5/4	Orleans	1	C. O'Connor
5/6	Medfield	1 ad m	E. Nielsen
5/15	Westboro	1	T. Spahr
5/17	MtA	1 ad f	C. Cook
5/25-6/3	Falmouth	2	M. Keleher, v.o.
5/26	Plymouth	1 ad m	L. Schibley
Indigo Bunting			
5/20	PI	1 b	B. Flemer#
6/3	Hawley	13	M. Lynch#
6/3	Hopkinton	6	S. Miller
6/11	Newbury	7 m	J. Berry
6/16	Mount Greylock	8	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
6/23	New Braintree	24	M. Lynch#
Painted Bunting			
5/22	Dorchester	1 f	J. Taylor
Dickcissel			
5/20	Edgartown	1 ph	S. Whiting

BYGONE BIRDS

Historical Highlights for May–June

Neil Hayward

5 YEARS AGO

May–June 2013

Plum Island hosted two exceptional shorebirds: a **Common Ringed Plover**, May 20–23, that was the third record for the state, and a **Red-necked Stint** a month later from June 27–28. A **Franklin's Gull** at Bolton Flats on May 29 was the first for five years, and one of only two inland records in the previous 20 years. A **Chuck-will's-widow** returned for the third year in a row to Pochet Island in Orleans. It would be the last record there until this spring, 2018. A **Townsend's Warbler** on Nantucket on May 5 was only the fourth spring record for the state.

Best sighting: A **Lewis's Woodpecker** photographed in Lunenburg on May 26 was the third record for the state.

10 YEARS AGO

May–June 2008

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** that lingered on Nantucket until the end of June was the first summer record for this species. Two male **Ruffs** in Rowley, May 3–8, attracted a lot of attention. Plum Island scored a **Franklin's Gull** on June 5, and a pair of displaying **Gull-billed Terns** in the first three weeks of June. A **White-winged Dove** was found at Tuckernuck Island on June 2, where a pair of Short-eared Owls raised four young. A **Western Tanager** in Amherst on May 18 was only the third for western Massachusetts. A **Loggerhead Shrike** was singing and nest building at Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod, but failed to attract a mate. The last time this species bred in the state was 1971. A **Prothonotary Warbler** in Middlesex Fells was also observed nest building.

Best sighting: A flock of nine **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** in Ipswich on June 6 was the first accepted record for the state. This sighting came just two days after the same flock was seen in Nova Scotia.

20 YEARS AGO

May–June 1998

Two (!) **Little Egrets** were discovered on May 16: at Nantucket and 25 miles away at North Monomoy. A **Bar-tailed Godwit**, presumably the same bird that overwintered in the Plymouth area, was found at North Monomoy. A female **Ruff** was present at West Bridgewater from May 10–13. Arctic Terns (four or five pairs) were discovered nesting at a new site: Penikese Island in the Elizabeth Islands. A **Western Kingbird** in East Boston on June 28 was only the third spring record, and a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** spent five days at the Daniel Webster Sanctuary at the end of June. A **Loggerhead Shrike** spent almost a week in Newburyport from May 16–21.For nearly two weeks, a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was a daily visitor to the feeders at Wellfleet Bay Audubon Sanctuary.

Best sighting: **Black Vulture** (!) The first breeding record for New England was documented in the Blue Hills in Milton.

40 YEARS AGO

May–June 1978

A breeding-plumaged **Curlew Sandpiper** was at Newburyport Harbor from May 18–20. Two reports of **Wilson's Plover**, both on June 3, came from Nauset and Plymouth. Five to six **South Polar Skuas** were present throughout June on George's Bank. The largest colony of Arctic Terns, at Nomans Land, an island off the southwest tip of Martha's Vineyard, numbered 30 pairs. An immature **Sandwich Tern** was on Monomoy on June 11. May 3 delivered a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** to Rochester and a **Loggerhead Shrike** to Wellfleet.

Best sighting: a male **Townsend's Warbler** at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, May 4. This was the first documented record for the state of this western warbler.

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOS checklist, 7th edition, 58th Supplement, as published in *Auk* 2017, vol. 134(3):751-773 (see <http://checklist.aou.org/>).

Locations

AA	Arnold Arboretum, Boston
ABC	Allen Bird Club
AP	Andrews Point, Rockport
APd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth
AthBC	Athol Bird Club
B.	Beach
Barre FD	Barre Falls Dam
BBC	Brookline Bird Club
BHI	Boston Harbor Islands
BI	Belle Isle, E. Boston
BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester
BNC	Boston Nature Center, Mattapan
BR	Bass Rocks, Gloucester
BRI Co. seas	Bristol County, offshore
Cambr.	Cambridge
CB	Crane Beach, Ipswich
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
CGB	Coast Guard Beach, Eastham
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis
CP	Crooked Pond, Boxford
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms, Middleboro
DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
DM	Dunback Meadow
DWMA	Delaney WMA, Stow, Bolton, Harvard
DWWS	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary
EP	Eastern Point, Gloucester
FE	First Encounter Beach, Eastham
FH	Fort Hill, Eastham
FP	Fresh Pond, Cambridge
FPk	Franklin Park, Boston
G#	Gate #, Quabbin Res.
GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
H.	Harbor
HCB	Herring Cove Beach, Provincetown
HP	Horn Pond, Woburn
HPt	Halibut Point, Rockport
HRWMA	High Ridge WMA, Gardner
I.	Island
IBA	Important Bird Area
IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
L.	Ledge
MAS	Mass Audubon
MBO	Bird Observatory, Manomet
MBWMA	Martin Burns WMA, Newbury
MI	Morris Island
MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
MP	Millennium Park, W. Roxbury
MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth
MtA	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambr.
MV	Martha's Vineyard
NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord
Nbpt	Newburyport
ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
Pd	Pond
PG	Public Garden, Boston
PI	Plum Island
Pk	Park
Pont.	Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro
POP	Point of Pines, Revere
PR	Pinnacle Rock, Malden
P'town	Provincetown
R.	River
Res.	Reservoir
RKG	Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston
RP	Race Point, Provincetown
SB	South Beach, Chatham
SN	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
SP	State Park
SRV	Sudbury River Valley
SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
TASL	Take A Second Look, Boston Harbor Census
WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
WE	World's End, Hingham
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WMWS	Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary
Wompatuck SP	Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate, Norwell
Worc.	Worcester
WSF	Willowdale State Forest, Ipswich

Other Abbreviations

*	first state record (pending MARC review)
!	subject to MARC review
ad	adult
au	heard / recorded
b	banded
br	breeding
cy	cycle (3cy = 3rd cycle)
d	dead
dk	dark (morph)
f	female
fl	fledgling
imm	immature
inj	injured
juv	juvenile
lt	light (morph)
m	male
MARC	Massachusetts Avian Records Committee
max	maximum
migr	migrating
n	nesting
nfc	nocturnal flight call
ph	photographed
pl	plumage
pr	pair
r	rescued
S	summer (1S = first summer)
subad	subadult
v.o.	various observers
W	winter (2W = second winter)
yg	young
#	additional observers

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

Sightings for any given month should be reported to Bird Observer by the eighth of the following month. Reports should include: name and phone number of observer, name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). Reports can be emailed to sightings@birdobserver.org or submitted online at <http://www.birdobserver.org/Contact-Us/Submit-Sightings>, or sent by mail to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 36 Lewis Avenue, Arlington MA 02474-3206.

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts, should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Sean Williams, 18 Parkman Street, Westborough MA 01581, or by email to seanbirder@gmail.com.

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AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER BY SANDY SELESKY

The Betty Petersen Conservation Fund

BirdsCaribbean, the international network committed to conservation of the region's birds, is thrilled to launch the Betty Petersen Conservation Fund to advance the conservation status of birds and habitats in the Caribbean region. The Fund provides competitive grants to groups or individuals who will engage and empower communities and stakeholders to both protect and sustainably benefit from their birds. The Fund and its grants will be administered by a designated advisory group within BirdsCaribbean.

Betty Petersen (1943-2013), a lifelong resident of Massachusetts, was, in her own way, a wizard. With nothing more than donated birding equipment, books, and a bit of cash, she turned local communities and school kids into committed conservationists, struggling NGOs into recognized players on the inter-American scene, and "paper parks" into real protected areas. And in the process she reminded us how rewarding it is to lend a hand when none is expected.

In March of 1989, Betty and a few others met with leading bird conservationists and researchers from Latin America. The Latin Americans raised the issue of how challenging it was in their home countries to get adequate optics and field guides needed to advance their work. Soon, Betty and her colleagues had responded by creating Birders' Exchange, first housed at the (then) Manomet Bird Observatory and later at the American Birding Association. Betty led the project for practically its entire history. In the process, despite not being fluent in the local languages, she not only helped with the equipment needs but empowered, and made lasting friendships with, many recipients and in-country partners. Her sincerity and warmth were unmistakable. In 2006 she was honored by an Argentine conservation group for "Ideas that Change the World."

Betty's connection to the Caribbean was strong. Birders' Exchange provided equipment to people and projects in a number of islands and even had a special Cuba fund initiated by National Book Award-winning author, Phillip Hoose. Nils Navarro's wonderful book, *Endemic Birds of Cuba*, was also dedicated to Betty. The condolence notes sent by Caribbean ornithologists upon Betty's death were simultaneously heart-warming and heart-breaking.

Betty's spirit continues to guide and inspire us in the way she:

- embodied the joy of birding and never lost track of the goal to make a difference in the lives of birds and the people who cared for them
- believed in the power of education, changing hearts and minds, one person at a time
- advocated for others looking to do great deeds for birds
- was great at organizing and allocating resources for the greatest impact
- delivered on the promises she made, both professionally and personally
- was as comfortable in the office of senior officials as in a poor village
- taught others to care deeply for birds and the natural world through her own love and actions, and she
- knew both her birds and her fellow birding communities well.

For more information, go to https://www.birdscaribbean.org/the-betty-petersen-fund-for-conservation.

ABOUT THE COVER

Common Gallinule

The Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) has had nearly 40 different common names in North America. The American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) in the late 1800s called it the Florida Gallinule and retained that name even after lumping it with the Eurasian Common Moorhen (*G. chloropus*) in 1923. The AOU later changed the name to Common Gallinule in 1957 and then declared it to be the Common Moorhen in 1983. The AOU changed its collective mind again in July, 2011, splitting the Western Hemisphere birds from the Common Moorhen of Europe, Africa, and Asia and making it a new species, *G. galeata* with an old name: Common Gallinule. The Eurasian birds became the Eurasian Moorhen. The AOU cited substantial differences in vocalizations and minor morphological differences as justification for the split.

The now Common Gallinule is a chicken-like bird—another of its common names is Marsh Hen—of freshwater ponds and marshes. The sexes are similar in plumage, dark gray below with blackish neck and head and a brownish back. The undertail coverts are white and there is a prominent white streak along the flanks. The legs are yellow and the bill is bright red with a yellow tip. Juveniles are grayish brown with pale underparts and lack the bright bill color. They can be distinguished from juveniles of American Coots and Purple Gallinules by the white flank slashes and white undertail coverts. The Common Gallinule has seven subspecies including one found in Hawaii. The North American subspecies is *G. g. cachinnans*.

Common Gallinules breed in freshwater marshes in southern Ontario and Nova Scotia, and through much of the eastern half of the United States, in widely scattered locations in the Southwest, and also in the West Indies. The breeders from southern Virginia to Texas along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts are year-round residents. Gallinules from inland and more northern areas migrate to the coast and they winter from North Carolina to Texas. Common Gallinules also breed from Mexico south through Central America and south to Northern Chile and Argentina. In Massachusetts, Common Gallinules are considered uncommon to rare fall migrants and rare breeders. They are rare in winter in Massachusetts.

Common Gallinules are generally monogamous, but some may also be polygynous. They may produce more than one brood per season. Pairs may remain together for more than a single breeding season. Courtship displays consist of a variety of maneuvers, including touching bills, head-feather nibbling, bowing, chasing, and the male may swim toward the female while bill-dipping. Gallinules give a wide variety of loud, harsh sounds and squawks as well as softer clucks and a repetitive *ka-ka-ka-kree* cackle series. The cackles are thought to be used in territorial advertisement by males, and the clucks are considered contact calls. Gallinules aggressively defend their territories by charging at interlopers with tail raised, wings arched, neck and head forward and down. They may run on the water surface at an opponent with wings flapping and neck stretched forward. Sometimes fights occur where one bird grasps an opponent with one foot and kicks it with the other foot while stabbing it with its bill.

In the north, Common Gallinules prefer cattail marshes that border freshwater ponds and shallow freshwater marshes with emergent vegetation. In southern areas, they will also utilize rice fields. They place their nests in aquatic emergent vegetation, and also on mats of floating vegetation and have even been known to use nest boxes. Often the nest is at the edge of vegetation near open water. Both parents construct the nest with a base of twigs and plant stems and lined with a cup composed of leaves. They continue to add plant material to the nest throughout the incubation period. They often build a separate brood nest that the whole family moves to after hatching. Both parents develop brood patches and both share incubation duties.

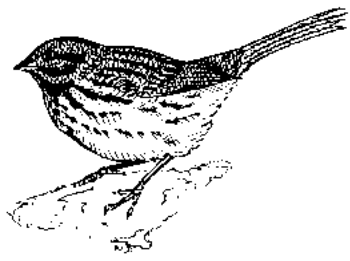
The usual clutch of 6–9 drab gray eggs covered with darker patches or spots is incubated for about three weeks until hatching. The chicks are covered with down and their eyes are open when they hatch. Within a day they can leave the nest, often to follow their parents to a brood nest. The parents bring both plant and animal food to the offspring for the first week after hatching, after which they feed on their own, although they may continue to receive some food from the parents for up to six weeks. Dispersal occurs after about 10 weeks.

Two types of cooperative breeding may occur. Juveniles may remain on territory and help feed the youngsters of a succeeding brood. Or the parent female may share a nest with a grown daughter or daughters and they may share the parental female's mate. Conspecific brood parasitism is relatively common, with females laying eggs in a nest other than their own.

Common Gallinules forage on both plants and animals, which they take from the water or from floating or emergent vegetation. They forage while swimming or walking on floating plants, or by tipping from the surface. Most of the diet consists of grass and sedge seeds, with snails dominating their animal food. They also take crustaceans, beetles, wasps, flies, and spiders—about anything small enough to swallow.

Common Gallinules expanded their range northward during the twentieth century and most populations are relatively stable. Human impact has been inconsistent: hunting and the drainage of wetlands have a negative impact, and the formation of ponds, lakes, and agricultural wetlands has generally been beneficial. Because of the wide distribution of this delightful rail and its ability to utilize some human-modified environments, its chances for survival remain strong, although in Massachusetts it is listed as a Species of Special Concern.

William E. Davis, Jr.



WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

AT A GLANCE

August 2018

DON FREIDAY

Even half a bird is better than no bird, right? With this in mind, readers are challenged with identifying only half a bird, something that is by no means unique to this often-perverse magazine feature. The good news is that this identification is actually relatively easy.

First, there is no doubt that the mystery bird is a diving waterbird species, an attribute that explains why the photograph conveniently depicts only half a bird. It is also obvious in the photograph that the bird has webbed feet, another feature that should not be surprising given that the bird is a diving species.

Even if it is only viewed in black-and-white in the print magazine, other characteristics that are obvious in the picture are that the mystery bird is strikingly white below and, based upon the underside of its stubby tail, seems to be contrastingly black above. This impression is further reinforced by a tiny bit of dark (black?) barely visible on the bird's right wing right at the waterline.

Using only these few clues, it is possible to definitively identify this "half bird." There are few diving birds that are as compact as the pictured individual and that are also pure white below. Most such species are alcids, which further explains the stubby black tail and the suggestion of black wings. The only diving duck likely to appear as white below as the mystery species might be a male Common Merganser. But a

merganser of any species would appear longer-tailed and would no doubt appear longer and slimmer overall, not chunky and short-tailed. However, the clincher in this picture becomes obvious if one examines the colored version of the mystery species in *Bird Observer Online*. It is then abundantly clear that the bird's legs are *bright orange*—a hallmark feature of the Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*). While it is true that Black Guillemots in nonbreeding plumage are white below, guillemots possess *bright red* legs and feet, not orange as in the pictured alcid. And finally, it is interesting to note that this puffin has a band on its left leg, no doubt hardware that it obtained on Eastern Egg Rock in the Gulf of Maine close to where the bird was photographed.

The Atlantic Puffin is a rare winter visitor to offshore Massachusetts' waters. Most individuals remain far out at sea unless occasionally driven close to shore at coastal vantage points at Cape Ann or Provincetown by fall and winter nor'easters. They may also sometimes be seen during fall or winter pelagic trips to offshore waters. Don Freiday photographed this Atlantic Puffin off Eastern Egg Rock in the Gulf of Maine on June 7, 2018.

Wayne R. Petersen

ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

Edgar Allan Slothman

Edgar Allan Slothman is the pop art persona of Connecticut's award-winning ad agency creative/art director, Don Carter. Inspired by Andy Warhol and Charley Harper — a life-long love of birds and art come together in his graphic reinterpretations of Audubon's classic *Birds of America* prints. Don has also illustrated seven children's books, created two interstitial series for Disney Junior, and is a creative director with Adams & Knight, an integrated marketing and communications firm in Avon.

To see the rest of the Audubon 2.0 series, go to https://cargocollective.com/slothman

HOODED MERGANSER BY SANDY SELESKY

AT A GLANCE

DAVID M. LARSON

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

MORE HOT BIRDS

Massachusetts has a disproportionately large share of the **Common Ringed Plover** records in the lower 48 states of the USA, and Monomoy has a disproportionately large share of the records for Massachusetts. A bird found by Sean Williams, Marshall Iliff, Sue Finnegan, and John Pratt on August 19 was the third for the island and fifth for the state. Sean and Marshall found a bird of this species again about two weeks later which differed in several aspects of its appearance but may or may not have been the same individual. Sean took the photo on the right.

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