

Bird Observer

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 2004



HOT BIRDS



Continuing the streak of great sightings in New Hampshire, this **Bell's Vireo** (left) was found at the wastewater treatment plant in Exeter by Steve Mirick and Jane Lawrence. Bob Stymeist took this video still on November 4.

An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** (right) in Melrose was a great find by Dana and Inga Jewell on November 7. Marj. Rines took this photo, showing the diagnostic fishhook pattern on the outer retricies of this western bird, on November 11.



Another cooperative visitor was this **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (left) at Marconi Beach in Wellfleet. Found by Bill Elrich on November 13 and seen by scores of birders throughout the month, this handsome bird was photographed by Phil Brown on November 23.

Another state record for New Hampshire fell when Steve Mirick and Jane Lawrence found four **Cave Swallows** (right) in Rye on November 26. Phil Brown took this great photo of one of the birds the next day.



This **Sandhill Crane** (left) is one of two birds reported by an excited homeowner in Barnstable on December 8. Steve Mirick took this video still as the bird wandered across the front yard away from the feeders.

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ICELAND GULLS BY DAVID LARSON



Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal — to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds
VOL. 32, NO. 1 FEBRUARY 2004

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$21 for 6 issues, \$40 for two years for U.S. addresses. Inquire about foreign subscriptions. Single copies \$4.00, see <<http://massbird.org/birdobserver/subform.htm>>.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS and subscription inquiries should be sent to: Bird Observer Subscriptions, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003, or e-mail to John Marsh at <anmarsh@jocama.com>.

ADVERTISING: full page, \$100; half page, \$55; quarter page, \$35. Send camera-ready copy to Bird Observer Advertising, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003.

MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION: BIRD OBSERVER welcomes submissions of original articles, photographs, art work, field notes, and field studies. Please send submissions to the Managing Editor: Carolyn Marsh, 16 Denton Rd., Wellesley, MA, 02482-6405; E-mail: <anmarsh@jocama.com>. If possible, please include a computer disk (Microsoft Word, txt, or rtf formats), or e-mail to the Editor as an attached file. Please do not embed graphics in word processing documents. Include author's or artist's name, address, and telephone number and information from which a brief biography can be prepared.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BIRD OBSERVER, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003. PERIODICALS CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, MA.

BIRD OBSERVER (USPS 369-850) is published bimonthly, COPYRIGHT © 2004 by Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc., 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02478, a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts to Bird Observer will be greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. ISSN: 0893-463

Note from the Editorial Desk:

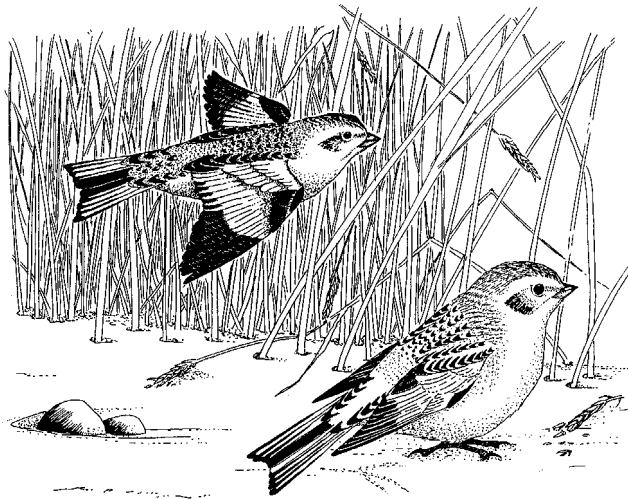
Greetings to all *Bird Observer* subscribers! This first issue of 2004 marks the beginning of a new involvement for me in the activities of this magazine, as I shift my focus from Subscription Manager to Managing Editor.

My introduction to *Bird Observer* came in the spring of 1986 when, as a lark (pun entirely intended), a friend and I enrolled in Miriam Dickey's "Introduction to Birding" class offered at Massachusetts Audubon's Drumlin Farm Sanctuary. She shared wisdom from her field experience of many years along with the strong suggestion that each of us become acquainted with *Bird Observer*. I did subscribe, enthusiastically participated in many of the workshops that were being offered at that time, and have since counted the connection as a major enhancer of my birding education.

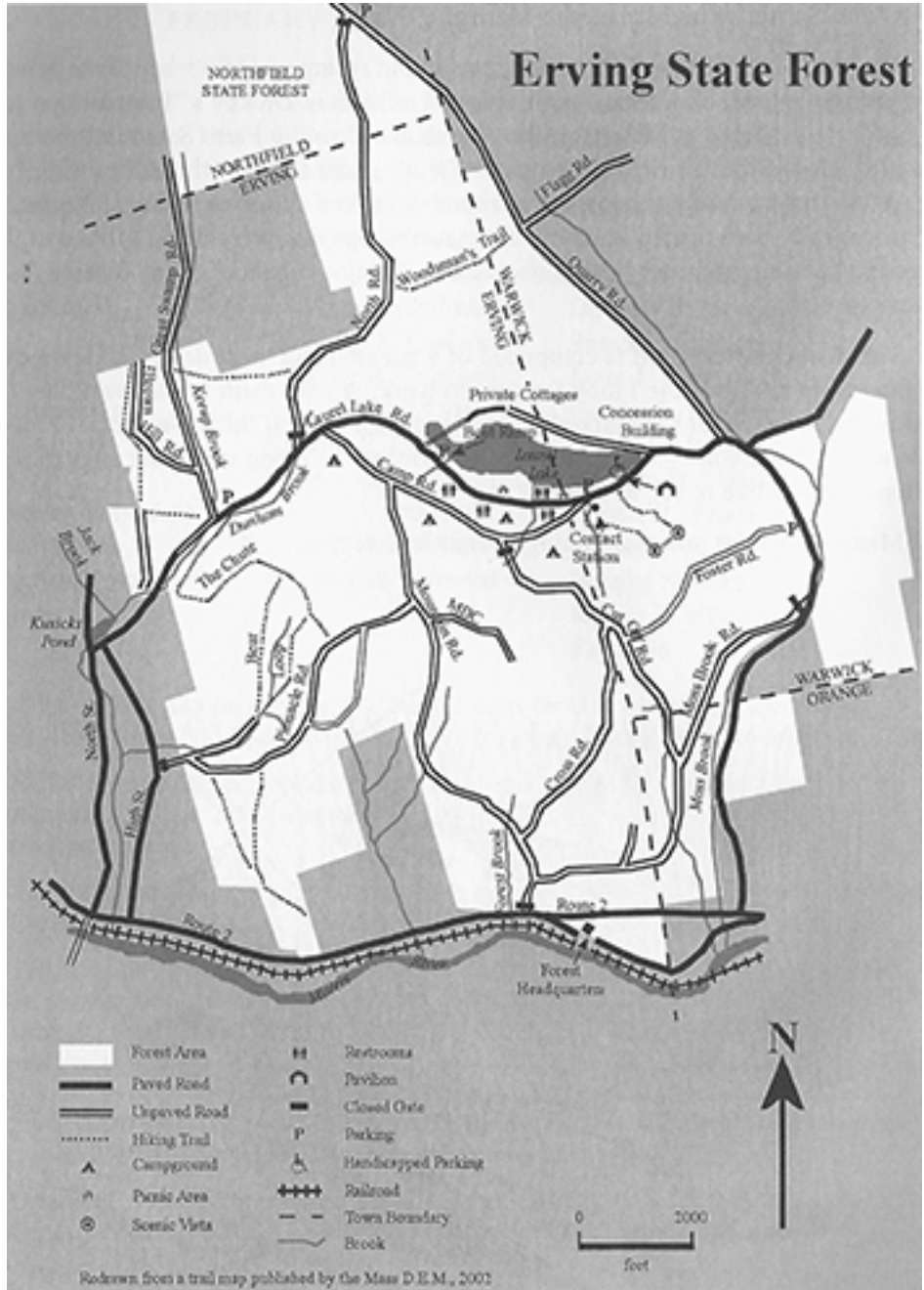
The *Bird Observer* staff is comprised of a talented and most dedicated team of volunteers. In my new role I look forward to working with them to maintain the quality and variety that has marked the magazine for its first thirty-one years. I also hope to hear from you — be it brickbats or bouquets — along with your suggestions for topics you'd like to see us cover.

Many thanks for your continuing interest and support. 🐦

Carolyn Marsh



SNOW BUNTINGS BY GEORGE C. WEST



Birds of the Laurel Lake Recreational Area, Erving State Forest

Mark Taylor

The Laurel Lake Recreational Area, part of Erving State Forest in Erving and Warwick, Massachusetts, is one of my favorite local spring birding hot spots. Once the winter snows have melted, this area can be easily accessed by car on a paved road and has its own unique habitat from which the lake name derives: a thick mountain laurel understory. When I want to find spring migrants that may have eluded me in other birding locales, this is where I go to find them, and in many cases it is the first place that they seem to arrive for me. Birds such as Blackburnian and Canada warblers and Eastern Towhee are a few that come to mind. The habitat, as I mentioned, is thick with laurel, which benefits and flourishes from the well-managed woodland that shades it. Large stands of red oak, white birch, black cherry, and other deciduous trees, along with some of the best groves of mature eastern hemlock in the area, create a great overall habitat for migrating and breeding birds.

Two year-round brooks, one at the western entrance to the forest and the other the outflow of the lake on the east end, and of course, the lake itself, complete this ideal riparian environment. The shaded laurel “stands” hold snow and ice as well, which, once melted, create many vernal pools that last late into the spring. These are perfect spots for finding Northern Waterthrushes. There is also one location from the road where I reliably find several pairs of Canada Warblers on breeding territory. Many trail systems branch off from the paved road for those with time to hike and explore the woodland further, but here I will mainly cover the approximately two-mile stretch of the park from the road. Trail maps are provided at the entrance and at the Contact Station.

The town of Erving, a small community on the edge between central and western Massachusetts, is intersected by Route 2, the most northerly east-west highway through the state. Erving State Forest, which takes up a large portion of the town, lies just to the north of Route 2 and in some locations borders the highway itself. The recreational area in the summer is a popular swimming, camping, and day-use spot and can get quite crowded on weekends. The lake itself, a relatively long, narrow, spring-fed water body, is lined with seasonal homes and camps and is a popular fishing spot, with a boat landing on the west end and sandy beach on the northeast end. There is a day-use charge for parking after Memorial Day, but generally this coincides with the end of spring migration. You can park for no charge outside the park entrances and walk in to check out the summer breeding birds if you don't want to pay. Day-use fee is \$5.00.

How to Get There:

Take Route 2 from either direction to Erving, which is approximately 80 miles west of Boston and 17 miles east of Interstate 91 at Greenfield. Once in the center of

Erving on Route 2, turn north on Church Street (which becomes North Street), next to the Erving Fire Station. (Note: Set your trip odometer to 0 as you enter Church Street.) Take Church Street/North Street for 0.8 mile to Swamp Road (on the right). Take Swamp Road to the entrance for Erving State Forest/Laurel Lake Recreational Area (1.5 mile odometer reading). From this point and for the next 2-plus miles, I'll zero in on the specific spots that I bird from, and near, this paved road. Just to reiterate, I will use continuous odometer readings from the beginning of Church Street as a guide so you won't get distracted by the need to reset your odometer.

Pulloff #1: Park Entrance (Odometer 1.5)

Just before you cross the wooden bridge over "Keyup Brook," there is a dirt road on the left (Great Swamp Road) which I use as a pulloff. This road is primitive, so you won't be blocking traffic. From here take a short walk up the Great Swamp Road where you can check for Louisiana Waterthrushes, which regularly sing and feed along the brook edges, especially on rainy days. Barred Owls can often be heard from this general location as well. Noise from the roaring brook can sometimes overwhelm most bird sounds other than these loud singers, so after searching for these I usually move up the road to the next stop, which is in sight of the brook, but far enough away to hear birds.

Pulloff #2: (Odometer 1.6)

This pulloff on the left is situated halfway up a steep incline in an open glade of large white pines. On the opposite side of the road a thick stand of eastern hemlock dominates. The brook is visible from here, but the din is less distracting. From this spot I usually hear or see my first Blackburnian Warbler of the year in the hemlocks. Other birds, such as Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue warblers and Blue-Headed Vireos, find these hemlocks attractive and are usually here without fail every spring and summer. The open white pine area where you park gives you a good vantage point to see or hear Broad-winged Hawk, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Least Flycatcher, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Scarlet Tanager.

Note: From this point, once you crest the hill and the terrain levels off, to Pulloff #4, thick mountain laurel dominates on both sides of the road. Vernal pools abound, and ears and eyes should be open along this stretch for Winter Wren, Wood Thrush, Veery, Swainson's Thrush (rare), Hermit Thrush, Canada Warbler, Ovenbird, and Northern Waterthrush. Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green warblers singing on their breeding territory are common here as well.

Pulloff #3: (Odometer 2.2)

This pulloff on the left is marked by large stone borders. It is a good flat open area, with deciduous and coniferous trees interspersed. This spot is also where you can get out and walk on a somewhat overgrown but passable road through the mountain laurel. I reliably find my first Eastern Towhees of the new year here, and

they are always welcome arrivals. The males seem to really love to sing from these dense laurel stands while they vie for mates. These skulkers tend to be hard to see, but here it's fairly easy with a little patience. Most of the species found back at Pulloff #2 can be seen or heard here as well, but I usually find a Magnolia Warbler or two here as well. This pulloff, though, is unique for Eastern Towhee, so I call it the "Towhee Stop."

Pulloff #4: (Odometer 2.4)

Here the parking area is marked by a residential road that goes over a short causeway dividing the west corner of Laurel Lake from a shallow boggy area. Parking is limited here; do not park on this access road or block the entrance. If there are more than two vehicles, the boat-landing parking area just up the road at mile 2.5 is the best place. Once safely parked, I generally walk out to the causeway, which has good views of the lake on the right and a shallow area on the left. In the shallows on the left, Wood Duck, Great Blue Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, and Belted Kingfisher are typically seen. The shrubs and trees that line both sides of the road and the water edges provide cover for Winter Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Palm Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Swamp Sparrow, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Great Crested Flycatchers and Eastern Phoebes can often be seen flycatching from the row of tall white pines on the far side of the causeway out over the shallows. Scan the lakeside for Common and Hooded mergansers, which make migration stops here and are the most common waterfowl with the exception of Mallards and Black Ducks. Occasional rafts of Black Scoters or a few Buffleheads drop in, but in general Laurel Lake doesn't seem to draw big numbers of waterfowl.

Note: From here to the next stop, summer residences along the lake will be encountered on the left. There are a few good parking areas along this section that are for day-use, picnics, etc., and can be checked out. Be considerate by not blocking private driveways. For the most part, though, I move directly down to the main parking area at the Ranger's (Contact) station and beach concession area (Pulloff #5).

Pulloff #5: (Odometer 3.1)

This is the main parking area for access to the beach, picnic, and camping facilities. It is a good place to get out and check the large trees bordering the lot and around the buildings. A relatively short but hilly trail of moderate difficulty loops off the main road behind the Contact office and comes out a short distance down the road. This, if time allows, is a recommended hike. A small brook runs along the trail for a short distance as you ascend; a good place to see Hermit Thrush, Veery, and Ovenbird. The flora then changes to dense mountain laurel on both sides of the trail. Red oak, white birch, and black cherry are usually alive with migrant warblers and are easier to see from this higher vantage point. Seeing birds down low in the dense laurel can be frustrating, but I once found a White-eyed Vireo here. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are commonly found along this section of the trail, drilling the birches for sap. This section is prime Black-throated Blue Warbler territory, and the dense mountain laurel offers them ideal nesting sites.

As the trail winds to the top, you enter a rockier, red oak woodland and finally reach the top of an open rocky ridge with great views south. Great Crested Flycatchers and Eastern Wood-Pewees can be heard from here, and many of the common migratory wood warblers hug this ridgeline on their way north. I found a migrating Mourning Warbler in this general area once, so it always has good potential for a rarity. From here the trail heads back down through the laurel and back out to the paved road.

Pulloff #6: (Odometer 3.4)

This pulloff at the east end of Laurel Lake is marked by a wooden bridge that spans the outflow to the lake. This is a year-round brook and can be the most active and diverse area in the park. It can also be the buggiest, so make sure bug repellent is handy. There is enough room here to park on the far side of the bridge. I usually get out here and walk the road going away from the lake for several hundred feet. The road here is bordered by thick laurel “hedges” in which one or two pairs of Canada Warblers nest. These warblers can be tough to see on their breeding territory due to their habitat requirements: that is, wet thickets of dense brush, areas hard to get to and to see into. Here, this is not the case, particularly when they first arrive on territory in mid-May, as they fly back and forth across the road singing from the trees at middle to low levels.

The brook itself meanders slowly through the woods here before dropping down a steep incline to join Moss Brook in Warwick, and is alive with the sounds of Winter Wren, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Veery, and Hermit Thrush. (A section of Erving State Forest and Laurel Lake is in the town of Warwick, as the map indicates.) On a “big” warbler day, standing by the bridge to watch them “drip” from the trees here is as good as it gets. Even though Yellow-rumped Warblers, with their flycatching feeding tactics, seem to outnumber all others here, many other species, including Red-eyed, Warbling, and Blue-headed vireos, American Redstarts, and Nashville, Magnolia, Black-and-white, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Palm warblers are in the mix. Eastern Phoebes nest under the bridge, and Eastern Towhees nest in the laurel nearby, adding to the resident birds regularly seen here.

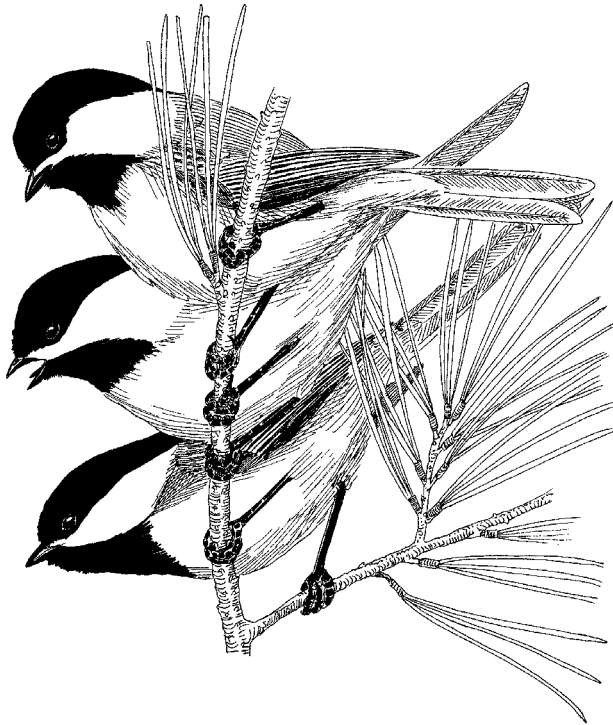
This stop is a fitting place to end our tour. There are, as I mentioned earlier, many more trails or primitive roads to explore in Erving State Forest, as indicated on the map.

Essentially, the access road to Laurel Lake Recreational Area in Erving State Forest is the only area accessible by car in the forest, with the exception of the road to the camping area. The main paved road continues out of the park and exits onto Orange Road in Warwick. The campground area is on a paved road (not indicated as paved on the map), and is another spot that can be birded. The camping area does not open for vehicular traffic until after Memorial Day, so it must be walked. Like the hiking trail that I described earlier, this road brings you up to a slightly higher elevation where the tree canopy is a little more accessible or viewable, a welcome relief to the neck after looking straight up for a few hours. The empty campsites also create clearings in an otherwise heavily wooded area, which allow for good viewing.

This is a fine place to see Broad-winged Hawk, Hairy, Downy, and Pileated woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Red-eyed and Blue-headed vireos, thrushes, and common migrant and resident warblers. As in any diverse habitat, rarities can be encountered with a little luck and patience.

Overall, Laurel Lake Recreational Area is an easily accessible place just off a main highway, which can be birded in a relatively short time or at a more leisurely pace, depending on where you are heading on your way through the area. It is a place where I rarely, if ever, run into other birders, so it is for the most part undiscovered by the birding community. Check it out this spring! 🌲

Mark Taylor is an avid birder who has led birdwatching field trips for the Athol Bird and Nature Club and the Brookline Bird Club. He has written a bird-finding guide titled "Birding in Northfield," which was published in Bird Observer February, 2002 (30:5-12) and subsequently published as a chapter in the new Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts. Mark has lived in Northfield for 18 years and has traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and maritime Canada pursuing his passion for birds.



BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES BY GEORGE C. WEST

Fall 2003 Migration of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in New England

Sharon Stichter

Editor's Note. This article is a revised and expanded version of a report that first appeared on the New England Hummers website on 10/27/03. For a fuller description of the project, please see the website at <<http://www.nehummers.com>>. At the site you can also sign up to be a Site Monitor for 2004.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are common nesters in New England, but each year these diminutive birds travel to Mexico and Central America to spend the winter. How late do they stay in New England in the fall? Have the "last observed" dates been getting later in recent years? Do the birds depart "all at once," or are there ebbs and flows of migration? Are there observable changes that can indicate the beginning of hummingbird migration?

Over the 2003 season the New England Hummers research project collected data on these questions as part of a study of the migration, distribution, and population fluctuations of *Archilochus colubris* in our region. This report is based on three sources of information: 1) data from our Site Monitors; 2) reports from the many other observers who took the time to report their sightings to New England Hummers or to the state listserves Massbird, NH.Birds, RI Birds, and Maine-Birds; and 3) the reports from Hawkcount.org from two Massachusetts hawkwatch sites. Our research utilizes citizen observation as its primary source of data. We now have about 50 Site Monitors scattered across New England, mostly in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, who keep watch on their hummingbird feeders throughout the season and report specified observations. There are pros and cons to this type of "citizen science." A large-scale banding study of hummingbirds might also provide excellent data on population and migration, but at present there is hardly any banding of hummingbirds taking place in our region, and none of Ruby-throats. Observations from dedicated "hummer enthusiasts" are therefore an important alternative, and in fact, results from similar projects such as Cornell University's FeederWatch have been shown to correlate well with results from other types of studies.

New England Hummers has also been receiving and following up on the annual sightings of *Selasphorus* and other vagrant western hummingbirds in the Northeast. Small numbers of these birds have been seen in our region each fall for the past few years; ten were reported in 2002, and seven in 2003. A report on this fascinating phenomenon is forthcoming.

The Beginning of Migration

In general, the onset of Ruby-throat migration seems to be indicated by three changes: an increase in the number of birds at some feeders (collection points), increased consumption of nectar to put on fat, and in some situations an increase in

aggressiveness at feeders. These changes have been reported in the literature about Ruby-throats, and New England observers this year noted them as well.

The first reports of Ruby-throats in New England preparing for migration came from New Hampshire, western Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. On August 14 Rachel Edwards of Raymond, New Hampshire, wrote to NH Birds, "I have seen an increase in the number of male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at my feeders since last weekend. Last evening they were very active at the feeders and some were fighting for a spot at one feeder. I believe they have begun to migrate." On August 23 in western Massachusetts, Rob Ranney of Deerfield reported to Massbird that he'd seen no hummers at his feeders in four days, and he thought they'd migrated.

Adult male hummers are known to migrate before females and hatch-year birds. It is possible that males could leave one yard, then move around, but it is usually assumed that they move directly south. Banding data would be needed to establish their precise patterns. By mid-August this year, four of our Site Monitors in Massachusetts and New Hampshire reported that the adult male(s) they had watched through June and July had gone. Taken together, our 2003 reports from all sources and areas suggest that most males and some females had begun to migrate by mid- to late August. William M. Baird, Loudon, New Hampshire, like a number of hummingbird observers, has kept detailed historical records of departure dates at his site. He writes that the adult males in his yard "generally leave the last week in August every year (on cue, like clockwork). Leaving the current year's young and females to feed at our feeders until the middle to end of September.... We have noticed in past years that we occasionally get a migrant adult male or two stopping by to feed as late as the second week of September."

A number of observers noticed the increase in feeding, and aggressive activity that generally indicates the beginning of migration. The increased competition could be caused by new birds arriving, or by a greater need to eat. Lisa Bartok and Frank Lawson, observers in Errol in the New Hampshire mountains, wrote on August 14 that their five to six hummers had "been on a feeding frenzy for two weeks now." Jim Porter, of West Greenwich, Rhode Island, wrote to RI Birds that on August 18, "Seemingly out of nowhere, between six and nine Ruby-throats began an all-out brawl over our feeder. It continued for a good half-hour, with the hummers of various sexes buzzing, darting and weaving around...." He concluded, "Methinks a few of the hummers have actually begun their long journey to their winter cottages...."

Along this line, Lynne Roberson, a perceptive observer in Hinsdale, Massachusetts, wrote to New England Hummers that "We have also noticed that as the season gets closer to migration time, the number of sips each bird takes from the feeder increases. I have observed a single bird taking up to 28 sips at one sitting." Wow! Similarly, Phil Brown, of Essex, Massachusetts, who had a couple of adult males vying for Yard Boss, wrote on August 13 that "The males have gone from feeding lightly each time they visited the feeders to feeding very heavily with each visit. No more trying to stay light through the day to defend their territory."

Patterns of Migration

Table 1: Late/Last Sightings Reported, Massachusetts, 2003

Region/ County	Town	Date: Last Sighting	Total Sightings	Date: Last Adult Male	Observer
<i>East</i>					
Middlesex	Acton	9/01		8/28	B. Schmitz
Middlesex	Marlborough	9/06			T. Spahr
Middlesex	Carlisle	9/08			C. DeRouin
Essex	Gloucester	9/08			D. Peloquin
Essex	Marblehead	9/08			R. Kipp
Essex	Ipswich	9/08		9/01	S. ffolllott
Essex	Newbury	9/09			S. Stichter
Essex	Haverhill	9/09			P. Priscilla
Norfolk	Quincy	9/09			L. Tyrala
Middlesex	Lexington	9/13			M. Rines
Middlesex	Groton	9/13		9/13	J. Lisk-Gonzales
Essex	Plum Island	9/17			P. Arrigo
Essex	Boxford	9/18		9/02	K. Disney
Middlesex	Wayland	9/19			M. Peebles
Essex	Essex	9/20		9/05	P. Brown
Essex	Nahant	9/22			D. Saffarewich
Essex	Newburyport			8/24	S. McGrath
Total Reports-E			16		
Average Date-E		9/12			
<i>SE Mass</i>					
Bristol	Westport	9/05			E. Santos
Plymouth	Duxbury	9/09		9/09	E. Lackey
Barnstable	Harwich	9/10			M. Tuttle
Barnstable	Dennis/Harwich	9/10			D. Silverstein
Barnstable	Falmouth	9/11			G. Gove
Barnstable	N. Falmouth	9/13		9/02	I. Nisbet
Bristol	Westport	9/15			O. Elias
Bristol	S. Dartmouth	9/15			C. Sickul
Barnstable	Falmouth	9/20			M. Tarafa
Barnstable	Mattapoisett	9/28			M. Sylvia
Total Reports-SE				10	
Average Date-SE			9/14		
<i>Central/ Valley</i>					
Hampshire	Amherst	9/06			D. Norton
Worcester	Athol	9/07			D. Small
Worcester	Princeton	9/09			J. Dekker
Hampshire	Florence	9/10			T. Gagnon
Worcester	Gardner	9/13			T. Pirro
Hampshire	South Hadley	9/14			L. Rogers
Franklin	Deerfield	9/15		9/01	R. Ranney
Worcester	Leicester	9/18			M. Rowden
Franklin	New Salem	9/27			B. Laffley
Franklin	Deerfield	9/29			RBA W. Mass
Worcester	Berlin	9/30			F., M. Howes
Worcester	Athol			9/11	E. Baldwin
Worcester	Upton	10/07			R. Brill
Total Reports-C			12		
Average Date-C		9/18			

<i>West</i>				
Berkshire	Dalton	9/10		T. Smith
Berkshire	Florida	9/18		T. Smith
Berkshire	New Marlborough	9/27		C. M.
Berkshire	Tyringham	9/30	9/05	D. Naventi
Berkshire	Pittsfield	10/03		M. Thorne
Berkshire	Lenox	10/12		T. Collins/ S. Kellogg
Total Reports-W			6	
Average Date-W		9/27		
TOTAL REPORTS-MA			44	12

Sources: About half the reports in Table 1 are from NE Hummers Site Monitors, and represent the last sightings seen at yards with feeders; the rest are field reports posted on Massbird.
Note: The number of reports does not equal the number of birds seen.

Regional Variations. The number and geographical distribution of the Massachusetts reports in Table 1 make them a reasonable though not scientifically representative sample of areas around the state. The list includes a diversity of locations, elevations, and ecological units. However, western Massachusetts is not as well represented as other regions. Still, it is noticeable and interesting that the average date of hummingbird departures gets later and later as one moves westward. The three latest sightings in the state this year, 10/03 in Pittsfield, 10/07 in Upton, and 10/12 in Lenox, were all in the central and western parts of the state. This phenomenon is not as noticeable in previous years, however (see below). Berkshire, Franklin, and Worcester counties have large areas of the wooded habitat that Ruby-throats like, and it may be that hummer populations are higher in those regions than in eastern Massachusetts.

Table 2: Late/Last Hummingbird Sightings, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Maine 2003

State/County	Town	Date: Last Sighting	Total Sightings	Date: Last Adult Male	Observer
<i>Rhode Island*</i>	Napatree	9/05			C. Raithel
	Camp Cronin	9/05			J. St. Jean
	Quidnesset	9/08			J. Magill
	Barrington	9/09			S. Reinert
	Sisson's Pond	9/14			B. Saslow
	Woonsocket Res.	9/14			M. Lynch
	Pt. Judith	9/19			R. Ferren
	Napatree	9/20			C. Raithel
	S. Kingstown	9/22		9/09	D. DeSimone
	Little Compton	9/30			G. Dennis
Total Reports-RI			10		
<i>NewHampshire**</i>					
	Londonderry	9/01			T. Murray
	Antrim	9/04		8/22	D., J. Borges
	Fitzwilliam	9/06		8/23	K. Olson
	Durham	9/10			S. Standley
	Blue Job	9/13			Hawkwatch
	Errol	9/14		9/10	Lisa, Frank

	Raymond	9/18		9/01	R. Edwards
	Concord	9/20			J. Hills
	Windham	9/21		9/01	P. Arrigo
	Newbury	9/22			C. Martin
	Chichester	9/28			M. Suomala
	Hancock	9/29			E. Masterson
	Hillsboro	10/02			I. MacLeod
	Loudon			8/26	W. Baird
Total Reports-NH			13		
Maine**	Egg Rock	9/07			W. Townsend
	Lubec	9/17		9/05	D.J. Pressley
	Portage	9/18			MaineBirdAlert
	Kennebunkport	9/21			R. Duddy
	Monhegan Isl	9/23			T. Vazzano
	Georgetown	10/02			MaineBirdAlert
	Bar Harbor	10/03			R. Crowley
Total Reports-ME			7		
TOTAL-3 States			30	8	

Sources: *Reports from RI Site Monitors, RI Birds, and *Field Notes of Rhode Island Birds*, August-September, 2003

**Reports from NH and ME Site Monitors, NH.Birds, and Maine-Birds

Note: The numbers of reports are not the same as number of birds seen, since some sightings are of multiple birds.

The number of reports from each of the states in Table 2 is not as large as that for Massachusetts, and geographical coverage of the reports is not as thorough. Nevertheless, some comments can be made. Departure dates in New Hampshire and Maine run the gamut from early to late. The Rhode Island average departure date of September 15 is not as much later than the New Hampshire average departure date of September 17, as one might have expected, but earlier. Correlations with latitude and elevation cannot be discerned in such a small number of reports, nor can peak dates or waves. But it is interesting that last sightings at such far northern points as Portage, Errol, and Lubec were from mid-September, and not any earlier. In addition, the September 10 report of an adult male in Errol is among the latest we have for males. Also interesting is that midcoast and downeast Maine (Georgetown and Bar Harbor), as well as Hillsboro, New Hampshire, provided some of the latest sightings in New England (October 2 and 3). Only the October 7 sighting in Upton, Massachusetts, two October 8 and 9 Connecticut sightings, and the October 12 sighting in Lenox, Massachusetts, are later.

The prize for the most hair-raising late sighting goes to Bob Crowley, for this October 3 report from Maine:

Just got back from Bar Harbor. While having dinner Friday night, at about 5 pm, at the Route 66 Restaurant, 21 Cottage St, Bar Harbor, we saw a female Ruby-throat trapped in the high ceiling, 20 feet or more. It had been there we were told since 10 that morning. It escaped while we were there through an open door. I am sure it was a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird. We observed it through our binoculars for half an hour.

Thank goodness she escaped! Another fascinating report was from William Townsend, who on September 7 at Egg Rock in Frenchman Bay, saw four Ruby-throats migrating over open water.

Table 3: Reports of Late and Last Sighting by Date, 2003

Date	Mass	RI	NH + ME	Total
9/01	1		1	2
9/02	0			0
9/03	0			0
9/04	0		1	1
9/05	1	2		3
9/06	2		1	3
9/07	1		1	2
9/08	4#	1		5#
9/09	5#	1		6#
9/10	4#		1	5#
9/11	2			2
9/12	0			0
9/13	4#		1	5#
9/14	1	2	1	4
9/15	2			2
9/16	0			0
9/17	1		1	2
9/18	3#		2	5#
9/19	1	1		2
9/20	2	1	1	4
9/21	0		2	2
9/22	1	1	1	3
9/23	0		1	1
9/24	0			0
9/25	0			0
9/26	0			0
9/27	2			2
9/28	1		1	2
9/29	1		1	2
9/30	2	1		3
10/01	0			0
10/02	0		2	2
10/03	1		1	2
10/04	0			0
10/05	0			0
10/06	0			0
10/07	1			1
10/08	0			0
10/12	1			1
Total	44	10	20	74

Source: Data from Tables 1 and 2.
= possible peak migration days

Ebbs and Flows of Migration. Table 3 aggregates the data from Tables 1 and 2 by date. Again, the number of reports from Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Maine is not large enough to support generalizations for those states individually; however, the daily ebbs and flows of departures can be approximated in the data for Massachusetts and for the four states as a whole. Other observational studies of Ruby-throat

migration (e.g., Willimont, Senner, and Goodrich, 1988; see the discussion below) have found such “peaks” and “waves” in the flow of migrants. Examining the New England data suggests that there may be such “peaks” and “waves” of migration here, although further data from subsequent years would be needed to confirm or disconfirm this hypothesis. In particular, larger numbers of reports for any given year would be needed to conclusively establish the actual dates of the ebbs and flows.

Table 3 suggests that the most likely “peak” migration days in 2003 for our region were September 8 through 10, September 13, and September 18. These are marked with a # in the table. Each of these dates or date clusters has three to five reports from the Massachusetts sample, and five to six reports in the sample as a whole. Statistical analysis is probably not appropriate here, but it may be worth noting that 29 percent of the total of 44 Massachusetts reports came on the three days of September 8-10, yet those three days are only 7 percent of the 42 day reporting period.

Two other observations lend some support to the notion of a September 8-10 migration wave. First, the highest daily number (four) reported from the Blueberry Hill Hawk Watch site came on September 9 (Table 4). Second, in Essex County, seven of the nine reports are from established yard sites, and at five of these the last resident birds left September 8 or 9 (Table 1).

Table 4: Hawk Watch Hummingbird Sightings, Massachusetts 2003

Date	Blueberry Hill Granville, MA	Barre Falls Barre, MA	Total	Related Sightings
8/24	0	NR	0	
8/25	2	NR	2	
8/26	2	NR	2	
8/27	2	NR	2	
8/28	0	7	7	5-T. Gagnon
8/29	3	NR	3	
8/30	2	NR	2	
8/31	2	NR	2	
9/01	NR	NR		
9/02	NR	NR		
9/03	2	NR	2	
9/04	NR	NR		
9/05	2	2	4	
9/06	0	0	0	
9/07	2	3	5	
9/08	0	0	0	
9/09	4 #	1	5	
9/10	1	0	1	
9/11	1	0	1	
9/12	0	3	3	
9/13	0	0	0	
9/14	NR	NR		
9/15	0	NR	0	
9/16	1	1	2	
9/17	2	0	2	1-T. Gagnon
9/18	0	0	0	
9/19	0	NR	0	
9/20	0	0	0	

9/21	0	0	0
9/22	0	0	0
Total	28	17	45

Source: Hawkcount.org Reports, as posted on Massbird. Blueberry Hill data reviewed by John Weeks; Barre Falls data by Barton Kamp.

Note: These data are from the two Massachusetts sites with an adequate series of reports and sightings. Numbers of birds are not standardized by person-hours of effort, partly because hummingbird counting was incidental to raptor counting. Participants spent from four to eight hours a day observing. NR= no report, often due to rain.

Some evidence suggests that there were probably many migrants leaving in late August, a movement which is not captured in the reports above. There is a rather consistent series of Blueberry Hill hawkwatch sightings (about two per day) from August 25 through 31, and one day with the rather high number of seven sightings at the Barre Falls hawk watch on August 28 (Table 4). In addition, the following list of all August-September hummer sightings on Plum Island Refuge, courtesy of Tom Wetmore, suggests some migration. But considering that there are active birders on Plum Island nearly every day, it is surprising that more migrating hummers were not seen.

14 Aug 2003: 1: R. Heil

23 Aug 2003: 2, road at pines: T. Wetmore

26 Aug 2003: 3: R. Heil

29 Aug 2003: 1, lot 7: M. Stone

17 Sep 2003: 1, road twixt lots six and seven: P. Arrigo

If there are surges or waves of migration, they are probably related to weather. This may be the explanation for the cluster of reports that came on September 18. This group of migrants was leaving during the high winds of Hurricane Isabel. There are no hawkwatch sightings of Ruby-throats after September 18, so the hurricane may have persuaded a lot of birds to migrate.

For example, Dorothy Naventi, who tends the Tyringham (Berkshire County) site, reported that the last of her several adult females had left by September 19, after the hurricane (and many juveniles left earlier, on August 28). "We had high winds all day Thursday (9/18) and that night...so Friday morning I think she finally took the hint and left." Eleven days later, on September 30, she reported a new female or juvenile, which was just passing through. Similarly, the bird seen by Richard Brill on October 7 in Upton had not been seen there previously; it nectared only briefly, and then moved on.

In general, the experience of most Site Monitors is that there is a great deal of turnover of birds in their yards in the fall, with some birds leaving and others arriving. For example, Barbara Schmitz of Acton, Massachusetts, had five hummers on August 28, of which three had been "regulars" for a while and two were newcomers. All of them left right after that date, however. Rob Ranney had a similar experience in Deerfield: all of his regulars left about August 19, leaving him thinking that was the

end for the season, but then new birds showed up later, on September 1 and 15. And Ian Nisbet in North Falmouth wrote that “Judging by the consumption of syrup, about two-thirds of my birds left on the night of 6-7 September, but I still have at least three here today.” These fluctuations may be caused by, or be evidence of, a “wave” pattern of migration.

Departure of Adult Males. It is well known that adult male Ruby-throats migrate south earlier than do females and hatch-year birds, and the data in Tables 1 and 2 support this generalization. September 3 was the average “last sighting” date for adult males in Massachusetts, whereas September 18 was the average for all migrants. One Site Monitor who had a large number of semi-resident males this summer was Phil Brown, of Essex, Massachusetts, who reports that whereas he had four adult males on August 31, all of them were gone by September 5. The latest report of an adult male in Massachusetts or the region was a September 11 field report from Athol, Massachusetts, by Earle Baldwin.

The average “last sighting” date for the other three states together was August 27, again earlier than the average for all migrants. New Hampshire provided both the earliest departure date for males, August 22, reported by a Site Monitor in Antrim, and one of the latest male departure dates, September 10 from a Site Monitor in Errol. The September 9 “last seen” date from a Site Monitor in South Kingstown, Rhode Island, is also among the latest for the region.

Data from Massachusetts Hawk Watches. The observations in Table 4 span the period August 25 through September 17 and show small daily fluctuations in numbers. One surprising fact is that there were *no* hummingbirds reported on any day after September 17 at either site, although hawk watches continued daily for many weeks after that date. Reports from our Site Monitors and other observers, many of whom were at lower elevations, confirm that there were still many hummers around after September 17. Perhaps high-elevation flights became less common after the arrival of strong winds from Hurricane Isabel on September 18, or perhaps the variation is due to chance. In 2002, by contrast, hummingbirds *were* seen at the Blueberry Hill hawk watch after mid-September (Communication from John Weeks, 10/9/03).

Massachusetts Late Sightings over the Last Five Years. The last-observed dates for Ruby-throats for the last few years in Massachusetts, according to data from Massbird and *Bird Observer*, are listed in Table 5. (Data supplied courtesy of Marjorie Rines.) An interesting point is that sightings have been later in 2003 than in any previous year except 1999. However, five years is not a long time over which to study annual variations, and many explanations are possible, such as: random variation, increased observer vigilance, a short season forcing Ruby-throats to stay longer to put on needed fat, or a long season resulting in “lingering.”

Table 5: Massachusetts Late Sightings, 1999 – 2003

Year	Last Day	Location	Observers
2003	Oct 12	Lenox	T. Collins/S. Kellogg
	Oct 7	Upton	R. Brill
	Oct 3	Pittsfield	M. Thorne
2002	Sept 25	Pittsfield	T. Collins
	Sept 24	Newburyport	T. Carrolan
	Sept 23	Granville	J. Weeks
2001	Sept 27	Chilmark	A. Keith
	Sept 23	Sudbury	SSBC/ B. Howell
	Sept 20	Lenox	R. Laubach
2000	Oct 1	Nantucket	R. Stymeist
	Sept 23	Westfield	Allen BC/ J. Hutchinson
	Sept 23	Burlington	M. Rines
1999	Oct 17	Northampton	T. Gagnon
	Oct 2	Newton	Brookline BC/ F. Bouchard
	Sept 30	Granville	J. Weeks

Discussion and Conclusion

A major study of Ruby-throated Hummingbird migration in the Northeast was done at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Pennsylvania, in 1985 (Willimont, Senner, and Goodrich 1988). Conclusions were based on a total of 120 migrating birds counted at that site. At Hawk Mountain in that year, the migration spanned the period August 8 – September 25 and peaked August 26-30. At Waggoner’s Gap, Pennsylvania, that year, migration peaked on August 23; five other northeast hawk watches did not begin early enough that year to capture the August peak. Likewise, the Massachusetts hawk watches this year, though starting relatively early on August 24, still did not begin early enough to clearly demonstrate the pattern of migration in August.

At Hawk Mountain in 1985, there were also two September peak migration days, September 6 and 11. Thus, this study does lend support to the “wave” imagery of migration. As Bob Sargent puts it in his popular guide to Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, “Like wave after wave of restless surf surging on the beach, these tiny neotropical migrants press on. While technically not in true flocks, huge numbers of Ruby-throats stretch across the eastern United States along an east-west front” (Sargent 1999, p. 72).

Wind direction and velocity. In the northeast United States, migrating hummingbirds are thought to benefit from the same strong northwest winds as raptors and songbirds do: it is suggested that the wind helps them to conserve energy. The 1985 Hawk Mountain study showed many more birds observed on days with higher wind speeds, and the highest count days were correlated with the arrival of cold fronts with strong northwest winds.

For the Blueberry Hill hawk watch data, however, no clear correlation between wind speed and direction could be ascertained, probably because of the low overall numbers of birds observed (28, compared with 120 at Hawk Mountain). For example, the two highest count days at Blueberry Hill were September 9, when winds were NE at 5-15 mph, and August 29, when winds were from the southwest at 10-20 mph. One or two hummers were often seen on days of very light (0-10 mph) winds.

Temporal span. In the 1985 study, more than 90 percent of all hummers counted had been seen by September 14, i.e., between August 8 and September 14, giving a five-week span for the bulk of the migration through that point. In the 2003 Massachusetts hawk watches, 100 percent of all hummers seen had been counted by September 17 (i.e., between August 25 and September 17). As mentioned, the Massachusetts hawk watches did not begin early enough to yield a date for the beginning of the migration at those points. In general, Ruby-throat fall migration is thought to be temporally compressed compared with that of western species such as the Rufous and Allen's hummingbirds.

Migration Pathways. It is not known whether Ruby-throats use defined corridors or "migration pathways" during the fall migration. The Hawk Mountain study asserted that "The ridges of the Appalachian Mountains are major routes for southbound migrants" (Willimont et al., p. 482). Others have referred to inland rivers and lakes (which are traditional feeding areas for Ruby-throats) and the Atlantic coast as constituting flyways for hummers, as they do for waterfowl and other birds. For at least one known flyway, the Texas gulf coast, there is good evidence of use by thousands of hummers in the fall, but beyond that there is actually very little solid evidence that migrating hummers are found only in corridors and not in the areas between corridors. (See the post by Ron Rovanssek to Humnet, August 31, 1999.) The imagery used by Bob Sargent, referred to above, of a continuous east-to-west "blanket" of birds moving south in the fall may be just as accurate.

Other Aspects of Fall Migration. Not enough is known about the daily timing of Ruby-throated Hummingbird migration over land. It is usually assumed that this migration is done during midday. As the Hawk Mountain study by Willimont pointed out, "...the first hours of daylight must be used to replenish their energy reserves after a night's fast. At the end of the day, they must refuel before fasting for the night. The midday hours, in effect, may be the only time available for protracted migration flights, and it is during these hours that we counted the most migrants..." (p. 487). This suggests a daily "short-hop" strategy in southward flights, rather than the extended stops during a prolonged migration which are characteristic of the western Rufous Hummingbird. However, it is not known exactly how far Ruby-throats migrate in one day, or how long they stop between flights.

It is important to note that migration habits over land may differ from the prolonged flights necessary to cross the Gulf of Mexico. The journey over the Gulf likewise needs much more study. Bob Sargent, who operates the well-known banding station at Fort Morgan, Alabama, has found that almost all of his incoming birds in the spring arrive in the dark of night, meaning that they have made a nonstop nocturnal migration over the Gulf. He and others believe that the fall migration, by contrast, is probably both trans-gulf and circum-gulf, along the Texas coast, and that more research is needed. (See the discussion on Humnet, September 11 and 19, 2002.) Indeed, Sheri Williamson (2001, p.191) says that the southward migration appears to be largely overland, rather than over the Gulf; however, Sargent reports that color-marked birds in the fall with heavy fat rarely remain in Alabama longer than one day, and are often observed to depart in the late afternoon, suggesting a nocturnal flight

(Robinson, Sargent, and Sargent 1996). This in turn suggests that these birds are moving directly across the Gulf.

One way or another, most of “our” New England hummers have by now arrived in Mexico and Central America. We wish them a safe journey, and look forward to their return in 2004! 🌿

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Sharon Stichter is Professor Emerita of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. She maintains a large hummingbird and butterfly garden in Newbury, MA, providing bed and breakfast to many hummers. She is also Editor of the journal Massachusetts Butterflies. She wishes to thank all those who contributed data to this report for their observational skills and the time spent watching in yards or in the field. Special thanks go to the hawk watchers, who took time out from scanning for raptors to notice and record hummingbird migrants.



RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD BY PHIL BROWN

2004 USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Projects

Quivet Marsh/Crowes Pasture Acquisition. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management will protect 386 acres with perpetual conservation easements on wetlands and adjacent uplands on the north shore of Cape Cod within the Towns of Dennis and Brewster. This area is designated as part of the federal Coastal Barrier Resources System and is the largest remaining area of unprotected, undeveloped land on the Cape Cod coast.

Partners: Town of Brewster, Town of Dennis, The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Brewster Conservation Trust, Dennis Conservation Trust, Save the Crowe, Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod, Orenda Wildlife Land Trust, and two private landowners.

Coastal grant request: \$1,000,000

State share: \$ 500,000

Partner share: \$6,267,750

Sandy Neck/Barnstable Marsh Barrier Beach System Land Acquisition and Restoration. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, in cooperation with the State's Division of Marine Fisheries and the Massachusetts Wetlands Restoration Partnership, will purchase conservation restrictions on 75 acres of barrier beach frontage within the Sandy Neck Barrier Beach wetland complex bordering the north shore of Cape Cod. The towns of Sandwich and Barnstable will ultimately purchase the property. In addition, they will restore 40 acres of tidal saltmarsh by replacing an undersized culvert under a state highway to improve tidal exchange. The project site is in a state-designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern because it provides exceptional habitat for a diverse array of species. In conjunction with the project, the Barnstable Land Trust and the town of Sandwich will grant conservation restrictions to the state on an additional 244 acres.

Partners: Town of Barnstable, Town of Sandwich, The Nature Conservancy, Barnstable Land Trust, Massachusetts Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Coastal grant request: \$1,000,000

State share: \$ 208,741

Partner share: \$ 809,062

For more information on this program, see
<<http://www.fws.gov/cep/cwgcover.html>>.

Two Naturalists Buy a Swamp*

*with apologies to Edwin Way Teale

David Larson and Susan Carlson

On November 23, 2002, we moved to Bradford, Massachusetts (part of Haverhill). This move was quite a relocation after 16 years on the South Shore, but we knew we were in for something good as soon as we laid eyes on the spot. Our first official yard bird was a Belted Kingfisher, which flew chattering across the yard while we were moving in. Not a bad bird to be number one on anyone's yard list!

The house itself is modest but, as the man said, it has location, location, location. First of all, it is set on the side of a hill, looking northwest. The backyard is tiny, a strip of lawn between the house and a woodlot belonging to our neighbor. Our feeding station is up against the edge of the woods, in easy view of the back sunroom. The front yard is a different matter. Aside from too much lawn and a one-lane right-of-way, it consists of a weedy and brushy field, a creek, and two acres of red maple swamp (Fig. 1). The combination of the hill, the edges, the swamp, and the weedy field in the Merrimack River valley makes for very promising bird habitat!

After the first week, we had picked up many of the common winter resident birds, and a Winter Wren on November 30 was a nice treat. On December 8, a first-winter male Baltimore Oriole showed up at our feeder (Fig. 2) and stayed until early January. The winter months were slow for new birds though we kept a good watch: we participate in Project FeederWatch for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (see <http://birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>), and so our feeding station gets good coverage in the winter.



Figure 1: Aerial photograph of our yard, showing the house and the red maple swamp. Photograph by David Larson taken July 30, 2003.

New yard birds started flying in and over in earnest in March, with Common Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds, Killdeer, Eastern Bluebirds, and Eastern Phoebes. American Woodcock displayed over the yard; we could hear five at once on March 21. Great Blue Herons and Green Herons flew into the swamp almost daily. On March 29, seven Wild Turkeys visited our backyard feeding station. On April 5 two of them fell asleep on the deck railing (Fig. 3), mesmerizing the cats and blowing us away. Our first Ruby-throated Hummingbird arrived on May 3 (on August 31, they brought their kid), and our first wood warbler (Black-and-White) arrived the next day.



Figure 2: First winter male Baltimore Oriole at our cracked sunflower feeder with an American Tree Sparrow. Photograph by David Larson taken December 8, 2002.

sudden, we had a goal. Could we find 100 species during our first year? After all, we had plenty of time left. The guessing game started. What would be the next species? A duck flying over? A fall sparrow?



Figure 3: Two Wild Turkeys on our deck railing, with a very frustrated indoor cat. Photograph by David Larson taken April 5, 2003.

Then the Fates intervened and gave us a really nice bird. A dilemma-type bird. We were checking the weedy field on November 1 when we saw a yellowish blur disappear into the brush. Was it the Common Yellowthroat, still hanging around? After an interminable wait, a first winter male MacGillivray's Warbler popped up. That bird skulked around for a few days but, because of the neighborhood (quiet

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks showed up on May 8 and produced two broods during the summer. Gray Catbirds and Yellow Warblers nested down by the creek. In July, August, and September, we heard Eastern Screech Owls whinnying, complementing the Great Horned Owls we had heard duetting in the winter. In July, Blue-winged Warblers fed their young in our yard, and young Warbling Vireos foraged in our trees.

On August 22, Susan watched a young Bald Eagle fly over the yard. Upon checking our list, we found that that bird was our 90th species! All of a

September brought, as highlights, a Canada Warbler, a Spotted Sandpiper, a Brown Thrasher, and a Philadelphia Vireo. October started slowly, but Rusty Blackbirds brought us to 98, and a Palm Warbler made 99. The guesses were flying faster than the birds. On October 14, with a month yet to go on our year, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet popped up as species number 100, followed about 10 seconds later by a Golden-crowned. Wilson's Snipe became species number 102 at the end of that month as two almost impaled Susan in the twilight.

neighbors on a one-lane private road with an abundance of three-year-olds), we decided that we could not publicize it.

We ended up our first year of residence with a total of 106 species of birds, the last of which we tallied when two Pine Siskins showed up at our thistle feeder. While our second year will not produce 100 more bird species, we're sure we'll get some nice ones. Number 107 was a very obliging Common Redpoll; number 108, during the February 7 ice storm, was a Northern Shrike.

We had a wonderful year getting used to the area, a different constellation of birds, and lots of mammals, amphibians, and insects. And the swamp is changing. The beavers have been working, and most of the swamp is quite flooded now. We even moved our canoe down there so that we can indulge in a little floating natural history. Who knows, perhaps we'll have a Great Blue Heron rookery before long.

Some of the year one highlights included:

- watching a pair of Wood Ducks land in a tree in the swamp and later feed in the flooded forest with their young
- choruses of spring peepers, wood frogs, American toads, green frogs, bullfrogs, and gray tree frogs
- House Wrens double clutching in the backyard – that's a lot of wrens!
- watching the Northern Lights on October 30 from our backyard
- rivers of grackles, 100 birds wide and flowing from horizon to horizon, heading to or from the Methuen roost in the fall
- white-tailed deer, red fox, muskrat, beaver, eastern cottontail, raccoon, opossum, striped skunk, and various small rodents
- learning new plants and insects and spiders and things that go bump in the night.

David Larson is the Education Coordinator for the Joppa Flats Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary (Mass Audubon) in Newburyport and the Production Editor for Bird Observer.

Susan Carlson is a manager at a biotech company in Cambridge and a copy editor for Bird Observer. Neither of the authors has any idea of how they managed to find the time to see all



WHO'S STALKING WHOM? BY DAVID LARSON

Birding in Massachusetts 123 Years Ago

Robert H. Stymeist

It's not hard to imagine: an instant mess age on your computer, a Gyr Falcon has been sighted in the Northampton Meadows. The reporter is on the scene with his latest toy, a notebook-sized computer, watching the Gyr devouring a Common Merganser just plucked from the Connecticut River. It's a big duck and it's going to be here awhile — come on down! It's almost nine o'clock, you're in the office in Boston, and all of a sudden you become sick, so sick you have to leave for home. In less than three hours you are there! The bird is still perched, a little less merganser, but you have added him to your life list. The next day you're back at work — just the twenty-four-hour flu, thank God, you tell your coworkers. Birding is easy these days!

In the following account from William Brewster's journal, Mr. Brewster learns of the arrival of Rough-legged Hawks in the Northampton area on March 13 by a letter. Planning to leave Boston is an ordeal; on the afternoon of March 16 Brewster boards a train for Springfield. He has to spend the night in Springfield before he can catch the next train to Northampton the following morning. A half a day to get to Northampton — you were there in less than three hours! It truly was an event to go birding over 100 years ago. The tripod has since replaced the rifle, and instead of specimens we can take photographs, even instant ones, back from a day of birding.

Most of what we know of North American birds is based on the careful work of ornithologists like William Brewster who, using the tools of their time, shot birds in order to collect and study them. He was tireless in his observations and had a distinct style of writing; reading his journal you can sense his enthusiasm and his desire to know more of the bird he is watching. I hope you will enjoy the following account.

Gleanings from the Journal of William Brewster

March 17, 1881 Northampton, Massachusetts

At the invitation of Mr. E. O. Damon I made a second trip to Northampton to study the habits of the Rough-legs during this spring migration and to procure specimens. Leaving Boston on the afternoon of the 16th I spent the night at Springfield and taking the early morning train to Northampton met Mr. Damon at the depot. His report concerning the presence of the *Archibuteos* was very encouraging. For the first time in many years they did not winter in the valley although a single individual was being seen through January, February and early March. On March 13 however Mr. Damon saw several from his house and driving over a portion of the adjoining intervals during the afternoon of the same day he observed no less than twenty individuals. He thought they arrived that day on masse.

Getting ready as quickly as possible we were soon driving across the broad intervals and to my great delight the Rough-legs proved to be still on the ground in considerable numbers. Upon approaching the first group of noble elms that grow to such great size on this rich bottom land we counted no less than five Hawks in sight

at once and during the forenoon at least twenty were seen. But ill luck awaited us. Damon killed the first bird he shot at, stalking it from behind a barn. But the second he missed and his horse which I was holding broke into a furious run and I had great difficulty in stopping him while the strain of pulling on the reins weakened my broken arm so seriously that I did not dare to run the risk of trying it again! Accordingly as our only resource (I being unable to jump from the wagon with the horse going at a fast trot, as Damon is in the habit of doing before firing) I was left concealed in a shed while he drove the birds about in hopes of getting them to alight on a tree that grew within long range of my ambush. Two birds were successfully driven near but I got neither although both went off very badly wounded. Finally we returned to dinner with only one bird.

In the afternoon I started out again with Mr. Maynard, a friend of Damon's. We took a stable horse, an excellent, steady beast well trained for the work in hand! Maynard's method is different from Damon's. He shoots from the buggy, placing one foot on the step and rising just before raising his gun. Had the Hawks been as numerous as in the forenoon we should have made a good bag, but they were scarce and very shy. However we succeeded in killing three, one of which I shot from a tall elm while Maynard cut down the other two from on wing, making superb shots each time with the horse going at a sharp trot! We went around the "Ox-bows" later in the afternoon, seeing no Hawks, but running across a flock of Black Ducks which Maynard stalked laboriously and from which he shot down one at very long range. It however got into some bushes and as we had no dog, escaped. The day was cloudy and chilly with a piercing north-east wind. The valley land was bare and brown but Mt. Holyoke and Mt. Tom were white with snow.

I passed the night under Damon's hospitable roof and on the morning on the next day (March 18) we again started, Mr. Maynard accompanying us. About two inches of snow had fallen in the night and it snowed fitfully through the forenoon. We drove about over the upper intervals, Damon, lying, hid in a barn and Maynard shooting while I managed the horse. There were about a dozen Rough-legs on the intervals but they were so restless and shy that we could do nothing with them and we did not get a bird though Maynard fired a number of impossibly long shots. During the experience of both days we did not see a single Red-tail or indeed any other Hawk except *Circus hudsonius* (Northern Harrier). I returned to Boston in the afternoon with five Rough-legs one of which was shot by Mr. Maynard before my arrival. One of my Hawks is being mounted for the Boston Society, the others are cataloged: MCZ 205319, 205320, 205321, and 205322.

Habits: The experience of these two days had largely added to my knowledge of the habits of this interesting hawk and in the following account I propose to formulate these observations. I have also added some facts, which I had from Mr. Damon as well as others obtained from Mr. Maynard.

The Rough-legged Hawks though still numerous in their season about Northampton do not now occur in nearly so great numbers as in former years. The old farmers tell of fifty being killed in a day in those times and they were then comparatively easy to approach. Some ten years ago, Messrs Maynard and Damon

began to shoot them with the rifle and in 1879, the latter first began to systematically hunt them with a shot gun and a horse. On Thanksgiving day of that year twenty-five were killed near the town by Mr. Damon and his friends. During the winter of 79-80 Mr. Damon alone killed over fifty.

During mild winters they remain on the intervals in considerable numbers. They regularly go to roost about dusk in a group of yellow pines (*P. rigida*) {Pitch Pine} on a hill to the west of the town. Mr. Damon used to lie in wait for them there and shoot them as they came in. They flew over the town singly and at a considerable height. In the morning they returned to the interval at about sunrise. This habit is also maintained at all seasons. I saw them yesterday flying overhead in twilight towards Mt. Tom.

So far as Damon has observed the Rough-legs feed entirely on mice. Their manner of hunting has been described in some notes made by me in former years so I will not repeat it here.

Their temperament varies considerably with the weather. On still days they are usually sluggish, hunting but little and remaining on their perches for hours at a time. During snow storms they are usually very inactive and easily approached but sometimes exactly the reverse as was the case this morning. On windy, blustery days they are invariably restless, shy and active darting about high in air and shifting from tree to tree at frequent intervals. They have their favorite perches to which they soon return after being driven away, a habit, which is often taken advantage of by the shooters. They frequently perch on the topmost slender sprigs of the tall elms where they swing in the wind with as much ease as a Robin or a Blackbird, but they are more apt to choose those horizontal limbs about two-thirds of the distance from the ground. They usually sit in a slovenly attitude with the body nearly erect and the feathers ruffled. But sometimes when suspicious of danger their plumage is closely drawn and the pose and outlines of the motionless bird is then superb. Their colors vary interminably; Damon has rarely seen two alike. The dark birds look much darker than they really are and many of them appear as black and shining as a Crow. They are peaceable and rather sociable in disposition, two and, sometimes three being seen on the same tree. On several occasions I saw one alight on the same branch where another sat in which case the first usually flew to the next tree with apparent good nature. They rarely if ever swoop on their prey from their perches, their hunting being thus carried on quite differently from that of other Buteos.

Their flight is easy and graceful, never hurried, rarely if ever swift, but perfectly well sustained. They sail in a straight line across the fields like Turkey Buzzards but rarely circle about as the Buteos do. When about to alight they sweep downward often nearly to the ground and rising on motionless pinions close their wings as they strike the branch. When the topmost twigs are chosen they usually stand for a moment with uplifted wings until they get their balance and sometimes flap once or twice in accomplishing this. When passing overhead from one place to another, as when going to roost, the wing beats are regular and unremitting and the flight resembles a Herring Gulls.

They were screaming incessantly this morning, the first time I ever heard these notes. These resemble the syllables – pee, pee, plee, pl-ee uttered in a shrill whistling

tone. The cry reminded me of the spring song of the Osprey but it was feebler and the notes were less continuous. Occasionally it resembled the long drawn whistle of the Black-breast Plover. Ordinarily *Archibuteo* is a very silent bird.

From: *Journal of William Brewster*, Volume 2 pages 196-198. Reprinted with permission from the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.

Addendum. I was curious to find out the current status of Rough-legged Hawks in the Connecticut River Valley, especially the Northampton Meadows and how it relates with today's birders. Tom Gagnon, a long-time birder from Northampton with a particular fondness for raptors, wrote me: "Twenty to twenty-five years ago you could always plan on seeing a Rough-legged or two in the Meadows. The last fifteen years they have been quite unusual; it seems like I rarely ever see one anymore. The farming practices have changed, better methods of harvesting the corn with less being left there for the rodents to feed on and exploding their populations. There are very little grassy or weedy strips left anywhere. There used to be much asparagus grown here in the valley and that created a great winter habitat for many species and now we have very little grown here with zero in the East Meadows of Northampton. I consider it to be a RED LETTER DAY if I should see a Rough-legged Hawk in the meadows." 📌

Bob Stymeist has been interested in birds since 1958. He started "brown bag" birding in 1961 with his first pair of binoculars and boarded the subway in Harvard Square to visit the Arnold Arboretum. His love of urban birding continues today and he keeps an annual list of birds found in the City of

Boston. His other favorite spot is Mount Auburn Cemetery, which he didn't find out about until 1963, even though it was only two miles from his home. He has recorded 213 species in the Cemetery. His current project (obsession) is trying to find a Carolina Wren in each of the 351 towns in Massachusetts; currently he has found them in 277! Bob was a founding member of Bird Observer and served as its President from 1978-1984. He has been Treasurer of the Nuttall Ornithological Club since 1981 and has been the Statistician for the Brookline Bird Club since 1987.



Local birders gathered in Mount Auburn Cemetery at the gravesite of William Brewster on July 5, 2001, to honor the 150th anniversary of his birth. Left to right: Carolyn Marsh, Janet Heywood, Bob Stymeist, Peter Vale, Marj Rines, Fay Vale, Judy Jackson, Larry O'Bryan, Linda Pivacek, Brooke Stevens, and Tom McCorkle. Photograph by John Marsh.



ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK BY ANON.



HUNTING ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK BY DAVID LARSON

The First Annual Superbowl of Birding

David Larson

On January 24, 2004, the Joppa Flats Education Center in Newburyport hosted the First Annual Superbowl of Birding. The staff and volunteers at Joppa Flats set up this contest to publicize the great winter birding along the north coast region and to provide a welcome diversion during a month some think of as dreary, cold, and birdless. Well, it was cold, with temperatures around 0°F at the start, a high of less than 20°F, and subzero wind chills all day. But it was clear and bright, not dreary, and anything but birdless. For 12 hours (5 a.m. to 5 p.m.), 125 participants in 25 teams scoured Essex County, Massachusetts, and Rockingham County, New Hampshire. They tallied 125 species in all, breaking the January Big Day records for both states in the process. Participants came from throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire and as far away as Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Winning a birding contest usually requires well-conceived strategy, well-planned tactics, a lot of scouting, and copious luck. In order to make this contest more interesting, the rules were crafted to require more than just finding as many species as possible. Most wintering species of birds were assigned point values based on their perceived rarity. For instance, House Sparrow was worth one point, Surf Scoter was worth two, Rough-legged Hawk brought in three points, Thick-billed Murre four, and Bohemian Waxwing was good for five points. Any species not on the official checklist was good for five points, but sightings had to be called in to Joppa Flats (and the phones were manned from 5 a.m. on) in order to count. The first team to report a given write-in species got an additional three bonus points. Hence, six teams called in a Field Sparrow (not on the list; so worth five points), but only the first team received eight points. Birds reported to contest headquarters were posted on Massbird and NH-Birds and at Joppa Flats.

Most of the teams hit the predictable winter birding spots in the area. In Massachusetts, Nahant, Marblehead Neck, Rockport, Gloucester, Ipswich, Rowley, Newburyport Harbor, Plum Island, and Salisbury Beach were all well-visited. That reliable Eastern Screech Owl on Rte. 1A in Rowley surely got a lot of attention all day. In New Hampshire, Newmarket, Portsmouth, Stratham, Hampton, and Seabrook were popular. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a feeder in Derry, NH, was clearly the bird of the day. Other great birds were Ruby-crowned Kinglet (Boxford), Brown Thrasher (Nahant), Northern Shoveler (Nahant), and Common Grackle (Gloucester). Twenty-one teams found Bald Eagles, but only one tallied a Merlin. Other birds found by only one team included Ruffed Grouse, Thick-billed Murre, Fish Crow, American Pipit, Bohemian Waxwing, Winter Wren, Eastern Towhee, White-crowned



THE SUPER-SILLY-UMS BY MELISSA VOKEY

Sparrow, Pine Siskin, Fox Sparrow, Turkey Vulture, and Eastern Meadowlark.


All of the teams had to check in at Joppa Flats by 5:30 p.m. (so Andrew's Point or Marblehead Neck had better not be the last stop!). The contest judges (Mark Halloran, Joyce Halloran, and Ann Gurka) examined each team's official check-list, awarded bonus points, and tallied the results. While the judges were hard at work, contestants dined on pizza and salad, chatted with friends, bragged about their findings, and tried to warm up.

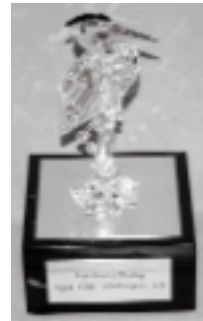
After a welcome by Bill Gette, Sanctuary Director of Joppa Flats, Judge Mark Halloran awarded the prizes. The NewBies Award (2 or more team members under 18 years of age) was won by the Racing Ravens, including Marin and Gwen Gardner (ages 9 and 6), who stuck it out through the whole 12 hours. The Lifer Award was won by Adlai Faigan (age 10), who picked up 28 life birds while competing with The Shrikes. The Sitting Duck Award was won by the Sitting Duck Wannabes (John Halloran, leader), who birded all day from the Joppa Flats building (and picked up the only Snowy Owl of the contest). Steve Mirick's team, the New Hampshire 4th and Longspurs, surpassed the January NH Big Day record with 70 species and 156 points. The Director's Cup Award went to the Hit Squad and West Hill Caterers (Strickland Wheelock, leader), who tied the previous MA Big Day record with 77 species (154 points). The Swarovski Hawks (Wayne Petersen, Paul Baicich, Rick Heil, Jeremiah Trimble, and Jan Greenwood) amassed a new MA January Big Day record 79 species while winning the grand prize, the Joppa Cup, with a total of 165 points!

Everyone who competed came away with a free subscription to *Natural New England* magazine and a Mass Audubon mug. Prizes awarded included gift certificates to the Nature Shop at Joppa Flats; Mass Audubon lunch bags, travel mugs, and calendars; copies of the *Nature of Massachusetts*; and Swarovski crystal trinkets and embroidered caps. The Joppa Cup winning team will have its name engraved on the Cup, a stunning Swarovski crystal heron on a marble base, which will stay on display at the Joppa Flats Education Center.

The Superbowl of Birding was generously sponsored by Swarovski Optik; Coca Cola of Salem, NH; *Natural New England*; and The Nature Shop at Joppa Flats.

So, was it fun? All of the feedback was very positive and no fingers, toes, or noses were lost. One participant, who shall remain nameless, did venture that she did not really warm up until she was at home and in a hot bath. But heck, if you want to enter a contest and stay warm, there is always that one down in New Jersey. Gwen Gardner, age 6, having immediately spent her NewBies gift certificate, exclaimed, "This is the best day of my life!" What more could the organizers and sponsors want?

David Larson is the Education Coordinator for the  Joppa Flats Education Center (Mass Audubon) in Newburyport and the Production Editor for Bird Observer.



THE JOPPA CUP BY
DAVID LARSON

The Historic Status and Recovery of the Peregrine Falcon in Massachusetts

Thomas W. French

Rusty wire and bits of rotting wood can still be found on a small shelf next to the cliff at Lighthouse Hill on the west side of Quabbin Reservoir's Prescott Peninsula, where Archie Hagar built a blind to observe and photograph a Peregrine Falcon aerie. His discovery of broken eggs at this site in 1947 (Hagar 1969) was the first hint that the decline of the Peregrine population in North America as a result of DDT had begun. Between Forbush (1927) and Hagar, a total of 15 Peregrine Falcon nest sites had been identified in Massachusetts, although the exact location of one site that appears on Forbush's map has never been determined. Throughout the eastern United States the historical population was about 275 nesting pairs (Hickey 1942). Once the decline began, it was rapid. The last chicks to be raised at Massachusetts aeries were at Mount Tom, Holyoke in 1950 and at Monument Mountain, Great Barrington, in 1957. By 1964 there were no remaining nesting pairs in the entire eastern United States (Berger et al. 1969).

With the eventual ban of DDT in the U.S. by the federal Environmental Protection Agency in 1972, restoration became a possibility. The Peregrine Fund was established at the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology by Dr. Tom Cade, with the intent of producing captive-born young for release into the wild. The first release of captive-born birds was in 1974. The following year three chicks were raised on an old fire tower set up at the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Drumlin Farm in Lincoln. This release was followed by a four-year effort on Mount Tom from 1976 through 1979, with a total of 16 birds (3, 3, 6, and 4, respectively) being raised and released. One of the falcons released at Mount Tom in 1977 was hit by an airplane in Westfield, and another was shot and killed the same year by a hunter near Brigantine, New Jersey, but none of the other young falcons that were released in Massachusetts in the 1970s were ever reported again.

In 1983 the state legislature established the Massachusetts Nongame Program, now known as the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, with a voluntary state income tax checkoff as a partial funding mechanism. The first new project undertaken by this program was the reestablishment of Peregrine Falcons. Because of the history of Great Horned Owl predation of Peregrine Falcon chicks at low elevation release sites, the John McCormick Post Office and Court House Building in downtown Boston were chosen for the release of six falcons in 1984 and six more in 1985. This was followed by the release of five falcons on the Murray D. Lincoln Campus Center building on the University of Massachusetts campus in Amherst.

In Amherst all of the chicks fledged and dispersed successfully, but three were found dead (in Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania; Iselin, New Jersey; and Chajurana,

Venezuela), while a fourth was picked up injured in Hartford, Connecticut, treated, and released. In Boston only three of the six chicks successfully dispersed from the release site each year. Five were killed in accidents near the release site shortly after fledging, and one female that was found injured at Logan Airport was unreleasable. A seventh bird that had been named Dublin returned to the release site hobbling on one leg with a fractured pelvis. Two days later he was trapped on the post office roof and taken to the Tufts University Wildlife Clinic in North Grafton, where he stayed for ten days before being released back on the roof.

The next time Dublin was seen was ten minutes after the release of the six new falcon chicks the following year. Dublin appeared out of nowhere and started dive-bombing the new chicks on their first flights. This behavior was not unheard of: at some release sites returning falcons even killed newly released chicks. Fortunately, Dublin made a nuisance of himself but did not cause any serious harm. The next year (1986) Dublin reappeared in the company of a female his age that had been released in downtown Toronto, Ontario, 600 miles away. They stayed together all summer and prospected for nest sites but did not lay their first eggs until the following year (1987). Ironically, they chose an ornamental gutter on the seventeenth floor of the post office building as their nest site. By then the release box on the twenty-third floor, which would have been a wonderful nest site, had been removed because it was thought to be too low compared with the surrounding buildings to be a good nest location. The gutter was not a good site, and the pair required a lot of help to raise a fostered chick from a second nest attempt.

Dublin died in 1987, and the following year (1988) he was replaced by a male (now seventeen) that was originally released in Portland, Maine, in 1986. The Peregrine pair proceeded to occupy a newly installed nest box in the top of the Custom House Tower, a site which has now become a traditional Peregrine aerie. Since the site is built like a Barn Owl box, where the birds enter through a window and nest in a completely enclosed box within the building, it is completely protected from bad weather and may have the best record of productivity of all sites in the Northeast. When the box has been closed to allow for renovation of the Custom House Tower by the Marriott Corporation, or for other reasons of disturbance, the Peregrines moved back to the post office (three times). The pair is now represented by its second female, a twelve-year-old bird originally released from Borestone Mountain, Maine, in 1991.

The second founding pair in Massachusetts began in 1987 in Springfield with the arrival of a female that had been released in downtown Toronto a year after the Boston female. This bird was named Amelia in a contest of school children; the male, who joined her in 1988, was named Andy in honor of Andy House, the building employee who became the caretaker and guardian of the nest site. This pair nested in a tray provided on the twenty-first floor of Springfield's tallest building, Monarch Place, and became the stars of a dedicated public-access cable television channel known locally as the falcon channel. For most of the past fourteen nesting seasons (except 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2002 when they nested under the Memorial Bridge over the Connecticut River), the daily activities of this nest have been followed live

by thousands of viewers. The popularity that the birds gained by being available to so many observers led to the city's hockey team being named the Falcons in their honor. When Amelia died after striking a glass panel on the roof of a nearby parking garage, there was great fear that the nesting of falcons had come to an end in Springfield; her death, on February 15, 1995, was about six weeks before she should have begun egg laying. By the mid-1990s, however, there was a floating population of unpaired birds similar to what had existed before the decline from DDT, and six days later Andy was at the nest site with a new female (fledged from the Verrazano Narrows Bridge in New York City). On October 30, 1998, Andy was killed when he struck a power line and was replaced by an unbanded male.

It was seven years after the Springfield pair nested before the next pairs established themselves. In 1996 two new pairs were found: one on the Braga Bridge (I-195) at Battleship Cove in Fall River, and the other on the Christian Science Church Administration Building in Boston. In Fall River the nest was inside a hollow support beam, and the eggs were laid on the remains of an old Rock Pigeon nest. The identity of these birds is unclear: the female was probably a bird that had fledged from Deer Leap in the Green Mountains of Vermont, but for seven years the male's band could not be read. In 2003 the site had a new male whose bands have not yet been read. From 1998 through 2002 the Fall River pair nested in a secure nest box and did very well, but with the arrival of the new male in 2003 they moved back into the framework of the bridge.

The Christian Science Church female had fledged from The Precipice at Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island, Maine. The male was a one-year-old unbanded bird in full juvenile plumage. Even with his young age, this new pair fledged a full clutch of four chicks in the first year and have done very well ever since.

In 1999 the Peregrine Falcon was determined to have recovered in the United States and was removed from the federal list of endangered species (64FR 46542). In the eastern United States the population had gone from no pairs nesting at the time of listing in 1970 (Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969) to 193 nesting pairs (including the Great Lakes) in 1998. Indeed, the Peregrine Falcon has recovered dramatically. Although the Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires a post-delisting monitoring program, which for the Peregrine will continue through 2015, its protection and management is now carried out under the framework of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In 2003 the taking of up to ten percent of nestlings for falconry in participating western states (west of the 100th meridian) was allowed, and regulations to allow the capture of first-year migrants (passage birds) in both the East and West for falconry are being reviewed.

Since the federal delisting in 1999, the number of territorial pairs of Peregrine Falcons in Massachusetts has increased from four to ten, and similar increases have been seen throughout the Northeast. The locations of Massachusetts' newest pairs (with their first year of establishment) include the W.E.B. DuBois Library building at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (2001); Farley Cliffs, Erving (2002—last occupied in 1951); Tobin Bridge, Boston (2002); Goliath Crane in the Quincy Ship

Yard, Quincy (2002); Ideal Box Company and New Balance Shoe building, Lawrence (2002); and Mount Sugarloaf, Deerfield (2003—last occupied in 1951). In 1969, when Joe Hagar wrote about the history of Peregrine Falcon nesting in Massachusetts, each site was coded so that the location would remain a secret. In more recent years, biologists working on the recovery of the Peregrine have come to believe that when climbers, hikers, and building and bridge managers know where these birds are nesting, they will actually be better protected.

Since 1987, when Dublin raised his first family in Boston, 123 chicks have fledged from Massachusetts nest sites. Although Peregrine Falcons never were, and probably never will be an abundant raptor in the East, they are returning to many of their historic cliff sites and are adapting well to the urban environment. It appears that they are back to stay. 📌

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Tom French is an Assistant Director of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, where he has directed the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program since it began in 1984. Tom has been very active in the restoration of the Peregrine Falcon and the Bald Eagle. Over the years, he has helped other state fish and wildlife agencies band Peregrine chicks on cliffs, buildings, and bridges in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Another recent article written by him on Massachusetts Peregrines appears in the new book *Return of the Peregrine, A North American Saga of Tenacity and Teamwork*, Tom J.Cade and William Burnham, editors, *The Peregrine Fund* (2003). He would like to thank the numerous volunteers, property owners, building and bridge managers, and biologists who have played a significant role in Peregrine Falcon restoration here in Massachusetts. This project has by necessity been a cooperative effort and has by fortune successfully accomplished its goal. Most of the credit, however, goes to the birds themselves that have been more resilient and adaptable than many of us would have expected.



PEREGRINE FALCON BY GEORGE C. WEST

FIELD NOTES

Evading the Peregrine Falcon

Dana Rohleder

In early October of 2003 I spent a week on Nantucket surf fishing not far from Great Point. Over the course of the week I saw 12 Peregrine Falcons and 5 Merlins, most of which were migrating. Some of the Peregrines may have been recounted because I believe there was at least one that stayed near Great Point for several days.

One day, a Merlin flew by 50 yards offshore followed about 100 yards back by a Peregrine. Then, oddly, the Merlin stopped abruptly and began to “hover,” similar to the way a Kestrel does, as the Peregrine closed. When the Peregrine was about to strike, the Merlin dove into the ocean! The Peregrine may have hit the bird when it was in the water, but I didn’t get a good look. The Peregrine made a quick turn and flew over the spot several times, but the Merlin was no longer visible on the surface. After several passes, the Peregrine left and the Merlin was not seen again, apparently resting in Davy Jones’s locker.

I find it odd that, with some fairly abundant scrub nearby, the Merlin sought refuge in the water. I would think that it would have been able to dive into the scrub and avoid the larger bird. Possibly it never knew the Peregrine was pursuing it, and it saw something interesting in the water and stopped to investigate, then it was surprised by the Peregrine ambush. 🦅

Looking up to find a Peregrine “locked on” and closing for a kill is probably enough to panic nearly any bird. Under these circumstances, I wouldn’t be too surprised by whatever evasive action a bird might take. Some do head for the scrub. One summer on Penikese Island I heard the frantic chatter of a Barn Swallow overhead. It was flying at full speed nearly straight down with a Peregrine closing fast. Without any deviation it plunged straight into a Rosa rugosa (saltspray rose) bush and the Peregrine peeled off just a few feet behind with a great rush of wind in its wings. I never saw the swallow emerge again and was left to wonder if it had died on impact or was just making sure the coast was really clear.

Tom French

Banding Migrating Peregrine Falcons at Noman’s Land Island NWR

Norman Smith

Noman’s Land is a 628-acre island located approximately six miles SSW of Martha’s Vineyard. It has a long and rich history (French, T. 2002. Summary of Leach’s Storm-petrel Nesting on Penikese Island, MA, and a Report of Probable Nesting on Noman’s Land Island. *Bird Observer* 30 (3): 182-7.). From the beginning of World War II until 1996, various portions of the island were used as a military

target range. On June 26, 1998, the island was turned over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to become Noman's Land National Wildlife Refuge. However, because of the potential dangers of remaining military ordnance, the island remains closed to public access.

For many years Noman's Land has been recognized as a concentration area for fall migrants including raptors, most notably Peregrine Falcons. On a previous trip on October 16, 1998, I had seen nineteen Peregrines around the tall bluffs on the south side of the island, as well as a Cooper's Hawk, American Kestrel, Rough-legged Hawk, four Merlins, and seven Northern Harriers. On October 9 and 10, 2003, I made an overnight trip to Noman's Land with USFWS biologists to assess the importance of Noman's Land Island to migrating raptors, especially to Peregrine Falcons. The idea was to trap and band as many falcons as possible, to try to assess the number of raptors using the island. By capturing and banding the falcons, their overall condition could be examined, and the band could potentially identify them at other stopover points as they continued their journey south. The team included USFWS biologists Stephanie Koch, Janet Thibault, Monica Williams, and USFWS volunteer Don Manchester, along with Vin Zolo and me from the Massachusetts Audubon Trailside Museum in the Blue Hills Reservation.

Upon arriving on the island, Vin Zolo and I loaded up the ATV and made our way to the tallest bluff, where on October 16, 1998, I observed the aforementioned nineteen Peregrines, capturing and banding seven of them. On our way to the bluff we observed two Cooper's Hawks, four Northern Harriers, and one hatch-year Peregrine Falcon. As we approached the base of the bluff, we watched a large adult Peregrine take a bath in a nearby freshwater pond. We parked the ATV and made our way through the dense poison ivy to the top of the bluff. As we looked over the top of the bluff, the flat grassy area I had used in 1998 had disappeared, apparently a casualty of the last big storm surge. From the top of the bluff the view was still spectacular, and we watched several Peregrines riding the updrafts; however, the remaining area wasn't large enough to set up the blind and nets. We got back on the ATV and proceeded along the bluffs to try to find a place to set up, all the while watching Peregrines riding the updrafts of the bluffs and then heading out over the water and disappearing from view. There were no usable sites along the bluffs, so we went to the top of a sand dune in the middle of the island.

After setting up the observation blind and net, we lured in and captured a Cooper's Hawk. The next bird we captured was a hatch-year female Peregrine with a full crop. Little did we know at the time that we would have numerous encounters with this bird over the course of the day! We were watching Peregrines fly down the island until they reached the bluffs to catch the updrafts and then circle upward, gaining altitude, and one after another head out over the water to their next destination. Groups of Peregrines would build up over the bluffs, with as many as eleven birds in a group, prior to their departure from the island. As another Peregrine made a pass at the lure, a second Peregrine right on its tail landed on the trap and was captured. Upon removing the bird from the trap, I noticed it was banded, and after checking the number realized it was the hatch-year female with the full crop we just banded. Moments later a small hatch-year Peregrine made a pass at the lure followed by a big adult bird that was traveling so fast we could hear the noise generated from

the air turbulence she created before we could even see her. Seconds later, a third bird flew over the lure, looped around, came in again, and was captured. It was that same bird we captured earlier. She was sternly lectured about coming back to the trap and released. Several minutes later two more Peregrines made a pass at the lure, with the trailing bird being captured. It was that same bird again! So we placed her in the weighing can in the blind to give us a chance at some other birds. After a few minutes she escaped from the can and momentarily stared at us in the blind before she flew out the door and was gone.



THAT PERSISTANT PEREGRINE BY NORMAN SMITH

We had numerous Peregrines come in and make passes but only managed to capture that same female two more times. She was an extremely aggressive bird and wouldn't let any other Peregrines land on our lure; we captured her six times that day. However, she did allow us to lure in and capture a Northern Harrier. Why couldn't she have been one of the many Peregrines to leave the island and continue their journey south that day? By the end of the day we had observed over fifty Peregrines pass through the island as well as fifteen Northern Harriers, a Merlin, Sharp-shinned Hawk, two Cooper's Hawks, and a Red-tailed Hawk. The next morning we set up early and had several harriers make passes at the lure. We managed to capture two Peregrines and watched several others make passes. Unlike the previous day, the Peregrines that we observed were eating or sitting on the bluffs for most of the day, and we watched only one leave the island.

Being there to document the more than fifty Peregrines that passed through Noman's Island on October 9, and eighteen observed feeding and resting on October 10, was an incredible experience. There is no doubt the trip was well worth the nasty case of poison ivy I brought home from the island; this plagued me for the next two months. Hopefully, this unique National Wildlife Refuge will continue to be an important stopover point for Peregrine Falcons and other migrants for years to come.



“Black” Brant in Plymouth

Wayne R. Petersen

The taxonomy of Brant with dark bellies has recently received attention in the literature [e.g., Buckley, P.A. and S. S. Mitra. 2002. Three Geese Resembling “Gray-bellied Brant”/“Lawrence’s Brant” from Long Island, New York, *North American Birds* 56 (4): 502-507]. Consequently, the following note may be of interest to birders in Massachusetts.

While leading a field trip area for the Joppa Flats Education Center in Plymouth on October 25, 2003, I observed an adult “Black” Brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*) at

Nelson Street Beach on the Plymouth waterfront. The “Black” Brant was feeding on the soccer field adjacent to the beach parking lot, among a flock of about 200 “Atlantic” Brant (*B. b. hrota*) at approximately 2:30 p.m. The bird was also observed in flight and sleeping on the beach flats during a falling tide. The Brant in question was completely and solidly black below, all the way to the vent area, with scarcely a discernable contrast between the dark chest and what is typically a brownish-gray belly on light-bellied “Atlantic” Brant. This lack of contrast between the dark chest and lower breast and belly is one of the premiere characteristics of Brant belonging to the western Arctic and Alaskan populations of North America. In addition to having solid black underparts, the white marking on the bird’s neck was completely connected on the front, as well as being more extensive on the sides, than is typical of “Atlantic” Brant. Also, the dorsal color was noticeably darker (almost charcoal in tone) than that of adjacent Brant. Finally, the strongly contrasting, vertically barred, black-and-white flanks of the “Black” Brant provided sharp contrast to the blackish under parts, giving the flanks a striking black and white appearance.

In addition to the adult “Black” Brant described above, a juvenile bearing similar characteristics was seemingly in attendance with the adult (see accompanying photo). Knowing the propensity with which juvenile waterfowl routinely accompany their parents during a first autumn migration, it seems reasonable to suspect that these birds represented at least a partial family group.

The western race of the Brant (*B. b. nigricans*) has been reliably recorded and collected in Massachusetts on at least a dozen previous occasions, including a bird observed at this same location as recently as early November 2000 [see *Bird Observer* 29 (2)]. The race *nigricans* has also been widely recorded elsewhere on the Atlantic coast of North America, although it is universally considered a rarity in this region. Efforts to relocate and photo document this bird were successfully attempted the following day.

Although currently regarded as a subspecies, until at least 1957 *nigricans* was regarded as a full species (see American Ornithologists’ Union. 1957. *Check-List of North American Birds*, 5th ed.). The taxonomy of Brant worldwide continues to be shrouded in controversy, so birders in Massachusetts are encouraged to pay special attention to any Brant exhibiting dusky or blackish underparts, along with carefully documenting the appearance of such birds when they are encountered. 📷



“BLACK” BRANT IN PLYMOUTH BY WAYNE R. PETERSEN

ABOUT BOOKS

Bird's the Word

Mark Lynch

Editor's Note. This review was originally written for inclusion with *Editors' Choices for Seasonal Gifts in the December 2003 issue.*

Instead it is appearing here in a revised and expanded version as a piece about bird poetry.



ARTE DE PÁJAROS/ART OF BIRDS. 2002. Pablo Neruda. Barcelona, Spain: Lynx Edicions.

Ever since the first poem was penned, there have been verses about birds. Because birds fly and can gracefully escape the earthbound life, for poets and other artists birds have symbolized the connection between heaven and earth, between the spiritual and the carnal. In the late 12th century English epic poem *The Owl and the Nightingale* by an unknown author, the two nocturnal avian singers of the title debate the ideas of courtly love (the nightingale) versus the traditional morality of the Church (the owl):

It happened in the summery heart
Of a secret vale's most hidden part,
I heard an Owl and a Nightingale
Disputing on a mighty scale;
Most keen and strenuous the debate,
Now gentle, now in furious spate.
(translated by Brian Stone)

One can imagine being awake on many nights in Medieval England and hearing a Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) sing its rich and varied song, while at the same time a Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*) would give its solemn whistled hoots. But what did this contrasting nocturnal chorus mean? *The Owl and the Nightingale* was written at a time of European history when it was believed that the entire natural world was placed there by "God" to be either directly used by humanity for food and shelter or to teach it some moral lesson. So everything in the environment, every event that occurred, no matter how insignificant had a divine purpose and meaning that needed to be uncovered.

An even more impressive use of birds as symbols of the divine in poetry can be found in the *Mantiq al-tayr* or *The Flight of the Birds To Union*, a poem by the 12th century Persian Sufi mystic Farid al-din Attar. In the 4458 verses of this epic, all the birds meet to select a king. This avian congress eventually travels en masse long

distances while facing great hardships to meet the Simurgh, whom they consider the only worthy leader. The Simurgh is akin to a phoenix and a Persian symbol of the divine. Each of the thirty bird species described represents a different human personality type. In this poem the nightingale symbolizes the love of external and distracting beauty, while the owl exhibits miserliness. Other bird characters of Attar's masterpiece include the parrot, the peacock, the duck, the heron, the partridge, the francolin, the wagtail, the Lammergeier, and even the Gyrfalcon!

I have recited for you the language of the birds one by one
Understand it then, O uninformed one!
Among the lovers, those birds become free,
Who escapes from the cage, before the moment of death.
They all possess another account and description,
For birds possess another tongue.
Before the Simurgh that person can make an elixir,
Who knows the language of all the birds.
(translated by Seyyed Hossein Nasr)

At the poem's conclusion it is revealed that the Simurgh is not just a single creature, but is instead composed of all the best aspects of all the birds together. In the *Flight of the Birds to Union*, different species of birds are used to convey a very abstract and complex idea about the nature of the divine in all of us.

Of course, not all bird poetry has been heavy-handed epics about the ultimate fate of humanity's soul and the true nature of the divine. Thank the gods! Besides flying, birds also sing and therefore have been imagined by poets to create their own art. Birds come in a resplendent variety of shapes and colors too. Birds are therefore muses incarnate that have often inspired poets of all cultures to just appreciate them on their own earthly terms.

In the early 19th century city of Edo (modern-day Tokyo) in Japan, as winter waned, wonderful Surimono would be published. These were limited edition prints with poems celebrating the coming of spring. These Surimono were a unique collaborative effort involving the skills of artists, poets, calligraphers, block cutters, printers, and text engravers. Many of these Surimono used birds as an apt image of the impending change of the seasons.

The wings of the crows on the rooftop overlap,
their first cries announce the priceless Spring.

The lines are by Yamato Watamori and appear on a Surimono featuring a stunning image of flying crows against the rising sun by Yashima Gakutei. Bird imagery can even be found in Japanese Zen Buddhist koans, phrases used in meditation to hopefully achieve satori. One of my favorites is a seven-character phrase that can be translated as:

When the snowy heron stands in the snow,
the colors are not the same.

I can often be heard reciting this mantra-like while searching for a Snowy Owl in February on a snow-covered marsh in Newburyport.

But I dare say, when most American birders think about birds and poetry, it's the lines penned by the Brits that come to mind. It sometimes seems that British poets of the last 350 years have cranked out more odes, sonnets, and just plain doggerel to the feathered tribe than any other people on the planet. This conclusion may simply be because we were all forced to read some of these poems in countless high school and college English lit courses. The Brits really went into rhyme scheme overdrive during the Romantic Era (late 18th – early 19th centuries), when it seems that everyone and his cousin was merrily traipsing about the muddy fen waxing eloquently (if archly) on the throstle, dunnoek, cuckoo, or especially the lark:

Hail to thee, blithe spirit!
Bird thou never wert,
That from heaven, or near it,
Pourest thy full heart
In profuse strains of unpremeditated art.
(from *To A Skylark* by Percy Bysshe Shelley)

Nature in all its wild splendor, especially birds, was THE inspiration for putting pen to paper during this time. Shelley and a select few aside, much of the romantic era's bird poetry does get rather silly and has not aged as well. For example, William Cowper's *On the Death of Mrs Throckmorton's Bullfinch*, is a hilariously emotional ode to a rat killing said caged bird complete with overwrought classical references.

For, aided both by ear and scent,
Right to his mark the monster went-
Ah, Muse! Forbear to speak:
Minute the horrors that ensued;
His teeth were strong, the cage was wood-
He left poor Bully's beak.

He left it—but he should have ta'en
That beak, whence issued many a strain
Of such mellifluous tone,
Might have repaid him well, I wot,
For silencing so sweet a throat,
Fast set within his own.

Maria weeps—the Muses mourn:
So when by Bacchanalians torn
On Thracian Hebrus' side,
The tree-enchanted Orpheus fell,
His head alone remained to tell
The cruel death he died.

There must have been countless drawing rooms that witnessed live readings of that poem complete with grim down-cast eyes and expressive gestures. Proper ladies, as well as gentlemen of refined tastes and gentle demeanor, probably swooned. It is interesting to note that, though Cowper's poetry was very influential at the time, he suffered from frequent bouts of serious depression and his pastor had to rescue him from several suicide attempts. That must have been some Bullfinch!

If I read too much of this stuff, I start to feel compelled to don some tweed, make several watercress sandwiches (with the crusts cut off), pack them in my rucker with a fine but unassuming port and, sans bins, gaily tromp off into my local hill and dale to commune with the tits and peewits. It's not a pretty sight to contemplate. I imagine it is memories of flowery poetry like this that have turned off generations of contemporary birders, and others, to the many and varied pleasures of bird poetry. This is a shame; because there are several great modern poets who have written some very interesting and wonderful works about birds, poems even a hardcore lister could love. Typically at the head of most people's list of great bird poets of the 20th century is Pablo Neruda, and Lynx Edicions has just published a beautiful edition of Neruda's *Art of Birds*.

Can a bird book ever be romantic? A strange question, that, and probably the last thing that would be on the mind of a birder buying a book. However, this beautiful version of Neruda's 1966 poems gets about as close to that concept as any book I have seen. Pablo Neruda was a Chilean poet, Nobel laureate, natural historian, and avid birder. He wrote many poems about the birds of southern Chile where he lived. This edition of *Arte de Pájaros* has been published by Lynx Edicions, the organization that is publishing the unprecedented *Birds of the World* series. In this version of *Arte de Pájaros*, Josep del Hoyo and Jordi Sargatal, editors of the landmark series, have written a wonderful introduction to Neruda's poems. A line-by-line English translation of Neruda's poems by Jack Schmitt is found on alternate pages with the original Spanish. Full-page color illustrations of species mentioned in the poems by Aldo Chiappe, Toni Llobet, and Jorge Rodríguez Mata are true to life and a beautiful complement to the poems. As to Neruda's poems, suffice it to say that whether he is writing about the Chilean Tinamou, the Chuaco Tapaculo, the Andean Condor, or a Red-breasted Meadowlark, these works are never baldly sentimental and fey. Neruda's poetry effortlessly combines a birder's sharp eyes with a modern poet's metaphorical and metaphysical heart. If your only experience with birds and poetry has been the "hark a lark" romantic-era sublime-ridden odes, then you are in for a treat when you read Neruda's poems.

No sonrío a la primavera
el jote, espía de Dios:
gira y gira midiendo el cielo,
solemne se posa en la tierra
y se cierra como un paraguas.

(The vulture, God's spy,
does not smile at springtime

it circles round and round, measuring heaven
solemnly settles on the ground,
and folds up like an umbrella) (pp.106-107).

Lynx Edicions has created a volume of Neruda's bird poems that is itself a work of art and, yes, would make a very appropriate gift to that significant other in your life. 📖

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Mark Lynch is a teacher, trip leader, and ecological monitor for the Broad Meadow Brook sanctuary of the Massachusetts Audubon. He is also a docent/teacher at the Worcester Art Museum and hosts an interview show on the arts and sciences on WICN (90.5FM). He would like to leave you with a couplet by John Heywood (1497-1580) titled *Of Birds and Birders*:

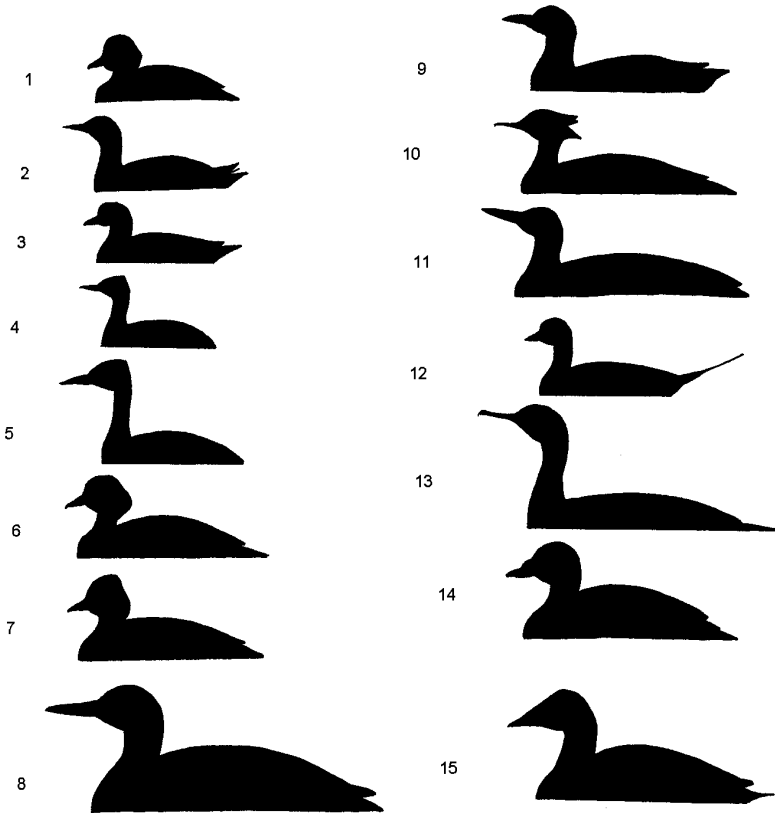
Better one bird in the hand than ten in the wood:
Better for birders, but for the birds not so good.



BALD EAGLE BY GEORGE C. WEST

Winter Waterfowl Quiz Answers

In the last issue of *Bird Observer* (Vol 31 (6): 364), we challenged you to match these silhouettes with the species (or groups) listed below. Now that you have had plenty of time to do your homework, we present the answers.



Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Black Guillemot, Murre sp., Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Scoter sp., Common Eider, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Cormorant sp., Common Loon.

1. Bufflehead
2. Black Guillemot
3. Harlequin Duck
4. Horned Grebe
5. Rednecked Grebe
6. Barrow's Goldeneye
7. Common Goldeneye
8. Common Loon

9. Murre sp.
10. Red-breasted Merganser
11. Red-throated Loon
12. Long-tailed Duck
13. Cormorant sp.
14. Scoter sp.
15. Common Eider

Images courtesy of Bill Gette, Sanctuary Director of the Joppa Flats Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary (Mass Audubon) in Newburyport, Massachusetts).

BIRD SIGHTINGS

September/October 2003

Seth Kellogg, Marjorie Rines, Robert H. Stymeist, and Jeremiah Trimble

September in Massachusetts had above-normal temperatures, but less rain than normal. The temperature averaged 65.7° in Boston, one degree above normal. It reached 83° on the late date of September 20 for the month high in Boston, while the low of 49° was set early in the month on September 10. Rainfall totaled 2.65 inches in Boston, almost an inch less than normal, though some areas of the state saw much more variable amounts of rain. There were three hurricane threats in the state during September. Hurricane Fabian, after devastating Bermuda on September 9, passed far to the east and brought only heavy seas to our coastal areas. Hurricane Isabel passed far to the west, near Cleveland, Ohio, on September 18-19, with little local effect other than high surf on southern coastal spots. Finally, Hurricane Juan was the third threat, but was so far out to sea that only high surf was noted. Juan continued north and Nova Scotia was hard hit.

October 2003 was cool, with an average temperature of 53° in Boston, 1.1° below normal. The high was only 74° on October 8, the lowest October high in Boston since 73° in 1996. Cold temperatures dominated the first week as well as the latter half of the month, with milder temperatures during the final six days of the month. No killing frost was noted in Boston, but some outlying suburbs had a killing frost on October 7. Many communities did not have a freeze until October 18, about two weeks later than average. Rain totaled 6.20 inches, 2.41 inches above normal for Boston. The most in any 24-hour period was two inches on October 12, the greatest amount since June 17, 2001. The season's first trace of snow came on October 23, sixteen days before average but the same date as last year! Measurable amounts fell in some suburbs and in many to the west and north of Route 128. *R. Stymeist*

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

Two Greater White-fronted Geese were found during October, one of which was identified as the Greenland race. The vast majority of records for Greater White-fronted Geese in Massachusetts are of the Greenland race (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*), distinguished by their slightly larger size, orange bill, and overall darker plumage. *Anser albifrons gambeli*, which is pink-billed, has been identified only a few times in the state. The last few falls have brought large numbers of Snow Geese to the state. This year's highest count was of nearly 2000 individuals counted flying past the hawkwatch in Barre on October 3.

The most interesting waterfowl sighting of the period was the **"Black" Brant** found in Plymouth. Most authorities currently consider "Black" Brant to be a subspecies of the "Pale-bellied" Brant (*Branta b. bernicla*). However, recent studies suggest that the "Black" Brant subspecies (*B. b. nigricans*) may in fact represent a distinct species, a taxonomic rank maintained until the 1960s. There are approximately 10 records of "Black" Brant in Massachusetts. Interestingly, the most recent report was from the same location on November 4, 2000. Given the propensity of waterfowl to return to or migrate through the same locations from one year to the next, it is possible that the same individual was involved in both sightings. Anyone interested in seeing a "Black" Brant in Massachusetts might do well to check this area of Plymouth in the first week of November 2004!

Canvasbacks returned to Fresh Pond in Cambridge by October 18 and numbers swelled to a mere twelve on October 25. Two Redheads were found associating with the Canvasbacks in Fresh Pond. Two Redheads were also found on South Monomoy on the rather early date of 11 October.

King Eider is generally rare in the state before the end of October, so a female observed in Westport on October 10 was noteworthy. Another was observed in Rockport on the more typical date of October 27. Impressive numbers of Common Eider were tallied at the shoals east of South Monomoy. Over 100,000 birds were thought to be present on October 24. This astounding figure, which recalls counts from the 1950s, is based on a number of aerial photographs of the flock, and was tallied by a computer program! It is interesting to note that observer estimates were an order of magnitude less than the computer count.

A **Pacific Loon** was reported at Provincetown on October 11 but did not linger long. Small numbers of Horned Grebes were reported by the end of October, including fifteen from inland localities, more than were found along the coast. A Red-necked Grebe at Andrew's Point in Rockport on September 19 was a bit early, while small numbers did not begin showing up until the last half of October. The aged Eared Grebe, aka the Energizer Bunny, returned to East Gloucester a bit early this year. It was first reported on September 28, although it was not observed again until October 17, when it settled in for the rest of the period.

Seabird numbers were rather lackluster this fall in Massachusetts, with a few exceptions. Very few Cory's Shearwaters were noted this season despite fairly good numbers just to our south. The pelagic highlight of the season was surely the boat trip organized by Massachusetts Audubon Society and the Plymouth Marine Mammal Research Center. Those on board were treated to an incredible feeding frenzy which included nearly two thousand Greater Shearwaters, 300 Sooty Shearwaters, forty-one Manx Shearwaters, and 2200 Wilson Storm-Petrels, not to mention over 100 humpback whales!

A female frigatebird was observed on September 27, at 4:30 pm in Gloucester's inner harbor, then from 5:30 to 6:30 by two separate observers off Marblehead. Although probability suggests that it was a Magnificent, there was not enough detail seen to eliminate other species of frigatebird, including the Lesser Frigatebird which has been recorded once before in New England, at Deer Island, Maine, in 1960. Presumably the same individual was seen off Monhegan Island in Maine on September 26, and off New York on October 2 as it returned south

Good numbers of egrets were present at Plum Island in early September. A maximum of fifty-eight Great Egrets was found on September 6, while at least twenty-four were still present on October 19. Snowy Egret numbers peaked at 250 on Plum Island on September 5, with twenty-four matching the Great Egret total on the October 19 at Plum Island. The only report of Great Egret from western Massachusetts came from Longmeadow, where four were seen on September 1. Up to seven Cattle Egrets were found in Manchester throughout the month of September and into early October. An immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** spent September and early October at Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary. A hawkwatcher at Barre Falls was lucky enough to spot a **Wood Stork** flying passed his station. This sighting follows the report of four Wood Storks seen together in Barre in late August. Black Vultures are becoming more and more routine in the state. Still, the twelve individuals seen in one day in Sheffield were noteworthy.

Great hawk reports came in from the regularly monitored hawkwatch sites throughout the state. Barre Falls reported the lion's share of accipiters. A total of 1497 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 118 Cooper's Hawks were counted there throughout the period. Not to be outdone, the

hawkwatch in Chatham recorded 127 Cooper's Hawks. Proportionately fewer Sharp-shinned Hawks were found at that coastal location, with only 587 recorded during the same period. An impressive number of goshawks was found throughout western Massachusetts. Fourteen were reported during September and nineteen during October, while only five were found throughout eastern Massachusetts during the entire period.

September 21 brought the greatest numbers of Broad-winged Hawks to the state. Over 2700 were counted from Mt. Watatic, while smaller but still impressive numbers were recorded at the other inland hawkwatch sites. A dark juvenile **Swainson's Hawk** was a one-day wonder in Concord. Rough-legged Hawks showed up on schedule during the last two weeks of October. The first was found in Granville on October 20. There have been thirty October records in Massachusetts over the last eight years, with the earliest record from October 16, 1998, on Noman's Land Island. The seven **Golden Eagles** this fall were all found in October. Granville lived up to its reputation for recording the largest numbers of American Kestrels in fall in Massachusetts. This year hawkwatchers there counted 235 kestrels during September and 159 during October. A Gyrfalcon was reported from Ipswich on October 17. There is only one earlier record for Massachusetts, on October 16, 2001, from Plum Island.

In recent years Soras and other denizens of freshwater marshes and swamps have been reported less and less frequently. This year's total of nine Soras for September and October is the second lowest in eight years and illustrates this trend, along with the need to concentrate efforts on preserving freshwater wetlands in Massachusetts and elsewhere. The Common Moorhen is in the same boat as the Sora, as indicated by the single observation during the period.

Typical of recent falls, large concentrations of Black-bellied Plovers and Semipalmated Plovers were found staging on South Beach in Chatham. High counts of 3300 and 2200, respectively, were tallied on September 16, and sixty-one Piping Plovers on September 13 was a good count. Large post-breeding concentrations of American Oystercatchers are normal around Monomoy in Chatham. This period's high count was 185 on September 5, and ninety were still there on October 13. The shorebird highlights of the period were likely the two **American Avocet** sightings, probably of the same individual, at Plymouth and Duxbury Beaches in late September. A count of seventeen Hudsonian Godwits at South Beach is the second highest count during the September/October sightings period during the last eight years.

Baird's Sandpipers put on their most impressive showing in the state ever. A minimum of twenty-six were counted throughout the period. The high count of thirteen tallied at Plum Island on September 5 beat the previous high of nine recorded at Monomoy on September 7, 1980, and at Longmeadow on August 20, 2002.

Up to three Little Gulls were found together in Newburyport Harbor throughout September. These included a striking juvenile bird. Juvenile Little Gulls, which are rarely observed in the state, and are not illustrated in some of the popular field guides, can be an identification challenge for birders unfamiliar with the plumage. As has been the case in recent years, Lesser Black-backed Gulls have been fairly regular throughout the year at certain localities. This is especially true of the Chatham area on Cape Cod. A high count of twenty-five was tallied on September 27 at South Beach, traditionally the best non-winter locality for this species in Massachusetts.

A **Sabine's Gull** was discovered east of Chatham on September 7 on the same boat trip that produced the fabulous numbers of pelagic birds and whales. The large southern terns were well represented by Caspian Terns, of which eight were found during the period. However, only one Royal Tern was recorded. Until 2003, there were only four September records for Razorbill

in Massachusetts. Thus the two records on 18 and 19 September from, where else, Andrew's Point in Rockport, were noteworthy.

J. Trimble

Greater White-fronted Goose				9/4	Hadley	1	H. Allen
10/28	S. Egremont	1	D. St. James	9/9	P.I.	50	J. Berry#
Greenland Greater White-fronted Goose				9/10	Longmeadow	14	S. Kellogg
10/18	Rochester	1	M. Maurer	9/11	Pepperell	20	T. Pirro
Snow Goose				9/19	Acoaxet	9	M. Lynch#
10/3	Barre	1893	Hawkcount (Kamp)	10/5, 31	Marstons Mills	9, 3	M. Keleher
10/3	Montague	225	M. Fairbrother	10/9, 18	Richmond	5, 6	D. St James
10/4	S. Quabbin	122	M. Lynch#	Northern Shoveler			
10/6	Charlton	18	T. French	9/14	S. Monomoy	15+	B. Nikula#
10/9	Rockport (A.P.)	63	R. Heil	10/5, 28	Arlington Res.	1, 5	M. Rines
10/9	Granville	435	Hawkcount (Weeks)	10/11	Gay Head	8	M. Pelikan
10/10	GMNWR	31	S. Ells	10/19	Marstons Mills	1 f	J. Kricher
10/19	Gardner	50	T. Pirro	10/26	P.I.	14	P. + F. Vale
10/19	P.I.	63	R. Heil	Northern Pintail			
10/24	Newbury	28	D. Larson	9/1	S. Monomoy	8	M. Sylvia
Brant				9/28, 10/18	GMNWR	17, 62	S. Perkins
9/1	Duxbury	2	D. Furbish	10/4	Cumb. Farms	5	M. Maurer
10/1	Nahant	45	D. Saffarewich	10/11	Acoaxet	22	M. Lynch#
10/12	Plymouth	300+	D. Furbish	10/18	Turners Falls	3	H. Allen
10/12	Lenox	1	R. Laubach	10/19, 26	P.I.	98, 225	R. Heil
10/16	Nahant	600	L. Pivacek	10/21	Duxbury	20	C. Fiorini
10/16	P.I.	120	D. Chickering	Green-winged Teal			
10/18	Quabbin	17	T. Gagnon	9/1	Newbypt	11	P. + F. Vale
10/18	Barre Falls	5	B. Kamp	9/4	DWWS	10	D. Furbish
10/26	Eastham (F.H.)	60+	M. Lynch#	9/15, 25	Arlington Res.	1, 29	M. Rines#
10/26-28	Pittsfield (Pont.)	1	G. Hurley	9/16, 10/26	P.I.	155, 1910	R. Heil
10/30	Granville	30	Hawkcount (Weeks)	9/20	S. Egremont	46	M. Lynch#
Black Brant				9/21	Randolph	79	G. d'Entremont#
10/25	Plymouth	1	MAS (W. Petersen)	10/5	Randolph	125	G. d'Entremont
Mute Swan				10/10	DWWS	72	D. Furbish
9/21	Randolph	34	G. d'Entremont#	10/18	GMNWR	850	S. Perkins#
10/11	Acoaxet	96	M. Lynch#	10/20	Cumb. Farms	27	A. Brissette
10/18	Ipswich	18	J. Berry	Canvasback			
Wood Duck				10/18, 25	Cambr. (F.P.)	5, 12	Rines, Crystal
9/6, 10/25	Wakefield	14, 27	P. + F. Vale	10/24-27	W. Newbury	1	J. Soucy + v.o.
9/6	Bolton Flats	52	S. Sutton	Redhead			
9/20	Stockbridge	85	M. Lynch#	10/11	S. Monomoy	2	R.Clem#
9/21	GMNWR	14	S. Perkins#	10/25-31	Cambr. (F.P.)	2	K. Hartel#
10/4	Melrose	14	D. + I. Jewell	Ring-necked Duck			
10/11	Bolton Flats	200	S. Sutton	9/10, 10/18	Cambr. (F.P.)	7, 60	Simpson, Wylde
10/24	Pittsfield (Mud Pd)	25	T. Collins	10/9	Pittsfield (Mud Pd)	300	D. St James
10/25	Carlisle	14	T. Brownrigg	10/18	Stoughton	312	G. d'Entremont
Gadwall				10/19	W. Newbury	714	D. Chickering
9/4	DWWS	4	D. Furbish	10/27	Stoughton	87	S. Noonan
9/28	Barnstable	3	G. d'Entremont#	10/30	Ayer	86	E. Stromsted#
10/2, 20	Woburn	1, 10	M. Rines	Greater Scaup			
10/12	P.I.	42	P. + F. Vale	10/6	Falmouth	16	G. Gove
10/18	Ipswich	107	J. Berry	10/11	Acoaxet	4	M. Lynch#
10/25	Marstons Mills	45	J. Trimble#	10/11	Randolph	14	G. d'Entremont
10/29	Pittsfield	2	R. Packard	10/18	Cambr. (F.P.)	6	M. Rines
Eurasian Wigeon				10/18	Wachusett Res.	14	M. Lynch#
10/10	Waltham	1 m	M. Rines	10/20	Nahant	5	D. Saffarewich
10/12-31	Marstons Mills	1 m	v.o.	10/20	P.I.	14	T. Wetmore
10/18	Ipswich	1 m	J. Berry	10/29	Lanesboro	1	R. Packard
10/26	P.I.	1 m imm	S. Mirick#	Lesser Scaup			
American Wigeon				9/10	Chilmark	5	A. Keith
9/1	GMNWR	1	M. Resch	9/28, 10/26	W. Newbury	25, 9	Wetmore, Vale
9/8, 10/26	Marstons Mills	2, 107	M. Keleher	10/12	Nantucket	40	J. Hoyer#
9/9, 10/26	P.I.	2, 53	Berry, Heil	10/15	Southwick	3	S. Kellogg
9/13, 10/18	Ipswich	4, 160	J. Berry	10/24	Richmond	2	T. Collins
10/5, 28	Arlington Res.	22, 87	M. Rines	King Eider			
10/9	Longmeadow	5	J. LaPointe	10/10	Westport	1 f	G. Gove#
10/10	Waltham	42	M. Rines	10/26	Rockport (A.P.)	1 m	J. Berry
10/26	Carver	76	M. Maurer	Common Eider			
10/29	Pittsfield	7	R. Packard	9/1	Gloucester	45	J. Berry
Blue-winged Teal				10/11	Westport	603	M. Lynch#
9/1, 10/18	GMNWR	2, 6	Resch, Perkins	10/11	Rockport (A.P.)	2960	R. Heil
9/1	S. Monomoy	4	M. Sylvia	10/12	M.V.	850	SSBC (D. Clapp)

Common Eider (continued)				10/26	N. Truro	120+	M. Lynch#
10/13	Dennis	1500+	P. Flood	Ruddy Duck			
10/22	Medford	1 m	A. Ankers#	9/28, 10/26	W. Newbury	3, 350	Wetmore, Vale
10/24	E. of S. Monomoy	100,000	S. Perkins#	10/2, 28	Melrose	5, 72	D. + I. Jewell
10/25	Eastham (F.H.)	1600+	M. Lynch#	10/4, 18	Cambr. (F.P.)	14, 30	E. Wylde
10/25	Stellwagen	597	M. Lynch#	10/6, 28	Arlington	2, 24	M. Rines
Harlequin Duck				10/10	Waltham	29	M. Rines
10/10, 26	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 2	Heil, Berry	10/12	Marlboro	61	T. Spahr
10/16	Chilmark	1	V. Laux	10/22	Southwick	10	S. Kellogg
Surf Scoter				10/25	Ludlow	10	S. Kellogg#
9/18	Barnstable (S.N.)	150	M. Garvey	Ruffed Grouse			
10/9, 29	Rockport (A.P.)	245, 550	R. Heil	9/15	Montague	4	C. Buelow
10/10	Nahant	400	L. Pivacek	9/21	Windsor	1	M. Lynch#
10/11	Westport	181	M. Lynch#	9/30	Quabbin (G40)	3	C. Buelow
10/13-28	Reports of 1-10 ind. from 9 W. Mass. loc.			10/6	Ware	1	C. Buelow
10/18	Chatham	450+	P. Flood	10/19	Gardner	2	T. Pirro
10/25	Eastham (CGB)	397	M. Lynch#	10/29	Lancaster	1	L. Sutton
White-winged Scoter				Wild Turkey			
9/9	Nahant	3	D. Wilkinson	9/13	Dover	8	D. Gibson
9/12, 10/14	Plymouth B.	2, 320	A. Brissette#	9/28	Truro	12	J. Young
9/14	Lynn B.	100	D. Bates#	10/3	Pepperell	15	E. Stomsted
9/18	Barnstable (S.N.)	175	M. Garvey	10/9	Grafton	13	J. Bent
9/19, 10/29	Rockport (A.P.)	86, 480	R. Heil	10/21	W. Newbury	18	D. Larson
10/9-29	Reports of 1-14 ind. from 5 W. Mass. loc.			10/26	Ipswich	9	BBC (J. Nove)
10/10	Wellfleet	600	M. Sampson	10/29	Boylston	13	J. Sutton
10/10	Nahant	480	L. Pivacek	Northern Bobwhite			
10/11	Westport	209	M. Lynch#	10/17	Truro	1	CCBC (Dettrey)
10/18	Chatham	220	P. Flood	10/25	Sandwich	1	J. Trimble#
10/26	P.I.	256	P. + F. Vale	Red-throated Loon			
Black Scoter				10/10	Essex	34	D. Brown#
9/19, 10/29	Rockport (A.P.)	18, 192	R. Heil	10/10, 29	Rockport (A.P.)	2, 27	R. Heil
10/11	Westport	128	M. Lynch#	10/18	Richmond	1	D. St James
10/13	Dennis	130	P. Flood	10/19	P.I.	58	R. Heil
10/22	Medford	14	M. Rines	10/26	Plymouth	6	A. Brissette#
10/22-29	Reports of 1-6 ind. from 7 W. Mass. loc.			Pacific Loon *			
Scoter Species				10/11	P'town	1	P. Flood, B. Nikula
10/17	Eastham (F.E.)	8000	D. Silverstein#	Common Loon			
10/18	Chatham	1000+	P. Flood	9/7	Stellwagen	18	MAS (J. Trimble)
10/28	Dennis (C.B.)	1000	D. Silverstein#	9/10	Chatham (S.B.)	15	B. Nikula
Long-tailed Duck				9/13	Gardner	3	T. Pirro
10/11, 29	Rockport (A.P.)	6, 74	R. Heil	9/22	Barre Falls	3	B. Kamp#
10/11	P.I.	35	T. Wetmore	10/4	S. Quabbin	26	M. Lynch#
10/22	Southwick	3	B. Bieda	10/10	P.I.	75+	T. Spahr
10/25	Eastham (CGB)	10	M. Lynch#	10/11	Rockport (A.P.)	37	R. Heil
10/28	Cheshire	1	T. Collins	10/13	Dennis	16	P. Flood
10/28	Pittsfield (Pont.)	1	T. Gagnon	10/18	Wachusett Res.	50	M. Lynch#
Bufflehead				Pied-billed Grebe			
10/17	P.I.	10	T. Wetmore	9/7	Longmeadow	3	S. Kellogg#
10/18	Westboro	2	S. Selesky	9/19, 10/11	Acoaxet	1, 4	M. Lynch#
10/19	Newbypt	28	P. + F. Vale	9/20	S. Egremont	2	M. Lynch#
10/20	Nahant	11	D. Saffarewich	10/5	GMNWR	4	SSBC (Petersen)
10/26	Plymouth B.	8	A. Brissette#	10/5	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont
10/28	Pittsfield	1	T. Collins	10/5	W. Newbury	3	D. + S. Larson
Common Goldeneye				10/18	Wachusett Res.	2	M. Lynch#
10/13	Chilmark	1	A. Keith	10/19	Cambr. (F.P.)	4	B. Miller
10/24	Richmond	2	M. + K. Conway	10/30	E. Gloucester	4	J. Berry#
Hooded Merganser				Horned Grebe			
9/8	HRWMA	5	T. Pirro	10/3	Lincoln	1	M. Rines
10/12	Marlboro	5	T. Spahr	10/18	S. Quabbin	5	S. Surner
10/24	Pittsfield (Pont.)	20	M. + K. Conway	10/18	Wachusett Res.	7	M. Lynch#
10/25	Eastham (CGB)	30+	M. Lynch#	10/18	Marblehead	3	F. Bouchard
10/28	Pepperell	25	E. Stromsted	10/25	S. Quabbin	2	S. Kellogg#
Common Merganser				10/25	Buzzards Bay	2	R. Farrell
9/1	Longmeadow	15	S. Kellogg	10/26	Plymouth	6	A. Brissette#
10/4	S. Quabbin	22	M. Lynch#	10/29	Lanesboro	1	R. Packard
10/8	Wellfleet	16	D. Silverstein#	Red-necked Grebe			
10/9	Southboro	6	E. Taylor	9/19, 10/11	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 1	R. Heil
10/19	N. Quabbin	16	H. Allen	10/17	Lincoln	1	M. Rines
Red-breasted Merganser				10/18	Marblehead	2	F. Bouchard
10/5	Newbypt	25	T. Wetmore	10/18	Wachusett Res.	5	M. Lynch#
10/10, 29	Rockport (A.P.)	12, 207	R. Heil	10/26	Plymouth B.	6	A. Brissette#
10/22	Nahant	10	L. Pivacek	10/29	Lanesboro	2	R. Packard
10/22	Turners Falls	17	M. Fairbrother	10/30	E. Gloucester	6	J. Berry#

Eared Grebe *				9/6, 10/19 P.I.	58, 24	Lynch, Heil
9/28, 10/17-30E. Gloucester	1	J. Nelson, v.o.		9/18 Chatham	36	B. Nikula
Northern Fulmar				9/21 E. Boston	12	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/18, 19 Rockport (A.P.)	1 lt, 1 dk	R. Heil		10/11 Westport	65	M. Lynch#
10/12, 28 Rockport (A.P.)	2 lt, 21	R. Heil		10/11 Gay Head	9	R. Culbert
Cory's Shearwater				thr		Reports of indiv. from 10 W. Mass. loc.
9/19 off Gay Head	1	A. Keith		Snowy Egret		
10/12 Nantucket	3	J. Hoye#		9/4 Edgartown	8	M. Thomas#
Greater Shearwater				9/5, 10/19 P.I.	250, 24	R. Heil
9/7 12 m E. of Chatham	1800	S. Perkins#		9/16 Essex	65	R. Heil
9/18 P'town (R.P.)	3	M. Garvey		9/19, 10/11 Westport	5, 2	M. Lynch#
9/18, 19 Rockport (A.P.)	2, 1	R. Heil		9/21 E. Boston	24	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/18 Barnstable (S.N.)	1	M. Garvey		9/21 Falmouth	27	R. Farrell
9/25 Stellwagen	75	O. Spalding		10/18 Ipswich	1	J. Berry
10/5 Wellfleet	4	M. Sampson		Little Blue Heron		
10/12, 29 Rockport (A.P.)	8, 1	R. Heil		9/6 P.I.	4	M. Lynch#
10/25 Stellwagen	7	M. Lynch#		9/21 Manchester	1	S. Hedman
Sooty Shearwater				Cattle Egret		
9/1 N. Stellwagen	1	J. Berry		9/3-10/4 Manchester	2-7	v.o.
9/7 12 m E. of Chatham	300	D. Clapp		9/27 P.I.	1	P. Brown#
9/19 Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil		10/31 Truro	1	R. Everett
9/26, 10/18 Chatham	7, 2	P. Flood		Green Heron		
Manx Shearwater				9/1 GMNWR	4	M. Rines
9/7 12 m E. of Chatham	41	S. Perkins#		9/6 Mashpee	2	M. Keleher
9/18, 19 Rockport (A.P.)	1, 2	R. Heil		9/7 Worc. (BMB)	2	J. Liller#
9/18 P'town (R.P.)	1	M. Garvey		10/6 Medford	2	M. Rines#
9/25 Chatham	11	B. Nikula		Black-crowned Night-Heron		
10/12 Rockport (A.P.)	2	D. Gill#		9/6 P.I.	4	T. Wetmore
Tubenose species				9/6 Scituate	11	D. Furbish
10/12 Rockport (A.P.)	4	R. Heil		10/25 Eastham (CGB)	4	M. Lynch#
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				Yellow-crowned Night-Heron		
9/1 N. Stellwagen	10	J. Berry		9/3-10/7 MNWS	1 imm	v.o.
9/4 Chatham (S.B.)	3000+	P. Flood#		Glossy Ibis		
9/7 12 m E. of Chatham	2200	S. Perkins#		9/6 P.I.	2	M. Lynch#
9/10 Chatham (S.B.)	500+	B. Nikula		Wood Stork *		
Leach's Storm-Petrel				9/7 Barre Falls	1	T. Carrolan#
9/7 Stellwagen	2	S. Perkins#		Black Vulture		
Northern Gannet				9/17, 29 Granville	3, 1	Hawkcount (Weeks)
9/19, 10/29 Rockport (A.P.)	81, 460	R. Heil		9/20 Sheffield	12	M. Lynch#
10/5 P.I.	25	T. Wetmore		10/31 Granville	3	Hawkcount (Weeks)
10/13 Dennis	64	P. Flood		Turkey Vulture		
10/18 P'town (R.P.)	39	P. Flood		9/20 Sheffield	77	M. Lynch#
10/25 Eastham (CGB)	156	M. Lynch#		9/29 Barre Falls	17	Hawkcount (Kamp)
10/25 Chatham	150+	B. Nikula		9/thr Barre Falls	44	Hawkcount (Kamp)
10/25 Stellwagen	41	M. Lynch#		10/14 P.I.	15	D. Bates#
Double-crested Cormorant				10/18 Groton	19	E. Stromsted
9/16 Essex	1300	R. Heil		10/19 Gardner	38	T. Pirro
9/21 Squantum	500	G. d'Entremont#		10/20 Barre Falls	77	Hawkcount (Kamp)
9/21 Eastham	300+	P. Flood#		10/20 Granville	68	Hawkcount (Weeks)
10/11 Acoaxet	439	M. Lynch#		10/thr Barre Falls	286	Hawkcount (Kamp)
10/15 Medford	850 migr	M. Rines#		10/thr Granville	259	Hawkcount (Weeks)
10/19 P.I.	1550	R. Heil		Osprey		
10/25 Chatham (S.B.)	2000	P. Flood		9/20 Mt. Wachusett	22	Hawkcount (Stein)
10/28 Cape Ann	1620	R. Heil		9/21 Mt. Watatic	20	Hawkcount (Pirro)
10/29 Turners Falls	24	M. Taylor		9/22 Barre Falls	23	Hawkcount (Kamp)
Great Cormorant				9/25 Granville	22	Hawkcount (Weeks)
9/14 Wellfleet	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)		9/thr Mt. Wachusett	162	Hawkcount (Stein)
9/19, 10/11 Rockport (A.P.)	1, 28	R. Heil		9/thr Mt. Watatic	39	Hawkcount (Pirro)
10/28 Cape Ann	55	R. Heil		9/thr Barre Falls	149	Hawkcount (Kamp)
Frigatebird species (accepted by MARC) *				9/thr Granville	107	Hawkcount (Weeks)
9/27 Marblehead	1	D. Noble#		10/5, 18 Barre Falls	26, 12	Hawkcount (Kamp)
9/27 Gloucester	1	A. Stone		10/5 Maynard	6	L. Nachtrab
American Bittern				10/6 Groton	6	T. Pirro
10/26 P.I.	2	R. Heil		10/18 GMNWR	11 migr	S. Perkins#
thr				10/19 Gardner	7	T. Pirro
Great Blue Heron				10/thr Granville	110	Hawkcount (Weeks)
9/14 Wellfleet	18	BBC (R. Stymeist)		10/thr Mt. Watatic	7	Hawkcount (Pirro)
9/23 GMNWR	16	S. Perkins#		10/thr Barre Falls	125	Hawkcount (Kamp)
10/11 Westport	46	M. Lynch#		Bald Eagle		
10/25 Eastham (F.H.)	33	M. Lynch#		9/5 Granville	6	Hawkcount (Weeks)
Great Egret				9/6 Mt. Wachusett	5	Hawkcount (Stein)
9/1 Longmeadow	4	S. Kellogg		9/17 Mt Tom	8	T. Gagnon
9/1-10/9 GMNWR	1-2	v.o.		9/21 Mt. Watatic	7	Hawkcount (Pirro)

Bald Eagle (continued)				10/thr	Barre Falls	41	Hawkcount (Kamp)
9/thr	Mt. Watatic	12	Hawkcount (Pirro)	10/thr	Granville	42	Hawkcount (Weeks)
9/thr	Granville	33	Hawkcount (Weeks)	Broad-winged Hawk			
9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	20	Hawkcount (Stein)	9/17, 21	Mt. Watatic	1316, 2722	Hawkcount (Pirro)
9/thr	Barre Falls	19	Hawkcount (Kamp)	9/21	Barre Falls	1046	EMHW (B. Kamp)
10/thr	Barre Falls	14	Hawkcount (Kamp)	9/21	Mt. Wachusett	1215	Hawkcount (Stein)
10/thr	Granville	15	Hawkcount (Weeks)	9/21	Granville	332	Hawkcount (Weeks)
Northern Harrier				9/21	Petersham	1300+	J. Baird
9/20	P.I.	8+	P. + F. Vale	9/thr	Barre Falls	1714	Hawkcount (Kamp)
9/21	Mt. Wachusett	7	Hawkcount (Stein)	9/thr	Granville	2227	Hawkcount (Weeks)
9/21	Mt Tom	8	T. Gagnon	9/thr	Mt. Watatic	4117	Hawkcount (Pirro)
9/21	Mt. Watatic	4	Hawkcount (Pirro)	9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	1833	Hawkcount (Stein)
9/thr	Granville	28	Hawkcount (Weeks)	10/1-7	Barre Falls	31	Hawkcount (Kamp)
9/thr	Chatham (M.I.)	17	Hawkcount (Manchester)	10/1-5	Granville	10	Hawkcount (Weeks)
9/thr	Barre Falls	21	Hawkcount (Kamp)	10/6-10	Groton	3	T. Pirro
9/thr	Mt. Watatic	10	Hawkcount (Pirro)	10/7	Camb. (F.P.)	14	E. Wylde
9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	19	Hawkcount (Stein)	10/18	Barre Falls	1	Hawkcount (Kamp)
10/18	Barre Falls	6	Hawkcount (Kamp)	Swainson's Hawk (no details) *			
10/19, 26	P.I.	7, 10	R. Heil	10/22	Lincoln/Concord	1 dk juv	S. Perkins
10/20	Granville	6	Hawkcount (Weeks)	Red-tailed Hawk			
10/thr	Barre Falls	38	Hawkcount (Kamp)	9/thr	Granville	17	Hawkcount (Weeks)
10/thr	Granville	44	Hawkcount (Weeks)	9/thr	Barre Falls	14	Hawkcount (Kamp)
Sharp-shinned Hawk				10/20, 24	Granville	48, 55	Hawkcount (Weeks)
9/7, 21	Mt. Watatic	22, 76	Hawkcount (Pirro)	10/24	Mt. Watatic	28	Hawkcount (Pirro)
9/17, 22	Mt. Wachusett	28, 35	Hawkcount (Stein)	10/24, 25	Barre Falls	50, 17	Hawkcount (Kamp)
9/29, 30	Barre Falls	112, 73	Hawkcount (Kamp)	10/thr	Granville	206	Hawkcount (Weeks)
9/thr	Chatham (M.I.)	213	Hawkcount (Manchester)	10/thr	Barre Falls	144	Hawkcount (Kamp)
9/thr	Granville	309	Hawkcount (Weeks)	Rough-legged Hawk			
9/thr	Mt. Watatic	138	Hawkcount (Pirro)	10/20	Granville	1	Hawkcount (Weeks)
9/thr	Barre Falls	460	Hawkcount (Kamp)	10/21, 24	Northampton	1	Packard, Magee
9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	224	Hawkcount (Stein)	10/22, 30	P.I.	1 dk	Stevens, Bonomo
10/5	Sudbury	7	SSBC (Petersen)	10/24	Barre Falls	1 dk	Hawkcount (Kamp)
10/5	Bolton Flats	11	M. Lynch#	10/26	Essex	1	D. Brown#
10/6	Groton	9	T. Pirro	10/30	Barre Falls	1 dk	Hawkcount (Kamp)
10/6, 7	Barre Falls	104, 80	Hawkcount (Kamp)	10/30	Salisbury	1 dk	N. Bonomo
10/18, 24	Barre Falls	93, 83	Hawkcount (Kamp)	Golden Eagle			
10/18	Wachusett Res.	9	M. Lynch#	10/17-8	Boxford (C.P.)	1 imm	S. Haydock
10/19	Gardner	12	T. Pirro	10/22, 23	Granville	1, 1	Hawkcount (Weeks)
10/20	Granville	120	Hawkcount (Weeks)	10/23	Pittsfield	1 juv	C. Marantz
10/thr	Barre Falls	1037	Hawkcount (Kamp)	10/24	Mt. Watatic	1 ad	Hawkcount (Pirro)
10/thr	Granville	736	Hawkcount (Weeks)	10/24, 31	Barre Falls	1, 1	Hawkcount (Kamp)
10/thr	Chatham (M.I.)	374	Hawkcount (Manchester)	10/30	Granville	2	Hawkcount (Weeks)
Cooper's Hawk				American Kestrel			
9/6	Mt. Wachusett	7	Hawkcount (Stein)	9/21	Mt. Watatic	19	Hawkcount (Pirro)
9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	42	Hawkcount (Stein)	9/21	Barre Falls	26	Hawkcount (Kamp)
9/thr	Granville	34	Hawkcount (Weeks)	9/24	Granville	27	Hawkcount (Weeks)
9/thr	Mt. Watatic	12	Hawkcount (Pirro)	9/thr	Mt. Watatic	44	Hawkcount (Pirro)
9/thr	Barre Falls	20	Hawkcount (Kamp)	9/thr	Granville	235	Hawkcount (Weeks)
9/thr	Chatham (M.I.)	61	Hawkcount (Manchester)	9/thr	Barre Falls	157	Hawkcount (Kamp)
10/4	Cumb. Farms	3	M. Maurer	9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	89	Hawkcount (Stein)
10/5	Sudbury	3	SSBC (Petersen)	10/5, 8	Barre Falls	13, 13	Hawkcount (Kamp)
10/5	GMNWR	4	SSBC (Petersen)	10/7	Granville	31	Hawkcount (Weeks)
10/18	Barre Falls	24	Hawkcount (Kamp)	10/thr	Granville	159	Hawkcount (Weeks)
10/thr	Granville	51	Hawkcount (Weeks)	10/thr	Barre Falls	69	Hawkcount (Kamp)
10/thr	Barre Falls	98	Hawkcount (Kamp)	10/thr	Mt. Watatic	2	Hawkcount (Pirro)
10/thr	Chatham (M.I.)	66	Hawkcount (Manchester)	Merlin			
Northern Goshawk				9/6	P.I.	3	T. Wetmore
9/27	Northboro	1	S. Moore	9/thr	Mt. Watatic	8	Hawkcount (Pirro)
9/thr	Western Mass	14	v.o.	9/thr	Granville	6	Hawkcount (Weeks)
10/4	Cumb. Farms	1	J. Sweeney	9/thr	Chatham (M.I.)	16	Hawkcount (Manchester)
10/5	Bolton Flats	1 imm	M. Lynch#	9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	15	Hawkcount (Stein)
10/6	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	9/thr	Barre Falls	14	Hawkcount (Kamp)
10/16	Wellfleet	1	M. Sampson	10/5	Harvard	2	M. Lynch#
10/thr	Western Mass	19	v.o.	10/13	Barre Falls	4	Hawkcount (Kamp)
Red-shouldered Hawk				10/19	Gardner	3	T. Pirro
9/20	Scituate	3	S. Maguire	10/thr	Barre Falls	30	Hawkcount (Kamp)
9/thr	DWWS	2	D. Furbish	10/thr	Granville	11	Hawkcount (Weeks)
9/thr	Barre Falls	2	Hawkcount (Kamp)	10/thr	Chatham (M.I.)	44	Hawkcount (Manchester)
10/18, 20	Barre Falls	15, 11	Hawkcount (Kamp)	Gyrfalcon *			
10/18	Stoughton	2	G. d'Entremont	10/17	Ipswich	1 gr	J. MacDougall#
10/19	Medford	1 ad	R. LaFontaine#	Peregrine Falcon			
10/23	Granville	12	Hawkcount (Weeks)	9/21	P.I.	2	J. Trimble#
10/24	Mt. Watatic	3	Hawkcount (Pirro)	9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	3	Hawkcount (Stein)

Peregrine Falcon (continued)

9/thr	Chatham (M.I.)	11	Hawkcount (Manchester)
10/5	Granville	2	Hawkcount (Weeks)
10/5	Newbypt	2	ad T. Wetmore
10/5	Ipswich	2	BBC (T. Young)
10/5	P.I.	6	E. Stromsted#
10/9	Granville	1	Hawkcount (Weeks)
10/12	Nantucket	3	J. Hoye#
10/14	Barre Falls	3	Hawkcount (Kamp)
10/25	Chatham (S.B.)	2	P. Flood
10/26	Eastham (F.H.)	2	M. Lynch#
10/thr	Barre Falls	13	Hawkcount (Kamp)
10/thr	Chatham (M.I.)	43	Hawkcount (Manchester)

Virginia Rail

9/7	Longmeadow	1	J. Wojtanowski
9/20	Stockbridge	5	M. Lynch#
9/27	GMNWR	1	M. Lynch#
10/4	New Braintree	1	C. Buelow
10/5	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#

Sora

9/1	Truro	1	J. Young
9/12	GMNWR	4	M. Rines
9/23	New Braintree	1	C. Buelow
10/17	Dorchester	2	R. Donovan
10/25	Brewster	1	b S. Finnegan

Common Moorhen

9/27	Lenox	1	D. St James
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American Coot

10/5	Medford	1	J. Sutherland
10/9	Richmond	2	D. St James
10/11	Woburn (H.P.)	3	P. + F. Vale#
10/19	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale
10/24	Camb. (F.P.)	3	R. Stymeist
10/24	GMNWR	14	J. Hoye#

Black-bellied Plover

9/12, 10/14	Plymouth B.	1438, 307	A. Brissette#
9/16, 10/19	P.I.	150, 22	R. Heil
9/16, 10/11	Chatham (S.B.)	3300, 1400	B. Nikula
9/18, 10/18	Eastham (CGB)	400, 200	B. Nikula
9/22	Barre Falls	4	B. Kamp#
9/23, 10/18	GMNWR	1, 10	Floyd, Perkins
10/1-4	Hatfield	1-3	v.o.
10/26	Ipswich	220	BBC (J. Nove)
10/31	Hadley	1	P. Yeskie

American Golden-Plover

9/1-10/5	GMNWR	7	max 9/27 v.o.
9/2	Hadley	2	H. Allen
9/thr	P.I.	7	max v.o.
9/6, 10/4	Hatfield	1, 3	Sumner, Richards
9/9	Gay Head	1	P. Trimble
9/12, 10/14	Plymouth B.	1, 1	A. Brissette#
9/16	Chatham (S.B.)	3	B. Nikula
9/24-26	Orange	1	juv M. Taylor
10/17-18	Cumb. Farms	1	J. Sweeney
10/18	Eastham (CGB)	1	B. Nikula

Semipalmated Plover

9/12, 10/26	Plymouth B.	787, 10	A. Brissette#
9/15	Arlington Res.	4	M. Rines#
9/16, 10/26	P.I.	950, 5	R. Heil
9/16, 10/11	Chatham (S.B.)	2200, 600	B. Nikula
9/16	Essex	240	R. Heil
9/18, 10/18	Eastham (CGB)	500, 45	B. Nikula
9/19	Southwick	4	S. Kellogg
9/19	Acoaxet	48	M. Lynch#
9/21	GMNWR	30	S. Perkins#

Piping Plover

9/13	Chatham (S.B.)	61	B. Nikula
9/21	Eastham	3	P. Flood#
10/26	Ipswich	1	BBC (J. Nove)

Killdeer

9/21	GMNWR	28	S. Perkins#
10/2	Hatfield	50	G. LeBaron
10/11	Mashpee	21	M. Kelecher

American Oystercatcher

9/5, 10/13	N. Monomoy	185, 90	B. Nikula
9/5	Falmouth	2	R. Farrell
9/14	Dartmouth	4	A. + D. Morgan
9/21	Boston	2	G. d'Entremont#

American Avocet

9/24	Plymouth B.	1	A. Brissette#
9/27	Duxbury B.	1	C. Walker

Greater Yellowlegs

9/5	Gay Head	200	S. Whiting#
9/16, 10/18	Chatham	220, 80	B. Nikula
9/18, 10/18	Eastham (CGB)	175, 225	B. Nikula
9/21	Squantum	34	G. d'Entremont#
9/21	N. Monomoy	350	B. Nikula
9/30	Newbypt	350	S. Grinley
10/3	Sunderland	9	A. Richards
10/5	Randolph	16	G. d'Entremont
10/29	Turners Falls	9	M. Taylor

Lesser Yellowlegs

9/1, 30	Newbypt	350, 225	Vale, Grinley
9/4	Longmeadow	2	W. Laflay
9/5, 21	N. Monomoy	150, 22	B. Nikula
9/15, 10/13	Arlington Res.	10, 9	M. Rines#
9/16	P.I.	125+	R. Heil
10/3	Sunderland	6	A. Richards
10/26	Newbury	21	R. Heil

Solitary Sandpiper

9/6	Mashpee	4	M. Keleher
9/17	Arlington Res.	16	M. Rines
10/1	Lexington	8	M. Rines
10/4	Bourne	2	R. Farrell
10/23	W. Tisbury	1	S. Anderson
10/25	Hingham	1	C. Nims#

Willet

9/1	Newbypt	13	P. + F. Vale
9/21, 10/13	N. Monomoy	30, 18	B. Nikula

Spotted Sandpiper

9/1	Winchester	3	R. LaFontaine
9/6	P.I.	5	M. Lynch#
10/1	Lexington	2	M. Rines
10/18	Wachusett Res.	2	M. Lynch#
10/30	Lynn	2	J. Quigley

Upland Sandpiper

9/7	Westfield	1	T. Swochak
9/17-20	Gay Head	1	S. Anderson + v.o.
10/3-8	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan

Whimbrel

9/5	N. Monomoy	40	B. Nikula
9/5	GMNWR	1	B. Howell
9/6, 21	P.I.	7, 4	T. Wetmore
9/7, 10/19	Chatham	12, 1	Manchester, Nikula
9/14	Wellfleet	10	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/20	Eastham	7	D. Silverstein#
9/30	Edgartown	3	A. Keith

Hudsonian Godwit

9/3, 10/25	Chatham (S.B.)	17, 1	Nikula, Flood
9/5	N. Monomoy	4	B. Nikula
9/18	Eastham	12	J. Berry#
9/19	Acoaxet	2	M. Lynch#
9/21, 10/26	P.I.	1, 5	Wetmore, Heil
10/25	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw#

Marbled Godwit

9/5	P.I.	1	juv R. Heil
9/5, 10/13	N. Monomoy	6, 5	B. Nikula
9/7	Chatham (S.B.)	2	M. Harvey#
9/9-24	Edgartown	1	S. Anderson + v.o.
10/18	Chatham	5	B. Nikula#

Ruddy Turnstone

9/1	P.I.	4	T. Wetmore
9/12, 10/26	Plymouth B.	85, 2	A. Brissette#
9/16, 10/11	Chatham (S.B.)	35, 7	B. Nikula
10/11	Westport	9	M. Lynch#
10/30	E. Gloucester	13	J. Berry#

Red Knot				10/26	Plymouth B.	787	A. Brissette#
9/16	P.I.	12	R. Heil	Stilt Sandpiper			
9/16, 10/11	Chatham (S.B.)	550, 120	B. Nikula	9/14	S. Monomoy	13	B. Nikula#
9/21	N. Monomoy	350	B. Nikula	9/16	P.I.	21	R. Heil
9/21	Eastham	80	P. Flood#	9/27	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula
9/24, 10/26	Plymouth B.	110, 21	A. Brissette#	10/26	Rowley	3 juv	R. Heil
10/18	Ipswich	20	J. MacDougall	Buff-breasted Sandpiper			
Sanderling				9/1, 16	P.I.	1, 4	R. Heil
9/9	P.I.	750	R. Heil	9/1	S. Monomoy	4 imm	M. Sylvia
9/12, 10/26	Plymouth B.	1438, 334	A. Brissette#	9/7	Chatham (S.B.)	1 juv	M. Harvey#
9/16, 10/11	Chatham (S.B.)	4300, 600	B. Nikula	9/9	Newbury	1 juv	R. Heil
10/10	Nahant	430	L. Pivacek	9/10	GMNWR	1	C. Floyd
10/18	Eastham (CGB)	250	B. Nikula	9/14	S. Monomoy	2+	B. Nikula#
Semipalmated Sandpiper				10/2	Hatfield	1	G. LeBaron
9/1-10/4	Hatfield	1-3	R. Packard#	10/12	P.I.	1	D. Gill#
9/4	Longmeadow	6	W. Lafley	Short-billed Dowitcher			
9/9, 10/19	P.I.	2000, 10	Berry, Heil	9/6, 10/18	P.I.	75, 12	Berry, Neilsen
9/12, 24	Plymouth B.	891, 394	A. Brissette#	9/12, 10/14	Plymouth B.	32, 1	A. Brissette#
9/16, 10/11	Chatham (S.B.)	900, 250	B. Nikula	9/14	S. Monomoy	45	B. Nikula#
9/18, 10/18	Eastham (CGB)	1200, 200	B. Nikula	9/16, 27	Chatham (S.B.)	40, 15	B. Nikula
9/21	GMNWR	11	S. Perkins#	9/18, 10/18	Eastham (CGB)	50, 4	B. Nikula
Western Sandpiper				10/13	N. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula#
9/1, 9	P.I.	5 juv	R. Heil	Long-billed Dowitcher			
9/6, 10/11	Chatham (S.B.)	12, 8	B. Nikula	9/7	Chatham (S.B.)	1	M. Harvey#
9/12, 24	Plymouth B.	1, 1	A. Brissette#	10/5	Newbypt	3	T. Wetmore
9/14	S. Monomoy	3	B. Nikula#	10/13	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#
9/18	Eastham (CGB)	5	B. Nikula	10/26	Ipswich	1	BBC (J. Nove)
9/25	Arlington Res.	1	M. Rines	10/26	P.I.	32	R. Heil
Least Sandpiper				Wilson's Snipe			
9/1	GMNWR	175	M. Resch	9/21	GMNWR	12	S. Perkins#
9/5	N. Monomoy	120	B. Nikula	10/25	Hadley	20	S. Kellogg#
9/6	P.I.	160+	M. Lynch#	10/25	Sandwich	5	J. Trimble#
9/16, 10/11	Chatham (S.B.)	60, 2	B. Nikula	10/26	P.I.	2	R. Heil
9/21	Randolph	12	G. d'Entremont#	10/thr	Dorchester	3	R. Donovan
10/1	Lexington	2	M. Rines	American Woodcock			
10/4	Hatfield	2	G. LeBaron#	9/30	Quabbin (G40)	1	C. Buelow
10/12	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#	10/4	Belmont	1	R. Stymeist
White-rumped Sandpiper				10/5	Bolton Flats	2	M. Lynch#
9/9, 10/19	P.I.	175 ad, 7	R. Heil	10/19	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
9/16, 10/25	Chatham (S.B.)	600, 6	B. Nikula	10/19	Stoneham	1	D. + I. Jewell
9/21, 10/18	Eastham	90, 12	Flood, Nikula	10/31	Lenox	1	R. Laubach
9/24	Plymouth B.	7	A. Brissette#	Red-necked Phalarope			
10/2	Hatfield	1	M. Taylor	9/2	Rockport (A.P.)	50+	R. Heil
10/4	Sunderland	1	A. Richards	9/7	12 m E. of Chatham	12	B. Nikula#
Baird's Sandpiper				Red Phalarope			
9/1, 5	P.I.	8, 13 juv	R. Heil	9/7	12 m E. of Chatham	1	B. Nikula#
9/1	P'town	1	B. Nikula	9/12-15	Westfield	1	T. Swochak#
9/1	Longmeadow	2	S. Kellogg	Pomarine Jaeger			
9/5-7	Chilmark	2-3	A. Keith	9/14	Wellfleet	1	G. d'Entremont
9/6	Eastham	1	D. Silverstein#	10/12, 29	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 5	R. Heil
9/10	GMNWR	1	C. Floyd	Parasitic Jaeger			
9/14	S. Monomoy	3+	B. Nikula#	9/1	S. Monomoy	17	M. Sylvia
9/17	Newbypt/P.I.	1	S. Sutton	9/3, 24	Chatham (S.B.)	12, 7	B. Nikula#
9/19, 10/15	DWWS	1, 1	D. Furbish	9/7	12 m E. of Chatham	10	W. Petersen#
10/13	Arlington Res.	2	C. Cook	9/14	S. Monomoy	4	B. Nikula#
Pectoral Sandpiper				9/16, 19	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 3	R. Heil
9/thr	P.I.	19 max 10/11	v.o.	9/18	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
9/thr	GMNWR	65 max 9/21	S. Perkins	9/18	Barnstable (S.N.)	5	M. Garvey
9/14	S. Monomoy	10	B. Nikula#	9/18	P'town (R.P.)	2 ad lt	M. Garvey
10/1	Hatfield	60	A. Richards#	9/26, 10/18	Chatham	30, 1	P. Flood
10/2	Sunderland	15	A. Richards	9/27	Chatham (S.B.)	5+	B. Nikula
10/13	N. Monomoy	25	B. Nikula#	10/4	off Chilmark	1	A. Keith
10/20	Cumb. Farms	43	A. Brissette	10/12	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#
Dunlin				Laughing Gull			
9/16, 10/26	P.I.	6, 975	R. Heil	9/14	Wellfleet	380	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/16, 10/11	Chatham (S.B.)	100, 3000	B. Nikula	9/21	Eastham	250	P. Flood#
9/30-10/4	Hatfield	2	R. Packard#	10/13	Dennis	800+	P. Flood
10/3	Sunderland	2	A. Richards	10/26	Rockport (A.P.)	500	J. Berry
10/5, 28	GMNWR	1, 1	Petersen, Perkins	10/26	Barnstable (S.N.)	500+	B. Nikula#
10/16	W. Tisbury	500+	A. Keith	Little Gull			
10/18	Eastham (CGB)	1100	B. Nikula	9/3-10/5	Newbypt	3 max 9/21	v.o.
10/19	N. Quabbin	3	H. Allen	10/23	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
10/25	Stellwagen	2	M. Lynch#	10/26	Lynn	1 ad	J. Quigley

Black-headed Gull				9/3, 10/25	Chatham	8000, 250	Flood, Nikula
10/26	P.I.	1 ad	S. Mirick#	9/7	12 m E. of Chatham	6500	S. Perkins#
10/26	Marshfield	1 ad	D. Furbish	9/16, 10/19	P.I.	300, 1	R. Heil
Bonaparte's Gull				9/18	Falmouth	560	R. Farrell
9/24	Nahant	380	L. Pivacek	9/21	Eastham	2700	P. Flood#
10/6	Marblehead	200+	D. Wilkinson	9/24, 10/26	Plymouth B.	1600, 10	A. Brissette#
10/18	Ipswich	220	J. Berry	10/12	P'town	2700	B. Nikula#
10/19	P.I.	450+	P. + F. Vale	10/13, 26	Dennis	330, 60	Flood, Nikula
10/28	Cape Ann	70	R. Heil	10/25	Stellwagen	600+	M. Lynch#
Lesser Black-backed Gull				10/26	N. Truro	150+	M. Lynch#
9/7	12 m E. of Chatham	5	J. Trimble#	Arctic Tern			
9/14	S. Monomoy	3+	B. Nikula#	9/2	Rockport (A.P.)	1 ad	R. Heil
9/18	Eastham (CGB)	2	B. Nikula	9/7	Eastham	1	C. + S. Thompson
9/19	Edgartown	1 ad	A. Keith	9/24	Plymouth B.	1	A. Brissette#
9/27, 10/11	Chatham (S.B.)	25, 11	Trimble, Nikula	Forster's Tern			
10/10	Rockport (A.P.)	1 ad	R. Heil	9/1	S. Monomoy	12	M. Sylvia
10/12-26	P.I.	1 ad	D. Gill#	9/7	Ipswich (C.B.)	4	S. Hedman
10/12	Nantucket	2	J. Hoyer#	9/12, 24	Plymouth B.	2, 1	A. Brissette#
10/26	Plymouth B.	1 ad	A. Brissette#	9/14	Wellfleet	6	BBC (R. Stymeist)
10/26	E. Gloucester	1 ad	J. Berry	9/21	Eastham	3	P. Flood#
Nelson's Gull				9/21	P.I.	1	J. Trimble#
10/12	Plymouth	1	D. Furbish	9/21, 10/25	Chatham (S.B.)	3, 1	Nikula, Flood
Sabine's Gull				9/21	N. Monomoy	4	B. Nikula
9/7	12 m E. of Chatham	1	S. Perkins#	10/12	P'town	2+	B. Nikula#
Black-legged Kittiwake				10/26	Dennis	1	P. Flood#
9/2, 10/12	Rockport (A.P.)	1 ad, 9 ad	R. Heil	Least Tern			
9/18	Barnstable (S.N.)	1 juv	M. Garvey	9/14, 26	Chatham	5, 1	Nikula, Flood
10/12	P'town	9	B. Nikula#	Black Tern			
10/13	Dennis	2	P. Flood	9/1	GMNWR	1	M. Rines
10/25	P.I.	1 ad	T. Wetmore	9/1	S. Monomoy	17	M. Sylvia
10/25	Eastham (CGB)	60+	M. Lynch#	9/2	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil
10/29	Rockport (A.P.)	40	R. Heil	9/5	P.I. Sound	13	R. Heil
Caspian Tern				9/5	Falmouth	4 juv	R. Farrell
9/24	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	9/6	Chatham (S.B.)	5+	B. Nikula
9/27	P.I.	1	S. Leonard#	9/7	Stellwagen to Chatham	3	J. Trimble#
10/5	Boston (Long I.)	1	R. Donovan	9/14	S. Monomoy	9	B. Nikula#
10/10	Westport	2	J. Gordon#	9/24	Plymouth B.	4	A. Brissette#
10/14	Plymouth B.	3	A. Brissette#	Black Skimmer			
Royal Tern				9/1	Chatham (S.B.)	1 ad	B. Nikula
9/21	Westport	1	E. Nielsen#	9/24	Plymouth B.	2 juv	A. Brissette#
Roseate Tern				Razorbill			
9/2	Rockport (A.P.)	22	R. Heil	9/18, 19	Rockport (A.P.)	1	Bonomo, Heil#
9/3, 9/21	Chatham (S.B.)	250, 200	P. Flood#	10/12	P'town	1	B. Nikula#
9/5	Falmouth	275	R. Farrell	10/12, 29	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 2	R. Heil
9/7	12 m E. of Chatham	250	W. Petersen#	Black Guillemot			
9/21	Eastham	500	P. Flood#	9/19, 10/29	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 2	R. Heil
9/24	Plymouth B.	19	A. Brissette#	10/30	E. Gloucester	10	J. Berry#
Common Tern				Large alcid species			
9/2, 10/12	Rockport (A.P.)	493, 3	R. Heil	10/28, 29	Cape Ann	3, 1	R. Heil

CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

As was the case last fall, *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were noted in exceptional numbers, with individuals reported from six locations. Three of these were determined to be Rufous. Interestingly, there were unconfirmed reports of two individuals coming to the feeders in Amherst, Lanesboro, and in East Sandwich. Two of the Rufous Hummingbirds were banded; the Newbury bird was determined to be a hatch-year male, and the Chicopee bird was determined to be a hatch-year female. The Amherst bird was possibly an adult female *Selasphorus*. It had several centrally located gorget feathers, more than would be expected for an immature female *Selasphorus*.

The annual flight of Northern Saw-whet Owls is best known by the banding reports. Danielle and Norman Smith initiated a banding project in 1994 with incredible results. During 1999 a total of 411 Saw-whets were banded from four sites in eastern Massachusetts (*Bird Observer* 30 (2): 95-102). This past October Strickland Wheelock set up a banding site in Uxbridge, using the same battery-operated audio lure of a Saw-whet Owl as described by

Danielle Smith, and had excellent results with 59 birds banded over twelve nights. Other banding sites in the past, such as Williamstown, have had successful results with 86 Saw-whets banded in the fall of 2001. All these sites demonstrate how vast the migration of this tiny owl is during the fall. A Short-eared Owl in Northampton was the first there in this period since 1999. Interesting was the fact that no Long-eared Owls were reported during the period.

The largest numbers of migrating Common Nighthawks usually occur during August, but there was a significant movement on the nights of September 4, 5, and 7, and there were two October reports this year. As many as 5000 Chimney Swifts were roosting at the end of September in the Hanover chimney that was first discovered last year, and forty-seven were still present on October 31. There were five Red-headed Woodpeckers reported, with the individual from Granville being the first noted from western Massachusetts for the period since 1997.

A **Say's Phoebe** was photographed in West Tisbury on September 10, just the second record for Martha's Vineyard. The only other record was also in West Tisbury on September 27, 1974. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was found and photographed on Morris Island in Chatham in October; the most recent October record for this species was of a bird at Cumberland Farms in 1995. There were ten reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher and three Western Kingbirds were noted. White-eyed Vireos have now been reported in six of the last eight falls in western Massachusetts, and there was a good number, at least twenty-eight, of Philadelphia Vireos noted during the period.

Common Ravens continue to be reported in good numbers, with seventeen noted from Mt. Holyoke and nineteen noted from Granville. In the eastern part of the state ravens were noted from Groton, Harvard, and Maynard. Although there are no reports of American Crow in the tabulation below, there was much discussion about the lack of crows on the Massbird e-mail listserv. Concerns for a decline in this population await the results of upcoming Christmas Bird Counts. Late reports of Northern Rough-winged Swallows in the fall are almost routine, with sixty birds noted from Great Meadows in Concord and a late flock of 30 in Wellesley on October 25. Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted from many locations and in substantial numbers compared to the dismal showing during the same period last year.

The fall migration of passerines is well under way during September. Thirty-two warbler species were noted during the period, two fewer than last year. Seth Kellogg reported that most warbler numbers in western Massachusetts were well below historical averages and that a Wilson's Warbler reported on October 18 was the latest date reported for that species in western Massachusetts. Among the noteworthy warblers were three reports of Golden-winged, a Kentucky, at least thirty-four Connecticut, and three Hooded. There was only one reported Cape May Warbler during the period—astonishing, since that as recently as the late 70s, Cape May Warblers were one of the more abundant migrants, especially on the Cape and the Islands. Numbers were in the 400-500 range in the Chatham area alone! In eastern Massachusetts there were exceptional flights noted on September 5, 13, 28, and real fallout on the morning of October 1. Many reports from banding stations confirmed the magnitude of these fallouts. The Joppa Flats Bird Banding Station on Plum Island started the fall banding season on September 2 and banded a total of 371 new birds of forty-five species by the end of the month. An outstanding thirteen Connecticut Warblers were banded there during September. In the past only two or three were netted during the entire fall season. Thrush reports were considerably higher than during the same period last year, especially for Veery, Swainson's, and Gray-cheek types. Among the more unusual migrants found during the period included a Sedge Wren in Lexington, a Summer Tanager in Edgartown, and a Yellow-headed Blackbird on Tuckernuck.

October is the time for sparrows, a total of twenty-one species plus an Ipswich and a Gambell's-type White-crowned were reported during the period. A **Henslow's Sparrow** at

Bolton Flats and a **Harris's Sparrow** from Great Meadows in Concord highlighted the rarities. Clay-colored Sparrow, considered as a rare fall migrant as recently as 1993, (Veit and Petersen) is now a regular occurring species, a total of eighteen reports during the period. In western Massachusetts they have been recorded for six straight fall migrations. Other noteworthy reports include five Lark, two Grasshopper, and fourteen Nelson's Sharp-tailed and eleven Vesper sparrows.

The winter finch outlook was better this fall, with predications of a decent flight due to many species of evergreens having a poor cone crop further north. This may force many species to head south. Purple Finches were the most notable arrival, especially in eastern Massachusetts where they have been scarce and local in recent years. At Gay Head on Martha's Vineyard seventy-five were noted on October 14, and flocks of over ten were noted from many locations. A flurry of Pine Siskins was noted but just three Evening Grosbeaks were reported. *R. Stymeist*

Correction: *The October 2003 issue incorrectly listed a Say's Phoebe report as a first spring record for Massachusetts. In fact, the first spring record occurred in May, 1996, and was reported in the Third Annual Report of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, printed in December 1998 [Bird Observer 26 (6) 277].*

Black-billed Cuckoo			9/4	Needham	30	P. McFarland
9/1 P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	9/4	Worcester	250	K. Mills
9/2 Monterey	1	W. Laffley	9/4, 5, 7	Northampton	730, 112, 116	T. Gagnon
9/5 Hardwick	1	C. Buelow	9/5	Newton	300	S. Perkins
10/4 W. Tisbury	1	fide V. Laux	9/5	Barre Falls	213	B. Kamp#
10/5 MNWS	1 juv	J. Nelson#	9/7	Leicester	243	M. Lynch#
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			9/14	Jamaica Plain	120+	A. Joslin
9/27 P.I.	1	BBC (S. Grinley)	9/16	Pittsfield	125	D. St James
10/5 Edgartown	1	R. Bray	9/28	W. Roxbury	10	A. Joslin
10/9 Worcester	1	H. Shainheit	10/5	Sudbury	1	SSBC (Petersen)
10/17 Eastham (F.E.)	1	M. Tuttle#	10/9	Pittsfield	1	T. Collins
10/20 Hingham	1	E. Nielsen	Chimney Swift			
10/26 Mattapoiset	1	M. LaBossiere	9/4	Needham	60	P. McFarland
Cuckoo species			9/26, 10/5	Hanover	5000, 1050	W. Petersen
10/29 Weymouth	1	S. Perkins	10/5	Sudbury	30	SSBC (Petersen)
Eastern Screech-Owl			10/16, 31	Hanover	535, 47	W. Petersen
9/11 Winchester	2	M. Rines	10/17	Gay Head	2	A. Keith#
9/20 Stoneham	3	S. Maguire	Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
9/21 Boston	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9/1	Lynnfield	5	P. + F. Vale
9/21 Holbrook	2	G. d'Entremont	9/1	Essex	3	P. Brown
9/thr DWWS	2	D. Furbish	9/2	Winchester	3	M. Rines
10/5 Bolton Flats	2	M. Lynch#	9/7	Barre Falls	3	B. Kamp#
10/9 Newbypt	2	T. Wetmore	Rufous Hummingbird *			
10/18 Marblehead	2	F. Bouchard	9/18-10/24	Newbury	1 imm m ph b	S. Stichter, v.o.
thr Reports of indiv. from 16 locations			10/14-31	E. Sandwich	1 imm m ph	R. Ayotte#
Great Horned Owl			10/thr	Chicopee	1 imm f b	D. Glaszcz#
9/14 Carlisle	2	J. Keskulla	Selasphorus species *			
9/17 Lexington	pr	K. Goldin	9/10-20	W. Falmouth	1 m ph	S. Fazzino
9/thr DWWS	2	D. Furbish	10/11-31	Lanesboro	1 ph	P. Dion + v.o.
thr Reports of indiv. from 9 locations			10/21-28	Amherst	1 ph	L. Cummings#
Barred Owl			Hummingbird species			
9/5 Carlisle	3	G. Stalker	10/7	Upton	1	R. Brill
9/16 Hardwick	2	C. Buelow	10/12	Lenox	1	T. Collins
10/8 Carlisle	2	G. Stalker	Belted Kingfisher			
10/28 Halifax	2	D. Furbish	9/14	Wellfleet	4	BBC (R. Stymeist)
thr Reports of indiv. from 6 locations			9/20	Sheffield	4	M. Lynch#
Short-eared Owl			9/21	Randolph	4	G. d'Entremont#
10/27 Northampton	1	A. Magee	10/18	Wachusett Res.	5	M. Lynch#
Northern Saw-whet Owl			Red-headed Woodpecker			
9/13 Barre FD	1	M. Lynch#	9/5	Leicester	1 imm	M. Lynch#
10/12 Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#	10/10	Mt.A.	1 imm	R. Stymeist#
10/15 Ashfield	1	S. Sauter	10/25	Gay Head	1 ad	V. Laux#
10/16 Northbridge	5 b	K. Clayton#	10/28	Granville	1	J. Weeks#
10/18 Sheffield	1	K. Ryan	Red-bellied Woodpecker			
10/20-31 Uxbridge	59 b	S. Wheelock	9/20, 10/18	Medford	4, 4	M. Rines#
10/28 Essex	2	J. Berry#	9/21	Braintree	3	G. d'Entremont#
Common Nighthawk			9/21	Boston	3	BBC (R. Stymeist)

Red-bellied Woodpecker (continued)				Eastern Kingbird			
10/1	Winchester	4	M. Rines	9/1	P.I.	5	P. + F. Vale
10/2	Sudbury	3	T. Spahr	9/5	Chilmark	22	A. Keith
10/3	Westboro	5	T. Spahr	9/6	P.I.	10	M. Lynch#
10/4	S. Quabbin	5	M. Lynch#	9/7	Northampton	1	S. Sumner
10/10	Mt.A.	3	R. Stymeist#	9/13	Ipswich	1	J. Berry
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (details submitted) *			
9/20	Stockbridge	9	M. Lynch#	10/13-15	Chatham	1 ph	D. Manchester + v.o.
10/6	Nahant	2	L. Pivacek	Northern Shrike			
10/6	MNWS	2	R. Kipp	10/25	Salisbury	1 dead	T. Wetmore
10/7	Boston	6	G. Tepke	White-eyed Vireo			
10/8	Gay Head	6	V. Laux#	9/3	Lenox	1	T. Collins
10/9	Chilmark	7	V. Laux#	9/13	DWWS	1	G. d'Entremont
10/17	Lincoln	1 imm m	M. Rines	Yellow-throated Vireo			
10/19	Boston (Fens)	1	L. Ferrarasso#	9/5	Hardwick	1	C. Buelow
10/20	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	9/20	Brewster	1	BBC (E. Giles)
Hairy Woodpecker				9/21	Mattapan	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/3	Woburn	5	M. Rines	9/22	Montague	1	C. Buelow
9/29	Paxton	4	M. Lynch#	Blue-headed Vireo			
10/4	S. Quabbin	5	M. Lynch#	9/13	DWWS	1	G. d'Entremont
Northern Flicker				9/27	Burlington	3	M. Rines#
9/13	Lexington	22	M. Rines#	9/30, 10/24	Edgartown	4, 3	A. Keith
9/21	Windsor	22	M. Lynch#	10/1	Montague	4	C. Buelow
Pileated Woodpecker				10/4	S. Quabbin	4	M. Lynch#
9/3	Gloucester	2	J. Berry#	10/6	Ware	7	C. Buelow
9/16	Hardwick	2	C. Buelow	10/18	Medford	11	M. Rines#
9/20	Stockbridge	3	M. Lynch#	10/28	Gloucester	1	R. Heil
9/20	Bolton Flats	2	S. Sutton	Warbling Vireo			
9/21	Windsor	3	M. Lynch#	9/11	Woburn	12	M. Rines#
10/4	S. Quabbin	2	M. Lynch#	9/20	Sheffield	1	M. Lynch#
Olive-sided Flycatcher				9/20	Medford	1	M. Rines#
9/1-14	Reports of indiv. from 10 locations			9/21	Braintree	1	G. d'Entremont#
Eastern Wood-Pewee				Philadelphia Vireo			
9/3	Montague	5	C. Buelow	9/4	Belmont	3	M. Rines
9/3	Woburn (H.P.)	6	M. Rines	9/9	MNWS	2	J. Hoye
9/27	P'town	2	G. d'Entremont#	9/13	Barre FD	2	M. Lynch#
9/28	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale	9/14	Wellfleet	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)
10/1	Sudbury	2	T. Spahr	9/20	Stockbridge	3	M. Lynch#
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				10/13	Gloucester	1	R. Heil
9/1	Hardwick	2	C. Buelow	9/1-10/4 Reports of indiv. from 15 locations			
9/3	Woburn	1	M. Rines	Red-eyed Vireo			
9/9	MNWS	1	J. Hoye	9/3	Montague	15+	C. Buelow
9/11	Gay Head	1	A. Keith	9/13	Barre FD	14	M. Lynch#
9/13	Marblehead	1	BBC (delaFlor)	9/20	Medford	12	M. Rines#
9/18	Wayland	1	J. Hoye#	9/21	P.I.	12	J. Trimble#
Traill's Flycatcher				10/3	Mt.A.	9	R. Stymeist
9/20	Medford	1	M. Rines#	10/12	Nantucket	3	J. Hoye#
9/20	Stockbridge	2	M. Lynch#	10/21	Wakefield	2	F. Vale
Least Flycatcher				10/30	Rockport (H.P.)	1 imm	S. Perkins#
9/17	Gay Head	1	A. Keith#	Blue Jay			
10/3	Chilmark	1	A. Keith	9/20, 30	Granville	462, 439	Hawkwatch (Weeks)
10/8	Boston (A.A.)	1	A. Joslin	10/4	S. Quabbin	673	M. Lynch#
Empidonax species				Fish Crow			
10/31	Gay Head	1	A. Keith	9/7	Agawam	2	S. Kellogg#
Eastern Phoebe				9/18	Braintree	20	D. Furbish
9/13	Barre FD	19	M. Lynch#	10/7	Pittsfield	1	M. + K. Conway
9/20	Bolton Flats	13	S. Sutton	10/11	Plymouth	7	D. Furbish
9/27	Gardner	15	T. Pirro	10/25	Boston (BNC)	5	BBC (L. Ferrarasso)
10/3	Mt.A.	12	R. Stymeist	Common Raven			
10/9	Lexington	16	M. Rines	9/12	Mt. Wachusett	6	J. Stein#
10/13-31 Reports of 1-3 indiv. from 9 locations				9/13	Barre FD	3	M. Lynch#
Say's Phoebe (no details) *				9/21	Windsor	5	M. Lynch#
9/10	W. Tisbury	1 ph	W. Manter + v.o.	9/24	Groton	2	T. Pirro
Great Crested Flycatcher				10/2	Mt. Holyoke	17	H. Lappen
9/13	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	10/4	S. Quabbin	10	M. Lynch#
9/14	Wellfleet	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	10/5	Harvard	2	M. Lynch#
9/27	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	10/18	Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab
9/30	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist	10/19	Gardner	4	T. Pirro
Western Kingbird				10/25	Granville	19	J. Weeks#
9/6	Northampton	1	L. Therrian	Horned Lark			
9/8	Gay Head	1	P. Gilmore	9/27	Eastham (F.E.)	5	G. d'Entremont#
10/26	WBWS	1	J. Galvani	10/3	Granville	1	J. Weeks#
				10/8	Groton	2	T. Pirro

Horned Lark (continued)				Winter Wren			
10/11	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#	10/9	MNWS	2	K. Haley
10/13	Arlington Res.	1	C. Cook	10/18	Belmont	2	R. Stymeist#
10/25	P.I.	42	T. Wetmore	9/21-10/31	Reports of indiv. from 15 locations		
10/26	Salisbury	15	P. + F. Vale	Sedge Wren			
Purple Martin				9/13	Lexington	1	M. Rines#
9/6	P.I.	3	M. Lynch#	Marsh Wren			
Tree Swallow				9/27	GMNWR	10	M. Lynch#
9/1, 10/18	P.I.	1000, 10	T. Wetmore	9/28	Sandwich	1	G. d'Entremont#
9/14	S. Monomoy	5000+	B. Nikula#	10/4	Tyringham	1	M. + K. Conway
9/21, 10/19	Chatham 6500,	1500	Manchester, Nikula	10/9	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon
9/28, 10/25	Sandwich2500,	65	d'Entremont, Trimble	10/18	Dorchester	7	R. Donovan
10/4	Hatfield	200	S. Kellogg#	10/28	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	R. Heil
10/6, 22	Falmouth	2000, 500	G. Gove	Golden-crowned Kinglet			
10/12	Gay Head	1500	SSBC (D. Clapp)	9/13	Barre FD	4	M. Lynch#
10/17	Cumb. Farms	500	J. Sweeney	10/3	Newbypt	1	S. McGrath
10/26	Barnstable	120+	B. Nikula#	10/4	Mt.A.	1	R. Merrill
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				10/7	MNWS	12	C. Marantz
10/5	Arlington Res.	6	M. Rines	10/18	Wachusett Res.	8	M. Lynch#
10/5, 28	GMNWR	60, 3	Petersen, Perkins	10/25	P.I.	10	T. Wetmore
10/13	P.I.	1	J. Trimble	10/25	Gloucester (E.P.)	8	J. Nelson
10/25	Wellesley	30	K. Winkler	10/28	Cape Ann	10	R. Heil
Bank Swallow				10/30	Hyannis	8	C. Buelow
9/1	Longmeadow	1	C. Marantz	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
9/21	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins#	9/7	Marshfield	1	D. Furbish
10/4	Hatfield	5	S. Kellogg#	9/13	Barre FD	1	M. Lynch#
Cliff Swallow				10/8	Montague	19	C. Buelow
9/1	Longmeadow	1	C. Marantz	10/13	Wachusett Res.	24	S. Sutton
9/4	DWWS	1	D. Furbish	10/17	Brookfield	11	C. Buelow
9/28	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins	10/18	Medford	15	M. Rines#
10/4	Hatfield	5	H. Allen	10/18	Belmont	14	R. Stymeist#
Barn Swallow				10/19	Gardner	12	T. Pirro
9/1	Hardwick	10	C. Buelow	10/26	HRWMA	10	T. Pirro
9/6	Bolton Flats	20	S. Sutton	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
9/6	Chatham (M.I.)	122	D. Manchester	9/3	Montague	3	C. Buelow
9/6	Mt. Watatic	50	T. Pirro	9/6	Bolton Flats	2	S. Sutton
9/13, 10/4	P.I.	40, 2	T. Wetmore	9/28	P.I.	3	P. + F. Vale
9/18	Chatham (M.I.)	15	D. Manchester	9/28	Worcester	2	M. Lynch#
10/4	Arlington Res.	1	A. + G. Gurka	10/9	Rockport (A.P.)	3	R. Heil
10/12	Nantucket	2	J. Hoye#	Eastern Bluebird			
10/17	Cumb. Farms	1	J. Sweeney	9/3	Woburn	8	M. Rines
Red-breasted Nuthatch				9/18	Wellfleet	10	J. Berry#
9/13	Barre FD	62	M. Lynch#	10/4	Hatfield	25	S. Kellogg#
9/14	Wellfleet	13	BBC (R. Stymeist)	10/8	Barre Falls	7	B. Kamp
9/21, 10/26	P.I.	4, 10	Trimble, Wetmore	10/9	Pepperell	14	E. Stomsted
9/28	Gardner	25	T. Pirro	10/13	Uxbridge	12	M. Lynch#
10/4	S. Quabbin	31	M. Lynch#	10/19	Wayland	8	BBC (G. Long)
10/8	Brewster	6	M. Sampson	10/25	Hingham	9	C. Nims#
10/25	Carlisle	15	T. Brownrigg	10/30	Granville	10	J. Weeks#
thr	Reports from many locations statewide			Veery			
Brown Creeper				9/1	ONWR	5	S. Sutton
9/13	Barre FD	4	M. Lynch#	9/3	Woburn	1	M. Rines
10/10	P.I.	10	T. Spahr	9/4	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
10/10	Salisbury	3	D. Chickering	9/30	Concord	1	S. Perkins
10/18	Wachusett Res.	4	M. Lynch#	9/30	P.I.	1 b	B. Flemer
10/18	MNWS	8	F. Bouchard	10/1	Uxbridge	1 b	S. Wheelock
Carolina Wren				10/2	Sudbury	1	T. Spahr
9/1-10/30	Western Mass	10	v.o.	10/4	S. Quabbin	1	M. Lynch#
9/13	Marblehead	8	BBC (delaFlor)	Gray-cheeked Thrush			
9/14	Wellfleet	9	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9/27, 10/1	Uxbridge	1 b, 1 b	S. Wheelock
9/29	Lexington	7	M. Rines	9/30	P.I.	1 b	B. Flemer
10/18	Medford	8	M. Rines#	Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush			
10/18	Stoughton	7	G. d'Entremont	9/23-26	Boston	1	G. Tepke
10/28	Cape Ann	22	R. Heil	10/4	S. Quabbin	2	M. Lynch#
House Wren				10/7	MNWS	1	C. Marantz
9/6	Woburn	9	M. Rines#	Swainson's Thrush			
9/6	Belmont	8	R. Stymeist#	9/30	Concord	6	S. Perkins
9/13, 10/3	Lexington	15, 5	M. Rines#	10/1	Uxbridge	3 b	S. Wheelock
9/20	Framingham	8	J. Hoye#	10/2	Sudbury	3	T. Spahr
10/18	Belmont	2	P. + F. Vale	10/10	Monterey	1	R. Packard
10/22	Burlington	1	M. Rines	10/14	Wakefield	2	F. Vale
10/26	Chilmark	1	A. Keith	Hermit Thrush			
				10/9	MNWS	12	K. Haley

Hermit Thrush (continued)				Orange-crowned Warbler			
10/18	Belmont	6	R. Stymeist#	10/10	Gloucester	2	R. Heil
10/18	Medford	19	M. Rines#	10/18	Belmont	2	R. Stymeist#
10/19	Gardner	7	T. Piro	10/4-31	Reports of indiv. from	10	locations
10/20	Mt.A	9	R. Stymeist	Nashville Warbler			
10/30	Boston	5	G. Tepke	10/4	S. Quabbin	2	M. Lynch#
10/30	P.I.	5	N. Bonomo	10/4	Cumb. Farms	3	M. Maurer
10/30	Rockport (H.P.)	8	S. Perkins#	10/4	Belmont	3	R. Stymeist
Wood Thrush				10/6	Stoneham	2	D. + I. Jewell
9/20	Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab	10/8	Montague	2	C. Buelow
9/21	Braintree	2	G. d'Entremont	thr	Reports of indiv. from many locations		
9/21	Holbrook	2	G. d'Entremont	Northern Parula			
9/28	Medford	1	M. Rines	9/20	Bolton Flats	4	S. Sutton
9/30	P.I.	1 b	B. Flemer	9/20, 10/18	Medford	5, 1	M. Rines#
10/1	Uxbridge	1 b	S. Wheelock	9/27	Lexington	10	P. + F. Vale
10/6	Carlisle	1	J. Keskulla	9/28	Worcester	15	M. Lynch#
American Robin				9/30	Mt.A.	3	R. Stymeist
9/6, 10/18	Bolton Flats	4000, 250	S. Sutton	10/1	Montague	4	C. Buelow
10/14	Gay Head	1800	V. Laux	10/4	Winchester	4	M. Rines#
10/26	N. Truro	237	M. Lynch#	10/10, 28	Gloucester	4, 1	R. Heil
10/26	HRWMA	200+	T. Piro	10/24	Edgartown	1	V. Laux#
Gray Catbird				Yellow Warbler			
9/13	DWWS	48	G. d'Entremont	9/1	Holland	1	S. Kellogg
9/20	Stockbridge	43	M. Lynch#	9/21	Squantum	1	G. d'Entremont#
9/20	P.I.	35+	P. + F. Vale	9/21	P.I.	3	J. Trimble#
10/4	Belmont	27	R. Stymeist	Chestnut-sided Warbler			
10/5	Bolton Flats	37	M. Lynch#	9/3, 22	Montague	6, 1	C. Buelow
10/12	Martha's Vineyard	14	SSBC (D. Clapp)	9/5	Worc. (BMB)	2	J. Liller
10/16	Burlington	2	M. Rines	9/13	Lexington	2	M. Rines#
10/28	Cape Ann	3	R. Heil	9/20	Medford	2	M. Rines#
Brown Thrasher				10/4	Belmont	1	R. Stymeist
9/3	Woburn	4	M. Rines	10/4	S. Quabbin	1	M. Lynch#
9/21	Nahant	4	D. Saffarewich	10/6	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
9/28	P.I.	17	P. + F. Vale	Magnolia Warbler			
10/4	Winchester	4	M. Rines#	9/3, 10/8	Montague	3, 3	C. Buelow
10/18	Belmont	1	F. Vale	9/20	Sheffield	3	M. Lynch#
10/18	P.I.	1	D. Chickering	9/20	Medford	4	M. Rines#
10/22	Burlington	1	M. Rines	9/21	Windsor	2	M. Lynch#
American Pipit				10/1	Sudbury	2	T. Spahr
9/20, 10/26	Bolton Flats	5, 22	S. Sutton	10/4	Amherst	2	D. Minnear
9/21, 10/18	P.I.	15, 40	Trimble, Nielsen	10/8	Brewster	1	M. Sampson
9/23, 10/18	GMNWR	15, 45	S. Perkins#	Cape May Warbler			
10/3	Sunderland	50	A. Richards	10/14	Gay Head	1	V. Laux
10/12	Ipswich	50	D. Gill#	Black-throated Blue Warbler			
10/16	Pittsfield	100	T. Collins	9/8	Carlisle	3	J. Keskulla
10/26	Newbury	75	R. Heil	9/13	Marblehead	3	BBC (delaFlor)
10/31	Hadley	50	P. Yeskie	9/15	Montague	4	C. Buelow
Cedar Waxwing				10/1	Sudbury	20+	T. Spahr
9/20	Stockbridge	52	M. Lynch#	10/4	Winchester	3	M. Rines#
9/20	P.I.	39	P. + F. Vale	10/7	MNWS	15	C. Marantz
9/20	Bolton Flats	105	S. Sutton	10/10	Gloucester	3	R. Heil
9/20	Sheffield	46	M. Lynch#	10/24	GMNWR	1	M. Kaufman
9/21	Windsor	24	M. Lynch#	10/26	P.I.	1 m ad	T. Wetmore
10/14	Gay Head	800	V. Laux	10/28	Rockport	1 f	R. Heil
10/18	GMNWR	32 migr	S. Perkins#	Yellow-rumped Warbler			
Blue-winged Warbler				9/21, 10/19	P.I.	4, 53	Trimble, Vale
9/29	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	10/1	Winchester	2	M. Rines
9/30	Edgartown	1	A. Keith	10/8, 22	Burlington	21, 113	M. Rines
10/1	Milton	1	P. O'Neill	10/10	Gloucester	100+	R. Heil
10/5	MNWS	1	M. Emmons	10/10	Mt.A.	80	R. Stymeist#
Golden-winged Warbler				10/12	Gloucester	350+	R. Heil
9/10	W. Tisbury	1	L. McDowell#	10/18	Wachusett Res.	62	M. Lynch#
9/14	Wellfleet	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	10/25	Brewster	103 b	S. Finnegan
9/21	Bourne	1 m	J. Kricher	10/26	N. Truro	158	M. Lynch#
Tennessee Warbler				Black-throated Green Warbler			
9/2	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon	9/20, 10/18	Medford	14, 2	M. Rines#
9/3	Monterey	1	W. Lafley	9/27	Lexington	18	P. + F. Vale
9/27	Gardner	1	T. Piro	9/28	Worcester	15+	M. Lynch#
9/29	Gay Head	1	A. Keith	10/1	Montague	11	C. Buelow
10/1	Sudbury	2	T. Spahr	10/4	Winchester	14	M. Rines#
10/3	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan	10/30	P.I.	1	N. Bonomo
10/7	MNWS	1	C. Marantz	10/30	Boston	1	G. Tepke
10/18	Bolton Flats	1	S. Sutton				

Blackburnian Warbler				Connecticut Warbler			
9/3 Montague	5	C. Buelow		9/thr P.I.	13 b	B. Flemer	
9/9, 10/1 Sudbury	2, 2	T. Spahr		9/6, 7, 13 Auburn	1 b, 1 b 1 b	M. Blazis	
9/13 Barre FD	2	M. Lynch#		9/13 Barre FD	3	M. Lynch#	
9/20 Sheffield	2	M. Lynch#		9/20 Stockbridge	2 imm	M. Lynch#	
10/4 Belmont	1	R. Stymeist		9/21 P.I.	3	C. Floyd	
10/12 Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#		9/25 Hadley	2	A. Magee	
Pine Warbler				9/18-10/13	Reports of indiv. from 8 locations		
9/13 Barre FD	27	M. Lynch#		Mourning Warbler			
9/15 Montague	15	C. Buelow		9/2-10/10	Reports of indiv. from 10 locations		
9/29 Paxton	14	M. Lynch#		Common Yellowthroat			
10/19 Woburn (H.P.)	1	D. Frugugliette#		10/2 Woburn	21	M. Rines	
Prairie Warbler				10/4 Cumb. Farms	20	M. Maurer	
9/11 Woburn	2	M. Rines#		10/5 Lexington	31	M. Rines	
9/13 Barre FD	2	M. Lynch#		10/19 Boston (Fens)	6	R. Stymeist#	
9/14 Wellfleet	4	BBC (R. Stymeist)		Hooded Warbler			
9/28 Worcester	2	M. Lynch#		9/28 N. Andover	1 B. + W. Drummond		
10/25 Gloucester (E.P.)	1	J. Nelson		10/1-9 MNWS	1	D. Noble + v.o.	
Palm Warbler				10/2 P.I.	1 imm b	D. Larson	
9/18 Wellfleet	15	J. Berry#		Wilson's Warbler			
9/22 DWWS	20 W	D. Furbish		9/20 Medford	2	M. Rines#	
10/2 Taunton	16	J. Sweeney		9/21, 10/6 Nahant	2, 1	L. Pivacek#	
10/4 Cumb. Farms	26	J. Sweeney		9/21 Squantum	2	G. d'Entremont#	
10/5 Bolton Flats	15	M. Lynch#		9/22 Burlington	2	M. Rines	
10/8 Burlington	31	M. Rines		9/28 Winchester	2	M. Rines	
10/10 Nahant	22	L. Pivacek		10/18 Deerfield	1	H. Allen	
10/12 Nantucket	15	J. Hoye#		Canada Warbler			
10/25 Sandwich	38	J. Trimble#		9/3 Montague	3	C. Buelow	
Bay-breasted Warbler				9/6 MNWS	1	P. + F. Vale	
9/3-10/5	Reports of indiv. from 7 locations			9/20 Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist	
10/22 Nahant	1	L. Pivacek		9/26 M.V.	1	M. Pelikan	
Blackpoll Warbler				10/6 MNWS	1	R. Kipp	
9/1 ONWR	1	S. Sutton		Yellow-breasted Chat			
9/4 Southwick	3	S. Kellogg		10/25 Gay Head	3	V. Laux	
9/13, 29 Lexington	4, 22	M. Rines#		thr	Reports of indiv. from 11 locations		
9/13 Barre FD	106	M. Lynch#		Summer Tanager			
9/13 Gardner	50+	T. Pirro		9/15-16 Edgartown	1	R. Stone	
9/17 Wakefield	32+	F. Vale		Scarlet Tanager			
9/20, 10/18 Medford	38, 1	M. Rines#		9/20 Quabbin Park	12	J. + M. Scott	
9/21, 10/14 Gay Head	1200, 45	Pelikan, Laux		9/28 Worcester	15+	M. Lynch#	
9/29 Paxton	96	M. Lynch#		10/2 Mt.A.	10	B. Miller	
10/4 S. Quabbin	68	M. Lynch#		10/4 Woburn	3	M. Rines	
10/4 Winchester	12	M. Rines#		10/6 Medford	2	M. Rines#	
Black-and-white Warbler				10/10 Gloucester	1	R. Heil	
9/3 Montague	10+	C. Buelow		10/18 Newton	1 BBC (L. Ferraresso)		
9/13 Marblehead	4	BBC (delaFlor)		Eastern Towhee			
9/20 Medford	5	M. Rines#		9/28 P.I.	30+	P. + F. Vale	
9/21 P.I.	5	J. Trimble#		10/4 S. Quabbin	27	M. Lynch#	
10/1 Sudbury	40	T. Spahr		10/26 N. Truro	2	M. Lynch#	
10/19 Woburn (H.P.)	1	D. Frugugliette#		10/28 Gloucester (E.P.)	2 m	R. Heil	
American Redstart				American Tree Sparrow			
9/2, 10/1 Winchester	7, 2	M. Rines		10/19 Woburn (H.P.)	1	D. Frugugliette#	
9/3 Montague	8	C. Buelow		10/20 Northfield	1	M. Taylor	
9/13 Marblehead	7	BBC (delaFlor)		10/25 Bradford	2	D. Larson	
9/20, 10/6 Medford	17, 2	M. Rines#		Chipping Sparrow			
9/27 Lexington	15	P. + F. Vale		9/3 Pittsfield	100	T. Collins	
9/27 Burlington	4	M. Rines#		9/14 Wellfleet	95	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
10/25 Gay Head	1	V. Laux		10/4 Groton	85	M. Resch	
10/28 Jamaica Plain	1	M. Kaufman		10/18 Medford	80	M. Rines#	
Worm-eating Warbler				10/31 Gay Head	100	V. Laux	
9/29 Nahant	1	L. Pivacek		Clay-colored Sparrow			
Ovenbird				thr	Reports of indiv. from 14 locations		
9/1 ONWR	1	S. Sutton		10/3 Gay Head	2	M. Pelikan#	
9/22 Montague	1	C. Buelow		10/25 Sandwich	2	J. Trimble#	
9/25 Uxbridge	2	S. Wheelock#		Field Sparrow			
10/7 MNWS	1	C. Marantz		9/13 Barre FD	5	M. Lynch#	
Northern Waterthrush				10/14 Montague	6	C. Buelow	
9/2 Winchester	3	M. Rines		10/18 Westboro	6	T. Spahr	
9/13, 10/3 Lexington	2, 1	M. Rines#		Vesper Sparrow			
9/13 Marblehead	2	BBC (delaFlor)		9/4, 10/9 Northampton	1	Sauter, LeBaron	
9/24 Nahant	2	L. Pivacek		9/26 Chatham (M.I.)	2	D. Manchester	
Kentucky Warbler				10/6 Stoneham	1	D. + I. Jewell	
9/6-7 MNWS	1 ad	K. Haley		10/11 P.I.	2	P. Roberts	

Vesper Sparrow (continued)				White-crowned Sparrow			
10/17	Cumb. Farms	1	J. Sweeney	9/6	Dennis	1	D. Silverstein
10/25	Gay Head	3	V. Laux#	9/30	Pittsfield	10	T. Collins
10/28	Gloucester	1	R. Heil	10/9	Northampton	8	G. LeBaron
Lark Sparrow				10/19	Gardner	7	T. Pirro
9/13	Barre FD	1	M. Lynch#	10/22	Burlington	8	M. Rines
9/22, 10/16	Gay Head	1, 1	Anderson Laux	10/26	Newbury	11 imm	R. Heil
10/8	Wellfleet	1	M. Sampson	10/28	Cape Ann	10 imm	R. Heil
10/11-14	Natick	1	D. Gibson + v.o.	Gambell's White-crowned Sparrow			
Savannah Sparrow				10/26	Newbury	1 imm	R. Heil
10/4	Hardwick	100	C. Buelow	Dark-eyed Junco			
10/5	Bolton Flats	64	M. Lynch#	9/20	Medford	1	A. Ankers
10/9	Lexington	63	M. Rines	10/3	Mt.A.	2	R. Stymeist
10/9	Marshfield	40	D. Furbish	10/13	Wachusett Res.	85	S. Sutton
10/18	Newbury	70	E. Nielsen	10/18	Medford	65	M. Rines#
10/25	Sandwich	50	J. Trimble#	10/24	Mt. Watatic	100+	T. Pirro
"Ipswich Sparrow"				10/31	Gay Head	250	V. Laux
10/16	P.I.	1	D. Larson	Lapland Longspur			
10/19	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan	10/4	Hardwick	1	C. Buelow
Grasshopper Sparrow				10/13	Chatham (S.B.)	3	R. Donovan#
10/10	Northampton	1	P. Yeskie	10/19	P.I.	8	R. Heil
10/31	Gay Head	1	V. Laux	10/26	Salisbury	1	P. + F. Vale
Henslow's Sparrow (accepted by MARC) *				Snow Bunting			
10/5	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	10/24	Mt. Watatic	2	T. Pirro
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow				10/25	Salisbury	30	T. Wetmore
10/4	Dorchester	2	R. Donovan	10/26	P.I.	25	T. Wetmore
10/4	Wayland	1	G. Long	10/26	Ipswich	1	BBC (J. Nove)
10/5	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	10/26	Falmouth	4	R. Farrell
10/8-11	Northampton	1	P. Yeskie	10/28	Rockport	5	R. Heil
10/14	Edgartown	1	A. Keith	Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
10/19	Newbypt	8	R. Heil	9/6	Belmont	11	R. Stymeist#
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow				9/13	Lexington	14	M. Rines#
9/21	E. Boston	4	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9/21	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore
9/27	Eastham (F.E.)	5	G. d'Entremont#	10/4	Woburn	2	M. Rines
9/28	P.I.	12	P. + F. Vale	10/6	Medford	2	M. Rines#
9/28	Sandwich	1	G. d'Entremont#	10/17	Truro	1 f	CCBC (Dettrey)
10/19	Newbypt	6	R. Heil	Blue Grosbeak			
10/19	Dorchester	6	R. Donovan	9/7	Hadley	1	P. Yeskie
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				9/21	Chilmark	1	M. Scott
10/15, 25	GMNWR	1	Kwong, Harris	9/21	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek#
Seaside Sparrow				10/25	Sandwich	1	J. Trimble#
10/16	P.I.	1	D. Larson	10/25	Wellesley	1	K. Winkler
Fox Sparrow				10/25	Harwich	1	P. Schwab#
10/13	Wachusett Res.	8	S. Sutton	10/26	Cumb. Farms	1	M. Maurer#
10/25	Amherst	1	D. Minnear	Indigo Bunting			
Song Sparrow				9/20	Bolton Flats	16	S. Sutton
10/4	Hardwick	75	C. Buelow	9/29	Hardwick	7	C. Buelow
10/5	Bolton Flats	99	M. Lynch#	10/9	Lexington	10	M. Rines
10/10	Wayland	80	G. Long	10/11	Truro	5	B. Nikula#
10/25	Sandwich	125	J. Trimble#	10/13	Newton	5	(BBC) F. Vale#
Lincoln's Sparrow				10/20	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan
9/8, 10/26	HRWMA	2, 1	T. Pirro	Dickeissel			
9/26	Framingham	5	J. Hoye#	9/21, 10/13	P.I.	2, 1	J. Trimble#
10/3	Lexington	9	M. Rines	10/2	Edgartown	2	S. Anderson
10/5	Ipswich	5	BBC (T. Young)	10/14	Gay Head	32	V. Laux#
10/5	Bolton Flats	29	M. Lynch#	thr	Reports of indiv. from	14 locations	
10/8, 22	Burlington	6, 1	M. Rines	Bobolink			
Swamp Sparrow				9/1	P'town	10	B. Nikula
9/20	Stockbridge	86	M. Lynch#	9/5	Leicester	88	M. Lynch#
10/4	New Braintree	55	C. Buelow	9/6	Bolton Flats	75	S. Sutton
10/5	Bolton Flats	156	M. Lynch#	9/7	Northampton	138	T. Gagnon
10/12	Westboro WMA	120	M. Lynch#	9/27	GMNWR	77	M. Lynch#
10/19	Cumb. Farms	50+BBC (O. Spalding)		9/29, 10/9	Lexington	18, 2	M. Rines
White-throated Sparrow				10/2	Taunton	28	J. Sweeney
9/21	Windsor	28	M. Lynch#	10/19	Marstons Mills	2	St. Miller#
10/8	Burlington	83	M. Rines	Eastern Meadowlark			
10/12	Westboro WMA	239	M. Lynch#	10/18	Westboro	1	T. Spahr
10/13	Wachusett Res.	125	S. Sutton	10/24	DWWS	14	D. Furbish
10/19	Gardner	100+	T. Pirro	10/25	Sandwich	5	J. Trimble#
10/28	Cape Ann	88	R. Heil	10/25	Eastham (F.H.)	8	M. Lynch#
Harris's Sparrow *				10/26	P.I.	4	R. Heil
10/7-9	GMNWR	1 imm	S. Wheelock + v.o.	Yellow-headed Blackbird			
				9/7	Tuckernuck	1	R. R. Veit

Rusty Blackbird				Purple Finch			
9/5 Lincoln	10	M. Rines	9/13 Barre FD	4	M. Lynch#		
10/11 Lexington	4	M. Rines	9/21 P.I.	12	J. Trimble#		
10/14 Gay Head	8	V. Laux	9/21 Windsor	21	M. Lynch#		
10/18, 28 GMNWR	28 migr, 15 migr	S. Perkins#	10/14 Gay Head	75	V. Laux		
10/19 Wayland	6	BBC (G. Long)	10/19 Medford	10	M. Rines		
10/25 Carlisle	6	T. Brownrigg	10/19 Gardner	35+	T. Pirro		
10/26 Bolton Flats	12	S. Sutton	10/25 Sandwich	12	J. Trimble#		
10/26 S. Gardner	7	T. Pirro	10/26 HRWMA	20	T. Pirro		
10/31 Northampton	5	R. Packard	Pine Siskin				
Brown-headed Cowbird			9/21 P.I.	2	J. Trimble#		
10/14 Gay Head	1200	V. Laux	10/13 Groveland	1	D. Chickering		
Baltimore Oriole			10/14 Gay Head	2	V. Laux		
9/6 Gay Head	7	V. Laux#	10/18 Pepperell	1	M. Resch		
9/21 P.I.	3	T. Wetmore	10/19 W. Newbury	1	F. Vale		
9/27 Truro	4	G. d'Entremont#	10/26 N. Truro	5	M. Lynch#		
10/10, 20 Mt.A.	3, 1	R. Stymeist#	10/30 Salisbury	2	N. Bonomo		
10/10 Gloucester	2	R. Heil	Evening Grosbeak				
10/11 Woburn (H.P.)	2	P. + F. Vale#	9/7 Barre Falls	1	B. Kamp#		
10/28 Stoneham	1	D. + I. Jewell	9/21 Windsor	1	M. Lynch#		
			10/25 Amherst	1+	G. d'Entremont		

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Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month, and may be submitted by postal mail or e-mail. Send written reports to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 94 Grove Street, Watertown, MA 02172. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). For instructions on e-mail submission, visit: <<http://massbird.org/birdobserver/sightings/>>.

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (indicated by an asterisk [*] in the Bird Reports), 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 Marjorie Rines, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773, or by e-mail to <marj@mrines.com>.

The American Bird Conservancy Guide to the 500 Most Important Bird Areas in the United States

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ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Locations

A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambr.
ABC	Allen Bird Club	NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	Newbypt	Newburyport
A.Pd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
B.	Beach	P.I.	Plum Island
Barre FD	Barre Falls Dam,	Pd	Pond
	Barre, Rutland	P'town	Provincetown
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	Pont.	Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	Res.	Reservoir
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester	S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
CGB	Coast Guard Beach, Eastham	SP	State Park
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
Cambr.	Cambridge	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club	TASL	Take A Second Look
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	WBWS	Boston Harbor Census
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms,	WMWS	Wellfleet Bay WS
	Middleboro	Wompatuck SP	Wachusett Meadow WS
DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary		Hingham, Cohasset,
DWMA	Delaney WMA	Worc.	Scituate, and Norwell
	Stow, Bolton, Harvard	WS	Worcester
DWWS	Daniel Webster WS		Wildlife Sanctuary
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester		
EMHW	Eastern Mass. Hawk Watch	Other Abbreviations	
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	ad	adult
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	alt	alternate
F.M.	Fowl Meadow	b	banded
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	br	breeding
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston	dk	dark (phase)
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin Res.	f	female
GMNWR	Great Meadows NWR	fl	fledgling
H.	Harbor	imm	immature
H.P.	Halibut Point, Rockport	juv	juvenile
HRWMA	High Ridge WMA, Gardner	lt	light (phase)
I.	Island	m	male
IRWS	Ipswich River WS	max	maximum
L.	Ledge	migr	migrating
M.V.	Martha's Vineyard	n	nesting
MAS	Mass. Audubon Society	ph	photographed
MARC	Mass. Avian Records Committee	pl	plumage
MCCS	Manomet Center for Conservation Science	pr	pair
MBWMA	Martin Burns WMA, Newbury	S	summer (1S = 1st summer)
MNWS	Marblehead Neck WS	v.o.	various observers
MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth	W	winter (2W = second winter)
		yg	young
		#	additional observers

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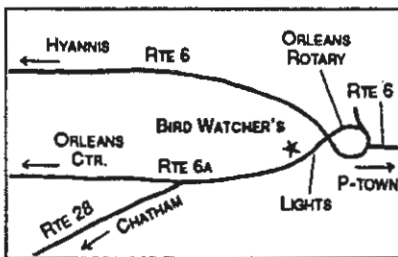
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Share Where You Bird: Where-to-Go Birding Articles Sought

Bird Observer has published a where-to-go-birding article, or site guide, in almost every issue of its 31-year run. The editorial staff intends to continue this practice. As part of our efforts to give the magazine a New England-wide focus, we have reached out to authors in all six states and have been able to increase the proportion of site guides from places outside Massachusetts. Of course many good birding sites in the other five states have not yet been written up in our journal, and we would like to encourage submission of articles on those. At the same time we plan to continue with our success in including more accounts from western Massachusetts.

In *Bird Observer's* early years, most of the site guides were from eastern Massachusetts, as reflected in the original name of the journal (*Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts*). The sites described in the 1970s were generally the areas most popular and most heavily birded. Many of today's readers were not subscribers then, and have never had the benefit of those articles. (Note: several were updated for the 1994 *Birder's Guide to Eastern Massachusetts*, co-published by *Bird Observer* and the American Birding Association.) It is time now to consider rewrites of those old site guides, given the changes that have affected the locations and the need for up-to-date guides for current subscribers.

So potential authors are hereby also solicited for where-to-go articles for places such as the Newburyport/Plum Island/Salisbury area (or parts thereof), Cape Ann, the Lynnfield marsh, Great Meadows NWR, Cambridge (Mt. Auburn Cemetery and Fresh Pond, for example), Revere/Winthrop, the Quincy/Squantum area, Scituate, coastal spots in Plymouth, the Falmouth area, and the Bolton/Lancaster flats. (Some central and western site guides have been revised and included in the new *Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts*.)

Inside Massachusetts or beyond, there are many places needing attention. Please don't feel limited to those listed, though they certainly deserve priority. Site guides to any good birding spots are always welcome. Email Jim Berry at jimberry@nii.net if you have something to offer.

ABOUT THE COVER

Double-crested Cormorant

The Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) is North America's most widespread and abundant cormorant species. Its generic name comes from the Greek *Phalakrokax* that means "bald raven," and its species name means "eared," the latter describing the plumes that are present during March through May in both sexes. The word cormorant comes from Old French *cormoran* that is derived from *corp* (meaning "crow") and *marenc* ("belonging to the sea"). The Double-crested Cormorant appears largely black, but at close range and in good light some feathers show a greenish or bronzy cast. It is distinguished from other cormorant species by the orange-yellow facial and throat skin. Great Cormorants are larger, have white hip patches during breeding season, and have white feathers on the throat. The sexes are similar in plumage. Juvenile Double-crested Cormorants have light-colored breasts and dark stomachs, while juvenile Great Cormorants have the reverse pattern. Double-crested Cormorants are frequently seen perched on rocks or man-made structures, often with wings spread. Cormorants have wettable feathers, thought to be an adaptation for diving, and the spread-wing posture is an adaptation for drying out wet feathers.

The Double-crested Cormorant is polytypic, with five generally accepted subspecies based on differences in size and plume characters. The nominate race *P. a. auritus* is found in eastern and central North America. Double-crested Cormorants follow Bergmann's Rule (in widely distributed species, individuals from higher latitudes will tend to be larger), with the largest individuals from Alaska and the smallest from Florida and the Caribbean. Larger individuals retain body heat more easily than smaller ones because of their proportionally larger volume compared to surface area. The Double-crested Cormorant is most closely related to the Neotropic Cormorant. The breeding range of the Double-crested Cormorant is disjunct, from Alaska south through Baja on the Pacific Coast, in the northern interior of the USA and southern Canada to the Great Lakes, on the East Coast from Newfoundland south to New York, and in Florida and the Caribbean. Recent range expansion has produced a series of colonies between New York and Florida. In Massachusetts the Double-crested Cormorant is an abundant migrant and breeding species. In spring they migrate mostly along the coast and begin to arrive in late March; migration peaks in late April. Fall migration peaks in October with larger numbers than in the spring. A daily high of 5000 plus has been recorded at Plum Island. They are often seen flying in lines or loose Vs. In Massachusetts Double-crested Cormorants have been rare winter residents, but in recent years they have been reported in larger numbers.

Double-crested Cormorants are monogamous and usually produce a single brood. They are gregarious, colonial breeders that prefer coastal or inland islands that offer protection against predators. They are territorial only at the nest site, where fighting between males can occur, one bird grabbing the beak, wing, or neck of another and shaking it. Threats include hissing with neck stretched, mouth wide open, displaying its cobalt blue lining, a color that fades after the breeding season. A recognition or

gape display is given by both males and females with stretched neck, waving head, and open mouth. The male chooses a nest site and displays to attract a mate. In this wing-waving display the male stands, breast down, tail and closed wings cocked, bill pointing to the sky, accentuating the pattern of orange of the facial and throat skin and bright purple-blue eyes. He raises his wingtips in synchrony with head movement and *ugh-ugh* calls.

Doubled-crested Cormorants breed in either single or mixed species colonies with gulls or herons. The nest is typically on the ground or in trees, but they also use man-made structures. The nest, constructed by both male and female, is a platform of sticks with plant material and may contain a variety of human artifacts, including rope, fishing net, and plastic debris. The nest eventually becomes a rigid structure cemented together with guano. Dead chicks are simply trampled flat and become part of the nest structure. The nesting situation is not very hygienic, and colonies are known for their smell of rotting fish and guano. The clutch is usually three or four light-blue eggs, and both parents share incubation for about four weeks until hatching. The chicks are altricial, hatching naked and with their eyes closed. Both parents brood the chicks until they can regulate their own temperature, and shade chicks and give them water in hot, sunny weather. Adults and young respond to heat stress with gular flutter, where the throat (gular) skin is vibrated with the mouth open, producing air flow over moist tissues that produces evaporative cooling. Parents defend their chicks against predators, vomiting fish in the direction of the intruder. In ground nests, chicks will often wander after three or four weeks, forming crèches (nurseries) and returning to their nest to be fed, while in tree nests they may remain for six to seven weeks until they can fly. Both parents feed young, typically opening their bills wide and letting the chick feed from their open maw. The larger chicks tend to get more food and often the last hatched, smallest chick will starve if food is scarce.

Double-crested Cormorants are diurnal foragers with eyes adapted for seeing under water, and they have salt glands that allow them to drink salt water. They dive from the surface using their webbed feet to propel them through the water. They prefer shallow water and are sometimes used as beaters by herons and pelicans. They eat mostly fish but also take crustaceans and the occasional amphibian. The nail at the end of their bill serves as a hook for grasping prey. They can swallow sizable fish, sometimes hammering them and then tossing them into the air to position them head first in their bill. Swallowing large prey is made possible by widely opening jaws, facilitated by a hinge arrangement with the upper bill and skull. Indigestible prey parts are ejected as pellets. Cormorants may forage in flocks, sometimes coordinating their efforts in lines or crescents to drive fish into shallow water.

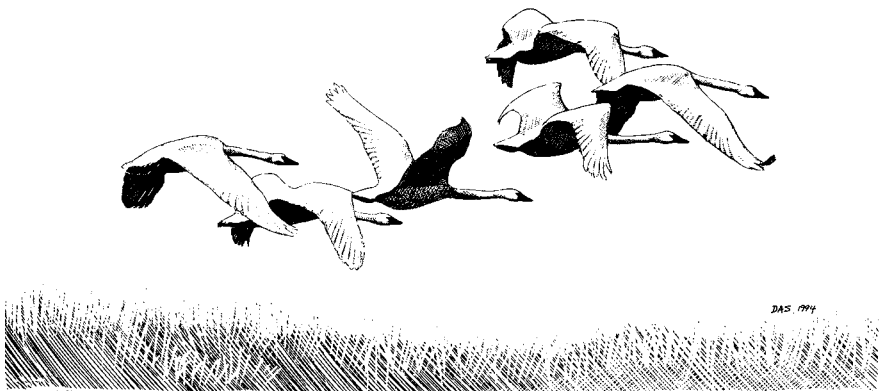
Double-crested Cormorants lose eggs and chicks to mammalian predators such as raccoons and foxes, and to gulls and raptors. But the greatest impact historically on cormorant populations has been persecution by man. Numbers were reduced drastically by early in the 19th century, and the species had been largely extirpated from Massachusetts, due to shooting and habitat alteration. Commercial and sport fishermen have traditionally considered cormorants competitors and treated them accordingly. Populations began to recover early in the 20th century, but cormorants

were hard hit by DDT and its derivatives, with subsequent reduction of numbers. Contaminants in the Great Lakes were responsible for a host of embryonic abnormalities and development of individuals with gross bill deformities. Since the 1970s, when these problems were ameliorated, they have experienced rapid population growth in many areas, including New England, and population levels have reached crisis proportions, touching off new rounds of human persecution. Not surprisingly, wintering birds tend to congregate in areas of abundant food, and the catfish farms and other aquaculture facilities, particularly in the southeast, have been inundated by cormorants. This population explosion has elicited control measures, including permits for shooting cormorants at aquaculture facilities, and programs of oiling eggs on the breeding grounds in Quebec and elsewhere. A rather extreme example of persecution was the use of flamethrowers in a nesting colony. Yet these sturdy and resilient birds continue to do well and remain abundant in their coastal and freshwater haunts. 📌

William E. Davis, Jr.

About the Cover Artist

Ikki Matsumoto is a Japanese-born artist who came to the United States in 1955 as a twenty-year-old student. At the Art Academy of Cincinnati he studied under the noted wildlife artist, Charles Harper. After graduation his initial work was in advertising as an illustrator and designer, but in 1975 he moved his family to Sanibel Island, Florida, where he established a new career as a painter and printmaker, using the native birds as his subjects. He and his wife Polly now operate a gallery and frame shop there and he continues to produce paintings and prints for exhibitions in Florida and in Tokyo. You can find more of his work and additional gallery information at <http://www.ikkimatsumoto.com>. 📌



SWANS BY DAVID SIBLEY

AT A GLANCE

December 2003



JIM BERRY

This, the final identification challenge of 2003, should be mercifully obvious, at least as a passerine species. In fact, in the spirit of seasonal benevolence, the mystery bird should prove relatively easy to identify. There are only two really viable options to consider when trying to nail down the identity of the bird in the picture.

Approaching the identification problem from a rational perspective, the most obvious points to consider are the fact that the mystery species has prominent streaks on its underparts, at least one sharply defined wing bar, quite a long tail, and a bill that appears slightly curved and definitely pointed at the tip. The reader also gains the impression that the bird's back is fairly uniform and not heavily streaked. And finally, though admittedly not easily discernable in the printed photograph, the bird's iris is pale. To appreciate this fact, the reader needs to see that the bird's eye is located *behind* the dark loreal streak that runs from the base of the bill to the iris itself.

With these field marks in hand the identification diagnosis is straightforward. There are only two legitimate identification possibilities if one remembers that we are only dealing with bird species that have occurred in Massachusetts. Although there are a number of birds that have streaks below (e.g., many sparrows), the thin and pointed bill at once eliminates all the seedeaters. Thrushes can similarly be eliminated since their ventral markings are spots, not streaks; also, few thrushes exhibit prominent wing bars. If we are determined to expand the list of possibilities with streaked

underparts, then all the warblers so marked can be eliminated by the mystery bird's long tail, long legs, and distinct malar (i.e., jaw) stripe.

The thoughtful reader at this point should have narrowed the candidates down to a choice between an American Pipit and a thrasher of some sort. American Pipit is a potentially strong candidate except for two major points: the mystery bird's light iris and its distinct wing bars. Otherwise, a pipit would seemingly be a pretty good fit, at least from the photographic perspective. However, the ventral streaks on a pipit would ordinarily look more like a necklace across the mid-breast and would seldom appear as crisp, especially down onto the flanks.

Having reduced the possibilities to a species of thrasher, a reasonable first assumption would be Brown Thrasher. A Brown Thrasher, however, would have much bolder streaks beneath, typically more pronounced wing bars, and an even longer tail than that shown by the pictured species. The only remaining choice is Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*). The photograph is actually a quintessential representation of a Sage Thrasher: pale iris, crisp and extensive streaks on the underparts, and distinct wing bars. What cannot be seen are the tiny white tips to the outer tail feathers (unlike the completely white outer tail feathers of an American Pipit).

A vagrant in Massachusetts, the only Bay State record of Sage Thrasher is an individual that was photographed October 26, 1965 at Plum Island. The Sage Thrasher in the photograph was taken by Jim Berry at Cape Neddick, York, Maine, in November 2001. 📷

Wayne R. Petersen



NANTUCKET BIRDING BY DAVID LARSON

AT A GLANCE



BILL LAWLESS

Can you identify this bird?

Identification will be discussed in next issue's AT A GLANCE.

Mass Audubon, in Partnership with the Essex County Ornithological Club, Announces the 12th Massachusetts Birders Meeting

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