

BIRD OBSERVER



Barry Van Dusen

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BIRD OBSERVER

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To enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds.

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ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

A frequent contributor to *Bird Observer*, Massachusetts artist Barry Van Dusen is currently developing material he gathered on a recent trip to India, and enjoying experimenting with large formats and oil-on-paper painting, a medium that offers exceptional control over texture and line strength. Barry will be an exhibiting artist at the Yankee Heritage Arts and Nature Festival, a multiple-artist show to be held April 24-26 at several locations in the Blackstone River Valley. For information, call the Nature Arts Organization, the Festival's sponsor, at (508)865-7102. Barry often illustrates Massachusetts Audubon Society publications, including the recently published *Grasslands of Northeastern North America*, and *Birds of Massachusetts*, from which our cover illustration was taken.

RANGE EXPANSION OF THE RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

by Jerome A. Jackson and William E. Davis, Jr.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) is a species on the move — or so we've been told for the past century (Jones 1898, Forbush 1927, Jackson and Jackson 1987, Jackson 1997). With habitat and climatic change, species ranges do fluctuate, gaining new ground, losing old. For some birds range expansion comes as a result of introduction, innate migratory or irruptive tendencies, or elimination of competitors or predators. None of these latter factors apply to the Red-bellied Woodpecker. It is a mostly sedentary species that seems strongly philopatric, and it has expanded its range this century in spite of increasingly documented competition with European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) (e.g., Ingold 1994).

A recent graphic depiction of Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data (Price et al. 1995) shows the species reaching its northern limit along the Atlantic seaboard in extreme south-central Massachusetts, with disjunct populations along Lake Ontario in western New York and in extreme southwestern Ontario, as well as in northern Michigan and central Minnesota. The populations shown as disjunct may in reality be low-density populations that only appear to be disjunct as a result of the discontinuous nature of BBS routes (but see Meade 1988). To the west the species occurs into eastern Minnesota and central Iowa, southeastern and south-central Nebraska, western Kansas, Oklahoma except for the Panhandle, and eastern Texas. Other regional data, for example Christmas Bird Counts (Root 1988), extend the range of the species slightly beyond the limits suggested by BBS data. However, nowhere is the species more abundant than in the Gulf and South Atlantic states, where it is found south to southern Florida.

Habitats used by Red-bellied Woodpeckers range from bottomland forest to pine flatwoods to urban parks and yards, although older trees and damp conditions that favor wood-decaying fungi are key components. In general, the Red-bellied Woodpecker favors more closed forest than does its close relative, the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), and these two species are interspecifically territorial (Jackson 1976, Jackson and Nickol 1979).

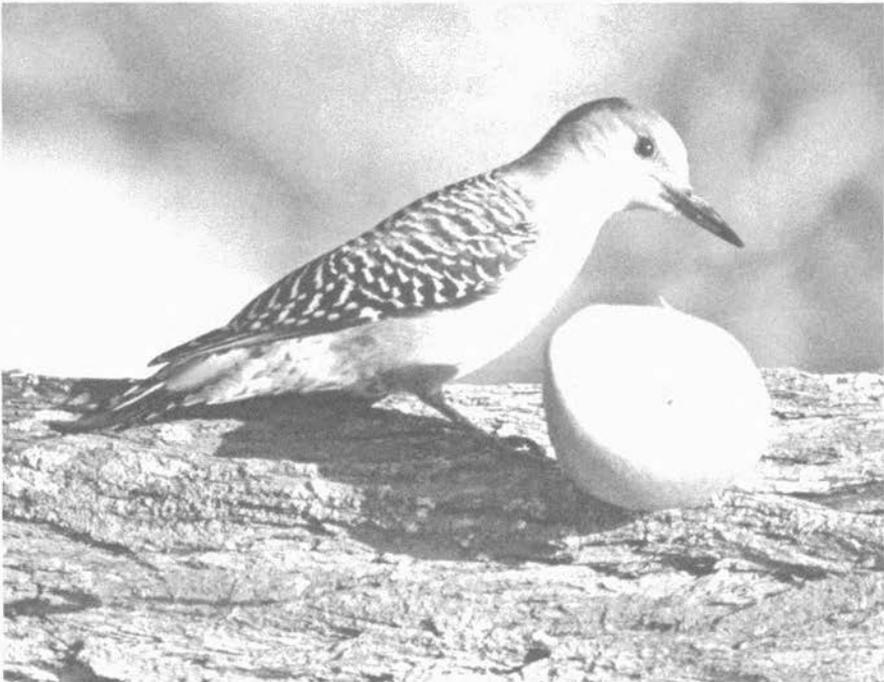
To what extent has the Red-bellied Woodpecker's geographic distribution changed? How, when, where, and why has it done so? In the following account we rely on historical records of this bird, its habitats, its competitors, and its human observers, as well as some recent records, in an effort to answer these questions.

Alexander Wilson (1808) commented on the Red-bellied Woodpecker's range in the early 1800s, noting that it was widespread and resident through much of the eastern U.S., but curiously he refers to it as "abundant in Upper Canada, and in the northern parts of New York." Certainly southern Canada and

northern New York are today at the northern limits of the species' range. Audubon (Audubon and Chevalier 1840-1844) also described the Red-belly's range, noting that it nested north to Nova Scotia, a contention dismissed as erroneous by Palmer (1949). There are no data to support Audubon, but Wilson's comments are plausible. Perhaps there has been a range contraction followed by a reinvasion.

Support for such fluctuations comes from Forbush (1927), who noted that the species seemed to be a permanent resident in southern Ontario, while in New England it was a "mere straggler," and that "evidently this bird . . . has retired westward during the last century." However, a female captured and a male wounded in Newton, Massachusetts, in November 1880 (Plummer 1881) suggest that a small population may have persisted in that area. Forbush also cited Giraud's (1844) report of former breeding on Long Island and in the lower Hudson River valley, from which the species had disappeared. In about 1955, Red-bellies again occupied the region, spreading rapidly up the Hudson from New Jersey (Meade 1988).

At Oberlin, Ohio, Lynds Jones (1898) included the Red-bellied Woodpecker under the heading "Increasing Species," noting that it was "in nearly every piece of woods, and even strays into town occasionally." This was, however, before the European Starling was well established in Ohio.



Red-bellied Woodpecker

Photo by Jerome A. Jackson

In Pennsylvania, Poole (1964) notes that the species was "apparently a fairly common resident in the extreme southern counties a century ago," then "became a rare and irregular straggler until recently. Within the last two decades . . . there has been a remarkable increase into areas in which it was previously unknown." Early in the century, for example, Burns (1919) referred to the Red-belly as a "rather rare winter visitant" in Chester County. At midcentury Wood (1952) considered it only a casual visitor near State College. As recently as 1956, there were no records of Red-bellies from the Pocono Mountains of northeastern Pennsylvania (Street 1956). It was first found in the area in January 1968, but by 1985 it was well established as a breeding bird along the Blue Mountain and in valleys north of it (Street and Wiltraut 1985).

Howe and Sturtevant (1899) had little to say about Red-bellied Woodpeckers in Rhode Island except that two birds had been collected near Providence. Similarly, Sage et al. (1913) report only three records from Connecticut. Zeranski and Baptist (1990) detail the species' increase in abundance and range in Connecticut, where it was regularly reported in the 1960s and considered common in coastal regions by 1977.

The current range expansion of the Red-bellied Woodpecker into Massachusetts is a fairly recent event. The first documented breeding in the state was in 1977 (Forster and Robinson 1977) when nesting pairs were found in Natick and Adamsdale. Robinson (1977) also summarized the history of the Red-bellied Woodpecker in Massachusetts, mentioning that Red-bellies were reported on the average of once every nine years between 1863 and the mid-1950s, when the number jumped to about four birds per year. Between 1962 and 1976 about 50 birds were reported from the state (Veit and Petersen 1993).

From 1975 on, Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data (published annually by the National Audubon Society in *American Birds* [now *Field Notes*]) highlight the range expansion of the Red-bellied Woodpecker in Massachusetts. There were no reports from the 1975-76 CBCs, but in 1976-77 one Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported from Millis, earning bold-face type in the published report. In 1977-78 four were reported from Millis, but none from elsewhere in the state. The number of Red-bellies appearing in the 1978-79 CBC reports returned to zero. Things changed rapidly, however, and Red-bellies were reported on four counts in 1979-80, three in 1980-81, and four in 1981-82. The 1982-83 CBCs saw a total of ten Red-bellied Woodpeckers reported from seven count areas. Table 1 elucidates the subsequent pattern of range expansion throughout the state. Between 1983-84 and 1996-97 there was more than a twentyfold increase in the numbers reported (no corrections for party hours were made, since party hours remained fairly constant). In addition, Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported from only four of twenty-six count areas in 1983-84, but from twenty-six of twenty-nine in 1996-97. Populations have become

Table 1. Numbers of Red-bellied Woodpeckers reported on Christmas Birds Counts (in *Bird Observer* and *American Birds*) for all 29 Massachusetts counts: Andover; Athol; Buzzards Bay; Cape Ann; Cape Cod; Central Berkshire; Concord; Greater Boston; Greenfield; Marshfield; Martha's Vineyard; Mid-Cape Cod; Millis; Nantucket; New Bedford; Newburyport; Northampton; Northern Berkshire; Plymouth; Quabbin; Quincy; Springfield; Stellwagen; Taunton/Middleboro; Tuckernuck; Uxbridge; Westminster; Worcester; Newport County, RI/Westport, MA.

	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97
And.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	0	2	3	
Athol	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
B.B.	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	5	3	11	4	4	
C.Ann	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	7	4	
C.Cod	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	4	1	0	4	6	7
C.Berk.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Conc.	1	0	2	1	3	5	5	4	1	4	4	7	15	24	
Gr.Bos.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	2	3	1	3	9	10
Green.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	6	9	
Marsh.	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	3	1	1	5
M.V.	5	8	4	7	17	15	13	7	18	15	22	22	42	30	24
Mid-C.	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	7	4	1
Millis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-	0	4	0	9	11
Nant.	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	4	4	
N.B.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	3	2	
Nbpt.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	1	5	6	11	13
N.Hamp.	0	0	0	1	1	3	3	3	1	3	3	7	5	15	20
N.Berk.	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Ply.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	1	4	
Quab.	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	2
Quin.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Spring.	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	3	3	5	20	21	19	38	
Stell.	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
Tau/Mb.	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	4	9	
Tuck.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	0	
Uxbr.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	5	1	3	3	6	10	13
Wstm.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Worc.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	10	
Nwp	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	8	4	4	11	7	10
Total	8	10	8	13	30	38	29	29	41	66	71	98	155	220	
#counts (of 29)	4	3	4	6	8	14	9	12	12	20	16	16	23	26	

well established on Martha's Vineyard, and in Concord and Springfield, where CBC counts have consistently yielded numbers in double figures in recent years.

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology FeederWatch program has also monitored the range expansion of the Red-bellied Woodpecker. Several of their reports (e.g., Tessaglia and Rosenberg 1994, Tessaglia 1997) indicate that Red-bellies visited 38-39 percent of feeders for which results were reported in North America, placing them among the most widespread feeder species, and that a significant increase in numbers at feeders occurred from 1987-88 to 1988-89 (Dunn 1990) in the New England Region (excluding Maine). In the winter of 1993-94, harsh conditions apparently caused major declines in most northern populations of Red-bellied Woodpeckers, but did not affect the New England Region (Rosenberg et al. 1995; Figure 1). In 1995-96 the New England Region was rated in the category of "Regions with largest relative increase [or] major irruptions" for Red-bellies (Tessaglia and Rosenberg 1996). Clearly, the Red-bellied Woodpecker has become a thoroughly established resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Why has the range expansion occurred?

We suggest that the dynamics of Red-bellied Woodpecker range fluctuations involve the following factors:

(1) There would have been a gradual reduction in numbers and fragmentation of populations, particularly in northeastern North America, from colonial times until the early 1900s as a result of growth of human populations

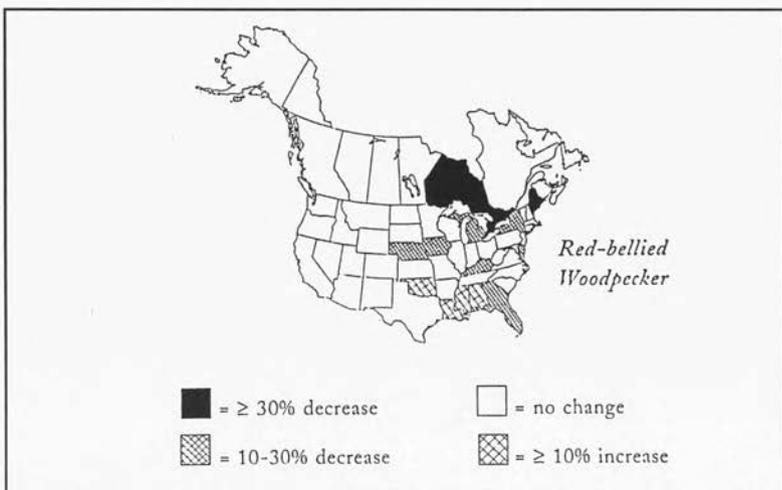


Figure 1. Population changes in Red-bellied Woodpeckers during the cold winter of 1993-1994. Printed with permission from BirdScope, 1995, 9(4):5, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

and clearing of forests for human use. Removal of the virgin forests of the Great Lakes states and southern Canada by the forest industry prior to 1880 would likely have decimated any Red-belly populations in the region. There and elsewhere increasing competition with Red-headed Woodpeckers would have been associated with the more open habitats created by forest fragmentation.

(2) There would have been a more dramatic decline associated with cavity competition in more open habitats between Red-bellies and European Starlings as the latter species' population grew following its introduction in the 1890s.

(3) With the shift from use of wood-burning stoves in the 1800s to use of electricity provided by regional power plants in the 1900s, there would have been decreased cutting of dead wood, hence an increase in potential habitat for the birds.

(4) With better roads and rail systems, produce and meat from distant markets became readily available to northeastern communities; as a result, local agriculture declined, allowing regrowth of forests and some reversal of forest fragmentation trends. This process provided more habitat and somewhat reduced cavity competition for Red-bellied Woodpeckers.

(5) In more arid areas of the Midwest, Red-bellies would have naturally been limited to the narrow strands of forest along rivers. As human populations built up in the region, trees planted as windbreaks and in cities and towns created additional habitat, allowing increased numbers and broader distribution of populations. In Kansas, for example, the species was once more or less limited to the eastern half of the state, but has increased in numbers and now seems to be expanding farther west along rivers (Thompson and Ely 1989).

(6) With the spread of Dutch elm disease and the loss of large elms throughout eastern North America, especially during the 1950s-1960s, an abundance of nest sites as well as an increased tree surface and subsurface arthropod food supply favored a rapid growth in Red-bellied Woodpecker populations (Bull 1974, Meade 1988).

(7) Although continued human population growth in northeastern North America has resulted in much habitat destruction, the affluence of the mid-to-late-twentieth century has resulted in development of new habitats. Proliferation of subdivisions with individual family housing and yards of increasing dimensions, with trees maintained only for shade, privacy, and decor, have favored Red-bellied Woodpecker population growth.

(8) Gradual climatic warming during the twentieth century is likely enhancing the potential for further northward expansion of Red-bellies and other southern species.

(9) Added to recent habitat improvements has been a dramatic increase in bird feeding, perhaps providing critical food resources for Red-bellied Woodpeckers during extreme weather in more northern areas. Favored foods include oil sunflower seeds, beef suet, peanut butter/cornmeal mixtures, and

halved oranges impaled on a nail in a tree trunk or post (Jackson 1997). Many authors note the frequent visits of Red-bellied Woodpeckers to feeders, especially in winter, and Meade (1988) suggests a link to the species' range expansion. The numerous reports of Red-bellies frequenting feeders in Massachusetts during winter suggest that supplementary feeding has played an important role in range expansion of the species into this state.

Dispersal of Red-bellied Woodpeckers into new areas seems to take place in winter, as evidenced by an abundance of "first sightings" for new areas in December and January. Such reports are generally of single birds, suggesting solitary dispersal rather than as pairs, a behavior that is typical of woodpeckers. Studies of banded birds in Mississippi (JAJ unpublished data) suggest that dispersal involves mostly young birds, while adults tend to remain near the site of first nesting. While most dispersal is likely to be over short distances, effecting a gradual expansion of the species, some long distance dispersal occasionally occurs, as evidenced by records of the species from Arizona and other distant extralimital areas.

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William E. Davis is a professor at Boston University and a member of *Bird Observer's* editorial board. He currently serves as the second vice-president of the Wilson Ornithological Society.

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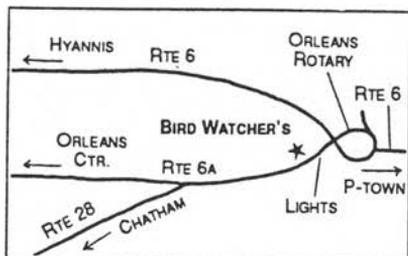
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RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS RAISING SECOND BROOD

by Marjorie W. Rines

In 1991, still a relative tyro at birding, I was told that there were Red-bellied Woodpeckers in the Middlesex Fells. I had only seen this species a handful of times, and here was a resident pair just a couple of miles from my home. On my first visit I had walked less than 50 yards before I heard one call. There was the male, perched on the edge of a nest hole, and a few days later I saw the female. I spent many hours that spring watching the pair raise their young.

Since then I have watched the Red-bellies every spring, observing their nesting behavior. In 1994, they raised two broods. The problem is, they aren't supposed to do that. According to the literature, they raise only one brood in the northern part of their range (Kaufman 1996, Erlich et al. 1988). It's not surprising; it takes this species 12-14 days to hatch its eggs and 22-27 days to fledge the young after hatching; then the adults may feed the fledglings for as much as six weeks after fledging (Kaufman 1996).

Several years of observation have suggested that the way the parents feed the young can indicate the progress toward fledging. At first, the parents enter the nest to feed them. Around two weeks after the hatching date, the parents begin to feed from the edge of the nest. When the babies poke their heads out of the nest hole, they are usually within four days of fledging.

My notes for June 6, 1994, describe both adults feeding young, which were poking their heads out of the nest hole. On July 16, I watched the adults again bringing food to the nest hole, and on July 31 I watched them feed at the nest hole, but also saw a juvenile bird nearby. In 1995, on June 2 the female fed from the edge of the nest. Additional June trips resulted in no activity, but on July 25 both adults were seen feeding young from the edge of the nest hole. In 1996 my June notes read "young fledged approx. 6/10, second brood in progress 6/29, saw juv bird in area." On July 20 the male entered the nest with food and left. On August 22 I observed the female feeding a fledgling.

There were three active nests in the Fells in 1997. Nests #1 and #2 were only 100 yards apart, and initial fledging dates were presumably shortly after two visits when I saw young in the nest holes: May 28 for #1, and June 15 for #2. When I next checked on July 8, there was no activity at nest #1, but at #2, I was surprised to see the male arrive with food and exchange places in the nest with the female. There were also two juvenile birds in the immediate area. If the pair at #2 were raising a second brood, this would mean an egg-laying date of no later than June 26, just 11 days after the earliest possible fledging date for that nest.

I speculate that the adults from #1 took over nest #2. Red-bellies are extremely tidy nest builders, creating nearly perfectly round holes, but by July 8, the nest #1 had slightly worn edges, making me wonder whether some other animal had started using the hole. If that were the case, pair #1 might have usurped nest #2 while pair #2 were busy feeding fledged young. There was no evidence at nests #1 or #3 of any possible second brood.

When I told a friend about the double-clutching Red-bellies, he said it was impossible, and suggested that the pair possibly lost their first brood, leading to a second nesting attempt. The presence of juvenile birds in the area could be explained by a second pair successfully raising a first brood. After five years, however, circumstantial evidence suggests these woodpeckers are definitely raising two broods.

One explanation is simply that this is an aberrant pair that hasn't read the literature. A second explanation is possible, however. Red-bellies have been increasing in Massachusetts at a dramatic rate (see the article by Jackson and Davis in this issue). Is this increase the result of pairs like those in the Middlesex Fells that are rearing two sets of young each season? Or does it suggest that the species' range is moving north? If so, Massachusetts may no longer represent the northern extreme of its range, and hence raising more than one brood may be more "normal." This somewhat circular set of alternatives reminds one of the old query "which came first, the woodpecker or the egg?"

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1998 NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT: CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

The **7th Annual North American Migration Count (NAMC)** will be held on May 9, 1998. The NAMC is a nationwide bird census with results compiled by county and state. The NAMC is like a Christmas Count in that it includes counting all birds seen or heard on a given day. Unlike a Christmas Count, the NAMC:

- Is a nationwide count held on one day (2nd Saturday in May)
- Has entire counties as count areas (instead of 15-mile diameter circles)
- Costs participants nothing
- Occurs in warm weather!

The goals of the NAMC include:

- Obtaining a "snapshot" of the progress of Spring Migration
- Compiling information on the abundance and distribution of each species
- Creating challenges and goals among birders while collecting useful information
- Having fun!

The organization of the program, compilation of results, and reporting of data are done entirely by volunteers. The Count has grown since its inception to the point that the 6th Annual NAMC in 1997 had more than 7,000 observers spread across all the states and most of the Canadian provinces. In New England, the 1997 Count had more than 500 participants, providing coverage in over 45 counties. Highlights (and lowlights) of the 1997 NAMC in New England included:

- Continued expansion of the **Red-bellied Woodpecker** throughout much of the region
- Very low numbers of **neotropical migrants** due to the late spring
- **Moorhen** numbers remaining alarmingly low
- Rarities such as an **Arctic/Pacific Loon** in Essex County, MA, and a **Kentucky Warbler** in Middlesex County, MA.

A summary of the New England portion of the 1997 Count will be published in an upcoming issue of *Bird Observer*.

What effects will our warm El Nino-influenced winter have on the 1998 Count? Will the warm weather even further increase the numbers of southeastern colonizers like Fish Crows, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and Hooded Warblers? If you would like to participate this year on May 9 to help answer these questions, or just to have a fun day of birding near the peak of spring migration, contact one of the count's New England coordinators:

New England NAMC Coordinators

New England - Regional Coordinator:

Mike Resch, 978-433-8896

(MRESCH@ENSR.COM)

Massachusetts - County Coordinators:

Essex - Rob Lewis, 617-524-6006

Middlesex - Jim Barton, 617-354-7435

Worcester - Richard Hildreth, 508-429-5085

Suffolk - Robert Stymeist, 617-926-3603

Nantucket - Edith Andrews, 508-228-9529

Hampden - Seth Kellogg, 413-569-3335

Hampshire - Anne Lombard, 413-586-7509

Bristol - Emily Brunkhurst, 508-223-3060

Barnstable - Stauffer Miller, 508-362-3384

New Hampshire - County Coordinators:

Rockingham - Dick Balerviez, 603-778-9385

Cheshire - David Rowell, 603-924-8790

Grafton - Sue Fogleman, 603-536-1541

Maine - State Coordinator:

Maurice Mills, 207-726-4494

Rhode Island - State Coordinator:

David Emerson, 508-822-7430

Connecticut - County Coordinators:

Fairfield - Frank Mantlik, 203-854-9780

Litchfield - Chris Wood, 203-355-3716

Hartford - Jay Kaplan, 860-693-0157

Middlesex - Wilford Schultz, 203-265-6398

New Haven - Pat Leahy, 25 Mountain View Rd., Bethany 06524

Windham - Tom Harrington, 860-423-2041

Vermont - County Coordinators:

Bennington - Bonnie Dundas, 802-447-7433

NW Vermont - Mark LaBarr, 802-434-3068

Contact **Mike Resch** if you would like to organize efforts in a county that does not have a Coordinator!

GENERALIST FORAGING HABITS OF NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS

By Marta J. Hersek and Kim C. Derrickson

Northern Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*), with their complex song, conspicuous displays, and extreme aggression toward nest predators, are familiar birds in New England, particularly in suburban areas. Although mockingbirds were reported breeding in Massachusetts as early as 1852 (Wright 1921), they have not always been common residents. The northern limit of their range has been expanding during the last century, especially during the last 50 years, apparently as a result of increases in preferred habitat and winter food availability (Hamilton 1997, Derrickson and Breitwisch 1992, Stiles 1982). Mockingbirds make use of planted lawns, ornamental shrubbery, and trees for foraging and nesting areas. The introduction of many plants, including multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), that provide berries during the late fall and winter has been especially important, since Northern Mockingbirds are mainly frugivorous during the winter (Derrickson and Breitwisch 1992; Stiles 1982).

One of the reasons that Northern Mockingbirds have been able to take advantage of new, non-native food plants is that they are true generalists, eating a variety of fruits and arthropods. They are also opportunists, occasionally including other plant parts, other invertebrates, and sometimes even small vertebrates in their diet as available (Derrickson and Breitwisch 1992, Wunderle Jr. 1981, Grant and Grant 1979, Sprunt Jr. 1964; Michener and Michener 1935, Beal et al. 1916). In fact, some Galápagos Mockingbirds (in the closely related genus *Nesomimus*) also eat bird eggs, and others drink blood from wounded vertebrates (Curry and Anderson 1987, Harris 1968; Hatch 1965). Below we report observations of Northern Mockingbirds foraging on two other unusual foods: nectar and early spring tree sap.

Drinking nectar

Northern Mockingbirds in Sarasota, Florida, were observed (MH) foraging on the nectar of bottle-brush flowers (*Callistemon* sp.) from March 2-11, 1993. Two neighboring pairs of birds foraged at a bottle-brush tree located between their territorial boundary. Each bird pushed its bill deep into the brush-like inflorescence, then lifted the bill in the manner typical of drinking (Derrickson and Breitwisch 1992). One female, while being closely watched through binoculars, stumbled while foraging in the bottle-brush and jarred the flower, and a large, viscous drop of nectar fell from it. All four birds had yellow pollen stains on their heads and necks, as has been described for Australian birds foraging at *Callistemon* flowers (Ford et al. 1979). The only other published

report of nectar drinking by Northern Mockingbirds was by Michener and Michener (1935), who observed them foraging on nectar from *Grevillea* trees in California. Both *Callistemon* and *Grevillea* are native to Australia, and both are adapted to avian pollination (Ford et al. 1979). Bottle-brush and *Grevillea* flowers share a number of characteristics with other Australian plants that are bird-pollinated, including an open shape with long stamens, lack of odor, and relatively high nectar production (Ford et al. 1979). These characteristics may explain why mockingbirds are attracted to the flowers, and why the only reports of nectar drinking are from these trees. It is unknown whether mockingbirds or other avian species are important pollinators of *Callistemon* or *Grevillea* in North America.

Drinking sap

We observed another unusual behavior of Northern Mockingbirds that demonstrates the opportunistic nature of their foraging: drinking of early spring tree sap. A pair at Tyler Arboretum in southeastern Pennsylvania was observed (KCD) foraging on early spring sap emanating from pruning and natural wounds on dogwoods (*Cornus* sp.) from April 8-10, 1981. On the morning of April 8, the male of a mockingbird pair drank from three different wounds (two pruning sites and a recently cut stump) on four occasions, and the female drank from two different sites (two pruning sites, one of which was also used by the male) on three occasions during sixty-nine minutes of observation. On the morning of April 10, during forty-six minutes of observation, the male drank once (six sips) at the stump. The female had a single bout (lasting nine minutes) of drinking from a natural wound. No sap drinking was recorded in three other pairs during 164 minutes of observation on these two mornings (the nearby territories all had numerous dogwoods, but whether these had been pruned by arboretum staff is unknown). The weather at this time was conducive to sap flow, with cool mornings (-1°C to approximately 7°C at sunrise) and warm ($16\text{-}25^{\circ}\text{C}$) afternoons, and sap flow was extensive: sap was pooling rapidly around the wounds and running down the bark. There were no insects seen around these wounds.

While the composition and solute concentration of sap varies dramatically among different locations on a tree, and depends upon the time of year (Pate 1976), the xylem, particularly during the spring, may contain considerable amounts of sugars and other organic compounds (Bidwell 1971). The use of sap has been reported in species from several genera of North American birds, most notably sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus*), woodpeckers (*Picoides*), kinglets (*Regulus*), and a few warblers (Daily et al. 1993, Erlich et al. 1988). To our knowledge, this is the first time that drinking of sap has been documented in *Mimus*.

Our observations suggest additional food sources that could become important to Mockingbirds in the Northeast. Although it is unlikely that *Grevillea* and *Callistemon* nectar will ever be available in New England, since these tropic-adapted trees would not tolerate our winters, many other ornamentals produce flowers that might be suitable as avian nectar sources. And spring tree sap is certainly widely available. These food sources could provide not only sugars, but also moisture at a time when birds have only limited water sources available to them.

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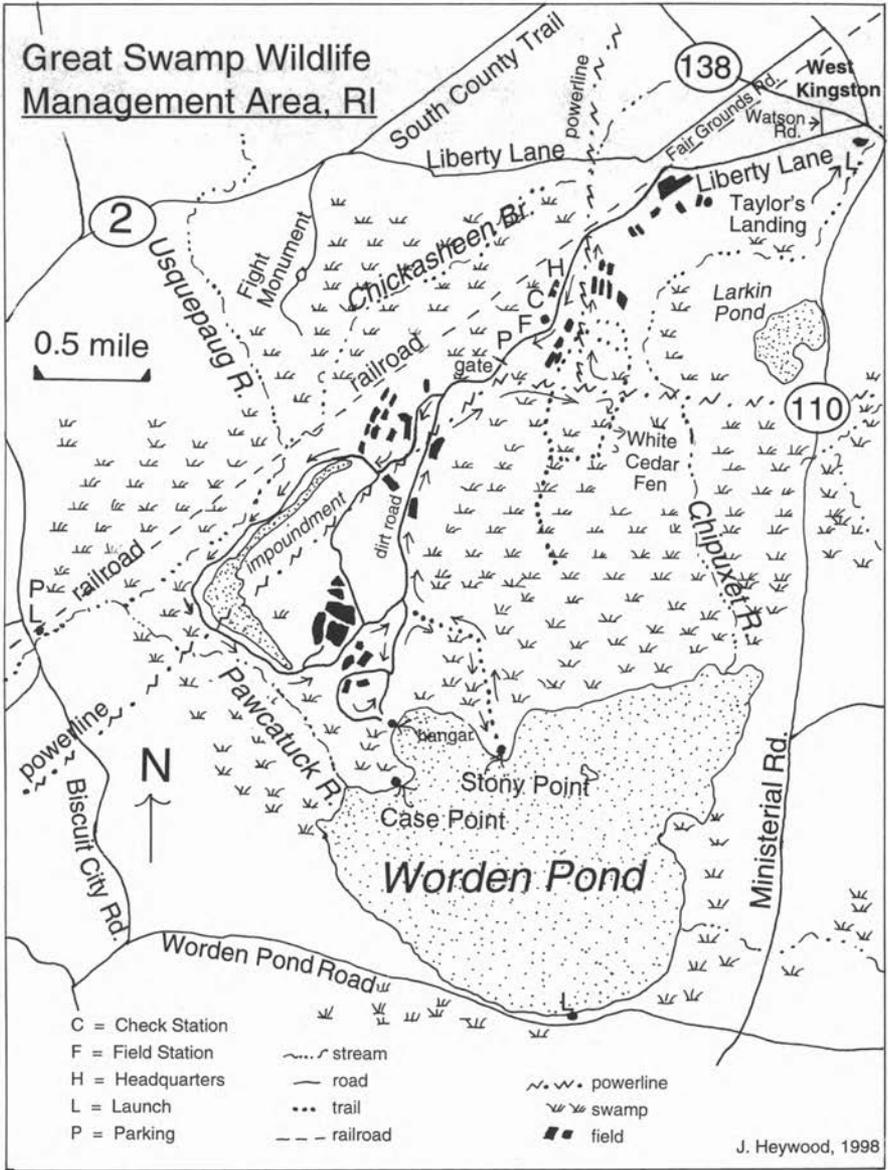
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WILDLIFE VIEWING IN THE GREAT SWAMP

by Chris Raithel

The Great Swamp, located within the towns of Charlestown and South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island, is one of the state's largest wetland systems and most significant historical and biological preserves. Like most of Rhode Island's geographical surface features, the Great Swamp owes its origin to glacial processes. After the peak of the recent Wisconsin glaciation, the receding ice sheet periodically stalled, dumping till to create a series of recessional moraines. The most obvious of these is the Charlestown Moraine, an east/west ridge located just north of Route 1 in southern Washington County. As the ice sheet melted and continued its northward retreat, huge quantities of meltwater flowed seaward. The Charlestown Moraine blocked this flow and diverted the water to the west, where it eventually broke through to the ocean at Watch Hill, creating the Pawcatuck River estuary. On its westward route to the sea, the meltwater impounded behind the moraine to form a series of basin wetlands: the Great Swamp, Indian Cedar Swamp in Charlestown, and Aguntaug Swamp in Westerly. Several other landforms near the Great Swamp bear the mark of the past glaciation. Great Neck, the major terrestrial portion in the Great Swamp, is a large drumlin, and to the east Larkin Pond is an ice block kettle surrounded by a dramatic alluvial fan. These features can be clearly seen on the Kingston 7.5' U.S.G.S. quadrangle map.

The Pawcatuck River is the main postglacial route by which plants and animals recolonized Rhode Island from the exposed coastal plain. The valley contains a flora typical of more southern regions and hosts numerous rare and unusual species. The floodplain of the river is largely dominated by red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), interspersed with pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) and green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*). In the central basin of the Great Swamp lies one of the largest stands of Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) in New England. The swamp also contains many other scarce types of wetlands, including bogs, fens, and coastal plain pond shores. The Great Swamp abuts the north shore of Worden Pond, Rhode Island's largest natural lake and itself a very interesting biological site.

The Great Swamp has a long history of Native American and colonial occupation. The Narragansett tribe arrived in this area sometime after glaciation and occupied the area for millenia. The Narragansetts eventually developed into a stable and robust tribe with well-developed agriculture augmented by the rich resources of the sea. The first permanent colonial settlement in Rhode Island was founded in Providence by Roger Williams, an outcast from Massachusetts. Relations between the Narragansetts and the colonials were cordial for decades,

with Williams translating the Narragansett language into a dictionary still available today.

Eventually, however, native-colonial relations deteriorated, and war broke out. The fighting eventually culminated when a garrison of soldiers marched from the village of Wickford to the Narragansett's secret winter refuge within the Great Swamp. The soldiers took advantage of the winter ice to cross the swamp and reach the sanctuary, and massacred much of the tribe. A monument dedicated to this event stands in a cul-de-sac road off Route 2, but the actual location of the battle was never documented. Apparently, the site was recently discovered by researchers and remains a closely guarded secret. A good history of this time is the publication *A Plantation in Yankeeland*, by Carl R. Woodward (Pequot Press).

With the Narragansett tribe dissipated, a number of colonial enterprises were developed within the Great Swamp. The uplands were cleared, tilled, and walled off for livestock. Large cedar trees were extracted from the swamp. At first, teams of oxen, whose wide, cloven feet were able to negotiate the swampy terrain, were used to drag the logs from the swamp. Eventually oxen were replaced by steam engines that rode temporary railbeds into the heart of the cedar stands. Vestiges of these practices are still visible on the landscape.

The Great Swamp Management Area contains a variety of terrestrial and wetland habitats, from fields to thick forest, wooded swamps to open water, and it offers numerous opportunities for wildlife viewing. The winter and summer (nesting) bird populations are well known and have been the subject of several research projects, but peak avian diversity occurs during the spring (April-May) and fall (September-October) migrations.

In the winter, landbirds such as Winter Wren, Swamp Sparrow, and (rarely) Eastern Phoebe cluster at the small areas of open water which persist at culverts or seeps, and the birding at this season is generally better when most of the main water areas are frozen and snow covers the ground. Large patches of winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) and American holly (*Ilex opaca*) sustain many frugivores, including vast flocks of American Robins, which often occur with Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Bluebirds, Gray Catbirds, and Hermit Thrushes. Also, the wildlife plantings of millet and corn sustain seed-eaters such as sparrows throughout the winter. Feeding stations are maintained at the headquarters buildings from late November through March.

The Great Swamp is a large area surrounded by wooded habitats and, though within five miles of the coast, it is not a notable migrant trap during the periods of avian transition. Nevertheless, the variety of habitats can produce large species lists if the area is worked carefully at the right times. The best spring migrant fallouts occur after overnight southwest winds, especially if fog has formed. Fall flights occur after cold fronts. The best places to see migrant landbirds are in the thickets along the power lines and in the brushy edges of the

wildlife impoundment. On good days large flocks of roving migrants pass from the coast through interior sections and can be encountered throughout. The open water of the impoundment and Worden Pond provides wide vistas in which to detect migrating raptors such as accipiters, Northern Harriers, and Bald Eagles, while large flocks of waterfowl, including teal, Ring-necked Ducks, and Wood Ducks, gather here.

The nesting avifauna of the Great Swamp is spectacular and includes several species uncommon in southern New England. The wooded swamps contain the most significant aggregations of nesting species, hosting the state's entire populations of Northern Parula and Prothonotary Warbler and high concentrations of several other neotropical birds, including Redstart and Veery, along with Black-and-White, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Hooded, and Canada warblers.

During the fall migration, which begins in late June and continues into the winter season, many other waterbirds, including egrets, ibis, and (rarely) terns, join the usual flocks of ducks around the impoundment. Swallows and martins swirl over the water, and the thickets can be alive with transient birds. Common shorebirds around the impoundment at this season include Spotted, Least, Pectoral, and Solitary sandpipers and Lesser and Greater yellowlegs; even such saltwater species as Semipalmated Plover and Short-billed Dowitcher can be observed.

The Great Swamp Management Area can be reached from either Route 95 or Route 1 via Route 138. If you are coming from the east, stay on Route 138 until you pass the athletic complex of the University of Rhode Island (on the right). The next traffic light is the junction of Route 110. After going through this light, Taylor's landing is on the left; the next immediate left-hand "Y" is Liberty Lane. Turn here, and bear left again where it parallels the railroad tracks (Great Neck Road) to the field station of the Division of Fish and Wildlife (see map). The road continues and ends at a gate and gravel parking area. If approaching from the west on Route 138, go through the light at Route 2 and continue over the railroad tracks. Immediately after the post office at West Kingston (on the right), take a right onto Watson Road, which connects with Liberty Lane, and follow it to the right as above.

A canoe or kayak is the best way to penetrate the inner reaches of the wetland system. Launching areas are located at the headwaters of the Chipuxet River (which flows into Worden Pond) at Taylor's Landing, near the junction of Route 138 and Ministerial Road (Route 110); at Biscuit City landing, off Route 2; and at the south end of Worden Pond off Worden Pond Road. Only the latter has a firm ramp for launching trailered watercraft. Both the Pawcatuck and Chipuxet Rivers are narrow and winding, unfit for motorized craft. A very scenic one-way, single-day canoe trip can be made from Taylor's Landing downstream into Worden Pond and then out the Pawcatuck River to Biscuit

City. Worden Pond is not deep, only about six feet at its maximum, but strong winds can make the one-mile crossing a laborious adventure. Flotation devices, either seat cushions or vests, are required for each person aboard.

The primary foot access is located at the terminus of Great Neck Road, off Liberty Lane in Kingston. A small parking area leads to a series of trails which form a large loop around the wildlife impoundment. Side trails branch off to such features as Worden Pond, the Chipuxet River, and the wildlife fields. A series of berms and power lines provides additional trailways through the area.

A suggested walking tour starts at the parking area above. Go through the gate and follow the gravel roads into the management area. You will first pass some impounded open wetlands with numerous dead snags. In winter, this is a good area for Winter Wren (culverts), various frugivores, Rusty Blackbirds, and Northern Shrikes (in a flight year). Scan the snags for woodpeckers. At the first fork (0.25 mile), bear to the right and then take the next right (0.4 mile) for the shortest way to reach the wildlife impoundment. The road continues along a berm around the periphery of this large artificial wetland (1.0 mile). Take time to scan the shrubby wetland (with a telescope if possible), including the open water and muddy flats. Waterfowl, rails, egrets, shorebirds, and raptors can be found here. Good birds seen here in the past include Caspian and Least tern, Common Moorhen, Least Bittern, Cliff Swallow, Northern Shoveler, and Red-headed Woodpecker. River otter, beaver, and muskrat are common and frequently seen in the open water, especially during winter. The power line across this wetland supports the largest cluster of active Osprey nests in the state. The Osprey are present from late March through August. Great Horned Owls also commandeer these nests in some years, so look carefully! Four species of Vireos (Yellow-throated, White-eyed, Red-eyed, and Warbling) nest near where the power line crosses the road and berm. The thickets of alder and birch on the back side of the impoundment often contain flocks of finches, which feed on the catkins. During June, snapping turtles lumber out of the wetlands to lay eggs in the sandy roadbed. As you proceed around the impoundment in a counterclockwise direction, the floodplain of the Pawcatuck and Usquepaug Rivers lies to your right. This area is better visited by canoe, but the berm offers the closest foot approach to this habitat. The nesting fauna of this floodplain forest is very interesting, with good numbers of Barred Owls, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Veeries, American Redstarts, Northern Waterthrushes, Yellow Warblers, and the elusive Prothonotary Warbler. The best season to find the Prothonotary is late April or early May, before the trees leaf out and most nesting species have arrived.

While walking along the dike, examine all the shrubby thickets and grassy patches. These are especially good for sparrows, including White-crowned, Savannah, Field, Song, and Swamp, during the fall.

Upon leaving the impoundment area, the road continues uphill into the forest and past some large fields on the left. These fields are maintained by burning and planting for wildlife management. They sometimes contain raptors and sparrows during migration. In these dry woods is the state's largest stand of American holly, a tree whose red berries are an important winter wildlife food. At the next road junction bear to the right, and again to the right at the next intersection (0.25 mile), where there is a stone marker. This road ends (0.6 mile) at the shoreline of Worden Pond, the best and easiest view of this lake available from the management area. Scan the water (in the right season) for Pied-billed Grebe, Tundra Swan, Canvasback, gulls, Caspian Tern, and other waterbirds. The old metal hangar formerly harbored a seaplane used for fish and wildlife survey and law enforcement work. Northern Rough-winged Swallows nest in holes just above the waterline. The nearby uplands support a rich hardwood forest featuring thick mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) understory. Yellow-throated Vireo, Ovenbird, Hooded Warbler, and Worm-eating Warbler (rare, near ledges) nest here. Some tracts in this area have recently been cut over to provide successional vegetation for New England cottontail and other shrubland species.

When nearly back to the main road, watch for a small, unmarked trail on your right. This trail leads into the core of the Great Swamp and eventually becomes very wet in spots; calf-high boots are necessary! The trail is vague and poorly marked, but continues (0.7 mile) to Stony Point, a peninsula jutting into Worden Pond. The most interesting feature of this section of the swamp is the nesting avifauna, particularly the Northern Parula, which builds its nest from the wispy *Usnea trichomanes* found here. In the wetter areas, look up into the tree canopy. The lichen will appear as bluish-green "skirts" on the trunks of the gum and maple trees. This lichen (like the parula) was thought extirpated from Rhode Island after 1933, and was only recently rediscovered. Many other types of lichens festoon the trees in this area. Nesting Hooded and Canada Warblers are common, and Red-shouldered Hawks may be seen at all seasons.

Returning to the main road, continue until you reach the power line again (0.7 mile). The woods here are dry and rather undistinguished but host several species of woodpeckers, including Red-bellied, Hairy, and the occasional Pileated. Wild Turkeys and Eastern Bluebirds are often seen near the power line, and "Lawrence's" Warbler has been a staple in this area in recent springs. To find it, "pish" out all birds that sound remotely like Blue-winged Warblers and you may be surprised. At the power line, turn right and follow it along another dirt berm road through some manipulated wetlands. Marsh Wrens are often found in the stands of cattail in this area, and the wet thickets of inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) host frugivorous transients and wintering birds. Continue along this road (with swamp on both sides), until you come to a "T" in the power line (0.7 mile). Continuing straight will bring you to an access for the best Atlantic white

cedar habitat. Look for a small unmarked trail off to the right (south) opposite a wide sandy spot in the road (0.2 mile from the "T"). This small trail goes only about 200 feet; look for another small trail to the left (off the first trail) which leads into the white cedar fen. This is an unusual open cedar glade which resembles wetlands in the New Jersey pine barrens and hosts several rare plant and invertebrate species. The nesting bird association is likewise interesting and includes Northern Waterthrush, Nashville Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler (in cedars) and Northern Saw-whet Owl. This area is wet the entire year and is easily disturbed — go easy on it.

On the return trip, taking the remaining arm of the "T" northward will bring you back past a power substation to the office buildings (0.6 mile), from which the parking area is back down the road to the left (0.5 mile). The brushy hedgerows in this area are good for sparrows and towhees in fall and winter. The entire loop as described above is 5-6 miles in length and will take several hours to bird on foot. Bring water and boots if you plan to probe side trails.

The Great Swamp Management Area, PO Box 218, West Kingston, R.I. 02892, is managed by the R.I. Division of Fish and Wildlife primarily to provide recreational opportunities for hunters and fishermen. Other activities such as hiking, biking, canoeing, and horseback riding are allowed sunrise to sunset. Motorized vehicles are prohibited in the management area. There are no designated campsites. The primary hunting season for upland game and deer extends from mid-October to the end of February. Other seasons include Mourning Dove (early September), early waterfowl at the impoundment, and Wild Turkey (May - mornings only). Please do not interfere with legitimate hunting activities. Check at the office (401/789-0281) for current activities and open seasons. A minimum of 200 square inches of fluorescent orange garb (a hat or vest), available at most sporting goods stores, is required from mid-October through February.

Maps of the area are available at the office, which is open weekdays 8:30A.M.-4:00 P.M. Sections of the Great Swamp are remote, and off-trail adventurers become disoriented and lost frequently; a compass and good map or aerial photo are recommended for such activity. Biting insects and ticks abound within the management area. Bring repellent and take precautions to avoid contact with the deer tick, which carries Lyme disease. Black flies and mosquitos occur mostly in May and June; deer flies, which are attracted to light clothing, are present July through September. No plants or animals may be collected from the management area without special permit by the Division of Fish and Wildlife. There is no entrance fee.

The publication *A Plantation in Yankeeland* is available through Smith's Castle, Cocumscussoc Association, Post Road, North Kingstown, RI (401) 294-3521. There are no bird checklists or other wildlife reference materials available

for this area. Sightings of rarities can be reported at the office or by calling the Audubon Society of Rhode Island at (401) 949-5454.

Christopher J. Raithel, a nineteen-year veteran of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Mangement, works as the endangered species and nongame wildlife biologist for the state's Division of Fish and Wildlife. Chris was the fieldwork coordinator for the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Rhode Island*, and serves as the state chair for the Partners in Flight initiative and as compiler for the Block Island CBC. Chris counts among his most thrilling field experiences the discovery of nesting Prothonotary Warblers and Northern Parulas in the Great Swamp. He is working on a monograph on the ornithological history of the Napatree area.

(Announcement)

HAWK MIGRATION CONFERENCE APRIL 4 & 5

The North-East Hawk Watch (NEHW), which gathers, publishes and stores hawk migration data from eight states in the northeast, is presenting its fifth Hawk Migration Conference on the weekend of April 4-5 at the Southbury Hilton in Southbury, Connecticut. The conference is geared to general birders who may have a interest in hawks, as well as to hawk watchers. The day session on Saturday includes eleven presentations on such subjects as the effects of long-term weather on hawk migration patterns; the nesting ecology of American Kestrels; the breeding status of eagles, Ospreys, and Peregrines; the California Condor; and a presentation on owl migration in Massachusetts. A special live birds of prey program is included. Registration for the entire day's program is \$20. There will also an evening banquet at which Keith Bildstein, Director at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, will give a presentation on sixty years of hawk migration research at Hawk Mountain. There is a separate charge of \$25 for the banquet. On Sunday several free guided birding trips to local hot spots and the Connecticut coast will be offered.

For more information and a registration form call Paul Roberts at (781) 483-4263 after 6 p.m. or visit www.pipeline.com/~merlin/NEHW/

BOOK REVIEW: Handbook of the Birds of the World

By Mark Lynch

Handbook of the Birds of the World, Edited by Josep del Hoyo, Andrew Elliott, and Jordi Sargatal. Lynx Edicions.

Volume I: Ostrich to Ducks. 1992. 696 pages, 446 color plates, 568 distribution maps.

Volume II: New World Vultures to Guinea Fowl. 1994. 640 pages, 362 color plates, 540 distribution maps.

Volume III: Hoatzin to Auks. 1996. 822 pages, 449 color plates, 577 distribution maps.

Volume IV: Sandgrouse to Cuckoos. 1998. 674 pages, 306 color plates, 837 distribution maps.

There are estimated to be more than 9,000 species of bird currently extant. Imagine setting yourself the task of seeing every one of these creatures. Consider the crippling cost of trips and guides and the sheer herculean effort and sacrifice of personal time involved in such an endeavor. It's amazing that there is even a handful of people who have "ticked" over 7,000. You can't help but be in awe, and not a little jealous, of those megalisters who seem to be trying to fill every space in this particular stamp album.

Even more impressive is the monumental book series in progress called the *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, the goal of which is to illustrate and describe every species of bird. Can you imagine a more ambitious and daunting project? It was, perhaps, inevitable that such a series would be attempted, given two currently popular types of ornithological literature. One trend in bird book publishing has been to create series of volumes describing every species for increasingly large geographical areas. These are not regional field guides, but scholarly reference works to be used at home. Notable examples of series of this type include *The Birds of Africa* and the venerable nine-volume series, *Birds of the Western Palearctic*. Another type of popular bird book is the "identification guide," which describes and illustrates all the species of one taxonomic family or group from around the world, including all the obscure species from remote corners of the globe. *Buntings and New World Warblers*, published by Oxford University Press in 1994, exemplifies this trend. Both of these types stress completeness and depth beyond what is available in a field guide. The idea of a *Handbook of the Birds of the World* is the answer to "where will all this end?" and the ultimate dream of ornithobibliophiles everywhere.

But what publisher would dare attempt this seeming Everest of bird books? Many readers will not have heard of Lynx Edicions of Barcelona. In 1989 I purchased a book entitled *Where to Watch Birds in Catalonia*, an English

translation of the Catalan original by Josep del Hoyo and Jordi Sargatal, published by Lynx Edicions. I was so impressed by the quality of this specialized birdfinding guide that I promptly went to Catalonia and had one of my most memorable birding holidays. While there, I was further surprised to find that two of the most important birding locations had their own individual field guides, printed on glossy stock and with full color illustrations by Fancesc Jutglar: *Els Ocells del Delta de l'Ebre*, by Albert Martinez-Vilalta and Anna Motis, and *Els Ocells del Parc Natural dels Aiguamollis de l'Emporda*, by Jordi Sargatal and Josep del Hoyo. Both of these slim, attractive volumes were also published by Lynx Edicions. They were analagous to fully illustrated bird guides for Parker River and Monomoy. I began to ask myself, to quote the cinematic Butch Cassidy, "Who are those guys?"

It therefore came as only a slight surprise to me that the *Handbook of the Birds of the World* lives up to most of my expectations. Four volumes of the planned twelve volumes have been published as of this writing. Each bird family chapter in a volume is divided into two parts. The first part consists of a lengthy general account of the family, even if it is a monotypic family like Scopidae (Hamerkop). These sections are dense and packed with information culled from current research, much of which will be unfamiliar to the nonornithologist. I have found these overview sections to be invaluable resources for study and lecture preparation. Each of these chapters has subsections on systematics, morphology, habitat, habits, voice, feeding, breeding, movements, and relationship with man. The writing is informative and authoritative, but still accessible to the general reader. Throughout these sections are numerous large, finely printed color photographs, often of less-known species. Most of these photos have never been seen before by this reviewer. The first volume includes an introduction to the class Aves, with seventeen color anatomical plates and sections on evolution, anatomy, physiology, and behavior.

The second section of each chapter consists of individual species accounts. The species illustrations are very good, better than those in *Birds of the Western Palearctic*. With few exceptions, birds illustrated on a single page are posed in similar postures, facilitating comparison. Most of the species plates are full-page, but monotypic families or families with only a few species, such as Anhimidae (Screamers), are less than a page and combined with the species descriptions. Among the principal artists are Fancesc Jutglar, Ian Willis, and Norman Arlott. These names may not be familiar to North American birders, but are well known to Europeans. Only the adults in alternate plumage of each species are shown. Male and female plumages are illustrated for most species, as well as for many of the distinct subspecies. Opposite these beautiful plates are the species accounts. These are by necessity concise, comparable to or better than what one would find in a very good regional field guide. These species accounts cannot approach the amount of information found in the "identification

guides" or the regional series mentioned above. But they do include information on taxonomy, distribution (with a range map), plumage details, habitat, feeding, breeding and movements, and status and conservation. It should be noted that "traditional" (i.e., pre-Sibley/Monroe) taxonomy is followed.

To keep this monumental series fresh, an unspecified number of periodic updates are also planned. These are to include recent discoveries in evolution and changes in distribution and taxonomy. The implication is that *Handbook of the Birds of the World* should be thought of as an ongoing work.

Should you purchase this outstanding series? This is not a simple question. Obviously one has to consider the steep cost. I paid \$145 as part of a special prepublication offer for volume four. Although this may sound pricey, it is reasonable for a book of this high quality. There is little doubt that if you are considering owning the series, now is the time to start, before any more volumes are published. One way to justify the cash outlay is to think about how much money you spend every year on gas for chasing birds around Massachusetts. Devoted ornithobibliophiles spend many times the cost of one volume on other, much less worthy books every year. Volumes are published every two years, and Lynx Edicions has (so far) stuck to this schedule. This does mean a considerable investment in time will be required to own all twelve volumes.

But it is worth it. The simplest pleasure is, of course, a chance to see all the birds. The panoply of evolution, speciation, and morphological diversity is laid out before your eyes. I like to look up species I have heard of but never seen illustrated. For instance, I immediately turned to the picture of one of the species I like to imagine searching for: the Invisible Rail. With a name like that, you know it's not going to be an easy bird to cross off the old life list. The photographs in these volumes are sumptuous, among the finest I have seen in any ornithology book. But it is the text that is the real surprise. Consistently a pleasure to dip into, it is a treasure trove of new information. It will be a shame if people purchase these volumes for the wonderful illustrations but don't bother to glance at the text. These are coffee table books that are worth reading thoroughly. There is little doubt that the *Handbook of the Birds of the World* is the ultimate series of books for both the birder and the ornithologist.

Mark Lynch is an environmental monitor and instructor at Massachusetts Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary in Worcester. He also hosts *Inquiry*, a show on the arts and sciences on WICN.

FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

NOW, *THIS* IS BIRDING!

On a South Shore Bird Club trip to the Quabbin Reservoir on December 7, 1997, we had a lot of great looks at fine birds. The adventure we remember the best began while three new dedicated birders were peering at the ground in a wet lowland. We asked, "What's up?" We heard a rustling of leaves, and then, with a burst, a raptor lifted from the ground — it was perfectly camouflaged, light brown on top, and *big*. We gently pursued the bird as it flew about 150 feet into a brushy, wet area. Someone said, "It landed," and we crept up to a vantage point. Then a member said, "I see it, I see it, it's a Barred Owl!" Everyone was excited; several people mentioned that it was a "lifer."

A member started hooting "Who cooks for you?" No response; we pursued further, and our excitement flourished. Then the bird flew again, headed for the nearby road. Someone said, "Now, *this* is birding." The shortest way to the road was up a twenty-foot cobblestone embankment, its rocks snow-covered, jagged, and slippery; all fourteen of us clambered over this, up to the top, through briars and brambles. The someone yelled, "The owl is flying!" and four birders were running down the road, keeping abreast of the owl with its powerful wingbeats. It landed in tall pines, we thought; we searched the woods for three more minutes, returned to the tall pines, and everyone saw it. Fantastic!

The owl only flew in short hops, we discovered, because it had a mouse in its talons. It was a great team effort getting this bird, and a lot of fun.

--Dan Furbish

A "GROUSEHAWK"

At home in Arlington Heights on her birthday, October 2, 1997, my wife Pat heard jays and other birds furiously calling, mobbing something — maybe a hawk or an owl. Or possibly our cat, Misty (we have to confess we have a cat, a contradiction of sorts, though of course he's a bird-lover too . . . just more lethal). As Pat related it to me later, she slipped out the door, glasses in hand, to have a look. The object of the mobbing was low down in a red cedar on the border of our backyard. A whirr of wings, and the action shifted to the next street. Following around, Pat finally caught a glimpse of the object, a large, brown bird with a small, crested head — a Ruffed Grouse! When she approached a step closer, off went the grouse again, apparently more afraid of her than of the mobbing birds (hunting season, perhaps). A new bird for our backyard list (#65), and we imagine a new bird for the resident jays and mockingbird, for they seemed to identify it as a hawk or an owl.

--Oakes Plimpton

BIRD SIGHTINGS

SEPTEMBER 1997

SUMMARY

By Marjorie W. Rines, Simon A. Perkins, and Robert H. Stymeist

September was a dry month, with only 1.02 inches of precipitation, more than 2 inches below average. Average temperature was only a little below normal, with no remarkable extremes. There were a number of days with northerly winds, but no significant storms.
M. W. R.

LOONS THROUGH TERNS

An **Eared Grebe** that appeared in East Gloucester at the end of the month was probably the same individual that has spent previous winters there. Shearwaters, most notably Cory's and Greater, continued in above-average numbers on Stellwagen Bank, and good numbers of Greater were also off Andrew's Point in Rockport. Several **Audubon's Shearwaters** were recorded on a boat trip at Hydrographer Canyon. Of the two "black-and-white" shearwaters (Audubon's and Manx) that are found in New England, Audubon's is the more expected in the warmer waters over the continental shelf break.

The **American White Pelican** that spent part of the summer at Plum Island remained there through the month. With the exception of Great Blue Heron, all colonial-nesting, long-legged waders in Massachusetts nest on the coast, though post-breeding dispersal of these birds accounts for scattered inland records. This past summer's drought produced especially attractive conditions inland that lured above-average numbers of Great and Snowy Egrets away from the coast, and a Little Blue Heron at the Cambridge Reservoir in Lexington was especially rare inland. The vanguard of southbound Snow Geese were recorded at three different sites on the 24th, and the hen King Eider that spent much of the summer at Nantucket remained there through the month.

A **Black Vulture** in Provincetown represented the latest record among the increasingly frequent reports of this still very uncommon but now annual visitor.

In a five-day span, a total of 108 Ospreys were counted from the summits of Mt. Wachusett in Princeton and Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham, while, in three days around this same period, twenty six Bald Eagles were seen passing these same peaks. On the fifteenth, hawkwatchers at Watatic were treated to a "Big Bang" flight of roughly 10,000 Broad-winged Hawks; an early Golden Eagle was noted there the day before.

A Clapper Rail at Nantucket was presumably one of a pair that raised young there earlier in the season, and a **Purple Gallinule** made a surprise showing in Hingham. The **American Avocet** that appeared in Eastham in August, was seen there sporadically through the month, either at First Encounter Beach or the Nauset Marshes. Also at Nauset, a **Long-billed Curlew**, seen for only one day, represented only the fifth or sixth record for the state in the last twenty years. Very low water levels that persisted much of the summer at the Concord section of the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge continued to attract an exceptional assortment of waterbirds, including herons, ducks and, especially, shorebirds. At least fourteen species of shorebirds were recorded there during the month, the more unusual of which included Semipalmated Plover, Sanderling, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Dunlin. Buff-breasted Sandpiper had a poor showing this month.

As many as twenty Parasitic Jaegers were seen from shore harassing the throngs of terns off South Beach in Chatham. But, despite the season's above-average numbers of Common and Roseate Terns, Forster's Terns were reported in very low numbers. Two Caspian Terns at the Great Meadows Refuge in Concord represented a rare Sudbury Valley record.
S. A. P.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
Common Loon				9	Wakefield	4	F. Vale#
5	Princeton	3	C. Ralph	13	Plymouth	3	S. Arena
9, 22	P.I.	18, 51	R. Heil	20	S. Monomoy	5	S. Arena
21	S. Peabody	47 migr	R. Heil	21	P.I.	3	M. Lynch#
27	Quabbin (G37)	10	M. Lynch#	26	Westboro	3	A. Boover
Pied-billed Grebe				28	W. Barnstable	6	S. Miller#
8-12	Nantucket	4	fide E. Ray				

Horned Grebe									
11	Boston	1	H. Miller						
14	S. Monomoy	1	br pl S. Perkins#						
18	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale						
Red-necked Grebe									
16	P.I.	1	R. Heil						
Eared Grebe									
26-29	Gloucester	1	M. + D. Barnett						
Northern Fulmar									
18	Stellwagen	1	M. Rines#						
Cory's Shearwater									
6	Hydrog. Can. 75BBC		(G. d'Entremont)						
10	P'town	1	K. Disney#						
13	Stellwagen	15	BBC (E. Tarry)						
27	P'town	1	W. Petersen#						
29	Nantucket	16	J. Hoye#						
29	Rockport (A.P.)	150	J. Soucy						
Greater Shearwater									
6	Chatham (S.B.)	2	S. Mirick						
6	Hydrog. Can. 300BBC		(G. d'Entremont)						
20	Stellwagen	850	R. Heil						
26	Chatham (S.B.)	8	R. Donovan						
29	Rockport (A.P.)	200	J. Soucy						
Sooty Shearwater									
6	Stellwagen	2	M. Lynch#						
6	Chatham (S.B.)	4	S. Mirick						
Manx Shearwater									
6	Stellwagen	14	M. Lynch#						
20	Stellwagen	15	R. Heil						
26	Chatham (S.B.)	2	R. Donovan						
Audubon's Shearwater (no details) *									
6	Hydrog. Can. 6BBC		(G. d'Entremont)						
Wilson's Storm-Petrel									
6	Hydrog. Can. 75BBC		(G. d'Entremont)						
Leach's Storm-Petrel									
6	Hydrog. Can. 4BBC		(G. d'Entremont)						
Northern Gannet									
10	P'town	30+	K. Disney#						
18	Stellwagen	14	M. Rines#						
29	Rockport (A.P.)	500	J. Soucy						
American White Pelican									
thr	P.I.	1	v.o.						
Great Cormorant									
16	P.I.	2	imm R. Heil						
Double-crested Cormorant									
14	Boston H.	250	TASL (M. Hall)						
American Bittern									
1	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale						
9	Eastham (F.H.)	1	J. Eddy						
10-31	GMNWR	1	v.o.						
14	P.I.	1	S. Moore						
14	S. Monomoy	1	W. Harrington#						
28	Newbypt	1	R. Heil						
Great Blue Heron									
28	GMNWR	33	F. Bouchard						
Great Egret									
thr	Randolph	7	G. d'Entremont#						
3	Harvard	1	C. Domassian						
9	P.I.	75	R. Heil						
14	Boston H.	9	TASL (M. Hall)						
17	GMNWR	6	D. Diggins						
19	Lexington	16	R. Lockwood						
21	P.I.	6	M. Lynch#						
Snowy Egret									
6	Essex Bay	80	D. Brown						
9	P.I.	500	R. Heil						
9, 23	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	44, 9	LCES (J. Hill)						
12	Lexington	2	M. Rines						
13	Taunton	3	S. Arena						
14	Boston H.	109	TASL (M. Hall)						
20	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont#						
20	Hingham	60	S. Carey						
21	P.I.								
23	Hull	50	N. Swirka						
Little Blue Heron									
7	Holliston	1	imm J. Shetterly#						
9	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)						
11	Essex Bay	6	D. Brown						
12	Lexington	1	imm M. Rines						
13	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#						
20	Ipswich	2	T. Raymond						
Green Heron									
1	Wakefield	5	P. + F. Vale						
6	Gardner	3	T. Pirro						
12	Westboro	5	A. Boover						
13	Taunton	11	S. Arena						
27	Wakefield	3	P. + F. Vale						
Black-crowned Night-Heron									
6	P'town	18	M. Lynch#						
14	S. Monomoy	28	S. Perkins#						
19	Eastham	24	S. Arena						
28	Newbypt	17	R. Heil						
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron									
14	S. Monomoy	1	imm S. Perkins#						
Glossy Ibis									
14	Boston H.	11	TASL (M. Hall)						
16	P.I.	1	R. Heil						
Snow Goose									
24	P.I.	5	S. Grinley						
24	HRWMA	9	T. Pirro						
24	Mt.A.	6	R. Stymeister#						
Brant									
27	WBWS	1	G. d'Entremont#						
Wood Duck									
1	Worcester	21	M. Lynch#						
1	Barre	19	M. Lynch#						
7	Petersham	10	B. Lafley						
23	Hingham	40	J. Norton						
27	Wakefield	65+	P. + F. Vale						
28	GMNWR	18	F. Bouchard						
28	Duxbury B.	50	C. Sherman						
Green-winged Teal									
1	Katama	1	M. Pelikan						
6	Gardner	2	T. Pirro						
12	GMNWR	60	S. Perkins#						
14	S. Monomoy	100+	S. Perkins#						
18	P.I.	200	R. Heil						
20	Randolph	60	G. d'Entremont#						
25	E. Boston	31	R. Cressman						
American Black Duck									
14	S. Monomoy	200	B. Nikula#						
21	P.I.	90+	M. Lynch#						
Northern Pintail									
14	S. Monomoy	50	S. Perkins#						
18	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins#						
26	Arlington Res.	2	M. Rines						
28	Newbypt	17	R. Heil						
Blue-winged Teal									
9	P.I.	43	R. Heil						
12	GMNWR	20	S. Perkins#						
13	Lexington	16	M. Rines#						
14	Boston H.	20	TASL (M. Hall)						
15	DWWS	12	D. Ludlow						
17	S. Monomoy	200	W. Petersen#						
20	Randolph	7	G. d'Entremont#						
26	Petersham	4	B. Lafley						
28	Marston's Mills	5	G. d'Entremont#						
Northern Shoveler									
1	Worcester	1	f M. Lynch#						
2	P.I.	2	R. Heil						
7	Lexington	2	C. Cook						
14	S. Monomoy	27	S. Perkins#						
30	GMNWR	1	R. Stymeister						

Gadwall				27	Mt. Watatic	3	EMHW
11	P.I.	6	J. Brown#	27	Quabbin (G37)	1ad	M. Lynch#
14	S. Monomoy	100	S. Perkins#	Northern Harrier			
28	Marston's Mills	7	G. d'Entremont#	10, 12	Mt. Wachusett	2, 2	EMHW
American Wigeon				14	P.I.	8	S. Moore
14	S. Monomoy	25	S. Perkins#	14	S. Monomoy	5	S. Perkins#
28	Marston's Mills	21	G. d'Entremont#	14, 16	Mt. Wachusett	3, 6	EMHW
Redhead				27	M.V.	3	M. Pelikan
24	Gloucester	1	G. Griffis	27	Mt. Watatic	2	EMHW
Ring-necked Duck				Sharp-shinned Hawk			
13	Camb. (F.P.)	3	R. Stymeist#	2	P.I.	3	M. Partridge
17	S. Monomoy	20	W. Petersen	6	Medford	12	EMHW
18	Southboro	48	A. Boover	9	Stow	15	G. Marley
20	S. Monomoy	20	S. Arena	9	Mt. Wachusett	23	EMHW
20	W. Newbury	26	T. Raymond	9	Gleasonville	15	EMHW
Greater Scaup				9	Mt. Watatic	94	EMHW
20	S. Monomoy	6	S. Arena	13	Lexington	5	R. Stymeist#
27	Quabbin (G37)	1	M. Lynch#	14	Mt. Watatic	53	EMHW
Lesser Scaup				14	Stow	21	EMHW
13	S. Monomoy	2	W. Petersen#	14	Mt. Wachusett	45	EMHW
Common Eider				14	Boylston	13	M. Lynch#
6	P'town	70	M. Lynch#	21	Maynard	4	L. Nachtrab
29	Rockport (A.P.)	12	J. Soucy	Cooper's Hawk			
King Eider				7	Newbury	3 imm	P. + F. Vale
thr	Nantucket	1 f	fide E. Ray	7, 9	Mt. Wachusett	5, 3	EMHW
Black Scoter				9	Mt. Watatic	3	EMHW
21	Rockport (H.P.)	12	D. Jacques	14	Mt. Wachusett	8	EMHW
26	Chatham (S.B.)	15	R. Donovan	16	Groton	3	T. Pirro
Surf Scoter				Northern Goshawk			
26	Chatham (S.B.)	30	R. Donovan	2	DWWS	1 ad	J. Adamson
27	P'town (R.P.)	6	G. d'Entremont#	9, 15	Mt. Watatic	2, 1	EMHW
29	Rockport (A.P.)	43	J. Soucy	13	Pepperell	1	B. Van Cleif
28	P.I.	4	R. Lockwood	14, 16	Mt. Wachusett	1, 2	EMHW
White-winged Scoter				15	Bridgewater	1 ad	D. Clapp
16	Hull	2	N. Swirka	16, 20	Mt. Watatic	1, 1	EMHW
27	P'town (R.P.)	7	G. d'Entremont#	20	Mt. Wachusett	1	EMHW
27	Katama	5	M. Pelikan	20	W. Newbury	1	EMHW
29	Rockport (A.P.)	2	J. Soucy	22	Waltham	1 imm	M. Partridge
Hooded Merganser				27	Quabbin (G37)	1	M. Lynch#
7	Chilmark	1	M. Pelikan	Red-shouldered Hawk			
14	Holden	6	M. Lynch#	thr	E. Middleboro	3	K. Anderson
22	Melrose	3	D. + I. Jewell	2	DWWS	1	J. Adamson
Common Merganser				9, 27	Mt. Wachusett	2, 2	EMHW
27	Quabbin (G37)	4	M. Lynch#	14, 21	Gardner	1	T. Pirro
Ruddy Duck				21	Easton	2	S. Arena
20	S. Monomoy	10	S. Arena	24, 27	Mt. Watatic	4, 4	EMHW
28	Melrose	6	D. + I. Jewell	Broad-winged Hawk			
Black Vulture				9	Mt. Watatic	278	EMHW
21	P'town (R.P.)	1	E. Nielsen#	13	Mt. Wachusett	150	E. Taylor
Turkey Vulture				14	Mt. Watatic	565	EMHW
12	Athol	25	B. Lafley	14	Mt. Wachusett	393	EMHW
20	Hingham	4	H. Cross	14	Westfield	443	EMHW
28	Bolton Flats	8	BBC (M. Lynch)	15	Mt. Wachusett	4000	fide P. Roberts
28	Fall River	9	K. Anderson	15	Mt. Watatic	10,000	fide P. Roberts
Osprey				16	Lancaster	2300	fide P. Roberts
12-16	Mt. Wachusett	90	EMHW	16	Mt. Wachusett	2072	EMHW
15-16	Mt. Watatic	18	EMHW	Swainson's Hawk (details submitted) *			
18, 20	Mt. Wachusett	18	EMHW	1-16	P'town	1	K. Jones + v.o.
20, 24, 27	Mt. Watatic	30	EMHW	Golden Eagle			
22	P.I.	5	R. Heil	14	Mt. Watatic	1 ad	EMHW
Bald Eagle				American Kestrel			
2	P.I.	1 imm	M. Partridge	9	Westfield	6	EMHW
9	Mt. Watatic	4	EMHW	9	Mt. Watatic	39	EMHW
14	Mt. Wachusett	2	E. Taylor	9	Mt. Wachusett	9	EMHW
15	Mt. Watatic	6	EMHW	13-18	Mt. Wachusett	39	EMHW
15	Mt. Wachusett	7	EMHW	24	Mt. Wachusett	7	EMHW
16	Mt. Watatic	2	EMHW	27	Mt. Watatic	18	EMHW
16	Mt. Wachusett	2	EMHW	Merlin			
18	Mt. Wachusett	1 ad	EMHW	6	P.I.	2	R. Finch
21	Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab	7	WBWS	3	J. Brown#
22	DWWS	1 imm	D. Furbish	9, 14	Mt. Wachusett	4, 4	EMHW
27	Mt. Wachusett	3	EMHW	9	Mt. Watatic	3	EMHW

Merlin (continued)			
9	P.I.	4	R. Heil
14	Boylston	3	M. Lynch#
14	S. Monomoy	2	S. Perkins#
15, 18	Mt. Wachusett	2, 2	EMHW
15	Edgartown	2	M. Pelikan
16	Gay Head	2	M. Pelikan
Peregrine Falcon			
4	P.I.	2	J. Soucy#
7, 14	Mt. Wachusett	2, 3	EMHW
25	E. Boston (B.I.)	2	R. Cressman
26	Chatham (S.B.)	6	R. Donovan
28	Nantucket	3	J. Hoye#
30	Eastham	2	D. Jacques#
Ruffed Grouse			
12	Groton	1	M. Rines
21	Pepperell	5	E. Stromsted
22	Bolton	1	F. Howes
25	Acton	1	J.Center
27	Quabbin (G37)	1	M. Lynch#
Wild Turkey			
7	Petersham	7	B. Lafley
11	Kingston	12	D. Ludlow
20	Lincoln	1	M. Rines
21	Pepperell	10	E. Stromsted
26	Wellesley	9	Letowt
Northern Bobwhite			
18	Truro	1	R. Stymeist#
Clapper Rail			
10	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray
Virginia Rail			
9	GMNWR	2	M. Partridge
14	Sterling	3	M. Lynch#
28	Newbypt	1	R. Heil
29	Nantucket	2	J. Hoye#
Sora			
thr	GMNWR	5 max 9/1	v.o.
7	P.I.	1	C. Cook
20	Scituate	1	D. Ludlow
22	DWWS	1 imm	D. Furbish
28	E. Boston	1	S. Zende#
Purple Gallinule			
20-24	Hingham	1 imm	N. Swirka + v.o.
American Coot			
26	Lynn	2	R. Heil
Black-bellied Plover			
10	Chatham (S.B.)	1900	B. Nikula
14	Boston H.	323	TASL (M. Hall)
14	S. Monomoy	800+	S. Perkins#
21	Newbypt	90+	M. Lynch#
27	WBWS	48	G. d'Entremont#
American Golden-Plover			
3	Katama	20	M. Pelikan
4	P.I.	3 juv	R. Heil
5	N. Monomoy	5	B. Nikula
8	Cumb. Farms	1	G. Levandoski
13	Duxbury B.	1	A. Leggett
13	Ipswich	5	J. Hoye#
14	S. Monomoy	5	B. Nikula#
14	Boston H.	3	TASL (M. Hall)
16-18	Newbypt	15 max	R. Heil
17-31	GMNWR	2	D. Diggins + v.o.
20	Randolph	12	G. d'Entremont# + v. o.
26	Chatham (S.B.)	1	R. Donovan
Semipalmated Plover			
1	Newbypt	320	R. Heil
6	GMNWR	5	S. Perkins#
10,19	Chatham (S.B.)	500, 350	B. Nikula
14	Boston H.	350	TASL (M. Hall)
16	Newbypt/P.I.	435	R. Heil
20	Randolph	22	G. d'Entremont#
20	Squantum	59	G. d'Entremont#
Piping Plover			
1	S. Dartmouth	7	M. Boucher
2	Plymouth	3	E. Neumuth
6	Chatham (S.B.)	22	S. Mirick
20	Scituate	2	D. Ludlow
Killdeer			
9	Marshfield	29	D. Clapp
13	Newbury	42	G. d'Entremont
16	GMNWR	60	R. Lockwood
American Oystercatcher			
1	Katama	36	M. Pelikan
14	Boston H.	4	TASL (M. Hall)
19	Chatham (S.B.)	105	B. Nikula
American Avocet			
thr	Eastham	1	v.o.
Greater Yellowlegs			
5	N. Monomoy	225	B. Nikula
14	Boston H.	179	TASL (M. Hall)
21	Newbypt	60+	M. Lynch#
27	WBWS	76	G. d'Entremont#
Lesser Yellowlegs			
12	GMNWR	11	S. Perkins#
14	S. Monomoy	70	B. Nikula#
14	Boston H.	28	TASL (M. Hall)
16	Newbypt	525	R. Heil
Solitary Sandpiper			
13	Chappaquiddick	2	M. Pelikan
15	WBWS	2	J. Hanson
18	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood#
20	Hamilton	5	T. Raymond
20	Scituate	5	D. Ludlow#
24	Pembroke	5	D. Clapp
26	S. Peabody	2	R. Heil
Willet			
1	S. Dartmouth	4	M. Boucher
5	N. Monomoy	25	B. Nikula
9	Chatham (S.B.)	20+	J. Brown#
14	Boston H.	2	TASL (M. Hall)
14	P.I.	2	S. Moore
Spotted Sandpiper			
1	Wakefield	4	P. + F. Vale
12	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins#
21	Arlington Res	4	J. Center
22	Westport	2	M. Boucher
Upland Sandpiper			
4	Nantucket	2	fide E. Ray
Whimbrel			
4	P.I.	10 juv	R. Heil
6	Eastham (F.E.)	13BBC	(R. Stymeist)
9	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)
14	S. Monomoy	18	B. Nikula#
20	Scituate	3	D. Ludlow
Long-billed Curlew (no details) *			
8	Nauset Marsh	1	A. Donovan#
Hudsonian Godwit			
5	N. Monomoy	15	B. Nikula
10,19	Chatham (S.B.)	9, 3+	B. Nikula
14	Boston H.	1	TASL (M. Hall)
21	Newbypt	3	M. Lynch#
Bar-tailed Godwit (no details) *			
1-13	Chatham (S.B.)	1	W. Petersen + v.o.
Marbled Godwit			
4-5	P.I.	2	v.o.
5	N. Monomoy	4	B. Nikula
11-20	Randolph	1 imm	D. Brown + v.o.
28	E. Boston	1	S. Zende#
Ruddy Turnstone			
1	Nahant	25	B. Volkle#
14	Boston H.	30	TASL (M. Hall)
Red Knot			
2	Plymouth	65	E. Neumuth
4	P.I.	33	R. Heil

Red Knot (continued)				21	P.I.	20+	M. Lynch#
10,19	Chatham (S.B.)	350, 120	B. Nikula	27	Eastham	1	G. d'Entremont
14	Boston H.	7	TASL (M. Hall)	Long-billed Dowitcher			
16	Newbypt	8	R. Heil	2	P.I.	14	R. Heil
20	Scituate	3	D. Ludlow#	13	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#
27	WBWS	1	G. d'Entremont	14	Boston H.	1	TASL (M. Hall)
Sanderling				14	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	S. Zende#
4	Hull	65	N. Swirka	16	P.I.	14	R. Heil
7	GMNWR	3	D. Diggins	27	WBWS	2	G. d'Entremont#
10	Chatham (S.B.)	1400	B. Nikula	28	E. Boston	1	S. Zende#
14	Boston H.	819	TASL (M. Hall)	Common Snipe			
22	S. Dartmouth	61	M. Boucher	14	Cumb. Farms	2	A. Strauss
27	WBWS	400	G. d'Entremont#	15	GMNWR	7	B.Parker
Semipalmated Sandpiper				American Woodcock			
1, 16	Newbypt	1600, 850	R. Heil	13	Lexington	1	R. Stymeist#
2	Lexington	50	R. Lockwood	14	Boylston	1	M. Lynch#
6	GMNWR	10	S. Perkins#	28	Bolton Flats	1	BBC (M. Lynch)
14	Boston H.	572	TASL (M. Hall)	Wilson's Phalarope			
14	S. Monomoy	250	B. Nikula#	2, 9	P.I.	2 juv, 1	R. Heil
20	Randolph	50	G. d'Entremont#	10	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula
Western Sandpiper				14	S. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula#
1	Eastham	4	C. Floyd	Red-necked Phalarope			
4	P.I.	4 juv	R. Heil	4	P.I.	1	R. Heil
7	Lexington	1	M. Rines	13	Stellwagen	6	BBC (E. Tarry)
10,19	Chatham (S.B.)	3, 4	B. Nikula	22	P'town	1	K. Jones
14	S. Monomoy	3	B. Nikula#	Pomarine Jaeger			
14	Boston H.	2	TASL (M. Hall)	6	Hydrog. Cany.	15BBC	(G. d'Entremont)
20	Scituate	2	D. Ludlow	20	Stellwagen	1 ad lt	R. Heil
Least Sandpiper				Parasitic Jaeger			
12	GMNWR	8	S. Perkins#	6	Chatham (S.B.)	20+	S. Mirick
14	Boston H.	10	TASL (M. Hall)	7	Katama	1	V. Laux#
16	Cumb. Farms	19	K. Anderson	10	P'town	1	K. Disney#
White-rumped Sandpiper				14	Eastham	1	J. Hanson
1	Eastham	20	C. Floyd	20	N. Monomoy	3	S. Arena
4	P.I.	100 ad	R. Heil	24	Stellwagen	2	C. Ralph#
13	S.B./S. Monomoy	175	W. Petersen#	26	Chatham (S.B.)	2	R. Donovan
14	S. Monomoy	25	B. Nikula#	Laughing Gull			
14	Boston H.	2	TASL (M. Hall)	14	Boston H.	222	TASL (M. Hall)
26	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood	Little Gull			
Baird's Sandpiper				19	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
4	P.I.	1	J. Soucy	Black-headed Gull			
5-12	Scituate	1	D. Ludlow#	4	P.I.	1	R. Heil
20	Randolph	1	G. d'Entremont#	8	Nauset Marsh	2	K. Disney#
Pectoral Sandpiper				Bonaparte's Gull			
14	S. Monomoy	40	B. Nikula#	1	Newbypt	400	R. Heil
18	Newbypt	17	R. Heil	19	Nahant	450	L. Pivacek
28	GMNWR	8	F. Bouchard	20	Wollaston	50	G. d'Entremont#
28	Barnstable	7	G. d'Entremont#	Lesser Black-backed Gull			
Dunlin				13	Newbypt	1 ad	J. Center
14	Boston H.	3	TASL (M. Hall)	14	S. Monomoy	2	W. Harrington#
21	Newbypt	60+	M. Lynch#	14	Harwich	1 ad	D. Comeau
27	Eastham	800+	W. Petersen#	18	P'town	1 3W	K. Jones
27	WBWS	15	G. d'Entremont	22	Katama	2	V. Laux
27	GMNWR	1	J. Center	26	Chatham (S.B.)	2	R. Donovan
Silt Sandpiper				Black-legged Kittiwake			
1-21	P.I.	10 max	v.o.	10	P'town	3	K. Disney#
13	Lexington	1	R. Stymeist#	Sabine's Gull			
14	Boston H.	2	TASL (M. Hall)	6	Hydrog. Can.	2	BBC (G. d'Entremont)
18	Newbypt	1 juv	R. Heil	24	Stellwagen	1 imm	C. Ralph#
20	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont#	Caspian Tern			
24	Squantum	5	J. Adamson	20	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				28	GMNWR	2	D. Crockett#
2	Plymouth	1 juv	E. Neumuth	Roseate Tern			
5	P.I.	1	J. Soucy	3	Edgartown	15	M. Pelikan
7-9	Katama	1	V. Laux#	12	Nantucket	30	fide E. Ray
17	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen	14	Chatham (S.B.)	150	S. Perkins#
Short-billed Dowitcher				30	Eastham	1	D. Jacques#
14	Revere	14	TASL (P. + F. Vale)	Common Tern			
14	Boston H.	45	TASL (M. Hall)	1	S. Dartmouth	400+	M. Boucher
16	Newbypt	65	R. Heil	1	Hull	52	N. Swirka
18	P.I.	32	P. + F. Vale	6	Essex Bay	30	D. Brown
20	Scituate	17	D. Ludlow	10	Essex Bay	45	D. Brown

Common Tern (continued)				30	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#
14	Boston H.	6	TASL (M. Hall)	Least Tern			
21	Newbypt	13	M. Lynch#	1	S. Dartmouth	100	M. Boucher
27	Eastham	1 imm	G. d'Entremont#	14	Boston H.	2	TASL (M. Hall)
Forster's Tern				Black Tern			
1	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher	2	Plymouth	5	E. Neumuth
16	P.I.	2	R. Heil	5	Wellfleet	41	K. Jones
20	Westport	10+	M. Lynch#	6	Eastham	20	BBC (R. Stymeist)
20	Orleans	3	J. Hoye#	13	Duxbury B.	2	A. Leggett#
20	Wollaston	1 imm	G. d'Entremont#	14	S. Monomoy	3	T. Maloney#
27	Eastham	5	G. d'Entremont#	19	Chatham (S.B.)	6+	B. Nikula

CUCKOOS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

Fall songbird migration gets into full swing in September, with flycatchers, vireos and warblers moving through in greater numbers during the first half of September, and sparrows beginning their movement in the last half of the month.

Nighthawk migration on the evening of September 1 was exceptionally good. A **Chuck-will's-widow**, a Massachusetts rarity, was banded at Manomet in Plymouth. A huge evening roost of Chimney Swifts was located in Hudson, with over 2000 birds coming to a single chimney on September 13. This was a fine month for flycatchers, with good reports of unusual species such as Olive-sided Flycatchers and Western Kingbirds, and single reports of **Say's Phoebe** and **Ash-throated Flycatcher** were exceptional. The *myiarchus* flycatchers are notoriously difficult to identify, but the leucistic Ash-throated Flycatcher seen on North Monomoy was a particular challenge, because of some white feathers in its wings. Both photographs and excellent written description accompany this record, and the identification (pending approval by the MARC) seems solid. Northern Rough-winged Swallows generally clear out of the state by the end of August, so a small flock in Harwich on September 5 was unusual.

A total of 67 Red-breasted Nuthatches were tallied on September 4 on Plum Island, raising hopes for a strong year for this irruptive species. Just two weeks later, however, the same observer counted only 14 birds, so one assumes that these birds were only moving through. After several years of lackluster fall thrush migrations, in 1997 it was downright poor. This is a disturbing trend for this group of birds which have been suffering from loss of breeding habitat and cowbird predation.

Thirty-three species of warbler was a fine total, including rarities such as **Yellow-throated**, **Kentucky**, and **Hooded warblers**, but *oporonus* warblers were the big story of the season: A **MacGillivray's Warbler** banded at Manomet in Plymouth, represented only the seventh record for this species in the state, and a total of at least 20 Connecticut Warblers was a huge number for these elusive fall migrants.

A **Lark Bunting** on Nantucket was seen by several experienced observers, but unfortunately no details have been submitted on this MARC review list species. Blue Grosbeaks, Dickcissels, and Clay-colored Sparrows were reported in typical numbers, but with more than normal coming from the Cape Cod area. Reports of Lincoln's Sparrows were average except for an exceptionally high count of 21 from Bolton Flats on the September 28. The weekend of September 27 and 28 also brought high counts of many other sparrow migrants. A careful census of the Newburyport marshes on September 28 yielded an impressive count of 352 Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows, as well as small totals of Nelson's Sharp-tailed and Seaside sparrows. This weekend also brought the first of the White-crowned Sparrows and Juncos. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was a great find on Martha's Vineyard. Orchard Orioles disappear from the state almost like clockwork by the end of July, so an individual reported from Plum Island on September 4 was exceptionally late. A female Bullock's Oriole on Plum Island was well described, but the observer could not rule out the possibility of a hybrid Bullock's/Baltimore. Good numbers of White-winged Crossbills were reported, continuing the small flight from August.

M. W. R.

Black-billed Cuckoo				17	Eastham	1	R. Stymeist#
14	P.I.		G. Levandoski	27	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				Common Nighthawk			
14	Chatham (MI)	1	S. Clifton#	1	Worcester	662	M. Lynch#
25	Rockport (H.P.)	1	W. Drew#	1	Fitchburg-Lancaster	300	E. Salmela
Eastern Screech-Owl				1	Maynard	104	L. Nachtrab
27	Brookline	2	R. Stymeist#	1	Lunenburg	300	E. Salmela
27	Hingham	2	R. Stymeist#	2	Worcester	105	M. Lynch#
Great Horned Owl				13	Lexington	1	R. Stymeist#
28	Duxbury B.	3	C. Sherman	13	Oak Bluffs	1	M. Pelikan
Barred Owl				Chuck-will's-widow			
8	E. Middleboro	1	R. Brissette	16	Manomet	1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
13	Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab	Chimney Swift			
25	MNWS	1	G. Wood	1	Newton	100	J. McCoy
27	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	2	Worcester	98	M. Lynch#
23	Bolton	1	R. Lockwood	6	GMNWR	75	S. Perkins#
Northern Saw-whet Owl				7	Maynard	300+	L. Nachtrab

Chimney Swift (continued)									
13, 26	Hudson	2200, 600	E. Taylor						
20	W. Bridgewater	100	K. Anderson						
22	West Hanover	25	J. Adamson						
Ruby-throated Hummingbird									
1-26	N. Dartmouth	4 max	M. Boucher						
6	Mt. Wachusett	3	EMHW						
6	Gardner	2	T. Pirro						
7	Bolton Flats	2	R. Lockwood#						
11	Maynard	3	L. Nachtrab						
13	Gay Head	2	M. Pelikan						
17	MNWS	3	J. Kuivenhoven#						
Belted Kingfisher									
6	Essex Bay	3	D. Brown						
28	Sandwich	3	G. d'Entremont#						
Red-headed Woodpecker									
1	Malden	1 ad	D. + I. Jewell						
13	Gay Head	1 imm	M. Pelikan						
26	W. Tisbury	1 ad	M. Pelikan						
29	Byfield	1	fide S. Grinley						
Red-bellied Woodpecker									
7	Winchester	3	M. Rines						
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker									
17	Worc. (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#						
19	Stoneham	1	R. Heil						
27	P.I.	1 imm	J. Davis						
28	Gloucester	1	R. Stymeist						
Northern Flicker									
26	S. Peabody	22	R. Heil						
Pileated Woodpecker									
7	Petersham	1	B. Lafley						
12	Groton	1	M. Rines						
14	Gardner	1	T. Pirro						
14	Boylston	1	M. Lynch#						
21	Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted						
26	Beverly	1	W. Taitrow						
27	Quabbin (G37)	3	M. Lynch#						
01	Bolton	2	R. Lockwood						
Olive-sided Flycatcher									
2	P.I.	1	R. Heil						
6	Gardner	1	T. Pirro						
13	Belmont	1	M. Rines#						
13	Carlisle	1	D. Brownrigg#						
Eastern Wood-Pewee									
1	Worc. (BMB)	7	J. Liller						
26	S. Peabody	2	R. Heil						
27	Hingham	1	M. Rines#						
27	Truro	1	S. Miller#						
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher									
2	Chilmark	1	V. Laux#						
6	Gardner	1	T. Pirro						
14	MNWS	1	J. Hoye#						
Willow Flycatcher									
13	P.I.	2	G. d'Entremont#						
Least Flycatcher									
5	MNWR	2	J. Paluzzi						
7	Chilmark	1	M. Pelikan						
14	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood#						
Eastern Phoebe									
1	Barre	12	M. Lynch#						
6	Gardner	10+	T. Pirro						
26	S. Peabody	16	R. Heil						
28	Bolton Flats	27	BBC (M. Lynch)						
Say's Phoebe (no details)*									
20	N. Scituate	1	T. Lloyd-Evans						
Ash-throated Flycatcher (details submitted)*									
14	S. Monomoy	1 ph.	B. Nikula#						
Great Crested Flycatcher									
14	Chatham (MI)	2	S. Perkins#						
20	Lexington	1	M. Rines						
Western Kingbird									
12	Hubbardston	1	fide T. Pirro						
22	N. Truro	1	K. Jones						
Eastern Kingbird									
13	P.I.	3 +	G. d'Entremont						
19	P.I.	1	R. Stymeist						
Horned Lark									
8-9	Nantucket	20	fide E. Ray						
Purple Martin									
1	Newbypt	1	R. Stymeist#						
Tree Swallow									
9	P.I.	9000	R. Heil						
17	S. Monomoy	15,000+	W. Petersen						
26	Chatham (S.B.)	1000	R. Donovan						
27	Truro	125	G. d'Entremont#						
28	Barnstable	75	G. d'Entremont#						
Northern Rough-winged Swallow									
11	Harwich	10+	B. Nikula						
Bank Swallow									
5	Chilmark	1	M. Pelikan						
Cliff Swallow									
5	Katama	2	M. Pelikan						
Barn Swallow									
9, 16	P.I.	70, 40	R. Heil						
Blue Jay									
27	Quabbin (G37)	460	M. Lynch#						
28	Gay Head	1500	V. Laux#						
28	Bolton Flats	111	BBC (M. Lynch)						
Fish Crow									
18	Wellfleet	1	R. Stymeist#						
28	Hingham	2	G. d'Entremont#						
28	Cumb. Farms	1	R. Finch						
Common Raven									
13	Mt. Watatic	8	E. Taylor						
13	Mt. Wachusett	2	E. Taylor						
16	Groton	3	T. Pirro						
26	Petersham	1	B. Lafley						
Red-breasted Nuthatch									
1	Barre	10	M. Lynch#						
4, 17	P.I.	67, 14	R. Heil						
6	Rockport (H.P.)	15	D. Jacques						
12	Groton	12	M. Rines						
13	Gay Head	15	M. Pelikan						
Brown Creeper									
1	Bolton	6	R. Lockwood						
14	Katama	4	M. Pelikan						
26	S. Peabody	3	R. Heil						
27	P'town	3	G. d'Entremont#						
Carolina Wren									
8	Waltham	2	M. Rines						
9	Wakefield	2	M. Rines						
13	Lincoln	2	M. Rines#						
27	Brookline	4	R. Stymeist#						
28	Rockport	2	M. Rines						
28	Gloucester	2	M. Rines#						
30	Marlboro	1	B. Parker						
House Wren									
7	Lexington	13	M. Rines						
13	Belmont	5	R. Stymeist#						
17	Worc. (BMB)	9	M. Lynch#						
23	Woburn	5	M. Rines						
26	S. Peabody	7	R. Heil						
Winter Wren									
1	Hopkinton	1	G. Gove						
26	S. Peabody	1	R. Heil						
27	P'town	1	G. d'Entremont#						
Marsh Wren									
22	Gay Head	1	G. Daniels#						
28	Newbypt	20	R. Heil						
30	GMNWR	1	R. Stymeist						
Golden-crowned Kinglet									
25	Rockport (H.P.)	3	D. Jacques						
27	P'town	2	G. d'Entremont#						
27	Truro	2	G. d'Entremont#						

Ruby-crowned Kinglet				20	Boston	50	G. d'Entremont#
22	Gay Head	5	M. Pelikan	21	S. Peabody	80	R. Heil
27	Hingham	5	M. Rines#	26	Westboro	42	A. Boover
27	Wakefield	3	P. + F. Vale	28	P.I.	40	R. Lockwood
28	Gloucester	3	M. Rines#	White-eyed Vireo			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				27	Marshfield	1	D. Clapp
1	P.I.	4	M. Rines#	Solitary Vireo			
1	Barre	2	M. Lynch#	1	Barre	4	M. Lynch#
14	Rockport (H.P.)	5	D. Jacques	26	S. Peabody	3	R. Heil
18	Wellfleet	4	R. Stymeist#	27	Quabbin (G37)	8	M. Lynch#
Eastern Bluebird				28	Sandwich	1	G. d'Entremont#
6	Hingham	15+	S. Carey	Yellow-throated Vireo			
6	E. Boxford	6	J. Brown#	1	Barre	2	M. Lynch#
15	Wachusett Mt	9	C. Ralph#	12	Groton	1	M. Rines
22	Worc. (BMB)	6	M. Lynch#	13	MNWS	2	T. Maloney#
28	Newton	6	B. Chiasson	17	Newton	1	B. Chiasson
28	Oak Bluffs	5	M. Pelikan	18	Wellfleet	1	M. Rines#
30	Mattapoisett	4	F. Smith	20	Worc. (B.M.B.)	1	J. Liller
30	DWWS	10	D. Furbish	20	Newton	1BBC (F. Bouchard)	
Veery				14	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood#
1	Barre	2	M. Lynch#	Warbling Vireo			
4	MNWS	1	M. Rines	6	Newton	4	H. Miller
8	Lincoln	3 migr	S. Perkins#	13	Camb. (F.P.)	4	M. Rines#
9	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	20	Lexington	1	M. Rines
13	Belmont	1	R. Stymeist#	22	P.I.	1	R. Heil
15	Melrose	2	D. + I. Jewell	Philadelphia Vireo			
25	Waltham	1	M. Rines#	9	P.I.	5	R. Heil
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush				14	S. Monomoy	2	S. Perkins#
25	Chilmark	1	V. Laux#	thr	Reports of indiv. from 12 locations		
Swainson's Thrush				Red-eyed Vireo			
8	Lincoln	7 migr	S. Perkins#	1	Barre	11	M. Lynch#
25	MNWS	1	G. Wood	13	MNWS	10	S. Perkins#
27	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	14	P.I.	41	R. Lockwood#
Hermit Thrush				26	S. Peabody	15	R. Heil
1	Barre	4	M. Lynch#	Blue-winged Warbler			
24	Waltham	1	G. Beaton#	1	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller
27	Quabbin (G37)	7	M. Lynch#	1	P.I.	1	R. Stymeist#
28	Gloucester	2	M. Rines#	6	Gardner	1	T. Pirro
Wood Thrush				13	Gay Head	3	M. Pelikan
4	Brewster	1	S. Miller	14	Chatham	1	S. Perkins#
5	MNWR	1	J. Paluzzi	14	MNWS	1	J. Hoye#
8	Lincoln	2 migr	S. Perkins#	14	S. Monomoy	1	S. Perkins#
21	Chilmark	1	M. Pelikan	26	Medford	1	M. Rines
23	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller	27	Wellfleet	1	S. Miller#
14	Bolton	1	R. Lockwood	Golden-winged Warbler			
American Robin				1	P.I.	1	R. Stymeist#
20	Randolph	381	G. d'Entremont#	9	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell
01	Bolton	108	R. Lockwood	21	MNWS	1	C. Floyd
Gray Catbird				21	Medford	1 m	M. Rines
1	Barre	30	M. Lynch#	Brewster's Warbler			
13	P.I.	50	G. d'Entremont	14	S. Monomoy	1 m	T. Maloney#
22	Worc. (BMB)	53	M. Lynch#	Tennessee Warbler			
28	Bolton Flats	43	BBC (M. Lynch)	7	Quabbin (G24)	1	B. Lafley
14	P.I.	66	R. Lockwood#	13	Gay Head	1	M. Pelikan
Brown Thrasher				14	MNWS	1	J. Hoye#
4	P.I.	11	M. Rines	24	Burlington	1	M. Rines
7	Chilmark	3	M. Pelikan	26	S. Peabody	3	R. Heil
14	Wakefield	3	P. + F. Vale	27	Quabbin (G37)	2	M. Lynch#
26	Medford	1	M. Rines	27	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
27	Newton	1	H. Miller	27	P'town	1	D. Small#
27	Hingham	2	R. Stymeist#	Orange-crowned Warbler			
American Pipit				17	MNWS	1	J. Kuivenhoven#
14	Boston H.	30	TASL (M. Hall)	21	Chatham	1	T. Raymond
16	P.I.	125	R. Heil	27	Melrose	1	P. + F. Vale
20	W. Quincy	15	G. d'Entremont#	27	Truro	1	G. d'Entremont
25	GMNWR	12-15	K. Dorsey	27	Quabbin (G37)	1	M. Lynch#
26	Petersham	14	B. Lafley	27	Bolton Flats	1	R. Lockwood
28	Cumb. Farms	150+	R. Finch	28	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood
30	Lexington	22	M. Rines	Nashville Warbler			
Cedar Waxwing				6	Gardner	4	T. Pirro
1	Barre	44	M. Lynch#	13	P.I.	3	G. d'Entremont
17	Worc. (BMB)	51	M. Lynch#	18	Wellfleet	5	R. Stymeist#

Nashville Warbler (continued)									
23	Worcester (BMB)	2	J. Liller	27	Westford	1	S. Wedge		
24	Gardner	2	T. Pirro	28	Lexington	1	M. Partridge		
26	S. Peabody	5	R. Heil	28	Bolton Flats	12	BBC (M. Lynch)		
27	Hingham	5	M. Rines#	Yellow-throated Warbler					
Northern Parula				14	P.I.	1	J. Kricher#		
7, 13	Lincoln	1, 2	M. Rines	Pine Warbler					
13	Melrose	2	P. + F. Vale	12	Groton	8	M. Rines		
14	Rockport (H.P.)	2	D. Jacques	18	Wellfleet	41	M. Rines#		
22	Worc. (BMB)	8	M. Lynch#	27	Quabbin (G37)	21	M. Lynch#		
26	Medford	4	M. Rines	30	Mattapoissett	20	F. Smith		
28	Gloucester	2	M. Rines#	Prairie Warbler					
Yellow Warbler				1	P.I.	1	M. Rines#		
13	Melrose	3	P. + F. Vale	3	MNWS	1	R. Heil		
14	P.I.	3	R. Lockwood#	13	Waltham	1	R. Stymeist#		
19	Burlington	2	M. Rines	14	S. Monomoy	5	S. Perkins#		
20	Boston	1	G. d'Entremont#	14	Rockport (H.P.)	2	D. Jacques		
Chestnut-sided Warbler				20	Newton	1	H. Miller		
1	Barre	9	M. Lynch#	28	Gloucester	1	M. Rines#		
6	Gardner	3	T. Pirro	Palm Warbler					
7	Lexington	2	M. Rines	7, 20	Lexington	1, 7	M. Rines		
7	Lincoln	1	M. Rines	20	Marshfield	20	D. Clapp		
9	Wakefield	1	F. Vale#	22	Gay Head	10	M. Pelikan		
13	Belmont	1	M. Rines#	25	Lexington	6	M. Rines		
14	Rockport (H.P.)	1	D. Jacques	27	Wakefield	5	P. + F. Vale		
20	Boston	1	immG. d'Entremont#	28	Cumb. Farms	7	R. Finch		
Magnolia Warbler				Bay-breasted Warbler					
6	Gardner	3	T. Pirro	16	Gay Head	1	M. Pelikan		
9	Wakefield	2	F. Vale#	18	Wellfleet	1	M. Rines#		
13	MNWS	2	S. Perkins#	22	Worc. (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#		
14	P.I.	3	J. Hoye#	27	MNWS	1	L. Healy		
27	Quabbin (G37)	2	M. Lynch#	27	Hingham	1	R. Stymeist#		
28	Gloucester	2	M. Rines#	28	Bolton Flats	1	BBC (M. Lynch)		
Cape May Warbler				Blackpoll Warbler					
14	Chatham (MI)	1	S. Perkins#	13	Waltham	4	M. Rines#		
18	Newbypt	1	R. Heil	16	P.I.	7	R. Heil		
18	S. Monomoy	1	J. Hanson	20	Truro	10	G. d'Entremont#		
22	Gay head	2	M. Pelikan	21	HRWMA	10+	T. Pirro		
22	P.I.	12	R. Heil	22	Worc. (BMB)	23	M. Lynch#		
Black-throated Blue Warbler				22	Gay Head	10	M. Pelikan		
4	P.I.	2	M. Rines	24	Burlington	10	M. Rines		
6	Gardner	4	T. Pirro	24	Gardner	5	T. Pirro		
7	Quabbin (G24)	2	B. Lafley	27	Quabbin (G37)	11	M. Lynch#		
25	MNWS	3	G. Wood	Black-and-white Warbler					
27	Truro	4	G. d'Entremont#	1	Barre	5	M. Lynch#		
27	ONWR	1	D. Brownrigg	13	MNWS	6	S. Perkins#		
27	Hingham	1	R. Stymeist#	13	Lincoln	4	M. Rines#		
27	Gay Head	1	M. Pelikan	13	P.I.	4	G. d'Entremont		
Yellow-rumped Warbler				14	S. Monomoy	3	S. Perkins#		
6	Gardner	10	T. Pirro	24	Lexington	5	M. Rines#		
10	Rockport (H.P.)	10+	D. Jacques	American Redstart					
27	Quabbin (G37)	32	M. Lynch#	5, 26	Medford	12, 6	M. Rines		
27	Wakefield	12	P. + F. Vale	6	Gardner	6	T. Pirro		
28	Bolton Flats	46	BBC (M. Lynch)	7	Winchester	8	M. Rines		
29	Lincoln	46	M. Rines	10	Burlington	11	M. Rines		
Black-throated Green Warbler				13	Lincoln	8	M. Rines#		
6	Gardner	5	T. Pirro	13	MNWS	12	S. Perkins#		
13	Melrose	3	P. + F. Vale	13	Belmont	10	M. Rines#		
20	Boston	2	G. d'Entremont#	Ovenbird					
22	Worc. (BMB)	6	M. Lynch#	1	Newbury	1	M. Rines#		
24	Burlington	3	M. Rines	1	Barre	2	M. Lynch#		
25	Lexington	3	M. Rines	7	Chilmark	1	M. Pelikan		
25	Winchester	3	M. Rines	9	Wakefield	1	M. Rines#		
26	Arlington Res.	4	M. Rines	12	Groton	1	M. Rines		
26	S. Peabody	7	R. Heil	13	Carlisle	1	D. Brownrigg#		
26	Medford	3	M. Rines	13	MNWS	2	S. Perkins#		
27	Hingham	3	M. Rines#	20	Worc. (B.M.B.)	1	J. Liller		
Blackburnian Warbler				28	Hingham	1	D. Furbish		
4	P.I.	1	M. Rines	Northern Waterthrush					
6	Gardner	2	T. Pirro	13	P.I.	4	G. d'Entremont		
14	MNWS	1	J. Hoye#	13	MNWS	4	S. Perkins#		
20	Truro	1	G. d'Entremont#	14	Nahant	3	P. + F. Vale		
				thr	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 20 locations				

Kentucky Warbler				1	Newbury	4	R. Stymeist#
9	Westwood	1 m	H. Coolidge	8	S. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher
Connecticut Warbler				14	Boylston	3	M. Lynch#
7	Lincoln	1	M. Rines	14	P.I.	2	R. Lockwood#
13	DWWS	1	N. Swirka	27	WBWS	1	S. Miller#
13	MNWS	1	T. Maloney#	27	Hingham	1	R. Stymeist#
13	Waltham	1	R. Stymeist#	27	Quabbin (G37)	1	M. Lynch#
13	Belmont	1	M. Rines#	27	Truro	1	G. d'Entremont#
14	Boylston	1	M. Lynch#	Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
16	P.I.	1	R. Heil	1	Worc. (BMB)	4	J. Liller
17	Worc. (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#	2	Lexington	8	M. Rines
19	Burlington	1	M. Rines	13	MNWS	4	S. Perkins#
19	Marshfield	2	D. Ludlow	14	Boylston	4	M. Lynch#
20	Hingham	1	K. Godfrey	20	Carlisle	2	D. Brownrigg#
20	Rockport (H.P.)	1	D. Brownrigg#	26	Westboro	2	A. Boover
20	Marshfield	1	D. Clapp	Blue Grosbeak			
22	Grafton	1	M. Blazis	20	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith#
22	Lexington	2	C. Floyd	21	Gay Head	1	M. Pelikan
25	Chilmark	1	V. Laux	26	Belmont	1	D. + I. Jewell
27	P'town	1	D. Small#	27	Truro	1	D. Small#
28	Cumb. Farms	1	R. Finch	27	Wellfleet	1	G. d'Entremont#
Mourning Warbler				28	Newton	1	B. Chaisson
5	Tisbury	1 imm	M. Pelikan	28	Salem	1	L. Healy
6	Millbury	1 b	M. Blazis	Indigo Bunting			
8-9	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray	20	Marshfield	20	D. Clapp
8	Waltham	1	M. Rines	27	N. Dartmouth	3	M. Boucher
10	Burlington	1	M. Rines	28	Cumb. Farms	12	R. Finch
13	Chappaquiddick	1	M. Pelikan	28	Bolton Flats	3	BBC (M. Lynch)
13	Melrose	1	P. + F. Vale	30	Lexington	8	M. Rines
17	Chatham	1	W. Bailey#	Dickcissel			
20	Boston	2 imm	G. d'Entremont	1	WBWS	1	C. Floyd
26	Lexington	1	B. Chaisson	8-9	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray
27	Quabbin (G37)	1 ad m	M. Lynch#	13	Gay Head	1	M. Pelikan
MacGillivray's Warbler (no details)*				14	P.I.	2	J. Kricher#
9	Manomet	1 imm b fide T.	Lloyd-Evans	19	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
Common Yellowthroat				20	Truro	1	J. Hoye#
1	DWWS	14	G. d'Entremont	27	P'town	1	S. Arena#
6	Gardner	10	T. Pirro	Eastern Towhee			
7	Lexington	10	M. Rines	17	Worc. (BMB)	28	M. Lynch#
13	MNWS	10	S. Perkins#	27	Quabbin (G37)	9	M. Lynch#
26	S. Peabody	16	R. Heil	Chipping Sparrow			
28	Bolton Flats	32	BBC (M. Lynch)	15	Stoneham	60	R. Heil
Hooded Warbler				27	Wellfleet	75	G. d'Entremont#
3	MNWS	1 m	R. Heil	27	N. Truro	150	W. Petersen#
Wilson's Warbler				Clay-colored Sparrow			
1	P.I.	2	R. Stymeist#	8-9	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray
3	Medford	2	M. Rines	21-22	Gay Head	1	S. Yurkus#
6	Newton	3	H. Miller	26	Chatham (S.B.)	1	R. Donovan
8	Waltham	2	M. Rines	27	Truro	1 ad	S. Miller#
10	Burlington	2	M. Rines	Field Sparrow			
17	MNWS	4	J. Kuivenhoven#	1	Barre	5	M. Lynch#
27	Truro	2	G. d'Entremont#	17	Worc. (BMB)	9	M. Lynch#
27	N. Scituate	2	J. Adamson	18	Truro	5	M. Rines#
28	Gloucester	4	M. Rines#	22	S. Dartmouth	7	M. Boucher
Canada Warbler				26	S. Peabody	19	R. Heil
5	MNWR	1	J. Paluzzi	27	Bolton Flats	25	R. Lockwood
9	Melrose	2	F. Vale#	Vesper Sparrow			
12	Groton	1	M. Rines	10	P.I.	1	K. Disney
13	Belmont	1	R. Stymeist#	30	P'town	1	D. Jacques#
13	Carlisle	1	D. Brownrigg#	Lark Bunting (no details) *			
14	Saugus	1	P. + F. Vale	8-10	Nantucket	1	N. Brooks + v.o.
28	Gloucester	1	M. Rines#	Lark Sparrow			
Yellow-breasted Chat				23	P.I.	1	D. + I. Jewell
1	Gay Head	1	R. Shriber	Savannah Sparrow			
1	Cummaquid	1	S. Miller	22	P.I.	32	R. Heil
6	MNWS	1	J. Smith	28	Bolton Flats	140+BBC	(M. Lynch)
7	Chilmark	1	M. Pelikan	Grasshopper Sparrow			
9	Wakefield	1	M. Rines#	28	Gay Head	1 ad	A. Keith#
12	Belmont	1	C. Floyd	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow			
14	S. Monomoy	1	W. Harrington	9	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	14	LCES (J. Hill)
26	S. Peabody	1	R. Heil	19	N. Monomoy	6+	B. Nikula
Scarlet Tanager				22	P.I.	30	R. Heil

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (continued)

23 S. Dart. (A.Pd) 11 LCES (J. Hill)
 28 Newbypt 352 R. Heil

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow

20 Scituate 1 D. Ludlow
 28 Newbypt 11 R. Heil

Seaside Sparrow

28 Newbypt 14 R. Heil

Lincoln's Sparrow

19 Burlington 2 M. Rines
 20 Marshfield 2 D. Clapp
 21 HRWMA 3 T. Pirro
 22 Gay Head 3 V. Laux
 25 Belmont 4 M. Rines#
 26 S. Peabody 3 R. Heil
 27 Truro 3 G. d'Entremont#
 28 Cumb. Farms 6 R. Finch
 28 Bolton Flats 21 BBC (M. Lynch)

Swamp Sparrow

28 GMNWR 12 F. Bouchard
 28 Bolton Flats 115 BBC (M. Lynch)

White-throated Sparrow

1 Barre 17 M. Lynch#
 26 Arlington Res. 10 M. Rines
 26 Medford 14 M. Rines
 27 Bolton Flats 29 R. Lockwood

White-crowned Sparrow

26 N. Dartmouth 1 M. Boucher
 27 Wakefield 1 P. + F. Vale
 27 MNWS 1 L. Pivacek
 27 Mt.A. 1 R. Stymeist#
 27 Nahant 1 L. Pivacek
 27 ONWR 1 D. Brownrigg
 27 Marshfield 1 imm N. Swirka

Dark-eyed Junco

18 Malden 1 D. + I. Jewell
 27 Quabbin (G37) 1 M. Lynch#
 27 Brookline 1 R. Stymeist#

Bobolink

4 Gay Head 150 M. Pelikan
 14 S. Monomoy 80 B. Nikula#
 22 DWWS 20 D. Furbish
 28 Bolton Flats 20+ BBC (M. Lynch)

Eastern Meadowlark

28 Barnstable 2 G. d'Entremont

Yellow-headed Blackbird

7 Edgartown 1 f V. Laux

Rusty Blackbird

24 Gardner 9 T. Pirro
 24 HRWMA 9 T. Pirro
 25 Hingham 2 S. Carey#
 27 Wakefield 5 P. + F. Vale
 27 P'town 20+ D. Small#
 29 Lexington 15 M. Rines

Common Grackle

7 Wakefield 1600+ P. + F. Vale

Brown-headed Cowbird

10 Marshfield 180 D. Clapp

Orchard Oriole

4 P.I. 1 R. Heil

Baltimore Oriole

14 S. Monomoy 9 A. Jones#

Bullock's Oriole (possible hybrid)

16 P.I. 1 f R. Heil

Purple Finch

6 Gardner 4 T. Pirro
 9 P.I. 10 R. Heil
 14 Boylston 3 M. Lynch#
 21 Carlisle 7 D. Brownrigg#
 27 Quabbin (G37) 2 M. Lynch#
 27 Truro 2 G. d'Entremont#
 28 Bolton Flats 5 BBC (M. Lynch)
 28 Essex 4 R. Stymeist#

Red Crossbill

6 Ashburnham 3 B. Nikula
 22 Quabbin 4 D. Small

White-winged Crossbill

6 Athol 15 B. Coyle
 7 Rockport (H.P.) 12 C. Leahy
 8 Concord 3 K. Malling Olsen
 10 Groton 9-10 T. Pirro
 15 Beverly 6 W. Taitrow
 16 Newbypt 3 R. Heil
 17 W. Newbury 4 R. Heil
 18 P.I. 2 R. Heil
 21 S. Peabody 1 R. Heil
 26 Rockport (H.P.) 1 D. Brownrigg#

Pine Siskin

27 E. Boxford 1 J. Brown#

Evening Grosbeak

1 Barre 2 M. Lynch#
 7 Quabbin (G24) 2 B. Lafley
 24 HRWMA 1 m T. Pirro
 28 Gay Head 2 V. Laux#

BIRD SIGHTINGS

OCTOBER 1997

SUMMARY

By Marjorie W. Rines, Simon A. Perkins, and Robert H. Stymeist

October brought cooler temperatures, averaging 52.8°, 2.0° below normal. Rain totaled 1.78 inches, 1.52 inches less than normal — the sixth month in a row with lower-than-average temperatures. Average wind speed was a record low for October in the 62 years of Logan Airport records. A small coastal storm on the 27th contributed to some nice sightings of pelagic species from land-based locations. M. W. R.

LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Seventy-six Common Loons were noted migrating over agricultural fields off Route 1A in Newbury. Among several reports of Northern Fulmar, counts of 12 on Stellwagen bank and 40 off Rockport were most noteworthy. The large numbers of Cory's and Greater Shearwaters seen from Cape Ann earlier in the season (including Cory's totals unprecedented for points north of Cape Cod) continued through the month, suggesting the persistence of an important food source just offshore of Cape Ann. Highest tallies included 50 Cory's and 1500 Greaters, the latter being related to a coastal storm on the 27th. This same storm, incidentally, accounted for a variety of significant records from Cape Ann including, in addition to the shearwaters, the season's first significant counts of Northern Gannet and Black-legged Kittiwake, a huge flight of Surf Scoters, two **Great Skuas**, and an **Atlantic Puffin**. The following day, observers recorded additional high counts of some of these same species from various shore points within Cape Cod Bay. The most noteworthy among these were 8000 Northern Gannets, roughly 50 Pomarine Jaegers, a thousand 1000 Black-legged Kittiwake, and 550 Common Terns. The **American White Pelican** that spent part of the summer at Plum Island remained there at least through the 16th.

The waterbird show at the Concord Great Meadows, that was described in last months summary peaked during October. Forty-three Great Blue Herons were noted there late in the month, as was a Little Blue Heron, which was almost certainly the same individual that was reported from Lexington the previous month. Most impressive were no fewer than 17 species of shorebirds. Noteworthy for their mere presence there were Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, Dunlin, Stilt Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, **Ruff**, and Short- and Long-billed dowitcher, while numerically significant records involved Killdeer and Pectoral Sandpiper. A Great Egret was found far inland at Quabbin Reservoir.

A flight of Snow Geese was detected from two points in Essex County, and a count of 30 Northern Shovelers at South Monomoy, though unheard of for any other site in New England, was a fairly typical total for this waterfowl haven. A **Tufted Duck** that appeared on the 13th at the Waushacum Ponds in Sterling and remained through the month was no doubt the same individual that spent parts of the previous two winters at this same locale. The over-summering hen King Eider at Nantucket was last reported on the 13th. The season's first large congregation of Red-breasted Mergansers was seen off Tuckernuck mid month.

Two single **Black Vultures** were noted in Amesbury and Westwood, and two **Swainson's Hawks** were reported. The Swainson's that spent part of the summer in Provincetown was still there at least through the 11th, and a second individual was identified over Mt. Wachusett in Princeton. Though this species is still a very rare visitor to New England, numbers of Swainson's records have increased in recent years. However, it remains unclear as to whether this has been due to the fact that observers are becoming more proficient at identifying Swainson's, or whether the increase reflects a real trend in the species' local occurrence. A remarkable flight of 43 migrating Ospreys in just over 2 hours was noted over Newbypt Harbor. The first Rough-legged Hawk of the season was reported on the 23rd, and an above-average total of 131 migrant Red-tailed Hawks were recorded over an eight-day period from Mt. Wachusett in Princeton and Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham. Nineteen Red-shouldered Hawks passed Watatic in a two-day period midmonth, and six Golden Eagles, probably all different individuals, reported from points throughout eastern Massachusetts, represented a high total.

Yellow Rails are rarely detected in the state, yet three different individuals were noted in a two-day span midmonth. Hudsonian Godwits are seldom found inland in New England, so five in Randolph (albeit barely inland) were noteworthy. The season's first Dovekies were reported on the 26th. S. A. P.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
Red-throated Loon				1-16	P.I.	1	R. Heil
8	Plymouth	600+	R. Finch	Great Cormorant			
27	Rockport (A.P.)	196	R. Heil	12	Gay Head	8	M. Pelikan
29	P.I.	100 migr	D. + I. Jewell	15	Rockport (A.P.)	18	R. Heil
Common Loon				Double-crested Cormorant			
8	S. Peabody	21	R. Heil	5	P.I.	5750 migr	R. Heil
10-12	Tuckernuck	72	S. Perkins#	5	Essex Bay	1600+	D. Brown
12	Newbury	76	R. Heil	8	S. Peabody	1200 migr	R. Heil
18	Wachusett Res.	10	R. Lockwood	14	Quincy	1150	J. Paluzzi
27	Rockport (A.P.)	56	R. Heil	14	Salisbury	1300 migr	R. Heil
Pied-billed Grebe				American Bittern			
12	S. Monomoy	14	B. Nikula	5-15	GMNWR	1	D. Lounsbury + v.o.
13	Ipswich	8	J. Berry	11	Tuckernuck	3	T. Maloney#
18	Wakefield	10	P. + F. Vale	12	Gardner	1	T. Pirro
19	Lakeville	16	W. Petersen	15	Eastham	4	J. Sones
26	Amesbury	12	R. Heil	16	P.I.	5	R. Heil
26	Braintree	6	S. Carey	18	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Sylvia
Horned Grebe				19	Barnstable	1	M. Boucher
14-15	Gardner	2	T. Pirro	26	Salisbury	1	D. Chickering
19	Lakeville	5	W. Petersen	27	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray
25	Magnolia	3	BBC (D. Pelloquin)	Great Blue Heron			
26	Salisbury	2	D. Chickering	4	Eastham (F.H.)	41	W. Ellison#
30	Wollaston	5	J. Paluzzi	7	P.I.	36	R. Heil
Red-necked Grebe				12	Eastham	34	M. Lynch#
3	Nantucket	1	C. Jackson	26	GMNWR	43	SSBC (B. Howell)
11	P'town (R.P.)	3	M. Lynch#	Great Egret			
21	Brookfield	2	W. Lafley	1-12	Randolph	8	maxG. d'Entremont
27	Rockport (A.P.)	7	R. Heil	7	Braintree	10	S. Carey
Northern Fulmar				10	GMNWR	4	D. Lounsbury
8	Stellwagen	12	P. Trull	12	S. Monomoy	3	B. Nikula
11	P'town (R.P.)	1	M. Lynch#	12	Rowley	60	J. Berry
17, 31	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 40	J. Soucy	15	Essex	10	R. Heil
18	Stellwagen	5	L. Healy	16	P.I.	36	R. Heil
20	Dennis	1	B. Nikula	18	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	18	M. Sylvia
29	Eastham (F.E.)	2	W. Petersen#	26	Salisbury	1	D. Chickering
Cory's Shearwater				26	Ipswich	2	R. Heil
12-13	Tuckernuck	7	S. Perkins#	29	Quabbin (G43)	1	D. Small
16	Rockport (A.P.)	50	J. Soucy	Snowy Egret			
27	Dennis	5	K. Hamilton	4	Eastham (F.H.)	8	W. Ellison#
28	Eastham (F.E.)	18	R. Heil	5	P.I.	45	R. Heil
Greater Shearwater				10	Tuckernuck	1	R. Veit#
4	Truro	30	W. Ellison#	12	Boston H.	19	TASL (M. Hall)
11	P'town (R.P.)	662	M. Lynch#	Little Blue Heron			
16	Rockport (A.P.)	500	J. Soucy	15	GMNWR	1	imm M. Rines#
18	Stellwagen	125	N. Nash	15	Essex	10	R. Heil
19	Rockport (A.P.)	200	R. Heil	18	P.I.	1	imm M. Resch
27	Dennis	18	K. Hamilton	Cattle Egret			
27	Rockport (A.P.)	1500	R. Heil	18	P.I.	1	G. Marley
28	Eastham (F.E.)	50	R. Heil	Green Heron			
Sooty Shearwater				4	HRWMA	1	T. Pirro
28	Eastham (F.E.)	2	R. Heil	11	Stoneham	1	D. + I. Jewell
Manx Shearwater				12	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale
26	Eastham (F.E.)	5	M. Sylvia	Black-crowned Night-Heron			
Leach's Storm-Petrel				11	Tuckernuck	18	R. Veit#
11	Mass. Bay	1	R. Stymeist#	15	Ipswich	26	R. Heil
20	Eastham (F.E.)	1	S. Perkins#	Snow Goose			
27	Rockport (A.P.)	4	R. Heil	8, 26	Ashburnham	75, 3	T. McCullough
27	Dennis	2	K. Hamilton	8	S. Peabody	64	R. Heil
28	Eastham (F.E.)	5	W. Petersen#	8	P'town	75	G. Martin
Northern Gannet				12	P.I.	580	R. Heil
11	P'town (R.P.)	249	M. Lynch#	12	Rowley	340	J. Berry
15	P.I.	400+	J. Stein#	12	Boston H.	100	TASL (M. Hall)
16	Rockport (A.P.)	3000+	J. Soucy	13	Canton	40	K. Ryan
26	Katama	300	M. Pelikan	Brant			
26	Eastham (F.E.)	1200+	W. Petersen#	12	Squantum	7	R. Stymeist
27	Rockport (A.P.)	7200	R. Heil	12	Eastham	220	M. Lynch#
28	Eastham (F.E.)	8000	B. Nikula#	20	Plymouth	50+	B. Freeman
American White Pelican				23	Essex Bay	23	D. Brown

Brant (continued)				10	Tuckernuck	1 m	S. Perkins#
30	Wollaston	300+	J. Paluzzi	19	Southboro	10	M. Lynch#
Wood Duck				19	W. Newbury	12	D. Small#
3	Petersham	32	W. Lafley	24	Sterling	1	M. Rines
10	Northboro	22	A. Boover	25	Rockport	1 f	J. Berry
12	Wakefield	110+	P. + F. Vale	29	Lakeville	18	M. Sylvia
18	GMNWR	120+	M. Lynch#	Common Eider			
26	Wayland	175	SSBC (B. Howell)	12	Eastham	800+	M. Lynch#
Green-winged Teal				26	Rockport (H.P.)	2244	M. Lynch#
1-12	Randolph	154	max G. d'Entremont#	King Eider			
12	S. Monomoy	150	B. Nikula	5-31	Nahant	1 m	L Pivacek
15	Ipswich	250	R. Heil	16	M.V.	1 imm	V. Laux#
21-24	GMNWR	300+	S. Perkins#	18	Nantucket	1 f	F. Bouchard
26	DWWS	195	M. Partridge	27	Rockport (A.P.)	1 m	R. Heil
29	P.I.	380	W. Drew#	Harlequin Duck			
American Black Duck				11	Gay Head	2	L. McDowell
12	S. Monomoy	300	B. Nikula	25	Cape Ann	23	D. Chickering
16	P.I.	2100	R. Heil	Oldsquaw			
22	S. Dart. (A.P.)	139	LCES (J. Hill)	8	P.I.	18	F. Bouchard
Northern Pintail				8	Plymouth	180	R. Finch
1-12	Randolph	14	max G. d'Entremont#	21	Brookfield	1	W. Lafley
12	S. Monomoy	50	B. Nikula	26	Eastham (F.E.)	400	W. Petersen#
18	GMNWR	8	M. Lynch#	27	Rockport (A.P.)	2170	R. Heil
26	Braintree	20+	S. Carey	Black Scoter			
29	P.I.	82	W. Drew#	11	Rockport (A.P.)	1800	R. Heil
Blue-winged Teal				12	Tuckernuck	820	S. Perkins#
3	Petersham	7	W. Lafley	24	Acton	1 m	M. Resch
5, 12	Wakefield	8, 18	P. + F. Vale	26	Amesbury	7 f	R. Heil
5	GMNWR	26	BBC (D. Lange)	26	Eastham (F.E.)	500	W. Petersen#
Northern Shoveler				28	Barnstable (S.N.)	800	W. Petersen
3	P.I.	2	D. Chickering	29	Lakeville	11	M. Sylvia
12	S. Monomoy	30	B. Nikula	Surf Scoter			
12	Boston H.	1	TASL (M. Hall)	15	Quabbin (G35)	1 f	W. Lafley
19	GMNWR	1	BBC (D. Lange)	18	Nantucket Sound	511	F. Bouchard
26	DWWS	1 f	D. Furbish	20	Barnstable (S.N.)	300+	S. Perkins#
Gadwall				26	Raynham	11	S. Arena
12	S. Monomoy	80	B. Nikula	27	Rockport (A.P.)	13,830	R. Heil
26	Ipswich	165	R. Heil	28	Eastham (F.E.)	1200	W. Petersen#
Eurasian Wigeon				White-winged Scoter			
8	Beverly	1 m	G. Leet#	3	Nahant	800	L. Pivacek
12	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	19	Lakeville	1	W. Petersen
15-31	Oak Bluffs	1 m	M. Thomas#	25	Rockport	2000+	D. Chickering
American Wigeon				26	Raynham	1	S. Arena
1	Camb. (F.P.)	23	J. Barton	Common Goldeneye			
9	Arlington Res.	20	D. Oliver	24	Sterling	2	M. Rines
10	Oak Bluffs	35	M. Pelikan	28	Lakeville	2	M. Sylvia
12	S. Monomoy	60	B. Nikula	29	Woburn	1	M. Rines
13	Ipswich	130	J. Berry	Bufflehead			
19	W. Newbury	22	BBC (S. Grinley)	26	Newbypt	200	R. Heil
Canvasback				Hooded Merganser			
20, 22	Camb. (F.P.)	3, 17	J. Barton	19	Needham	5	M. Wolf
26	Braintree	2	S. Carey	24	Melrose	6	D. + I. Jewell
29	Woburn	2	M. Rines	26	Braintree	20+	S. Carey
Ring-necked Duck				26	Quabbin (G45)	17T. + D.	Brownrigg
5, 2	Camb. (F.P.)	53, 208	J. Barton	Red-breasted Merganser			
5	W. Newbury	100+	fide S. Grinley	12	Tuckernuck	4000+	S. Perkins#
12	S. Monomoy	140	B. Nikula	20	Eastham (F.E.)	325	S. Perkins#
12, 26	Braintree	70, 200	S. Carey	27	Rockport (A.P.)	1950	R. Heil
19	Southboro	1114	M. Lynch#	Ruddy Duck			
19	Lakeville	650	W. Petersen	12-31	Melrose	65 max D.	+ I. Jewell
19	Southboro	600+	E. Taylor	12	S. Monomoy	35	B. Nikula
26	W. Newbury	600	R. Heil	15, 20	Camb. (F.P.)	13, 86	J. Barton
28	Arlington Res.	165	C. Floyd	19	Marlboro	305	B. Volkle
Tufted Duck				19	Groveland	50+	D. Chickering
13-31	Sterling	1 m	F. McMenemy	24	Acton	50	M. Resch
Greater Scaup				26	Amesbury	65	R. Heil
10	Tuckernuck	20	S. Perkins#	26	Braintree	50+	S. Carey
15	Camb. (F.P.)	7	J. Barton	26	W. Newbury	360	R. Heil
18	Lynnfield	2	P. + F. Vale	28	Lakeville	47	M. Sylvia
19	Sterling	12	B. Volkle#	Black Vulture			
27	Rockport (A.P.)	160	R. Heil	4	Amesbury	1	S. Arena
Lesser Scaup				16	Westwood	1	J. Clancy

Turkey Vulture				26	Mt. Watatic	42	T. McCullough
5	W. Newbury	8	R. Heil	Rough-legged Hawk			
18	Mt. Wachusett	36	P. Roberts	23	Quincy	1 dk	N. Smith
19	Westport	28	R. Stymeist	Golden Eagle			
Osprey				4	S. Natick	1 imm	B. Bowker
4	Randolph	4	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	6	Matapoisset	1 imm	M. LaBossierre
5	Mt. Watatic	10	EMHW	10	Concord (NAC)	1	S. Ells
6	GMNWR	3	T. + D. Brownrigg	11	S. Boston	1 imm	K. Ryan
7	Newbypt	43	migr R. Heil	22	Mt. Wachusett	1	T. Carrolan
26	Mt. Watatic	3	T. McCullough	23	Quincy	1 sub ad	N. Smith
Bald Eagle				American Kestrel			
2	Truro	1 imm	R. Heil	8	Mt. Watatic	56	EMHW
7	GMNWR	1 imm	D. Gersten	10-11	Tuckernuck	4	S. Perkins#
15	Quabbin (G35)	1 imm	W. Lafley	17-18	Mt. Watatic	17	T. McCullough
19	Westport	1 imm	R. Stymeist	Merlin			
29	Waltham	1	W. Petersen	2	Worc. (BMB)	2	M. Lynch#
29	Quabbin (G43)	1	D. Small	6	Gay Head	2	M. Pelikan
Northern Harrier				8	P.I.	2	F. Bouchard
2	Truro	3	W. Ellison#	8	Mt. Watatic	6	EMHW
4	Wakefield	3	P. + F. Vale	10-12	Tuckernuck	6-8	S. Perkins#
8	Mt. Watatic	11	EMHW	12	Mt. Wachusett	2	EMHW
11	Tuckernuck	10	R. Veit#	thr	Reports of indiv. from 21 locations		
12	P.I.	6 juv	R. Heil	Peregrine Falcon			
12	Cumb. Farms	3	R. Finch	1	Nantucket	3	J. Hoye#
12	S. Monomoy	4+	B. Nikula	4-12	Newbypt/P.I.	11	R. Heil
17	Mt. Watatic	7	T. McCullough	4	Eastham	3	W. Ellison#
Sharp-shinned Hawk				5	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont#
2	Worc. (BMB)	4	M. Lynch#	6, 13	N. Monomoy	2+, 2+	B. Nikula
4	Barre	5	M. Lynch#	6	Gay Head	4+	M. Pelikan
4	Truro	4	W. Ellison#	8	Mt. Watatic	2	T. McCullough
4	Bolton Flats	4	R. Lockwood	10-12	Tuckernuck	4-7	T. Maloney#
5	Mt. Watatic	14	EMHW	4-6	M.V.	5	V. Laux#
8	Mt. Watatic	97	EMHW	thr	Reports of indiv. from 28 locations		
11	Tuckernuck	5	R. Veit#	Ruffed Grouse			
17-18	Mt. Watatic	179	T. McCullough	4	Barre	3	M. Lynch#
18	Mt. Wachusett	17	P. Roberts	13	Bolton	1	R. Lockwood
19	Gay Head	5	M. Pelikan	18	Sterling	1	R. Lockwood
26	Mt. Watatic	24	T. McCullough	19	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
Cooper's Hawk				Wild Turkey			
5	Cumb. Farms	2	R. Finch	7	Worc. (BMB)	7	J. Liller
8	Mt. Watatic	2	T. McCullough	7	Wellesley	8	E. Kile
17-18	Mt. Watatic	6	T. McCullough	11	Wellfleet	8	M. Lynch#
22	Mt. Wachusett	2	T. Carrolan	12	Wrentham	20	A. Bottomly
thr	Reports of indiv. from 23 locations			16	Lincoln	5	M. Beckwith
Northern Goshawk				20	Northboro	1 f	B. Volkle
2	Truro	1 imm	R. Heil	Northern Bobwhite			
4	Amesbury	1	S. Arena	1	Nantucket	3	J. Hoye#
6	GMNWR	1	T. + D. Brownrigg	12	Gay Head	15	M. Pelikan
17	Groton	1	T. Pirro	12	Wellfleet	10	C. Floyd#
18	Mt. Wachusett	1 ad, 3 imm	P. Roberts	Yellow Rail			
18	GMNWR	1 imm	M. Lynch#	17	Milton	1	D. Brown
21	Easton	1 ad	K. Ryan	18-19	Eastham (F. H.)	1	SSBC (R. Fox)
25	Essex	1	D. Chickering	18	S. Dart. (A. P.)	1	M. Silvia
26	Mt. Wachusett	1	P. Roberts	Clapper Rail			
26	Raynham	1	S. Arena	12	Eastham	1	M. Lynch#
26	Lexington	1	R. Stymeist	Virginia Rail			
Red-shouldered Hawk				2-19	GMNWR	1-2	v.o.
8	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	2	Truro	1	R. Heil
8	Mt. Watatic	4	T. McCullough	5	Mashpee	1	S. Miller
17-18	Mt. Watatic	19	T. McCullough	7	Newbypt	1	R. Heil
17	Groveland	1	D. Chickering	12	P.I.	1	R. Heil
18	Mt. Wachusett	1	P. Roberts	21	Barnstable	2	S. Miller#
26	E. Boxford	1	J. Brown#.	Sora			
26	Mt. Watatic	8	T. McCullough	2-18	GMNWR	1-3	v.o.
Swainson's Hawk				5	Mashpee	1	S. Miller#
1-11	P'town (R.P.)	1	v.o.	7	S. Dart. (A.P.)	1	LCES (J. Hill)
18	Mt. Wachusett	1 imm	lt P. Roberts	15	Eastham	1	J. Sones
Red-tailed Hawk				Common Moorhen			
17-18	Mt. Watatic	79	T. McCullough	5-11	Gloucester	1R.	Stymeist# + v.o.
18	Mt. Wachusett	31	P. Roberts	American Coot			
22	Mt. Wachusett	28	T. Carrolan	thr	Arlington	74 max	10/26 K. Hartel
26	Mt. Wachusett	28	P. Roberts	6, 12	Braintree (GP)	12, 50	S. Carey

American Coot (continued)							
12	S. Monomoy	45	B. Nikula	12	Boston H.	1	TASL (M. Hall)
24	GMNWR	23	S. Perkins#	14	Salisbury	1	R. Heil
26	Braintree	60+	B. Carey	26	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula
26	Amesbury	65	R. Heil	Hudsonian Godwit			
29	Woburn	33	M. Rines	5-12	Randolph	5	G. d'Entremont#
Black-bellied Plover				12	Eastham	2	M. Lynch#
thr	GMNWR	8 max 10/18	M. Lynch#	15	P.I.	1	J. Stein#
9, 18	Chatham (S.B.)	1400, 1400	B. Nikula	18	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula
10-11	Tuckernuck	20	S. Perkins#	18	Newbypt H.	2	M. Resch
12	Rowley	30	J. Berry	Marbled Godwit			
12	Wollaston	29	G. d'Entremont	6, 13	N. Monomoy	4, 2	B. Nikula
18	Eastham	18	SSBC (R. Fox)	Ruddy Turnstone			
19	Salisbury	12	P. + F. Vale	5	Westport	1	M. Boucher
26	Ipswich	42	BBC (J. Nove)	18	Nantucket H.	3	F. Bouchard
29	P.I.	54	W. Drew#	Red Knot			
American Golden-Plover				18	Chatham (S.B.)	200	B. Nikula
thr	GMNWR	7 max 10/18	S. Perkins#	Sanderling			
2	Chatham (S.B.)	1	S. Miller	12	Boston H.	458	TASL (M. Hall)
7	P.I.	5 juv	R. Heil	18	Chatham (S.B.)	2000	B. Nikula
10	Tuckernuck	3	S. Perkins#	26	P.I.	100+	P. + F. Vale
19	Barnstable	1	M. Boucher	26	Eastham (F.E.)	300	W. Petersen#
26	Katama	1	M. Pelikan	Semipalmated Sandpiper			
29	P.I.	1	W. Drew#	7	Newbypt	275	R. Heil
30	Newbury	1	S. Grinley	9, 18	Chatham (S.B.)	70, 25	B. Nikula
Semipalmated Plover				12	Randolph	4	G. d'Entremont#
9, 18	Chatham (S.B.)	150, 100	B. Nikula	12	Boston H.	24	TASL (M. Hall)
8	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins#	12	Eastham	40+	M. Lynch#
12	Eastham	130+	M. Lynch#	15	P.I.	8	R. Heil
12	Boston H.	17	TASL (M. Hall)	18	GMNWR	2	M. Lynch#
26	Newbypt H.	7	S. Perkins#	22	S. Dart. (A.P.)	8	LCES (J. Hill)
30	E. Sandwich	5	S. Miller#	Western Sandpiper			
Killdeer				9, 18	Chatham (S.B.)	2, 1	B. Nikula
thr	GMNWR	85 max 10/5	S. Larson	12	Eastham	1	M. Lynch#
2	Arlington Res.	39	M. Rines	Least Sandpiper			
5	Newbury	75	R. Heil	18	GMNWR	1	M. Lynch#
17	Cumb. Farms	27	G. Levandoski	19	Salisbury	4	P. + F. Vale
19	Rochester	56	R. Stymeist	26	P.I.	3	P. + F. Vale
American Oystercatcher				White-rumped Sandpiper			
6, 13	N. Monomoy	95, 40	B. Nikula	7	Woburn	1	M. Rines
18	Nantucket H.	2	F. Bouchard	8, 26	GMNWR	2, 10	S. Perkins#
20	Katama	2	M. Pelikan	9, 18	Chatham (S.B.)	8, 1	B. Nikula
Greater Yellowlegs				12	Eastham	60+	M. Lynch#
12	Boston H.	221	TASL (M. Hall)	16	P.I.	8	R. Heil
15, 26	Ipswich	160, 95	R. Heil	26	Newbypt H.	3	S. Perkins#
18	Nantucket	36	F. Bouchard	28	Arlington Res.	2	C. Floyd
19	Eastham	250	B. Nikula#	30	E. Sandwich	20	S. Miller#
26	Newbypt	110	R. Heil	31	Chilmark	2	G. Daniels
21, 26	GMNWR	10, 38	S. Perkins#	Pectoral Sandpiper			
Lesser Yellowlegs				thr	GMNWR	90 max 10/21	S. Perkins#
2	Melrose	11	D. + I. Jewell	5	Arlington Res.	22	M. Pelikan#
4	E. Boston	10	R. Stymeist#	5	Cumb. Farms	15	R. Finch
19	Salisbury	12	P. + F. Vale	6	N. Monomoy	12	B. Nikula
21, 26	GMNWR	21, 8	S. Perkins#	12	S. Monomoy	50+	B. Nikula
25	Ayer	3	E. Stromsted	16	P.I.	13	R. Heil
26	Newbypt	4	R. Heil	19	Barnstable	12	M. Boucher
29	P.I.	2	W. Drew#	21	Brookfield	3	W. Lafley
30	Lynn	1	R. Heil	29	Lexington	2	M. Rines
Solitary Sandpiper				30	E. Sandwich	3	S. Miller#
2	Wellfleet	1	R. Heil	Purple Sandpiper			
2	Provincetown	1	R. Heil	26	Rockport (H.P.)	4	M. Lynch#
3	P'town	1	W. Ellison#	Dunlin			
15	Lincoln	1	M. Partridge	7	Newbypt	910	R. Heil
Willet				8, 26	GMNWR	8, 20	S. Perkins#
6, 13	N. Monomoy	14, 4	B. Nikula	9, 18	Chatham (S.B.)	1500, 2500	B. Nikula
7	S. Dart. (A.P.)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	12	Rowley	220	J. Berry
Spotted Sandpiper				26	Eastham (F.E.)	800+	W. Petersen#
9	Arlington Res.	1	M. Rines	29	P.I.	484	W. Drew#
12	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil	Stilt Sandpiper			
26	Chilmark	1	A. Keith	12-26	GMNWR	1 juv	I. Lynch
Whimbrel				12	E. Boston	3 juv.	TASL (M. Hall)
6	N. Monomoy	4	B. Nikula	18	P.I.	1	M. Resch

Buff-breasted Sandpiper	9	Chatham	1	G. Martin
9-12 GMNWR	1 juv	R. Lockwood + v.o.		
Ruff	18	P.I.	1	J. Brown#
11-30 GMNWR	1 juv	C. Floyd + v.o.		
26	W. Gloucester	1 imm	S. Moore#	
26	Ipswich	1 ad	R. Heil	
28	Winthrop	1	R. Cressman	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
4	Eastham (F.H.)	19	W. Ellison#	
5	Randolph	1	G. d'Entremont#	
7	P.I.	10 juv	R. Heil	
12	Boston H.	4	TASL (M. Hall)	
13	N. Monomoy	14	B. Nikula	
18	GMNWR	1	M. Lynch#	
26	Eastham (F.E.)	4	W. Petersen#	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
4	E. Boston	6	R. Stymeist#	
7	P.I.	31	R. Heil	
12	Squantum	2	G. d'Entremont	
18-26	GMNWR	2-4	M. Lynch#	
24	P.I.	9	W. Drew#	
Common Snipe				
thr	GMNWR	15 max	v.o.	
5	Nantucket	1	C. Jackson	
5	Bolton Flats	1	W. Miller	
5	Cumb. Farms	2	R. Finch	
7	Medford	1	M. Rines	
12	Tuckernuck	2	T. Maloney#	
American Woodcock				
12	Gay Head	1	M. Pelikan	
27	Gloucester	1	D. Brown	
Pomarine Jaeger				
17	Gloucester	1	N. Nash	
18	Stellwagen	1	N. Nash	
20	Eastham (F.E.)	6	S. Perkins#	
27	Rockport (A.P.)	20	R. Heil	
28	Eastham (F.E.)	50+	W. Petersen#	
Parasitic Jaeger				
12-13	Tuckernuck	5-8	S. Perkins#	
18	Rockport (H.P.)	1	S. + L. Hennin	
20	Eastham (F.E.)	1	S. Perkins#	
28	Eastham (F.E.)	1	R. Heil	
Great Skua (details submitted)				
27	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil	
Laughing Gull				
12	Boston H.	20	TASL (M. Hall)	
12	Eastham	60+	M. Lynch#	
12	Tuckernuck	210	S. Perkins#	
19	Westport	35	R. Stymeist	
29	Eastham (F.E.)	150	W. Petersen#	
Little Gull				
4	Newbypt H.	1 ad	J. Tietz	
5-7	Newbypt	1 juv	R. Heil	
27	Rockport (A.P.)	1 ad	R. Heil	
Black-headed Gull				
9	Chatham	1	G. Martin	
18	P.I.	1	J. Brown#	
26	W. Gloucester	1 imm	S. Moore#	
26	Ipswich	1 ad	R. Heil	
28	Winthrop	1	R. Cressman	
Bonaparte's Gull				
12	Boston H.	504	TASL (M. Hall)	
18	Newbypt H.	1000	M. Resch	
27	Rockport	155	R. Heil	
29	Eastham (F.E.)	50	W. Petersen#	
Iceland Gull				
19	Barnstable	1	M. Boucher	
20	Eastham (F.E.)	1	H. D'entremont#	
25	Rockport	1	J. Berry	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
8	Acton	1	M. Resch	
14-30	Gardner	1	T. Pirro	
19	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray	
26	Rockport	1 ad	M. Szantyr	
Glaucous Gull				
15	Chilmark	1	G. Daniels	
Black-legged Kittiwake				
19	Rockport (A.P.)	40	R. Heil	
20	Eastham (F.E.)	43	S. Perkins#	
27	Rockport (A.P.)	1100	R. Heil	
28	Eastham (F.E.)	1200	B. Nikula#	
Sabine's Gull				
19	Rockport (A.P.)	1	W pl	R. Heil
Caspian Tern				
5	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont#	
5	P.I.	8	R. Heil	
Common Tern				
11	Tuckernuck	75	S. Perkins#	
12	Boston H.	62	TASL (M. Hall)	
28	Eastham (F.E.)	550	W. Petersen#	
29	Plymouth	60	W. Petersen	
Forster's Tern				
11	off Cape Ann	1	J. Berry	
20	Eastham (F.E.)	3	S. Perkins#	
29	Plymouth	9	W. Petersen	
Dovekie				
26	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula#	
26	Rockport (H.P.)	1	S. Moore#	
Razorbill				
26	Rockport (A.P.)	13	R. Heil	
Black Guillemot				
31	Rockport (A.P.)	4	J. Soucy	
Atlantic Puffin				
27	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil	
large alcid species				
26	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula#	

CUCKOOS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

On October 5, 159 Chimney Swifts were observed entering an evening roost in a chimney in Hudson (see the September account), but by the 11th, these were reduced to a single bird. Chimney Swifts are uncommon in October, and reports of this many individuals are generally associated with a roost such as this. The *Empidonax* flycatchers have normally cleared out by October, so reports of a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Chatham and a Least Flycatcher in Wayland were both unusually late. Three Western Kingbirds were probably typical for the month; however, a report of an individual in Lincoln, which lingered on to the end of the month was not only late, but unusual for its inland location. An Eastern Kingbird at the end of the month in Edgartown was exceptionally late.

On October 18, over 1200 American Crows were observed migrating over Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham. Crows are not usually thought of as migratory, and their migration is poorly documented, so this is a significant record. Other corvids observed from Mt. Watatic included 26 Common Ravens on October 17 and 24 on the 26th. For several months, there have been reports of Ravens in Groton and the adjacent town of Pepperell. The consistency of these reports suggests that these individuals may be resident in the area, raising hopes for a possible first nesting record for Middlesex County. A Raven observed in Kingston at the end of the month is a very unusual Plymouth county record.

On October 8, an observer at Eastern Point in Gloucester described an extraordinary passerine fallout as follows: "... warblers, sparrows, kinglets, nuthatches, and creepers were making their way along the fenceline, or intertidal seaweed-covered rocks in their southward march. One Brown Creeper on the breakwater almost got slopped by a wave, and one daring Golden-crowned Kinglet landed on the left foot of a Great Black-backed Gull. I positioned myself right into the path of moving birds and soon had a kinglet sitting on my own boot. A few feet away a Red-breasted Nuthatch clung limpet-like to a large rock. Looking down into the intertidal zone I was somewhat amazed to see 15 Palm Warblers and at least 15 more warblers heading my way all at once. A tiny tree a few feet away held 15 Golden-crowned Kinglets and sparrows by the dozens passed me within a few feet. Worried that I was missing the main push of birds I checked the immediate area around the lighthouse and tried to find a better viewpoint. Just as I thought I was getting a handle on numbers a Merlin strafed the upper beach and flushed about half an acre of sparrows from the nearby long grass. I gave up on counting and... hung out there to enjoy the show while it lasted. By about 10:30 the volume of passerines dropped." (Thanks to Geoff Wood for this wonderful description.). While there were northwest winds the previous day, there was no storm or other phenomenon which can explain such an experience. Of particular interest was the report of 500 Golden-crowned and 50 Ruby-crowned Kinglets together. These species have different migration patterns, so seeing high numbers of both species together is unusual.

A Golden-winged Warbler at Katama was unusually late. The only other noteworthy warbler was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** in Nahant on October 24. A **Western Tanager** was discovered hopping weakly along a road on Nantucket, but expired in a shoebox enroute to a rehabilitator. Lark Sparrows were poorly reported. Fox Sparrows, which typically do not arrive until the middle of October, were early arrivals at several locations. An impressive total of 29 Lincoln's Sparrows was reported from Bolton Flats on October 4, outdistancing a count of 21 at the same location less than a week before (see September). October 11 and 12 was evidently the time to look for White-crowned Sparrows, regardless of your location, since excellent numbers were reported from coastal locations from Cape Ann to Truro. A White-crowned Sparrow of the subspecies *gambelii* was observed at a feeder on October 29, and described in detail. This western subspecies is a rare vagrant to Massachusetts.

In September, White-winged Crossbills tempted birders, and in October, these were joined by good reports of Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks. House Sparrows are rarely mentioned in this synopsis, but songbirds on South Monomoy are nearly always migrants, so an individual reported on October 12 was a surprise. M. W. R.

Black-billed Cuckoo				Chimney Swift			
2 Nantucket	2	J. Hoye#		6, 11 Hudson	159, 1	E. Taylor	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				Red-headed Woodpecker			
11 Chilmark	1	A. Keith#		2 P'town	1 imm	R. Heil	
12 Gay Head	1	V. Laux#		4 Gay Head	1	J. Taylor	
29 M.V.	1	P. Miliotis		27 Nantucket	1 imm	fide E. Ray	
Barn Owl				Red-bellied Woodpecker			
12 M.V.	5	SSBC (D. Clapp)		thr Pepperell	3	S. Maynes	
Eastern Screech-Owl				thr Reports of 1 or 2 indiv. from 16 loc.			
2 Worc. (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
5 Gloucester	1	R. Stymeist#		2 Outer Cape Cod	6	R. Heil	
9 Northboro	1	A. Boover		4 Truro	2	W. Ellison#	
13 Ipswich	1	J. Berry		4 Barre	2	M. Lynch#	
29 Cambridge (F.P.)	1	N. Shore		7 P.I.	8	R. Heil	
Great Horned Owl				7 Chatham	4	W. Bailey	
8 S. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher		12 M.V.	2	SSBC (D. Clapp)	
11 Ipswich	2	J. Berry		thr Reports of indiv. from 11 locations			
12 Rowley	1	J. Berry		Hairy Woodpecker			
12 E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson		4 Barre	6	M. Lynch#	
17 Mattapoisett	1	F. Smith		11 Newton	2	H. Miller	
18 Gardner	1	T. Pirro		12 Tuckernuck	1 migr	S. Perkins#	
25 Magnolia	2	BBC (D. Peloquin)		19 Southboro	4	M. Lynch#	
Snowy Owl				Northern Flicker			
29 Squibnocket	1	A. Fischer		4 Barre	28	M. Lynch#	
Barred Owl				4 Mt.A.	16	R. Stymeist	
1 E. Boxford	1	J. Brown#		4 HRWMA	21	T. Pirro	
1 Worcester	1	J. Liller		11 Tuckernuck	25	S. Perkins#	
4 MNWS	1	D. Chickering		Pileated Woodpecker			
7 E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson		4 Barre	1	M. Lynch#	
17 Bolton	1	R. Lockwood		5 Newbypt	2	BBC (S. Grinley)	
25 Magnolia	1	BBC (D. Peloquin)		12 Gardner	1	T. Pirro	
31 Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell		25 Magnolia	2	BBC (D. Peloquin)	
Northern Saw-whet Owl				25 Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted	
14 Salisbury	1	R. Heil		26 ONWR	1	B. Parker	
16 Boston	1	R. Richmond		26 Ashby	1	J. + B. Chiasson	

Pileated Woodpecker (continued)			1	Lexington	3	M. Rines	
26	Sterling	1	N. Paulson	2	Worc. (BMB)	3	M. Lynch#
27	Lincoln	1	S. Perkins#	13	Newton	2	J. McCoy
Eastern Wood-Pewee				Winter Wren			
2	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#	7	Mt.A.	3	R. Stymeist
2	Truro	3	R. Heil	11	Rockport	2	R. Heil
4	Northboro	1	A. Boover	16	Quabbin (G40)	3	M. Rines#
8	Chilmark	2	G. Daniels#	thr	Reports of indiv. from 10 locations		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				Marsh Wren			
2	Chatham	1	S. Miller#	3	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith#
Least Flycatcher				4	HRWMA	1	T. Pirro
5	Wayland	1	W. Miller#	5	GMNWR	3	BBC (D. Lange)
Eastern Phoebe				4	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale
4	Barre	32	M. Lynch#	Golden-crowned Kinglet			
7	P.I.	21	R. Heil	2	Chatham	1	S. Miller
8	Westboro	10	M. Rines#	4	Barre	3	M. Lynch#
26	Winchester	1	M. Rines	5	Newbypt	4	BBC (S. Grinley)
28	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell	8	Gloucester (E.P.)	500	G. Wood
Western Kingbird				9	S. Monomoy	40	G. Martin
4-6	Edgartown	2	V. Laux#	12	P.I.	14	R. Heil
5	Newbury	1	C. Ralph#	12	Boston	11	R. Stymeist
19-28	Lincoln	1	K. Calmer + v.o.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
Eastern Kingbird				2	Truro	11	R. Heil
26	Edgartown	1	M. Pelikan	2	Lexington	15	M. Rines
Horned Lark				4	Barre	53	M. Lynch#
18	Princeton	3	P. Roberts	7	Worc. (BMB)	12	J. Liller
26	Ashburnham	12	T. McCullough	8	Gloucester (E.P.)	50	G. Wood
Tree Swallow				11	P.I.	16	R. Stymeist#
2	Eastham	750	R. Heil	16	Quabbin (G40)	23	M. Rines#
5	Plymouth	1000	S. Arena	28	Melrose	2	D. + I. Jewell
5	Truro	5000	W. Ellison#	29	Lincoln	1	M. Rines
13	N. Dartmouth	68	M. Boucher	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
26	Provincetown	10	W. Petersen#	2	Gay Head	1	A. Keith#
Barn Swallow				3	Chappaquiddick	2	A. Keith
3	P'town	5	W. Ellison#	4	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist
5	Westport	1	M. Boucher	6	HRWMA	1	T. Pirro
American Crow				Eastern Bluebird			
1, 27	Framingham	200, 500	E. Taylor	2	Worc. (BMB)	6	M. Lynch#
13	W. Newbury	350	R. Heil	10	Oak Bluffs	8	M. Pelikan
18	Mt. Watatic	1256 migr	T. McCullough	12	Hingham	6	M. Partridge
Common Raven				16	Quabbin (G40)	8	R. Stymeist#
4	Barre	2	M. Lynch#	18	W. Newbury	28	S. Grinley
16	Quabbin (G40)	1	R. Stymeist#	20	Quincy	15	N. Smith
17	Groton	3	T. Pirro	26	DWWS	9	D. Furbish
17	Mt. Watatic	26	T. McCullough	Veery			
22	Mt. Wachusett	7	T. Carrolan	2	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#
25	Ashby	10	C. Canner	Gray-checked/Bicknell's Thrush			
26	Pepperell	6	M. Resch	2	Katama	1	M. Pelikan
26	Mt. Watatic	24	J. + B. Chiasson	26	Rockport	1	S. Moore
26	Kingston	1	C. Ralph	Swainson's Thrush			
Red-breasted Nuthatch				2	Provincetown	2	R. Heil
2	Outer Cape Cod	8	R. Heil	5	Gloucester	1	R. Stymeist#
4	Barre	44	M. Lynch#	7	Rockport (H.P.)	1	D. Gersten
14	Bedford	22	M. Rines	Hermit Thrush			
16	Quabbin (G40)	11	M. Rines#	4	Barre	20	M. Lynch#
18	Lancaster	8	R. Lockwood	5	Gloucester	6	R. Stymeist#
Brown Creeper				11	P.I.	10	M. Rines#
4	Barre	12	M. Lynch#	13	Bolton	6	R. Lockwood
13	Bolton	5	R. Lockwood	16	Quabbin (G40)	30	R. Stymeist#
16	Quabbin (G40)	4	M. Rines#	26	Boxford	5	R. Stymeist
18	Mt.A.	6	R. Stymeist	30	S. Peabody	6	R. Heil
18	Lancaster	5	R. Lockwood	Wood Thrush			
Carolina Wren				8	Stellwagen	1	P. Trull
2	Truro	2	W. Ellison#	American Robin			
4	Waltham	1	M. Rines	2	Worc. (BMB)	78	M. Lynch#
9	Belmont	1	M. Rines	5	Cumb. Farms	80	R. Finch
10	Natick	1	E. Taylor	13	Westboro	93	A. Boover
13	Newton	1	H. Miller	19	Southboro	110+	M. Lynch#
19	Southboro	1	M. Lynch#	Gray Catbird			
26	Wayland	1	SSBC (B. Howell)	2	Worc. (BMB)	18	M. Lynch#
29	Lincoln	2	M. Rines	4	Truro	19	W. Ellison#
House Wren				4	Barre	19	M. Lynch#

Gray Catbird (continued)								
5	Westport	8	M. Boucher	4	Worc. (BMB)	3	J. Liller	
26	Winchester	1	M. Rines	19	Newbury	1	R. Heil	
Brown Thrasher				Northern Parula				
4	West Quincy	1	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	2	Worc. (BMB)	13	M. Lynch#	
5	Westport	4	M. Boucher	2	Truro	4	R. Heil	
American Pipit				4	Mt.A.	2	R. Stymeist	
thr	GMNWR	40 max	v.o.	4	W. Quincy	2	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
5	Cumb. Farms	50+	R. Finch	7	Winchester	1	M. Rines	
9	Mashpee	35	S. Miller#	Yellow Warbler				
12	Tuckernuck	87 migr	T. Maloney#	1	Nantucket	2	J. Hoye#	
19	Newbury	130	R. Heil	7	P.I.	1	R. Heil	
21	Easton	60	K. Ryan	7	Lexington	1	M. Rines	
26	Katama	60	M. Pelikan	Chestnut-sided Warbler				
27	Groton	75	T. Pirro	4	Worc. (BMB)	2	J. Liller	
29	Carver	73	M. Sylvia	Magnolia Warbler				
30	Lincoln	210	M. Rines	2	Worc. (BMB)	12	M. Lynch#	
Cedar Waxwing				3	P'town	2	W. Ellison#	
2	Truro	290	R. Heil	3	Petersham	3	W. Lafley	
4	Barre	62	M. Lynch#	4	HRWMA	2	T. Pirro	
18	Gardner	300+	T. Pirro	11	P.I.	1	R. Stymeist#	
Northern Shrike				12	Truro	1	M. Rines#	
19	P.I.	1 imm	D. Small#	Cape May Warbler				
White-eyed Vireo				2	Worc. (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#	
3	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith#	4	Barre	1	M. Lynch#	
Solitary Vireo				13	Nantucket	1	T. Maloney	
2	Outer Cape Cod	5	R. Heil	Black-throated Blue Warbler				
3	Petersham	4	W. Lafley	2	Lexington	4	M. Rines	
4	Barre	19	M. Lynch#	2	Nantucket	6	J. Hoye#	
8	Rockport (H.P.)	4	D. Jacques	2	Truro	3	R. Heil	
11	Tuckernuck	2	S. Perkins#	4	Barre	2	M. Lynch#	
12	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale	11	P.I.	4	R. Stymeist#	
16	Quabbin (G40)	1	M. Rines#	27	Nantucket	2	fide E. Ray	
30	E. Sandwich	1	S. Miller#	Yellow-rumped Warbler				
Yellow-throated Vireo				4	Barre	159	M. Lynch#	
7	Gay Head	1	L. McDowell	4	Worc. (BMB)	73+	J. Liller	
Philadelphia Vireo				7	Mt.A.	65	R. Stymeist	
2	Truro	1	R. Heil	7	P.I.	450	R. Heil	
7	Chatham (MI)	1	W. Bailey	8	S. Peabody	325	R. Heil	
8	Chilmark	1	G. Daniels#	9	Arlington Res.	75	D. Oliver	
Red-eyed Vireo				11-12	Tuckernuck	550	S. Perkins#	
1	Lexington	3	M. Rines	11	P'town (R.P.)	60+	M. Lynch#	
2	Outer Cape Cod	11	R. Heil	11	Truro	290	M. Lynch#	
4	Barre	2	M. Lynch#	12	Wakefield	230	P. + F. Vale	
4	Truro	4	W. Ellison#	13	Yarmouth	100+	B. Parker	
8	S. Peabody	1	R. Heil	19	Southboro	110+	M. Lynch#	
11	P.I.	1	M. Rines#	Black-throated Green Warbler				
Blue-winged Warbler				2	Worc. (BMB)	26	M. Lynch#	
2	Chatham	1	S. Miller	2	Truro	5	R. Heil	
3	P'town	1	W. Ellison#	4	Waltham	6	M. Rines	
4	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist	4	Barre	22	M. Lynch#	
6	Gay Head	1	M. Pelikan	19	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood#	
Golden-winged Warbler				Blackburnian Warbler				
2	Katama	1 f	M. Pelikan	3	P'town	1	W. Ellison#	
Tennessee Warbler				4	Northboro	5	A. Boover	
2	P'town	4	W. Ellison#	4	Barre	2	M. Lynch#	
2	Worc. (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#	4	West Quincy	1	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
4	W. Quincy	1	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	11	Truro	1	M. Lynch#	
5	Newton	3	H. Miller	Yellow-throated Warbler				
6	Gay Head	1	M. Pelikan	24	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	
8	Truro	1	W. Bailey	Pine Warbler				
12	Bolton Flats	1	R. Lockwood	2	Truro	15	R. Heil	
Orange-crowned Warbler				4	Barre	30	M. Lynch#	
7	Gay Head	1	G. Daniels#	Prairie Warbler				
10	Edgartown	1	M. Pelikan	2	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#	
19	Truro	2	S. + L. Hennin	5	Westport	1	M. Boucher	
26	Lexington	1	M. Rines	11	Truro	1	B. Parker	
30	S. Peabody	2	R. Heil	Palm Warbler				
Nashville Warbler				1	Nantucket	31	J. Hoye#	
1	Lexington	2	M. Rines	4	Bolton Flats	23	R. Lockwood	
2	Nantucket	6	J. Hoye#	4	W. Quincy	10	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
2	Outer Cape Cod	4	R. Heil	12	M.V.	28	SSBC(D. Clapp)	
				17	Belmont	12	R. Stymeist	

Bay-breasted Warbler			
2	P'town	1	R. Heil
3	Petersham	2	W. Lafley
4	Truro	1	W. Ellison#
5	Westport	2	M. Boucher
Blackpoll Warbler			
2	Worc. (BMB)	54	M. Lynch#
4	Barre	13	M. Lynch#
4	Truro	11	W. Ellison#
18	Marston's Mills	2	M. Partridge
30	S. Peabody	1	R. Heil
Black-and-white Warbler			
4	Northboro	2	A. Boover
4	Barre	2	M. Lynch#
4	Belmont	3	M. Rines
American Redstart			
2	Nantucket	3	J. Hoye#
4	Mt.A.	2	R. Stymeist
4	Belmont	3	M. Rines
7	Winchester	1	M. Rines
Ovenbird			
2	Chatham	1	S. Miller
4	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist
12	Wrentham	1	A. Bottomley
Northern Waterthrush			
3	Truro	1	W. Ellison#
4	MNWS	1	D. Chickering
Connecticut Warbler			
5	Gay Head	1	V. Laux#
13	Lexington	1	R. Crissman
Mourning Warbler			
4	Truro	1	W. Ellison#
Common Yellowthroat			
4	Bolton Flats	13	R. Lockwood
4	HRWMA	27	T. Pirro
4	Barre	23	M. Lynch#
7	Newbury	23	R. Heil
17	Groton	30	E. Stromsted
Wilson's Warbler			
1	Nantucket	2	J. Hoye#
2	P'town	1	R. Heil
2	Truro	1	W. Ellison#
4	Waltham	1	M. Rines
7	Woburn	1	M. Rines
12	P.I.	1	R. Heil
Yellow-breasted Chat			
1-2	Nantucket	2	J. Hoye#
5	Gay Head	1	V. Laux#
5	Westport	1	M. Boucher
7	Newbury	1	R. Heil
13	Harwich	1	P. Kyle
20	Gloucester	1	J. Mann
Scarlet Tanager			
2	Nantucket	2	J. Hoye#
3	Lexington	2	M. Rines
4	Barre	1	M. Lynch#
11	Tuckernuck	1	S. Perkins#
11	Truro	1	M. Lynch#
Western Tanager			
19	Nantucket	1 m	fide E. Ray
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
1	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
2	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#
4	Newton	1	H. Miller
Blue Grosbeak			
1	Nantucket	2	J. Hoye#
4	Amesbury	1	S. Arena
5	Newbury	2	C. Ralph#
5	Edgartown	5	V. Laux#
7	Winchester	1	M. Rines
11	Truro	2	B. Parker
13	Cumb. Farms	1	R. Finch
Indigo Bunting			
1	Nantucket	3	J. Hoye#
4	Belmont	3	M. Rines
11	Truro	4	M. Lynch#
12	Newbury	4	J. Hoye#
13	Lexington	3	M. Rines
18	Salem	1	L. Healy
18	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist
Dickcissel			
2	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#
5	Newbury	1	MAS (C. Ralph)
6	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
6	Harwich	1	imm S. Miller#
9	S. Monomoy	1	G. Martin
11	Truro	2	M. Lynch#
19	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil
4-6	M.V.	2	V. Laux#
Eastern Towhee			
2	Worc. (BMB)	21	M. Lynch#
4	Barre	13	M. Lynch#
16	Quabbin (G40)	1	M. Rines#
16	Waltham	1	C. Ralph
American Tree Sparrow			
16	P.I.	1	R. Heil
18	GMNWR	1	M. Lynch#
26	ONWR	3	B. Parker
28	Bolton Flats	6	N. Paulson
30	S. Peabody	3	R. Heil
Chipping Sparrow			
7	P.I.	24	R. Heil
11	Truro	30	M. Lynch#
18	Wellfleet	25	SSBC (R. Fox)
28	Wakefield	1	F. Vale
Clay-colored Sparrow			
5	Chilmark	3	G. Daniels#
7	Gay Head	2	V. Laux#
7	P.I.	1	R. Heil
8	Bolton Flats	1	E. Salmela
10, 16	Newbury	1, 1	R. Heil
13	Yarmouth	1	B. Parker
18	Truro	2	SSBC (R. Fox)
18	P'town	1	immSSBC (R. Fox)
18	Nantucket	1	F. Bouchard
26	Gloucester	1	I. Giriunas
Field Sparrow			
2	Truro	11	R. Heil
2	Worc. (BMB)	5	M. Lynch#
5	S. Peabody	13	R. Heil
7	N. Dartmouth	3	M. Boucher
9	Winchester	3	M. Rines
10	Newton	5+	M. Partridge#
12	Cumb. Farms	3	R. Finch
12	Bolton Flats	4	R. Lockwood#
17	Groton	5	E. Stromsted
Vesper Sparrow			
4	West Quincy	1	BBC (G. d'Entremont)
4	Belmont	1	M. Rines
9	Athol	1	W. Lafley
11	Truro	1	M. Lynch#
12	Salem	1	L. Healy
14	S. Peabody	1	M. Rines
22	Cummaquid	1	S. Miller#
26	Bolton Flats	1	E. Salmela
Lark Sparrow			
2	Gay Head	1	V. Laux#
Savannah Sparrow			
4	W. Quincy	40	BBC (G. d'Entremont)
7	Newbury	260	R. Heil
8	P.I.	60	F. Bouchard
10-12	Tuckernuck	50	A. Jones#
12	Bolton Flats	60	BBC (I. Giriunas)
26	Edgartown	60	M. Pelikan

"Ipswich" Sparrow				12	Wellfleet	24	M. Rines#
12 P.I.	1	R. Heil		12	Boston	19	R. Stymeist
Grasshopper Sparrow				13	Ipswich	15	J. Berry
8 Newbury	1	F. Bouchard		27	Gloucester	1	D. Brown
12 Truro	1	C. Floyd#		27	Groton	2 imm	T. Pirro
12 Bolton Flats	1	R. Lockwood#		28	Bolton Flats	1	N. Paulson
30 Newton	1	H. Miller		White-crowned Sparrow <i>gambelii</i> (details)			
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow				29	W. Newbury	1 imm	R. Heil
5 Newbypt	35	R. Heil		Dark-eyed Junco			
12 Tuckernuck	5 b	R. Veit#		4	Barre	22	M. Lynch#
14 Salisbury	10	R. Heil		8	Rockport (H.P.)	20+	D. Jacques
19 P.I.	9	R. Lockwood#		8	P.I.	110	F. Bouchard
22 S. Dart. (A.P.)	5	LCES (J. Hill)		27	Groton	200+	T. Pirro
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow				Lapland Longspur			
7 Newbypt	40	R. Heil		7	Newbury	1	R. Heil
14 Salisbury	12	R. Heil		12	Tuckernuck	2	R. Veit#
16 P.I.	4	R. Heil		16	P.I.	40	R. Heil
18 Eastham (F. H.)	2	SSBC (R. Fox)		26	Katama	5	M. Pelikan
18 S. Dart. (A.Pd)	11	M. Sylvia		Snow Bunting			
20 Barnstable	6	M. Sylvia		20	Quincy	11	N. Smith
Seaside Sparrow				26	Ashburnham	3	T. McCullough
7 Newbypt	4	R. Heil		26	Princeton	3	P. Roberts
17 P.I.	1	R. Stymeist		26	Rockport (A.P.)	1	S. Perkins#
20 Eastham (F.H.)	3	S. Perkins#		29	Carver	1	M. Sylvia
Fox Sparrow				Bobolink			
8 Newbury	1	F. Bouchard		2	Truro	4	W. Ellison#
10 Newton	2	M. Partridge#		9	Newbypt	4	J. Brown#
12 Chilmark	1	T. Rivers		12	Cumb. Farms	5	R. Finch
24 E. Boxford	2	J. Brown#		12	Newbury	8	R. Heil
26 Lexington	2	M. Rines		12	Bolton Flats	4	BBC (I. Giriunas)
26 Bolton Flats	7	E. Salmela		12	Tuckernuck	6	S. Perkins#
27 Groton	2	T. Pirro		13	Westboro	2	A. Boover
29 Weston	2	M. Rines		Red-winged Blackbird			
Song Sparrow				12	Bolton Flats	350	BBC (I. Giriunas)
4 Bolton Flats	125	R. Lockwood		13	Ipswich	200	J. Berry
10-12 Tuckernuck	100+	S. Perkins#		19	Westport	250	R. Stymeist
17 Groton	80	E. Stromsted		Eastern Meadowlark			
Lincoln's Sparrow				12	Newbury	3	J. Berry
2 Truro	7	R. Heil		12	M.V.	16	SSBC (D. Clapp)
4 HRWMA	8	T. Pirro		12	Hingham	8	M. Partridge
4 Bolton Flats	29	R. Lockwood		16	Newbypt	5	R. Heil
5 Concord (NAC)	5	S. Cronenweth		18	Eastham (F. H.)	3	SSBC (R. Fox)
7 Newbury	4	R. Heil		18	P.I.	4	J. Brown#
8 Newton	4	H. Miller		26	DWWS	26	M. Partridge
11 Tuckernuck	4	R. Veit#		Rusty Blackbird			
11 Cape Ann	7	R. Heil		1	Nantucket	5	J. Hoye#
26 Wayland	1	SSBC (B. Howell)		7	Wayland	4	D. O'Connell
27 Groton	1	T. Pirro		8	Truro	4	W. Bailey
Swamp Sparrow				12	Wakefield	4	P. + F. Vale
4 Bolton Flats	81	R. Lockwood		12	Bolton Flats	5	BBC (I. Giriunas)
4 HRWMA	20+	T. Pirro		13	W. Newbury	96	R. Heil
14 Salisbury	27	R. Heil		13	Athol	3	D. Small
14 Cumb. Farms	43	M. Sylvia		14	Bedford	89	M. Rines
18 GMNWR	40+	M. Lynch#		18	Gardner	8	T. Pirro
30 S. Peabody	34	R. Heil		18	GMNWR	50+	M. Lynch#
White-throated Sparrow				18	P'town	40	SSBC (R. Fox)
4 Barre	104	M. Lynch#		20	Carlisle	4	L. Stokes
4 HRWMA	100+	T. Pirro		Common Grackle			
8 Gloucester	1000	G. Wood		19	Westport	5000	R. Stymeist
11 Truro	89	M. Lynch#		19	Marlboro	500	B. Parker
12 P.I.	150	R. Heil		22	Wakefield	350+	F. Vale
13 Ipswich	100	J. Berry		28	Bolton Flats	2000-3000	N. Paulson
White-crowned Sparrow				29	W. Newbury	5000	R. Heil
8 Newbury	20	F. Bouchard		Brown-headed Cowbird			
9 Athol	8	W. Lafley		10	Newbury	75	R. Heil
10-11 Tuckernuck	18	S. Perkins#		19	W. Newbury	100+BBC	(S. Grinley)
11 Truro	80+	B. Nikula		19	Rowley	400	R. Heil
11 Cape Ann	66	R. Heil		Baltimore Oriole			
11 P.I.	22	P. + F. Vale		2	Truro	3	R. Heil
12 S. Monomoy	12	B. Nikula		2	Eastham	3	R. Heil
12 Cumb. Farms	15	R. Finch		5	Newton	2	H. Miller
12 Gay Head	20	M. Pelikan		13	Cotuit	1	S. Miller#

Baltimore Oriole (continued)				11	E. Boxford	2	J. Brown#
19 Southboro	1	M. Lynch#		19	Southboro	2	M. Lynch#
23 Gay Head	1	M. Pelikan		24	Bolton	4	G. Marley
Purple Finch				25	Pembroke	5	G. Levandoski
5-15 Northboro	13	B. Volkle		26	Topsfield	1	R. Stymeist
6 HRWMA	6	T. Pirro		26	Mt. Wachusett	20	J. + B. Chiasson
8 S. Peabody	18	R. Heil		26	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher
11 Truro	5	M. Lynch#		27	Nantucket	2	fide E. Ray
12 Gay Head	5	M. Pelikan		30	S. Peabody	3	R. Heil
13 Athol	6	D. Small		Evening Grosbeak			
16 Quabbin (G40)	15	R. Stymeist#		3	Petersham	1	W. Lafley
17 Northboro	26	B. Volkle		4	Barre	3	M. Lynch#
17 Belmont	9	R. Stymeist		5	Byfield	2	fide S. Grinley
19 W. Newbury	10	BBC (S. Grinley)		6	HRWMA	1	T. Pirro
19 Southboro	4	M. Lynch#		8	Northboro	10	M. Rines#
White-winged Crossbill				8	Ashburnham	12	T. McCullough
8 Kingston	1	G. Levandoski		12	Gay Head	2	M. Pelikan
12 Gay Head	2	V. Laux#		16	Quabbin (G40)	10	M. Rines#
13 Orleans	6	M. Lynch#		17	S. Peabody	3	R. Heil
17 Nantucket	15	fide K. Blackshaw		18	Gardner	12	T. Pirro
18-30 Rockport (H.P.)	9 max	v.o.		19	Pepperell	4	M. Resch
19 Gay Head	11	M. Pelikan		23	Lexington	12	K. Hartel
26 Ashby	16	J. + B. Chiasson		24	W. Newbury	10	R. Heil
26 Mt.A.	3	R. Stymeist		24	Bolton	2	G. Marley
29 Truro	3	G. Ellison		25	Lincoln	12	D. Diggins#
Common Redpoll				25	Groton	12	D. Hopper
19 Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray		26	Wayland	2	SSBC (B. Howell)
24 Ashburnham	25	C. Cook		26	Amesbury	3	R. Heil
26 Pepperell	1	M. Resch		26	Acushnet	1	M. LaBossiere
29 P.I.	2	D. + I. Jewell		30	Gardner	1+	T. Pirro
29 Carver	1	M. Sylvia		31	Melrose	1	J. + D. Lounsbury
30 S. Peabody	1	R. Heil		House Sparrow			
Pine Siskin				12	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
11 Gloucester	2	R. Heil					

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO BIRD OBSERVER

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

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

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (Bird Observer Vol. 25, #4, page 195), as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Wayne Petersen, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773. Include, in addition to the above information, time of day and light available, weather conditions, the optics used and approximate distance from the bird, length of observation, observer's prior experience with the species, and field guide or other references used. Provide a description of the bird based solely on personal observation. Comment on the distinguishing field marks (observed and unobserved), vocalizations, activity, general behavior, habitat, and other birds present. Include with your report copies of any field notes and sketches.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

(Announcement)

HAWK WATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SPRING COUNTS

The Massachusetts Audubon Society's **Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary**, in partnership with the **Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch**, is organizing a hawk watch and seeks volunteers to count hawks at spring migration sites on the Outer Cape. Information from the season will be recorded and included in an international database.

Previous hawk watching experience or good hawk identification skill is needed. Donate one morning or afternoon per week from mid-April to mid-May. To volunteer or learn more about Wellfleet Bay's efforts to census birds of prey on the Outer Cape, call the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary at (508) 349-2615 or e-mail us at hawkwatch@wellfleetbay.org

Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to attend the program "The Value of Watching Hawks" at the Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary on Saturday, March 14, at 2 P.M. In this slide and video presentation, Paul Roberts, founder of the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch, will discuss the scientific value of migration counts and introduce how to identify, count, and record migrating hawks. This program is free for volunteers. To register for the program or for more information, call (508) 349-2615.

For those not comfortable identifying hawks on their own, join staff from the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary at Pilgrim Heights in Truro from 9 A.M. to noon on Sundays, April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10 or 17. No registration or fee is required. For general information about Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary, or to ask about other programs, call, write, or e-mail the sanctuary at P.O. Box 236, South Wellfleet, MA 02663; (508) 349-2615; info@wellfleetbay.org. Or visit our web site at <http://www.wellfleetbay.org>.

The **Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch** also seeks volunteer observers for traditional hawk watching locations such as **Wachusett Mountain** in Princeton and **Mt. Watatic** in Ashburnham. This spring will also feature special attention on the **Newburyport/Plum Island** area. Observers may also collect data at sites of their own choosing. Counts will run from April 1 to May 10; there is a particular need for volunteers able to participate on weekdays. Beginning observers will be paired with experienced hawk watchers where possible, so the count offers an opportunity to learn about hawk identification.

If you are interested in learning more about hawks and contributing to a continental database on hawk migration, send for your EMHW Spring Hawk Migration Information kit. Write to EMHW, 254 Arlington St., Medford, MA; call (781) 483-4263 after 7 P.M.; or e-mail your street mailing address to proberts@analogic.com

ABOUT THE COVER: RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

The noisy, boisterous Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) has enjoyed a northward expansion in its range in recent years, and has dramatically increased its numbers in Massachusetts. This medium-sized woodpecker is easily identified by its scarlet nape (in the male, scarlet nape and crown) combined with its black-barred back. The male has a reddish tinge to its belly, but this is not a reliable field mark — the bird is poorly named. Immature birds resemble adults except that they usually lack the red nape. In flight, the combination of white wing spots at the base of the primaries and a white rump is distinctive in our region.

Taxonomically, the Red-bellied Woodpecker is generally considered monotypic (four subspecies have been described, but individual variation masks the perceived differences, rendering these subspecific distinctions problematic). The Red-bellied Woodpecker is part of a superspecies that includes the Gila and Golden-fronted woodpeckers of North America, Hoffman's Woodpecker in Central America, and the Great Red-Bellied Woodpecker of the West Indies. These five species are recently evolved from a common ancestor, furnishing an excellent illustration of evolution in action.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers are found throughout most of the eastern United States, from Minnesota, southern Ontario, and Massachusetts south through Texas and Florida. They are found in deciduous, riparian, or mixed woodlands, and in swamps, parks, orchards, and towns. The species is not migratory in the usual sense, but appears to undergo a postbreeding dispersal, often to the north. Although the Red-bellied Woodpecker is largely resident in most of its range, many individuals become quasi-nomadic in winter as they search for food supplies. Until the 1950s, Red-bellied Woodpeckers in Massachusetts were considered rare vagrants from the south. The first confirmed breeding in Massachusetts was in 1977; since then, they have increased steadily in numbers, with scores of pairs now nesting on Martha's Vineyard alone. They have been recorded nesting as far west as the Connecticut River Valley. Red-bellied Woodpeckers are especially evident in fall and early winter, when they often appear at bird feeders.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers are monogamous and in the south may produce up to three broods per year. The calls of these noisy birds have been variously transcribed as *Churr*, *Chee-wuk*, *Cherr-cherr*, *Chip-chup*, *Wuch-aa*, *Cha-aa-ah*, and a seemingly endless string of other unpronounceable combinations. They drum on dead stumps or telephone poles at nearly 20 beats per second, a behavior that serves as territorial advertisement and probably for mate attraction, as well. Red-bellies engage in a variety of displays including crest raising, wing and tail spreading, head swinging, bowing, and several exaggerated flight displays. There is often mutual tapping by pairs near the nest

site. Pairs split up after raising their young and establish independent territories. Red-bellied Woodpeckers may even exhibit interspecific territoriality, attempting to exclude Red-headed Woodpeckers from their territories.

The nest is typically a cavity in a deciduous snag, often a dead limb on a live tree. The male does the early excavation, and the cavity may take more than a week to complete. The four or five white eggs are incubated by both parents, with the male taking the night shift. Incubation lasts up to two weeks, with fledging occurring after an additional three to four weeks. The female does more of the brooding and guarding than the male. The young birds are dependent on their parents for an additional six to ten weeks. Both parents feed the young a combination of insects and vegetable food.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers are foraging generalists. They are omnivorous, their diet shifting in response to seasonal variation in food resources. They glean and probe tree trunks, usually hitching up the trunk, and glean foliage, but may forage on the ground as well, taking ants, spiders, crickets, and small amphibians and reptiles. They sometimes sally forth and hawk insects on the wing. They have even been observed preying on nestling House Wrens, American Redstarts, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Carolina Chickadees, and taking House Sparrow eggs. They like fruit and nuts, and in the fall they may cache food such as acorns or hickory nuts in bark crevices. There is some evidence that males forage more on tree trunks during the winter than do females. In Florida their predilection for oranges and orange trees has earned them the local name "orange borer" and "orange sapsucker." They have been observed drinking from holes left by real sapsuckers. Plant material may make up more than eighty percent of their winter diet. At winter feeders, they will take suet, bread, and sunflower seeds.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers have adjusted well to suburban living, as the northward expansion of their range attests. Almost certainly, the availability of food at bird feeders in winter has played a role in the northward range expansion of this species. The suburban setting has its downside, however, since this species must compete for nest cavities with aggressive European Starlings. But the prognosis for this species is good — keep those feeders full!

--William E. Davis

The final mystery photograph of 1997 shows a rather long-tailed, slim passerine with a rather short, straight bill and what appears to be a prominent eye-ring and at least one pale patch (possibly two) in the wing. Also noteworthy is the subject's small-headed appearance and the fact that the tail appears to have a slight notch at the end.

The bird's size relative to the branches around it suggests that the bird is not terribly small. In fact, by this criteria, it would seem that the bird might actually be mid-sized (e.g. catbird or thrush-sized). An obvious first possibility would seem to be Northern Mockingbird. Mockingbirds are slim, medium-sized, long-tailed birds with a white patches in the wing. However, mockingbirds don't have obvious eye-rings and their bills are relatively long and decurved X a feature shared by most of the mimic thrushes. In addition, if the mystery bird's tail is truly notched, then this would further eliminate the mockingbird, whose long tail is slightly rounded at the end. So what else looks like a Northern Mockingbird?



Photograph by Wayne R. Petersen

Although we can reasonably eliminate the tiny Blue-gray Gnatcatcher as a possibility just on the basis of the bill size and overall size and bulk of the mystery bird, gnatcatchers actually do slightly resemble miniature mockingbirds. More to the point, they resemble the mystery bird, except for one important difference X posture. Gnatcatchers seldom, even when singing, hold their tails at the angle shown by the mystery bird. Most of the time their long, slender tails are held above the horizontal, vaguely suggesting a long-tailed wren. Furthermore, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers don't have conspicuous patches in their wings.

Two bluebird species have been recorded in Massachusetts: Mountain Bluebirds are extremely rare vagrants in the state, but the Eastern Bluebird is a locally common breeder and local winter resident. Bluebirds roughly match the apparent size of the mystery bird and share its straight, thrush-like bill. Moreover, bluebird tails are frequently visibly notched, and immature bluebirds (and sometimes adult females) may show an obvious eye-ring. But the tail of a bluebird would be much shorter than that of the mystery bird; no bluebird would show a distinct pale wing patch; and the general shape of a bluebird is somewhat plumper and larger-headed than what is shown in the photograph.

There is only one bird in North America that truly resembles the mystery bird. The combination of small-headed appearance, erect posture, long tail, conspicuous pale patch in the wing, bold eye-ring, and short, straight bill indicates Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*). Very careful examination of the soft photo reproduction further suggests that the bird in the picture has spots on its head, back, and belly. This spotting indicates that the bird is in juvenal plumage, often held in this species into late summer or early fall.

A vagrant in Massachusetts, the Townsend's Solitaire has been recorded fewer than a dozen times in the Bay State. All records are in late fall and winter, seasons when this western relative of the thrushes has abandoned its high-elevation summer quarters and migrated southward or into neighboring valleys and lowlands for the winter. The juvenile Townsend's Solitaire in the picture was photographed in Colorado.

AT A GLANCE

Photograph by Wayne Petersen



Can you identify this bird?

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

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