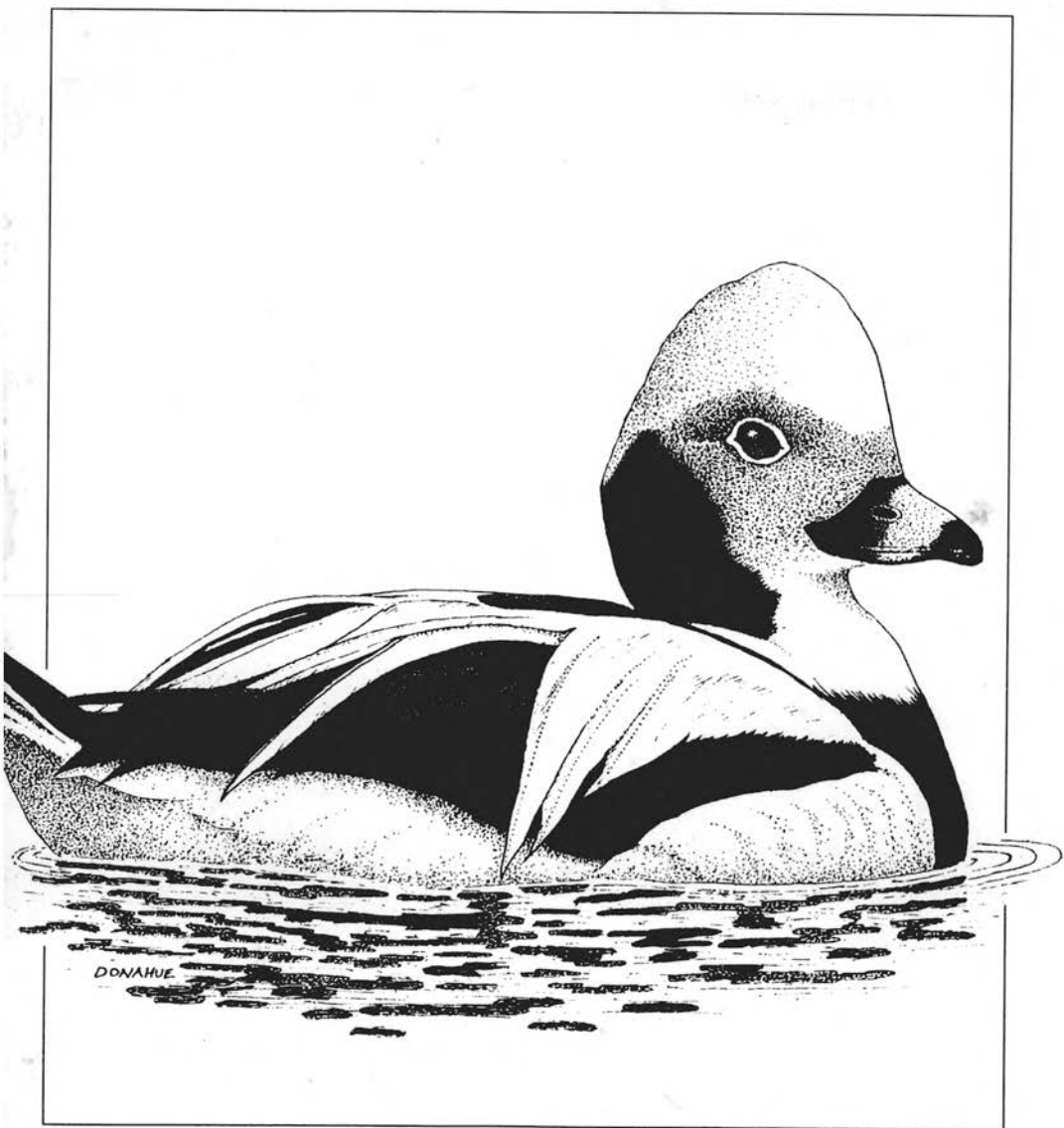


# BIRD OBSERVER



VOL. 25 NO. 1  
FEBRUARY 1997



# BIRD OBSERVER

• a bimonthly journal •

To enhance understanding, observation,  
and enjoyment of birds.

VOL. 25, NO. 1 FEBRUARY 1997

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## NANCY LEIGHTON CLAYTON, 1921-1997

On March 1, Nancy Clayton succumbed to congestive heart failure. She will be sorely missed by scores of devoted friends. It is hard to imagine a gathering at a hawkwatch or a rare-bird sighting without her warmly affable, smiling presence. A memorial service will be held at The First Parish Church in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, on Friday, April 4, 1997, at 2:00 P.M.

For over four decades of her adult life, the observation and study of birds was her passion, a passion that led to her enthusiastic membership in numerous birding groups, wildlife organizations, and conservation societies, to many of which she gave generously of her time and energies, her talents and intellectual gifts, often serving as an officer, a board member, a trip leader.

"What am I, if not a birder?" was Nancy's assessment. So surely her ethereal spirit is out there—watching redtails courting, a "gos" sweeping through the trees, or just away on tour, seeking a closer look at Eleonora's Falcon.

D.R.A.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Marjorie Rines

One of our staff members recently attended a conference on local birding publications, sponsored by the American Birding Association, and was gratified to find that *Bird Observer* is looked to by other regional birding publications as a standard of excellence. Even more gratifying is the loyalty and enthusiasm displayed by our readers. The magazine's reputation gives all of us at *Bird Observer* a tremendous sense of pride, particularly considering that we are one of the few such journals that receive no subsidy from a local Audubon chapter or ornithological society. While there are many jobs at *Bird Observer* that contribute to the publication, it is the Editor in Chief who creates this excellence.

I would therefore like to take this chance to honor our retiring editor, Martha Steele. Martha took over five years ago and, despite a full-time job, devoted an enormous amount of personal time to the publication (to the detriment of her time out birding). Martha was not just a dedicated and talented editor, but a leader who inspired our best work. She created an editorial team that brings in expertise from many areas, and led the organization with patience, humor, and skill. Thank you, Martha, for your hard work, for your dedication, and for making *Bird Observer* a magazine of which we can all be proud.

Thus, starting with the first issue of our quarter-century year, you will see a new name as Editor in Chief on our masthead. Matt Pelikan has worked for two years as Subscription Manager at *Bird Observer*, and has wide interests and experience as a birder, writer, and editor. *Bird Observer's* staff and board are pleased that Matt has agreed to accept this difficult and time-consuming job.

**Marjorie Rines** is the president of Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc., the nonprofit corporation that publishes *Bird Observer*.

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### Roger Tory Peterson Memorial Lecture

"Nature" by Dr. Edward O. Wilson

Sunday, April 13, 1997, 4:00 P.M.

Science Center, Lecture Hall B, Harvard University

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SUMMARY OF THE 1996 NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT  
IN NEW ENGLAND:  
PORTRAIT OF A FALLOUT

by Michael Resch

*"The numbers of wood warblers observed during the morning hours at the Glades in North Scituate matched anything I've seen at one spot in spring in Massachusetts in a lifetime of birding!"*

— Wayne Petersen, Plymouth County, MA

*"This day was one of a major "fallout" of migrant birds . . ."*

— Frank Mantlik, Fairfield County, CT

*"This year's NAMC day was extraordinary, in terms of weather and birds."*

— Sue Carr, Washington County, RI

*"The weather was the worst! Heavy, even torrential at times, rain made it difficult to bird. We did well in spite of conditions."*

— Bonnie Dundas, Bennington County, VT

*"Serious rain . . . When I was, occasionally, able to get away from roaring water, the rain drummed on my car roof. Couldn't see, couldn't hear. And the road I use is not even opened yet [due to snow cover]."*

— Jean Arrowsmith, Addison County, VT

Could all of these quotes have come from birders out on the same day in one small region of the country? If you are familiar with birding and meteorology in New England, then you may not be surprised to find that these quotes came from our fellow birders recording their results during a single event, the 1996 North American Migration Count (NAMC) on May 11. In fact, the inclement weather conditions were closely tied to the locally spectacular birding that occurred across the region.

The early days of spring 1996 were very cool, with very few southerly winds to give migrants a boost. The days immediately before the NAMC featured southerly breezes, providing several weeks' worth of migrants the tailwind they had waited for in their northward migration. But just when this movement was finally underway, a weather front stalled over New England the day of the Count, causing a coastal fallout of epic proportions on the morning of the Count. These migrants made their way inland as the day progressed, resulting in numerous small bands of migrants wandering through the valleys of New England in their search for food. A breakdown by state of key New England statistics is presented in Table 1.

Unfortunately, this front also resulted in less than ideal birding weather. The best conditions were in Connecticut, where it was just partly cloudy during

**Table 1. Key Statistics of the 1996 NAMC in New England**

	CT	RI	MA	VT	NH	ME	Total
Parties	21	12	86	19	36	38	212
Observers	54	19	239	38	82	84	516
Counties Reporting	4	3	12	6	7	11	43
Number of Species	180	163	221	152	174	184	251
Number of Individuals	12,333	8,487	72,541	11,218	17,198	17,533	139,311

most of the day, with temperatures up to 80 degrees; heavy rain held off till sunset. Rhode Island participants encountered fog and drizzle under mostly cloudy conditions, with temperatures peaking at 70 degrees. For the rest of New England, skies were overcast, featuring intermittent to constant precipitation (including evening snow in Maine), with temperatures that struggled to reach the 50's.

### **A Statistician's Dream**

NAMC data, when normalized on a party-hour basis, show how far spring migrants have progressed from their wintering grounds at the time of the count, and to what extent wintering species have exited the area. The major fallout that coincided with the 1996 count also presents an opportunity to construct a statistical portrait of what most observers agreed was an exceptional bird event. It is interesting to compare the number of migrants observed per party-hour in 1996 with numbers from 1995, a "typical" nonfallout year. The relative degree of arrival and departure of several key groups of species is presented in Table 2 on a state-by-state basis.

The values in Table 2 were calculated by dividing the NAMC totals for each state by the total number of party-hours on foot reported for that state. Foot hours were used rather than total party-hours in normalizing the totals because few of the small passerines analyzed in Table 2 are observed while driving. This is a fairly standard method of normalizing count data. But in looking at Table 2, it is important to bear in mind that parts of the region—mainly Vermont—sustained drenching rain. Soaked data collectors sticking close to their cars may well have inflated the state's birds per foot party-hour ratio. If we compare 1995 and 1996 in terms of passerines per total party-hour, 1995 actually yields slightly higher numbers for Vermont.

Taken generally, 1996 data do suggest northern New England experienced a burst of migrants. Increased 1996 warbler/vireo results for the northern three states included all subgroups of the warblers and vireos, and numbers of some migrants, notably Yellow-rumped Warbler, were good across most of the North. But although statewide statistics would suggest that the fallout affected mainly Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, it may be that birders in certain counties in the southern states experienced the best the fallout had to offer.

Figure 1 provides a pictorial view of which counties experienced the greatest percentage increase (and decrease) in total passerines reported from 1995 to 1996. Counties with limited or no coverage in either year are not included in this analysis. Due to limited coverage in most of Vermont, results from the entire state are treated as a whole. We hope that increased participation in future counts will eliminate such blind spots in the future, as well as supporting more definitive and detailed analysis.

The greatest increase relative to 1995 was observed in Litchfield and

**Table 2. Comparison of Migrants Observed, 1996 and 1995 NAMCs in New England**

	Birds Per Foot Party-Hour, 1996/1995						
	CT	RI	MA	VT	NH	ME	
Passerines - 1996	121	73	96	370	112	114	
1995	100	123	110	179	69	105	
Warblers & Vireos - 1996	26	15	23	39	26	24	
1995	19	18	20	23	13	11	
Early Arrivers <sup>1</sup> - 1996	5.0	3.9	6.7	17.2	12.7	13.7	
1995	4.7	3.7	5.2	4.7	5.5	4.6	
Late Arrivers <sup>2</sup> - 1996	1.1	0.87	0.98	1.32	0.81	0.35	
1995	0.75	0.48	0.58	0.09	0.15	0.11	
Thrushes <sup>3</sup> - 1996	3.6	1.2	1.7	4.1	1.4	1.6	
1995	3.5	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.78	0.40	
Winterers <sup>4</sup> - 1996	0.39	0.65	0.82	5.67	2.21	6.28	
1995	0.04	0.57	0.33	5.68	3.55	2.82	

<sup>1</sup>Early Arrivers" are Solitary Vireo, and Yellow-rumped, Pine, Palm, and Black-and-White warblers

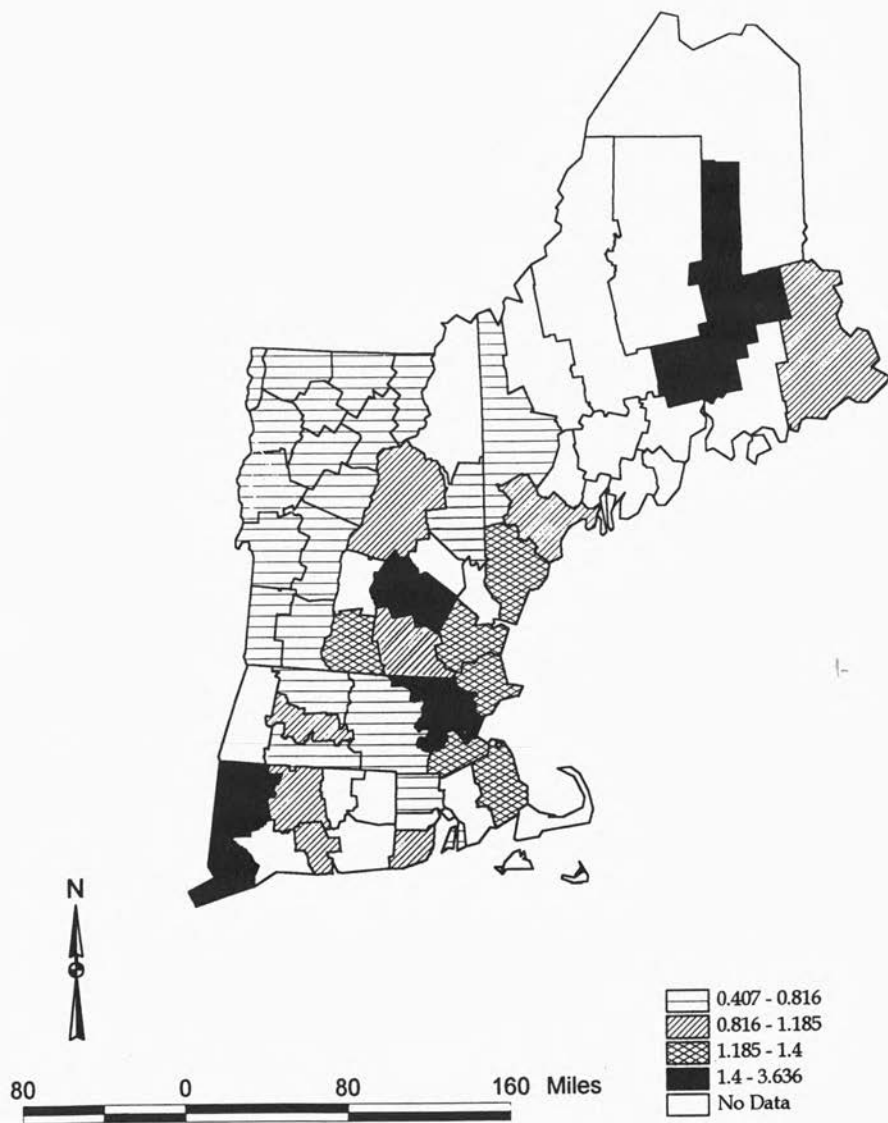
<sup>2</sup>Late Arrivers" are Blackburnian, Prairie, Blackpoll, Mourning, Wilson's, and Canada warblers

<sup>3</sup>Thrushes" are Veery, Swainson's, Gray-cheeked, Bicknell's, and Wood thrushes

<sup>4</sup>Winterers" are Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Junco, Purple Finch, Crossbills, Siskin, Evening Grosbeak



**Figure 1. Passerines Per Party-Hour  
Ratio of 1996 Results to 1995 Results**



Fairfield Counties, CT, perhaps due to migration along north-south trending river valleys. In Litchfield county, morning counts increased from 78 passerines per foot party-hour in 1995 to 330 in 1996. (A fourfold increase with the latter figure working out to roughly a bird every eleven seconds.) The vast majority of the other counties showing major increases were along the east-facing coastline of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and southern Maine, validating subjective reports of a massive fallout in those counties.

It is of interest that not only did Nantucket, MA not experience a fallout, but this county experienced the greatest decrease in passerines from 1995 to 1996! It is also notable that coastal Rhode Island, where a major fallout early in the day was described, did not finish the Count with high total numbers of passerines. This could indicate that the migrants rapidly moved inland after the early morning fallout, resulting in lean afternoon birding that lowered the average for the day.

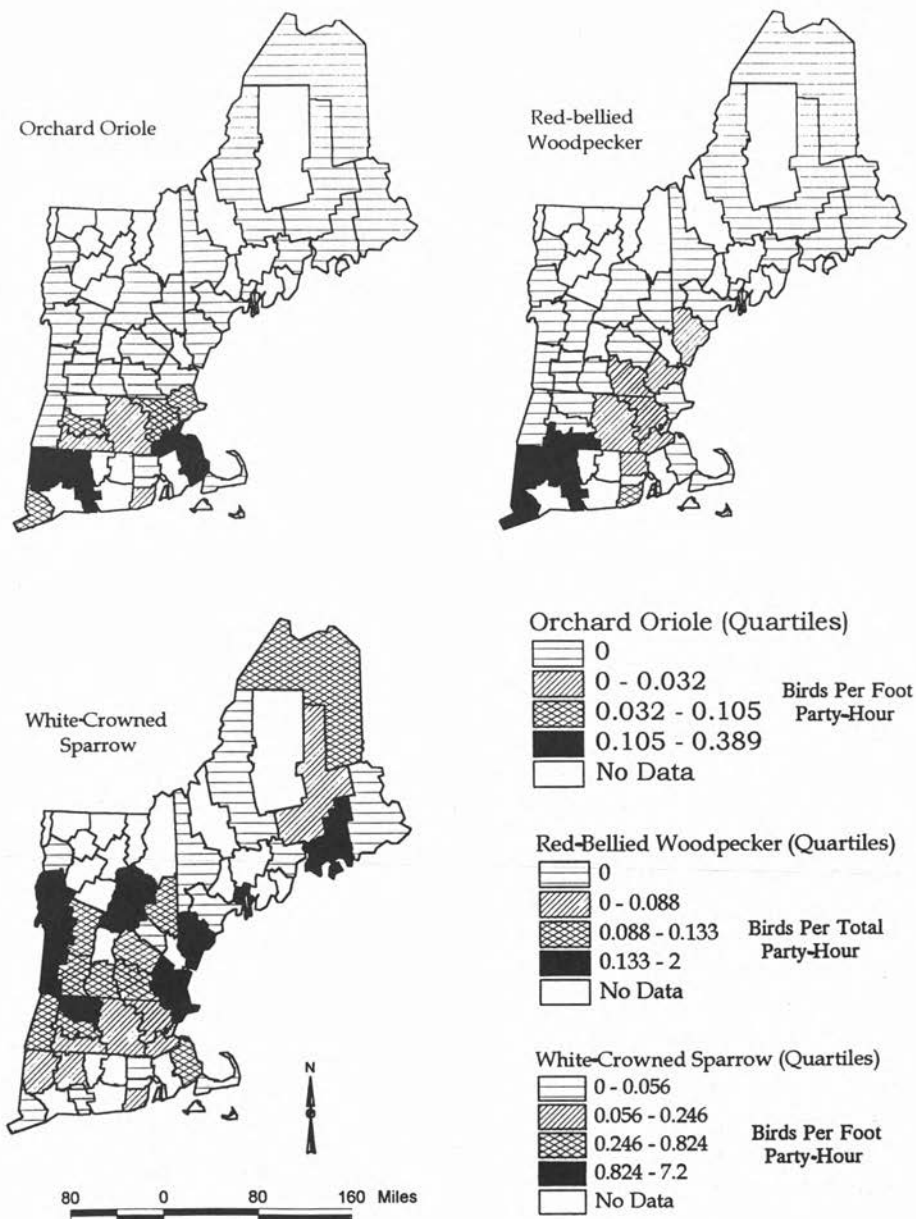
### Notable Birds

The Most Valuable Player for the 1996 Count may well have been the White-crowned Sparrow, as shown in Figure 2. Some of the greatest numbers were in Vermont (up to 7.2 birds per foot party-hour, which would be a terrific number even for total party-hours). That large numbers of White-crowns were also observed in western Massachusetts suggests that a sizable inland movement of this species coincided with the Count. And White-crowns made headlines along the southern New England coast, where counts ranged from 2 to 3.2 per foot party-hour. Literally hundreds of White-crowns were encountered on Plum Island (a dozen or so would be a respectable day's count at this location). In comparison, in 1995 this species was reported at levels averaging only 1 per foot party-hour in Vermont and less than 0.3 per foot hour along the coast.

A bird that illustrates another aspect of the fallout is the Orchard Oriole. (See Figure 2). This species is typically seen in appreciable numbers only in the southern portion of the region (and not always there), with infrequent spring reports farther north. On the 1995 count, for example, the four east-facing Massachusetts coastal counties reported no Orchard Orioles at all, and in 1996 this species was not reported from New Hampshire or Maine. But also in 1996, a total of 0.062 per foot party-hour were reported from the southern three states, compared with only 0.029 in 1995. Most of the action was in those east-facing Massachusetts coastal counties, averaging 0.18 Orchard Orioles per foot party-hour. A total of fifteen individuals were found in this area (an astonishing six at a single location, Boston's Arnold Arboretum—but that observer, Bob Stymeist, had no White-crowned Sparrows at all on the count!).

Clearly, birders at some locations encountered several times the usual number of passerines, and many times the usual number of particular species.

**Figure 2. Notable Birds in 1996**



The mix of species and the level and persistence of activity varied on a fairly small scale. But regionwide, data from the 1996 NAMC reflect a day of widespread good birding.

Although waterfowl may be less responsive than passerines to the localized conditions that cause fallouts, the 1996 count also turned up good numbers of seabirds at inland locations. Hampden County, MA, had eleven Red-necked Grebes and three White-winged Scoters; two White-winged and a Surf scoter were found in Hampshire County. White-winged Scoters also turned up in Windham County, VT (2), and Rutland County (8); Rutland County birders also found two Brant. In New Hampshire, a Red-throated Loon was found in Merrimack County, while Grafton County yielded fourteen White-winged and three Surf scoters.

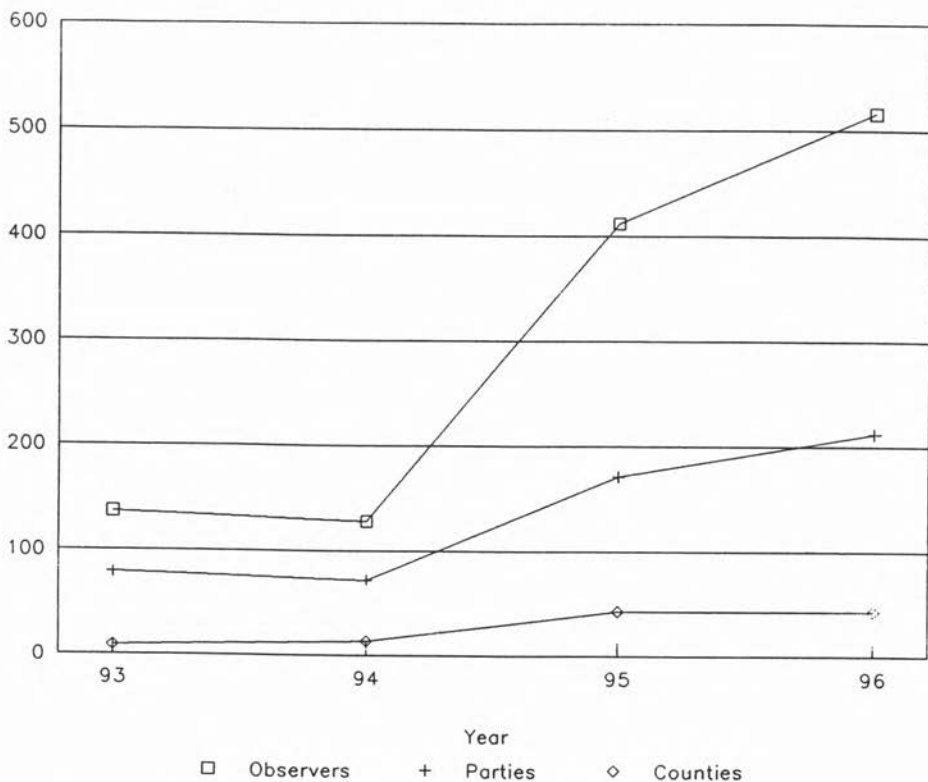
May 11, 1996, also brought some unusual species into the region. A Boat-tailed Grackle turned up in Fairfield County, CT, while an American Golden-Plover appeared in Washington County, RI. Counters in Massachusetts found a Bicknell's Thrush in Essex County and one Prothonotary and two Cerulean warblers in Middlesex County. Vermont highlights included a Lesser Black-backed Gull (Windham County) and a Greater White-fronted Goose (Windsor County). Grafton County, NH, had a Lapland Longspur, and a Harlequin Duck was reported from Rockingham County. Maine's Aroostook County featured Bohemian Waxwing, Barrow's Goldeneye, and a Dickcissel.

A long-term goal for the NAMC is to track the changing status of expanding, increasing, or declining species. 1996 provided data on the early stages of what are widely anticipated to be interesting examples of range expansion. Monk Parakeets were reported from Fairfield, CT, as this introduced bird moves out from its foothold in Rhode Island. The number of Fish Crows reported in the region increased from fourteen in 1995 to forty-four in 1996. And good numbers of Red-bellied Woodpeckers were found in southern New England, in addition to two individuals in New Hampshire and a single bird in Maine (Figure 2).

On the other hand, the expanded coverage of 1996 failed significantly to improve the low 1995 counts of some declining species. American Bitterns continue to be hard to find, with only one reported from Connecticut (up from none in 1995); this species was found in three Massachusetts counties (up from one in 1995) but showed no increase in the northern states. Only three Common Moorhens were reported (one in Hampden, MA and two in Addison, VT) for the entire region, up from one in 1995. Five Upland Sandpipers were reported (three in Hartford, CT, one in Hampden, MA, one in Washington, ME), compared with six individuals of this declining species in 1995.

Coverage in the NAMC in New England continues to improve, as shown in Figure 3. If only the weather cooperates for the 1997 NAMC on May 10, perhaps coverage will expand even further. Many thanks go to all the 1996

**Figure 3. NAMC Coverage in New England**



participants, and especially the county and state compilers. Coverage increased significantly in places such as Fairfield, CT (thanks to compiler Frank Mantlik), Rhode Island (thanks to compiler Dave Emerson), Aroostook County, ME (a new participating county thanks to Rita Rogers and Anne Bacon), Rockingham, NH (thanks to compiler Dick Balerviez), and Bennington, VT (thanks to compiler Bonnie Dundas). We cannot overlook the excellent efforts of long-term compilers Edith Andrews of Nantucket and Dick Hildreth in Worcester, MA, whose efforts go back to the inception of the NAMC. Dick's Worcester once again wins the award for the most participants and parties. Hampden, MA, compiled by Seth Kellogg, had the greatest number of species: 160!

**Mike Resch**, New England coordinator of the North American Migration Count since 1995, lives in Pepperell, MA. Mike's principal birding interest is state listing, and he has reached the ABA listing threshold in seventeen states. He can be reached at 508-433-8896 or Email [MRESCH8702@AOL.COM](mailto:MRESCH8702@AOL.COM).

## About the NAMC

The North American Migration Count (NAMC) is a nationwide census held annually the second Saturday in May, with results compiled by county and state. The NAMC is the brainchild of Jim Stasz of North Beach, Maryland, who has combined facets of the Christmas Bird Count program with facets of Maryland's "May Count." The objectives of the NAMC include:

- Obtaining a "snapshot" of the progress of Spring Migration,
- Obtaining information on the abundance and distribution of each species,
- Creating challenges and goals among birders while collecting useful information,
- Having fun,
- Establishing the second Saturday in May as "National Birding Day."

To quote Jim: "The North American Migration Count is a grass-roots project instituted by independent birders to gather information about the distribution and abundance of all birds." The organization of the program, compilation of the results, and reporting of data are done without fees or donations. The count has grown since its inception in 1992 to the point that the 5th Annual NAMC on May 11, 1996, had more than 7000 participants reporting from each of the Lower 48 States, Alaska, and several Canadian provinces.

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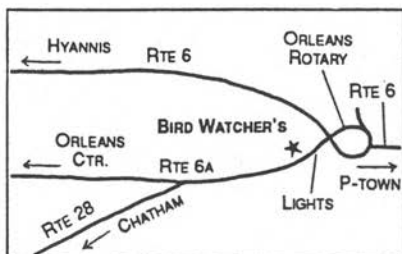
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## THE NANTUCKET OLDSQUAW FLIGHT: NEW ENGLAND'S GREATEST BIRD SHOW?

by William E. Davis, Jr.

On December 30, 1995, at about 3:00 P.M., Edith Andrews drove us down Smiths Point (Esther Island), the western tip of Nantucket Island, to witness the evening flight of Oldsquaws. At about 3:30 small flocks began to appear on the southern horizon and wend their way in our direction, flashing overhead and disappearing to the north, swallowed up by Nantucket Sound. Within minutes the southern horizon became smudged with swirling, distant flocks of Oldsquaws, "clouds of smoke" as Edith described them. The wisps coalesced into a continuous dynamic skein of ducks making its way over us. Some flew in tight clusters, others in V's, a more or less continuous tube of ducks, a sinusoidal wave splitting into different threads much like a braided stream, ducks careening about and changing altitude from near sea level to a few hundred feet. We were bombarded by the babbling chatter which gives the bird its name. Sometimes the main flocks were to the right of us, sometimes to the left; occasionally they flew directly overhead.

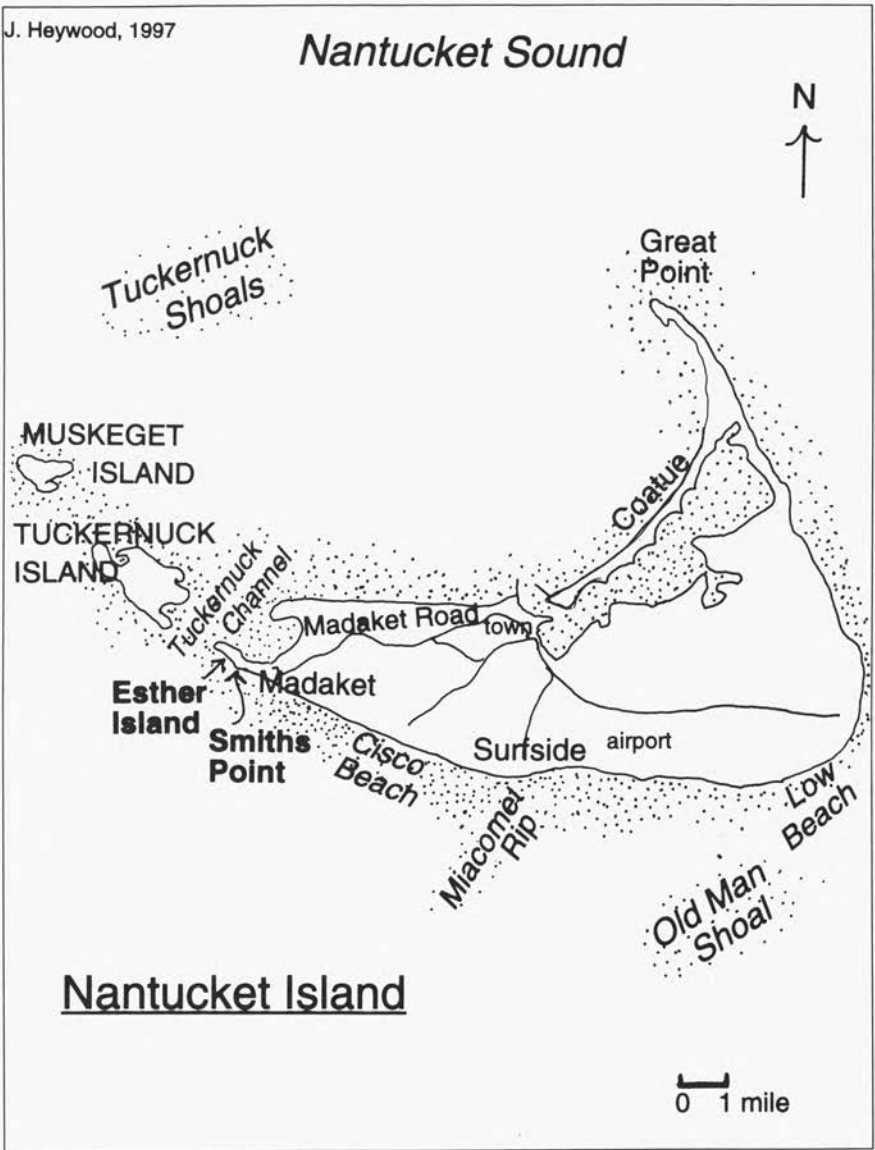
This massive flight continued unabated for nearly an hour before gaps signaling diminished numbers began to appear, but never during that hour were Oldsquaws not in sight. The following afternoon the Oldsquaws were counted by a team of observers for the Nantucket Christmas Bird Count (CBC), and at the tally that evening the number reported was 251,754. We may not have seen that many, since the CBC counters spend several hours or more, but it was close. Nearly a quarter of a million Oldsquaws flying by in about an hour—certainly one of the greatest, if not the greatest, bird show in New England. If Bellrose's (1976) estimate of the North American Oldsquaw population of 3-4 million is correct, then in one hour we saw approximately one out of every fourteen Oldsquaws in North America.

### When and where do they go?

Oldsquaws, which breed on the arctic tundra around the world, are probably the most Arctic-adapted duck in the world (Johnsgard 1975). Wintering birds arrive around Nantucket in numbers, according to Edith Andrews, during mid-November, and daily flights involving hundreds of birds begin about Thanksgiving. Their numbers increase until about mid-December and then remain stable until about mid-April, when the birds begin departing for the arctic breeding grounds.

Some mystery surrounds Nantucket's daily Oldsquaw flights since no one is sure about the birds' daily routine. The evening flights proceed northward from the Atlantic Ocean, across the island, and into Nantucket sound. Oldsquaws tend





**Figure 1. Nantucket area**

to spend the night in deeper waters (Johnsgard 1975), so the Nantucket flocks presumably find sufficiently deep water on Nantucket Sound north of Tuckernuck and Muskeget Islands (Figure 1). Simon Perkins reports that concentrations of Oldsquaws could be more readily seen from the Steamship Authority ferry that used to run between Nantucket and Woods Hole, as it passed by the area of the Tuckernuck Shoals. But according to Edith Andrews, there is a paucity of fishing boats in the Sound area, so people do not get a chance to hitch a ride and see the evening distribution of the birds. The precise roosting area(s) of the Oldsquaws are not known. The best indication is the direction in which they disappear in the evening and reappear in the morning flight.

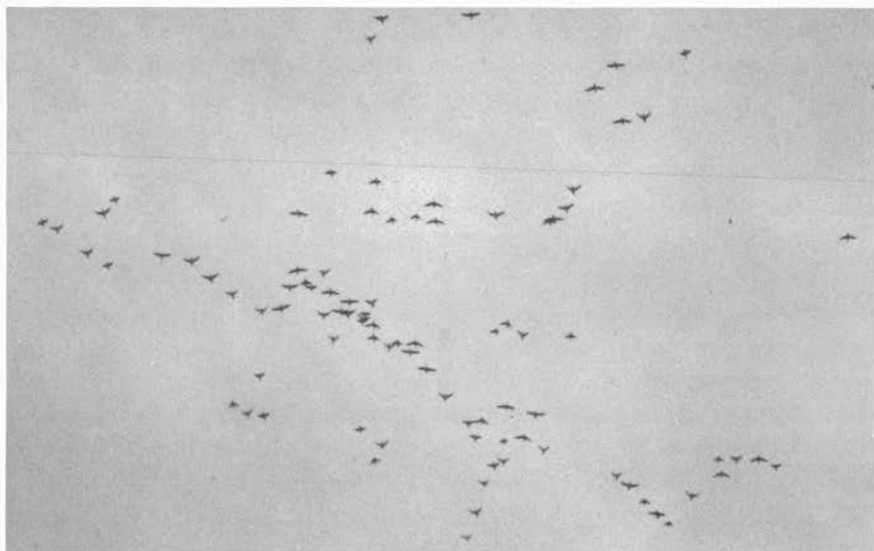
The birds usually pass over the west end of the island on their way to the Sound in the evening and at dawn return south, largely reversing the afternoon pattern. The morning flight is more likely to occur over water through Tuckernuck Channel than over the Island. However, it may be even more spectacular than the evening flight because it is briefer and therefore more compact. Perkins (1988) describes how birds "approach from the north like clouds of insects, and wing toward the open ocean. Their incessant calls create a pleasant babble that drifts across the water. . . . Within thirty minutes the main flight is over." They fly through Tuckernuck Channel and fan out across the various Nantucket shoals where presumably they feed during the day. Early records (Mackay in Bent 1925) report flocks estimated at 2000 birds off the south shore of Nantucket, and congregations at Miacomet Rip and Old Man Shoal (Figure 1). The location and direction of the morning flights are influenced by the vagaries of wind and tide conditions.

Oldsquaws eat predominantly crustacea (amphipods are a major item) and mollusks; fish represent a minor food item (Bellrose 1976, Cramp 1977, Palmer 1976 and references therein). Bird diets, however, tend to be sensitive to season and location, and Nantucket Oldsquaws may be eating something different, e.g., sand lance (R. Veit pers. comm.). Oldsquaws forage at a variety of depths up to 150+ feet, but generally forage to about 25 feet in coastal areas (Johnsgard 1975). Hence they should show a preference for the shallower shoal areas.

The daily dispersal pattern of the birds among the Nantucket shoals remains another of mystery, since, as with the evening flights, no one has followed the birds to record where they go. The daily whereabouts of the birds is even more poorly known than their roosting site in the Sound. Edith Andrews reports, however, seeing about 15,000 Oldsquaws swarming around a fishing boat off Surfside one afternoon. Several people have considered following the birds with fixed-wing aircraft, but pilots are hesitant to chase the birds at low altitudes far over the water during the winter—a dunking in these frigid waters could prove most unfortunate.

## How many Oldsquaws are there?

Counting the morning or evening flight of Oldsquaws is a real challenge. When I asked Edith Andrews how people count these birds, she replied "Oh, with difficulty!" Generally, most counts are done with several observers and someone recording the numbers as they are called out. It is virtually impossible to count individual birds because there are so many and they fly so fast, so counts of estimated segments of the flock, often a hundred birds, are made. The difficulties are compounded by the dynamic flight of the birds, the flocks often changing altitude and splitting into smaller skeins and then rejoining the main flock. In 1996, on the evening before the Christmas count, I again joined Edith Andrews and others for the evening flight. This year the main flocks were passing over Madaket (Figure 1), so we did not need to venture out onto the beach. By 3:40 the flight was well underway and, although somewhat diminished in intensity, was still going strong at 4:40 when the fog closed in, ending the show. I did a little experimenting with estimating numbers of Oldsquaws by videotaping flocks in ten-second segments every two minutes or so. I later determined the time it took for birds to pass across the video screen (about 2 seconds for birds flying directly overhead, 3.5 seconds for flocks to the left or right), and then repeatedly pressed the pause button and counted the birds visible on the screen. I then averaged the counts and divided by the number of seconds, and multiplied by 3600, the number of second in an hour. Counts of the more distant flocks (much harder to count) produced an estimate of 126,000 Oldsquaws; counts of closer flocks, 198,000. These estimates are clearly biased



*Skeins of Oldsquaws fill the sky.*

*Photo by W. E. Davis, Jr.*

in a number of ways (e.g., the sample was neither strictly random nor distributed across the entire period of the flight, and the number of my counts was small). But it was encouraging to find that the two numbers bracketed the Christmas count tally of the following day, 148,615.

There are other problems—if you videotape the birds using high magnification you don't record the whole flock, but if you use low magnification the dots on the screen are smaller and more difficult to count. The flocks are often split so that it would be impossible to videotape all the passing birds with a single camcorder. A transcription of a segment of the tape may give some indication of the problems involved: "550 in the flock that just went over—here's another batch over here! Gotta get counting!" [another person]: "You can't count them!" [another person] "There's a whole bunch of small flocks further down—look over here to the left, a sizable flock, a pretty compact one." Videotaping, done with planning and care, may provide a technique for making better estimates of Oldsquaw flights than the traditional counting methods, but at present the old-fashioned way is probably more reliable.

The numbers of Oldsquaws reported from the Nantucket and Tuckernuck Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) have increased over the years, but have shown enormous variability (Table 1). The early low numbers for Nantucket are probably related to the paucity of observers, and such gross abnormalities as the 1989 Nantucket count of 994 and Tuckernuck count of 77 were weather related. Some of the variability is related to the response of Oldsquaws to tide and wind conditions. For example, on this year's CBC the morning flight was abnormal. Usually at least part of the flight can be viewed from Cisco Beach (Figure 1), but this morning we saw only a few stragglers—an hour or more of observation yielded fewer than 300 Oldsquaws. How much of the reported variability is due to actual differences in Oldsquaw numbers remains obscure. The increase in numbers during the late 1970s, however, appears to be real and may be related to increasing sand lance populations (R. Veit pers. comm.).

This remarkable flight of Oldsquaws may not be a new phenomenon. Mackay (Bent 1925) describes the situation in 1891:

Here [the shoals south of Nantucket] they live in security, with an abundance of food, during the day. About 3 o'clock p.m. they commence to leave this place for the Sound (the movement continuing until after dark) where they regularly roost, flying around that part of the island which affords them at the time the greatest shelter from the wind, returning the following morning to their feeding ground by whichever route is most favorable.

Ludlow Griscom and Edith Folger (Andrews) make no reference to the daily flights of Oldsquaws in their *The Birds of Nantucket* (1948), suggesting that the flights at least may not be a consistent phenomenon. But Edith Andrews recently suggested that the flights probably did occur, since duck hunters

consistently frequented Smiths Point, and that the few birdwatchers available simply may not have been aware of the phenomenon. Her brother-in-law, George Andrews, who used to hunt ducks with his father and Edith's husband Clint, told her that he thinks that gunners have known about the flight for 150 years or more. They used to go to Smiths Point for the afternoon flight and to Eel Point for the morning flight.

Phillips (1922-1926) suggested that the Oldsquaw's status had not changed much in the previous half century, and attributes variability in numbers to local weather and habitat conditions, concluding, "With a bird like this a local wintering group may vary from one to a thousand without a particle of change in its status over a hundred miles of coast." He points out that Oldsquaws are safer from man than most ducks, nesting in the high Arctic, and tasting "several grades worse than the Golden-eyes."

Thus, although quantitative counts are lacking, it seems probable that large winter concentrations of Oldsquaws in the offshore waters of Massachusetts and the remarkable phenomenon of these daily flights of thousands of Oldsquaws have been ongoing, at least intermittently, for a century or more.

#### How can I see this Oldsquaw show?

The best way to visit Nantucket during the winter is by ferry from Hyannis (508-477-8600). There is also a high-speed ferry (Hyline) and plane service. Unless the fog is thick, birding from the ferry can be excellent. The 9:15 A.M.

**Table 1. Counts of Oldsquaws on Nantucket and Tuckernuck Christmas Bird Counts. Numbers in parentheses are actual numbers reported, all other numbers represent thousands of birds, rounded to the nearest thousand.**

	<u>Nantucket</u>	<u>Tuckernuck</u>		<u>Nantucket</u>	<u>Tuckernuck</u>
1956	(166)	-	1984	8	5
1960	(45)	-	1985	86	27
1965	(17)	-	1986	50	57
1970	(10)	-	1987	179	141
1975	27	-	1988	71	142
1976	4	-	1989	(994)	(77)
1977	15	26	1990	32	85
1978	24	3	1991	115	50
1979	65	18	1992	159	3
1980	13	14	1993	50	125
1981	8	1	1994	16	-
1982	82	21	1995	251	8
1983	11	4	1996	149	-

ferry arrives at 11:30, which provides plenty of time to get to viewing areas by 3:00 P.M. The most reliable place in recent years to view the flight has been from Smiths Point (Esther Island) at the extreme western tip of Nantucket (Figure 1). The flight location can be variable, however, and Edith Andrews reports having seen the flight from as far west as the airport. But Smiths Point is the best bet. It can be reached by getting onto Main Street from the ferry dock (Old North Wharf) and following Main Street until it joins Madaket Road (Figure 1). Follow Madaket Road until it ends in Madaket (a distance of not much more than five miles). Then turn left on Ames Avenue and follow it until it ends. Then follow (for less than half a mile) the "unimproved surface" road taking your first right and then at the "T" turning left and parking by the little wooden guardhouse. From there you can walk (or, with the proper permit, four-wheel drive) onto Smiths Point. How far you have to go depends on where the ducks decide to cross that day. This is a good place to watch the morning flight at daybreak as well.

As long as you are already on Nantucket, you might as well bird the rest of the island. I would highly recommend the chapter on Nantucket by Marcia Litchfield in *A Birder's Guide to Eastern Massachusetts* (Bird Observer 1994), and *Birding Nantucket* by Edith Andrews and Kenneth Blackshaw (1993).

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Ted would like to thank Edith Andrews for introducing him to the wonders of the Nantucket Oldsquaw flight. He thanks Edith Andrews, John Kricher, Simon Perkins, and Richard Veit for reviewing earlier drafts of the manuscript. Ted would also like to thank Tom and Patricia Loring for their gracious hospitality during his Nantucket visits.

## BIRDING THE GREAT WOODS OF LYNN

by John Quigley and JoAnne Benard

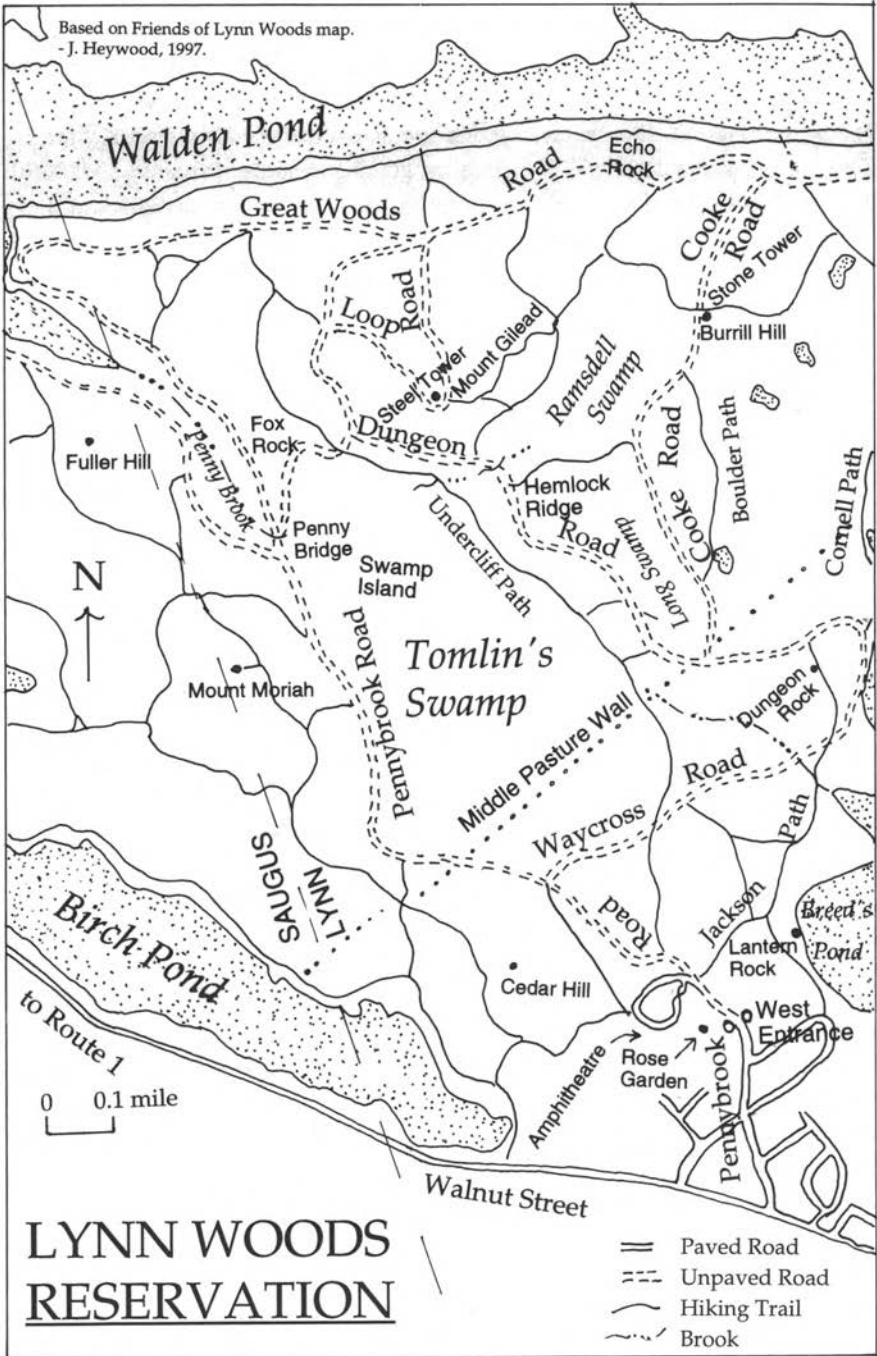
When you think of Lynn, a largely industrial suburb a few miles north of Boston, you might not consider it a likely place to go birding. However, Lynn Woods Reservation, the second largest municipal park in the United States, offers 2200 acres of diversity, including ponds, swamps, streams, and both deciduous and evergreen forests with rocky outcroppings. Many marked and unmarked roads, trails, and paths cross the hilly terrain.

Cyrus Tracy, a self-educated botanist who roamed Lynn Woods in the 1850s, was an extremely foresighted person. He helped incorporate an organization known as the Trustees of the Free Public Forest, which ensured that Lynn Woods would be kept free and open to the people of the community. This organization drafted the "Indenture of Trust," which was among the most important early efforts to provide permanent recreational space in America. Part of the Indenture states, "Whatever this city can do for the preservation of the forests, it is bound to do, not for the enjoyment of the living only but for the generations that succeed us."

### Suggested Tour

This article outlines a four-mile route, marked by signs and landmarks, that will introduce you to both the human and the natural history of this unique location. The reservation is open dawn to dusk. Motorized vehicles are not allowed; please do not venture off the trails. During spring and fall migration, birds are well represented in the reservation and are especially plentiful along certain pond edges. Lynn Wood also offers good numbers of breeding birds in summer and solid populations of many resident species during the colder months.

Enter the reservation parking lot between two stone pillars at the end of Pennybrook Road (off of Walnut Street). Continue to the upper-level lot on the left beside the Ranger Station, where you can pick up a map. At the rear of the Ranger Station, you will see stone steps that rise through the rhododendrons. At the top of the steps is the Rose Garden, recently restored and offering a beautiful backdrop for birding and weddings. In spring the Rose Garden is a good place to view flycatchers; Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks consistently winter in the cedars here. The original Rose Garden included a birdbath, scheduled to be restored in the spring of 1997, as well as a feeding station. Continue to the back of the Rose Garden to the Amphitheatre, where outdoor Shakespeare performances took place in years past. Efforts to resume summer theater are in progress.





At the back of the Amphitheatre, follow the footpath to the top of the hill; you will see the east end of Birch Pond below you. The west end of this pond often harbors breeding Wood Thrushes, and Whip-poor-will is occasionally heard here. The hill you are on is a particularly good place for spring migrants. This plateau features a small area of pitch pine and scrub oak with mainly blueberry understory and is surrounded by large deciduous sapling stands, regenerating from fire disturbance. These habitats dominate the drier ridges in Lynn Woods and attract early successional species such as Brown Thrasher, Prairie Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Field Sparrow. Although declining regionally, the towhee is still common in these woods—though predators such as skunks, raccoons, opossums, foxes, cats, dogs, and humans, all common in Lynn Woods, threaten these birds. Backtrack now to the parking lot and spend a few minutes checking its perimeter (a surprisingly good spot for migrants).

Walk out of the parking lot and follow the continuation of Pennybrook Road through the iron gates. Pass Jackson Path on the right and at the next intersection take a right onto Waycross Road. White pine stands and mixed conifer woods are the primary habitat here. Great Horned and Barred owls occur here in winter; Pine Warblers sing here in spring and sometimes again in October. And many bark-gleaning birds, such as woodpeckers and nuthatches, favor this area.

Continue straight when you see signs indicating Dungeon Rock on the left and Jackson Path on the right. Eventually, you will pass the western shore of Breed's Pond on your right. When water levels drop in the fall, the northern two fingers of this pond attract shorebirds and openland birds: American Golden and Semipalmated plover, Killdeer, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Solitary, Spotted, Semipalmated, Least, and Pectoral sandpiper, American Pipit, and Horned Lark. In the early 1980s, a Gull-billed Tern hawked dragonflies here for three days. The eastern shore of Breed's Pond also attracts migrants. Orange-crowned, Worm-eating, and Mourning are among the warblers that have been found here. Gulls and ducks also frequent Breed's Pond. Lesser Black-backed Gull is a regular fall visitor, and a Greater White-fronted Goose spent a week here in December 1995.

Continue on Waycross Road past Cornell Path on your right. At the top of the hill, a sign will direct you to Dungeon Rock. The history of this man-made cave involves pirate lore and treasure. The Friends of Lynn Woods sponsor an annual reenactment of the legend in October, and literature about the tale is available from the Friends or at the Ranger Station. Bring a flashlight if you want to explore the cave on your own.

Continue down Waycross Road and take the next right onto Cooke Road. In about a quarter of a mile, on the right, you'll find an unmarked path (Boulder Path), near which Eastern Bluebirds nest in natural cavities. Bluebirds can also sometimes be seen throughout the drier sections of the reservation. Backtrack to

the intersection of Waycross Road and Cooke Road. Go right onto Dungeon Road and continue along the Hemlock Ridge section of the reservation. Northern Goshawk is seen here annually in the late fall and early winter, as well as a reliable flock of chickadees, titmice, and Golden-crowned Kinglets. Follow Dungeon Road, passing Fox Rock Road on the left. Scarlet Tanager is a common breeder in these woods, and in 1995 a pair nested on a hemlock limb overhanging the road at this intersection.

Bear right on Dungeon Road to Loop Road, on the right. This road leads to Steel Tower on Mount Gilead, at 272 feet the second highest elevation in Lynn Woods. This vantage point offers a spectacular view of the Boston skyline and can also be a good location for hawkwatching. If you look to your far left, you will see Stone Tower on Burrill Hill (285 feet), the highest point in the reservation. Built in 1936 by the Depression-era Works Projects Administration (WPA), this structure served as a fire lookout tower. As you continue down the other side of Loop Road, watch for a small resident population of Ruffed Grouse at the base (we eagerly await the first sightings of Wild Turkey). At a three-way intersection, take the lower left road, marked Great Woods Road. South of the intersection are areas of mature hardwood (mainly oak) interspersed with white pine and hemlock. This forest type contains many of the largest trees in Lynn Woods, and its complex vertical structure attracts many forest-interior birds like Red-eyed Vireo and Ovenbird.

Next, you will pass a picnic area on the right. In summer, if you brought lunch, you can eat while listening to Great-crested Flycatchers. Continue on Great Woods Road and you will see Walden Pond on the right (*our* Walden Pond). From this location, you can see the pump house on the opposite of the pond—a good location for migrants. In 1995 a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was present for the whole month of May.

Stay on Great Woods Road as it curves back to the east and becomes Pennybrook Road again. You will pass Fox Rock Road on the left and pass over Penny Brook (many years ago a penny was charged for crossing the brook). As you take this road back to the parking lot, you will pass Tomlin's Swamp on your left. This red maple swamp with highbush blueberry understory is a hotbed for insect larvae. Eastern Screech Owls reside here, and in the fall, migrants are funneled into the southern end of the swamp. Unfortunately, the Veery, which formerly bred here, is now absent from these woods. Follow this road back to the parking lot, listening for Eastern Wood-Pewee (during summer).

The impression that Lynn Woods leaves on a visitor is a lasting one. The primitive trails are exquisite in their wildness and leave plenty of room for exploration. You will come to love and appreciate "our" woods, as did the early activists who wisely preserved it for future generations. Remember as you walk through these exhilarating woodlands that this unsung area is in Lynn, MA; remember, too, that continuing efforts are necessary to ensure its continued

preservation.

Maps and information are available at the Ranger Station, 106 Pennybrook Road, Lynn, MA 01905, Monday through Friday (617-477-7123); or from the Friends of Lynn Woods, P.O. Box 8216, Lynn, MA 01904 (617-593-7773).

### Directions

From Route 128 North or South, take Exit 43 in Lynnfield. (From this point, it is 4.0 miles to Lynn Woods.) At the bottom of the ramp, head east, following signs to Walnut Street, Saugus/Lynn. At 1.5 miles, bear left at the fork. You will cross over Route 1 and continue into Lynn (the boundary is unmarked) on Walnut Street. At a blinking light, turn left onto Pennybrook Road (opposite O'Callaghan Way). Go the end of Pennybrook Road and between two stone pillars into the reservation.

From Route 1 North or South, take the Walnut Street exit in Saugus and head east on Walnut Street into Lynn. At 2.0 miles, turn left at a blinking light onto Pennybrook Road.

**John Quigley** was born, and still lives, in Lynn. A runner as well as a birder, he has logged over 25,000 miles in Lynn Woods. He enjoys studying the birds (especially the gulls) of his home town; his Lynn life list is approaching 300 species.

**JoAnne Benard** is a registered nurse employed by the Department of Mental Health in Tewksbury, MA. A Lynn resident, she has been birding (often in Lynn Woods) for five years.

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**Book Reviews: *How Birds Migrate* and  
*Diary of a Left-handed Birdwatcher***

by John Kricher

*How Birds Migrate* by Paul Kerlinger. 1995. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books. 228 pages with numerous black-and-white illustrations. \$16.95 (softcover).

Many attributes of birds attract us to them but perhaps none more so than the remarkable phenomenon of migration. Dr. Paul Kerlinger, until recently the director of the Cape May Bird Observatory, is one of the foremost experts on bird migration, having published numerous studies in professional journals, particularly on the subject of raptor migration ecology. Dr. Kerlinger is perhaps best known for his critically acclaimed book *Flight Strategies of Migrating Hawks* (University of Chicago Press, 1989), a rather technical volume dealing specifically with raptors. In the present volume, written for the nonprofessional, Dr. Kerlinger expands his scope to include all classes of migrant birds. Otherwise, the topics covered in the fifteen chapters reflect much of what was in his previous book, though presented in far less technical style.

Kerlinger has crafted an ideal primer on bird migration. It is a lively and educational book covering virtually all topics relating to migration that inspire curiosity and wonder among birders: why birds migrate, how migration is studied, why so many species migrate at night, the effects of weather, flight speeds, distances, navigation, flocking behavior, stopover sites, call notes, and conservation issues—and this list is by no means exhaustive. The style of the book is unique in that scattered among the main text are brief "case studies," each concisely summarizing an example from the published literature; indeed, many come from Kerlinger's own work. For example, in a case study about Snowy Owl migration, Kerlinger describes how he and another researcher examined over 800 museum skins to determine that adult female Snowy Owls remain farthest north while immature males migrate farthest south.

Because of his work as director of the Cape May Bird Observatory, Paul Kerlinger is highly skilled in speaking to general audiences, and his talent as a teacher shows throughout this book. For example, he explains, tongue tightly in cheek, that you could mail two wood warblers anywhere in the United States for the price of a first-class stamp—each bird only weighs about fourteen grams—but of course the warblers might prefer to fly instead. The image helps the reader comprehend the remarkable phenomenon of such tiny creatures navigating among continents.

The text includes examples from all over the world but, understandably, is most focused on North America. Readers familiar with Cape May, NJ, will not be disappointed to find that many examples are taken from Kerlinger's work

there. There is much information to be gleaned from this book and, as reader-friendly as it is, it can easily be read more than once. After a spring morning birding in Mount Auburn Cemetery or at Marblehead Neck, or an autumn day at Plum Island of Wachusett Mountain, I can think of no better book to sort out the many questions that are raised by seeing migration as it happens. But, come to think of it, on those cold winter days when there are precious few birds to be found, this book could help you pass the hours and prepare for the next coming of the migrant birds.

The book is illustrated throughout with drawings and maps that enhance the teaching quality of the text.

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*Diary of a Left-handed Birdwatcher* by Leonard Nathan. 1996. St. Paul, MN: Graywolf Press. 145 pages, no illustrations. \$18.95 (hardcover).

After reading this diminutive and slender volume, authored by a noted California poet, I wondered what I had just read. How to describe it—eclectic, imaginative, musing, clever, introspective, entertaining, insightful, naive, profound? You'll have to decide for yourself. I still haven't. But you should read it, that much I can say with certainty. It will hold your interest and make you think hard about what, exactly, it is that makes us all "bird observers."

Leonard Nathan is a retired professor (Department of Rhetoric at The University of California at Berkeley), oft-published and award-winning poet, and birder (though he strongly prefers the term "birdwatcher"). He and his friends, identified in this book only as "Thursday's Children," weekly (guess which day) patrol such places as Point Reyes National Seashore in search of whatever avian regulars and rarities they can discover. But one species above all seizes upon Nathan's fascination: the Snow Bunting. He craves to see one, preferably more than one, and desires to see the species really well. Now, Point Reyes, just north of San Francisco, is not like Plum Island or the Outer Cape. Snow Buntings are, at all seasons, rare around the Bay Area, indeed very rare.

So why does Leonard Nathan want so much to see a Snow Bunting? I must defer to Nathan here and let you read his words for yourself. But I will tell you that he expects that the experience of seeing Snow Buntings will be an epiphany of sorts, a kind of vision of the Holy Grail explaining the workings, the meanings, the very essence of nature, and of his relationship to it. And this epiphany will be one of deep feeling, the Grail transcribed mostly in the language of emotion rather than objectivity. Nathan is, after all, a poet, not a scientist.

But one friend in particular is a scientist, and an argumentative one at that. This fictitious friend, called Lewis in the book, is closely modeled after Nathan's close friend, the distinguished ecologist Frank Pitelka. Lewis, in stark contrast to Leonard, sees birds through the eyes of a field ornithologist experienced in the

daily grind of research. Throughout his essay, the author relates various point/counterpoint discussions between the two of them, the poet and scientist, often over what makes Snow Buntings (or any other bird, for that matter) seem so special. Lewis can be a pain, asking such blunt questions as why Leonard doesn't just fly up to Alaska and see Snow Buntings; they're certainly common enough there. Why indeed? Nathan did, in fact, travel with a birding tour to Churchill, Manitoba, but succeeded only in glimpsing a Snow Bunting fly-by, staggeringly unsatisfactory. So why not go to Alaska, see plenty of Snow Buntings, and experience the epiphany? Even the author isn't sure. Perhaps he isn't ready for it yet; perhaps he wants the bird to come to him, not the other way around. One senses that the hoped-for epiphany is by no means a certainty.

I have often pondered how little we would know about ecology and evolution if birds had never evolved. They are such inspiring models, such marvelously congenial guides into the workings of the natural world. They command (or is it demand?) our attention and beg us to study them. Birds, after all, are the only group of vertebrates that is easy to observe. They are diverse, obvious, active, noisy creatures of the day, and colorful ones at that. And they are really fun to watch. I would venture a guess that even the most hard-core ornithologists began as birdwatchers. With birds, vocation derives from avocation. Birds, as models for the rest of nature, can be studied objectively, analyzed, interpreted, and understood, at least up to a point.

But there is also a unique esthetic quality to birds, perhaps the quality that first draws all of us to these remarkable masters of the air, a quality that Nathan celebrates. Nathan's prose, interspersed as it is with vignettes of poetry, presents birds mostly as objects of art and mystery rather than objects of study and understanding. They are the magnets of nature, attracting humans to them for reasons often difficult to articulate. In Nathan's mind, interpretation seems far less important than inspiration.

There is something deeply satisfying about this book. Ignore the silly title and realize that this is not merely the jottings of a southpaw birder anxious to share his life list. Rather, it is penned by a perceptive scholar who offers each of us a rare opportunity to think, as he thinks, about why birds make humans become birdwatchers. And why we are better for it.

And just one footnote. For some reason, as summer gave way to autumn, I just couldn't stop from going out each weekend in search of Snow Buntings. I found a lot of them this past fall, and each time I found them, I watched . . . and watched.

**John Kricher** is a frequent contributor to *Bird Observer*.

## AFTER THE OWL: REFLECTIONS ON BIG BIRDS

by Matthew L. Pelikan

About a year ago, in February, 1996, an epochal birding event took place in Rowley, MA: the appearance of a Great Gray Owl. Like the Ross' Gull that appeared in 1975 in nearby Newburyport, this owl was seen and enjoyed by literally thousands of people, many observing the species for the first time; and like the Newburyport prodigy, the Rowley Owl quickly grew famous. But beneath their similarities, these two resonant events rang with very different tones.

In March 1975, the world of birding was poised for growth but hovering under the radar of the general public. An organization called the American Birding Association, in its seventh year, was beginning to take root. Closer to home, a modest birding journal, *Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts*, began its third volume year. But you could go to Plum Island on a weekend and not see another birder. And the world still viewed us with amused tolerance: eccentrics deemed harmless.

Then an odd-looking gull turned up in Newburyport and helped launch a bull market in birds that has lasted more than two decades. Word of the unprecedented sighting sprinted through phone lines; hundreds, then thousands of birders converged to see "the bird of the century." On March 4, two days after the Ross' Gull was conclusively identified, *New York Times* reporter John Kifner admired the "dedicated men and women [who drove] hours through the darkness to take up their cold watch" around Newburyport Harbor. It sounds like an old John Wayne movie.

Noting archly that "birdwatching . . . is not a widespread obsession," Kifner described Salisbury residents "bemused" by the torrent of gull-seekers. But the fame of the gull continued to grow; the birders continued to pour in; and ultimately it was clear that the pilgrims who descended on the Newburyport seawall had bushwhacked an oblivious world with their enthusiasm, their organization, and above all their numbers. The Newburyport Ross' Gull endures as a potent symbol of the maturation of modern birding.

Twenty-two years later, coverage of the Rowley Great Gray Owl struck a different note. This bird brought joy to thousands of birders, but it also generated wider controversy than any other bird I can think of. Just as the Newburyport Gull pointed to what birding could become, the Rowley Owl symbolized the complex fulfillment of that optimism.

A March 18, 1996, article by Brian MacQuarrie in *The Boston Globe* remarked that, among owl-watchers, "the tone is reverential, almost awestruck." But the birders-on-a-quest stuff quickly gave way to reports of residents griping about traffic and birders voicing concerns over "abuse" (MacQuarrie's word) of

the tame and confiding owl. Birding circles from here to the Internet buzzed with anecdotal accounts (some undoubtedly true, and that is too many) of birders trespassing or pursuing the bird in hopes of a better look. Photographers, chasing the ideal shot, lured the bird in with live mice (including, I have heard, one inside a lucite ball once the shutterbugs realized that about five mice would fill the owl and end the photo op). Trespassing and harassment are hardly innovations, but the wide distribution of reports, whether true or distorted, vastly amplified these issues.

Many ornithologists were appalled by the fact that the bird was banded at all, let alone the public manner in which the act took place. One eyewitness reports that weight, measurements, or condition were not even noted: the owl was simply trapped, banded, displayed like a trophy to the spectators, and released. Meanwhile, though I suspect that most birders were considerate, locals (no longer "bemused") were actively, publicly cranky over traffic and parking along their street. Whatever the level of misbehavior, the circumstances surrounding the Rowley Owl virtually guaranteed a public relations disaster for birding. The world's jaded view of us—and perhaps our slightly jaded view of ourselves—found its voice in the altered rhetoric of the newspapers: we're not John Wayne anymore.

For birding has grown. Figures in the tens of millions are cited to describe the number of Americans who bird. Clubs, books, periodicals, online bulletin boards and chat rooms, tour companies, birding festivals, organized walks, and prodigious life lists have all proliferated; birdfinding and bird identification have progressed faster than semiconductor design.

Make no mistake, this is a great thing. Flocks of birders form an enormous resource for data collection, recreational cooperation, and environmentally enlightened voting. Our economic clout has infused public policy around hot-spots, and indeed in entire countries, with a leavening of ecological sanity. And the success of birding has created new continents of possibilities for having fun. But our numbers make a huge problem out of what might, when birders were scarce, have been nothing more than a minor indiscretion. Indeed, even the best-behaved birders can be a problem if there are enough of them; in the worst case, a crowd of thoughtless observers can turn a magnificent bird into a tawdry circus act.

And meanwhile, in the real world, the successes of birders pushing for increased (or continued) access to prime locations or militating for conservation measures have angered a panoply of other interests: residential, commercial, and recreational. Birders are no longer a fringe group, judged harmless because it is marginal: we have made enemies. And in doing so, we have caught the attention of the news media as they hover on the thermals.

There is no institution that can, so to speak, impose a five-species penalty for Uncool Birding, or claim to speak for all of us when the plover-crushers



counterattack. And this is a good thing. But the tensions, both internal and external, that face the birding world demand some sort of common ground, an irreducible essence to ballast our identities as birders. One of the most lucid and widely recognized articulations of our shared values appears in the American Birding Association's "Code of Birding Ethics," recently subjected to a meticulous revision. We are pleased to reprint the Code in this issue of *Bird Observer*, along with commentary by its chief architect, Blake Maybank.

I hope that the world of birding never loses its diversity or its democratic nature. But the anniversary of a decidedly mixed moment in the history of Massachusetts birding marks a good time for all of us to ponder what sort of relationship we desire to have with each other, with our nonbirding neighbors, and with the birds. We hope that the Code and Blake's article provide useful encouragement for such consideration.

**Matthew L. Pelikan**, a resident of Arlington, MA, is Editor in Chief of *Bird Observer*.

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## AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION PRINCIPLES OF BIRDING ETHICS

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

### CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS

#### **1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.**

- 1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.
- 1(b) - To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.
  - Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area.
  - Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.
  - Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for closeups.
- 1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance can be minimized, and permission has been obtained from private landowners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.
- 1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

#### **2. Respect the law and the rights of others.**

- 2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.
- 2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.
- 2(c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and nonbirders alike.

#### **3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.**

- 3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay or

disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

#### **4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.**

*Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.*

4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as those of people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

*Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours].*

4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and does not interfere with others using the same area.

4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.

4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g., no tape recorders allowed).

4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

**PLEASE FOLLOW THIS CODE. DISTRIBUTE IT  
AND TEACH IT TO OTHERS.**

Additional copies of the Code of Birding Ethics can be obtained from: ABA, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934-6599, (800) 850-2473 or (719) 578-1614; fax: (800) 247-3329 or (719) 578-1480; Email: member@aba.org.

This ABA Code of Birding Ethics may be reprinted, reproduced, and distributed without restriction. Please acknowledge the role of ABA in developing and promoting this code. 7/1/96

## The ABA Code of Ethics: What it Is, What it Does

by Blake Maybank

The American Birding Association tries to promulgate all that is good about birds and birding. What we do and how we do it impacts birds, fellow birders, and the human community at large. How those outside the hobby view those of us within affects our enjoyment, as well as the welfare of the birds.

That was evident 25 years ago when the Association first wrote a Code of Ethics, which quickly became both a symbol of our responsibility and a tool to help resolve ethical dilemmas. In the years since, the pastime has grown, and the recent rate of expansion in birding's popularity is almost explosive. So are some of the ethical issues that have arisen. It recently became apparent that, as a tool, the all-important Code needed sharpening. More than two years ago I was tasked with amending and updating the Code, a process finally completed in June 1996. That process has been documented in *Winging It*, the newsletter of the ABA.

The new Code has been generally well received, and many other organizations have adopted it as their own model for correct birding behavior. But the true test of such a code is how well it can guide us through the fog of human frailty.

Birders love their sport, but at times, in the passion of the chase, the pursuit of the perfect photo, or the mindlessness of Type "A" behavior, we endanger birds, damage the environment, break trespass laws, and abuse the rights of others, or, equally detrimentally, we witness such transgressions and do nothing. We need the code to provide personal guidance, to show the outside world we care, and to have something to wave in face of the misguided, the misinformed, and the maladroit, as well as those (blessedly few) unscrupulous birding thugs among us.

The Code applies to recreational and professional birders. It is not a Code for those conducting scientific bird research, nor does it address hunting. While respecting environmental conservation, the Code does not compel it. The new Code, however, embraces bird photographers. The mix of public exposure and financial reward (generally absent for bird listers) creates an atmosphere conducive to photographic ethical violations. The majority of bird photographers are responsible, but I am convinced that bird photographers account for a disproportionate number of ethical lapses. The media have certainly picked up on this theme, and anyone who runs Rare Bird Alerts is aware of potential and actual abuses, especially with "sexy" species such as owls.

The Code of Ethics is, for the moment, complete, at least as far as its content. In an ideal world the essence of the code could be distilled to three

words: "Relax. Be Polite." Regrettably, the complexities of human nature do not allow for such simplicity in our guiding commandments.

The Code is as much an external document as an internal one. It tells the world, "This is how we pursue our hobby, with common sense and respect. We invite you to do the same." And the ABA encourages the adoption of our copyright-free code, in whole or in part, by any similar organization, as long as they acknowledge the Code's ABA origin.

Now that the Code is "out there," how does it measure up as a tool? Let's weigh it against four recent examples.

### **Case #1 Taping During Atlassing**

The coordinators of the New Jersey state atlas project do not allow taping by atlasers to confirm the presence of species or to ascertain breeding status. I imagine this is done with the birds' welfare in mind, but it seems shortsighted to me, and will certainly make the atlasers' work more difficult. Perhaps the state is blessed with a surplus of atlaser effort, but from my personal experience with the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas, it would have been impossible to complete the project without taping (usually Screech-Owl calls, but occasionally species-specific songs). We rarely had the luxury to revisit specific sites, and any individual bird was virtually never disturbed more than once.

Ethics can be pursued too vigorously, and I believe this is one of those instances.

### **Case #2: Taping of Rarities**

I held back, as long as possible, from any involvement in the now notorious Case of the Pygmy Nuthatch, but I was eventually dragged into the fray. Last autumn a PYNU appeared at a feeder in North Dakota, on the border with Minnesota. Some Minnesota birders lured the nuthatch across a river to MN by playing a tape of Pygmy Nuthatch calls, and counted the bird for their Minnesota lists (a state first). The Email started flying, and you'd think people were discussing the Shroud of Turin, or even abortion rights.

Many on the "anti" side held up the Code to state that taping should not be used for birds that are rare in a given area. This is a misinterpretation of the Code, which is only concerned with rare breeding birds, not vagrants as such. The outlook for most vagrants is usually grim in the north, and luring them into view by pishing or using owl calls is standard practice. There is nothing to suggest that the Pygmy Nuthatch was in any way inconvenienced by a quick, albeit futile, trip across the state line in search of a buddy (the bird returned to ND —well, wouldn't you?). In other words, I don't believe ethics is part of this debate. I leave it to the Minnesota State Checklist Committee to decide whether the PYNU should be counted on the MN list.

### Case #3: The Insider Syndrome

The ABA was recently attacked for its reporting of nesting Streak-backed Orioles in Arizona. Was it ethical? The birds are extremely rare in the U.S., and the code advises against any unconsidered advertisement of rare nesting birds. In my interpretation of the Code, the Association acted ethically. Access to the orioles was controlled, and the information on the orioles' whereabouts was freely available elsewhere. The Code (1-c) does not specify who the "appropriate authorities" for releasing information are, as that will vary from place to place. In a related incident in the same state, I received complaints that knowledge of a nesting pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers was deliberately suppressed using the Code of Ethics as justification. Although I do not know who "authorized" withholding the information, if it was done out of concern for the welfare of the birds, then I will not second-guess the decision. I am not knowledgeable enough about the species to assess whether the birds would be disturbed by repeated viewing by listers. If the nesting news was held back simply to gain a listing advantage over others, then the decision was unethical, assuming the birds are tolerant of observation.

And this is where the "Insider" syndrome kicks in. Should those "lucky" enough to be in a position of authority be permitted to count a bird when others are denied access, even for good reason? I can't answer that question, as it is not about ethics, but about listing. If the bird's welfare is assured, and the nonbirding world is disinterested, then the issue should be dealt with by a Listing Rules Committee, not an Ethics Committee.

If you are fortunate enough to find a rare nesting bird, and are uncertain whom to call, the local Rare Bird Alert coordinator should know. And be thankful that we do not yet suffer the same degree of depredation of bird eggs that still plagues Europe, which results in necessary secrecy regarding most rare bird nesting sites. We are not immune, though; recall the 1981 theft of a Ross' Gull nest in Churchill, Manitoba.

### Case #4: The Massachusetts Great Gray Owl

I've been fortunate with Great Gray Owls; I've lived across Canada, spent a lot of time in the northern forests, and enjoyed many encounters with Great Grays both before and after I became a birder. There were never crowds to contend with. I watched the birds, they watched me, and life went on.

But Massachusetts went crazy when a big, sexy owl turned up close to a major urban area, in a part of the continent rarely visited by *Strix nebulosa*. There was nothing nebulous about the local reaction, though, and from the accounts I've read, the crowd control for the viewing of this owl was poor. For example, no one should have been permitted to leave the road, and no mouse lures should have been employed to get better photographs. Adequate "life looks" and "record shots" could have been had from afar, so the photographic

abuses were inexcusable. The world has a surfeit of superb Great Gray shots; more are not needed.

Similarly, whoever decided to band the bird made a serious miscalculation (some banders keep life lists of species they've ringed). Nothing useful could be learned about the movements of the species from this one bird, as the odds of recovering this one band were negligible. Especially in light of the public profile of the bird and the general feelings of the audience, the bander's irresponsibility should result in a revoked permit. I speak in this case not just as the author of the Code, but as a holder of a Master Banding license.

We have much to learn from the British about how to handle such accessible rare birds. This type of situation is going to occur more often, not less. I might suggest that the Massachusetts birding community develop a type of Emergency Measures Plan for rare birds such as this, in order to mitigate observer and media abuse and to show respect for the welfare of the bird. Admittedly, the world's Great Gray Owl population will not be threatened by abuse of one vagrant showpiece, but the reputation of birders everywhere will suffer, and that risk is important enough to warrant being prepared. The world watches us watch the birds.

I sometimes picture the terrain of Birding Ethics as an enormous bog, stretching to the horizon, with uncertain footing, diverse delights, surprises behind each hummock, and numerous opportunities to get your face wet. Fortunately, I love bogs, and so intend to remain involved in the Birding Ethics Arena, to measure action and reaction against the Code, and to ensure it retains its utility and visibility. I welcome any feedback.

**Blake Maybank** has been on the board of the American Birding Association since 1992, and he chairs its Ethics Committee. He has been the ABA Big Day Editor since 1987 and is a regional editor for Audubon Field Notes. In 1988 he initiated the Nova Scotia Bird Information Line (902-852-CHAT), which he still runs, and he is currently working on the ABA Birders Guide to Nova Scotia, due out in 1998. Blake's day-job is with Parks Canada, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he has lived for the past decade. His cats stay indoors, where they belong.

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## Shorebird Workshop in April

**Leaders:** Brian Harrington and Janis Burton (Manomet Observatory for the Conservation Sciences)  
Bill Gette (Joppa Flats Education Center, Massachusetts Audubon Society)

The International Shorebird Survey and the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Program are important initiatives focused on research and conservation. Beginning in the spring of 1996, Joppa Flats Education Center will support both of these efforts by coordinating shorebird surveys in the Newburyport/Plum Island area.

This workshop, sponsored by Manomet Observatory and Joppa Flats, is designed to educate participants about shorebird identification, feeding and resting strategies, and migration patterns. Brian Harrington, author of *The Flight of the Knot*, will also train participants in surveying techniques and discuss the findings of the International Shorebird Survey. This program is ideal for beginning and intermediate birders who want to master shorebird identification and for individuals who want to participate as volunteers on Joppa Flats shorebird surveys.

**Time:** Saturday, April 5, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

(includes a one-hour lunch break)

**Fees:** Members of sponsoring organizations: \$25.00

(\$42.00 for two on the same registration)

Nonmembers: \$35.00 (\$60.00 for two on the same registration)

There are a limited number of scholarships available for this program under a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. These scholarships are reserved for middle and high school teachers and leaders of organizations dedicated to community education.

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship or volunteering as an observer, please contact Sanctuary Director Bill Gette at Joppa Flats Education Center, 10 State Street, Newburyport, MA 01950 (508-462-9998).

## Shorebird Field Trip in July

Wayne Petersen, Field Ornithologist for the Massachusetts Audubon Society, will conduct a shorebird field trip in the Newburyport/Plum Island area on Sunday, July 27, from 9:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. For details, please contact Bill Gette at the address or phone listed above. (Massachusetts Audubon Society members: \$22.00; nonmembers, \$28.00)



# BIRD SIGHTINGS

## SEPTEMBER 1996

### SUMMARY



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

September was quite cool, very wet, and cloudy. The average temperature in Boston was 64.2°. The first eleven days averaged over 2° above normal, then cool temperatures dominated the rest of the month. This was this sixth month this year cooler than average and the third in a row. The high reached 85° on September 3 and 6, and the low dipped to 47° on September 24 and 26. Rainfall totaled 6.09 inches, 3.03 inches above normal. The most rain in any 24-hour period was 2.44 inches on the 17th and 18th, associated with Hurricane Fausto. Hurricane Edouard brought gusts of 45 miles per hour on September 2. R. H. S.

#### LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Waterbird migration is strongly influenced by weather. Inclement weather typically grounds migrants that otherwise might pass unnoticed. Coastal storms accompanied by winds with a strong easterly component often drive pelagic birds to coastal locations where dedicated observers are able to view them while putting their identifications skills to a supreme test. These storms also play a significant role in determining the seasonal timing of offshore pelagic migration. This month brought the remnants of three hurricanes or tropical storms. Two of these produced significant results from land-based vantage: Hurricane Edouard on Labor Day weekend, and Fausto in midmonth.

For the second year in a row, storms on Labor Day weekend brought impressive numbers of Leach's Storm-Petrels to inshore waters. Despite the rather early timing of the storm, relatively few Wilson's Storm-Petrels were observed. It is interesting to note that other pelagic species - notably shearwaters and jaegers - were poorly represented during this storm, although numerous shearwaters were noted the following morning at Race Point in Provincetown. Perhaps most notable in this storm was the presence of more than one hundred Leach's Storm-Petrels, a flock of Red-Necked Phalaropes, and an immature Black-legged Kittiwake at Waquaquet Lake in Barnstable, and 800 Leach's Storm-Petrels at Pilgrim Lake in Provincetown. The second storm began on the 17th, with the effects lasting through to the morning of the 19th. Winds began strong from the northeast on the 17th, moved to the north on the 19th but maintained strength, and finally moved to a more moderate northwest by the morning of the 19th. Initially the storm brought a few Northern Fulmars, good numbers of shearwaters, and numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes on the first two days. However, the bonanza was on the morning of the third day. Observers at First Encounter Beach in Eastham recorded such rarities as 40 Northern Fulmars, a **Great Skua**, a juvenile **Long-tailed Jaeger**, and a stunning 11 **Sabine Gulls**. Also tallied were numerous shearwaters including a single Cory's, a fair number of Pomarine Jaegers, Red-necked Phalaropes, and a good number of early Black-legged Kittiwakes, but only a modest number of Leach's Storm-Petrels. It is storms such as this that legends are made of.

One would think after such bounty the remaining records would seem rather mundane, but one would be wrong. A carefully-described bird from Chatham on the 21st was convincingly determined to be a sub-adult **Black-browed Albatross**. Eight **American White Pelicans** appeared September 25 in Hyannis, where they remained to the end of the month. The flock constituted the largest group ever recorded in the state. A frontal passage with some light rain and northeast winds brought numerous flocks of American Golden-Plovers to Martha's Vineyard. The flocks, circling and calling to others on the ground, must have been reminiscent of bygone days. The tally of 256+ individuals is the largest count of this species during this century. Accompanying these golden-plovers were smaller numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs, which is a rather scarce migrant on the Vineyard. The same day, another observer noticed flocks of Greater Yellowlegs at Newburyport flying in advance of a front.

The "**Great White**" Heron at Nauset Marsh continued from the summer through the beginning of the month. Other heron reports were typical, with Great Egrets continuing to show substantial gains. An early

Snow Goose at Plum Island was a blue morph. Duck reports were modest in keeping with the season. Blue-winged Teal peaked early in the month in appreciable numbers, and Eurasian Wigeons on Cape Cod were early. A **Black Vulture** in North Truro was tallied by many observers as they returned down cape after a pelagic trip. Other hawk reports were spotty, with virtually no reports from organized hawkwatchers. The peak tally of 8500+ Broad-winged Hawks on the 19th indicates a rather late flight after adverse conditions during the prime period. Unusual highlights among the rail clan include a King Rail at Fort Hill, Eastham and an especially rare juvenile **Purple Gallinule** for several days in Marblehead.

Shorebird species and numbers were typical with few exceptions. The count of 130 American Oystercatchers on North Monomoy represents the highest count for this species to date. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were below normal. Notably scarce were Long-billed Dowitchers and, especially, Western Sandpipers. The few reports of Stilt Sandpipers mirrored diminished reports in recent years. Likewise, a single report of Wilson's Phalarope was well below normal. The extremely wet year resulted in almost no inland shorebirds.

Reports of non-storm related Parasitic Jaegers were about average. Only one Black-headed Gull and no Little Gull was observed. A few Caspian Terns moved through in their narrow window of passage in late September and Royal Terns were seen early in the month on the offshore island. Forster's Tern had a poor showing but Black Terns were well reported.

A large movement of Common Nighthawks occurred on the first day of the month but this species was scarce thereafter. Apparently a second pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers nested this year in Sherborn, where a single pair has been breeding for six years. Only a few Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported. R. A. F.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
Red-throated Loon				28	Stellwagen	500	BBC (E. Tarry)
1	P.I.	1	BBC (W. Drummond)	Sooty Shearwater			
Common Loon				3	Provincetown	100	J. Young
7	Wellfleet	7	BBC (R. Stymeist)	3	P'town (R.P.)	100	J. Young
15	Westport	3	M. Rines#	17	Rockport (A.P.)	9	R. Heil
15	Duxbury B.	32	R. Ferren#	19	Eastham (F.E.)	15	B. Nikula#
19	Truro	9 migr	R. Stymeist	28	Stellwagen	200	BBC (E. Tarry)
19	Eastham (F.E.)	18	S. Perkins#	Manx Shearwater			
21	Randolph	1	G. d'Entremont	2	Eastham (F.E.)	17	R. Heil#
29	Wachusett Res.	10	M. Lynch#	16	Chatham (S.B.)	4	S. Perkins#
Pied-billed Grebe				17	Rockport (A.P.)	13	R. Heil
7	Chatham	1	W. Petersen#	19	P'town (R.P.)	6	R. Stymeist#
8	W. Newbury	1	BBC (W. Drummond)	19	Eastham (F.E.)	21	B. Nikula#
14-28	Arlington Res.	1-2	M. Pelikan	27	Stellwagen	20+	M. Resch
15	P.I.	3	D. Chickering	28	Stellwagen	5	L. Healy
21	WBWS	2	R. Stymeist#	Wilson's Storm-Petrel			
21	Westport	6	M. Lynch#	2	Eastham (F.E.)	30+	R. Heil
22	Marshfield	1	BBC (D. Oliver)	Leach's Storm-Petrel			
24	W. Barnstable	2	S. + E. Miller	2	Dennis	160	M. Lynch#
27	Lynn	3	R. Heil	2	Provincetown	800	R. Heil
27	S. Peabody	2	R. Heil	2	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins
27	Duxbury	1	D. Furbish	2	Truro	200	R. Heil
29	GMNWR	2	R. Lockwood	2	Eastham (F.E.)	1000+	R. Heil
Red-necked Grebe				2	Barnstable	100+ B. Nikula, R. Forster#	
2	E. Gloucester	1 ad	BBC (J. Berry)	19	Eastham (F.E.)	31	B. Nikula#
<b>Black-browed Albatross</b>				19	Barnstable (S.N.)	7	M. Rines#
21	Chatham (S.B.)	1 sub ad	W. Harrington#	Storm-Petrel species			
Northern Fulmar				2	Eastham (F.E.)	500	R. Heil
17, 18	Rockport (A.P.)	2, 5	R. Heil	Northern Gannet			
19	Eastham (F.E.)	40	S. Perkins#	2	Rockport	400	BBC (J. Berry)
20	Stellwagen	2	M. Rines#	3	Provincetown	100	J. Young
20	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins#	3	Eastham (F.E.)	1500+	B. Nikula
Cory's Shearwater				17, 18	Rockport (A.P.)	75, 430	R. Heil
8	Edgartown	6	V. Laux	19	Eastham (F.E.)	800	B. Nikula#
19	Eastham (F.E.)	1	S. Perkins#	<b>American White Pelican</b>			
27	Stellwagen	1	S. + L. Hennin	25-30	Hyannis/W. Yarmouth	8 R. Cressy + v.o.	
28	Gay Head	75+	A. Keith#	Great Cormorant			
Greater Shearwater				7	S. Monomoy	1 imm	W. Petersen#
2	Eastham (F.E.)	43	R. Heil	17	Rockport (A.P.)	2 imm	R. Heil
3	Provincetown	400	J. Young	Double-crested Cormorant			
8	Dennis	8	M. Lynch#	14	Ipswich	450	J. Berry
16	Chatham (S.B.)	12	S. Perkins#	16	Chatham (S.B.)	800	S. Perkins#
17	Rockport (A.P.)	210	R. Heil	21	Westport	636	M. Lynch#
19	Eastham (F.E.)	860	B. Nikula#	21	Chatham	2000	J. Berry

Double-crested Cormorant (continued)			
21	Squantum	855	G. d'Entremont
22	P.I.	550	M. Lynch#
American Bittern			
thr	P.I.	1	v.o.
2	GMNWR	1	G. Clayton
27	Barnstable	1	S. + E. Miller
30	Dorchester	2	R. Donovan
Least Bittern			
1	P.I.	1	BBC (W. Drummond)
Great Blue Heron			
3	Arlington Res.	5	C. Floyd
7, 21	Westport	24, 14	M. Lynch#
7	Eastham	19	BBC (R. Stymeist)
8, 28	Rowley	10, 1	J. Berry
15	Duxbury B.	6	R. Ferren#
20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	21	LCES (J. Hill)
24	P.I.	21	W. Drew#
30	GMNWR	6	S. Perkins
"Great White" Heron			
5	Nauset Marsh	1	R. Prescott
Great Egret			
2	Holden	1	B. Blodget
5-30	GMNWR	1	M. Rines
7, 21	Westport	77, 62	M. Lynch#
7	S. Monomoy	5	B. Nikula
8, 28	Rowley	30, 38	J. Berry
14	Chatham	5	B. Nikula
15	Westport	55	R. Stymeist#
16	S. Peabody	1	R. Heil
20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	56	LCES (J. Hill)
28	P.I.	112	BBC (S. Moore)
Snowy Egret			
1	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	102	M. Lynch#
8, 28	Rowley	95, 45	J. Berry
12	E. Boston (B.I.)	60+	R. Cressman
14	Fairhaven	39	M. Boucher
15	Westport	9	R. Stymeist#
16	S. Peabody	17	R. Heil
16	Chatham (S.B.)	6	S. Perkins#
20--21	Nantucket	11	S. Perkins#
28	P.I.	95	BBC (S. Moore)
Little Blue Heron			
1	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	M. Lynch#
7	Scituate	1 ad	K. Anderson#
8	Rowley	8	J. Berry
15	Duxbury B.	1	R. Ferren#
26	Essex	1	I. Lynch
28	P.I.	4	H. Wiggin#
Tricolored Heron			
thr	P.I.	1-2	v.o.
Cattle Egret			
1	Rowley	1	BBC (W. Drummond)
10	Hamilton	3	W. Petersen#
Green Heron			
3	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
3	Arlington Res.	1	M. Rines
13	Westboro	1	A. Boover
21	Randolph	1	G. d'Entremont
27	Medford	1	M. Rines
Black-crowned Night-Heron			
7	Eastham	7	BBC (R. Stymeist)
10	Worcester	2 ad	K. Mills
19	P'town H.	11	R. Stymeist#
27	Provincetown	9	S. + L. Hennin
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron			
8	Rowley	2 imm	J. Berry
19	Squantum	1 imm	D. Brown
Glossy Ibis			
7	Chappaquiddick	2	A. Keith#
30	Revere	1	R. Cressman
Mute Swan			
1, 21	Acoaxet	201, 263	M. Lynch#
15	Westport	205	R. Stymeist#
Snow Goose			
15	P.I.	1	D. Chickering
29	Concord (NAC)	1 ad	R. Forster
Brant			
1	P.I.	1	D. Chickering
7	Newburyport	1	T. Maloney
15	Duxbury B.	2	R. Ferren#
Wood Duck			
1	Westboro	5	A. Boover
4	Arlington Res.	4	C. Floyd
20	GMNWR	75+	E. Taylor
20	S. Natick	10	BBC (E. Taylor)
20	Newton	5	G. d'Entremont#
22	Marshfield	8	BBC (D. Oliver)
28	Newton	5	G. d'Entremont
Green-winged Teal			
1-30	Arlington Res.	30 max	M. Pelikan
6	P.I.	240	M. Lynch#
7	S. Monomoy	300	B. Nikula
9	Dorchester	12	R. Donovan
14	P.I.	400	J. Center
16	S. Peabody	25	R. Heil
16	Lynn	100	R. Heil
19	Wenham	25	N. Nash
20	Nantucket	10	S. Perkins#
30	GMNWR	65	S. Perkins
American Black Duck			
7	S. Monomoy	200	B. Nikula
22	P.I.	200	M. Lynch#
Northern Pintail			
7	S. Monomoy	25	B. Nikula
26-30	Arlington Res.	1	M. Pelikan
28	P.I.	14	R. Lockwood
30	GMNWR	4	S. Perkins
Blue-winged Teal			
3	Arlington Res.	3	M. Rines
3	Nantucket	5	S. Perkins
6	P.I.	90	M. Lynch#
7	S. Monomoy	400	B. Nikula
9	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
16	Lynn	5	R. Heil
16	S. Peabody	10	R. Heil
21	Provincetown	3	R. Stymeist#
28	GMNWR	6	M. Pelikan
Northern Shoveler			
1	P.I.	1	M. Pelikan
7	S. Monomoy	5	B. Nikula
29	GMNWR	2	R. Lockwood
Gadwall			
7	S. Monomoy	80	B. Nikula
9	Dorchester	2	R. Donovan
22	P.I.	30	M. Lynch#
Eurasian Wigeon			
24	Falmouth	1m	J. Junker
28	Marstons Mills	1	S. + E. Miller
American Wigeon			
5-30	Arlington Res.	13 max	M. Pelikan
7	S. Monomoy	10	B. Nikula
7	Squantum	5	J. Young
14	P.I.	30	R. Lockwood
30	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins
Ring-necked Duck			
28	W. Newbury	125	R. Heil
29	Cambridge (F.P.)	14	J. Winekoff
30	GMNWR	1	R. Akell
Greater Scaup			
22	Lynn	22	R. Stymeist#
22	P.I.	3	M. Lynch#

Lesser Scaup										
29	Wasque (M.V.)	1 f	V. Laux#	15	Bolton Flats	1	BBC (B. Howell)			
Common Eider				24	DWWS	1	B. McAvoy#			
8	Duxbury B.	220	SSBC (D. Clapp)	26	Weston	2	M. Rines			
Black Scoter				Broad-winged Hawk						
3	Provincetown	10	J. Young	19	Mt. Wachusett	8500+	E. Taylor			
19	Eastham (F.E.)	15	S. Perkins#	20	Maynard	82	L. Nachtrab			
Surf Scoter				20	Westboro	3	A. Boover			
19	Eastham (F.E.)	50	S. Perkins#	American Kestrel						
28	P. I.	12	R. Lockwood	14, 24	Rutland	4, 7	M. Lynch#			
White-winged Scoter				20	Lexington	3	M. Pelikan			
18	Rockport (A.P.)	61	R. Heil	29	Harvard	4	M. Lynch#			
22	Lynn	250	R. Stymeist#	Merlin						
Bufflehead				7	P.I.	2	T. Maloney			
1	Westport	2 f	M. Lynch#	11	W. Peabody	2	R. Heil			
Hooded Merganser				15, 29	Gay head	9, 3	A. Keith#			
5	Tuckernuck	1	S. Perkins#	16	Lynn	2	R. Heil			
16	Lynn	4	R. Heil	20-21	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins#			
25	Marstons Mills	1	S. + E. Miller	22	P.I.	4	C. Ralph			
Common Merganser				22	P.I.	3	M. Lynch#			
27	Lynn	2	R. Heil	22	P.I.	3-4	J. Berry#			
29	Wachusett Res.	1	M. Lynch#	24	Saugus	2	I. Lynch			
Ruddy Duck				28	Salisbury	2	R. Heil			
21	W. Newbury	10	H. Wiggin#	thr	Reports of indiv. from 25 locations					
29	Cambridge (F.P.)	8	J. Winekoff	Peregrine Falcon						
Black Vulture				7	P.I.	2	T. Maloney			
22	N. Truro	1	M. Tuttle + v.o.	22	Revere	2	M. Pelikan			
Turkey Vulture				27	Stellwagen Bank	1	M. Resch			
2	Mt. Wachusett	4	E. Taylor	29	Duxbury B.	6	D. Ludlow			
5	Fairhaven	4	M. Boucher	30	N. Monomoy	3+	B. Nikula			
14	Newburyport	8	J. Center	thr	Reports of indiv. from 13 locations					
15	W. Boylston	4	M. Lynch#	Ruffed Grouse						
21	Uxbridge	4	M. Lynch#	1	W. Newbury	1	BBC (W. Drummond)			
21	Provincetown	2	M. Rines#	22	Ipswich	1	J. Berry			
Osprey				29	ONWR	6	R. Lockwood			
15	Gay Head	20	V. Laux#	29	Canton	3	G. d'Entremont			
20	Saugus	4	D. + I. Jewell	Wild Turkey						
28	W. Brookfield	4	M. Lynch#	1	Rowley	1	BBC (W. Drummond)			
28	Harvard	4	M. Lynch#	22	Wellfleet	1	W. Ellison			
thr	Reports of indiv. from 13 locations			Northern Bobwhite						
Bald Eagle				15	Cummaquid	20	S. + E. Miller			
4	Mattapoisett	1 imm	H. Horn	23	Truro	5	W. Ellison			
12	P.I.	1 imm	C. Ralph#	24	Cumb. Farms	2	K. Anderson			
19	Maynard	2 imm	L. Nachtrab	28	Newton	3	P. Chason#			
19	Mt. Wachusett	12	E. Taylor	29	Lexington	1	D. + I. Jewell			
20	Provincetown	1	R. Stymeist#	King Rail						
22	Newbury	1	C. Ralph#	1	Eastham (F.H.)	1	S. Arena			
Northern Harrier				Virginia Rail						
1	GMNWR	1	M. Pelikan	5	Tuckernuck	1	S. Perkins#			
1	Belmont	1	P. + F. Vale	7	P.I.	1	T. Maloney			
9	Dorchester	2	R. Donovan	16	Mashpee	1	S. + E. Miller			
15	Duxbury B.	2	R. Ferren#	Sora						
2-3	Nantucket	6	S. Perkins	22	P.I.	2	M. Lynch#			
21	P.I.	5	C. Ralph#	27	Dorchester	2	R. Donovan			
Sharp-shinned Hawk				30	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins			
1	Rutland S.P.	3	J. Liller	Purple Gallinule						
15	W. Boylston	10	M. Lynch#	28-30	Marblehead	1 juv	L. Healy + v.o.			
29	Harvard	3	M. Lynch#	Common Moorhen						
thr	Reports of 1 or 2 indiv. from 17 loc.			22	GMNWR	2	M. Rines#			
Cooper's Hawk				22	P.I.	3	M. Lynch#			
3	Truro	2	J. Young	American Coot						
9	Dorchester	2	R. Donovan	30	GMNWR	2	R. Akell			
15	Gay Head	8	V. Laux	Black-bellied Plover						
15	W. Newbury	3	BBC (S. Grinley)	1, 14	Ipswich	90, 100	J. Berry			
19	Sandwich	2	R. Stymeist#	2	Scituate	208	D. Clapp			
thr	Reports of indiv. from 18 locations			7	Duxbury B.	482	D. Clapp			
Northern Goshawk				7	Eastham	420	BBC (R. Stymeist)			
14	P.I.	1	J. Center	16	Chatham (S.B.)	2500	S. Perkins#			
22	ONWR	1	J. Hoye#	22	Newburyport	112	M. Lynch#			
Red-shouldered Hawk				American Golden-Plover						
1-30	E. Middleboro	2	K. Anderson	2	Scituate	3	D. Clapp			
				3, 14	Katama (M.V.)	27, 256	V. Laux#			

American Golden-Plover (continued)			
11	Chatham (S.B.)	3	S. Hecker
14	Revere B.	2	S. + L. Hennin
14	Ipswich	2	J. Berry
14	Edgartown	256+	V. Laux
15	Duxbury B.	5	R. Ferren#
15	Newburyport	18	M. Pelikan
20-21	Nantucket	22	S. Perkins#
22	Winthrop	4	S. Zende#
22	Provincetown	3	W. Ellison#
28	Newbury	75+	R. Lockwood
Semipalmated Plover			
1, 15	P.I.	120, 10	D. Chickering
1, 21	Westport	57, 54	M. Lynch#
2	Scituate	535	D. Clapp
8, 28	Rowley	51, 8	J. Berry
8	Newburyport	500	S. Perkins#
8	N. Monomoy	250	B. Nikula
14	Ipswich (C.B.)	500	J. Berry
14	Katama (M.V.)	90	V. Laux#
15	Duxbury B.	250	R. Ferren#
Piping Plover			
1;20	Chatham (S.B.)	20; 6	B. Nikula
3	Nantucket	5	S. Perkins
14	Ipswich (C.B.)	9	J. Berry
4	Katama (M.V.)	2	G. Daniels#
Killdeer			
thr	Arlington Res.	33	M. Pelikan
1	Ipswich	106	J. Berry
6	Newburyport	99	M. Rines
11	W. Newbury	150	BBC (S. Grinley)
20-21	Nantucket	45	S. Perkins#
22	Newbury	200	M. Lynch#
American Oystercatcher			
1	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	M. Lynch#
8,16;30	N. Monomoy	130, 130, 40	B. Nikula
20-21	Nantucket	10	S. Perkins#
Greater Yellowlegs			
2	Scituate	70	D. Clapp
7	Eastham	210	BBC (R. Stymeist)
7	Duxbury B.	43	D. Clapp
8	N. Monomoy	200	B. Nikula
14	P.I.	300	J. Hoye#
21	Squantum	177	G. d'Entremont
22	Newburyport	60	M. Lynch#
Lesser Yellowlegs			
2	Scituate	9	D. Clapp
3	Nantucket	8	S. Perkins
4	Arlington Res.	4	C. Floyd
4	Cumb. Farms	12	K. Anderson
6, 22	P.I.	72, 2	M. Lynch#
7	Newburyport	100	T. Maloney
14	Katama (M.V.)	70	V. Laux#
20	Nantucket	15	S. Perkins#
25	Cumb. Farms	12	D. Furbish
Solitary Sandpiper			
16	S. Peabody	4	R. Heil
20-21	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins#
21	P'town, Truro	2, 2	R. Stymeist#
21	Acoaxet	2	M. Lynch#
24	Cummaquid	3	S. + E. Miller
Willet			
1	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	3	M. Lynch#
7	Eastham	8	BBC (R. Stymeist)
8;16;30	N. Monomoy	15; 35; 6	B. Nikula
15	P.I.	5	M. Pelikan
Spotted Sandpiper			
3	Arlington Res.	3	M. Rines
7	P. I.	5	G. d'Entremont
7	Mattapan	2	M. Murphy
8	Woburn	1	M. Rines
Upland Sandpiper			
6	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#
15	West Quincy	1	G. d'Entremont
Whimbrel			
3, 20	Nantucket	8, 2	S. Perkins
6	Scituate	1	D. Clapp
19	Eastham (F.E.)	5	S. Perkins#
21	Chatham	4	J. Berry#
22	Provincetown	4	W. Ellison
22	P.I.	14	J. Berry#
Hudsonian Godwit			
1	Chatham (S.B.)	20	B. Nikula
1	Newburyport	5	M. Pelikan
28	P. I.	2	R. Lockwood
Marbled Godwit			
3	Revere	1	R. Cressman
8, 30	N. Monomoy	3, 5	B. Nikula
22	E. Boston	2	S. Zende#
Ruddy Turnstone			
1	Ipswich	7	J. Berry
2	Scituate	16	D. Clapp
15	Duxbury B.	150	R. Ferren#
Red Knot			
2	Scituate	260	D. Clapp
7	P.I.	41	T. Maloney
7	Duxbury B.	86	D. Clapp
11	Nantucket	31	E. Andrews
11	Revere	17	R. Cressman
20	Chatham (S.B.)	280	B. Nikula
7	Plum Island	22	G. d'Entremont
Sanderling			
2	Scituate	195	D. Clapp
14	Ipswich (C.B.)	650	J. Berry
15	Duxbury B.	2000	R. Ferren#
16	Chatham (S.B.)	3500	S. Perkins#
22	Revere	500	M. Pelikan
Semipalmated Sandpiper			
8	Newburyport	1500	S. Perkins#
14	Ipswich (C.B.)	700	J. Berry
15	Duxbury B.	300	R. Ferren#
20	Chatham (S.B.)	350	B. Nikula
Western Sandpiper			
7	Middleboro	1	W. Petersen
15	P.I.	1	M. Pelikan
20	Chatham (S.B.)	2	B. Nikula
21	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
22	Revere	1	R. Stymeist#
Least Sandpiper			
2	Scituate	305	D. Clapp
7	Duxbury B.	32	D. Clapp
10	Arlington Res.	6	M. Rines
15	Duxbury B.	30	R. Ferren#
22	P.I.	5	M. Lynch#
White-rumped Sandpiper			
1, 28	P.I.	10, 2	R. Lockwood
3	Nantucket	3	S. Perkins
7	Newburyport	40	T. Maloney
11	Revere	8	R. Cressman
14	Ipswich (C.B.)	14	J. Berry
15	Duxbury B.	25	R. Ferren#
20	Chatham (S.B.)	130	B. Nikula
Baird's Sandpiper			
1-18	P.I.	1	v.o.
3, 08	Katama (M.V.)	1, 1	V. Laux#
8	Edgartown	1	V. Laux
14	Newbury	1	J. Center
23	Westport	1	M. Boucher
27	Duxbury B.	1	D. Clapp
Pectoral Sandpiper			
1-30	Arlington Res.	7-8	M. Pelikan
2, 14	Katama (M.V.)	30, 50	V. Laux#

Pectoral Sandpiper (continued)			
3	Nantucket	10	S. Perkins
5	Chatham (S.B.)	8	S. + E. Miller
19	Eastham (F.E.)	3	S. Perkins#
20	Nantucket	11	S. Perkins#
26	Ipswich	2	I. Lynch
28	Newbury	18	R. Lockwood
30	N. Monomoy	70	B. Nikula
30	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins
Dunlin			
16	Chatham (S.B.)	30	S. Perkins#
22	Newburyport	60	M. Lynch#
30	N. Monomoy	600	B. Nikula
Stilt Sandpiper			
2	Scituate	1	D. Clapp
7	S. Monomoy	2	W. Petersen#
8, 22	P.I.	1, 3	J. Berry
14	Katama (M.V.)	1	V. Laux
16	S. Peabody	1 juv	R. Heil
27	Duxbury B.	1	D. Clapp
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			
1-4	P.I.	1-3	v.o.
3-4	Nantucket	5	S. Perkins
7	S. Monomoy	4	W. Petersen#
8	Edgartown	2	V. Laux
11	Chatham (S.B.)	1	S. Hecker
14	Newbury	2	J. Center
20	E. Gloucester	1	C. Leahy
22	S. Monomoy	3	E. Neilsen#
Short-billed Dowitcher			
1	Ipswich	22	J. Berry
2	Scituate	28	D. Clapp
7	Duxbury B.	56	D. Clapp
16	Chatham (S.B.)	25	S. Perkins#
Long-billed Dowitcher			
7	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
15	P.I.	4	R. Forster
30	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
Common Snipe			
7-30	Arlington Res.	2 max	M. Pelikan
15	Duxbury B.	1	R. Ferren#
21	Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale
24	Cumb. Farms	1	K. Anderson
27	Peabody	1	M. Rines
American Woodcock			
29	Bolton Flats	7	M. Lynch#
Wilson's Phalarope			
28	WBWS	1	fide D. Reynolds
Red-necked Phalarope			
1	S. Dart (A.P.)	1	F. Thurber#
2	Barnstable	18	R. Forster#
2	Eastham (F.E.)	14	R. Heil
3	P.I.	1	D. Crockett
7	Stellwagen	12	L. Healy
18	Eastham (F.E.)	510	R. Heil
19	Eastham (F.E.)	200	B. Nikula#
Red Phalarope			
2	Dennis	2	M. Lynch#
18	Eastham (F.E.)	1	R. Heil
Phalarope species			
2	Nantucket	80	S. Perkins
Pomarine Jaeger			
3	Eastham (F.E.)	6	B. Nikula#
8	Edgartown	2	V. Laux
9	Chappaquiddick	2	V. Laux#
19	Eastham (F.E.)	40+	B. Nikula#
19	Dennis	1	R. Stymeist#
28	Gay Head	1	A. Keith
28	Stellwagen	3	BBC (E. Tarry)
Parasitic Jaeger			
2	Dennis	2	M. Lynch#
2	Eastham (F.E.)	6	R. Heil
3	Provincetown	4	J. Young
7	Gay Head	2	V. Laux
8	Edgartown	2	V. Laux
16	Chatham (S.B.)	9-12	S. Perkins#
18	Eastham (F.E.)	36	R. Heil
19	P'town (R.P.)	5	M. Rines#
22	S. Monomoy	6	E. Neilsen#
27	Stellwagen	3	M. Resch
Long-tailed Jaeger			
15	Wasque Pt (M.V.)	1	A. Keith#
19	Eastham (F.E.)	1 juv	S. Perkins#
Jaeger species			
19	Eastham (F.E.)	85	B. Nikula#
27	Stellwagen Bank	5	M. Resch
Great Skua			
19	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula#
Laughing Gull			
7	Duxbury B.	47	D. Clapp
14	P.I.	2 imm	R. Lockwood
14	Ipswich (C.B.)	2 juv	J. Berry
21	Westport	129	M. Lynch#
28	Marblehead	1 juv	J. Berry
Black-headed Gull			
7	Westport	1 ad	M. Lynch#
16	Lynn	1 ad	R. Heil
22	Newburyport	1 ad	M. Lynch#
Bonaparte's Gull			
14	Ipswich (C.B.)	26	J. Berry
28	Newburyport	650	R. Heil
Lesser Black-backed Gull			
1	Chatham (S.B.)	1 (ad.)	B. Nikula
3	Lynn	1 ad	J. Quigley
7	S. Monomoy	2 ad, 1 juv	W. Petersen#
18	Waltham	1 ad	J. Horowitz
19	Dennis	1	R. Stymeist#
Black-legged Kittiwake			
2	Barnstable	1 (imm.)	J. Sones#
3, 19	Eastham (F.E.)	1, 94	B. Nikula#
Sabine's Gull			
19	Eastham (F.E.)	11	B. Nikula#
19	Squantum	2	D. Brown
20	Stellwagen Bank	1	M. Bates#
Caspian Tern			
20	Fall River	1	J. Trimble
28	P.I.	2	BBC (S. Moore)
29	Duxbury B.	3	N. + D. Ludlow
30	Lakeville	2	K. Rodman
Royal Tern			
3	Nantucket	2 ad	N. Clafin
3	Menemsha	1	T. Rivers
Roseate Tern			
2	Eastham	175	R. Heil
5	Tuckernuck	100	S. Perkins#
7	Chatham (S.B.)	600+	W. Petersen#
14	Ipswich (C.B.)	1 ad	J. Berry
20	Nantucket	500	S. Perkins#
Common Tern			
2	Barnstable	400+	B. Nikula#
14	Ipswich (C.B.)	48	J. Berry
15, 21	Squantum	65, 44	G. d'Entremont
16	Chatham (S.B.)	900	S. Perkins#
20	Nantucket	1000	S. Perkins#
21	Provincetown	700	W. Ellison
23	Eastham	500	W. Ellison
27	Stellwagen	1000	M. Resch
Forster's Tern			
2	Barnstable	2	J. Sones#
2	Dennis	20	M. Lynch#
7, 21	Westport	22, 18	M. Lynch#
20	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins#

Least Tern				Short-eared Owl			
3	Nantucket	3	S. Perkins	3	Chappaquiddick	1	V. Laux
7	Chatham (S.B.)	4	W. Petersen#	5	Tuckernuck	1	S. Perkins#
15	Duxbury B.	4	R. Ferren#	Common Nighthawk			
20	Nantucket	5	S. Perkins#	1	Maynard	304	L. Nachtrab
Black Tern				1	Worcester	288	M. Lynch#
2	M.V.	9	V. Laux	5	Nantucket	10	S. Perkins#
3	Nantucket	3	S. Perkins	19	N. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher
5	Tuckernuck	2	S. Perkins#	21	Harvard	6	S. + L. Hennin
7	Duxbury B.	2	D. Clapp	30	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
13	Fairhaven	17	M. LaBossiere	30	Lincoln	1	K. Calmer
16	N. Monomoy	25	B. Nikula	Chimney Swift			
19	Eastham (F.E.)	6	S. Perkins#	11	Concord	500	B. Volkle
19	Provincetown	4	R. Stymeist	21, 29	Newton	12, 1	M. Murphy
22	S. Monomoy	27	E. Neilsen#	21	Wayland	300	M. Pelikan
Razorbill				27	DWWS	7	D. Clapp
19	Eastham (F.E.)	1	S. Perkins#	28	Newton	11	G. d'Entremont
Black Guillemot				29	Harvard	4	M. Lynch#
2	E. Gloucester	1	BBC (J. Berry)	30	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins
Large alcid species				Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
19	P'town (R.P.)	4	M. Rines#	thr	Mattapoisett	1	F. Smith
19	Eastham (F.E.)	1	S. Perkins#	thr	E. Middleboro	1-3	K. Anderson
Black-billed Cuckoo				1	Belmont	3	P. + F. Vale
16	Worc. (BMB)	1	S. + L. Hennin	8	Bolton Flats	2	M. Lynch#
22	Provincetown	1	S. + E. Miller	11	Boston	2	D. Vara
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				19	Maynard	3	L. Nachtrab
21	Scituate	1	D. Furbish#	thr	Reports of indiv. from 9 locations		
23	P.I.	1	D. + I. Jewell	Belted Kingfisher			
Eastern Screech-Owl				6	Wakefield	4	F. Vale
6	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	21	Acoaxet	4	M. Lynch#
8	MNWS	1	S. Perkins#	30	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins
15	W. Newton	1	M. Murphy	Red-headed Woodpecker			
19	Wenham	1	N. Nash	1-30	Sherborn	4 ad, 7 imm	E. Taylor
27	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan	Red-bellied Woodpecker			
30	Lincoln	1	M. Maloney#	5	Newton	5	J. McCoy
Great Horned Owl				24	Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
15	Wayland	1	J. Hoye#	29	Boxford	1	J. Berry#
21	N. Scituate	2	D. Ludlow	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
23	Lincoln	1	L. Graetz	20	Nahant	1	J. Young
27	Peabody	1	M. Rines	29	P.I.	2	C. Floyd
29	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	29	MNWS	1 imm	J. Berry
Barred Owl				Northern Flicker			
4	E. Middleboro	2	K. Anderson	20	Truro	28	R. Stymeist#
29	Boxford	1	J. Berry	24	Rutland	29	M. Lynch#

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

In September land birds are seriously on the move, with the greatest movement taking place between early and mid-September for flycatchers, vireos and warblers. For sparrows, movement starts in mid-September and peaks in early October.

Olive-sided Flycatchers move through very quickly, and were reported from only two locations at the beginning of the month. Empidonax flycatchers rarely vocalize at this time of year, so individuals identified to species were limited to Yellow-bellied and Least flycatchers, which is typical. Phoebes were reported in good numbers as they gathered in small groups preparatory to migration. Western Kingbirds are an uncommon fall migrant, so only two reports for this species is not unusual. The tail end of the huge Tree Swallow flocks of August lingered into September, while unusually high counts of Northern Rough-winged Swallow were reported on the 16th in Wellfleet and South Peabody. A total of 28 Fish Crows at the Wellfleet recycling area on September 18 was an unusually high count for Cape Cod.

A Gray-cheeked Thrush, was banded in Grafton on September 22 as determined by wing chord measurements. Separating Gray-cheeked and Bicknell's thrushes is extremely difficult unless you are able to take measurements, as this bander was able to do.

Vireos were well reported, particularly Yellow-throated, with a total of 7 reports, and Philadelphia Vireo, with a total of 23 reports. While the number of individual warblers was not unusual, an impressive variety of species were reported during September. The most unusual was a **Townsend's Warbler** which was originally sighted at Marblehead Neck Sanctuary on September 16 and last seen on September 19. Other highlights included three Golden-winged, four Orange-crowned, a **Protonotary** in Chatham, a **Kentucky** at Marblehead Neck, and two **Hooded** warblers, plus four Yellow-breasted Chats.

Among the seed-eaters, sightings of Blue Grosbeaks in the fall are routine but they are certainly not common, so reports from ten locations was unusual. Dickcissels, similarly, were very well reported from thirteen widely-spread locations, although fewer than one would expect were found on Cape Cod. Clay-colored and Lark sparrows, never common in fall, were reported in typical numbers.

R. H. S.

Olive-sided Flycatcher				3	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins
6	Nantucket	2	N. Clafin#	18	Wayland	2	R. Forster
7	Wellfleet	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	22	Marshfield	1	BBC (D. Oliver)
Eastern Wood-Pewee				22	P'town (R.P.)	2	W. Ellison
20	Worc. (BMB)	3	M. Lynch#	Barn Swallow			
25	Lexington	1	M. Pelikan	18	Wayland	50	R. Forster
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				20	Nantucket	35	S. Perkins#
7	P.I.	1	E. Salmela#	21	Acoaxet	30	M. Lynch#
7	S. Monomoy	2	W. Petersen#	22	Marshfield	33	BBC (D. Oliver)
9	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan	22	P.I.	30	M. Lynch#
21	Acton	1	S. Wedge	22	P'town (R.P.)	17	W. Ellison
Least Flycatcher				25	Cumb. Farms	30	D. Furbish
2	Medford	1	M. Rines	Blue Jay			
6	Newton	2	H. Miller	16	S. Peabody	70 migr	R. Heil
8	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	27	S. Peabody	210 migr	R. Heil
18	Worc. (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#	27	P'town, Truro	76, 35	M. Lynch#
26	MNWS	1	I. Lynch	Fish Crow			
Empidonax species				8	Duxbury	8	SSBC (D. Clapp)
4	MNWS	5	M. Rines	17	Hanson	4	W. Petersen
Eastern Phoebe				18	Wellfleet	28	BBC (R. Stymeist)
15	Quabbin (G40)	25+	R. Lockwood	Common Raven			
15	ONWR	10	M. Pelikan	20	W. Townsend	3	R. Forster
15	W. Boylston	15	M. Lynch#	20	Mt. Wachusett	1	E. Taylor
21	Quabbin (G40)	10	R. Lockwood	Red-breasted Nuthatch			
24	Rutland	36	M. Lynch#	14	Rutland	20	M. Lynch#
28	S. Peabody	8	R. Heil	Brown Creeper			
Great Crested Flycatcher				14	Rutland	8	M. Lynch#
1	Belmont	1	P. + F. Vale	27	Northboro	2	A. Boover
1	P.I.	1	D. Chickering	29	Canton	2	G. d'Entremont
7	Milton	1	J. Young	Carolina Wren			
7	Wellfleet	3	BBC (R. Stymeist)	1-30	Natick	1	E. Taylor
8	Woburn	1	M. Rines	1-30	Sherborn	2	E. Taylor
16	Falmouth	1	S. + E. Miller	7	Westport	12	M. Lynch#
Western Kingbird				20	Provincetown	4	M. Rines#
20	Truro	1	R. Stymeist#	22	Belmont	2	R. Stymeist#
30	Westport	1	B. Cassie	24	Rutland	1	M. Lynch#
Eastern Kingbird				24	Bedford	1	M. Rines
20	Saugus	1	D. + I. Jewell	28	Concord	2	M. Pelikan
21	Wellfleet	2	R. Stymeist#	House Wren			
21	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins#	4	MNWS	4	M. Rines
Purple Martin				8	Woburn	5	M. Rines
1	P.I.	2	BBC (W. Drummond)	14, 24	Rutland	6, 5	M. Lynch#
15	Gay Head	2	V. Laux#	14	Milton	3	G. d'Entremont
21	Wasque	1	A. Keith#	16	S. Peabody	14	R. Heil
Tree Swallow				30	Newton	6	R. Forster
1	P. I.	5000+	R. Lockwood	30	E. Middleboro	3	K. Anderson
6	Barnstable	1500	H. Wiggin#	Marsh Wren			
7, 21	Westport	2600, 400	M. Lynch#	22	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#
14	P.I.	2500	M. Argue#	27	Dorchester	8	R. Donovan
15	Duxbury B.	600	R. Ferren#	Golden-crowned Kinglet			
27	Truro	4000	M. Lynch#	29	P.I.	3	C. Floyd
27	DWWS	1400	D. Clapp	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
29	P.I.	600	F. Bouchard	1	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				19	Worc. (BMB)	5	M. Lynch#
16, 21	Wellesley	30, 1	R. Forster	20	Truro	1	R. Stymeist#
16	S. Peabody	36	R. Heil	22	Belmont	1	M. Rines#
18	Wayland	1	R. Forster	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
22	Marshfield	2	BBC (D. Oliver)	1	Belmont	1	P. + F. Vale
Bank Swallow				7	Wellfleet	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
8	Newburyport	2	S. Perkins#	8	MNWS	1	R. Forster#
18	Wayland	2	R. Forster	15	Gay Head	3	V. Laux#
20	Nantucket	3	S. Perkins#	Eastern Bluebird			
22	P'town (R.P.)	2	W. Ellison	1	Ipswich	4	J. Berry
22	Marshfield	1	BBC (D. Oliver)	19	Worc. (BMB)	5	M. Lynch#
Cliff Swallow				20	Marshfield	7	D. Furbish



Eastern Bluebird (continued)				6	P.I.	2	M. Rines
24	Rutland	5	M. Lynch#	8	Woburn	5	M. Rines
30	E. Middleboro	3	K. Anderson	15	Westport	2	R. Stymeist#
Veery				16	MNWS	2	M. Rines#
4	MNWS	1	M. Rines	19	Worc. (BMB)	3	M. Lynch#
13	Lincoln	35migr	S. Perkins#	22	Marshfield	1	BBC (D. Oliver)
14	Newton	1	H. Miller	Philadelphia Vireo			
Gray-cheeked Thrush				4	MNWS	3	M. Rines
22	Grafton	1 b	M. Blazis	11	Worc. (BMB)	2	S. + L. Hennin
Swainson's Thrush				12	P.I.	3	J. Hoye#
5	Tuckernuck	1	S. Perkins#	20	Newton	2	P. Chason
13	Lincoln	182migr	S. Perkins#	21	Eastham	2	M. Rines#
18	Mt. A.	1	M. Rines	thr Reports of indiv. from 18 locations			
19	Worc. (BMB)	2	M. Lynch#	Red-eyed Vireo			
21	Newton	1	H. Miller	1	Mt. A.	11	R. Stymeist#
24	Rutland	2	M. Lynch#	8	MNWS	10	P. + F. Vale
Hermit Thrush				8	Woburn	4	M. Rines
14, 24	Rutland	10, 16	M. Lynch#	14, 24	Rutland	16, 5	M. Lynch#
21	Quabbin (G40)	2	R. Lockwood	15	Quabbin (G40)	10	R. Lockwood
Wood Thrush				15	Westport	9	M. Rines#
22	WBWS	1	W. Petersen	20	Provincetown	8	R. Stymeist#
27	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	20	Nantucket	7	S. Perkins#
Thrush sp				20	S. Peabody	7	R. Heil
13	Lincoln	40migr	S. Perkins#	27	Truro	17	M. Lynch#
American Robin				29	MNWS	3	J. Berry#
27	Truro	130	M. Lynch#	Blue-winged Warbler			
29	Bolton Flats	358	M. Lynch#	1	Belmont	2	P. + F. Vale
Gray Catbird				4	MNWS	2	M. Rines
13	Westboro	22	A. Boover	7	Acoaxet	3	M. Lynch#
14, 24	Rutland	47, 28	M. Lynch#	12	Medford	2	M. Rines
15	ONWR	22	M. Pelikan	27	Westboro	1	A. Boover
19	Worc. (BMB)	43	M. Lynch#	29	P.I.	1	C. Floyd
21	Acoaxet	32	M. Lynch#	Golden-winged Warbler			
28	Wayland	25	G. Long	21	N. Scituate	1	D. Ludlow
Brown Thrasher				21	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith#
8	Woburn	1	M. Rines	22	Provincetown	1	R. Lockwood
12	Medford	1	M. Rines	Tennessee Warbler			
15	Duxbury B.	1	R. Ferren#	27	Lynn	1	R. Heil
15	ONWR	3	M. Pelikan	21	MNWS	1	A. McCarthy
19	Worc. (BMB)	5	M. Lynch#	24	Rutland	1	M. Lynch#
20	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins#	30	Worc. (BMB)	1	S. + L. Hennin
22	P.I.	9	M. Lynch#	30	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#
22	Westport	3	M. Boucher	Orange-crowned Warbler			
American Pipit				15	W. Boylston	1	M. Lynch#
21	Nantucket	3	T. Maloney#	21	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
21	P.I.	2	R. Forster	22	Newton	1	G. d'Entremont
22	Provincetown	3	W. Ellison	27	DWWS	1	D. Ludlow#
25	Lexington	3	D. Sandee	Nashville Warbler			
28	Newbury	50+	R. Lockwood	4	MNWS	2	M. Rines
29	Canton	30	G. d'Entremont	15	Westport	2	M. Rines#
30	Nantucket	4	J. Hoye#	20	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins#
Cedar Waxwing				20	Provincetown	7	R. Stymeist#
11	Gay Head	700	V. Laux	22	Newton	5	G. d'Entremont
European Starling				26	Newton	5	H. Miller
1	Worcester	6000	M. Lynch#	27	Peabody	2	M. Rines
White-eyed Vireo				27	S. Peabody	7	R. Heil
7, 21	Westport	9, 4	M. Lynch#	Northern Parula			
Solitary Vireo				8	Woburn	4	M. Rines
15	Quabbin (G40)	5	R. Lockwood	12	P.I.	2	J. Hoye#
24	Rutland	7	M. Lynch#	16	MNWS	2	M. Rines#
26	Weston	4	M. Rines	19	Worc. (BMB)	19	M. Lynch#
thr	Reports of individuals from 6 locations			22	ONWR	2	J. Hoye#
Yellow-throated Vireo				24	Rutland	4	M. Lynch#
1	Rutland S.P.	7	J. Liller	Yellow Warbler			
8	Stoneham	1	D. + I. Jewell	6	P.I.	3	M. Rines
12	P.I.	1	A. McCarthy	8	Woburn	2	M. Rines
14	Rutland	1	M. Lynch#	15	Westport	14	R. Stymeist#
15	ONWR	1	M. Pelikan	Chestnut-sided Warbler			
29	P.I.	1	C. Floyd	14	Rutland	6	M. Lynch#
30	Wellfleet	1	S. + E. Miller	15	Squantum	2 imm	G. d'Entremont
Warbling Vireo				27	Medford	1	M. Rines

Chestnut-sided Warbler (continued)			
29	ONWR	1	M. Lynch#
30	Wellfleet	1	S. + E. Miller
Magnolia Warbler			
1	Rutland S.P.	2	J. Liller
12	Medford	3	M. Rines
19	Worc. (BMB)	17	M. Lynch#
21	Squantum	3	G. d'Entremont
21	MBWMA	4	J. Hoye#
21	MNWS	3	J. Hoye#
22	P.I.	7	M. Lynch#
Cape May Warbler			
3, 20	Nantucket	1, 1	S. Perkins
7	S. Monomoy	2	W. Petersen
9	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan
15	Quabbin (G40)	1	R. Lockwood
20	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins#
22	Truro	4	W. Ellison
24	Rutland	1	M. Lynch#
27	Truro	2	M. Lynch#
Black-throated Blue Warbler			
8	Woburn	2	M. Rines
21	W. Newbury	6	J. Hoye#
22	Belmont	1	R. Stymeist#
22	ONWR	3	J. Hoye#
22	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#
26	Weston	1	M. Rines
27	Medford	1	M. Rines
29	ONWR	1	R. Lockwood
29	MNWS	3	J. Berry#
Yellow-rumped Warbler			
1	Rutland S.P.	3	J. Liller
6	P.I.	1	M. Rines
15	Quabbin (G40)	50	R. Lockwood
24	Rutland	80	M. Lynch#
27	S. Peabody	200	R. Heil
27	Peabody	50	M. Rines
Townsend's Warbler			
16-19	MNWS	1	R. Stymeist + v.o.
Black-throated Green Warbler			
14	Rutland	18	M. Lynch#
15	Quabbin (G40)	10	R. Lockwood
16	MNWS	3	R. Stymeist#
27	Peabody	2	M. Rines
27	S. Peabody	9	R. Heil
Blackburnian Warbler			
12	Medford	1	M. Rines
15	Marstons Mills	1	E. + S. Miller
16	MNWS	1	C. Floyd
21	Provincetown	1	R. Stymeist#
23	Eastham	1	W. Ellison
Pine Warbler			
6	Nantucket	15	S. Perkins#
15	Quabbin (G40)	30+	R. Lockwood
15	Westport	9	M. Rines#
21	Nantucket	8	S. Perkins#
22	P'town	5	R. Lockwood
24	Rutland	29	M. Lynch#
Prairie Warbler			
15	Westport	1	M. Rines#
15	Duxbury B.	2	R. Ferren#
27	Provincetown	1	M. Lynch#
27	S. Peabody	1	R. Heil
Palm Warbler			
12, 24	Lexington	1, 12	M. Rines
15	Duxbury B.	1	R. Ferren#
16	Mashpee	7	S. + E. Miller
22	P.I.	11	M. Lynch#
22	Belmont	6	M. Rines#
23	Newton	8	H. Miller
29	Marshfield	11	D. Clapp
Bay-breasted Warbler			
4	Brookline	1	H. Wiggin
19	Worc. (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#
21	Eastham	1	R. Stymeist#
21	Provincetown	1	R. Stymeist#
22	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#
Blackpoll Warbler			
1	Rowley	1	M. Rines
3	Newton	1	H. Miller
14, 24	Rutland	38, 78	R. Heil
15	Quabbin (G40)	20	R. Lockwood
16	S. Peabody	11	R. Heil
19	Worc. (BMB)	33	M. Lynch#
19	ONWR	12	J. Hoye
21	Quabbin (G40)	12	R. Lockwood
27	S. Peabody	7	R. Heil
Black-and-white Warbler			
1	Rowley	3	M. Rines
2, 12	Medford	7, 6	M. Rines
8	MNWS	3	P. + F. Vale
14	Rutland	9	M. Lynch#
15	W. Boylston	7	M. Lynch#
18	Mt.A.	4	M. Rines
19	Worc. (BMB)	19	M. Lynch#
22	Charlton	12	D. Engstrom
27	S. Peabody	7	R. Heil
American Redstart			
1	Rowley	6	M. Rines
2, 15	Medford	16, 9	M. Rines
4	MNWS	11	M. Rines
15	Westport	6	M. Rines#
18	Mt.A.	7	M. Rines
20	Worc. (BMB)	12	M. Lynch#
22	Belmont	5	R. Stymeist#
Prothonotary Warbler			
22	Chatham	1	S. Miller, M. Tuttle
Ovenbird			
16	MNWS	3	M. Rines#
18	Mt.A.	3	M. Rines
28	Newton	1	R. Lockwood
Northern Waterthrush			
8	MNWS	5	S. Perkins#
8	Woburn	4	M. Rines
14	Milton	2	G. d'Entremont
15	Westport	1	R. Stymeist#
15	Bolton	1	BBC (B. Howell)
20	Worc. (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#
21	MBWMA	1	A. McCarthy
21	W. Newbury	1	A. McCarthy
26	Arlington	1	M. Rines
Kentucky Warbler			
16	MNWS	1	C. Floyd
Connecticut Warbler			
2	ONWR	1	J. Hoye#
6	P.I.	1	M. Rines
14	Rutland	1 imm	M. Lynch#
15, 24	Grafton	1 b, 1 b	M. Blazis
15	West Quincy	1	G. d'Entremont
15	P.I.	1	D. Chickering
19, 20	Worc. (BMB)	2, 1	M. Lynch#
20	E. Gloucester	1	C. Leahy
29	Duxbury B.	1	D. Ludlow
Mourning Warbler			
21	P.I.	1	R. Forster
Oporornis species			
27	S. Peabody	1	R. Heil
Common Yellowthroat			
4	MNWS	5	M. Rines
7	Wellfleet	28	BBC (R. Stymeist)
14, 24	Rutland	21, 9	M. Lynch#
15	Quabbin (G40)	5	R. Lockwood

Common Yellowthroat (continued)								
15 Westport	14	R. Stymeist#	7 Wellfleet	25	BBC (R. Stymeist)			
19 Worc. (BMB)	25	M. Lynch#	15 Quabbin (G40)	7	R. Lockwood			
22 Belmont	6	R. Stymeist#	27 Truro	14	M. Lynch#			
28 N. Brookfield	8	M. Lynch#	Chipping Sparrow					
Hooded Warbler			14, 24 Rutland	27, 3	M. Lynch#			
11 Vineyard Haven	1 m	G. Daniels	16 Rochester	75	M. Boucher			
21 MNWS	1 m	A. McCarthy#	16 Lakeville	78	M. Boucher			
Wilson's Warbler			27 Provincetown	70	M. Lynch#			
15 Duxbury B.	4	R. Ferren#	28 Newton	50+	H. Wiggin#			
16 MNWS	2	R. Stymeist#	Clay-colored Sparrow					
20 Nantucket	3	S. Perkins#	6 Truro	1	H. Coolidge#			
22 Belmont	2	R. Stymeist#	27 S. Peabody	1	R. Heil			
Canada Warbler			28 Gay Head	1 ad	A. Keith#			
4 MNWS	2	M. Rines	Field Sparrow					
20 Provincetown	1	R. Stymeist#	8 Woburn	4	M. Rines			
21 P.I.	1	R. Forster	19 Worc. (BMB)	9	M. Lynch#			
21 Wayland	1	M. Pelikan	20 Truro	7	R. Stymeist#			
28 Newton	1	G. d'Entremont	22 P.I.	3	J. Berry#			
Yellow-breasted Chat			Vesper Sparrow					
10, 25 Newton	1	H. Miller	3 Provincetown	5	J. Young			
11 MNWS	1	N. Nash	27 Wellfleet	2	M. Lynch#			
15, 24 Gay Head	1, 1	V. Laux, G. Daniels	Lark Sparrow					
24 Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller	4 P.I.	1	S. + L. Hennin			
Scarlet Tanager			15 Gay Head	1	V. Laux#			
8 Woburn	1	M. Rines	Savannah Sparrow					
14, 24 Rutland	6, 4	M. Lynch#	8 Bolton Flats	40	M. Lynch#			
15 W. Boylston	7	M. Lynch#	21 Newburyport	10	P. + F. Vale			
21 Quabbin (G40)	1	R. Lockwood	21 Squantum	12	G. d'Entremont			
21 Truro	1	R. Stymeist#	22 Wayland	18	G. Long			
21 MBWMA	20	C. Ralph#	27 S. Peabody	65	R. Heil			
28 Newton	1	G. d'Entremont	29 Concord (NAC)	50	R. Forster			
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow					
6 DWWS	5	J. Hoye#	3 Nantucket	2	S. Perkins			
14 Milton	3	G. d'Entremont	7 Westport	4	M. Lynch#			
15 Quabbin (G40)	5	R. Lockwood	14 P.I.	5	R. Lockwood			
20 Truro	12	R. Stymeist#	15 Duxbury B.	2	R. Ferren#			
21 Newbury	12	C. Ralph#	20 S. Dart. (A.Pd)	6	LCES (J. Hill)			
Blue Grosbeak			Seaside Sparrow					
10 W. Peabody	1	R. Heil	8 P.I.	4	S. Perkins#			
14 Rutland	1 imm	M. Lynch#	Song Sparrow					
15 Wayland	1	M. Pelikan	14 Milton	15	G. d'Entremont			
15 Gay Head	3	V. Laux#	Linecoln's Sparrow					
19 WBWS	1	R. Stymeist#	3-27 Newton	1-3	H. Miller			
20 Truro	1	M. Rines#	21 Wayland	13	M. Pelikan			
22 Provincetown	1	S. + E. Miller	22 Newton	3	G. d'Entremont			
22 Wayland	1	G. Long	22 Belmont	5	R. Stymeist#			
24, 25 Lexington	1, 2	M. Rines	22 Belmont	6	M. Rines#			
25 Newton	1	H. Wiggin#	24 Cummaquid	3	S. + E. Miller			
Indigo Bunting			24 Rutland	9	M. Lynch#			
21 MBWMA	2	J. Hoye#	26 Wayland	4	M. Rines			
22 Belmont	2	R. Stymeist#	27 Truro	9	M. Lynch#			
22 Wayland	4	G. Long	27 DWWS	3	D. Clapp			
24 Lexington	4	M. Rines	27 S. Peabody	8	R. Heil			
29 Concord (NAC)	15	R. Forster	thr Reports of 1 or 2 indiv. from 7 loc.					
30 Newton	3	H. Miller	Swamp Sparrow					
Dickcissel			14 Milton	13	G. d'Entremont			
8* P.I.	1	C. Floyd	29 Bolton Flats	92	M. Lynch#			
11, 15 Gay Head	1, 1	V. Laux#	30 GMNWR	14	S. Perkins			
11 Lexington	1	M. Rines	White-throated Sparrow					
18 Wayland	1	R. Forster	21 Squantum	1 imm	G. d'Entremont			
19 Newton	1	H. Miller	22 Belmont	12	R. Stymeist#			
20-21 Nantucket	1	S. Perkins#	24 Rutland	30	M. Lynch#			
20 Eastham	1	D. Small#	White-crowned Sparrow					
21 W. Newbury	1	R. Heil	20 Newton	1	H. Miller			
26 Petersham	1	J. Johnstone#	22 Concord	1	M. Rines#			
27 S. Peabody	2	R. Heil	24 Rutland	3	M. Lynch#			
29 Squibnocket	1	A. Keith	27 Truro	3	M. Lynch#			
29 Newton	1	B. Chiasson	Dark-eyed Junco					
30 Lexington	1	M. Rines	18 Mt. A.	1	M. Rines			
Eastern Towhee			20 Truro	1	R. Stymeist#			
			24 Rutland	4	M. Lynch#			

Bobolink				29	Bolton Flats	1840	M. Lynch#
1	Wayland	50	G. Long		Eastern Meadowlark		
3	Nantucket	12	S. Perkins	21	Newburyport	12	P. + F. Vale
5	Tuckernuck	15	S. Perkins#		Baltimore Oriole		
8	Woburn	20	M. Rines	3	Nantucket	11	S. Perkins
11	Gay Head	2000	V. Laux	15	Westport	1	R. Stymeist#
15	Westport	15	R. Stymeist#	20	Truro	18	R. Stymeist#
19	E. Boston (B.I.)	20+	R. Cressman	29	P.I.	3	J. Berry#
20-21	Nantucket	40	S. Perkins#		Purple Finch		
22	West Quincy	52	G. d'Entremont	6	P.I.	1	M. Rines
Red-winged Blackbird				15	Duxbury B.	1	R. Ferren#
8	Wakefield	300	D. + I. Jewell	28	Newton	1	G. d'Entremont



Boreal Owl  
 Newton, MA  
 October 31, 1996  
 Photos by Karen Sheppard




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# BIRD SIGHTINGS

## OCTOBER 1996

### SUMMARY



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

October 1996 will be remembered for the record rain, a total of 10.66 inches, 7.36 inches above normal. This broke the previous October record of 8.84 inches set in 1877. The 6.66 inches of rain that fell in the 24-hour period between October 20 and 21 was the second greatest single day total since Hurricane Diane in August of 1995, which dumped 8.4 inches. Damage due to flooding swept the region. The temperature during October averaged 53.4°, 1.4° below normal. The high was 73° on October 14 and 17, and the low was 36° on October 4. The remnants of Hurricane Josephine brought a peak gust of 59 mph from the northeast on October 9. Greater Boston has its first frozen precipitation of the season with a trace of sleet in the early morning hours of October 30.

R. H. S.

#### LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

For the second month in a row storms played a major part in determining the presence of pelagic species. Surprisingly, these storms brought very few Leach's Storm-Petrels close to shore, but shearwaters were well represented at both Andrew's Point in Rockport and First Encounter Beach in Eastham on the 9th and the 21st. An impressive 45 Northern Fulmars were recorded in Eastham on the 9th. Also present in appreciable numbers during these storms were Red-throated Loons, Northern Gannets and migrating Scoters. Other interesting sightings during the month included an **Eared Grebe** that was present in Gloucester beginning in midmonth, and at least seven of the eight **American White Pelicans** discovered in Hyannis in late September continued for most of October. Heron reports included a scattering of American Bitterns and two reports of Least Bittern, including one that was forced out of a salt marsh at high tide. The "**Great White**" Heron discovered in Eastham in midsummer was last seen at midmonth. The last of the herons gradually departed by the end of the month and included three rather late Tricolored Herons and a single Glossy Ibis.

What may have been the best ever coastal fall flight of Snow Geese occurred on the 5th. Included among the numerous flocks was a very small white goose that the observer thought was a **Ross' Goose**. Written documentation was provided by the observer, and if accepted by the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, this would represent the first sighting of this species in the state. Other waterfowl reports were routine with counts of freshwater ducks greatest at their typical South Monomoy stronghold. A **Tufted Duck** appeared in Sterling where it was present last fall. Canvasbacks and especially Redheads were sparsely reported. The vanguard of Harlequin Ducks arrived by month's end. Ruddy and Ring-necked ducks were widely reported, but the numbers of Ring-necks in Lakeville were well below expected totals.

Raptor reports were either as expected or below normal. Only a few late Ospreys were observed and there were only two reports of Bald Eagle. A **Golden Eagle** graced Martha's Vineyard while only a single Rough-legged Hawk was reported. A large falcon noted in Wayland was thought to be a **Gyr Falcon**. The few Common Moorhens observed were at typical locations, but two **Purple Gallinules**, both immatures, were decidedly unusual. One was a carryover from September in Marblehead and the other appeared in Rockport. Both remained only briefly. American Coot were rather widely distributed in small numbers. There was only one report of a **Sandhill Crane**.

Shorebird sightings followed the usual pattern, with a scattering of late migrating juveniles along with appreciable numbers of typical late season migrants. A very unusual sighting, both in terms of its rarity and location, was a **Bar-tailed Godwit** in South Boston. A well-described juvenile was seen briefly in association with Black-bellied Plovers during a storm. American Golden-Plover was widely reported in small numbers. There were better than average reports of late Solitary Sandpipers. Western Sandpipers were scarce, but White-rumped Sandpipers were well reported, as were Pectoral Sandpipers. The best count of Long-billed Dowitchers for the entire season occurred in late October at Plum Island. Considering the

wealth of pelagic birds reported during storms, there were surprisingly few phalaropes of either species observed.

Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were both reported at the same time and locations, with Pomarine outnumbering Parasitic. A **Mew Gull** in first winter plumage was carefully studied at Martha's Vineyard. Only two Little Gulls were seen, and there were scattered reports of Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed gulls. Reports of Glaucous and Iceland gulls were a bit on the early side. An excellent flight of Black-legged Kittiwakes occurred at Rockport during the storm of the 21st. The usual few fall migrant Caspian Terns were reported, all on the same day! The few reports of Forster's Tern reinforced that it was a poor year for them. The scattered early alcid reports were typical for the season.

The outstanding event of the month was the small influx of **Boreal Owls** during the last week of the month. Three different individuals were observed, beginning on the 23rd. Of these, only an individual appearing outside a school in Newton on Halloween day was able to be seen by more than one or two observers. In the past 50 years, this diminutive northern owl has been rarely reported after a series of irruptions in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The only previous irruption during recent years occurred just five years ago, when six individuals were located. The timing of that movement was similar to this month's movement. Perhaps more will eventually turn up. Otherwise few other species of owls were noted. Two Snowy Owls appeared at the end of the month, but only three Northern Saw-whet and a single Short-eared owl were reported. Only two migrant Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted in addition to lingering residents in Sherborn. A frontal passage on the 4th ushered in Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, including a nice count of 10 at Plum Island.

R. A. F.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
<b>Red-throated Loon</b>				26	Stellwagen	1	C. Floyd
13	Tuckernuck	5	T. Maloney#	Cory's Shearwater			
20	Barnstable (S.N.)	25	S. Arena	14	Gay Head	6	A. Keith#
21	Rockport (H.P.)	206	R. Heil	Greater Shearwater			
27	Duxbury/Plymouth	60	W. Petersen#	9	Eastham (F.E.)	800	R. Heil
27	P.I.	105 migr	S. Perkins#	21	Rockport (A.P.)	75	R. Heil
<b>Common Loon</b>				Sooty Shearwater			
5	S. Peabody	28 migr	R. Heil	9	Eastham (F.E.)	12	R. Heil
6	Lakeville	5	W. Petersen	19	Rockport	2	G. d'Entremont#
10	Wach. Res.	40	E. Salmela	26	Stellwagen	50	C. Floyd
12-13	Tuckernuck	23	S. Perkins#	Manx Shearwater			
18	Marshfield	16	D. Clapp	9	Eastham (F.E.)	17	R. Heil
19	Rockport	25	G. d'Entremont#	14	Gay Head	1	A. Keith#
20	Barnstable (S.N.)	18	S. Arena	21	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil
21	Provincetown	22	S. Perkins#	26	Stellwagen	12	C. Floyd
21	Rockport (A.P.)	55	R. Heil	Leach's Storm-Petrel			
30	P.I.	20	C. Ralph	5	Provincetown (R.P.)	1	G. d'Entremont
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>				20	Oak Bluffs	2	V. Laux#
12	S. Monomoy	8	W. Petersen#	21	Eastham (F.E.)	1	S. Perkins#
12	Tuckernuck	4	T. Maloney#	21	Rockport (A.P.)	7	R. Heil
14, 27	Lakeville	14, 28	S. Arena	<b>Northern Gannet</b>			
14	Gloucester	8	M. Lynch#	4	P.I.	225	R. Heil
16	GMNWR	13	R. Stymeist	5	Rockport (H.P.)	250	S. Perkins#
thr	Reports of 1 or 2 indiv. from 13 loc.			9	Eastham (F.E.)	900+	R. Heil
<b>Horned Grebe</b>				20	Manomet	515	G. d'Entremont
6	Lakeville	2	W. Petersen	20	Barnstable (S.N.)	5500	S. Arena
26	Plymouth B.	20	R. Finch	20	Rockport (A.P.)	3000	J. Smith
27	Lakeville	16	S. Arena	21	Provincetown	650	S. Perkins#
27	E. Gloucester	6	J. Berry	<b>American White Pelican</b>			
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>				4-26	Hyannis	7 max 10/04	S. Clifton + v.o.
10	Wach. Res.	1	E. Salmela	<b>Great Cormorant</b>			
19	Gloucester H.	12	M. Lynch#	11	Nantucket	1 imm	S. Perkins#
20	Manomet	3	G. d'Entremont	19	Rockport	3	G. d'Entremont#
21	Rockport (A.P.)	3	R. Heil	20	Manomet	5	G. d'Entremont
24	Dennis	8	S. + E. Miller	27	P.I.	1	S. Perkins#
26	Plymouth B.	3	R. Finch	<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>			
30	Camb. (F.P.)	2	J. Barton	5	S. Peabody	1400 migr	R. Heil
30	Boston	1	H. Miller	12	Salem	240	BBC (I. Lynch)
<b>Eared Grebe</b>				12	P.I.	550	BBC (B. Wicks)
16-31	Gloucester	1	J. Soucy + v.o.	13	Tuckernuck	200+	R. Veit#
<b>Northern Fulmar</b>				14	Ipswich	3300 migr	J. Berry
9	Eastham (F.E.)	45	R. Heil	<b>American Bittern</b>			
21	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil	4, 31	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2, 1	LCES (J. Hill)
21	Provincetown	2	S. Perkins#	8	Mashpee	1	S. + E. Miller

<b>American Bittern (continued)</b>			
9	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
12	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#
25	S. Dartmouth	3	G. Gove
26	Eastham (F.H.)	3	S. Arena
27	Westport	3	M. Lynch#
thr	P.I.	1-4	v.o.
<b>Least Bittern</b>			
6	GMNWR	1	D. Brownrigg
27	Barnstable	1	E. Winslow#
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>			
12	P.I.	25	BBC (B. Wick)
27	WBWS	9	G. d'Entremont#
27	Eastham (F. H.)	10	G. d'Entremont#
27	Westport	40	M. Lynch#
<b>"Great White" Heron</b>			
13	Nauset Marsh	1	A. Thomas#
<b>Great Egret</b>			
5, 27	Westport	27, 17	M. Lynch#
7, 28	P.I.	24, 8	W. Drew#
6	Barnstable	3	G. d'Entremont#
12	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#
12	Pembroke	1	W. Petersen
14	Ipswich	20	J. Berry
26	S. Dart. (A.Pd.)	13	G. Gove
26	Rowley	16	J. Berry
<b>Snowy Egret</b>			
5, 27	Westport	7, 1	M. Lynch#
3	P.I.	17	S. Perkins#
13	Rowley	13	J. Berry
14	Ipswich	3	J. Berry
20	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood
23	E. Boston (BI)	1	R. Cressman
<b>Tricolored Heron</b>			
4	P.I.	1	R. Heil
13	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith#
27	S. Dart. (A.P.)	1	G. Gove
<b>Cattle Egret</b>			
13	Edgartown	1	J. Norton
<b>Green Heron</b>			
3	Yarmouthport	1	S. + E. Miller
5	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist#
5	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil
<b>Black-crowned Night-Heron</b>			
6	Cummaquid	35+	G. d'Entremont#
12-13	Tuckernuck	26	S. Perkins#
13	Ipswich	9	J. Berry
<b>Glossy Ibis</b>			
12	P.I.	1	BBC (B. Wicks)
<b>Whooper Swan</b>			
1-31	Ipswich	4 ad + 4 yg	J. Berry
29	P.I.	2 ad + 4 yg	J. Soucy#
<b>Mute Swan</b>			
5	Westport	254	M. Lynch#
<b>Snow Goose</b>			
5	P.I.	506	R. Forster
5	S. Peabody	1025 migr	R. Heil
5	Newburyport	450 migr	R. Heil
15	Groton	80	T. Pirrou
15	Dennis	60	K. Hamilton
27	Wayland	80	M. Pelikan
27	P.I.	30	S. Perkins#
30	P.I.	30	C. Ralph
thr	Reports of 1-4 indiv. from 11 loc.		
<b>Ross' Goose</b>			
5	S. Peabody	1 ad	R. Heil
<b>Wood Duck</b>			
6	Rutland	30	M. Lynch#
7	GMNWR	75	M. Partridge
13	Stow	25	BBC (C. Cook)
27	Middleboro	17	S. Arena
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>			
thr	P.I.	194 max	W. Drew#
1-17	Arlington Res.	30	M. Pelikan
12	Tuckernuck	30	S. Perkins#
12	S. Monomoy	60	W. Petersen#
17	GMNWR	60	S. Perkins#
19	P.I.	17	P. + F. Vale
23	E. Boston	25	R. Cressman
26	Wayland	17	S. Perkins#
<b>American Black Duck</b>			
thr	P.I.	1310 max	W. Drew#
6	Barnstable (S.N.)	250	G. d'Entremont#
12	S. Monomoy	300	W. Petersen#
27	Westport	500	M. Lynch#
27	P.I.	250	S. Perkins#
<b>Northern Pintail</b>			
thr	P.I.	34 max	W. Drew#
1-17	Arlington Res.	1 m	M. Pelikan
6	GMNWR	2	E. Taylor
26	S. Monomoy	25	B. Nikula#
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>			
5	Westport	8	M. Lynch#
6	Marston's Mills	3	G. d'Entremont#
6	Barnstable	1	G. d'Entremont#
12	Chatham	1	W. Petersen#
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>			
6	GMNWR	2	E. Taylor
13	P.I.	2	M. Lynch#
26	S. Monomoy	25	B. Nikula#
27	Marlboro	1	E. Taylor
<b>Gadwall</b>			
thr	P.I.	26 max	W. Drew#
6	Barnstable	2	G. d'Entremont#
6	Marston's Mills	6	G. d'Entremont#
13, 26	Ipswich	44, 16	J. Berry
26	S. Monomoy	80	B. Nikula#
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>			
6	Marston's Mills	1 m	G. d'Entremont#
21	Camb. (F.P.)	1	J. Barton
26	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#
<b>American Wigeon</b>			
13, 26	Ipswich	66, 64	J. Berry
6	Marston's Mills	43	G. d'Entremont#
12	S. Monomoy	50	W. Petersen#
13	Duxbury	18	C. Sherman
17	GMNWR	19	S. Perkins#
21	Camb. (F.P.)	61	J. Barton
23	P.I.	37	W. Drew#
26	S. Monomoy	50	B. Nikula#
<b>Canvasback</b>			
23-31	Camb. (F.P.)	86 max	J. Barton
27	Lakeville	3	S. Arena
29	Canton	1	R. Finch
<b>Redhead</b>			
6	Edgartown	2	C. Floyd
30	Camb. (F.P.)	1 f	J. Barton
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>			
5, 27	Southboro	150, 300	E. Taylor
13	Lakeville	150	W. Petersen
19	W. Newbury	465	P. + F. Vale
21	Camb. (F.P.)	131	J. Barton
27	Lakeville	230	S. Arena
<b>Tufted Duck</b>			
9-31	Sterling	1 ad m	F. McMenemy
<b>Greater Scaup</b>			
12	Cumb. Farms	40	M. Emmons
12	S. Monomoy	50	W. Petersen#
13	Tuckernuck	14	S. Perkins#
14, 27	Lakeville	140, 55	S. Arena
23	Camb. (F.P.)	9	J. Barton
26	Wakefield	3	P. + F. Vale

<b>Lesser Scaup</b>			
12, 27	Pembroke	30, 80	W. Petersen
12	Lakeville	40	R. Finch
12	S. Monomoy	10	W. Petersen#
20	P.I.	2	R. Lockwood
23, 30	Camb. (F.P.)	1, 3	J. Barton
23	W. Newbury	8	R. Heil
25	Nantucket	40	fide E. Ray
<b>Common Eider</b>			
21	Rockport (A.P.)	2175	R. Heil
27	Nahant	3500	R. Forster
<b>Harlequin Duck</b>			
13	Revere	1m	J. Adamson
14	Nantucket	2f	S. Perkins#
26	Rockport	12	B. Kelliher
27	Fairhaven	1	G. Mock
<b>Oldsquaw</b>			
18	Marshfield	7	D. Clapp
21	Eastham (F.E.)	6	S. Perkins#
27	Chilmark	3	A. Keith#
<b>Black Scoter</b>			
12	Wachusett Res.	5	M. Lynch#
15	Gardner	17	T. Pirrou
21	Provincetown	12	S. Perkins#
21	Rockport (A.P.)	320	R. Heil
<b>Surf Scoter</b>			
9	Eastham (F.E.)	670	R. Heil
12-13	Tuckernuck	250	S. Perkins#
21	Provincetown	1035	S. Perkins#
21	Rockport (A.P.)	4045	R. Heil
27	Duxbury	700	W. Petersen#
<b>White-winged Scoter</b>			
21	Rockport (A.P.)	675	R. Heil
26	Plymouth B.	200+	R. Finch
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>			
18	Marshfield	2	D. Clapp
20	Newburyport	6	R. Lockwood
27	Lincoln	3	M. Pelikan
<b>Bufflehead</b>			
13	Lakeville	3	W. Petersen
19	W. Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale
19	Waltham	2	R. Forster
21	GMNWR	2	R. Lockwood
26	Plymouth B.	13	R. Finch
26	W. Newbury	14	B. Kelliher
27	Lakeville	50	S. Arena
27	Newburyport H.	30	S. Perkins#
27	Westport	72	M. Lynch#
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>			
13, 31	Melrose	1, 7	D. + I. Jewell
17	N. Andover	64	E. Stromsted
19	Newbypt	3	P. + F. Vale
27	Lakeville	5	S. Arena
27	Lincoln	2	M. Pelikan
<b>Common Merganser</b>			
26	W. Newbury	3	B. Kelliher
27	Lincoln	9	M. Pelikan
<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>			
21	Eastham (F.E.)	80	S. Perkins#
21	Provincetown	95	S. Perkins#
21	Rockport (A.P.)	880	R. Heil
<b>Ruddy Duck</b>			
thr	W. Newbury	297 max	v.o.
12, 27	Pembroke	55, 500	W. Petersen#
13, 31	Melrose	2, 30	D. + I. Jewell
11-31	Camb. (F.P.)	43 max	J. Barton
12	Southboro	29	M. Lynch#
26	S. Monomoy	45	B. Nikula#
27	Lakeville	18	S. Arena
29	Canton	44	R. Finch
30	Boston	60	H. Miller
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>			
5	Salisbury	4	R. Heil
12	P.I.	2	P. Vale
16	Charlton	21	M. Lynch#
20	Newbury	3	R. Lockwood
21	Maynard	3	L. Nachtrab
22	N. Dartmouth	21	M. Boucher
27	Westport	8	M. Lynch#
thr	Reports of individuals from 5 loc.		
<b>Osprey</b>			
27	Sterling	2	G. d'Entremont
thr	Reports of individuals from 8 loc.		
<b>Bald Eagle</b>			
6	Lakeville	2 ad	W. Petersen
12	Dedham	1 imm	G. d'Entremont
<b>Northern Harrier</b>			
12	S. Monomoy	10	W. Petersen#
13	Tuckernuck	5	S. Perkins#
20	Newburyport	2	R. Lockwood
26	E. Sandwich	3	S. Arena
27	P.I.	2	S. Perkins#
thr	Reports of individuals from 7 loc.		
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>			
1	Gay Head	10	V. Laux#
5	Quabbin (G40)	9	S. Arena
11	Truro	2	S. Arena
13	P.I.	2	M. Lynch#
13	Hubbardston	3	M. Pelikan
24	N. Brookfield	2	M. Lynch#
28	S. Dart. (A.P.)	7	G. Gove
thr	Reports of individuals from 13 loc.		
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>			
11	Truro	2	S. Arena
16	Belmont	2	C. Floyd
24	Newton	2	H. Miller
24	Warren	2	M. Lynch#
thr	Reports of individuals from 14 loc.		
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>			
12	Cumb. Farms	1	M. Emmons
26	E. Sandwich	1 imm	S. Arena
26	Wayland	2	S. Perkins#
5	Quabbin (G40)	1	S. Arena
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>			
6	Marshfield	2	D. Clapp
10	Boxford	1	J. Brown
10	Needham	2	J. Samelson
24	Newton	1	H. Miller
27	Middleboro	1	S. Arena
27	Lakeville	2	S. Arena
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>			
12	Southboro	8	M. Lynch#
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>			
29	Quincy	1 dk	N. Smith
<b>Golden Eagle</b>			
26	Chilmark	1 juv	A. Keith
<b>American Kestrel</b>			
12-13	Tuckernuck	3	S. Perkins#
<b>Merlin</b>			
2, 30	P.I.	1, 2	C. Ralph
12-13	Tuckernuck	9	S. Perkins#
thr	Reports of individuals from 10 loc.		
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>			
3	Newburyport	3	S. Perkins#
3	Nantucket	2	J. Hoye#
4	P.I.	3 imm	R. Heil
12-13	Tuckernuck	12-15	S. Perkins#
12	S. Monomoy	2	W. Petersen#
19	Rockport	2	M. Lynch#
22	Saugus	2	I. Lynch
26	Chatham (S.B.)	2+	B. Nikula#
thr	Reports of individuals from 13 loc.		



<b>Gyr Falcon</b>	12	Tuckernuck	10	S. Perkins#
23 Wayland	1 dk	S. Arena		
<b>Ruffed Grouse</b>	12	Chatham (S.B.)	30	W. Petersen#
1-31 Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	27	Duxbury B. 13 W. Petersen#
4 Arlington Res.	1	M. Pelikan	27	P.I. 20 S. Perkins#
12 Southboro	2	M. Lynch#	27	Acoaxet 18 M. Lynch#
13 Bolton Flats	1	R. Lockwood		<b>Piping Plover</b>
13 Hubbardston	1	M. Pelikan	6	Chatham (S.B.) 5 B. Blodget
31 Lincoln	2	M. Rines		<b>Killdeer</b>
5 Quabbin (G40)	2	S. Arena	9	Newbury 50 C. Ralph
<b>Wild Turkey</b>			10	Concord (NAC) 46 G. Long
4 Groveland	6	D. Chickering	12	Newbury 40 P. Vale
14 Newbury	6	R. Lockwood	14	Cumb. Farms 90 S. Arena
20 Marshfield	2	L. O'Neil	19	Newbury 32 P. + F. Vale
<b>Northern Bobwhite</b>			21	Katama 55 V. Laux#
5 Eastham (F. H.)	14	G. d'Entremont#	23	Newbury 30 R. Heil
14 Truro	4	B. Parker	26	Wakefield 18 P. + F. Vale
15 Newton	7	H. Miller		<b>American Oystercatcher</b>
<b>Sora</b>			6	Chatham (S.B.) 52 B. Blodget
3 W. Harwich	1	S. + E. Miller	20	Edgartown 11 V. Laux
6 Barnstable	1	D. Brown#	26	Monomoy 62 B. Nikula#
17 GMNWR	2	S. Perkins#		<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>
17 Dorchester	3	R. Donovan#	7, 28	P.I. 161, 37 W. Drew#
<b>Purple Gallinule</b>			13, 26	Rowley 43, 14 J. Berry
1 Marblehead	1 imm	v.o.	5	Eastham (F.E.) 25 G. d'Entremont#
17-18 Rockport	1 imm D. + M. Barnett + v.o.		6	Barnstable 25 G. d'Entremont#
<b>Common Moorhen</b>			26	Newburyport 18 J. Berry
7 P.I.	1	D. + I. Jewell	27	Provincetown 12 G. d'Entremont#
26 GMNWR	1	G. d'Entremont#	27	Newburyport H. 40 S. Perkins#
29 Nantucket	1	E. Ray		<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>
<b>American Coot</b>			5	WBWS 3 G. d'Entremont#
5 P.I.	1	R. Lockwood	5	Newburyport 14 R. Heil
6 GMNWR	5	M. Partridge	13	Cumb. Farms 11 R. Finch
11-31 Camb. (F.P.)	7 max	J. Barton	23	Newbury 2 R. Heil
12 S. Monomoy	5	W. Petersen#	27	P.I. 2 S. Perkins#
17 GMNWR	40	S. Perkins#		<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>
23 W. Newbury	11	R. Heil	4	Truro 1 J. Hoye#
24 Lincoln	5	M. Rines	5	Eastham (F. H.) 1 S. Miller#
27 Waltham	15	M. Pelikan	6	Barnstable 1 G. d'Entremont#
27 P.I.	67	D. Chickering	9	Lexington 1 M. Rines
30 Boston	15	H. Miller	12	Cumb. Farms 2 M. Emmons
<b>Sandhill Crane</b>			13	E. Bridgewater 1 W. Petersen
14 Cumb. Farms	1	S. Arena	15	Marblehead 1 R. Heil
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>			19	Newbury 1 E. Tarry
1-31 N. Monomoy	650 max	B. Nikula	21	Provincetown 1 S. Perkins#
12 Chatham (S.B.)	1800	W. Petersen#		<b>Willet</b>
14 Cumb. Farms	70	S. Arena	13; 27	N. Monomoy 4; 2 B. Nikula
15 Dennis	365	K. Hamilton#		<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>
20 Edgartown	550	V. Laux	13	Arlington Res. 2 J. Center
21 Ipswich	900	R. Heil		<b>Whimbrel</b>
23 Newbury	500+	R. Heil	7	P.I. 4 W. Drew#
25 Plymouth	200	W. Petersen#	13	Chappaquiddick 1 A. Keith#
<b>American Golden-Plover</b>			<b>Hudsonian Godwit</b>	
9, 21 Katama	14, 14	V. Laux#	23, 28	P.I. 12, 8 W. Drew#
3 Middleboro	6	K. Anderson	13; 27	N. Monomoy 1 B. Nikula
6 S. Dart. (A.P.)	1	S. Perkins#	14	Ipswich 1 J. Berry
8 Mahspee	1	S. + E. Miller	23	Newbury 3 R. Heil
12-13 Tuckernuck	2	S. Perkins#	25	Plymouth 1 W. Petersen#
13 Ipswich	2	I. Lynch#	26	Rowley 4 D. Chickering
14 Cumb. Farms	2	S. Arena	27	Nantucket 1 juv fide E. Ray
17 Concord (NAC)	1	R. Forster		<b>Bar-tailed Godwit</b>
20 P.I.	4	R. Lockwood	19	S. Boston 1 R. Donovan
20 Edgartown	14	V. Laux		<b>Marbled Godwit</b>
21 Ipswich	4	R. Heil	13, 27	N. Monomoy 3, 4 B. Nikula
23 Newbury	15	R. Heil		<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>
27 Acoaxet	1 juv	M. Lynch#	25	Plymouth 5 W. Petersen#
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>			27	Provincetown 14 H. D'Entremont#
7, 28 P.I.	23, 2	W. Drew#		<b>Red Knot</b>
1-31 N. Monomoy	100 max	B. Nikula	5	Newburyport 5 R. Heil
4-12 Arlington Res.	1-3	M. Pelikan	12	Chatham (S.B.) 20 W. Petersen#
5 Newburyport	60	R. Heil	23	P.I. 44 W. Drew#
			25	Plymouth 5 W. Petersen#

<b>Sanderling</b>				6	Arlington Res.	6	M. Rines#
1-31	N. Monomoy	1000 max	B. Nikula	10	Lincoln	3	M. Rines
5	Provincetown	25	G. d'Entremont#	12	S. Monomoy	10	W. Petersen#
5	Eastham (F. E.)	5	G. d'Entremont#	14	Cumb. Farms	11	S. Arena
6	Barnstable	20	G. d'Entremont#	23	Newbury	24	R. Heil
15	Dennis	1200	K. Hamilton	31	Revere	10	R. Cressman
<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>				31	E. Boston	7	R. Cressman
7, 28	P.I.	35, 4	W. Drew#	<b>American Woodcock</b>			
5	Newburyport	310	R. Heil	6	GMNWR	1	M. Partridge
12	Chatham (S.B.)	60	W. Petersen#	13	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#
13	N. Monomoy	40	B. Nikula	26	Mt. A.	1	R. Stymeist
27	Duxbury B.	12	W. Petersen#	<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>			
27	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#	9	Eastham (F.E.)	2	R. Heil
<b>Western Sandpiper</b>				<b>Red Phalarope</b>			
5	Eastham (F. E.)	2	G. d'Entremont#	9	Eastham (F.E.)	3	R. Heil
12	Chatham (S.B.)	2	W. Petersen#	21	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan#
14	Cumb. Farms	8	S. Arena	21	Katama	1	L. McDowell#
<b>Least Sandpiper</b>				26	Rockport	4	B. Kelliher
6	S. Dart. (A.P.)	1	S. Perkins#	<b>Pomarine Jaeger</b>			
9	Newbury	1	C. Ralph	2	Nantucket	2	J. Hoye#
<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>				9	Eastham (F.E.)	26	R. Heil
5	Eastham (F.E.)	2	G. d'Entremont#	15	Dennis	1	K. Hamilton
9	Truro	60	R. Heil	19	Rockport	2	D. Brown#
12	Chatham (S.B.)	50	W. Petersen#	20	Manomet	3	G. d'Entremont
13	Cumb. Farms	9	R. Finch	20	Barnstable (S.N.)	9	S. Arena
13	Arlington Res.	1	J. Center	21	Rockport (A.P.)	16	R. Heil
13, 27	N. Monomoy	45, 5	B. Nikula	26	Stellwagen	2	C. Floyd
14	P.I.	10	R. Lockwood	27	P'town (R.P.)	1	G. d'Entremont
21	Katama	17	V. Laux#	<b>Parasitic Jaeger</b>			
27	Duxbury B.	3	W. Petersen#	9	Eastham (F.E.)	6	R. Heil
<b>Baird's Sandpiper</b>				13	Tuckernuck	3	S. Perkins#
10	Concord (NAC)	1	G. Long	19	M.V.	2	A. Keith#
20	Newbury	1	R. Lockwood	20	Manomet	1	G. d'Entremont
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b>				20	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	S. Arena
1-12	Arlington Res.	1-2	M. Pelikan	21	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil
5	WBWS	1	G. d'Entremont#	26	Stellwagen	1	C. Floyd
12-13	Tuckernuck	5	R. Veit#	27	Provincetown (R.P.)	1	G. d'Entremont#
13	N. Monomoy	30	B. Nikula	<b>Jaeger species</b>			
14	Cumb. Farms	30	S. Arena	13	Tuckernuck	1	S. Perkins#
20	Edgartown	4	V. Laux	26	Stellwagen	3	C. Floyd
21	Ipswich	4	R. Heil	<b>Laughing Gull</b>			
21	Provincetown	9	S. Perkins#	5, 27	Acoaxet	111, 18	M. Lynch#
23	Newbury	12	R. Heil	6	S. Dart. (A.P.)	50	S. Perkins#
27	Truro	1	G. d'Entremont#	13	Tuckernuck	200+	R. Veit#
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>				14	Nantucket	130+	S. Perkins#
31	Dennis	20	S. + E. Miller	21	Eastham (F.E.)	18	S. Perkins#
21	Rockport (A.P.)			21	Rockport (A.P.)	7	R. Heil
<b>Dunlin</b>				<b>Little Gull</b>			
thr	N. Monomoy	700 max	B. Nikula	6	S. Dart. (A.P.)	1 juv	S. Perkins#
5	Newburyport	370	R. Heil	7	Newburyport	1	B. Parker
6	S. Dart. (A.P.)	30	S. Perkins#	<b>Black-headed Gull</b>			
12	Chatham (S.B.)	1000	W. Petersen#	14	Newburyport H.	1 ad	J. Hoye#
13	Cumb. Farms	2	R. Finch	20	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan
15	Dennis	450	K. Hamilton	21	Ipswich	1	R. Heil
26	Ipswich	47	J. Berry	25	Plymouth	1 1W	W. Petersen#
27	Newburyport H.	400+	S. Perkins#	27	Winthrop	2 ad	R. Stymeist#
<b>Stilt Sandpiper</b>				27	P'town (R.P.)	1	G. d'Entremont
2	Newbury	2	K. Disney	27	Lynn	1 1W	J. Quigley
<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>				<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>			
5	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#	5	Newburyport	500+	R. Heil
5	Newburyport H.	1 juv	R. Heil	<b>Wing Gull</b>			
13	Tuckernuck	2 juv	S. Perkins#	20-21	Katama	1 1W ph	V. Laux + v.o.
20	Edgartown	1 juv	V. Laux	<b>Iceland Gull</b>			
21	Eastham (F.E.)	5	S. Perkins#	19	Gloucester	1 ad	D. Brown#
21	Katama	2	V. Laux#	21	Rockport (A.P.)	1 1W	R. Heil
27	P.I.	2	S. Perkins#	26	Concord	1 1W	G. d'Entremont#
<b>Long-billed Dowitcher</b>				<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>			
5	Eastham (F. E.)	1	G. d'Entremont#	7, 15	Gardner	1 ad	T. Pirrou
21	Katama	1	V. Laux#	9	Provincetown	1 ad	R. Heil
27	P.I.	12	S. Perkins#	15	Dennis	1 ad	K. Hamilton
<b>Common Snipe</b>				15	Concord	1	C. Paine
5	WBWS	2	G. d'Entremont#				

19	Rockport (H.P.)	1 ad	M. Lynch#	5	Barnstable	2	G. d'Entremont#
20	Katama	2	V. Laux#	13	Marshfield	1	D. Clapp
20	Gloucester	1	fide J. Soucy	16	Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab
27	Lynn	1	J. Quigley	22	Newton	1	H. Miller
Glaucous Gull				23	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell
23	Newburyport	1 1W	R. Heil	Snowy Owl			
Black-legged Kittiwake				26	Logan	1	N. Smith
9	Eastham (F.E.)	24	R. Heil	29	Duxbury	1	N. Smith
21	Rockport (A.P.)	4260	R. Heil	Barred Owl			
21	Provincetown	76	S. Perkins#	6	Wayland	2	M. Pelikan
Caspian Tern				24	Weston	1	D. Lange#
5	N. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula	Short-eared Owl			
5	Chilmark	4	V. Laux#	10	N. Monomoy	1	J. Sones#
5	Edgartown	2	C. Floyd	<b>Boreal Owl</b>			
5	Westport	1	M. Lynch#	23	Weston	1	D. Morimoto#
Common Tern				26	MNWS	1	J. Smith
3	P.I.	1	S. Perkins#	31	Newton	1 ph	K. Sheppard + v.o.
6	S. Dart. (A.P.)	50	S. Perkins#	Northern Saw-whet Owl			
9	Eastham (F.E.)	1130	R. Heil	9	Brookline	1	H. Wiggin#
21	Provincetown	225	S. Perkins#	27	Wayland	1	J. Wood
25	Plymouth	2	W. Petersen#	27	Weston	1	D. Lange#
26	Stellwagen	200+	C. Floyd	Common Nighthawk			
Forster's Tern				7	Mt.A.	1	J. Heywood
3	Newburyport	1	S. Perkins#	Chimney Swift			
5	Westport	1	M. Lynch#	2	W. Newbury	1	BBC (S. Grinley)
6	S. Dart. (A.P.)	2	S. Perkins#	Hummingbird species			
9	Eastham (F.E.)	2	R. Heil	4	P.I.	1	R. Heil
25	Plymouth	1	W. Petersen#	Belted Kingfisher			
Razorbill				12	Wachusett Res.	4	M. Lynch#
21	Rockport (A.P.)	16	R. Heil	Red-headed Woodpecker			
21	Provincetown	5	S. Perkins#	1-31	Sherborn	2 ad	E. Taylor
Black Guillemot				12	Northboro	1 imm	S. Arena
18	Gloucester	1	M. Rines	23	Wayland	1	R. Forster#
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				Red-bellied Woodpecker			
23	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan	18	Northboro	2	A. Boover
25	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray	21	Concord	2	R. Lockwood
Barn Owl				thr Reports of individuals from 9 loc.			
13	M.V.	2	SSBC (D. Clapp)	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
Eastern Screech-Owl				4	Marblehead	2	D. Chickering
5	Scituate	1	W. Petersen	4	P.I.	10	R. Heil
13	Marshfield	1	D. Clapp	17	Boxford	2	K. Disney
24	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	thr Reports of individuals from 11 loc.			
26	MNWS	1	J. Smith#	Pileated Woodpecker			
27	Rockport (H.P.)	1	S. Perkins#	5	Boxford	1	D. + I. Jewell
29	Stoneham	1	D. + I. Jewell	24	Warren	1	M. Lynch#
6	S. Plymouth	2	S. Arena	26	Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted
Great Horned Owl				6	Lincoln	1	R. Lockwood
1-31	Ipswich	4 max	J. Berry				

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

Only one Western Kingbird was reported, although the report of a very late Eastern Kingbird on October 22 on Nantucket was probably more unusual. Large flocks of Tree Swallows lingered through midmonth, especially on Cape Cod and the Island, where numbers reached in the thousands. Late reports of Northern Rough-winged and Barn swallows are becoming regular from the Sudbury River Valley. A **Sedge Wren**, carefully studied in the Neponset Marsh in Dorchester, was only one of a series of interesting reports from this area in October. Both species of kinglet began moving in earnest during the month.

Last year in October we were already seeing signs of a major invasion of Northern Shrikes, but the single October report this year suggests we are not in for any similar invasion. Twenty nine-species of warbler were reported, with the highlight being a **MacGillivray's Warbler** carefully studied at close range for 20 minutes in West Newbury. Other less common warbler sightings included 13 Orange-crowned, 1 Worm-eating, 1 Hooded and 11 reports of Yellow-breasted Chat.

It was a good October for the seed eaters, with four Blue Grosbeaks, four Dickcissels, thirteen Clay-colored Sparrows, two Lark Sparrows and good numbers of Lincoln's Sparrows tallied. The splitters were busy identifying both Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sharp-tailed sparrows, but could only find the usual Baltimore Oriole. The winter finch flight was not promising, with just a scattering of reports of Pine Siskins, mostly single individuals.

R. H. S.

Eastern Wood-Pewee			4	Belmont	4	M. Rines	
5	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood	5	N. Scituate	2	W. Petersen
5	WBWS	1	G. d'Entremont#	12	Tuckernuck	2	S. Perkins#
12	Tuckernuck	2	S. Perkins#	17	Lexington	1	M. Rines
15	Gay Head	1	G. Daniels#	27	Gay Head	2	G. Daniels#
Least Flycatcher				Winter Wren			
5	Truro	1	G. d'Entremont#	11	Eastham (F.H.)	2	S. Arena
Empidonax species				12-13	Tuckernuck	6	R. Veit#
4	P.I.	1	R. Heil	13	Hubbardston	2	M. Pelikan
4	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#	24	Wayland	2	S. Arena
27	Rockport (H.P.)	1	S. Perkins#	26-27	Mt. A.	4	R. Stymeist
Eastern Phoebe				thr	Reports of individuals from 11 loc.		
4	P.I.	19	R. Heil	Sedge Wren			
5	P.I.	10	R. Lockwood	1	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
12	Salem	5	BBC (I. Lynch)	Marsh Wren			
24	N. Brookfield	4	M. Lynch#	1	Dorchester	7	R. Donovan
25	Belmont	1	H. D'Entremont#	4	P.I.	4	R. Heil
26	Medford	2	M. Rines	5	N. Scituate	1	W. Petersen
6	Concord	2	R. Lockwood	13	Cumb. Farms	3	R. Finch
Western Kingbird				Golden-crowned Kinglet			
2	Westport	1	C. Paine	5	Provincetown	6	G. d'Entremont#
Eastern Kingbird				5	P.I.	50	R. Lockwood
21	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray	5	N. Scituate	10	W. Petersen
Horned Lark				12-13	Tuckernuck	6	T. Maloney#
5	Eastham (F. E.)	5	G. d'Entremont#	17	Lexington	3	M. Rines
12	Cumb. Farms	8	M. Emmons	18	Gloucester	15	M. Rines
23	Brookline	14	N. Komar	26	Mt. A.	12	R. Stymeist
28	Duxbury B.	2	D. Furbish	27	Salisbury	5	P. + F. Vale
Tree Swallow				27	Rockport (H.P.)	5	T. Maloney#
5	Provincetown	500	G. d'Entremont#	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
5	Truro	500	G. d'Entremont#	4	P.I.	16	R. Heil
5	Scituate	300	W. Petersen	5	Provincetown	8	G. d'Entremont#
9	Truro	8500	R. Heil	5	N. Scituate	20	W. Petersen
10	Bridgewater	250	D. Clapp	5	Rockport (H.P.)	7	S. Perkins#
12-13	Tuckernuck	500	R. Veit#	6	Rutland	16	M. Lynch#
12	S. Monomoy	8000	W. Petersen#	7	Worcester	14	M. Lynch#
13	Chappaquiddick	8500	G. Daniels#	12-13	Tuckernuck	11	S. Perkins#
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				26	Medford	13	M. Rines
6	Wayland	13	L. Nachtrab	Eastern Bluebird			
Barn Swallow				5	S. Peabody	6	R. Heil
9, 13	Wayland	6, 1	R. Forster	6	Barnstable	6	G. d'Entremont#
5	Truro	10	G. d'Entremont#	6	Carlisle	14	D. Brownrigg
Blue Jay				11	Westford	24	J. Brazeau
5	Westport	138	migr M. Lynch#	17	Boxford	7	K. Disney
American Crow				21	N. Dartmouth	8	M. Boucher
6	Marshfield	328	D. Clapp	25	Worc. (BMB)	6	M. Lynch#
17	Middleboro	200+	K. Anderson	thr	Reports of 1-5 indiv. from 12 loc.		
26	Wakefield	10	P. + F. Vale	Swainson's Thrush			
Fish Crow				3	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#
23	Brookline	6+	N. Komar	4	MNWS	4	D. Chickering
30	Marshfield	4	D. Furbish	4	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
Common Raven				4	P.I.	2	R. Heil
11	Quincy	1	N. Smith	5	Truro	1	G. d'Entremont#
12	Wachusett Res.	1	M. Lynch#	5	N. Scituate	2	W. Petersen
26	Barre	1	M. Lynch#	12	Northboro	8	S. Arena
Red-breasted Nuthatch				12	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#
6	Rutland	8	M. Lynch#	5	Quabbin (G40)	2	S. Arena
13	Hubbardston	5	M. Pelikan	Hermit Thrush			
Brown Creeper				5	Rockport (H.P.)	8	S. Perkins#
4	P.I.	2	R. Heil	6	Rutland	17	M. Lynch#
5	Provincetown	3	D. Brown#	7	Worcester	17	M. Lynch#
6	Rutland	5	M. Lynch#	13	Hubbardston	5	M. Pelikan
11	Winchester	2	M. Rines	14	P.I.	5	R. Lockwood
21	Concord	6	R. Lockwood	17	Lexington	10	M. Rines
26	Medford	3	M. Rines	26	Mt. A.	7	R. Stymeist
27	Weston	7	M. Rines#	26	Medford	12	M. Rines
Carolina Wren				27	Weston	5	M. Rines#
5	Lincoln	1	M. Rines	27	MNWS	5	J. Berry
7	Worc. (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#	thr	Reports of 1-4 indiv. from 14 loc.		
17	Weston	1	M. Rines	Wood Thrush			
House Wren				4	Ipswich	1	J. Berry

Wood Thrush (continued)				Orange-crowned Warbler			
6	Chilmark	1	A. Keith	3	Lynn	1	S. Perkins#
13	Tuckernuck	1	S. Perkins#	5	Truro	1	D. Brown
American Robin				12	Needham	1	J. Hoye#
9	Marshfield	165	D. Clapp	13	Gay Head	2	V. Laux#
21	Brookline	1400+	N. Komar	14	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
25	Worc. (BMB)	323	M. Lynch#	15	Chilmark	1	A. Keith
Gray Catbird				19	MNWS	1	J. Smith
7, 25	Worc. (BMB)	20, 2	M. Lynch#	22	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan
19	Rockport	1	G. d'Entremont	25	Lexington	1	C. Floyd
26	MNWS	1	M. Rines	26	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#
27	Lakeville	1	S. Arena	27	Provincetown	1	G. d'Entremont#
Brown Thrasher				27	Truro	1	G. d'Entremont#
2	Nantucket	2	J. Hoye#	Nashville Warbler			
5	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood	4	P.I.	7	R. Heil
5, 27	Rockport (H.P.)	2, 1	S. Perkins#	4	MNWS	4	D. Chickering
6	Barnstable	1	G. d'Entremont#	4, 25	Newton	3, 1	H. Miller
12	Tuckernuck	1	S. Perkins#	5	N. Scituate	5	W. Petersen
6	Concord	1	R. Lockwood	12, 27	Gay Head	3, 1	A. Keith#
American Pipit				12	Tuckernuck	2	S. Perkins#
6	Barnstable	40	D. Brown#	13	Cumb. Farms	1	R. Finch
10	Concord (NAC)	9	G. Long	29	Lexington	1	C. Floyd
12-13	Tuckernuck	50+	T. Maloney#	Northern Parula			
14	Cumb. Farms	140	S. Arena	5	N. Scituate	2	W. Petersen
16	Charlton	12	M. Lynch#	7	Worc. (BMB)	11	M. Lynch#
17	Dorchester	40	R. Donovan#	11	Eastham (F.H.)	2	S. Arena
17	Groton	50	T. Pirrou	12	Tuckernuck	2	T. Maloney#
21	Katama	45	A. Keith	18	M.V. (Nomans)	1	A. Keith#
23	Newbury	140	R. Heil	27	WBWS	1	G. d'Entremont#
27	P.I.	38	S. Perkins#	6	S. Plymouth	1	S. Arena
Cedar Waxwing				Yellow Warbler			
5	Truro	30	G. d'Entremont#	4	P.I.	1	R. Heil
12	Tuckernuck	50	S. Perkins#	6	Barnstable	1	G. d'Entremont#
26	GMNWR	25+	G. d'Entremont	Chestnut-sided Warbler			
Northern Shrike				4	Nahant	2	L. Pivacek
27	Salisbury	1	N. Clayton	5	Provincetown	1	immG. d'Entremont#
White-eyed Vireo				5	N. Scituate	1	W. Petersen
6	S. Plymouth	1	imm	12	Tuckernuck	1	S. Perkins#
12	Ipswich	1	imm	13	P.I.	2	M. Lynch#
13	Chappaquiddick	1	D. Williams	Magnolia Warbler			
Solitary Vireo				1	Nantucket	2	J. Hoye#
4	P.I.	7	R. Heil	4	Nahant	4	L. Pivacek
5	N. Scituate	4	W. Petersen	4	P.I.	7	R. Heil
6	Rutland	10	M. Lynch#	5	Provincetown	3	G. d'Entremont#
11	Truro	4	S. Arena	5	N. Scituate	5	W. Petersen
12	Tuckernuck	3	S. Perkins#	13	Chappaquiddick	2	A. Keith#
26	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	27	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan
26	MNWS	1	M. Rines	Cape May Warbler			
27	Lexington	1	M. Rines	14	Gay Head	5	V. Laux#
27	Westport	1	M. Lynch#	5	Quabbin (G40)	1	S. Arena
Philadelphia Vireo				Black-throated Blue Warbler			
1	Belmont	1	C. Floyd	4	P.I.	8	R. Heil
2	Newton	1	H. Miller	4	Truro	4	J. Hoye#
4	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	5	P.I.	5	R. Lockwood
4	P.I.	3	R. Heil	5	Provincetown	3	G. d'Entremont#
17	Lexington	1	M. Rines	5	N. Scituate	4	W. Petersen
Red-eyed Vireo				12	Tuckernuck	3	T. Maloney#
4	P.I.	19	R. Heil	12	Southboro	3	M. Lynch#
5	Lincoln	3	M. Rines#	19	Gloucester	1	fG. d'Entremont#
9	Truro	8	R. Heil	19	P.I.	1	M. Partridge
11	Eastham (F.H.)	9	S. Arena	27	Rockport (H.P.)	1	T. Maloney#
13	MNWS	10	P. + F. Vale	Yellow-rumped Warbler			
Blue-winged Warbler				4	P.I.	300	R. Heil
4	Truro	1	A. McCarthy	6	Rutland	108	M. Lynch#
Tennessee Warbler				10	Lincoln	225	M. Rines
4	P.I.	2	R. Heil	11	Westport	140	J. Hoye#
4	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	11	Truro	300	S. Arena
5	N. Scituate	1	W. Petersen	12-13	Tuckernuck	700	S. Perkins#
5	Brookline	1	H. Wiggin	12-13	Ipswich	250	J. Berry
6	Chilmark	1	A. Keith	12	P.I.	500	R. Forster#
12	S. Monomoy	2	W. Petersen#	12	Salisbury	900	R. Forster#

Yellow-rumped Warbler (continued)				12 Ipswich	5	J. Berry
13 P.I.	700	M. Lynch#		14 Cumb. Farms	5	S. Arena
26 Mt. A.	55	R. Stymeist		27 Lakeville	1	W. Petersen
Black-throated Green Warbler				Hooded Warbler		
1 Nantucket	3	J. Hoye#		13 P.I.	1 m	J. Liller#
4 P.I.	28	R. Heil		Wilson's Warbler		
5 Rockport (H.P.)	2	S. Perkins#		3 Weston	1	M. Rines
12-13 Tuckernuck	14	S. Perkins#		4, 17 Lexington	1, 1	M. Rines
Blackburnian Warbler				5 Truro	1	G. d'Entremont#
4 MNWS	1	D. Chickering		5 N. Scituate	1	W. Petersen
5 Lincoln	1	M. Rines#		12 Tuckernuck	1	S. Perkins#
Pine Warbler				Canada Warbler		
6 Rutland	16	M. Lynch#		5 Provincetown	1	G. d'Entremont#
11 Truro	5	S. Arena		5 N. Scituate	1	W. Petersen
12 Lakeville	2	M. Emmons		Yellow-breasted Chat		
12 Tuckernuck	2	S. Perkins#		5 Gay Head	1	C. Floyd
17 Pepperel	6	E. Stromsted		7 Cuttyhunk	1	F. Thurber#
24 Weston	1	M. Rines		10 Chatham	1 dead	R. Clem
27 Salisbury	1	P. + F. Vale		11 Eastham (F.H.)	2	S. Arena
Palm Warbler				12 Salisbury	1	J. Hoye
4 Lexington	8	M. Rines		13 Westport	1	M. Boucher#
5 Rockport (H.P.)	7	S. Perkins#		13 Gay Head	1	V. Laux#
6 Sandwich	7	G. d'Entremont#		13 Chilmark	1	A. Keith#
11 Truro	12	S. Arena		13 Westport	1	M. Boucher
11 Eastham (F.H.)	8	S. Arena		14 W. Roxbury	1	D. Sandee
12-13 Tuckernuck	26	R. Veit#		Scarlet Tanager		
13 Hubbardston	6	M. Pelikan		5 Belmont	1	M. Pelikan
17, 24 Weston	9, 3	M. Rines		5 Mt. A.	1	R. Stymeist#
25 Worc. (BMB)	8	M. Lynch#		7 Worc. (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#
27 Truro	4	G. d'Entremont#		12 Tuckernuck	1	S. Perkins#
Bay-breasted Warbler				13 Medford	1	M. Rines
4 P.I.	2	R. Heil		Northern Cardinal		
4 Nahant	3	L. Pivacek		26 S. Monomoy	4	B. Nikula#
5 Truro	1	imm mG. d'Entremont#		Rose-breasted Grosbeak		
5 Quabbin (G40)	1	S. Arena		5 Newton	2	H. Miller
Blackpoll Warbler				5 WBWS	1	J. Hoye#
6 Rutland	10	M. Lynch#		11 Chatham (MI)	3	W. Bailey
7 Worc. (BMB)	38	M. Lynch#		Blue Grosbeak		
12-13 Tuckernuck	24	T. Maloney#		7 Wayland	1	E. Salmela
26 Boston	1	C. Lee		14 Truro	1	B. Parker
27 Wellfleet	3	G. d'Entremont#		18 Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
Black-and-white Warbler				24 Belmont	1	C. Floyd
2 Bedford	1	M. Rines		Indigo Bunting		
4 Nahant	3	L. Pivacek		1, 13 Gay Head	8, 1	V. Laux#
5 Rockport (H.P.)	1	S. Perkins#		5, 27 Truro	2	G. d'Entremont#
13 P.I.	2	M. Lynch#		1 Concord (NAC)	5	S. Perkins
16 Watertown	1	R. Stymeist		4 Belmont	6	M. Rines
American Redstart				4 P.I.	2	R. Heil
4 Provincetown	2	J. Hoye#		5 Lincoln	4	M. Rines#
5 WBWS	2	G. d'Entremont#		5 Truro	2	J. Hoye#
11 Westport	2	J. Hoye#		7 Marshfield	7	D. Clapp
12 Tuckernuck	1	T. Maloney#		11 Truro	7	S. Arena
13 Medford	1	M. Rines		12-13 Tuckernuck	3	R. Veit#
28 S. Boston	1	R. Donovan		18 Gloucester	1	M. Rines
Worm-eating Warbler				18 Newton	1	R. Forster
12 Tuckernuck	1	T. Maloney#		Dickcissel		
Ovenbird				5 S. Peabody	1	R. Heil
4 MNWS	2	D. Chickering		5-7 Belmont	1	M. Pelikan + v.o.
5 Newburyport	1	D. Chickering		9 Marshfield	1	D. Clapp
Northern Waterthrush				11 Eastham (F.H.)	1	S. Arena
5 Provincetown	1	G. d'Entremont#		12 Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
5 Gay Head	1	V. Laux#		12 S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#
Mourning Warbler				13 Cumb. Farms	1	M. Rines
12 P.I.	1	R. Forster		16 Belmont	1	C. Floyd
MacGillivray's Warbler				16 Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller
14 W. Newbury	1	R. Heil		17 Groton	1	T. Pirrou
Common Yellowthroat				23 Newburyport	2	R. Heil
1 Nantucket	10	J. Hoye#		26 E. Sandwich	1	S. Arena
5 N. Scituate	18	W. Petersen		27 Gay Head	1	A. Keith
11 Truro	9	S. Arena		Eastern Towhee		
12-13 Tuckernuck	21	S. Perkins#		5 Provincetown	7	G. d'Entremont#

Eastern Towhee (continued)			31	S. Dart. (A.P.)	2	G. Gove
5	Truro	2	G. d'Entremont#	Grasshopper Sparrow		
12	Cumb. Farms	2	M. Emmons	5 Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
12	Southboro	5	M. Lynch#	6 Gay Head	1 juv	C. Floyd
13	P.I.	5	M. Lynch#	11 Truro	1	S. Arena
26	E. Sandwich	1	S. Arena	22 Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
26	Medford	1	M. Rines	Sharp-tailed Sparrow		
American Tree Sparrow			13 Tuckernuck	5		R. Veit#
5	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	26 Eastham (F.H.)	9	S. Arena
25	Waltham	1	M. Rines	30 S. Dart. (A.P.)	27	G. Gove
26	Rowley	1	J. Berry	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow		
27	Wayland	10	M. Pelikan	13 Tuckernuck	2	R. Veit#
30	P.I.	2	C. Ralph	13 P.I.	4	M. Lynch#
Chipping Sparrow			17 S. Dart. (A.Pd)	7		LCES (J. Hill)
2	Newton	50	H. Miller	26 Eastham (F.H.)	8	S. Arena
4	Wellfleet	50	J. Hoye#	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow		
4	P.I.	54	R. Heil	1 Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller
5	S. Peabody	36	R. Heil	7 Bolton	1	E. Salmela
11	Truro	60	S. Arena	13 P.I.	1	M. Lynch#
11	Newton	65	R. Forster	13 Chappaquiddick	3	A. Keith#
20	Natick	25	E. Taylor	Seaside Sparrow		
26	Malden	1	P. + F. Vale	13 P.I.	2	M. Lynch#
27	Truro	1	G. d'Entremont#	18 Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
Clay-colored Sparrow			27 Fox Sparrow			
4	Provincetown	1	J. Hoye#	27 Bedford	1	M. Rines
4	P.I.	1	R. Heil	27 Lexington	1	M. Rines
5	Wellfleet	1 ad	S. Miller#	27 Wayland	3	M. Pelikan
5	Gay Head	1	C. Floyd	Song Sparrow		
5	Scituate	1	W. Petersen	4 P.I.	90	R. Heil
6	Sandwich	1 ad	G. d'Entremont	5 Scituate	75+	W. Petersen
11	Truro	2	S. Arena	13 Cumb. Farms	100+	R. Finch
12	Tuckernuck	1	R. Veit#	26 E. Sandwich	65	S. Arena
12	Newton	1	A. McCarthy	Lincoln's Sparrow		
12	Squibnocket	1	A. Keith#	1 Concord (NAC)	2	S. Perkins
28	Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller	3 Weston	2	M. Rines
30	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan#	4 P.I.	4	R. Heil
Field Sparrow			5 Rockport (H.P.)	2		S. Perkins#
8	Wakefield	7	D. + I. Jewell	6 Wayland	4	M. Pelikan
10	Bridgewater	6	D. Clapp	9 Truro	7	R. Heil
11	S. Dartmouth	8	A. McCarthy	12 Salem	2	BBC (I. Lynch)
11	Truro	12	S. Arena	12 Newton	3	G. d'Entremont#
12	Bolton Flats	3	M. Rines	12 Bolton Flats	3	M. Rines
14	P.I.	2	R. Lockwood	12 Ipswich	3	J. Berry
17	Lexington	4	M. Rines	17 Belmont	2	C. Floyd
18	Newton	5	R. Forster	25 Worc. (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#
23	Dorchester	9	R. Donovan	26 E. Sandwich	1	S. Arena
26	E. Sandwich	5	S. Arena	1-17		Reports of individuals from 12 loc.
26	Medford	2	M. Rines	Swamp Sparrow		
Vesper Sparrow			6 Wayland	22		M. Pelikan
5	Wellfleet	2	G. d'Entremont#	11 Truro	60	S. Arena
5	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood	14 Cumb. Farms	60	S. Arena
6	Sandwich	2	G. d'Entremont#	18 N. Brookfield	28	M. Lynch#
7	Wayland	1	E. Salmela	25 Worc. (BMB)	52	M. Lynch#
10	Squantum	1	M. Rines	26 E. Sandwich	35	S. Arena
15	S. Peabody	1	R. Heil	White-throated Sparrow		
27	Pepperell	6	E. Stromsted	4 P.I.	210	R. Heil
Lark Sparrow			5 N. Scituate	100+		W. Petersen
2	Newton	1	H. Miller + v.o.	7 Worc. (BMB)	74	M. Lynch#
21	Eastham (F.E.)	1	S. Perkins#	9 Truro	60	R. Heil
Savannah Sparrow			12 Southboro	70		M. Lynch#
1	Concord (NAC)	75	S. Perkins	26 Mt. A.	110	R. Stymiest
4	P.I.	165	R. Heil	26 Medford	51	M. Rines
6	Sandwich	250	G. d'Entremont#	White-crowned Sparrow		
6	Wayland	40	M. Pelikan	1 Gay Head	6	V. Laux#
12	Cumb. Farms	75+	M. Emmons	4 P.I.	11 imm	R. Heil
13	Tuckernuck	30	R. Veit#	9 Truro	9 imm	R. Heil
26	E. Sandwich	40	S. Arena	12-13 Tuckernuck	7	S. Perkins#
Ipswich Sparrow			18 N. Brookfield	10		M. Lynch#
12, 26	Salisbury	1, 4	R. Forster	25 Nantucket	5	fide E. Ray
13	Westport	1	M. Boucher	26 S. Monomoy	6	B. Nikula#
13	Tuckernuck	3	R. Veit#	thr		Reports of 1-3 indiv. from 28 loc.

				9	DWWS	7	D. Clapp
				12	Sterling	30	M. Lynch#
				12	Bedford	3	M. Rines
				14	Boxford	3-4	J. Brown#
				23	Lexington	50	M. Rines
				25	Newton	3	H. Miller
				25	Weston	15	M. Rines#
				26	Pepperell	3	E. Stromsted
				26	Framingham	15	S. Perkins#
				27	Middleboro	20	S. Arena
				Common Grackle			
				22	Marshfield	1600	D. Furbish
				25	Worc. (BMB)	400	M. Lynch#
				25	Hanson	7000	W. Petersen
				Brown-headed Cowbird			
				5	Rowley	200	R. Heil
				12	Cumb. Farms	1100	M. Emmons
				24	Acton	150	R. Forster
				27	Westport	450	M. Lynch#
				Baltimore Oriole			
				1	Concord (NAC)	1	S. Perkins
				5	Truro	1	G. d'Entremont#
				5	WBWS	1	G. d'Entremont#
				5	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood
				5	Belmont	1	M. Pelikan
				6	Barnstable	1	D. Brown
				12-13	Tuckernuck	7	S. Perkins#
				14	Truro	2	B. Parker
				28	Cummaquid	2	S. + E. Miller
				Purple Finch			
				16,23	Newton	1	H. Miller
				5	Truro	2	G. d'Entremont#
				6	Barnstable	3	G. d'Entremont#
				26	Mt. A.	2	R. Stymeist
				26	Truro	1	B. Parker
				27	Wayland	1	M. Pelikan
				27	Lakeville	5	S. Arena
				30	P.I.	2	C. Ralph
				30	Northboro	5	B. Volkle
				31	Saugus	2	P. Duffy
				Pine Siskin			
				17	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins#
				20	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood
				25	Waltham	1	M. Rines
				26	MNWS	1	J. Smith
				26	Ipswich	40	J. Berry
				26	Mt. A.	3	R. Stymeist
?Dark-eyed Junco							
4	P.I.	18	R. Heil				
5	Rockport (H.P.)	10	S. Perkins#				
26	Medford	41	M. Rines				
26	Mt. A.	95	R. Stymeist				
Lapland Longspur							
13, 21	Katama	6, 6	V. Laux#				
5	Rockport (H.P.)	1	S. Perkins#				
12	P.I.	9	R. Forster				
21-26	Dorchester	2	R. Donovan				
Snow Bunting							
11	Quincy	3	N. Smith				
17	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan				
19	Gloucester	1	M. Lynch#				
25	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray				
27	P.I.	35	J. Center				
27	Rockport (H.P.)	6	S. Perkins#				
29	Logan	1000+	N. Smith				
30	Salisbury	70	C. Ralph				
31	Dennis	20	S. + E. Miller				
Bobolink							
1	Concord (NAC)	12	S. Perkins				
2	Nantucket	4	J. Hoyer#				
4	Newbury	16	R. Heil				
6	Sandwich	8	G. d'Entremont#				
6	Barnstable	8	G. d'Entremont#				
6	Concord (NAC)	30	M. Pelikan				
11	Eastham (F.H.)	5	S. Arena				
14	Cumb. Farms	11	S. Arena				
23	Newburyport	1	R. Heil				
27	Truro	1	G. d'Entremont#				
27	Eastham (F. H.)	1	G. d'Entremont#				
Red-winged Blackbird							
6	Barnstable	80	G. d'Entremont#				
19	P.I.	160	P. + F. Vale				
25	Worc. (BMB)	240	M. Lynch#				
Eastern Meadowlark							
12	Middleboro (CF)	40	M. Emmons				
12	S. Monomoy	2	W. Petersen#				
14	Cumb. Farms	45	S. Arena				
14	Truro	10	B. Parker				
26	Dorchester	2	R. Donovan				
27	Eastham (F.H.)	3	G. d'Entremont#				
27	Wayland	2	M. Pelikan				
Rusty Blackbird							
7	Stow	50	fide B. Volkle				

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

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

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

Reports of difficult identifications, vagrants, rarities, or species unusual as to place, time, or prior nesting activity in Massachusetts also should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Wayne Petersen, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773.



## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

## ABOUT THE COVER: OLDSQUAW

The Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) is a winter duck on the New England coast, whose active, perky behavior elicits anthropomorphic adjectives like "cheery," "lively," "restless" or "happy and gay." The incessant babbling of Oldsquaw flocks gives the bird its name—from the Massachusetts Indian word *squa* meaning *woman*. The Oldsquaw is a beautiful duck with a bewildering array of plumages through the seasons. In winter, males have largely white bodies, heads, and necks with brown wings, back, and breast, and sport the long tails that has given the species the common name "long-tailed duck" in Eurasia. They also have tan facial patches accentuated by dark brown cheeks and pink and gray bills. Females appear more dusky brown and lack the brown breast band and long tail. In summer plumage, males have a rich chocolate breast, neck, and head with a mask of white. Female plumage is similar year round but somewhat darker in summer. Oldsquaws can be identified at long distance by their rapid, careening flight.

Oldsquaws are monotypic and Holarctic in distribution, breeding in coastal tundra and interior valleys mostly above the Arctic Circle. In North America they breed from Alaska across northern Canada to Hudson's Bay and over to Greenland. This species winters along both coasts from Alaska to California and Greenland to North Carolina, and a large population winters on the Great Lakes. In Massachusetts they are an abundant coastal migrant, and they winter in huge flocks among the offshore islands. In April and May, more than 4000 may congregate in Newburyport Harbor. Fall migratory flights occur from October to mid-November, with a high count nearly 6000 reported off of Cape Ann, and by mid-November the wintering birds are congregating.

The Oldsquaw is a monogamous species, with some individuals re-pairing in successive seasons. Pair formation begins on the wintering grounds long before the spring migration to the arctic tundra. The vocalizations of this species are variable and prompted John C. Phillips to write in his classic monograph on ducks: "Probably more ink has been devoted to attempts at describing the voice of the male, than is the case with any other duck. Were I to invent a new series of sounds I should not come any closer than the rest, for one must go to the coast one's self on some calm morning in March to get any idea of it, and the journey will not be in vain if there are any birds within a mile or so." The call is generally described as two or three notes, and the term *yodeling* has been used.

As with most ducks, the Oldsquaw's nuptial displays occur largely on the water. Males erect their long tail feathers and necks and bow to the female, and often flip their heads back until their bills are vertical. Often baying notes—*ugh*, *ugh*, *ah-oo-gah*—accompany the displays. Males and females may swim toward each other with head and neck extended flat in the water. A variety of other displays have been described as "head-shaking," "porpoising," and "breast

display," and a brief aerial display has been described as a "parachute display." Often, several males may court a single female, resulting in fights and chases—courtship is very dynamic in this species.

Oldsquaws nest in the tundra in depressions of moss and grass, lined with leaves and down. They often nest in loose aggregations near shallow tundra pools. The usual clutch is 6-7 buffy-olive eggs, and occasional clutches of a dozen or so are attributed to "egg-dumping" by other Oldsquaws. Incubation, performed by the female alone, lasts 3.5-4 weeks. The young are precocial and move about soon after hatching. The young may be herded into creches containing the chicks of several broods, or up to a hundred or more chicks, tended by older females. The nests are subject to predation by foxes and other mammals, and Oldsquaw females give elaborate distraction displays when predators approach the nest. The young fledge in 5-6 weeks.

Oldsquaws feed primarily on aquatic invertebrates, including crustacea (e.g., shrimp, crabs, and amphipods), mollusks, and insects. Fish are only a minor component of their diet. They are supreme divers, with some reports of birds getting caught in nets set at a depth of over 200 feet. They prefer, however, to forage in water up to 25 feet in depth. They reportedly can stay under water for more than a minute and a half.

Oldsquaws may be one of the few duck species that have not diminished in numbers in historical times. Their strong flavor makes them a poor food choice, and they nest in areas generally remote from man and pesticides. There was, however, severe mortality in gill nets in the Great Lakes during the 1950s when as many as 20,000 per year were killed in Lake Michigan alone. This situation has been largely corrected, partially at least due to a diminished fishing industry. Their major predators are foxes, gulls, and jaegers on the breeding grounds, but weather conditions are probably the major factor that constrains populations size. It appears that thousands of these charming little seaducks will continue to provide the great flight shows at Nantucket indefinitely into the future.

W. E. Davis, Jr.

### ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

Paul Donahue's artwork has frequently appeared on *Bird Observer's* cover, much to our delight. Some of our readers may also enjoyed the experience of visiting the rain forest canopy walkway at the Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research (ACEER) off the Rio Napo in the Department of Loreto in northeastern Peru. This canopy walkway, the world's longest, is the creation of Paul and Teresa Wood. Paul can be reached at P.O. Box 554, Machias, Maine 04654.

The Oldsquaw drawing first appeared in a catalog of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT). *Bird Observer* gratefully acknowledges the permission of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours for use of this drawing. Founded by Victor Emanuel in 1975, VENT is one of the oldest, largest, and best natural history tour companies: their 1997 schedule includes nearly 140 tours to over 100 U.S. and foreign destinations, all led by expert birders and organizers. Always innovative, VENT was the first tour company to run birding camps for young birders and to offer brief, intensive workshops on bird I.D. and natural history. The company is committed to supporting local conservation organizations and using local drivers and guides at tour destinations. For more information, call VENT at 800-328-VENT or write to P.O. Box 33008, Austin, TX, 78764.

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

In the last issue of *Bird Observer*, readers were invited to puzzle over a under exposed photograph of a shorebird that displayed ambiguous characteristics. As a result, the correct "identification" was that no positive identification was truly possible.

Readers are reminded that similar scenarios also occur in the field. Occasionally, adverse field conditions or an anomaly in a bird's plumage or behavior render a bird unidentifiable. Although few birders like to admit defeat in matters of field identification, sometimes leaving a bird unidentified is the prudent course to follow.

Having made this point, let me say that the last of the 1996 *At a Glance* mystery photos is also a tough call, not so much because of the conditions described above, but rather because of reality. With some groups of hawks, variation *within* a species can be almost as striking as differences *between* species. Since structure is subject to less variation than plumage, hawks are (paradoxically) often harder to identify at point-blank range than they are when they're just specks on the horizon. The December photo shows a hawk perched *very close at hand*. And so begins the problem.

When presented with a good look at a perched hawk, one can usually reduce the choices to one or two species. This assumes a good enough view to assign the unknown raptor to its correct genus. Ordinarily, the genera incorporating Ospreys, eagles, and Northern Harriers don't pose much of a problem to Massachusetts birders. But the genera—*Accipiter* (e.g. Sharp-shinned Hawk), *Buteo* (e.g. Red-tailed Hawk), and *Falco* (e.g. Peregrine Falcon)—can be more difficult.



*Photo by Emily Goode*

*Courtesy of MAS*

With a view like the one in the photo, it is possible to observe features normally visible only by close telescopic examination. For example, by noticing the absence of a prominent tomial notch ("tooth") on the cutting edge of the upper mandible, it is possible to eliminate all of the falcons as possibilities, since they characteristically possess this feature.

Moving on to accipiters, all species in fully adult plumage can be ruled out on the basis of the obvious vertical streaking on the breast, a feature characteristic of most juvenile or immature-plumaged accipiters and buteos. Adult accipiters normally exhibit a more or less horizontal pattern of breast barring, not vertical striping. An immature Northern Goshawk can be pretty much ruled out by the absence of an obvious, pale superciliary stripe. Likewise, immature Cooper's Hawks possess more angular heads, often with noticeably raised hackles, and their eyes tend to appear closer to the beak than to the nape, giving them a "small-faced" look. Young Sharp-shinned Hawks would ordinarily look slimmer, more round-headed, and smaller-billed than the mystery hawk, and frequently their breast stripes appear more dense and

irregular, particularly in the chest area.

This leaves only young buteos as candidates. Young Rough-legged Hawks in the light morph would normally look pale-headed, would typically show a dark line behind the eye, and even from the view shown would exhibit the suggestion of a dark belly band. The Red-tailed Hawk can at once be eliminated because the absence of streaks on a plain-colored breast is a signature field mark of that species. Of the regularly-occurring Massachusetts buteos, only Red-shouldered and Broad-winged hawks remain as possibilities.

Here is where the going gets *really* tough. Identifying juveniles of these two species can be a challenge even when the whole bird is visible; viewing only the upper half compounds the difficulties! Both species possess *variably* streaked underparts and a dusky malar stripe, and both often have at least an indistinct superciliary line. Even if the mystery photo were in color, the variability and similarity of these two species would do little to solve the problem.

Again, and for the second *Bird Observer* in a row, we have reached an identification crossroads. While the photo is clear and sharp, and the exposure is acceptable, *the view is incomplete*. For this reason, I would hesitate to claim certainty on which species is represented.

The point of this exercise is to emphasize that with young buteos, as with most hard-to-identify species, all features should be observed—wings, tail, shape, behavior, etc.—before the responsible birder can be wholly confident of a correct identification. The bird in the photograph is, in fact, a juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). May 1997 bring us few such identification dilemmas!

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### Brookline Bird Club Web Page

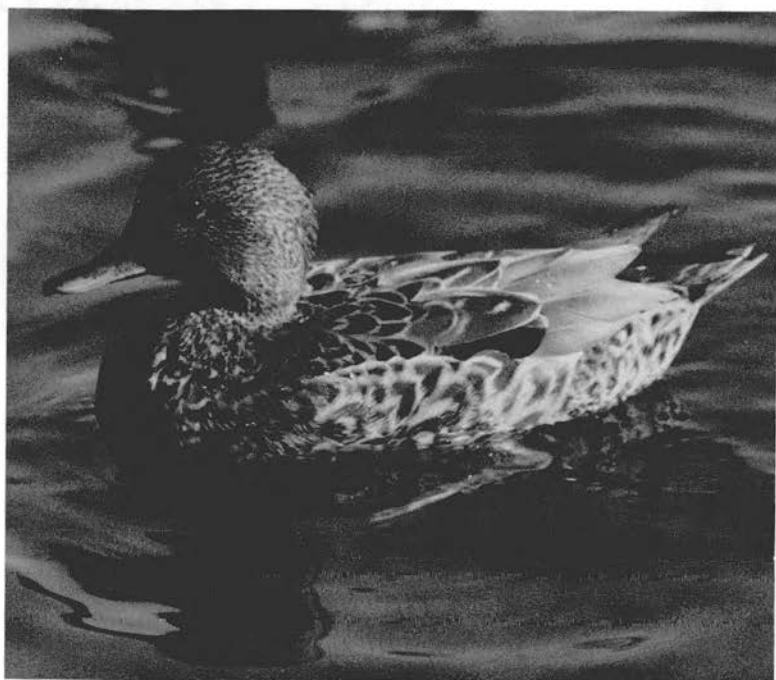
<http://world.std.com/~jane/bbc.html>

Come visit the BBC online! Our home page offers excerpts from the quarterly *BBC Bulletin*, including a list of club trips, as well as numerous links of interest to birders: New England rare bird alerts, Massachusetts checklist, weather, tide table, and more.

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## AT A GLANCE

Photo by Hugo H. Schroder Courtesy of MAS



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