

BIRD OBSERVER



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BIRD OBSERVER

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To enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds.

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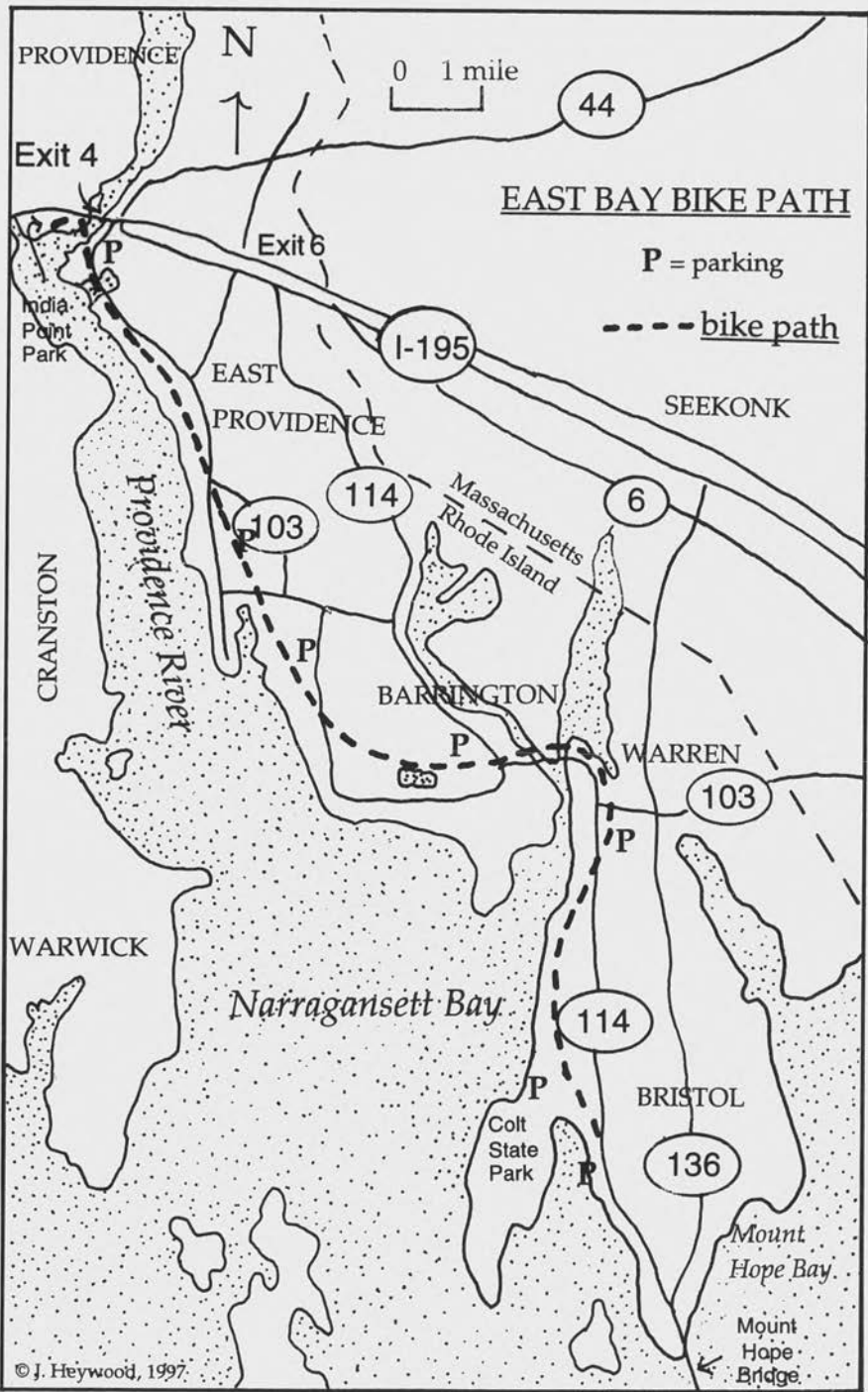
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A typing error at *Bird Observer* deleted a portion of a sentence in Jennifer Lynn Megyesi's article, "First Nesting Record for Great Egret on Outer Cape Cod" (*Bird Observer* 25(3):148-150, June 1997). The sentence, which appears in the first paragraph of the article, should read as follows (material restored here appears in **boldface**): "Breeding efforts in the state have remained low, with no nests observed **from 1958-1973 and between 1-10 nests observed** from 1974-1984 (Andrews 1990, Veit and Petersen 1993)."



BIRDING RHODE ISLAND'S EAST BAY BIKE PATH

by Steve Davis

Rhode Island's increasingly popular East Bay Bicycle Path runs 14.3 miles from Providence to Bristol along a former railroad line. Since the path runs close to the east side of Narragansett Bay and across some of its tributaries, it connects several good birding areas. Although the path is used by a gratifying number of cyclists, in-line skaters, and walkers, the birds seem unbothered. Perhaps the lack of internal combustion engines makes this so.

As shown on the accompanying map, the path in many places parallels Rhode Island state routes 103 and 114 and, consequently, is accessible by road at many points. This is convenient for the birder more interested on a given day in birding than in the beautiful sights and recreational activities that the path affords. In fact, the winter birding possibilities of the East Bay Bicycle Path are perhaps more impressive than those of the warmer seasons, and, although pleasant winter weather does not rule out the use of a bicycle or of walking, a car may be useful at that season. The better birding areas along the path are all easily accessible by auto, with convenient parking, and the area merits visits at any season even by nonbikers. In this article, birding locations will be identified by mileage from the northern end of the bike path and by road description.

Technically, the northern terminus of the bike path is at India Point Park just south of Interstate 195 in Providence. Nevertheless, many people begin the bike path at the parking lots along Veterans' Memorial parkway at miles 1.2 and 2.0 of the bike path. These sites on the bluff afford a view of downtown Providence, the Providence harbor, and the very northern end of Narragansett Bay, which is called the Providence River. It is worth a glance to see what waterbirds might be present. There formerly was a berm with a water impoundment below the bluff, and about 40 species of birds have been identified there, including White-rumped Sandpiper and White-winged Scoter. Since the berm has been filled in, the birding opportunities are more limited.

At mile 2.0 the path follows a causeway between the Providence River and Watchemoket Cove. The cove is divided by Veterans' Memorial Parkway into inner and outer sections. The outer section is well seen from the bike path; the inner section is seen by leaving the bike path at the parking lot at mile 2.0 and riding a short distance (0.3 miles) along the road. Watchemoket Cove is a reliable winter location for two specialties: Eurasian Wigeon and Black-headed Gull. Winter regulars also include Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Canvasback, Hooded and Red-breasted mergansers, Bonaparte's Gull, Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, and, of course, Mute Swan. Summer birding is less impressive at Watchemoket Cove, but shorebirds and herons can be seen.

Try not to let the marsh smell bother you; "Watchemoket" supposedly is the Narragansett word for "place of the bad smell."

The bike path continues from Watchemoket Cove about 2.3 miles to Riverside Square. This section of the path, although running partly along present and former industrial areas, has several lovely, close views of the bay with the Squantum Club at mile 2.9 and the Pomham Rock Lighthouse at mile 3.8. Waterbirds that are common along this stretch include Double-crested (summer) and Great (winter) cormorants, Red-breasted Mergansers, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Mallards, and Black Ducks. Two small coves along here on the east side of the path are good locations for herons, shorebirds, and Belted Kingfisher. A prominent Rhode Island birder's home is near this section of the bike path and the bay, and his yard list (including seen from yard) is over 170. At Riverside Square at mile 4.3 to 4.4, there is a parking lot for the bike path and several places to get snacks.

Nine-tenths of a mile after passing Riverside Square and at mile 5.3 total, the path runs along the estuary of Bullock's Cove. The waters and marsh here can be productive for gulls, herons, all three mergansers, Ruddy Duck, and American Coot. Eurasian Wigeon is possible in winter. Here the path crosses Crescent View Avenue. Although there is a blinking yellow light at this crossing, care should still be taken in crossing Crescent View Avenue since the traffic visibility is not good to the east and cars often are traveling faster than expected. Parking for a few cars is available here at the East Bay Hardware lot.

A spur from the bike path can be taken from this point 0.4 miles to the west to Bullocks Point Avenue. A left on Bullocks Point Avenue will take one immediately to the restored 1895 Loeff Carousel and after 0.3 miles to a fork in the road at the beginning of the peninsula known as Narragansett Terrace. A left at the fork will take one in 0.3 miles to a colony of Monk Parakeets. They are most easily found near Clifton Avenue, but the massive nests are obvious. Continuing to the end of the point (about 0.5 miles) will produce a nice view of northern Narragansett Bay and of Bullocks Cove, where Brant are reliably seen in winter.

Returning to the bike path and proceeding south, one begins the midsection of the bike path, which travels primarily away from the Bay. There are a few brief views of the east side of Bullock's Cove where Monk Parakeets can sometimes be found, and then the path, separated by trees, enters a residential part of Barrington. Don't miss the spectacular copper beech in a yard just to the west of the path. Along this section, woodland birds such as Carolina Wrens and kinglets can be seen and heard. From mile 7.5 to mile 8.0, the path runs along Brickyard Pond. In winter various ducks can be seen here including the mergansers, Ruddy Ducks, Gadwall, and teal. A wintering Great Blue Heron or Black-crowned Night-Heron may also be found. At mile 8.3 the path crosses the entry road to the Barrington YMCA. Not only can this parking lot be used for

parking, but the woods between the adjacent baseball field and Brickyard Pond is a good place for woodland birds. At mile 8.7 the path crosses Route 114 in the center of Barrington. This is a location with several convenient places to eat: a sub shop and a pastry shop are immediately adjacent to the path, and other shops are nearby. There is also very convenient parking here.

At mile 9.1 the path crosses the Barrington River bridge. It is worth stopping here to scan the estuary upstream. The river to the south can be productive. In 1991 the Tufted Duck was first seen there. The Egyptian Goose that is occasionally found here is not wild. This is also a spot in winter for Pied-billed Grebes.

Four-tenths of a mile later is the second bridge, which crosses the Palmer (or Warren) River. The estuary here is definitely worth scrutiny. Good views can be attained from the bridge, and in an additional 0.3 miles at mile 9.8, one can turn off the bike path at Kelly Road to the parking lot of the German American Club for a view of the eastern section of the estuary. This location, also called Belcher's Cove, is especially good for wintering ducks: great flocks of scaup, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Black Ducks. A "Patagonia Picnic Table Phenomenon" (that is, get birders in a likely spot and unusual birds will be found there) occurred here in 1991. When this writer was trying to find the Tufted Duck, a Short-eared Owl flew by. When two other birders came to this spot a day or two later looking for the Tufted Duck and the Short-Eared Owl, they found neither of those birds, but discovered a Bald Eagle in the trees across from the German American Club. While these three birds are not regular at this site, this demonstrates the surprising potential of this relatively urban location.

The next 0.4 miles can be used to catch up for the time spent searching the Palmer River estuary, as the bike path cuts through a built-up part of Warren. Although not great for birding, this section has some welcome features. At mile 10.3 where the path crosses (appropriately) Route 103, there is Hall's Seafood and Deli, a good spot for lunch. Across Route 103 is a parking lot with a brick building to the west that houses the Warren Police Station and Fire Station. It also houses a convenient pair of restrooms. At mile 10.4 is a bike shop right on the bike path, and at mile 10.5 there is another aptly named Park and Ride commuter parking lot.

After crossing Route 114, South Main Street, at mile 10.6 the path begins a long gradual descent as it moves closer to the bay. Lovely views are present and the bird possibilities may change somewhat as the path travels through a cattail area. At mile 13.4 the path crosses the access road to Colt State Park, Rhode Island's best legacy of the gun that won the west. At this point riders may want to ride into the park for excellent views of the middle part of Narragansett Bay. Brant and Ospreys are visible here (at different seasons), as are many of the bay waterbirds. The lagoon and marsh in the park are worth checking: Common

Snipe and Cooper's Hawks have been seen here. There are several areas in the park of cultural interest: the Coggeshall Farm homesite in the park is a working historical farm, and the Colt stables are impressive.

There are two options for traveling through the park. One can stay on the main road, loop around back across the lagoon bridge, and return to the bike path where the loop started, or one can turn right off the main park road at the southern end and soon find oneself on Poppasquash Road that runs along the western and southern sides of Bristol Harbor. Poppasquash Road is crossed by the bike path (at mile 14.0) about 50 yards before it returns to Route 114. Both Bristol Harbor and the pond that is surrounded by the bike path to the east and Poppasquash Road to the south and west are worth checking. This area has been known for Black-crowned Night-Heron, Hooded Merganser, and Bufflehead, and it is a good site for Barrow's Goldeneye. There may also be shorebirds on the beach on the south side of Poppasquash Road. From Poppasquash Road the path runs another 0.3 miles along Bristol Harbor to its end at Independence Park. Cyclists can take Route 114 into the center of Bristol, where there are several excellent sandwich shops and some historical sites. There is also public parking at this end of the path, as there is in Colt State Park.

Adventurous riders can proceed along Route 114 to the southern part of Bristol where Blithewold Mansion can be explored. Another option is to ride along the waterfront 0.3 miles to the Bristol town dock where the ferry to Prudence Island can be boarded. Prudence Island in Narragansett Bay is fraught with unpaved roads and deer ticks carrying Lyme Disease, but riders with mountain bikes or hybrids and protected by DEET will find it a quaint and enjoyable destination.

Rhode Island's East Bay Bike Path is a triple delight: it supplies an opportunity for exercise, beautiful scenery, and interesting birding.

ACCESS

Northern End: From Interstate 195 Eastbound from Providence: Take exit 4 ("Taunton Ave./Riverside") in East Providence, just at the end of Washington Bridge. Keep to the right. This will be Veterans' Memorial Parkway. About 0.3 miles up the hill is the first parking lot.

From I-195 Westbound: Take exit 6 ("Broadway") in East Providence. Take a left onto Broadway at the end of the ramp. Proceed south on Broadway about 1 1/2 miles to its end at Watchemoket Cove. Take a right onto Veterans' Memorial Parkway, and in 0.4 miles is the second parking lot, or in 1.2 miles is the first parking lot.

Southern End: Park either at Independence Park on Thames Street just north of the center of Bristol or in Colt State Park, the entrance of which is 0.3 miles to the north on Hope Street.

A Partial List of the Birds of Rhode Island's East Bay Bicycle Path

Common Loon	Ruddy Duck	Blue Jay
Pied-billed Grebe	Osprey	American Crow
Horned Grebe	Bald eagle	Fish Crow
Great Cormorant	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Black-capped Chickadee
Double-crested Cormorant	Cooper's Hawk	Tufted Titmouse
Great Blue Heron	Red-tailed Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch
Great Egret	Ring-necked Pheasant	Carolina Wren
Snowy Egret	American Coot	House Wren
Little Blue Heron	Killdeer	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Green Heron	Greater Yellowlegs	Wood Thrush
Black-crowned Night- Heron	Semipalmated Sandpiper	American Robin
Mute Swan	White-rumped Sandpiper	Gray Catbird
Snow Goose	Common Snipe	Northern Mockingbird
Canada Goose	Laughing Gull	European Starling
Brant	Black-headed Gull	Yellow Warbler
Black Duck	Bonaparte's Gull	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Mallard	Ring-billed Gull	Northern Cardinal
Blue-winged Teal	Herring Gull	Rufous-sided Towhee
Gadwall	Great Black-backed Gull	American Tree Sparrow
Eurasian Wigeon	Common Tern	Song Sparrow
American Wigeon	Rock Dove	Swamp Sparrow
Canvasback	Mourning Dove	White-throated Sparrow
Greater Scaup	Monk Parakeet	Dark-eyed Junco
Lesser Scaup	Short-eared Owl	Red-winged Blackbird
Tufted Duck	Chimney Swift	Common Grackle
White-winged Scoter	Belted Kingfisher	Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Goldeneye	Downy Woodpecker	Baltimore Oriole
Barrow's Goldeneye	Northern Flicker	House Finch
Bufflehead	Eastern Phoebe	Pine Siskin
Hooded Merganser	Eastern Kingbird	American Goldfinch
Common Merganser	Horned Lark	House Sparrow
Red-breasted Merganser	Tree Swallow	
	Barn Swallow	

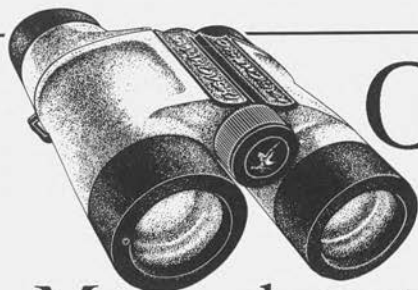
Steve Davis is a family doctor and a faculty member in the Brown University Residency in Family Medicine. Birding and biking are two of his hobbies. He lives in Swansea, Massachusetts.

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- Articles presenting original scientific research
- Documentation of significant records
- Field notes describing interesting encounters with birds
- Biographies of ornithologists or birders with regional ties
- Results of surveys and censuses
- "Where to Go" articles describing good birding locales
- Articles on birding equipment or methods
- Notices and news items
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SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE (MARC)

by Wayne R. Petersen, MARC Chairman

This report represents the Second Annual Report of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC). Since the First Annual MARC Report appeared in the October 1995 issue of *Bird Observer*, several events affecting the operation of the MARC resulted in the regrettable delay of the second annual report.

Included with the June 1994 issue of *Bird Observer* was a copy of the **Massachusetts Avian Records Committee State List** that listed 450 accepted species for Massachusetts. As reported in the First Annual Report of the MARC in 1995, a Common Ringed Plover report under review at the time of the printing of the 1994 state list was subsequently accepted by the committee as a first state record, thereby bringing the list total to 451. Subsequent actions by the MARC have resulted in the addition of Snowy Plover, Thayer's Gull, and Vermilion Flycatcher to the state list. Additionally, Garganey and Brambling, which appeared on the 1994 Supplemental List, have since undergone further review and are now listed as fully accepted species for Massachusetts. Recent taxonomic changes by the American Ornithologists' Union in its 1995 A.O.U. Checklist Supplement (*The Auk* 112:819-830) have further resulted in the addition of Bicknell's Thrush (split from Gray-cheeked Thrush), Spotted Towhee (split from Rufous-sided Towhee), Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (split from Sharp-tailed Sparrow), and Bullock's Oriole (split from Northern Oriole) to the state list.

The collective changes brought about by these different actions have elevated the Massachusetts state list to 460 fully accepted species. Black-billed Magpie has been added to the Supplemental List (i.e., The MARC believes that wild individuals of this species may have occurred in the state; however, a captive origin cannot be discounted). Other species pending action by the MARC that could affect the state list if accepted are Ross' Goose, Northern Lapwing, Band-tailed Pigeon, Black Swift, and Violet-green Swallow.

Accompanying the Second Annual MARC Report, readers will find a copy of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee Review List. This tabulation provides observers with a list of those species that require written, photographic, video, or sound recorded documentation whenever they are reported to regional compilers at *Bird Observer* or *Bird News of Western Massachusetts*. It should be obvious from the list that most of the species listed are vagrants or rarities; however, there are some more frequently occurring species that also appear on the list because of the unique difficulties associated with their identification.

To place the Review List in an overall context, readers are reminded that the MARC specifically deliberates upon (1) any first state record; (2) any species recorded in Massachusetts fewer than ten times overall or fewer than five times in the last twenty years; (3) any rare or difficult-to-identify species as designated by the MARC; or (4) any record of a species that is judged by the MARC to be geographically or temporally rare. It is to be hoped that these guidelines, along with the Review List, will reduce ambiguity about which species require the most extensive possible accompanying documentation and which ones require less detail. For additional guidance and information about reporting and documenting unusual bird reports, readers should see Mark Lynch's article, "The Importance of Documenting Birds" (*Bird Observer* 23:276-283, 1995).

Other MARC business since the last report is that resignations on the part of original MARC members Seth Kellogg and Simon Perkins have been filled by Jan Ortiz and Trevor Lloyd-Evans. Kudos to both Seth and Simon for their many efforts in helping to get the original MARC up and running.

Sadder to report, a current vacancy on the MARC exists because of the recent passing of Richard Forster in April 1997. Dick was one of the principal architects of the original MARC By-laws and was a virtual font of information about the status and history of Massachusetts birds. Needless to say, the entire Committee, along with the rest of the Massachusetts birding community, mourns the loss of Dick's presence and his vast knowledge about all things that fly.

The MARC accepted the following reports:

Location in parentheses, following town or community, is the county.

"doc." = documentation received by a person other than the initial observer.

Pacific/Arctic Loon (*Gavia pacifica/arctica*)

#94-2 3/26/94 Dennis (Barnstable) E. Salmela, D. Oliver, I. Giriunas

In the First Annual MARC Report, considerable discussion was devoted to the difficulty involved in conclusively distinguishing between loons in the *pacifica/arctica* complex. Although controversy still exists over this problem, recent articles by Reinking and Howell (*Western Birds* 24:189-196, 1993) and Birch and Lee (*Birding* 29:106-115, 1997) have done a good job in elucidating the differences between these similar sibling species. Indeed, it seems likely that it is only a matter of time before a loon of one or the other of these species will be conclusively added to the state list. In the meantime, the MARC continues to maintain a conservative position on reports of *arctica/pacifica* loons and has relegated all accepted reports to the combined status of Pacific/Arctic Loon, including this basic plumage bird reported as *arctica*.

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

#94-1	1/25-3/7/94	Rockport (Essex)	D. Lane (C. Marantz doc.)
#94-20	12/17/94	Wareham (Plymouth)	W. Petersen et al
#95-1	1/14-2/12/95	E. Orleans (Barnstable)	S. Arena
#95-18	12/23/95	Gloucester (Essex)	M. Lynch
#96-13	10/16/96-2/8/97	Gloucester (Essex)	J. Soucy (M. Lynch doc.)

Eared Grebes are reported with considerable regularity in the coastal zone of Massachusetts. It is quite possible that some reports represent individuals returning from one year to the next.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

#96-1	7/14-8/29/96	S. Dartmouth (Bristol)	B. Eliason (M. Lynch doc.)
#96-9	11/10/96	Falmouth (Barnstable)	J. Liller, M. Lynch

Prior to 1960, Massachusetts could lay claim to only six American White Pelican records; since the early 1980s, the species has appeared almost annually along the coast. The #96-9 sighting was of two birds, possibly from a group of eight seen in Hyannis September 25 to October 16, 1996.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

#95-5	6/11-12/95	West Gloucester (Essex)	J. Axelrod, H. Lacey
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Historically a rarity in the Northeast, the status of the Brown Pelican appears to be changing slightly with the steady increase of the species on the Mid-Atlantic Coast. In recent years, pelicans have been recorded with increasing frequency in New Jersey and off of Long Island, NY, so increased appearances in Massachusetts are probably to be expected.

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)

#94-18	11/16-12/11/94	Cotuit (Barnstable), photo	A. Hughes (C. Marantz doc.)
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Prior to 1994 there were no more than four or five reports of Wood Stork in Massachusetts. Unlike other long-legged waders from the south, this species seldom ventures as far north as New England. This immature birds represents the first fully-confirmed report in almost 40 years.

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)

#68-2	5/4-25/68	Plum Island (Essex)	P. Wade et al
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A controversial species due to the possibility of reports pertaining to escaped captive birds. Originally placed on the MARC's Supplemental List, a re-evaluation of the situation in light of the pattern of increasingly regular occurrence of the species in eastern North America (see Spear et al, *American Birds* 42:385-392, 1988) led to the placement of this species on the main MARC state list. There are also two additional Garganey reports for Massachusetts, one for April 1978 and one for May 1985.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

#96-14	9/31-11/24/96	Sterling (Worcester)	F. McMenemy (M. Lynch doc.)
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Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

- #94-14 9/8-9/94 Provincetown (Barnstable), photo P. Champlin
#95-11 9/31-11/12/95 Middleboro (Plymouth), photo T. Aversa, M. Rines
#96-6 9/21/96 Plum Island (Essex) J. Ortiz, A. Magee

Swainson's Hawks are regular, albeit rare, migrants at a number of major eastern hawk-watching locations. As such, it is reasonable to suppose that the species is more or less regular in Massachusetts, particularly during fall migration. These records support this contention.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

- #95-17: 12/11/95 Plum Island (Essex) A. Knue

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

- #94-23 6/11/94 Chatham (Barnstable) Z. Boyajian
6/21/94 Mashpee (Barnstable) K. Spectre
6/23-7/10/94 Yarmouth (Barnstable), photo S. Hecker et al

The nearly cosmopolitan Snowy Plover made its first-ever appearance on the Atlantic Coast north of North Carolina when a male in badly worn plumage variously appeared at several Cape Cod locations. Careful examination of the plumage and coloration of the plover strongly suggested that it was of the *nivosus* race from the United States Gulf Coast population.

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*)

- # 96-4 5/4/96 Chatham (Barnstable) B. Nikula

Always a rarity in Massachusetts, this record (a female) fits the seasonal pattern typical of many previous reports. It appears likely that many Wilson's Plovers appearing in New England in spring are birds that have overshot their Mid Atlantic Coast breeding areas. Most individuals in spring seldom remain more than a day or two.

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*)

- #95-16 12/6-7/95 Plum Island (Essex), photo C. Ralph, L. Nachtrab

A most unusual and unseasonal occurrence; there are fewer than ten definitive records in Massachusetts this century.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

- #94-4 5/19-6/1/94 S. Wellfleet (Barnstable), photo J. Sones et al

This individual in alternate plumage was only the third state record, and may have been the same individual as one observed at Monomoy Island in 1993.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

- #81-2 4/25/81 Stellwagen Bank, 20 mi E. of Boston, photo W. Petersen
#82-2 3/23/82 Plum Island (Essex) R. Veit, J. Hatch, R. Heil

Unquestionably one of the most controversial taxa in North America, Thayer's Gull was tabled by the MARC during the process of producing the MARC State List in expectation that the species was going to be lumped, probably with Iceland Gull, in the forthcoming American Ornithologists' Union Checklist or one of its supplements. Since this has yet to happen, the MARC took action on

two records that were supported by photographic and specimen documentation, respectively. #82-2 was collected, examined and confirmed by Joseph R. Jehl, Jr. (specimen #331163 at Harvard University's Museum of Comparative Zoology).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

#96-17 6/23-7/4/96 Provincetown (Barnstable), photo N. Champlin

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*)

#96-11 10/23/96 Weston (Middlesex) D. Morimoto, M. Frankel

***Selasphorus* species**

#94-10 9/30/94 Sandwich (Barnstable) T. Aversa

#94-11 10/2-3/94 Westport (Bristol) M. Sullivan, M. Boucher, R. Bowen

#94-19 11/24/94 Swansea (Bristol) V. Geldart

#95-6 9/23-10/22/95 Northampton (Hampshire) J. Rankin (M. Lynch doc.)

#95-7 9/24-10/15/95 Orange (Franklin) A. Spring (M. Lynch doc.)

What could almost be described as a minor invasion of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds took place during the autumn seasons of 1994 and 1995. Hummingbirds of this genus seem to be appearing increasingly often throughout the Northeast, but in most cases their specific identification remains indeterminate. These records were all well documented at the generic level.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

#95-9 10/14-15/95 Plum Island (Essex) B. Zuzevich, R. Forster et al

The first well-documented state record, this female was initially thought to be a Say's Phoebe by a number of observers until Forster fortuitously arrived to elucidate the situation.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

#93-23 9/18-23/93 Northampton (Hampshire) P. Yeskie (C. Marantz doc.)

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

#94-5 5/29/94 Rutland (Worcester), photo T. Mann (A. Schmierer doc.)

#95-2 1/27-3/14/95 Wellfleet (Barnstable) E. Hoopes et al

These records represent only the second and third occurrences for Massachusetts

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)

#96-19 12/29/96-3/16/97 W. Barnstable (Barnstable), photo V. Laux et al

There are fewer than ten records of this species for Massachusetts.

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)

#94-22 12/27/94-1/1/95 S. Boston (Suffolk) R. Donovan

One carefully identified and meticulously described, this record represents an unprecedented winter occurrence in Massachusetts for this early fall migrant.

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*)

#93-21 12/28/93 Barnstable (Barnstable) R. Forster

#95-15 12/4-5/95 S. Boston (Suffolk) R. Donovan

There are fewer than ten occurrences of this western vagrant in Massachusetts.

Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*)

#95-14 11/19-27/95 N. Amherst (Hampshire), photo D. Quilty, S. Sumner
(C. Marantz doc.)

This is only the second state record of this western vagrant.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

#95-20 12/5/94-4/15/95 Acushnet (Bristol), photo M. LaBossiere
(C. Marantz doc.)

A species new to the Massachusetts state list resulting from the recent taxonomic split of the "Rufous-sided" Towhee into Eastern Towhee and Spotted Towhee, the latter the western counterpart of the Eastern Towhee. Several state reports of Spotted Towhees were established before this recent taxonomic split.

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)

#94-12 10/17/94 Wayland (Middlesex) G. Long
#94-15 10/20/94 N. Attleboro (Bristol) G. Valade
#94-24 10/1-6/94 Northampton (Hampshire) T. Gagnon (C. Marantz doc.)

The apparent increase of this species as a fall migrant in Massachusetts is reflected in these reports.

Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

#93-20 10/6-9/93 Northampton (Hampshire) K. Fay et al (C. Marantz doc.)

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)

#76-3 11/75-2/22/76 Abington (Plymouth), photo Lynde (W. Petersen doc.)
There were a number of state reports of Bullock's Oriole in Massachusetts prior to its lumping with Baltimore Oriole as "Northern" Oriole in 1983.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

#79-2 2/79 Mansfield (Bristol), photo R. Everett
Much like the Garganey described above, Brambling was previously on the MARC's Supplemental List as a species whose origin in Massachusetts was questionable. More recent discussion by the MARC led to the conclusion that quite possibly all four of the existing Brambling records for Massachusetts pertain to wild birds. The pattern of vagrancy for this species elsewhere in the eastern United States is consistent with Massachusetts records.

The MARC did not accept the following records based on "identification not established." Although in some cases the identification may have been correct, the documentation provided was not sufficient to allow acceptance.

Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) - #94-2: This report was ultimately accepted, as described above, as a Pacific/Arctic Loon.

Pacific/Arctic Loon (*Gavia pacifica/arctica*) - #96-7, #97-2: Unfortunately, neither of these reports contained sufficient evidence to convince the MARC that some other loon species might not have been involved. #96-7: One in basic plumage, Newburyport (Essex), November 30, 1996; #97-2: one in basic plumage, Long Island, Quincy (Norfolk).

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) - #93-22: One in basic plumage, Fresh Pond, Cambridge (Middlesex), December 27, 1993, lacked sufficient detail to eliminate Common Loon in a corresponding plumage.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) - #94-3, #94-6: Regrettably, none of the recent Massachusetts Anhinga reports involve birds on the ground. The similarity between Anhingas and Double-crested Cormorants in flight is sufficiently great that most Anhinga reports cannot conclusively eliminate cormorants. #94-3: Two, Wayland (Middlesex), May 2, 1994; #94-6: one, Stow (Middlesex), July 4, 1994.

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) - #92-2, #96-8: Both of the reports were sufficiently lacking in appropriate details to conclusively eliminate other species of raptors. #92-2: One, Mt. Tekoa, Russell (Hampden), November 10, 1992; one, Framingham (Middlesex), September 25, 1996.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) - #95-19: One, Westport (Bristol), January 14, 1995. The unseasonal date and documentation provided could not rule out the possibility of some other *Calidris*.

Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) - #94-9: One in partial (?) breeding plumage, Plum Island (Essex), August 15, 1994. Details of this report suggested that this sandpiper may have been an abnormally plumaged, or in some way feather stained, individual of another species.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) - #94-8: One (age uncertain), Squantum (Norfolk), August 12, 1994. The date of this report and the indeterminate age of the bird could not remove some other shorebird species in juvenal plumage as a possibility.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) - #94-13: One molting adult, Provincetown (Barnstable), September 10, 1994. The supporting details could not conclusively eliminate Laughing Gull as a possibility.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) - #94-16: One adult, Littleton (Middlesex), December 2, 1994. The viewing distance and the details provided could not conclusively remove other species of larids as identification possibilities for this western rarity.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) - #94-7: One, S. Acton (Middlesex), July 26, 1994. Details submitted were insufficient enough to make definitive identification impossible, even at the genus level.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) - #94-21: One, Newton (Middlesex), December 25, 1994. An intriguing report with seasonal precedent; however, supporting details insufficient to eliminate other species.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) - #95-8: One female, Williamstown (Berkshire), October 11, 1995. Details insufficient to eliminate other confusing species for this, a species never before recorded in Berkshire County.

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) - #96-2: One, Newton (Middlesex), May 19, 1996. An intriguing first spring report for Massachusetts,

but supporting details could not conclusively eliminate other *Ammodramus* species.

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) - #96-5: One, N. Monomoy Island, Chatham (Barnstable), July 10, 1995. The improbable date and ambiguity of plumage description (i.e., bird not in breeding plumage) made evidence insufficient for confirmation.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*) - #93-18: One, Northampton (Hampshire), April 1, 1993. Details of observation insufficient to eliminate other *Calcarius* species.

The MARC did not accept the following report of the following species based on "questionable origin."

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) -#95-12: One male photographed and video taped at feeder, Brighton (Suffolk), November 6–December 31, 1996 (R. Hastie, M. Rines, J. Heywood, W. Petersen et al). A most interesting report in that several Eurasian Tree Sparrows were noted well east of their Missouri stronghold the same winter (see *Audubon Field Notes* 50:139).

The current MARC members are: Kathleen Anderson, Bradford Blodget, Trevor Lloyd-Evans, Mark Lynch, Blair Nikula, Jan Ortiz, Wayne Petersen (Chairman), and Robert Stymeist. The Secretary of the MARC is Marjorie Rines. Due to the untimely death of Richard Forster, there is currently one vacancy on the MARC.

Wayne R. Petersen is a field ornithologist with the Massachusetts Audubon Society and co-author of *Birds of Massachusetts*.

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MASSACHUSETTS AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE

Review List - June 6, 1997

Pacific/Arctic Loon	Eskimo Curlew
Eared Grebe	Eurasian Curlew
Western Grebe	Long-billed Curlew
Black-browed Albatross	Black-tailed Godwit
Yellow-nosed Albatross	Bar-tailed Godwit
Black-capped Petrel	Rufous-necked Stint
Audubon's Shearwater	Little Stint
White-faced Storm-Petrel	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Curlew Sandpiper (nonalternate plumage)
White-tailed Tropicbird	Long-tailed Jaeger
Red-billed Tropicbird	Great Skua
Brown Booby	South Polar Skua
American White Pelican	Franklin's Gull
Brown Pelican	Mew Gull
Anhinga	California Gull
Magnificent Frigatebird	Thayer's Gull
Little Egret	Ross' Gull
Western Reef-Heron	Ivory Gull
Reddish Egret	Gull-billed Tern
White-faced Ibis	Bridled Tern
Wood Stork	Sooty Tern
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	White-winged Tern
Garganey	Brown Noddy
Tufted Duck (female & imm.)	Marbled Murrelet
Masked Duck	Ancient Murrelet
White-tailed Kite	Common Ground-Dove
Mississippi Kite	Common Cuckoo
White-tailed Eagle	Northern Hawk Owl
Swainson's Hawk	Burrowing Owl
Eurasian Kestrel	Great Gray Owl
Yellow Rail	Boreal Owl
Black Rail	Black-chinned Hummingbird
Snowy Plover	Rufous Hummingbird
Wilson's Plover	Allen's Hummingbird
Common Ringed Plover	Lewis' Woodpecker
Mountain Plover	Three-toed Woodpecker
Spotted Redshank	Western Wood-Pewee
Wandering Tattler	Hammond's Flycatcher
Terek Sandpiper	

Gray Flycatcher
Say's Phoebe
Vermilion Flycatcher
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Sulphur-bellied/Streaked
Flycatcher
Cassin's Kingbird
Gray Kingbird
Fork-tailed Flycatcher
Brown-chested Martin
Gray Jay
Eurasian Jackdaw
Rock Wren
Bewick's Wren
Northern Wheatear
Mountain Bluebird
Townsend's Solitaire
Fieldfare
Sage Thrasher
Sprague's Pipit
Phainopepla
Lucy's Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Townsend's Warbler

Hermit Warbler
Swainson's Warbler
MacGillivray's Warbler
Painted Redstart
Western Tanager
Black-headed Grosbeak
Painted Bunting
Green-tailed Towhee
Spotted Towhee
Brewer's Sparrow
Lark Bunting
Henslow's Sparrow
Le Conte's Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Harris' Sparrow
McCown's Longspur
Smith's Longspur
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Western Meadowlark
Brewer's Blackbird
Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle
Bullock's Oriole
Brambling
Hoary Redpoll

Recognizable subspecies found out of range should be submitted to the MARC for possible future evaluation if they should reach full species status in the future.

SHRIKE LECTURE AT BROADMOOR

Dr. Reuven Josef, Director of the International Birding Center in Eilat, Israel, will be presenting a lecture on shrikes of the world at Massachusetts Audubon's Broadmoor Sanctuary (280 Eliot Street, South Natick, MA 01760) on September 10, 1997, at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Josef is widely acknowledged as a world authority on shrikes, a widespread, fascinating, and ecologically important avian family. Admission to the lecture will be \$6 for MAS members, \$8 for nonmembers. To register, or to obtain further information, please call the sanctuary at (508) 655-2296.

(announcement)

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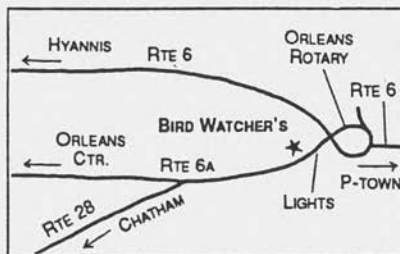
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SECOND MASSACHUSETTS RECORD OF HERMIT WARBLER

by Curtis A. Marantz and Dianne Quilty

About midday on November 19, 1995, Quilty noticed an unusual warbler frequenting the feeders on the back porch of her home in Amherst, Massachusetts. Although similar to a Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) in many respects, the bird did not look quite right for that species: the back was more gray than olive, there was no yellow on the breast or vent or blackish streaking on the sides of the breast, and the cheek patch was "smudgy" and almost indistinguishable from the balance of the ear-coverts. During its brief visit to the porch, the bird seemed sluggish or weary, holding its wings low. Later that afternoon, the bird was observed again, this time apparently eating black-oil sunflower seeds from a platform feeder on the floor of the deck. The last observation of the bird on this day was near dusk, when it arrived with a flock of Black-capped Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) and American Goldfinches (*Carduelis tristis*). Although the bird again stayed low on the deck, it searched more actively for shelled seeds on this visit.

During the next three days, Quilty observed the warbler consistently from just before dawn through 7:00 a.m., and again from about 4:30 p.m. through dusk. The bird would arrive with a flock of chickadees and search through most of the available feeders for seeds. Although suet was available on the deck, it is unknown whether the bird took any. The bird also seemed to become less wary as the week progressed. It was observed perched on top of the porch railing and in a nearby apple tree, and when it foraged on the ground. While foraging on the ground, the bird sometimes fanned its tail like an American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*). On occasion, it even came to the deck when Quilty was filling the feeders.

Still unsure about the bird's identity after referring to Curson et al (1994), Quilty called Janet Ortiz and Scott Surner on November 22 for help in identifying the warbler. Surner alerted Marantz to the bird's presence on the same day. Upon arriving at Quilty's home at 7:10 the next morning, Marantz and Surner were informed that the bird had already visited the feeder twice. Shortly thereafter, the warbler returned to the feeding station with a small flock of chickadees, and Quilty, Marantz, and Surner observed it for a minute or two before it flew off to the nearby trees.

At this point, Marantz concluded that the bird in question was a Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*), a species that had been known to occur only once previously in Massachusetts. During the hour-long visit by Marantz and Surner to Quilty's home, the warbler made three visits to the feeders on the porch, allowing stunning views from a distance of a meter or less. Surner and Marantz also managed to take a few photographs of the bird. Arriving somewhat later than the others, Ortiz managed to see the bird during its two final visits to the feeder.

After permission had been obtained from nearby property owners, and an easily accessible viewing spot had been found behind the Fort River School, word of the sighting was spread rapidly. In fact, Marantz had received a phone call about the bird before he arrived home, just a half-hour later! Unfortunately, despite its regular visits to Quilty's feeders prior to its identification, the bird became progressively more difficult to locate during the days that followed. Following the observations on the morning of November 23, the bird was seen a few times during the remainder of the day. On November 24, however, the Hermit Warbler was not seen after approximately 9:50 a.m., despite being searched for during much of the rest of the day. Finally, a small group of observers saw the bird for a minute or two at about 8:30 a.m. on November 25, after which it was never seen again.

Over a total of about five minutes of observation during the bird's three visits to the feeder on the morning of November 23, Marantz was able to note the following details about the Amherst Hermit Warbler. The bird looked superficially like a Black-throated Green Warbler because of its combination of a bright-yellow face, whitish underparts, dark upperparts, and bold, white wingbars. This was a medium-sized warbler with a relatively slim body. In direct comparison, the warbler was approximately two-thirds the length of an American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*), but unlike the sparrow, the warbler had a slim, medium-length bill that was black in color and finely tipped. The most striking aspect of the bird's plumage was the extensively lemon-yellow face, which encompassed the forehead and the superciliary and malar regions and extended back behind the auriculars. The yellow forehead blended into a



Hermit Warbler, Amherst, MA, 23 November, 1995

Photograph by S. Surner

medium-olive-gray forecrown. The contrast between the dark crown and the yellow supercilium was striking and sharply defined. A dingy ear-patch was barely discernable against the plain yellow of the face; it was really only evident as a blurry, lower border to the auriculars that ended in a dull spot at their rear corner. The impression created was of a "blank-faced" appearance, with the only real contrast on the face being that between the face itself and the dark eye.

The crown, nape, mantle, and scapulars were a medium-gray color with a slight olive cast. Several faint, blurry streaks were evident on the back. Only minimal contrast was evident between the back and wings, the latter being dark gray in color and displaying two bold, white wingbars. The tail was relatively long, and slim throughout its length; it was basically dark except for the outer two pairs of rectrices, which, when seen as the bird flew away from us, appeared to be extensively tipped with white. The underparts were pale and unmarked. The yellow of the malar region extended onto the bird's chin, but this yellow was limited, blending almost immediately into a dull, whitish throat. There were no blackish or even dusky markings on the throat, the sides of the breast, or the flanks. Despite the presence of a faint buffy cast immediately around the vent, this bird clearly lacked the bright-yellow wash that wraps around from the rump onto the sides of the vent on a Black-throated Green Warbler. The feet and legs were blackish.

A review of available identification guides (Scott 1983, Curson et al 1994) by all four observers highlighted several discrepancies between their experience with Hermit Warblers and the published descriptions. Hermit Warblers are distinctive for a number of reasons. First, they have bright-yellow faces with only a hint of a dark auricular-border (which is noticeably less apparent than that of a Black-throated Green Warbler, despite implications to the contrary by Curson et al 1994). For the most part, Hermit Warblers in all plumages look remarkably plain-faced. Equally distinctive is the back, which, although it may have an olive cast, basically appears gray from a moderate distance, and it does not come close to approaching the bright-green back of a Black-throated Green Warbler. Additional marks are the lack of yellow at the sides of the vent (this yellow can be quite striking on a Black-throated Green Warbler), and the lack of both a dark eye-line and dusky streaking on the flanks. Once the Amherst bird was identified as a Hermit Warbler, we concluded, based on the complete lack of duskiess on the throat and the faint olive cast to the upperparts, that it was probably an immature female.

In addition to possible confusion with Black-throated Green Warblers, another factor to keep in mind when reporting either Hermit or Townsend's (*D. townsendi*) warblers out of range is the possibility of Hermit x Townsend's hybrids. It has been suggested that most individuals of both these species in the state of Washington show some indications of hybridization (Jaramillo 1995). It is possible that individuals from this area, which represents the extreme northern limit of the Hermit Warbler's range, are disproportionately likely to turn up

extraliminally as vagrants. Just such a hybrid was photographed at Plum Point, Newfoundland, on May 23, 1995 (Jaramillo 1995). Furthermore, hybrids may be more likely than pure Hermit Warblers to turn up as long-distance vagrants due to the genetic influence of the more highly migratory Townsend's Warbler (M.A. Patten, pers. comm.). The identification of hybrids has been treated by both Scott (1983) and Curson et al (1994). In simplistic terms, any suspected Townsend's Warbler that lacks either yellow on the breast or a dark auricular-patch is likely to be a hybrid. Similarly, any apparent Hermit Warbler that either has a yellow breast or a dark auricular-patch could be a hybrid as well. To illustrate the potential for confusion, the photograph of an immature female Townsend's Warbler in a recently published field guide (Stokes and Stokes 1994, p. 406) appears to show just such a hybrid.

The Amherst Hermit Warbler record represents only the second for Massachusetts and one of a very few for eastern North America. The previous Massachusetts record pertained to a singing male seen by many observers at Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, on May 23, 1964 (Veit and Petersen 1993, Petersen 1995). Additional reports from the northeastern United States involve a singing male in New Haven, Connecticut, May 1-2, 1977 (*American Birds* 31:976; *Connecticut Warbler* 7:49-50), and a bird observed in the Myannis River Gorge, New York, on November 22, 1975. Based on the former sight record, Zeranski and Baptist (1990) considered the Hermit Warbler to be of hypothetical occurrence in Connecticut. Likewise, despite being seen by an experienced observer, the New York bird is best considered hypothetical given that it could not be relocated and was identified exclusively by the combination of gray back and plain, yellow face (*American Birds* 30:39-46). Unlike the Amherst and New York birds, the Cambridge and Connecticut records fit in with a pattern of spring occurrences of Hermit Warblers in eastern Canada. Of ten records from Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland, only three occurred during fall or winter (Jaramillo 1995); the rest were seen between April 30 and June 4.

Although Jaramillo suggests that the species is most likely to appear in eastern Canada during the spring, when birds are moving in a northerly direction to their breeding grounds, we believe that the Hermit Warbler's occurrence patterns may actually match more closely those of Townsend's Warbler, a species in which most eastern records involve fall stragglers. For Townsend's Warbler, Jaramillo suggests that birds are simply overlooked during the fall throughout much of eastern Canada. We believe that it would be even more plausible that Hermit Warblers are overlooked in the fall, when they appear far more similar to Black-throated Green Warblers than do Townsend's Warblers. For this reason, we suggest that observers in the northeastern portion of the continent carefully study fall-migrant Black-throated Green Warblers, giving special attention to those birds seen in late autumn. Of the thirteen fall

records for Townsend's Warbler in eastern Canada, only two were seen during September, whereas six were found during November (with three of these in the second half of the month), and four more were discovered in December. Similarly, of the three fall records for Hermit Warblers in this region, only one was seen in September (September 10, 1978, in Bath, Ontario), while the other two were found in late fall and winter (November 11-13, Blackhead, Newfoundland, and December 7, 1994-January 27, 1995, Green Bay, Nova Scotia) (Jaramillo 1995).

We wish to thank Christopher Pickering, of W. S. Pickering and Son, for granting birders access to private property to view the Amherst Hermit Warbler. Janet Ortiz made arrangements for observers to view the bird from the Fort River School. Michael A. Patten, Simon A. Perkins, Donald E. Kroodsmma, and Scott Sumner provided many useful comments on earlier drafts of this manuscript. Tom W. Burke assisted us in tracking details of the New York Hermit Warbler record.

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Curtis Marantz is completing a Ph.D. in Biology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he is studying with Donald Kroodsmma. Presently in Brazil, Marantz is conducting research on geographical variation in the songs of lowland, rain forest birds, with a particular emphasis on woodcreepers. He has done field research in Louisiana, Bolivia, Peru, and Costa Rica, as well as Brazil, but admits he is still "pretty fanatical" about the California State list that he began building as a teenager.

Diane Quilty lives in Amherst, MA, and is the Membership Secretary of the Hampshire Bird Club. A birder for about seven years, she has a particular fondness for shorebirds but describes herself as "obsessed" by birds in general. When the next rarity turns up on her porch, she'll be ready for it.

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS HAWK WATCH

Annual Meeting

The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch will hold its annual meeting on Friday, September 5, at Drumlin Farm in Lincoln. This year's guest speaker is Dr. Reuven Josef, Director of the International Birding Center in Eilat, Israel. Dr. Josef is an accomplished field expert and has published a number of articles and papers on hawk migration, including a recent essay in *Natural History's* special Raptor Migration Issue. He will be speaking on hawk migration through Israel, the second largest known corridor for hawk migration in the world, and share some insights into raptor population trends in Eurasia. The meeting will be held at the Nature Center of Massachusetts Audubon Society's Drumlin Farm Sanctuary in Lincoln. Doors open at 6:30 for a social hour with refreshments, and the meeting will begin at 7:30. The public is invited, free of charge. For more information, call 617-483-4263.

Volunteer Hawkwatchers Sought

The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch (EMHW) seeks volunteers to hawk watch this fall. You don't have to be an identification "expert" to participate; the best way to learn to identify hawks is to look for them as often as possible during migration. We need volunteers to hawk watch from well-known sites such as Mt. Watatic, Bolton Flats, and Wachusett Mountain, especially on weekdays, or from any location you'd like to cover, including your own backyard. Reporting the volume of migrating hawks is more important than identifying them all by species. For more information on participating in a hawk watch, or on submitting reports of what you see, contact Paul M. Roberts, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155 ; telephone 617-483-4263 after 7 p.m.

EMHW Information Available

If you are not a member of the East Massachusetts Hawk Watch and would like to receive a copy of the Fall 1996 EMHW Report, as well as complete information on the Fall 1997 watch, fliers on "Where and When to Watch Hawks in Eastern Massachusetts," and a "Guide to Books on Hawks," please write Paul Roberts at the address given above and enclose a check for \$2 (made out to "EMHW") to help defray costs.

(Announcement)

FIRST CONFIRMED NESTING OF CLAY-COLORED SPARROW
(*Spizella pallida*) IN NEW ENGLAND

by Lysle Brinker and Peter D. Vickery

Introduction

In the past twenty-five years, Clay-colored Sparrows (*Spizella pallida*) have been expanding their breeding range eastward from the upper Midwest and prairie provinces of Canada (Rising 1996), recently reaching southwestern Quebec (Godfrey 1986) and western New York, and rarely east to the Hudson River valley (Andrle and Carroll 1988). Interestingly, territorial Clay-colored Sparrows have been found in at least sixteen localities between 1984-89, just north of Vermont and New Hampshire in southern Quebec; breeding has been confirmed near Sherbrooke, less than 50 km from Vermont and New Hampshire (Gauthier and Aubrey 1996). Here, we report the first confirmed nesting of Clay-colored Sparrows in New England, a southeasterly extension of approximately 260 km from this species' previously known eastern limit near Sherbrooke, Quebec (Gauthier and Aubrey 1996).

Clay-colored Sparrows have been rare-to-uncommon fall and rare spring migrants in New England since at least the early 1970s (Finch 1975, Veit and Petersen 1993). In the past twenty-five years, there have been a number of summer records from New England and the Canadian Maritimes involving singing male Clay-colored Sparrows that have established territories for a period of time, usually several weeks (Table 1). Breeding season records of individuals (most of them singing males) remaining in one location for at least two or three

weeks have become nearly annual in the last decade. Since 1987, the Kennebunk Plains, a 240 hectare sandplain grassland in York County, Maine, has been the most consistent locality for summering birds; at least six individuals have been recorded over four different summers (Table 1).

Table 1. Records of Clay-colored Sparrows known to have remained at a single location for more than two weeks during June and/or July in New England and the Canadian Maritimes, 1970 - 1996.

LOCATION	SEX	YEAR	REFERENCE
Seabrook, NH	1 male	1971	D. Abbott, pers. comm.
Brentwood, NH	1 male	1974	Finch 1975b
Lincoln, ME	1 male	1978	Vickery 1978
Plymouth, NH	1 male	1981	Vickery 1981
Happy Valley, Labrador	1 male	1982	Tingley 1982
Freeport, ME	1 male	1982	Tingley 1982
Black Brook, NB	1-2 males	1984	Tingley 1984
Ayer, MA	1 pair	1988	Veit and Petersen 1993
Woodstock, VT	1 male	1988	Petersen 1988
Kennebunk, ME	1 male	1987	<i>Maine Bird Notes</i> 1987
Kennebunk, ME	3 males	1989	<i>Maine Bird Notes</i> 1989
Kennebunk, ME	1 female	1991	<i>Maine Bird Notes</i> 1992
Kennebunk, ME	1 male	1992	<i>Maine Bird Notes</i> 1993
Grand Digue, NB	1 male	1990	MacTavish 1990
Grand Digue, NB	1 male	1991	MacTavish 1991
Aldouane, NB	1 male	1991	MacTavish 1991
Pokiok, NB	1 male	1992	MacTavish 1992
Medfield, MA	1 male	1990	<i>Bird Observer</i> 18:246
Plymouth, MA	1 male	1990	<i>Bird Observer</i> 18:309
Plymouth, MA	1 male	1993	<i>Bird Observer</i> 21:289
Plymouth, MA	1 male	1994	<i>Bird Observer</i> 22:277
Bangor, ME	1 not sexed	1993	J. Despres, pers. comm.
Dresden Mills, ME	1 not sexed	1993	J. Despres, pers. comm.
Orford, NH	1 male	1993	D. Abbott, pers. comm.
Cutler, ME	1 male	1995	J. Despres, pers. comm.
Bridport, VT	1 male	1995	Petersen 1995
Wells, ME	1 male	1996	L. Brinker, pers. obs.
Lee, NH	1 male	1996	S. Mirick, pers. comm.

Nesting in Arundel, Maine

On June 9, 1996, a single male Clay-colored Sparrow was heard singing its distinctive buzzy song in a small shrubby field in Arundel, ME (43°28'N, 70°34'W), about 9 km north of the Kennebunk Plains. After the initial observation, the site was revisited periodically, and it was apparent that the male was on territory. On June 23, a second Clay-colored Sparrow, presumed to be a female, was observed associating with the male. At this point the male sang less frequently, but one or two birds were still observed for the next eight days. During this period both birds were seen flying into a low meadowsweet (*Spirea latifolia*) thicket, and nesting was suspected. On July 6, Brinker observed adults carrying food and found the nest with three young, estimated to be one day old, in the same thicket. On July 10, three nestlings were observed, and photographs of the nest and young were taken. The nest was revisited on July 14, when three young were still present. On July 16, the nest was empty, suggesting that the young had fledged on the 15th or 16th of July. On July 20, both adults were seen feeding at least two short-tailed fledglings. Adults and fledglings were last observed on August 3, 1996.

Site description

The Clay-colored Sparrows were found nesting in a small (less than 3 hectares), nondescript, shrubby field with low (less than 4 m) scattered trees and shrubs. Common trees and shrubs included: white pine (*Pinus strobus*), gray birch (*Betula populifolia*), alder (*Alnus sp.*), pin cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*), meadowsweet (*Spirea latifolia*), and red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*). The nest was located in a continuous meadowsweet thicket bordering a wet area formed by a small stream.

The Arundel nest was typical of those described for Clay-colored Sparrows (Harrison 1978). The nest was approximately 65 cm above the ground and was barely visible from above as meadowsweet growth extended another 10-30 cm above the rim. It was a cup-shaped structure made of loosely woven grasses and plant stems, lined with finer grasses and a few pine needles. In general, it was not as compact and tightly woven as a typical Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) nest. There was no evidence of animal hair. The exterior measured 8 cm wide by 7 cm deep, and the interior measured 5 cm wide by 3 cm deep.

Other species of birds on territory in and around this field included: Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*), Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), and American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*).

Discussion

Nesting of Clay-colored Sparrows in New England has been anticipated for the last ten years, and two birds (presumably a pair) in Ayer, Massachusetts, in 1988, appeared to be defending a territory for several weeks, though breeding was never confirmed (Veit and Petersen 1993). Yet, despite increasingly frequent summer records, the likelihood that a male and female will simultaneously settle at the same locality is very small, as the records from Kennebunk, ME attest (Table 1). Thus, the serendipitous discovery of Clay-colored Sparrows breeding in a small field in Arundel seemed especially improbable because there was nothing distinctive about this site and it was not a site that was frequented by birders. Unlike the large grassland and shrubland sites in New England, most of which have ongoing avian research and frequent observation, the breeding site at Arundel was a small, shrubby field, similar to literally thousands of other small fields in Maine and throughout New England. Given that Clay-colored Sparrows are not area-sensitive and will occupy small sites of suitable habitat, unlike grassland bird species such as Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) and Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) (Vickery et al 1994), it seems likely that this species will nest at other localities in Maine and New England in the future.

Acknowledgments

We appreciate information regarding summer records from Dennis Abbott, David Christie, Bridget Coullon, Jody Despres, Charles Duncan, Walter Ellison, Steve Mirick, Wayne Petersen, Mark Szantyr, and Stuart Tingley. Greg Shriver, Charles Duncan, Andrea Jones, Simon Perkins, and Wayne Petersen reviewed the manuscript and made valuable suggestions for its improvement.

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BOOK REVIEW: *The Ecology of Migrant Birds: A Neotropical Perspective*

by John Kricher

The Ecology of Migrant Birds: A Neotropical Perspective, by John H. Rappole. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press. 1995. 504 pages, 19 line drawings, 27 tables. \$35.00, hardbound.

A perusal of North American bird books published before, say, 1970, will quickly demonstrate that many species accounts are, for lack of information, incomplete. Consider the classic three-volume *Birds of Massachusetts* by Edward Howe Forbush. In the delightfully written "haunts and habits" sections that accompany each species, account you can learn about the wintering behavior of such species as Snowy Owls, Black-capped Chickadees, and Fox Sparrows. But you will learn very little about the winter ecologies of most long-distance migrants, those species whose migration takes them for the winter months to the Caribbean islands and to the ecosystems of tropical America. You will read nothing about the winter territoriality of Wood Thrushes, the diversity of Neotropical habitats used by Black-and-White Warblers, or the threat that habitat loss along the east slope of the Peruvian Andes poses to Cerulean Warblers. No one had studied these species on their wintering grounds.

Thanks to the efforts of scores of researchers over the past three decades, ornithologists now understand much more about what orioles, thrushes, wood-warblers, and others do when they spend the winter months in such places as Belize, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, or Mexico. Once a "black hole" of knowledge, the ecology of Neotropical migrants on their wintering grounds is rapidly becoming rather well understood. It is timely, therefore, that this diverse information be summarized such that interested professionals and laypersons alike can gain a sound overview of it. John H. Rappole is one of the leading researchers in the burgeoning field of Neotropical migrant ornithology, and he is well positioned to author such an account.

Rappole's book is neither a field guide nor a species-by-species account. Instead, Rappole paints with a broad brush, tackling such topics as habitat and resource use, how migrants fit into tropical bird communities, evolution of migration itself, population changes, and recommended conservation measures. Each of nine chapters is fundamentally a review of the relevant ornithological literature, as interpreted by Rappole. The book is written such that one need not be an ornithologist or population biologist to understand it. Therefore, the modest volume will serve as an excellent primer as well as a useful introduction to the vast literature that has accumulated on this topic in recent years.

The book aptly summarizes some important findings. For example, many North American birders naively believe that loss of rain forests is the central threat, not only to Neotropical biodiversity, but to "our" migrant bird species. In

actuality, Neotropical migrants use a very wide range of habitats: mangrove swamps, dry deciduous forests, montane cloud forests, pine forests, savannas, scrub, forest edge, disturbed areas. Only a relatively few species are essentially confined to interior lowland rain forest. Conservation measures in the Neotropics must be at least as concerned with the preservation of non-rain forest habitats as with preserving rain forests.

Another misperception is that migrant species are often perceived as "invading" tropical ecosystems, as though they are outsiders, species adapted to the temperate zone, but somehow forcing their ways into the tropics in order to survive the cold northern winter. But Rappole explains that migrants are just as much part of Neotropical ecosystems as resident species, indeed most evolved there. Further, the lines of separation between migrant and resident are often more blurred than sharp: many tropical species do, in fact, migrate to some extent (as in shifting elevations from rainy to dry season) and many migrants (such as Yellow and Yellow-throated warblers) have resident populations that breed the Neotropics. In such species-rich communities, ecology gets pretty complicated, and much still remains to be learned about species interactions. But what is clear is that migrants are at least as much Neotropical as Palearctic: they are integral components of the ecology of two different biogeographic realms.

The remarkable phenomenon of migration itself is obviously at the crux of any consideration of why a species such as a Blackpoll Warbler would nest in northern hemisphere boreal forests and then fly nonstop for thousands of miles, from the New England coast to Venezuela, only to continue even farther to equatorial Amazonia. How could such a process have evolved? Rappole devotes three chapters to a consideration of migration, its possible evolutionary origins, and how Old World and New World migration patterns compare. Not all ornithologists will agree with him, but Rappole argues that at least for some species (such as Red-eyed Vireo), migration may have started as a response to intraspecific competition for breeding sites. The impression one gets from such examples reverses the previously held bias. Red-eyed Vireos emerge as Neotropical birds that annually emigrate from their native land for a short breeding season in the temperate zone, only to return to the tropics as soon as possible.

Most birders are concerned with the possible decline and loss of migrant species. One chapter is devoted to discussing current population changes, and one to suggested conservation measures. Migrants are potentially vulnerable species because they require a breeding ground ecosystem, a wintering ground ecosystem, and an array of suitable stopover sites to sustain them during their migration. Should there be a significant loss in any one of those three habitat categories, a migrant species would decline. If two, or even all three should be reduced, a migrant species could potentially face extinction. But ascertaining

reliable patterns of population change is not easy. For example, Rappole lists seven assumptions that underlie the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), which is the most frequently used database to track populations of Neotropical migrants. Any of these seven assumptions may be faulty. As an obvious example, BBS routes are all, by definition, located along roads, precisely where recent decades have seen dramatic increases in houses, mini-malls, and other forms of human-created structures. Therefore, habitat change may be markedly greater along a road than away from it, meaning that any presumed changes in breeding bird populations quite possibly could be overestimated by BBS data.

However, even allowing for such potential interpretive difficulties, there is sufficient evidence, from various databases, that at least some species of Neotropical migrants are in decline in some areas. Recent research, completed after the publication of Rappole's book, shows that some long-distance migrant species are increasing as well. As with most of ecology, the situation is variable and complicated. It is not possible to generalize about 338 species distributed over two continents and parts in between. So research, and lots of it, needs to continue.

Rappole makes a strong plea for coordinated conservation efforts, attempting to use the final chapter of his book both as a rallying call and outline for action. He correctly identifies such factors as human population growth, various forms of pollution, and habitat loss as significant and continuing threats to biodiversity — not just to migrants, but to all Neotropical species. His numerous but briefly stated recommendations, divided into policy, research, and management, will come as little surprise to most who have considered the magnitude of threat facing global tropical ecosystems. But the bottom line is clear: though birds do not respect political boundaries, humans must. Therefore, for global conservation to be assured, humans in temperate and tropical nations alike must embrace conservation principles as a fundamental part of their societal ethics. It remains an understatement to say that this goal is not yet sufficiently achieved.

The book includes five appendices and a 39-page literature cited section, and is thoroughly indexed.

John Kricher is a frequent contributor to *Bird Observer*. His most recent book is a revised and expanded edition of *A Neotropical Companion*, published in fall 1997 by Princeton University Press.

FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE ___

Foraging Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Early in the afternoon of April 15, 1997, I observed a male Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) at close range for about half an hour as it fed in a strip of early successional habitat (gray birch and aspen saplings) along the edge of a grassy field in the Great Meadow area in East Lexington, Massachusetts. I watched the bird for about half an hour (for part of this time, I was stationary and munching a turkey sandwich). During this time, the bird ranged over an area perhaps seventy-five feet by thirty feet. It was rarely more than five feet above the ground, or less than two, perching mainly on the lower branches of saplings six to ten feet in height. It generally remained on the margin of the wooded area.

Insect life was abundant, but on closer examination it seemed that only a few species may have been present. A bee-like fly was hovering and darting abruptly a few feet over the ground in open areas. Small, pale moths (apparently all of the same type) were fluttering among the grass and saplings. A few larger moths, apparently representing two or three species, were flying here and there. When I examined the twigs and leaves of the types of saplings the gnatcatcher was in, I couldn't find any insects.

It is no surprise that, as far as I could tell, the gnatcatcher was eating moths, mostly the small ones, which were fairly common and appeared to be easy targets for the bird's brief aerial sorties. I was able to see the bird's prey in its beak several times after the bird had landed but before it had swallowed. The gnatcatcher totally ignored the bee-like fly, but it took at least a couple of larger moths while I was watching. On one occasion, the gnatcatcher caught a moth that was so big that it broke away after a few seconds of frantic flapping, leaving a flake of wing visible in the gnatcatcher's bill.

The bird's foraging involved frequent short relocation flights, often taking place directly after a capture. After snagging a moth, it would fly to another sapling and flit around (or preen, on a couple of occasions) until another moth presented itself. Launching on a short sally-flight, the gnatcatcher would snatch its target and land immediately, usually on a different perch, but one within a few yards of its takeoff point. The process would repeat, and the bird seemed to be eating moths at the rate of two or three per minute. The bird vocalized persistently during the entire time, giving a weak, rambling warble punctuated by *bzzt* notes.

Matthew L. Pelikan

BIRD SIGHTINGS

MARCH 1997

SUMMARY

by Simon Perkins, Marjorie W. Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist

Although March began with a short warm spell, a long cold stretch prevailed from March 7 to 25, when temperatures averaged more than 6° below average. The high temperature for the month was 63° on March 30, and snowfall for the month was only a shade over 5 inches. The next day the great blizzard began and raged into April 1, with a storm total of 24.4 inches, breaking the single-storm record of 23.6 inches set by the February "Blizzard of '78." Winds were from the southwest only on March 17 and 26. M. W. R.

LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Reports of loons and grebes were relatively scanty, and the only noteworthy report among this group was a **Pacific Loon** in Provincetown, which was well described in a written report. A count of 400 Northern Gannets at Provincetown on the March 30 marked the beginning of migration for this species. Three reports of Glossy Ibis was unusual, as they typically make their first arrival in early April. An early **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** in Pepperell was doubly unusual, being inland.

A **Tundra Swan**, which was first reported on the last day of February, loitered for two weeks in a pond behind the Chestnut Hill Shopping Center in Newton, then moved to Chestnut Hill Reservoir in Brighton for the rest of the month. Grounded Snow Geese were reported in exceptional numbers following a storm March 22, especially from Worcester County. Two reports of single Eurasian Wigeons in Lynnfield and Wakefield probably involved the same individual, and another drake seen in Cambridge midmonth was probably the bird that overwintered in the Belmont/Arlington area. The usual March influx of migrant ducks brought an above-average number of Redhead reports. Among these, came a count of 21 in Northboro and 18 in Brookfield, both exceeding the previous record for Worcester County. A **Tufted Duck** at Nantucket that lingered from February continued through the month.

Two **Black Vultures**, originally reported in January coming to an evening roost on the Westport/Dartmouth town line, were frequently observed during the day at a pig farm near the roost. Other reports of this species from Randolph and West Barnstable, therefore, could well be different birds. Ospreys begin returning in March, and, as usual, by the end of the month they were on territory. An excellent written description accompanying a report of an early Broad-winged Hawk in Concord left little doubt as to its identification.

Killdeer and American Oystercatchers arrived on schedule, while two Piping Plovers in South Dartmouth March 5 were earlier than normal. A Lesser Yellowlegs in Newbury on the 28th was also early. A **Mew Gull** that overwintered in Winthrop continued through most of the month. Alcids had a poor showing, with reports only of Black Guillemot. Guillemots often frequent the outermost Boston Harbor islands, but two birds within sight of Long Island were more unusual. Up to five Short-eared Owls were seen throughout the month in the Cumberland Farms section of Middleboro. An early Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was noted in Petersham.

S. A. P., M. W. R.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
Red-throated Loon				15	Gloucester	12	BBC (W. Drummond)
2	Salisbury	4	D. Chickering	Pied-billed Grebe			
8	Nant. Sound	21	S. Perkins	17	Lakeville	1	J. Paluzzi
9	Westport	14	M. Lynch#	23	Brighton	1	D. Oliver
20	Orleans	5	S. + E. Miller	23	Waltham	1	D. Oliver
Pacific Loon (details submitted)*				29	Petersham	1	S. + L. Hennin
4	Ptown (R.P.)	1	S. + E. Miller	Horned Grebe			
Common Loon				2	Gloucester	21	S. Perkins#
8	Nant. Sound	30	S. Perkins	2	P.I.	9	BBC (D. Oliver)

Horned Grebe (continued)								
9	Westport	44	M. Lynch#					
9	Boston H.	80	B. Zuzavich					
22	Lakeville	1	SSBC (W. Petersen)					
Red-necked Grebe								
1	Winthrop	30	G. d'Entremont					
2	Gloucester	18	S. Perkins#					
30	Lanesville	3	J. Berry#					
Northern Gannet								
16	P'town (R.P.)	12	J. Hoye#					
28	P.I.	3	D. + I. Jewell					
30	P'town	400	B. Nikula					
Double-crested Cormorant								
29	Squantum	6	G. d'Entremont					
30	W. Harwich	26	B. Nikula					
American Bittern								
4	Eastham (F.H.)	1	S. + E. Miller					
Great Blue Heron								
1, 29	Westboro	3, 18	E. Taylor					
19	Acton	20 prs	B. Volkle					
26	Concord (NAC)	3	S. Perkins					
Great Egret								
18	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)					
28	Rowley	1	R. Heil					
28	P.I.	1	D. Chickering					
28	Newbypt	1	R. Heil					
30	Essex	1	J. Berry					
31	Westport	1	G. Gove					
Snowy Egret								
29	Hull	1	N. Swirka					
30	Lanesville	3	J. Berry#					
31	Ipswich	1	J. MacDougall					
Black-crowned Night-Heron								
16	New Bedford	1	M. Boucher					
29	Squantum	4 ad	G. d'Entremont					
30	E. Boston (B.I.)	5	R. Cressman					
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron								
26	Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted					
Glossy Ibis								
22	W. Bridgewater	1	W. Petersen#					
23-31	Falmouth	5 max	D. Remsen					
28	Rowley	1	R. Heil					
Tundra Swan								
1-17	Newton	1	D. Oliver#					
20-31	Brighton	1	C. Hepburn#					
Mute Swan								
9	Westport	101	M. Lynch#					
Snow Goose								
thr	Medford	1	M. Rines					
22	Templeton	150	T. Pirro					
22	Middleboro	60	W. Petersen#					
22	W. Bridgewater	62	W. Petersen#					
22	Worcester	28	M. Lynch#					
22	Lexington	50+	M. Pelikan					
23	Littleton	50	D. Lange					
23	Barre	450	M. Lynch#					
28	P.I.	28	R. Heil					
30	Pepperell	3	E. Stromsted#					
Brant								
1	W. Dennis B.	69	C. Hepburn#					
9	P.I./Newbypt	35	P. Roberts					
15	Nantucket	90	fide E. Ray					
23	Salisbury	140	B. Volkle					
Wood Duck								
4, 22	Concord (NAC)	2, 22	S. Perkins					
9, 26	Cumb. Farms	23, 50+	R. Finch					
20	W. Brookfield	11	C. Phillips#					
22	Worcester	33	M. Lynch#					
23	Bolton Flats	60	M. Lynch#					
25	GMNWR	14	S. Perkins					
29	Petersham	15	S. + L. Hennin					
Green-winged Teal								
2	Lynnfield	5	D. Williams					
2	P.I.	7	D. Oliver					
4, 26	Concord (NAC)	14, 60	S. Perkins					
11	Nantucket	18	E. Ray					
23	Arlington	15	D. Oliver					
23	Topsfield	10	P. + F. Vale					
23	Bolton Flats	19	M. Lynch#					
28	IRWS	18	J. Brown#					
28	P.I.	100	R. Heil					
28	Rowley	150	R. Heil					
30	Wayland	45	S. Perkins#					
30	Pepperell	16	E. Stromsted					
American Black Duck								
9	Quincy	150	G. d'Entremont					
9	Westport	1219	M. Lynch#					
16	Cumb. Farms	200	S. Arena					
Northern Pintail								
1	GMNWR	6	E. Taylor					
2	P.I.	10	BBC (D. Oliver)					
2	Concord (NAC)	12	R. Lockwood					
12	Newbury	2	M. Rines					
16	Marlboro	4	B. Parker					
18	Concord (NAC)	22	S. Perkins					
22	W. Bridgewater	10	W. Petersen#					
23	Newbypt	22	J. Hepburn#					
25	GMNWR	13	R. Lockwood					
28	Bolton Flats	15	M. Lynch#					
28	Rowley	32	R. Heil					
28	P.I.	28	R. Heil					
29	Halifax	7	R. Finch					
Blue-winged Teal								
20	E. Brookfield	2	C. Phillips#					
22	P.I.	1 m	W. Taitrow					
24	Newbury	2	M. Rines					
25	GMNWR	1 m	S. Perkins					
28	Rowley	2	R. Heil					
29	Newbypt	2	J. Berry					
30	W. Harwich	1	B. Nikula					
23	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#					
Northern Shoveler								
thr	Boston	1 m	v.o.					
9	DWWS	2	T. Prince#					
14	E. Orleans	1 m	M. Preu#					
14	Osterville	2	S. + E. Miller					
15	DWWS	1	D. Larson#					
26	P.I.	1 m	M. Rines					
Gadwall								
2	P.I.	13	BBC (D. Oliver)					
7	DWWS	86	D. Ludlow					
9	Gloucester	12	J. Brown#					
20-30	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins					
23	Waltham	3	D. Oliver					
28	P.I.	47	R. Heil					
29	Arlington	8	BBC (D. Oliver)					
Eurasian Wigeon								
14	Osterville	2	S. + E. Miller					
16	Camb. (F.P.)	1 m	R. Stymeist					
22	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale					
25	Lynnfield	1	D. + I. Jewell					
American Wigeon								
2	Newbypt	4	D. Oliver					
2	P.I.	2	D. Oliver					
16	Marlboro	12	S. + L. Hennin					
21	Sudbury	5	S. Perkins#					
21	Concord (NAC)	5	S. Perkins					
22	Wakefield	4	P. + F. Vale					
22	Marlboro	7	E. Taylor					
23	Waltham	11	D. Oliver					
23	Arlington Res.	5	M. Pelikan					
28	Rowley	14	R. Heil					
30	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins					

Canvasback									
1	Falmouth	4		E. Giles	9	Pepperell	40		E. Stromsted
9	Yarmouth	3		R. Finch	15	Wakefield	15		P. + F. Vale
9	Westport	105		M. Lynch#	16	Harvard	15		S. + L. Hennin
22	Lakeville	5		W. Petersen#	18	GMNWR	12		R. Lockwood
23	Arlington	3		D. Oliver	19	S. Carver	f n		R. Turner
Redhead					22	Worcester	37		fide M. Lynch#
7-10	Gloucester	2		J. Soucy	23	Athol	18		D. Small#
8-28	GMNWR	21		S. + L. Hennin	28	Edaville	nest		R. Turner
15-28	Northboro	1		M. Lynch#	29	Petersham	30		S. + L. Hennin
15-16	Brookfield	18		B. Volkle#	Common Merganser				
18-20	Framingham	2		A. Porter	1	Westboro	165		A. Boover
Ring-necked Duck					1	GMNWR	50		J. Hoye#
thr	Wakefield	43 max		P. + F. Vale	1	W. Newbury	48		P. + F. Vale
9	W. Bridgewater	150		G. d'Entremont	2	Newton	50		R. Lockwood
16	Harvard	50		S. + L. Hennin	9	Sherborn	60		E. Taylor
22	Athol	62		D. Small#	15	N. Andover	180		E. Stromsted
22	GMNWR	100		S. Perkins	15	Brighton	25		N. Komar
22	Westboro	50		E. Taylor	15	Westboro	68		M. Lynch#
28	Northboro	51		A. Boover	22	GMNWR	45		S. Perkins
28	Arlington Res.	90		C. Floyd	Red-breasted Merganser				
29	GMNWR	50+		S. Perkins	1, 16	Quincy	600, 300		E. Taylor
Tufted Duck					9	Westport	392		M. Lynch#
thr	Nantucket	1		fide E. Ray	29	Somerville	6		D. Oliver
Greater Scaup					29	GMNWR	1		S. Perkins
2	Newbypt	6		D. Oliver	Ruddy Duck				
8	Nantucket	12		S. Perkins	15	Wakefield	5		D. Williams
9	Westport	75		M. Lynch#	15	Lynnfield	5		D. Williams
15	Newton	1		N. Komar	16	Medford	14		R. Stymeist#
22	Lakeville	125		SSBC (W. Petersen)	16	Brighton	18		D. Oliver
29	Arlington Res.	1		D. Oliver	27	Waltham	8		M. Partridge
Lesser Scaup					28	Arlington Res.	7		C. Floyd
8	Nantucket	20		S. Perkins	29	Brighton	18		D. Oliver
9	Westport	30		M. Lynch#	29	W. Newbury	7		J. Berry
16	Lakeville	60		S. Arena	29	Winchester	16		BBC (D. Oliver)
28	W. Newbury	2		R. Heil	38	S. Carver	4		R. Turner
Common Eider					Black Vulture				
9	Quincy	500		G. d'Entremont	15	Westport	2		R. Stymeist#
28	Newbypt	870		R. Heil	20	Randolph	1		N. Smith
King Eider					28	W. Barnstable	1		G. Martin
2	Rockport	2		v.o.	Turkey Vulture				
Harlequin Duck					1	Westboro	4		A. Boover
1	N. Scituate	2		W. Lackey	2	Lynnfield	5		P. + F. Vale
2	Rockport	39		S. Perkins#	2	W. Newbury	3		BBC (D. Oliver)
8	Nantucket	3		S. Perkins	15	Westport	21		R. Stymeist#
23	Squibnocket	45		G. Daniels	23	Northboro	14		B. Volkle
Oldsquaw					23	Southbridge	4		S. + L. Hennin
7	Nant. Sound	4000		S. Perkins	28	Hingham	3		N. Swirka
26	Gardner	3		T. Pirro	28	Newbury	3		R. Heil
Black Scoter					28	Newbypt	6		R. Heil
7	Nant. Sound	90		S. Perkins	28	Provincetown	3		T. Raymond
10	Rockport	50		J. Soucy	30	Lincoln	4		S. Perkins
16	Nauset B.	12		J. Hoye#	30	East Bridgewater	2		R. Finch
Surf Scoter					30	Concord (NAC)	8		S. Perkins#
7	Nant. Sound	600		S. Perkins	Osprey				
Common Goldeneye					9	Westport	1		M. Lynch#
2	Newbypt	180		BBC (D. Oliver)	15	Nantucket	2		fide E. Ray
18	GMNWR	5		R. Lockwood	19	S. Carver	1		K. Anderson
29	Petersham	2		S. + L. Hennin	20	Chilmark	1		J. Slater
29	IRWS	4		P. + F. Vale	26	Wareham	2		H. Thomas
Barrow's Goldeneye					29	Westport	15		R. Finch
1-12	Newbypt	1		v.o.	30	Nantucket	pr		A. Charder
2	Wareham	1		M. Sylvia	31	Marshfield	pr n		T. Nickerson
2	Winthrop	1		B. Volkle	Bald Eagle				
7	Nantucket	2		S. Perkins	1	W. Newbury	1		P. + F. Vale
Bufflehead					2	Acton	1 ad		M. Lynch#
9	Yarmouth	137		R. Finch	17	Middleboro	pr n		R. Turner
9	Westport	498		M. Lynch#	20-26	Wayland	1 imm		N. Patterson
29	Newbypt	390		R. Heil	23	Petersham	1 ad		M. Lynch#
Hooded Merganser					27	S. Quabbin	5		M. Rines
2	Newton	12		R. Lockwood	30	Wayland	2 imm		S. Perkins#
8	Athol	11		D. Small	Northern Harrier				
					2	Middleboro	4		S. Arena

Northern Harrier (continued)				23	Petersham	36	M. Lynch#
9	DWWS	3	T. Prince#	28	Newbypt	11	R. Heil
15	East Boston (B.I.)	1	R. Cressman	29	IRWS	1	P. + F. Vale
28	P.I.	3	R. Heil	Virginia Rail			
28	Cumb. Farms	7	R. Finch	28	Yarmouthport	2	S. + E. Miller
Sharp-shinned Hawk				30	GMNWR	1	S. + L. Hennin
2	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	American Coot			
9	Marshfield	1	L. Ferrarosso	23	Medford	9	D. Oliver
15	Malden	1	P. + F. Vale	23	Arlington	41	D. Oliver
16	Cumb. Farms	1	S. Moore#	Black-bellied Plover			
19	Lynn	1	J. Berry	16	Duxbury B.	1	D. Clapp
22	W. Newbury	1	D. Chickering	Piping Plover			
26	Concord (NAC)	1 ad	S. Perkins	5	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	LCES (J. Hill)
28	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins	9	Westport	1	S. + L. Hennin
28	Provincetown	1	T. Raymond	15	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray
Cooper's Hawk				15	Duxbury B.	1	D. Clapp
23	Marstons Mills	2	M. Partridge	22	Acoaxet	7	J. Hoye#
30	Lanesville	pr n	J. Berry	23	S. Dartmouth	13	B. Hodgson
thr	Reports of individuals from 16 loc.			27	Mashpee	4	S. + E. Miller
Northern Goshawk				29	Katama	3	P. Davey#
22	Hopkinton	1	G. Gove	Killdeer			
23	Petersham	1 ad	M. Lynch#	12	Nantucket	9	fide E. Ray
28	Boxford (C.P.)	1	P. + F. Vale	20	Lexington	16	M. Rines
Red-shouldered Hawk				22	W. Bridgewater	18	W. Petersen#
thr	E. Middleboro	pr n	K. Anderson	22	Concord (NAC)	12	S. Perkins#
7, 13	Lincoln	1	M. Rines	26	Cumb. Farms	35	R. Finch
9	Cumb. Farms	2	S. Moore#	28	Rowley	10	R. Heil
10	Hanover	1	W. Petersen#	28	Newbury	67	R. Heil
11	Marshfield	1	D. Clapp	American Oystercatcher			
13-30	Boxford	2-3	J. Brown#	4	M.V.	1	J. Cressy
22	Lexington	2	M. Rines	11, 22	Nantucket	2, 8	fide E. Ray
22	Petersham	2	M. Polana	26	Logan	2	N. Smith
25-26	Dartmouth	1	A. Hankin	Greater Yellowlegs			
25	Boston	1 ad	K. Hudson	30	Cummaquid	4	S. + E. Miller
28	N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher	Lesser Yellowlegs			
30	N. Truro	1 imm	B. Nikula	28	Newbury	1	R. Heil
30	Easton	1	S. Arena	Ruddy Turnstone			
30	Boxford (C.P.)	3	J. MacDougall	8	Nantucket	20	S. Perkins
Broad-winged Hawk				Red Knot			
21	Concord	1	R. Lockwood	15	Duxbury B.	1	D. Clapp
Red-tailed Hawk				Purple Sandpiper			
28	Newbypt area	19	R. Heil	8	Nantucket	50	S. Perkins
Rough-legged Hawk				Dunlin			
9	P.I./Newbypt	1	P. Roberts	9	Nahant	80	J. Young
9	Cumb. Farms	1	S. Moore#	15	Duxbury B.	320	D. Clapp
15	Cumb. Farms	1 dk	R. Stymeist#	Common Snipe			
16	W. Roxbury	1	S. Cronenweth	4	Cumb. Farms	3	R. Finch
American Kestrel				17	Dorchester	2	R. Donovan
2	Newbypt	2	BBC (D. Oliver)	22	W. Bridgewater	80	W. Petersen#
15	Westport	3	M. Rines#	28	Newbury	45	R. Heil
22	W. Bridgewater	3	W. Petersen#	30	Concord (NAC)	6	S. Perkins#
23	P.I.	2	W. Petersen	30	Cumb. Farms	65	T. Raymond
30	Concord (NAC)	2	S. Perkins#	American Woodcock			
thr	Reports of individuals from 10 loc.			2	Northboro	5	B. Volkle
Merlin				2	Newton	3	M. Partridge
2	Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale	4	Bedford	3	M. Rines
9	Nahant	2	J. Young	5	IRWS	4	J. MacDougall
16	Arlington	1	S. Cronenweth	11	Cumb. Farms	10	K. Anderson
22	South Boston	1	R. Donovan	19	Ipswich	9	J. Berry
Peregrine Falcon				21	Wayland	11	N. Patterson
12	Newbypt	1	B. Gette	21	Cambridge	9	M. Rines
Ruffed Grouse				23	Bolton Flats	10	M. Lynch#
7	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil	28	W. Newbury	8	R. Heil
21	IRWS	3	L. Healy	Black-headed Gull			
23	Bolton	1	R. Lockwood	1	N. Scituate	1 imm	W. Lackey
29	Lincoln	1	M. Rines	2	Gloucester	1 imm	V. Laux#
29	Petersham	1	D. Small#	2-24	Newbypt	2	v.o.
Wild Turkey				9	W. Lynn	1	J. Young
1	Danvers	1	B. Foley	15	Winthrop	7	R. Cressman
2	Templeton	18	R. Stymeist#	Mew Gull (no details) *			
7	W. Newbury	6	R. Heil	1-23	Winthrop	1	v.o.
15	Athol	10	D. Small				

Iceland Gull				30	Rockport	pr n	D. Jacques
6	Concord (NAC)	1 1W	S. Perkins	30	Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab
8	Brockton	1	S. Arena	Snowy Owl			
11	Oak Bluffs	1	C. Cameron	2	Logan	7	N. Smith
13	Arlington Res.	1	D. + I. Jewell	2	P.I.	1	BBC (D. Oliver)
15	Newbypt	2	J. Brown#	8	Duxbury	2	F. Bygate
20	Acton (Nagog)	4	R. Forster	31	Logan	4	N. Smith
28	P'town	9	T. Raymond	Barred Owl			
Lesser Black-backed Gull				11	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
2	Acton	1 ad	R. Stymeist#	29	Sharon	1	D. Larson#
15	Westboro	1	M. Lynch#	30	Harvard	1	C. Kopkowski
Glaucous Gull				Short-eared Owl			
2	Acton	2	R. Stymeist#	10	Cumb. Farms	5	S. Cronenweth
23	Ipswich	1	J. Brown#	15	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray
28	Provincetown	1	T. Raymond	26	P.I.	1	J. Dwyer
28	Kowley	1 1W	R. Heil	30	Cumb. Farms	5	T. Raymond
29	Hingham	1	M. Partridge	31	P.I.	1	W. Stubblefield
Black-legged Kittiwake				Red-headed Woodpecker			
16	P'town (R.P.)	12	J. Hoye#	thr	Essex	1	v.o.
Black Guillemot				thr	Sherborn	1	E. Taylor
2	Gloucester	6	S. Perkins#	Red-bellied Woodpecker			
2	Rockport	3	S. Perkins#	thr	Lincoln	pr	S. Perkins
9	Boston H.	2	B. Zuzavich	thr	Sherborn	2	E. Taylor
30	Lanesville	2	J. Berry#	19	Ipswich	2	K. Disney
Eastern Screech-Owl				21	Medford	3	M. Rines
8	Norfolk	3	B. Cassie	25	IRWS	2	D. + I. Jewell
9	Harwich	1	D. Chickering	28	Holliston	2	J. Howe
9	Foxboro	4	B. Cassie	29	Boston	2	J. Young
21	Brighton	1	M. Partridge	thr	Reports of individuals from 16 loc.		
21	Millis	13	B. Cassie	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
28-30	Mt. A	1	v.o.	29	Quabbin (G40)	1	E. Nielsen#
Great Horned Owl				Pileated Woodpecker			
4	Bedford	1	M. Rines	2	Acton	2	R. Lockwood
6	Hopkinton	pr	R. Wolanin	11	Wayland	2	C. Jackman
8	Norfolk	8	B. Cassie	16,28	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins
8	Framingham	1	E. Taylor	21	Lincoln	1	P. Schnepper
8	Westboro	1	M. Lynch#	23	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#
9	W. Bridgewater	1	G. d'Entremont	25	Harvard	1	C. Kopkowski
9	Foxboro	3	B. Cassie	28	Sunderland	1 m	M. Rines
10	N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher	29	Milton	2 m	G. d'Entremont
11	E. Middleboro	3	K. Anderson	29	Quabbin (G40)	2	E. Nielsen#
21	Millis	4	B. Cassie	30	Boxford	2	J. MacDougall
29	Newbury	pr n	J. Berry				

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

March brings the first spring arrival of Eastern Phoebes and Tree Swallows, whetting the appetite of birders for things to come. A Barn Swallow at Great Meadows in Concord on March 30 was exceptionally early. American Crows at their Framingham roost had dispersed by the end of the month, presumably to their breeding areas. Fish Crows continue to expand into new areas in eastern Massachusetts. Common Raven sightings in the eastern part of the state are always unusual, so an observer in Ipswich was surprised to discover a bird chowing down on a road kill fisher, an equally unusual mammal.

On March 30, a **Rock Wren** was discovered in the Lanesville section of Gloucester, only the third occurrence of this species in Massachusetts. It is an odd time of year for the discovery of such a rarity, leading to speculation that the bird may have been there since the fall. The **Townsend's Solitaire**, originally discovered on the Mid-Cape Christmas Bird Count, continued to be reported from Barnstable through the middle of the month, and a second bird was discovered in Sandwich on March 5. There are only a handful of records of this species in the state, so the occurrence of a second bird led the observer to suspect it might have been the same bird. He went to the Barnstable location, however, and saw the original bird, becoming probably the first person on the east coast to see two Townsend's Solitaires in one day.

A male Cape May Warbler was discovered to have overwintered at a feeder on Martha's Vineyard. While other warbler species are known to overwinter, this is the first record of this species doing so. Dickcissels are very unusual in winter, and a total of four birds is exceptional. The handful of Chipping Sparrow reports at the very end of the month suggests the vanguard of spring arrivals rather than overwintering birds. A Clay-colored Sparrow visiting a feeder in North Dartmouth was exceptionally early for a spring migrant. A **Harris' Sparrow**, originally discovered in January, continued visiting a feeder in Salisbury through March 22.

Large flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles were observed in a number of locations, congregating prior to breeding dispersal. With the exception of a count of 133 Rusty Blackbirds in Westwood,

it was a mediocre March flight for this species. The only winter finch reports were a scattering of Purple Finches, plus reports of Red Crossbills in West Peabody and Quabbin, two Pine Siskins in Athol, and a flock of Evening Grosbeaks in Petersham.

R. H. S.

Eastern Phoebe				23	Wayland	1	J. Hoye#
20	IRWS	1	R. Speare	29	Braintree	2	G. d'Entremont
20	Lexington	1	M. Rines	30	E. Middleboro	pr n	K. Anderson
22	Worcester	3	S. + L. Hennin	Winter Wren			
28	Hingham	5	N. Swirka	7	Worc. (BMB)	1	C. Phillips
28	W. Newbury	6	R. Heil	15	Westport	2	R. Stymeist#
29	Quabbin (G40)	7	E. Nielsen#	20	Boxford (C.P.)	1	K. Disney
29	Petersham	9	E. Nielsen#	21	Medford	1	M. Rines
29	Lincoln	5	M. Rines	21	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell
30	Lexington	6	M. Rines	22	Malden	1	P. + F. Vale
Horned Lark				23	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#
2	Middleboro	125	S. Arena	28	Boxford (C.P.)	3	P. + F. Vale
13	Wayland	11	N. Patterson	28	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil
15	Eastham (F.E.)	20	J. Hoye#	29	Braintree	1	G. d'Entremont
26	Cumb. Farms	75+	R. Finch	30	Lexington	1	M. Rines
Tree Swallow				Marsh Wren			
18, 29	GMNWR	1, 150	S. Perkins	17	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
21	Sudbury	1	S. Perkins#	19-27	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood
22	Lakeville	2	W. Petersen#	28	Yarmouthport	1	S. + E. Miller
22	Cumb. Farms	2	W. Petersen#	Golden-crowned Kinglet			
23	Bridgewater	3	M. Boucher	16	Hingham	8	N. Swirka
26	Concord (NAC)	28	S. Perkins	23	Petersham	15	M. Lynch#
27	Harvard	40	S. + L. Hennin	29	IRWS	8	P. + F. Vale
29	Halifax	25	R. Finch	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
29	Tisbury	75	v.o.	22	Nantucket	3	fide E. Ray
31	Pepperell	250	E. Stromsted	Eastern Bluebird			
Barn Swallow				1	Rowley	6	P. + F. Vale
30	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins#	1	Wayland	2	N. Patterson
American Crow				2	Westboro	3	A. Boover
2	Bolton Flats	300	M. Lynch#	4-30	E. Boxford	2	J. Brown#
1, 31	Framingham	9000, 900	E. Taylor	9	E. Bridgewater	2	R. Finch
Fish Crow				9	Wellfleet	8	B. Parker
1	W. Roxbury	2	M. Rines	15	Concord	3	R. Lockwood
7	Hanson	8	W. Petersen	16	Wenham	2	P. + F. Vale
19	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	16	W. Newbury	3	D. + I. Jewell
22	Bedford	4	M. Rines	17	Lincoln	2	S. Perkins
24	Waltham	2	K. Anderson	18	IRWS	3	D. + I. Jewell
26	Georgetown	2	A. Bennett	22	Worc. (BMB)	4	S. + L. Hennin
28	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil	27	Petersham	4	M. Rines
29	Braintree	2	G. d'Entremont	27	Hardwick	2	M. Rines
30	Mt.A.	2	P. + F. Vale	29	Hingham	8	N. Swirka
Common Raven				Townsend's Solitaire (details submitted) *			
1	Quincy	1	N. Smith	1-16	Barnstable	1	v.o.
2, 22	Athol	2, 7	D. Small	Townsend's Solitaire (no details) *			
3, 10	Ipswich	1, 2	J. MacDougall	5	Sandwich	1	W. Loughran
28	Royalston	2	M. Rines	Hermit Thrush			
Red-breasted Nuthatch				14	E. Orleans	1	A. Williams#
thr	E. Middleboro	pr	K. Anderson	16	Wenham	1	P. Vale
1	Weston	4	M. Rines	16	Medford	1	D. Oliver
16	Hingham	2	N. Swirka	23	Worc. (BMB)	4	S. Moore#
28	Boxford (C.P.)	4	P. + F. Vale	23	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont
29	Quabbin (G40)	10	E. Nielsen#	29	Petersham	1	S. + L. Hennin
Brown Creeper				American Robin			
1	Weston	3	M. Rines	22	Marlboro	2000	B. Volkle
2	Royalston	3	M. Rines#	Gray Catbird			
16	Hingham	4	N. Swirka	9	Westport	1	S. + L. Hennin
29	IRWS	3	P. + F. Vale	9	Barnstable	1	D. Chickering
29	Quabbin (G40)	8	E. Nielsen#	Brown Thrasher			
Rock Wren (details submitted) *				29	Squantum	1	G. d'Entremont
30-31	Gloucester	1	J. Berry + v.o.	Cedar Waxwing			
Carolina Wren				thr	Taunton	125	max G. d'Entremont
2	Westboro	1	A. Boover	1	Newbypt	25	P. + F. Vale
8	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#	2	Littleton	126	R. Stymeist#
9	E. Bridgewater	1	R. Finch	2	Wakefield	60	D. Williams
11	Bedford	1	M. Rines	2	Westboro	54	A. Boover
15	Westport	9	R. Stymeist#	4	N. Andover	75	R. Parkinson
17	Lexington	2	M. Rines	8	Rockport	35	D. + I. Jewell

Cedar Waxwing (continued)				28	W. Newbury	4	R. Heil
29	Milton	60	G. d'Entremont	29	Petersham	3	D. Small#
29	W. Newbury	50	J. Berry	13-31	Reports of 1 or 2 indiv. from 21 loc.		
Northern Shrike				Swamp Sparrow			
2	Katama	1	A. Keith	7	Woburn	1	M. Rines
10, 26	Wayland	1	N. Patterson	9	Westport	2	S. + L. Hennin
16	Cumb. Farms	1	S. Moore#	25	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood
23	Petersham	1	D. Small#	White-crowned Sparrow			
28	Dennis	1	J. Sones	8	S. Dartmouth	1	R. Comeau
30	Cumb. Farms	1	R. Finch	Harris' Sparrow (no details) *			
30	Lexington	1	M. Rines	22	Salisbury	1	v.o.
Cape May Warbler				Lapland Longspur			
thr	Edgartown	1	ph V. Laux + v.o.	22	Cumb. Farms	2	W. Petersen#
Yellow-rumped Warbler				Snow Bunting			
9	Squantum	25	G. d'Entremont	2	Ipswich (C.B.)	20	J. Berry
9	P.I.	12	J. Berry	22	Cumb. Farms	10	W. Petersen#
Pine Warbler				Red-winged Blackbird			
24	Acton	1	G. Marley	2	Newbury	350	P. + F. Vale
28	Royalston	4	M. Rines	2	ONWR	2000	M. Lynch#
28	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	23	Methuen	700	J. Hogan
29	E. Bridgewater	1	E. Giles	23	Bolton Flats	5000	M. Lynch#
30	Lakeville	4	R. Finch	28	W. Newbury	1100	R. Heil
30	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	Eastern Meadowlark			
30	Malden	1	P&V Fale	8	Cumb. Farms	29	D. Deifik
30	Easton	2	S. Arena	21	Westboro	5	A. Boover
30	Cohasset	3	N. Swirka	22	Essex	5	D. Chickering
30	Hingham	3	N. Swirka	23	Bolton Flats	7	M. Lynch#
31	Fall River	15+	G. Gove	24	Newbury	10	M. Rines
Dickcissel				28	P.I.	6	D. + I. Jewell
8	Athol	1	B. Fregeau#	29	Hingham	3	SSBC (N. Swirka)
9	Westport	1	M. Lynch#	30	GMNWR	2	migr S. Perkins
20	Winthrop	1	G. Foley	Rusty Blackbird			
25-26	Dartmouth	1	A. Hankin	2	Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale
Eastern Towhee				2	Bolton	1	M. Lynch#
thr	N. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher	10	Ipswich	3	J. Berry
thr	Lincoln	1	f W. Harrington	15	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale
13	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	15	Lynnfield	1	D. Williams
19	Newbury	1	M. Rines	22	Malden	1	P. + F. Vale
22	Worcester	1	S. + L. Hennin	22	Athol	8	D. Small#
American Tree Sparrow				22	Middleboro	7	W. Petersen#
2	Sudbury	25	R. Lockwood	22	Concord (NAC)	1	S. Perkins#
2	Newbypt	32	BBC (D. Oliver)	27	Wayland	11	N. Patterson
9	W. Quincy	10	G. d'Entremont	30	Westwood	133	E. Nielsen
30	Wakefield	6	P. + F. Vale	30	Canton	3	J. Young
Chipping Sparrow				Common Grackle			
28	Cumb. Farms	1	R. Finch	23	Bolton Flats	10,000	M. Lynch#
28	W. Peabody	1	R. Heil	28	W. Newbury	750	R. Heil
30	Easton	2	S. Arena	30	Methuen	45,000	J. Hogan
30	Northboro	5	S. Arena	Brown-headed Cowbird			
31	Hopkinton	3	G. Gove	thr	N. Dartmouth	18	M. Boucher
Clay-colored Sparrow				2	ONWR	60	M. Lynch#
14-31	N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher	Purple Finch			
Field Sparrow				7-26	Maynard	4	L. Nachtrab
7	Dennis	1	S. + E. Miller	15	Athol	5	D. Small
13	Charlton	1	S. + L. Hennin	16	IRWS	2	D. Larson#
16	Northboro	1	S. + L. Hennin	28	Concord (NAC)	1	m S. Perkins
30	Lexington	2	M. Rines	28	W. Newbury	5	R. Heil
Savannah Sparrow				29	Petersham	6	E. Nielsen#
9	W. Quincy	7	G. d'Entremont	29	Hardwick	15	E. Nielsen#
14	Westboro	2	A. Boover	29	Quabbin (G40)	6	E. Nielsen#
29	Arlington	1	BBC (D. Oliver)	30	Wayland	2	J. Hoye#
30	Cumb. Farms	30	T. Raymond	Red Crossbill			
"Ipswich" Sparrow				28	W. Peabody	1	R. Heil
5	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	29	Quabbin (G40)	2	E. Nielsen#
Fox Sparrow				Pine Siskin			
8	Barnstable	1	S. + E. Miller	8	Athol	2	B. Fregeau
8	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#	Evening Grosbeak			
10	Beverly	2	L. Pivacek	22	Petersham	20	M. Polan
23	Bolton	5	R. Lockwood				

BIRD SIGHTINGS

APRIL 1997

SUMMARY

by Simon Perkins, Marjorie W. Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist

Many of us were left with reminders of the April 1 blizzard that hammered the state with wet, heavy snow. Starting on March 31, this storm left over two feet of snow on the ground, setting not only the April record, but an all-time record for snow accumulation in a 24-hour period. Combined with strong north and northeasterly winds, gusting to 44 miles per hour, the storm left the worst tree damage in memory in much of eastern Massachusetts. Popular spring birding locations such as Mount Auburn Cemetery and Arnold Arboretum were especially hard hit. A second nor'easter, with peak winds gusting to 51 miles per hour, struck us on April 19. Southwest winds occurred only on April 16.

M. W. R.

LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Loons and grebes typically build in numbers during the beginning of April, but with the exception of good counts of both Red-throated and Common loons from Nantucket, and Horned Grebes off Marblehead, these species were reported in lower than average numbers. The aftermath of the April Fool's storm brought some unusual sightings, including good numbers of Northern Fulmars, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Northern Gannet, and Black-legged Kittiwake from First Encounter Beach in Eastham on April 2. During and after the storm of April 19, smaller numbers of pelagic species were reported, including Leach's Storm-Petrel, Northern Gannet, phalaropes, and Pomarine Jaegers. A boat trip 20 miles off Monomoy Island resulted in a report of very early Sooty Shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Because there are few opportunities to get offshore this early in the season, one wonders if these sightings are truly exceptional, or if the birds are actually there in April, but no one is there to report them.

Hérons arrived in good numbers at the beginning of the month, with a particularly good count of Glossy Ibis in the Essex, Ipswich, and Rowley area April 19. A **Tundra Swan** continued to be seen at Chestnut Hill Reservoir in Brighton, and in Scituate, two Tundra Swans were reported on April 8. The **Greater White-fronted Goose** originally discovered in Welleley in early January was reported throughout the month, which is pushing the envelope for the departure of a truly wild bird. A hybrid Green-winged Teal/Northern Pintail at Nine Acre Corner in Concord was carefully studied and described in detail. A **Tufted Duck** on Nantucket, originally found in January, was not reported after April 6, and a second (?) bird was reported from Plymouth. Other duck reports were typical, although Red-breasted Merganser reported from Gardner was very unusual for Worcester county.

Turkey Vultures moved through in good numbers throughout the month. In Pepperell, a pair of Ospreys at a nest on a telephone pole, one of only two inland breeding records in the state. While the pair evidently has been nesting there for at least four years, it was only reported to this journal this year. Hawk migration peaks in April. The Broad-winged Hawk flight on April 27 included one of the largest spring counts on record at Mt. Wachusett in Princeton. On the coast, winds with a strong westerly component make for the best spring hawkwatching. Such conditions led to an excellent count of 163 American Kestrels on Plum Island April 7 and 8. A gray **Gyr Falcon** on Nantucket was observed harassing a flock of Oldsquaw.

An Upland Sandpiper in Marshfield on April 8 was very early, as were Whimbrels reported from Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. A Ruff in Ipswich lingered at a farm pond for a week, allowing many birders to compare it to the handful of yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers in the same pond. Three reports of Caspian Tern was a better-than-average total for April. A Black Skimmer in Orleans was very early. Inclement weather on April 6 grounded numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls at various inland locations. Such groundings are rare in the state, despite the fact that migrating Bonaparte's Gulls no doubt regularly overfly interior Massachusetts regions. Among the flock of gulls in Athol were two Black-headed Gulls, a species recorded only once previously in Worcester County.

Black-billed Cuckoo reports in April are rare, but when this species does occur in April, it often coincides with storms, as was the case this year. A Great Horned Owl on Martha's Vineyard was unusual for this

location, which only recently has recorded this species. Short-eared Owls, which this season had been reported only from the Cumberland Farms fields in Middleboro and the offshore islands, were also reported from Plum Island and Westport. A Common Nighthawk was very unusual for April. S. A. P., M. W. R.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
Red-throated Loon				Great Egret			
13	Westport	30	M. Lynch#	4	Essex	2	J. MacDougall
17	Nantucket	250+	B. Perkins	4-30	P.I.	1-6	v.o.
20	Eastham (F.E.)	40	B. Nikula	6	Nantucket	2	E. Andrews#
25	Vinyard Haven	4	M. Pelikan	6	W. Bridgewater	1	S. Arena
Common Loon				7	Essex	14	B. Parker
4	Woburn	1	D. Jewell	26	Rowley	7	J. Berry
12	Nantucket	67	E. Ray	Snowy Egret			
20	P.I.	5	M. Pelikan	3	Gloucester	4	M. Rines
20	Gardner	2	T. Pirro	4-30	P.I.	2	W. Drew#
21	Arlington	1	M. Rines	5	Winthrop	1	R. Cressman
30	Lincoln	1	S. Perkins#	19	Essex	41	R. Heil
Pied-billed Grebe				19	Ipswich	10	R. Heil
1-22	Reports of 1 or 2 indiv. from 18 loc.			26	Rowley	26	J. Berry
Horned Grebe				29	Harwich	15	K. Hamilton
6	P.I.	10	S. Perkins#	Little Blue Heron			
13	Westport	20	M. Lynch#	15	Ipswich	1	J. Soucy#
17	Marblehead	232	J. McLaughlin	26	Essex	5	R. Heil
26	Oak Bluffs	5	M. Pelikan	Tricolored Heron			
Red-necked Grebe				21-30	P.I.	1	v.o.
13	Minot	25	S. + L. Hennin	Cattle Egret			
26	N. Scituate	5	D. Furbish	5	P.I.	1	fide P. Roberts
Northern Fulmar				10	Lincoln	1	L. Cocca
2	Eastham (F.E.)	130	B. Nikula#	13-20	Pepperell	1	B. Harris + v.o.
Sooty Shearwater				17	Barre	1	fide D. Small
26	off Monomoy	20	W. Petersen#	23	Ipswich	4	J. Berry
Manx Shearwater				27	Beverly	2	I. Giriunas
24	Rockport (A.P.)	1	J. Soucy#	Black-crowned Night-Heron			
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				2, 4	Harwich	1, 44	K. Hamilton
26	off Monomoy	15	W. Petersen#	5	Boston	12	F. Bouchard
Leach's Storm-Petrel				14	W. Harwich	25	B. Nikula#
2	Eastham (F.E.)	85	B. Nikula#	17	Watertown	20	M. Rines
19	Barnstable (S.N.)	10	B. Volkle	20	E. Boston (B.I.)	15	R. Cressman
Storm-Petrel species				Glossy Ibis			
1	Nantucket	1	A. Charder	1	Naushon	1	J. Hodges
20	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula	4	P.I.	9	W. Drew#
Northern Gannet				9	W. Bridgewater	6	W. Petersen
2	Eastham (F.E.)	2000	B. Nikula#	18-20	Concord (NAC)	1	S. Perkins#
5	Nahant	12	BBC (G. Wood)	19	Essex	42	R. Heil
5	Rockport (H. P.)	21	G. d'Entremont	19	Ipswich	110	R. Heil
6	P.I.	14	S. Perkins#	19	Rowley	15	R. Heil
19	Eastham (F.E.)	274	M. Lynch#	21	Framingham	4	K. Hamilton
25	Marshfield	19	D. Furbish	29	Brookline	1	H. Miller
26	off Monomoy	450	W. Petersen#	Tundra Swan			
Great Cormorant				1-3	Brighton	1	v.o.
27	Rockport	18	J. Berry	8	Scituate	2	D. Clapp
Double-crested Cormorant				Whooper Swan			
4	Wayland	11	N. Patterson	1-31	P.I.	4 ad	v.o.
20	Nantucket	114	E. Ray	Greater White-fronted Goose			
27	Wayland	5	K. Hamilton	thr	Wellesley	1	v.o.
27	Cape Ann	300	J. Berry	Snow Goose			
27	Westminster	7	S. Perkins#	4	P.I.	11	W. Drew#
29	Harwich	145	K. Hamilton	4	Cumb. Farms	12	R. Finch
American Bittern				12	Quabbin (G35)	100	M. Lynch#
6-20	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	12	Petersham	100	S. + L. Hennin
4	Newburyport	1	R. Heil	13	Newbury	50	B. Hodson
11	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	R. Cressman	20	Ipswich	35	D. Chickering
12	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	25	Winchester	1	M. Rines
15	Squantum	1	T. Mulligan	Brant			
20	Nantucket	2	E. Ray#	20	Rowley	50	J. Berry
20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	D. Larson	24	P.I./Newbypt	400	S. Perkins#
21	GMNWR	1	S. + L. Hennin	26	Scituate	83	R. Finch
27	Cumb. Farms	2	R. Finch	27	Quincy	581	R. Stymeist#
Great Blue Heron				Wood Duck			
27	Canton	13 nests	R. Stymeist#	4	Cumb. Farms	50+	R. Finch

Wood Duck (continued)				4	Newbypt	18	R. Heil
5	Worcester	17	fide M. Lynch	7	Lakeville	43	M. Boucher
5	GMNWR	20+	S. Perkins#	12	Pembroke	20	W. Petersen
6	P.I.	12	R. Lockwood	Common Eider			
12	Duxbury	17	D. Clapp	4	Gloucester	880	F. Bouchard
20	Wayland (WB)	12	S. Perkins#	5	Rockport	600	BBC (J. Nove)
21	Cumb. Farms	27	R. Finch	6	Newbypt	800	S. Perkins#
Green-winged Teal				King Eider			
2	Arlington Res.	16	S. Cronenweth	5	Gloucester	1	v.o.
4, 16	P.I.	52, 62	W. Drew#	Harlequin Duck			
6	W. Bridgewater	45	S. Arena	4	Gloucester	10	R. Heil
7, 18	Concord (NAC)	20, 50	S. Perkins	5	Winthrop	1	R. Cressman
10	Wakefield	18	D. Ryan	13	Scituate	4	BBC (S. Shapiro)
14	W. Harwich	80+	B. Nikula#	Oldsquaw			
20	Ipswich	139	M. Lynch#	19	Rockport (A.P.)	925	R. Heil
20	Wayland	35	S. Perkins#	20	Newbypt	2500	M. Lynch#
Northern Pintail				Black Scoter			
4	P.I.	50	W. Taitrow	4, 19	Rockport (A.P.)	500, 110	R. Heil
8	Halifax	1	R. Finch	25	Marshfield	33	D. Furbish
9-16	Natick	3	E. Taylor	Surf Scoter			
19	Essex	pr	R. Heil	4	Gloucester	55	F. Bouchard
Green-winged Teal x Northern Pintail hybrid				5	Rockport (H.P.)	32	BBC (J. Nove)
7-13	Concord (NAC)	1 m	S. Perkins#	20	Eastham (F.E.)	300	B. Nikula
Blue-winged Teal				25	Marshfield	3	D. Furbish
5	Bolton	2	S. + L. Hennin	White-winged Scoter			
5	DWWS	2	D. Furbish	4	Gloucester	90	F. Bouchard
5	Newbury	6	D. + I. Jewell	Common Goldeneye			
6	IRWS	7	J. MacDougall	3	Gardner	11	T. Pirro
10	Pembroke	3	D. Furbish	6	Newbypt	200	S. Perkins#
14	Wayland	2	N. Patterson	11	GMNWR	10	R. Lockwood
15	Squantum	2	T. Mulligan	Barrow's Goldeneye			
20	P.I.	6	M. Pelikan	6	Newbypt	3	G. Gove#
20	Wayland	5	S. Perkins#	Bufflehead			
23	Concord (NAC)	2	S. Perkins#	6	Newbypt	80	S. Perkins#
27	Nantucket	6	E. Andrews#	11	GMNWR	20	R. Lockwood
Northern Shoveler				12	Wakefield	25	P. + F. Vale
thr	Boston	1	v.o.	12	Marshfield	26	D. Clapp
thr	P.I.	1-3	v.o.	20	Nantucket	100	E. Ray
8	Halifax	1	R. Finch	27	Westport	85	SSBC (W. Harrington)
12	Peabody	2	D. Hill	Hooded Merganser			
Gadwall				3	GMNWR	15	R. Lockwood
4	P.I.	39	R. Heil	3	P.I.	7	J. MacDougall
6	W. Peabody	10	R. Heil	20	Wayland	2	S. Perkins#
10	DWWS	56	D. Clapp	Common Merganser			
12	Ipswich	50	J. Hoyer#	2	Harwich	43	K. Hamilton
20	Arlington Res.	5	M. Pelikan	4	GMNWR	30	R. Lockwood
Eurasian Wigeon				6	Georgetown	75	W. Petersen#
1-20	Nantucket	1	G. Frost#	12	Wakefield	26	P. + F. Vale
American Wigeon				12	Worcester	93	fide M. Lynch
2	DWWS	4	D. Furbish	22	Petersham	26	M. Lynch#
3	Nantucket	6	G. Frost#	Red-breasted Merganser			
4	P.I.	26	R. Heil	3	Gardner	1	T. Pirro
12	Camb. (F.P.)	20	G. Finnegan	Ruddy Duck			
Canvasback				6	W. Newbury	20	R. Lockwood
2	Arlington Res.	3	S. Cronenweth	12	Lynn	1	D. Hill
6	Newburyport	6	R. Lockwood	12	Pembroke	5	W. Petersen
Ring-necked Duck				18	Arlington	7	M. Pelikan
2	GMNWR	137	R. Lockwood	22	Melrose	4	D. + I. Jewell
5	Arlington Res.	80	M. Pelikan	Turkey Vulture			
6	Georgetown	35	W. Petersen#	5	Essex	13	P. + F. Vale
6	W. Peabody	26	R. Heil	5	W. Newbury	49	migr R. Heil
12	Duxbury	22	D. Clapp	8	Sturbridge	8	H. Miller
20	Concord	28	R. Lockwood	11	Marlboro	7	J. Kelly
Tufted Duck				11	Attleboro	8	R. Brissette
6	Nantucket	1 m	C. Jackson#	12	Quabbin (G35)	21	M. Lynch#
15-16	S. Plymouth	1 m	S. Arena	15	Rowley	11	R. Heil
Greater Scaup				20	Mt. Wachusett	8	EMHW
13	Acoaxet	72	M. Lynch#	23	Holden	6	M. Lynch#
20	Newbypt	120	M. Lynch#	25	Westport	13	M. Lynch#
23	Lakeville	40	K. Anderson	26	Waltham	8	M. Pelikan
Lesser Scaup				27	Princeton	12	P. Roberts
2	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood	27	Westminster	13	S. Perkins#

Osprey				20	Mt. Wachusett	18	EMHW
thr	Pepperell	pr n	E. Stromsted	Rough-legged Hawk			
8	P.I.	9	T. Carrolan	5	Rockport	1	BBC (J. Nove)
16	Ashburnham	16	T. MacCullough	American Kestrel			
20	Essex	4	P. + F. Vale	4	Gloucester	6	F. Bouchard
20	Mt. Wachusett	5	EMHW	4	P.I.	11	R. Heil
21	Ashburnham	23	T. MacCullough	5	W. Newbury	38	R. Heil
25	Westport	54 nests	M. Lynch#	7	Cumb. Farms	12	M. Boucher
thr	Reports of 1-3 indiv. from 16 loc.			7-8	P.I.	163	T. Carrolan
Bald Eagle				13, 16	Bedford	15, 16	M. Rines
3	Chatham	1	W. Bailey	16	Ashburnham	8	T. MacCullough
5	W. Newbury	1 imm	R. Heil	20	DWWS	16	D. Furbish
5	P.I.	1 imm	R. Heil	26	P.I.	75	P. Roberts
6	Athol	3 imm	D. Small	Merlin			
9	Wayland	1	N. Patterson	4	Gloucester	1	F. Bouchard
10	Chatham	1	W. Bailey	6	P.I.	2	S. Perkins#
11	Attleboro	1 ad	R. Brissette	6	Rowley	1	S. Perkins#
12	Quabbin (G35)	6	M. Lynch#	7	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan
16	Edgartown	1 imm	R. Baushman	7-8	P.I.	4	T. Carrolan
17	W. Peabody	1 imm	R. Heil	8	Dorchester	2	J. Adamson
Northern Harrier				10	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher
4	Cumb. Farms	8	R. Finch	13	W. Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale
4	P.I.	15	W. Taitrow	14	Cumb. Farms	1	R. Finch
5	W. Newbury	8	R. Heil	16	Hamilton	1	J. Berry
5	P.I.	22	EMHW	26	P.I.	10	P. Roberts
8-9	P.I.	81	T. Carrolan	27	Medford	1	P. + F. Vale
14	Cumb. Farms	4	R. Finch	Peregrine Falcon			
19	DWWS	3	D. Furbish	1	Cambridge	1	J. Shetterly
21	Ashburnham	3	T. MacCullough	11	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
Sharp-shinned Hawk				24	Newbpt H.	1 ad	S. Perkins#
16	Ashburnham	9	T. MacCullough	25	P.I.	1	D. Chickering
20	Mt. Wachusett	10	EMHW	Gyrfalcon			
21	Ashburnham	5	T. MacCullough	20	Nantucket	1 gray	E. Ray
27	Princeton	6	P. Roberts	Ruffed Grouse			
thr	reports of 1 or 2 indiv. from 12 loc.			12	Quabbin (G40)	4	S. + L. Hennin
Cooper's Hawk				18	Waltham	1	M. Partridge
thr	Reports of 1 or 2 indiv. from 19 loc.			20	Groton	1	R. Stymeist#
Northern Goshawk				26	Rutland	2	M. Lynch#
5	P.I.	1 imm	EMHW	27	Medford	1	D. Oliver
5	Gloucester	1	L. Pivacek	Wild Turkey			
12	Boxford (C.P.)	2	J. Hoye#	2	Newbury	15	M. Rines
12	Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab	8	Middleboro	30	J. Brigge
12	Eastham	1 imm	M. O'Connor	9	Halifax	4	P. Beach
20	Mt. Wachusett	1	EMHW	9	Newton	9	B. Droz
20	IRWS	1BBC	(P. + F. Vale)	9	Sherborn	5	G. Ferguson
22	Petersham	1 ad	M. Lynch#	11	Concord	1	M. Maloney
27	Princeton	1 imm	P. Roberts	12	Petersham	7	S. + L. Hennin
27	Harvard	2	S. Perkins#	14	Hingham	5	J. Norton
29	Cumb. Farms	1	R. Finch	14	Brighton	1	E. Curren
30	Lincoln	2	S. Perkins#	20	Worc. (BMB)	3	M. Lynch#
Red-shouldered Hawk				24	Westwood	1	J. Clancy
thr	E. Middleboro	pr n	K. Anderson	27	Gloucester	1	L. de la Flor
5	W. Newbury	1 imm	R. Heil	Northern Bobwhite			
6	Athol	1	D. Small	12-30	Newton	3	H. Miller
6	Concord (NAC)	1	R. Walton#	14	Nantucket	3	S. Langer
7	Marshfield	1	D. Ludlow	16	Cumb. Farms	6	E. Giles
8	P.I.	1	T. Carrolan	29	Yarmouthport	2	K. Hamilton
11	Boxford	2	F. Bouchard	29	Harwich	1	K. Hamilton
11	Marshfield	1	D. Clapp	Virginia Rail			
18	N. Andover	1	J. MacDougall	5	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins#
20	S. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher	12	W. Newbury	1	J. Hoye#
26	Rutland	3	M. Lynch#	26	Lynnfield	8	M. Rines
26	Petersham	2	S. + L. Hennin	27	Cumb. Farms	2	R. Finch
27	Westminster	1 imm	S. Perkins#	27	Westport	1	M. Boucher
Broad-winged Hawk				Sora			
16	Ashburnham	22	T. MacCullough	26	Salem	1	I. Lynch
20	Mt. Wachusett	40	EMHW	American Coot			
21	Ashburnham	31	T. MacCullough	12	Lynn	4	D. Hill
27	Harvard	40	S. Perkins#	12	Medford	9	D. Oliver
27	Ashburnham	103	fide P. Roberts	14	Arlington	50	M. Pelikan
27	Princeton	311	P. Roberts	Black-bellied Plover			
Red-tailed Hawk				3	Nantucket	4	G. Frost

6	P.I.	2	S. Perkins#	20	Lexington	1	M. Rines
19	Eastham (F.E.)	6	M. Lynch#	27	Newbypt	1	C. Leahy
26	Edgartown	30	M. Pelikan	Purple Sandpiper			
Semipalmated Plover				13	Minot	200	S. + L. Hennin
13	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#	17	Marshfield	16	D. Furbish
Piping Plover				20	Westport	12	D. Larson
4, 23	P.I.	6, 25	fide W. Drew#	25	Salisbury	168	D. Chickering
5	Nantucket	5	E. Ray	25	Acoaxet	69	M. Lynch#
8	Hyannis	6	P. Lyons	Dunlin			
13	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#	25	Acoaxet	180	M. Lynch#
19	Eastham	3	M. Lynch#	Ruff			
20	Nantucket	4	E. Andrews	19-26	Ipswich	1	T. Young + v.o.
20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	8	D. Larson	26	Newbypt	1 m	R. Heil
25	Edgartown	2	M. Pelikan	Short-billed Dowitcher			
Killdeer				26	Newbypt	4	R. Heil
4	Cumb. Farms	13	R. Finch	Dowitcher species			
11	Concord (NAC)	13	F. Bouchard	12	P.I.	1	D. Chickering
13	Topsfield	14	P. + F. Vale	13	Nantucket	2	E. Ray
15	Ipswich	30	J. Hoye#	Common Snipe			
American Oystercatcher				6	Newbury	65	S. Perkins#
3	Nantucket	1	A. Charder	7	Cumb. Farms	175	M. Boucher
16	Chatham	2	J. Eddy	19	DWWS	11	D. Furbish
20	Fairhaven	2	M. Boucher	20	Essex	100	S. + L. Hennin
20	Hingham	2	B. Zuzavich	20	P.I.	20	M. Pelikan
25	Edgartown	2	M. Pelikan	21	Newbury	35	M. Rines
27	Westport	2	SSBC (W. Harrington)	22	Concord (NAC)	25	S. Perkins#
27	N. Monomoy	5	v.o.	26	W. Bridgewater	17	S. Arena
27	Duxbury	1	S. + L. Hennin	American Woodcock			
Greater Yellowlegs				5	Wayland	5	N. Patterson
3	Harwich	7	K. Hamilton	5	DWWS	15	D. Furbish
4	P.I.	1	W. Drew#	14	Concord	4	R. Lockwood
13	Nantucket	4	E. Ray	21	Cumb. Farms	5	R. Finch
13	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#	27	DWWS	8	D. Furbish
21	Cumb. Farms	5	R. Finch	Wilson's Phalarope			
27	Newbypt	250	C. Leahy	29	P.I.	1 f	D. + I. Jewell
Lesser Yellowlegs				Phalarope species			
14	W. Harwich	5	B. Nikula#	2	Eastham (F.E.)	3	B. Nikula#
19	Eastham (F.E.)	2	M. Lynch#	19	Plymouth	3	G. d'Entremont
21	Cumb. Farms	4	R. Finch	Pomarine Jaeger			
23	Newbypt	5	D. Chickering	20	Eastham (F.E.)	5 ad	B. Nikula
Solitary Sandpiper				Jaeger species			
6	Newbury	1	G. Gove	20	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula
21	Cumb. Farms	1	R. Finch	Laughing Gull			
Willet				9	Nantucket	1	J. Papale
15	Nantucket	1	P. Gardner	18	Vineyard Haven	3	J. Callaghan
19	Eastham	3	M. Lynch#	19	Ipswich	2	R. Heil
27	Chappaquiddick	16	A. Keith#	19	Eastham	20	M. Lynch#
27	Chatham	10	v.o.	27	Rockport	1 ad	J. Berry
27	Westport	3	SSBC (W. Harrington)	Black-headed Gull			
Spotted Sandpiper				6	P.I.	1	G. Gove
23	Arlington Res.	1	C. Floyd	6	Athol	2	B. Fregeau
29	Newbury	1	M. Halloran	12	Newbury	1	T. Maloney
Upland Sandpiper				19	Eastham	1 1W	M. Lynch#
8	DWWS	1	D. Ludlow	Bonaparte's Gull			
16, 20	Bedford	1, 3	M. Rines	6	Athol	75	B. Fregeau
29	Cumb. Farms	1	R. Finch	6	W. Bridgewater	2	S. Arena
Whimbrel				6	Concord (NAC)	18	D. Diggins#
14	Oak Bluffs	1	V. Laux	6	GMNWR	7	G. d'Entremont#
16-18	Nantucket	1	G. Frost	26	off Monomoy	15	W. Petersen#
Ruddy Turnstone				Iceland Gull			
5	Winthrop	40	R. Cressman	7	Acton	1	M. Resch
Sanderling				10	Provincetown	11	W. Bailey
5	Revere	200	BBC (G. Wood)	13	Oak Bluffs	1	A. Keith
Least Sandpiper				18	Concord (NAC)	1 1yr	S. Perkins#
26	P.I.	2	H. Wiggin#	20	Salisbury	2	M. Pelikan
27	Katama	1	A. Keith	20	Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab
Pectoral Sandpiper				Lesser Black-backed Gull			
9	Newbury	1	J. Soucy#	2	Newbypt	1 ad	M. Rines
10	Nantucket	1	P. Gardner	12	Katama	1 ad	A. Keith
14	W. Harwich	6	B. Nikula #	Glaucous Gull			
18	Pepperell	1	T. Pirro	5	Newbypt	1 ad	S. + L. Hennin
20	Essex	6	M. Rines#	7	Acton	1	M. Resch

10	Provincetown	2	W. Bailey	12	Boxford	1	J. Hoyer
17	Oak Bluffs	1	C. Morano	20	IRWS	1	D. Hill
Black-legged Kittiwake							
2	Eastham (F.E.)	65	B. Nikula#	20	Wayland	1	E. Salmela
26	off Monomoy	2	W. Petersen#	26	Rutland	1	M. Lynch#
Caspian Tern							
22	Halifax	1	R. Finch	26	Hamilton	1	BBC (J. Berry)
27	Duxbury	2	S. + L. Hennin	27	Wenham	1	J. Berry
27	DWWS	1	D. Furbish#	30	Barre	1	C. Phillips
Roseate Tern							
28	Edgartown	2	V. Laux	Short-eared Owl			
Common Tern							
27	Edgartown	100	V. Laux	5	P.I.	1	D. + I. Jewell
Black Skimmer							
24	Orleans	1	B. Chiasson#	5	Nantucket	1	J. Papale
Razorbill							
4	Gloucester	1	F. Bouchard	16	Cumb. Farms	2	E. Giles
26	off Monomoy	8	W. Petersen#	20	Westport	1	D. Larson
Black Guillemot							
4	Gloucester	2	F. Bouchard	Northern Saw-whet Owl			
5	Wellfleet	6	G. Gove#	16	Petersham	1	D. Small
27	Rockport	5	J. Berry	Common Nighthawk			
Large alcid species							
2	Eastham (F.E.)	4	B. Nikula#	16	Westwood	1	E. Nielsen#
19	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil	20	Chilmark	1	A. Healy
Black-billed Cuckoo							
3	Marshfield	1	D. Clapp	Chimney Swift			
20	P.I.	1	M. Pelikan	25	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
Barn Owl							
28	Nantucket	4	yg b E. Andrews#	27	Westminster	1	S. Perkins#
Eastern Screech-Owl							
thr	Mt.A.	1	v.o.	Belted Kingfisher			
Great Horned Owl							
thr	Boston	pr n	v.o.	10	Mt.A.	3	M. Rines
11	Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab	19	DWWS	4	D. Furbish
12	Woburn	1	M. Rines	20	Medford	3	D. Wilkinson
13	N. Andover	2	yg D. Chickering	26	P.I.	3	P. + F. Vale
15	M.V. (State Forest)	1	V. Laux#	Red-headed Woodpecker			
16	Salem	1	I. Lynch	thr	Sherborn	1	E. Taylor
20	Templeton	1	T. Pirro	thr	Essex	1	vo
25	Newbury	2	D. Chickering	Red-bellied Woodpecker			
Snowy Owl							
4	Logan	4	N. Smith	thr	Medford	3	pr M. Rines
4	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil	thr	Sherborn	2	pr E. Taylor
8	Duxbury	3	F. Bygate	26	Boxford	3	J. Berry
12	Nantucket	1	S. Langer	30	Lincoln	4	S. Perkins#
Barred Owl							
thr	Pepperell	pr n	M. Donahue#	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
7	Kingston	1	D. Ludlow	5	WBWS	3	G. Gove#
12	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#	6	Mt.A.	4	R. Stymeist#
				27	Westminster	4	S. Perkins#
				thr	Reports of 1 or 2 indiv. from 24 loc.		
				Northern Flicker			
				12	Concord	12	R. Lockwood
				12	Hingham	22	R. Finch
				19	DWWS	16	D. Furbish
				Pileated Woodpecker			
				3	Ipswich	2	J. MacDougall
				6	Athol	2	B. Fregeau
				12	Quabbin (G35)	2	M. Lynch#
				22	Boxford (C.P.)	4	J. MacDougall
				26	ONWR	2	S. Moore#
				thr	Reports of individuals from 13 loc.		

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

Following the horrendous April Fool's Day storm, one might have expected a severe loss of early arrivals such as Eastern Phoebes and Tree Swallows. However, these species were reported in typical numbers early in the month. At Great Meadows in Concord, an April 3 report of a Barn Swallow undoubtedly was the same individual reported on March 30. Other swallow species were reported in small numbers as they arrived throughout the month.

A report of ten Common Ravens in Harvard was not only an exceptional number, but an unusual location, as this species is normally limited to more western areas of Worcester county. The **Rock Wren** discovered on March 30 in the Lanesville section of Gloucester continued to be reported through the 22nd of the month. A pair of Carolina Wrens starting a nest on April 8 was exceptionally early.

The earlier April songbird migrants arrived pretty much on schedule and in typical numbers, but at the end of the month things seemed to grind to a halt. In typical years, we can expect to get reports of Yellow-throated Vireo, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow and Prairie warbler, and American Redstart by the end of April. This year, none of these were reported. By contrast, some other species made surprisingly early arrivals, including a Wood Thrush on the 18th in Marshfield, a Black-throated Blue Warbler on Nantucket on April 13, and a Northern Waterthrush on the 14th in Marshfield. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported on Martha's Vineyard on April 7.

Reports of Blue Grosbeak and Dickcissel were noteworthy April observations. A handful of Vesper Sparrows moved through non-breeding locations midmonth, and Fox Sparrows were reported in unusually high numbers. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was reported from Penikese Island in the Elizabeth Islands, and good numbers of Rusty Blackbirds moved through during the month, including an excellent count of 145 individuals in Westwood. Winter finches continued to make a poor showing, although Evening Grosbeaks were reported from a wider variety of locations than previously this season. R. H. S.

Eastern Phoebe				Red-breasted Nuthatch			
5	GMNWR	7	S. Perkins#	13	Ipswich	5	J. Berry
6	Mt.A.	12	R. Stymeist	22	Petersham	7	M. Lynch#
26	Eastham	10	M. Lynch#	26	Rutland	16	M. Lynch#
Horned Lark				Brown Creeper			
2	P.I.	75	R. Heil	11	Middleborough	3	R. Finch
7	Cumb. Farms	65	M. Boucher	11	Northboro	6	A. Boover
Purple Martin				12	Quabbin (G35)	6	M. Lynch#
1	Halifax	35	D. Clapp	12	Duxbury	7	D. Clapp
2	Marshfield	35	D. Clapp	13	Boxford (C.P.)	8	G. d'Entremont#
13	IRWS	1	P. + F. Vale	14	W. Harwich	4	J. Sones
23	P.I.	6	D. + I. Jewell	26	Rutland	16	M. Lynch#
Tree Swallow				27	Gloucester	9	L. de la Flor
5	Pepperell	200	E. Stromsted	Rock Wren			
12	Lynnfield	200	P. + F. Vale	1-22	Rockport	1	v.o.
12	Wayland	350	K. Hamilton	Carolina Wren			
12	GMNWR	500+	S. Perkins#	5	Rockport	1	BBC (J. Nove)
13	IRWS	175	P. + F. Vale	6-30	Newton	max 2	H. Miller
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				8-31	E. Middleboro	pr n	K. Anderson
10	Arlington Res.	1	M. Pelikan	10	Billerica	1	S. Wedge
13	Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab	13	Acoaxet	11	M. Lynch#
16	Hudson	1	B. Parker	16	Bedford	3	M. Rines
18	W. Peabody	12	R. Heil	16	Brookline	2	H. Wiggin#
26	Ipswich	6	D. Chickering	25	Westboro	1	A. Boover
Bank Swallow				26	Marshfield	2	D. Furbish
15	Burlington	1	M. Rines	House Wren			
28	Wayland	3	S. + L. Hennin	22	N. Dartmouth	3	M. Boucher
Cliff Swallow				22	Worc. (BMB)	1	C. Phillips#
26	Truro	1	K. Jones	23	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
28	Wayland	1	K. Hamilton	23	Bolton	1	S. + L. Hennin
Barn Swallow				25	Acoaxet	4	M. Lynch#
5	GMNWR	1	D. Lange	25	Mattapoisett	1	M. LaBossiere
6	New Bedford	1	M. La Bossiere	25	Framingham	1	K. Hamilton
7	East Bridgewater	1	R. Finch	27	Medford	1	P. + F. Vale
15	Westport	2	F. Thurber	Winter Wren			
16	N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher	12	Boxford (C.P.)	5	J. Hoye#
20	Westport	2	D. Larson	12	Saugus	2	P. + F. Vale
21	GMNWR	2	S. + L. Hennin	12	Quabbin (G40)	2	S. + L. Hennin
22	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	14	W. Harwich	4	J. Sones
American Crow				20	Concord	3	R. Lockwood
thr	Framingham	1200	E. Taylor	21	Ipswich	2	J. MacDougall
Fish Crow				22	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#
thr	Mt.A.	13 max	v.o.	26	Concord	2	R. Lockwood
2	Westwood	110	S. Sweet	26	Rutland	2	M. Lynch#
2	W. Peabody	1	R. Heil	thr	Reports of 1 or 2 indiv. from 24 loc.		
3	Bedford	3	M. Rines	Marsh Wren			
5	Danvers	1	R. Stymeist	25	Dartmouth	1	M. Lynch#
6	Medford	1	BBC (D. Oliver)	30	GMNWR	2	K. Dorsey
6	Newbypt	1	W. Petersen#	Golden-crowned Kinglet			
8	DWWS	2	D. Ludlow	10	Mt.A.	11	M. Rines
12	Marshfield	3	D. Furbish	12	WBWS	10	J. Young
16	Wayland	1	K. Hamilton	12	Concord	20	R. Lockwood
17	Foxboro	2	R. Danca	12	Quabbin (G35)	22	M. Lynch#
19	Scituate	2	D. Furbish	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
26	Eastham	11	J. + P. Trimble	5	Rockport	1	BBC (J. Nove)
26	Boxford	2	J. Berry	6	Medford	1	BBC(D. Oliver)
27	Wenham	1	J. Berry	6	W. Newbury	2	J. Hoye#
29	Worc. (BMB)	1	C. Phillips	6-30	Mt.A.	12 max	v.o.
Common Raven				12	Concord	11	R. Lockwood
21	Ashburnham	2	T. MacCullough	16	Boxford (C.P.)	20	C. Ralph
22	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	16	Salisbury	20	D. Chickering
23	Barre	pr n	M. Lynch#	19	Marshfield	14	D. Furbish
26	Rutland	1	M. Lynch#	20	P.I.	23	D. Chickering
27	Harvard	10	S. Perkins#	26	Rutland	15	M. Lynch#

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher									
8	M.V. (W. Chop)	1	V. Laux#	6	P.I.	2	T. Maloney#		
10	Marshfield	2	F. Bygate	12	Saugus	3	P. + F. Vale		
14	W. Newbury	1	M. Rines	12	Duxbury	15	D. Clapp		
15	Lexington	1	M. Pelikan	13	W. Newbury	30	P. + F. Vale		
16	DWWS	1	N. Swirka	26	Concord	25	R. Lockwood		
17	Medford	1	M. Rines	26	Boxford (C.P.)	30	P. + F. Vale		
20	Topsfield	1	R. Stymeist#	26	Rutland	244	M. Lynch#		
26	Boxford	2	J. Berry	27	Malden	45	P. + F. Vale		
27	Wayland	4	D. Diggins#	27	Wayland	50	R. Lockwood		
30	GMNWR	3	K. Dorsey	27	Milton (F.M.)	31	R. Stymeist#		
Eastern Bluebird				27	Wayland	65	K. Hamilton		
thr	Sherborn	10	E. Taylor	30	Hingham	35	N. Swirka		
5	GMNWR	2	D. Lange	Black-throated Green Warbler					
5	Rockport	2	BBC (J. Nove)	25	Boxford (C.P.)	1	R. Heil		
6	ONWR	2	B. Parker	26	Ipswich	2	J. Berry		
9	Newton	2	B. Chaisson	30	Pepperell	1	M. Resch		
13	Westport	2	M. Lynch#	30	Harvard	2	S. Mardis		
20	Wayland	3	S. Perkins#	Yellow-throated Warbler					
26	Concord	1	R. Lockwood	7	M.V. (W. Chop)	1	A. Brown		
26	Boxford	1	H. Wiggin#	Pine Warbler					
27	Marshfield	2	N. Swirka	3	Bedford	1	M. Rines		
Veery				4	Saugus	3	P. Duffy		
29	Petersham	1	D. Chapman	5	Cohasset	5	N. Swirka		
Hermit Thrush				6	Acton	2	B. Wicks#		
8	P.I.	2	D. + I. Jewell	6	Harvard	3	S. + L. Hennin		
9	Salisbury	2	D. Chickering	6	Newbypt	4	J. Hoye		
10	Mt.A.	3	M. Rines	6	Mt.A.	2	M. Rines		
12	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#	9	Yarmouthport	12	K. Hamilton		
12	Duxbury	9	D. Clapp	12	Quabbin (G35)	10	M. Lynch#		
13	Medford	3	D. + I. Jewell	12	Duxbury	19	D. Clapp		
16	Boxford (C.P.)	12	C. Ralph	26	Rutland	33	M. Lynch#		
18	Dorchester	15	J. Adamson	26	ONWR	12	E. Salmela		
26	Rutland	27	M. Lynch#	Palm Warbler					
Wood Thrush				4	Woburn	1	D. Jewell		
18	Marshfield	2	D. Furbish	4	GMNWR	3	K. Dorsey		
Gray Catbird				8	Halifax	3	R. Finch		
12	Truro	2	J. Young	8	Hopkinton	5	B. Cordner		
20	DFWS	1	D. Hill	9	Melrose	11	D. + I. Jewell		
22	Boxford (C.P.)	1	J. MacDougall	10	Medford	14	M. Rines		
27	Marshfield	1	D. Furbish	12	Duxbury	11	D. Clapp		
Brown Thrasher				20	IRWS	60BBC (P. + F. Vale)			
12	Medford	1	D. Oliver	26	Boxford (C.P.)	25	P. + F. Vale		
15	Nantucket	1	S. Langer	26	W. Newbury	14	E. Nielsen#		
16	Falmouth	2	J. Eddy	26	Rutland	32	M. Lynch#		
16	Concord	1	R. Lockwood#	27	Wayland	35	R. Lockwood		
16	Falmouth	2	J. Eddy	27	Malden	15	P. + F. Vale		
22	Worc. (BMB)	3	C. Phillips#	27	Milton (F.M.)	14	M. Rines#		
27	Medford	3	D. Oliver	Black-and-white Warbler					
30	Woburn	2	M. Pelikan	24	M.V.	1	J. McCarthy		
American Pipit				27	Wayland	1	R. Lockwood		
13	W. Newbury	8	J. Hoye#	27	Gloucester	1	L. de la Flor		
Cedar Waxwing				29	Mt.A.	1	P. Perry		
1-25	Taunton	100 max	G. d'Entremont	30	Hingham	2	N. Swirka		
19	Wakefield	187	P. + F. Vale	30	Medford	1	M. Rines		
White-eyed Vireo				30	Barre	2	C. Phillips		
27	Westport	1 m	SSBC (W.Harrington)	30	N. Dartmouth	3	M. Boucher		
Solitary Vireo				Ovenbird					
6	Acton	1	B. Wicks#	30	Middleborough	1	R. Finch		
16	Marshfield	2	N. Swirka	30	N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher		
16	Mt.A.	1	L. Epstein	Northern Waterthrush					
16	Boxford (C.P.)	1	C. Ralph	14	Marshfield	1	F. Bygate		
21	Topsfield	3	M. Rines	22	Arlington Res.	1	C. Floyd		
22	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#	25	Mattapoisett	2	M. LaBossiere		
25	Boxford (C.P.)	3	R. Heil	26	Concord	3	R. Lockwood		
29	Worc. (BMB)	4	C. Phillips	26	P.I.	1	E. Shore#		
Warbling Vireo				27, 30	E. Middleboro	1, 4	K. Anderson		
22	Mattapoisett	1	R. Piper	27	N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher		
Black-throated Blue Warbler				Louisiana Waterthrush					
13	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	12-30	Boxford	1-2	v.o.		
Yellow-rumped Warbler				20	Topsfield	1	H. Wiggin#		
4	GMNWR	2	K. Dorsey	22	Hardwick	1	M. Lynch#		
				22	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#		

Louisiana Waterthrush (continued)				11	Newton	13	N. Komar
24	Sterling	1	B. Van Dusen	13	Winchester	5	M. Rines
26	WBWS	1	J. Trimble	12	Boston (Fenway)	6	B. Mayor
26	Petersham	2	S. + L. Hennin	1-16	Reports of 1-3 indiv. from 32 loc.		
26	Rutland	1	M. Lynch#				
30	Pepperell	1	M. Resch				
Scarlet Tanager							
19	Nantucket	1	P. Gilquist	7	GMNWR	3	R. Lockwood
25	Lincoln	1 m	R. Zaring	10	Medford	3	M. Rines
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				30	Woburn	7	M. Pelikan
20	Vineyard Haven	1	M. Shea#	White-throated Sparrow			
27	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews	19	Mt.A.	50+	P. + F. Vale
Blue Grosbeak				White-crowned Sparrow			
24	Chilmark	1	W. Wlodyka#	16	Worc. (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#
Indigo Bunting				Dark-eyed Junco			
14	Nantucket	2	M. Tirk	6	Mt.A.	90	R. Stymeist
24	Chilmark	1	W. Wlodyka#	7	Brookline	35	H. Wiggin#
Dickcissel				"Pink-sided" Junco			
18	Athol	1	B. Fregeau	6	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist
9-16	Woods Hole	1	C. Neal	Lapland Longspur			
Eastern Towhee				1	Katama	25	V. Laux#
13	Medford	1	D. Oliver	2	P.I.	36	R. Heil
15	Lexington	1	M. Rines	4	Logan	19	N. Smith
16	Mt.A.	2BBC (R. Petersen)		7	Cumb. Farms	5	M. Boucher
20	P.I.	5	M. Pelikan	Snow Bunting			
26	Peabody	6	M. Rines	6	Hull	4	N. Swirka
27	Medford	8	D. Oliver	8	P.I.	1	D. + I. Jewell
American Tree Sparrow				Eastern Meadowlark			
6	West Newbury	20	R. Lockwood	thr	DWWS	17 max	D. Furbish
12	Newton	15	G. d'Entremont#	4	Cumb. Farms	14	R. Finch
19	Arlington Res.	7	M. Pelikan	19	Bedford	10	M. Pelikan
21	P.I.	2	M. Rines	20	Nantucket	4	E. Andrews#
27	Lincoln	1	S. Perkins#	Yellow-headed Blackbird			
Chipping Sparrow				13	Penikese I.	1 m	T. Quatromoni
5	Northboro	2	A. Boover	Rusty Blackbird			
5	Worcester	1	fide M. Lynch	1	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale
6	Newton	1	H. Miller	5	Boston	1	F. Bouchard
6	E. Boxford	1	J. Brown#	5	Cohasset	4	N. Swirka
25	Westport	57	M. Lynch#	5	GMNWR	3	D. Lange#
25	Hopkinton	15	G. Gove	10	Medford	3	M. Rines
Field Sparrow				10	DWWS	7	D. Clapp
6	P.I.	2	R. Lockwood	10	DWWS	7	N. Komar
8	Dorchester	2	J. Adamson	11	Newton	1	N. Komar
10	Mt.A.	2	M. Rines	12	Gardner	1	T. Pirro
16	Bedford (H.F.)	3	R. Lockwood	12	ONWR	15	BBC (E. Salmela)
16	Worc. (BMB)	11	M. Lynch#	16	Westwood	145	E. Nielsen
20	P.I.	8	M. Pelikan	19	Marshfield	1	D. Furbish
21	Kingston	6	D. Ludlow	20	Amesbury	1	R. Stymeist#
22	Worc. (BMB)	6	C. Phillips#	26	Hamilton	40	BBC (J. Berry)
26	Peabody	7	M. Rines	27	W. Newbury	8	C. Leahy
Vesper Sparrow				Purple Finch			
9-13	Newton	1	P. Chasan + v.o.	2	E. Boxford	7	J. Brown#
16	Gay Head	1	A. Fischer	2	Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab
20	Essex	1	S. + L. Hennin	13	Kingston	2	D. Ludlow#
22	Concord (NAC)	1	S. Perkins#	19	DFWS	3	D. Diggins#
Savannah Sparrow				20	Concord (NAC)	3	S. Perkins#
thr	DWWS	17 max	D. Furbish	21	P.I.	10 m	M. Rines
16	P.I.	25	C. Ralph	21	Rowley	2	M. Rines
19	Arlington Res.	7	M. Pelikan	21	Whitman	2	M. Emmons
20-22	Concord (NAC)	50+	S. Perkins#	22	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#
20	Bedford	10	M. Rines#	26	Rutland	9	M. Lynch#
20	Essex	40	M. Lynch#	28	Stow	2	D. Morimoto
20	W. Quincy	75	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)	Red Crossbill			
23	Bedford (H.F.)	40	R. Lockwood	11	Petersham	2	D. Small
30	Lincoln	12	S. Perkins#	Pine Siskin			
"Ipswich" Sparrow				22	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#
4	P.I.	1	R. Heil	Evening Grosbeak			
Fox Sparrow				20	Gardner	2	T. Pirro
2	Worcester	9	M. Lynch#	22	Petersham	5	M. Lynch#
5	Boston	10	M. Rines	23	Barre	2	M. Lynch#
6	Mt.A.	8	R. Stymeist	26	Rutland	7	M. Lynch#
				27	Gloucester	2	L. de la Flor
				29	Newbury	2	fide S. Grinley

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

* Indicates a species on the review list of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC). Because these sightings are generally published before the MARC votes, they normally have not been approved by the MARC. The editors publish records which are supported by details, multiple observers, or both.

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	Res.	Reservoir
lt	light (phase)	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
m	male	S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
max	maximum	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
migr	migrating	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
n	nesting	Stellw.	Stellwagen Bank
ph	photographed	Worc.	Worcester
pl	plumage	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
pr	pair	BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
S	summer (1S = first summer)	BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester
thr	throughout	DWWS	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary
v.o.	various observers	EMHW	Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch
W	winter (2W = second winter)	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
w/	with	HRWMA	High Ridge Wildlife Management Area, Gardner-Westminster
yg	young	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
#	additional observers	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	MBO	Manomet Observatory
A.Pd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth	MBWMA	Martin Burns Wildlife Management Area, Newbury
B.	Beach	MDFW	MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
Cambr.	Cambridge	MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms, Middleboro-Halifax	NEHW	New England Hawk Watch
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	TASL	Take A Second Look Harbor Census
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston	USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
G45	Gate 45, Quabbin	WMWS	Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary
H.P.	Halibut Point, Rockport		

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

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.

ABOUT THE COVER: WOOD THRUSH

The Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) is considered by many to be our most accomplished songster. As one author put it, the bell-like or flute-like notes of the Wood Thrush's song transform the woods into a "cathedral where peace and serenity abide." The folk names "swamp robin," "wood robin," "song thrush," "bellbird," and "swamp angel" tell us much about the bird's song and habitat. The genus name *Hylocichla* is from the Greek *hyle* meaning "forest," and *cichla* meaning "thrush."

The Wood Thrush is a medium-sized thrush, slightly smaller than an American Robin. It is olive-brown above with a russet upper back, nape, and crown, and has heavy blackish spotting on its white underparts. The sexes are similar in plumage. The Wood Thrush is monomorphic, and its exact systematic position controversial. Different taxonomists suggest that it should be included in the genus *Turdus* (with the American Robin) or *Catharus* (with the Veery and Hermit Thrush) rather than in *Hylocichla*. The Wood Thrush is a summer resident of southern Canada from the Great Lakes east to Nova Scotia, and ranges throughout most of the eastern United States south to northern Florida and east Texas. In Massachusetts it is a common breeding species, although it has declined in the eastern part of the state during the 1980s and 1990s. Wood Thrushes are nocturnal migrants that arrive in early to mid-May, and are nesting by the end of May or early June. They depart from mid-August to mid-September, and are considered uncommon fall migrants. Wood Thrushes winter from central Mexico south to Panama. They show both breeding and winter site fidelity.

Wood Thrushes are seasonally monogamous, often rearing two broods. They prefer low, cool, damp deciduous and mixed deciduous and coniferous forests. The male's magnificent song consists of three parts: (1) a soft *bup bup* which is hard to hear, (2) the 2-10 note typical flute-like *ee-oh-lay*, often containing two notes produced simultaneously, and (3) a terminal trill which often has a ventriloquial effect. Apparently, the second part of the song is largely learned from conspecific males, while the first and third are more innate. Males typically sing from midstory perches in trees, most intensely in the morning, particularly in the half-hour before dawn. They may sing sporadically throughout the day, and then often sing again at dusk. Their song plays the dual role of attracting females and advertising territory ownership to other males. Nuptial displays include low circle-flights by the female, closely followed by the male.

The nest is a bulky cup of weeds, leaves, grass, and mud, lined with rootlets, usually placed in a forked branch of a sapling or small tree. The nest material is collected mainly from the pair's territory, and may include man-made products such as paper or plastic. The female does most of the nest

construction. The clutch consists of 3-4 blue-green eggs which hatch in about two weeks. Only the female has a brood patch, and she alone does the incubation, although the male may bring food to her as well as defend the nest. The female also does all the brooding of the young during the twelve days before fledging, but both parents feed the young.

The diet of this species is largely composed of soil invertebrates, although Wood Thrushes also glean foliage for insects and spiders. They characteristically hop along the forest floor searching the leaf litter for arthropods. Fruit is an important dietary component in the late summer and fall.

Wood Thrushes have recolonized the northeast as the result of reforestation, but Breeding Bird Survey results indicate that numbers have been declining throughout the East since at least the mid-1960s. The reasons for the decline are complex and difficult to assess, but the main causes appear to be a combination of forest fragmentation on the breeding grounds and habitat destruction on the Central American wintering grounds. Forest fragmentation tends to produce a larger percentage of edge habitat in which predation by avian nest predators such as Blue Jays, American Crows, and Common Grackles, and by mammalian predators, is higher. In addition, Brown-headed Cowbird nest parasitism is higher near forest edges than in deep forest, and can significantly affect breeding success. It can only be hoped that wise conservation policies will help slow the decline of Wood Thrush numbers and preserve for us the "cathedrals where peace and serenity abide."

W.E. Davis, Jr.

About the Cover Artist

Barry van Dusen is presently acting as production manager and illustrator for an upcoming Massachusetts Audubon Society publication, *Grasslands of Northeastern North America*, by Peter Vickery and Peter Dunwiddie. From September until the end of the year, a selection of Barry's smaller works will be on display at the Cornucopia Gallery at 325 Ayer Road in Harvard, MA (508-772-6701). At the Society of Wildlife Artists exhibition in London, England, this past summer, Barry received a commendation for his water color, "Young Arctic Tern." Barry is still completing a new studio at his home in central Massachusetts, and he looks forward to using the new space to broaden his use of large formats and oil paints.

Always challenging, sparrows and related "little brown jobs" consistently provide grist for the field problem mill. To start the identification process for June's mystery photograph, it is important to first determine whether the bird in question is in the Subfamily Emberizinae (towhees, sparrows, longspurs, etc.) or Subfamily Fringillinae (Fingilline finches, e.g., "winter finches").

This determination is fairly straightforward in that the streaked species in the group Fringillinae often appear large-headed and possess stouter bills with greater curvature to the culmen (upper mandible) than the bills of Emberizines. The females of the Purple and House finches are good examples. Other Emberizine finches typically possess unique plumage markings (e.g., the black chin of a redpoll) that readily eliminate them as possibilities. The only representative that possesses the combination of streaked underparts and a bill shaped like that of the mystery species is the Pine Siskin. Siskins, however, are more extensively streaked below, lack the prominent eye ring of the bird in the photograph, and possess a yellow flash at the base of the flight feathers.



Photograph by Roger Everett

Having determined that the bird in question is an Emberizid, it is next necessary to focus on features that differentiate species in this group. From time to time in this column, it has been suggested that considering generic characteristics (i.e. characteristics of different genera) can be a useful first step when sorting various kinds of bird species belonging to large families (e.g., waterfowl, hawks, shorebirds). This approach is one that applies well to sparrows as well.

Clearly, the head shape of the pictured bird is not typical of the various "flat-headed" sparrows in the genus *Ammodramus*, a group that usually also display short, pointed tails (e.g., Grasshopper Sparrow, sharp-tailed sparrows). Likewise, the mystery sparrow is not particularly slim in appearance, and it does not appear to have an especially long tail - features characteristic of most members of the genus *Spizella* (e.g., American Tree Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow). Nor does the sparrow appear especially large or have strong crown or facial markings, features characteristic of sparrows in the genus *Zonotrichia* (e.g., White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow).

Using a more traditional approach, notice what characteristics the mystery sparrow does possess. Most notable are prominent streaks on the underparts that extend all the way down the sides to the flanks, a streaked crown devoid of an obvious median stripe, and the presence of a conspicuous eye ring. Although the juveniles of a number of sparrows are streaked below, the generic features previously described will often assist in identifying birds in non-adult plumages. With this in mind, the only likely remaining sparrow choices that are streaked below in adult plumage are Vesper, Savannah, Fox, Song, and Lincoln's.

Because only two of the above possibilities have a clearly defined eye ring, the final choice is between Vesper Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow. Lincoln's Sparrow possesses a broad, gray supercilium, a median crown stripe, a sharply defined necklace of fine streaks across the upper breast, and often a more peaked appearance to the crown. By contrast, Vesper Sparrow has a finely streaked crown, a rounded head, and a distinct white mark (i.e., submoustachial stripe) in contrast with a dark malar (jaw) stripe. These last features clinch the identification of the mystery bird as a Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*).

The Vesper Sparrow is an uncommon migrant and a very uncommon and local breeder in Massachusetts. The species is listed as Threatened by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program.

AT A GLANCE

Photograph by Roger Everett



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