

Bird Observer

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HOT BIRDS



On June 4, 2010, Paul Champlin found two **Black-necked Stilts** (left) at Mass Audubon's Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary. Erik Nielsen took this photo on June 6.

On June 10, Blair Perkins discovered a **Gull-billed Tern** (right) at Bartlett Farm on Nantucket, and E. Vernon Laux arrived in time to take this photograph.



South Beach in Chatham is one of the best spots for rare shorebirds. On June 27, Blair Nikula discovered and photographed this **Red-necked Stint** (left).

Siobhan Basile was birding at Sandy Point State Reservation on Plum Island on July 22 when he discovered a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (right). Phil Brown took this photograph on August 9. The flycatcher, minus most of its tail, was still present on August 22.



On August 5 Rachel Farrell was astonished to watch a **Brown Pelican** (left) flying south over Buzzards Bay. The bird tarried just long enough to let Rachel grab a couple of photographs.

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LESSER AND GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS BY DAVID LARSON

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Birding Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge and Environs

Alan E. Strauss

Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge is located at 1040 Matunuck Schoolhouse Road in South Kingstown, Rhode Island. The sanctuary was established in 1974 with a donation of 365 acres by Ann Kenyon Morse. Eventually, the refuge obtained another 151 acres through a donation by the Rhode Island Audubon Society. Today, the property consists of about 800 acres of fields, shrublands, woodlands, freshwater and saltwater ponds, sandy beaches, dunes, and the state's only undeveloped coastal salt pond. There is a small information cabin at the entrance on Matunuck Schoolhouse Road with a board where people post birds that were recently seen. Trail maps are available, and there is usually someone on staff who can answer general questions. Restrooms are found in this location as well. The refuge is open daily from sunrise to sunset. Dogs are not allowed, and you must never enter a wildlife enclosure.



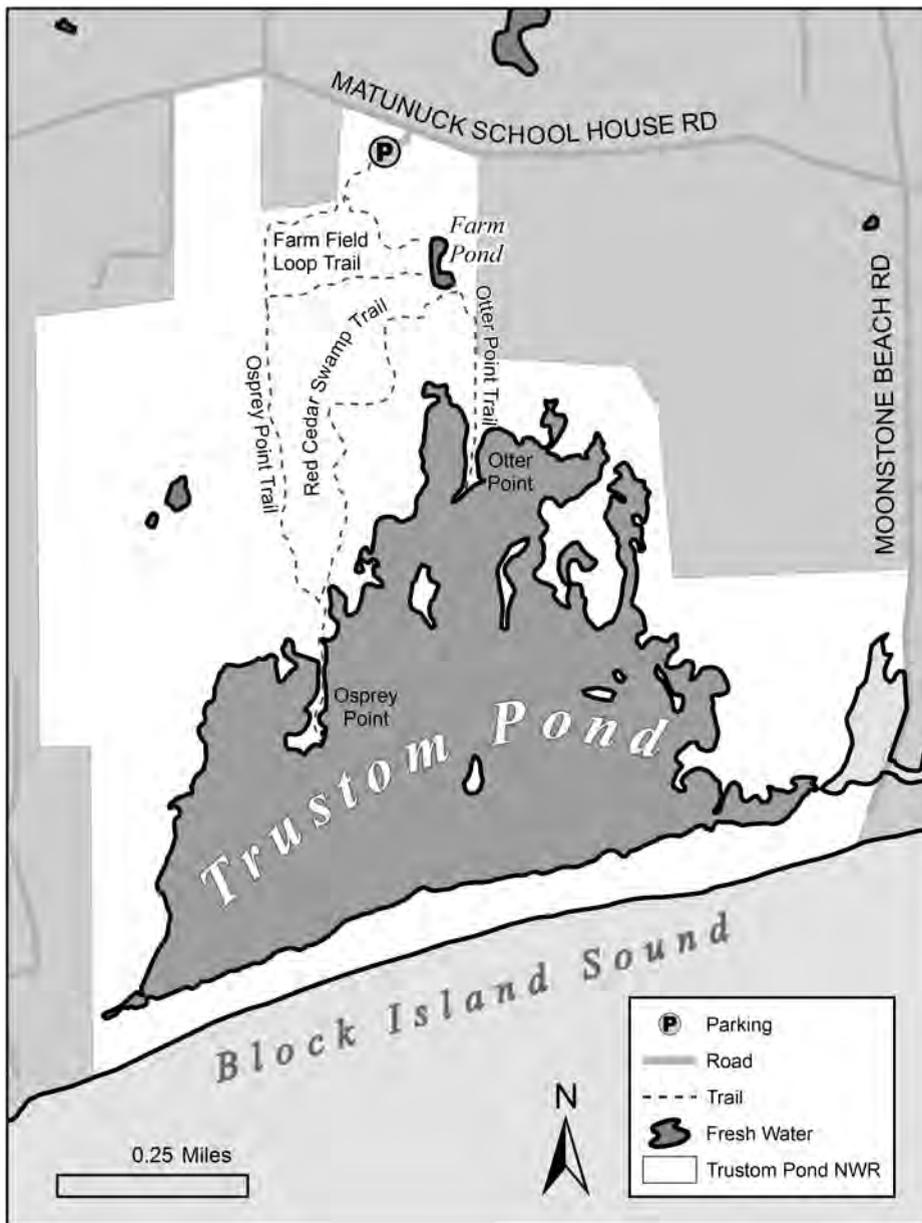
While the refuge has plenty of trails and parking, other locations in this article may be partly private property. Birding from the main roads is generally fine, but do not enter anyone's property without prior permission, and park only in areas that are not prohibited. During the summer beach season, Moonstone Beach parking is for residents only; the rest of the year parking should not be a problem—watch the signs. At Trustom it is best to lock all car doors and keep valuables out of sight. While you are in the area, children may enjoy the Kettle Pond Visitors Center located farther down Route 1 in Charlestown. This contains numerous exhibits, several dioramas, live animals, a craft center, activities for children, and hiking trails on a glacial moraine. The Center is open from 10 to 4 and is free of charge.

In total, some 300 species of birds have been recorded at the Trustom Pond refuge, as well as 40 types of mammals and 20 species of reptiles and amphibians, including the state's only population of Fowler's toad. As for minerals, one can find perfectly rounded, smooth stones of quartz and quartzite along the shore at Moonstone Beach, for which it was named.

There are four trails on the property that provide access to the various natural habitats: Otter Point Trail (0.4 mile); Osprey Point Trail (0.8 mile); Red Maple Swamp Trail (0.6 mile); and Farm Field



Walking trail at Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge. All photographs by the author.



MAPS BY JILL PHELPS KERN

Loop (0.5 mile). Three observation platforms are located at Farm Pond, Otter Point, and Osprey Point. The habitat includes open grassy fields, coastal woodlands, and an extensive salt pond.

The trails through the woodland contain vegetation typical of a coastal plain environment, with red oak and pin cherry forming much of the upper story and greenbrier, wild grape, and numerous shrubs, grasses, sedges, and weeds forming the undergrowth. During spring and fall, a scattering of warblers can be found along the margins of the fields and woodlands. Orange-crowned Warblers have recently been fairly regular in fall in the low weedy area at the wood's edge. Sparrows also can be found, especially in the fall, and this year a Fox Sparrow was seen regularly at the feeders near the visitors' station. Fall and winter are good times to view Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Merlins, Rough-legged Hawks, and occasional Peregrine Falcons. Bald Eagles are sometimes seen in the area, and Ospreys are common from spring to fall. The nearby fields adjacent to Mud Pond at Moonstone Beach annually host Rough-legged Hawks and Short-eared Owls. These birds are best seen early in the morning or late in the afternoon.

Mud Pond has hosted Black-necked Stilts (after a hurricane), Least Bitterns, and King and Clapper rails in the surrounding marshes. One year I photographed both King and Clapper rails along the road into Moonstone Beach. Cave Swallows zip by in years when they are wandering north in November. I prefer the isthmus separating Trustom Pond from Block Island Sound to watch for Cave Swallows as they fly low over the weeds and grasses and sometimes perch on snow fences and fence posts. The swallows appear to get funneled along this narrow land mass between the two bodies of water.

Perhaps the biggest draws for birders at the reservation are waterfowl and other aquatic birds. These include Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Least Bittern (uncommon), Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Glossy Ibis, Cattle Egret, Mute Swan, and Tundra Swan (uncommon). Also seen are Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Northern Pintail, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall,



Trustom Pond looking north from the spit

American Wigeon, and Eurasian Wigeon (uncommon), as well as Redhead, Greater and Lesser scaup, Common Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, and all three mergansers. One can almost always hear the loud honking of Canada Geese on the pond or as they fly over heading for nearby farm fields. In January 2010, one male and two female Barrow's Goldeneyes were recorded. On December 6, 2001, I saw a Ross's Goose at the southern extent of the pond near the "cut" that sometimes opens to Block Island Sound. On November 11, 1996, I saw an Eared Grebe that stayed in the area for a few weeks near Osprey Point on Trustom Pond.

Every summer Least Terns and Piping Plovers nest within the protected fenced areas along Moonstone Beach and provide a great opportunity to study these



Spit separating Trustom Pond (left) from Block Island Sound (right)

endangered species. In late summer and early fall, one can find a variety of shorebirds at the southern edge of Trustom along the ocean side. American Oystercatchers are regular here, while American Woodcocks can be found in the interior of the refuge. Additional shorebirds seen on the barrier beach side include Black-bellied Plover, Piping Plover, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Short-billed Dowitcher. Less common but possible are Willet, Western Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, and Red-necked Phalarope.

Most of the typical New England passerines can be found through the various seasons, including some not-so-common birds such as Sedge Wren (rare), Red-headed Woodpecker, American Pipit, Summer Tanager (rare), Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, and Lark Sparrow (rare).

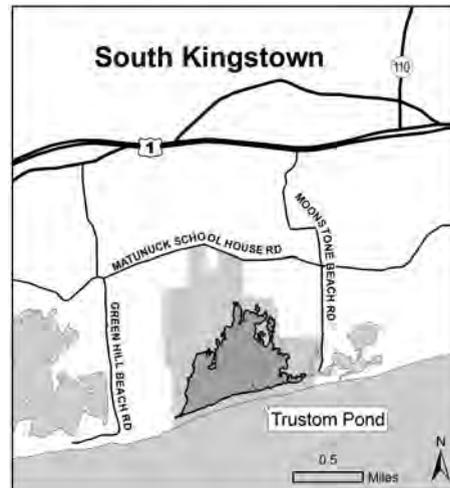
In general, I don't expect to see anything too amazing at the refuge. Nine out of ten times one sees the standard fare for that season. However, there are bonuses to birding in the area. My life Vesper Sparrows were seen along the edge of Matunuck Schoolhouse Road in the fields edged by weedy brush. In December 2009 a female or immature male Painted Bunting was seen along Moonstone Beach Road as were a Vesper Sparrow and two Rusty Blackbirds. The fields along Cards Pond Road, Matunuck Beach Road, Moonstone Beach Road, and Matunuck Schoolhouse Road have had Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, and Lapland Longspurs (the latter used to be fairly regular). My life Lapland Longspur was seen along Cards Pond Road in the open rocky and stubble fields. Along the ocean side, especially near rocky points (Green Hill Beach), one can sometimes find a King Eider. This year there were many hundreds of noisy Common Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and a few Rusty Blackbirds in massive flocks feeding in the corn stubble along Cards Pond Road.

On April 18, 1993, a Swallow-tailed Kite was seen perched in a tree not far from this area. On November 20, 1998, I saw a Sandhill Crane in a field adjacent to Matunuck Beach Road. Sometimes the fields host hundreds of Canada Geese, which should be checked for Richardson's and other forms of Cackling Goose. White-fronted Geese have been reported in fall and winter as well. Beware of hunters in fall as they often come from Connecticut, where hunting is prohibited on Sunday. Don't forget to keep an eye out for white-tailed deer and coyotes as well.

The list of rare species at Trustom and its environs is impressive. Don't expect to see these birds, but historically the list includes, in addition to those already mentioned, Red-billed Tropicbird, Fulvous Whistling Duck, Barnacle Goose, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Eurasian Green-winged Teal, Curlew Sandpiper, Sooty Tern, Bridled Tern, Brown Noddy, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Henslow's Sparrow, and Smith's Longspur.

In conclusion, Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge and the surrounding area can provide an interesting day of birding, especially in fall or winter. The extensive pond, often filled with hundreds of geese, coupled with the waters of the adjacent Block Island Sound, provides a beautiful backdrop for birding. Whether you enjoy waterfowl, raptors, passerines, or migrants in general, there is something for everyone in this part of Rhode Island. I usually pick one of those unusually warm sunny winter days when the temperature climbs to over 40 degrees to walk the refuge and check the many fields and coastal beaches for avian life.

Getting there: From Providence, head south on Route 95 and exit onto Route 4 South. Route 4 will merge into Route 1 South. Continue on Route 1 South, and take the Moonstone Beach Road exit. Drive south for one mile, and then turn right onto Matunuck Schoolhouse Road at the four-way stop sign. Continue west on Schoolhouse Road for 0.7 mile to the refuge entrance on your left. From points south, take Route 1 North to the Moonstone Beach Road exit (you must make a cautious U-turn first), then follow directions as before. 



Alan Strauss has been birding in the New England area for over 20 years. He grew up outside of Boston and obtained a bachelor's degree in archaeology from UMass Amherst and a master's degree from SUNY Binghamton in New York. Alan has taught an archaeology field school at the Wellfleet Bay Audubon Sanctuary for several summers. He enjoys the research-oriented aspects of birding, especially in marine environments and boreal forests. You can find him almost every spring watching seabirds and whales from Race Point at Cape Cod, where he records, photographs, and videotapes the wildlife.

Nest Highlights from the 2010 Season in Essex County, Massachusetts

Jim Berry

The 2010 nesting season, year 4 of 5 for the second Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas project (BBA2), was a good one for me. I recorded data on 80 nest record cards for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 75 from Essex County. Following are highlights from among those 75 nests.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, *Buteo lineatus*

Red-shouldered Hawks have long been locally uncommon nesters in Essex County but in recent years have been downright rare, especially outside their traditional stronghold of Boxford State Forest. On April 22 of this year I was about to enter another conservation area in Boxford, several miles to the north. The entrance was a right-of-way lying next to a residence. The resident came out to greet me and, by the way, asked me if I had seen the hawk nest in his neighbor's yard. I hadn't, and it proved to be that of a pair of Red-shoulders. The resident in whose front yard the nest tree was located then came out and was excited to find someone who actually knew what kind of hawks they were. So I made two new friends that day.

The nest was about 40 feet up in a red oak right beside the road. This was the last place I expected to find Red-shoulders nesting. But the female bird doing the incubating was not bothered by our presence and, in fact, had nested in the same tree two years earlier. I returned the next day to hear the male calling, at which point the female flew off the nest, presumably to take food from him. A month later on May 27 I returned to see at least one downy young in the nest, with one or both adults audible in the area.

I told very few people about this nest, since it would have been easy to disturb, and I didn't know how much visitation the female would tolerate. One person I told was Russ Hopping, who lives nearby; Russ had told me the previous year he suspected that Red-shoulders were nesting in the area because he had been seeing and hearing them in his yard. He then commenced monitoring the nest. On June 5 and again on June 9 he saw no activity there, indicating that the nest had probably failed; the downy young on May 27 was less than half-grown and could hardly have fledged nine days later. As it was, however, Essex County had its third nesting confirmation of the Atlas period for Red-shouldered Hawk.

BARRED OWL, *Strix varia*

In the same part of Boxford on April 23, I discovered a Barred Owl nest in a natural cavity. This was after I had passed through the right-of-way and entered the conservation area, which is entirely forested. I had seen and heard a presumed male owl calling the day before, and this time I looked carefully for a suitable cavity. Finally I spotted a large tear-shaped cavity in a red oak and could see the female owl's

head at the bottom of the opening. I had seen several other Barred Owl nests in natural cavities, but this was the first I had found on my own.

My only other visit was on May 27 with Bob Watts. At that time an adult Barred Owl came over to check us out, but the cavity appeared empty. The young had presumably fledged, which would explain the owl's concern. In any event, we saw no juvenile owls that day.



Young Barred Owls by Erik Nielsen

This was the sixteenth confirmation of Barred Owls in the county during the Atlas period. For comparison, Great Horned Owls have been confirmed in 17 blocks and Eastern Screech Owls in 12 blocks.

BELTED KINGFISHER, *Megaceryle alcyon*

Belted Kingfisher nests are not hard to find—once you find a suitable bank and kingfishers together in the same place. Absent those conditions, nests are not found very often. As a result, the species is not confirmed in a high percentage of Atlas blocks. Essex County has about 75 blocks, and of 17 kingfisher confirmations only five involve nests, two of them used nests. Until this year, only a single active nest had been found in the county during the Atlas period.

Two more were found this year, both on islands! This is something I had never suspected. But on June 11, when Simon Perkins and I went with several Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) people in their boat to count the heron nests on Kettle Island off Manchester, the first thing we saw, before we landed, was a hole in the bank on the steep side of the island and a kingfisher that flew to it with a fish in its mouth. The island is only about half a mile offshore, so why not? Kingfishers fly long distances to forage and apparently think nothing of crossing salt water to get to a suitable bank, as this pair was obviously doing. Later, on foot, we saw three holes in the bank, which may mean that they had nested here previously, though we had never seen them on the island. It is also possible that all the holes were new: “A pair may make multiple burrows in a single bank, but they occupy only one during a given season” (Kelly, Bridge, and Hamas 2009).

The next day, June 12, I accepted an offer of a ride out to Misery Island, off Beverly, with the boat driver, Casey, who was caretaker of that TTOR property for the summer. Susan Hedman and Dave



Belted Kingfisher by Shawn P. Carey
(Migration Productions)

Weaver went with me, since Misery is in their block, Salem 11. Again, before we had even landed, we saw a male kingfisher with a fish in his mouth, acting nervous and rattling almost constantly. We looked around and noticed a hole in the only section of non-vegetated bank we could see, and when the bird later went close to it we knew that was the nest. (Casey later verified that he had seen a kingfisher enter the hole.) So the county score of Atlas-period Belted Kingfisher nests is islands two, mainland one.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, *Melanerpes carolinus*

I have written before about this species (Berry 2000, 2003) and would not again were it not for the fact that I found no fewer than *nine* Red-belly nests in 2010: three in April, four more the first week of May, and all nine by June 2. I found far more nests of this species than of any other woodpecker, and I think it is clear that Red-bellies are now the second most common woodpecker in the county after the Downy. Whether they are as common as Downies (of which I found only two nests this year)



Red-bellied Woodpecker at nest by Gary S. Uhring

is something I am not yet ready to suggest. And though Atlas results do not measure abundance, the Essex County tally of *confirmed* blocks for the various woodpeckers now stands at Downy 59, Northern Flicker 49, Red-bellied 44, Hairy 35, and Pileated 9. In the total number of blocks found (possible breeding or better), the standings are the same: Downy 73, Northern Flicker 72, Red-bellied 62, Hairy 57, and Pileated 32. Nevertheless, I am fairly convinced there are more Red-bellies than flickers in the county. (In the interest of full

disclosure, I found four flicker nests this year. In addition, not all Atlas blocks have reported in yet as I proof this article in early August, so these numbers are tentative.)

The nests were in eight towns: Manchester, Hamilton, Ipswich (2), Topsfield, Rowley, Boxford, North Andover, and Merrimac. Nest trees were all deciduous, mostly dead but a few alive. Identifiable trees were red maple and red oak. Two nests were very low, 13 and 15 feet, probably the lowest I have seen for this species. One was about 60 feet up, probably the highest I have seen. The others were, typically, between 30 and 45 feet. The highest one was located in a rather deep forest in Manchester, whereas most nests were in or very near beaver swamps. Two, however, the two in Ipswich, were at the edge of the salt marsh. At three of the four nests found the first week of May, the adult birds were already feeding young, so those eggs had all been laid in early to mid-April.

I did not have time to revisit many of these nests and do not know the outcomes or how many pairs re-nested, but finding nine nests of any species (except robins and the like) in a single season seems significant enough to be in the record.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW, *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

I include this species because of its propensity to nest in man-made objects as well as burrows, a characteristic that helps me find their nests. “Burrow located in precipitous bank of clay, sand, or gravel, but pair may accept any cavity or crevice in vertical surface, including gutters, culverts, drainpipes, boxes, and crevices or holes in walls, wharves, bridges, boats, ships, and semitrailers, and even a Civil War cannon barrel” (de Jong 1996). Over the years I have most often found Rough-winged Swallows nesting in dry drainpipes and abandoned truck-trailer bodies; only two or three times do I recall finding nests in burrows. Junkyards are therefore great places to look for their nests, and if you see Rough-wings flying around a junkyard, you can be sure they are nesting there somewhere. They are also known, at least in Michigan, to nest in or near Bank Swallow colonies (ibid.), something I have never seen.

On June 7 Linda Cook and I were Atlasing in the Ipswich 4 block when we noticed a pair of Rough-wings foraging over a soccer field complex in Byfield. A lone abandoned trailer body sat parked on a hill at the edge of the fields beside the Parker River marshes, and we immediately focused our search on and

under it. At first we found nothing, but as we were leaving, I saw a swallow fly under it. We looked again, this time focusing on some square-shaped cavities that we hadn’t examined before because we couldn’t see inside them. Linda took the crevices on one side and I took the other. Suddenly she let out an exclamation. I asked her if she had found a nest. She answered that she had felt young birds. Bingo. Confirmation number 19 for the county out of 40 blocks in which Rough-wings have so far been found. But only seven of those confirmations involved finding a nest.

One advantage of nesting in such cavities is safety. Generally speaking, no animal can get at such a nest, which may be partly why there is such intensive competition for the cavities (ibid.). We didn’t have to worry about leaving our scent at this nest because it was virtually inaccessible to any mammal or bird predator. I didn’t return, but I feel confident that as long as the adults found enough food, those babies fledged.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, *Sitta canadensis*

The Red-breasted Nuthatch is another tough bird to confirm nesting. To date, they have been found in 32 blocks in Essex County but confirmed in only ten. Though I had found six nests in the county, they all preceded the Atlas period, and until this year no one had found a nest. Confirmation was by other means such as seeing adult birds feeding fledglings.



Northern Rough-winged Swallow nest in pipe
by Mary Keleher



Red-breasted Nuthatch juvenile by Bonnie Buxton

That changed on April 22, when I was birding in the same conservation area in Boxford mentioned above for the Barred Owls. I had passed over a hill and descended into a pretty little swamp. Across the swamp was a pine stand where I heard Red-breasted Nuthatches. As I re-crossed the swamp I noticed a nuthatch disappear on the other side of a small snag. I left the trail and positioned myself on the side of the swamp where I could see a cavity on the far side of the snag. Soon the nuthatch emerged from the cavity and eventually re-entered, and my search was successful. I had confirmed nests of Red-shouldered Hawks and Red-breasted Nuthatches the same day, and the next day found a Barred Owl nest in the same area! (Later, Kirk Elwell found another Red-breasted Nuthatch nest in Groveland.)

I also noticed that there were *four* nuthatches in the vicinity of the nest, presumably two pairs, since it was far too early for fledglings. I could not find a second nest, but I was so elated at finding the first that I didn't try very hard. I returned May 27 to find the nuthatches still feeding young in the nest. Baicich and Harrison (1997) give 12 days for incubation and 18–21 days as the nestling period (total 30–33 days). This implies that when I found the nest on April 22 the clutch was incomplete and incubation had yet to begin. I was therefore very lucky to find that nest, and did so only because the female bird was probably checking on her eggs.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, *Poliophtila caerulea*

I have written about this species on two previous occasions (Berry 2003, 2010). I do again for the same reason I included Red-bellied Woodpecker; this year I found *five* nests, a record for me. All were in deciduous trees, red maple (3), swamp white oak, and white ash. Heights were from 25–35 feet except one at only 13 feet. All the nests were in beaver swamps or flowages.

The earliest, in Hamilton, was about half-built on April 26; the birds paid no attention to me whatsoever as they worked. One in Georgetown was under incubation on May 26, while one in Topsfield ten days later (June 5) was just being started; the adults were laying the first strands of invisible spider silk. The other two were, with little doubt, built by the same pair on the grounds of the New England Biolabs in Ipswich. The first of these, found by Lynne Holton, was at 13 feet in a swamp white oak sapling at the edge of the pond that is simply a wide part of the Miles River. She showed it to me on May 23, when the female was incubating. That day we saw the male attack a Warbling Vireo that he decided was too close to the nest. But by June 8 the nest had disappeared without a trace. Unless it had been collected by a person,

predation was likely. But not necessarily: the nestling period lasts 12–13 days, so it is (barely) possible that the young had fledged.

Whether they succeeded or not, the pair built again, this time at 30 feet in a white ash about 50 yards away. I found them feeding four young in the nest July 3 and promptly told Lynne, who got to see the now-successful pair a day or two later. As I stated earlier (Berry 2010), Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are double-brooded, so this was the second instance in two years I had observed the phenomenon, though in this case the birds were likely re-nesting after a failure.

HERMIT THRUSH, *Catharus guttatus*

Hermit Thrushes are local birds in Essex County and difficult to confirm breeding because of their secretive ways. They nest on the ground and normally hide the nest very well in dense ground cover. Two years ago I wrote of finding two Hermit nests in Willowdale State Forest in Ipswich in 2006 (Berry 2008). In May 2008, after that article was published, I found a third nest in the same area (and along the same trail), also well hidden in ground cover. But after four years of atlasing effort, Hermits have been confirmed in only four blocks out of the 32 in which they have been found. This year I found a fourth Hermit Thrush nest (in the same block), though the circumstances were a bit different.

On July 22 I was taking my “final” walk in Willowdale in hopes of confirming one or two more species for the Ipswich 5 block. This forest has many logging roads, and some are overgrown and very grassy for want of use. It also has many new trails made by mountain bikers, which is alarming since those trails are taking a real beating and are opening more of the forest to disruption. But the new trails have the advantage of sparing the logging roads from overuse, and that may be why a pair of Hermits built in the middle of one such overgrown grassy road. I almost stepped on this nest, since the sitting female did not flush until I was practically on top of it. I looked down and immediately saw four blue thrush eggs. This nest was different from the others for being in a cover of grass, as opposed to low-bush blueberry or Canada mayflower, and was easily visible from above. It would have been visible to aerial predators but not to squirrels and chipmunks, since the grass was long enough to make the sitting bird hard to spot from their vantage point.

I have found relatively few Hermit Thrush nests, but one other was situated in a similar grassy old logging road, in Brooksville, Maine. The date was July 22, 2007. The four nests I have found in Willowdale all contained eggs. The dates were May 18, July 1, July 22, and August 13. Such a spread of egg dates argues well for double- and even triple-brooding, as I discussed in my article two years ago. Maybe when the Atlas is over I can try to establish double-brooding in Essex County. . . .

OVENBIRD, *Seiurus aurocapilla*

Of all the Ovenbird nests I have found over the years, this one was the most satisfying. I was leading a bird walk in Bradley Palmer State Park in Topsfield on National Trails Day, June 5. We discovered a pair of Ovenbirds as we crossed a small

swale on an abandoned paved road. They were extremely agitated, so I knew a nest was nearby. With half a dozen people I couldn't conduct a proper search, so I returned alone after the walk. The ground on one side of the road was lower, and this is where one of the birds had popped out earlier. Waiting did me no good, so I stepped carefully off the road expecting the female bird to come off the presumed nest again. She didn't, so I knelt down to look more carefully around me.

My head was now about at the level of the pavement. Within seconds I saw the nest. It was built right up against the edge of the pavement, actually sheltered by it, and otherwise surrounded by thick ground vegetation. What caught my eye was her eye; she was looking out at me. Ovenbird nests are open on the side (hence the name), but the opening on this one was so small that her head was the only part of her I could see. Best of all, she did not flush. She was depending on camouflage for protection, and it worked. After a few seconds I backed off and wrote my notes elsewhere. I didn't want to disturb these birds again and have no idea whether they succeeded. But the image of that brave little warbler looking back at me from her secure nest is something I will never forget.

EASTERN TOWHEE, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

This is another species whose nests are hard to find, since they are typically on the ground in thick cover. I haven't often looked hard for them and had found only two prior to this year, both pre-Atlas. Of 36 confirmations of towhees so far in the county during the Atlas period, all but one have been made by seeing the birds carrying nest material or food, or fledglings, or the adults feeding young out of the nest. (Indeed, those are the easiest ways to confirm most birds.)

The one exception came on July 7, when I was walking in the dunes at Crane Beach in Ipswich. This is a place where I have long had permission to go off-trail to look for nesting birds and to conduct Christmas counts. Towhees, which are abundant in the dunes, were one of my target species, and I was focusing on the patches of thick shrubby growth rather than the open areas, which are covered with *Hudsonia*. This is a low-growing ground cover that thrives exclusively in sand, and it is only a few inches high. It is nicknamed "poverty grass" because of its dull gray-green color.

One can imagine my surprise, then, when I flushed a female Eastern Towhee from a nest while walking through a broad swath of *Hudsonia*. I had never found *anything* nesting in that ground cover. The nest contained four towhee eggs and was many yards from the nearest thick cover. It was nevertheless well concealed by a sprig of *Hudsonia*, teaching me yet again that birds are versatile in their choices of nest sites. This is what makes nest-finding so fascinating for me. Birds are not always predictable! 

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Jim Berry is the Essex County regional coordinator for the Breeding Bird Atlas. He is looking forward to the end of the field work so he can concentrate on finishing his book on the birds of Essex County.



THREE JUVENILE EASTERN BLUEBIRDS BY DAVID LARSON

Red Knots in Massachusetts: An Historical Perspective

Brian Harrington, Norman P. Hill, and Blair Nikula

During the late 1800s and early 1900s Massachusetts naturalists like George Mackay (1893) wrote compelling accounts showing that numbers of migrant shorebirds visiting the Massachusetts coast had declined dramatically. The stated—and rather obvious—cause of these declines was unrelenting killing of shorebirds, principally by market hunters and sportsmen in North America, but perhaps also by lesser numbers of gunners in South America. For example, Mackay wrote:

It was at this time that the vicious practice of ‘fire-lighting’ them prevailed, and a very great number of them were thus killed on the flats at night in the vicinity of Billingsgate... I have it directly from an excellent authority that he has seen in the spring, six barrels of these birds... at one time, on the deck of the Cape Cod packet for Boston.

Six barrels, if they were the standard 55 gallons that comprise our modern “barrel,” might have represented five to seven *thousand* knots.

Mackay went on to write:

I have reason for believing that they have been shot also in large numbers on the Atlantic Seaboard (Virginia) in the spring on their way north... one such place shipping to New York City in a single spring, from April 1 to June 3, upward of six thousand Plover, a large share of which were Knots. This was about thirty years ago [i.e. about 1865] and bears out the belief of today that the knots in great measure have been killed off.

After his careful review (1912), Edward Howe Forbush, the great Massachusetts naturalist, raised the specter of extinction of once common shorebird species such as the Red Knot, which then was better known as the “Robin Snipe.” These and other shorebirds continued to be legally hunted after Forbush’s 1912 writings and even after passage of the Migratory Bird Act in 1918. Soon after passage of this act, most kinds of shorebirds (excluding woodcock and snipe) came under legal protection even though, to this day, shorebirds are technically considered to be game birds.

We know of little synthesized information about how shorebird numbers may or may not have recovered following the legal acts giving them protection, aside from sad realities for species like the Eskimo Curlew which is now extinct. As it happens, some of the best resources that chronicle how shorebird numbers in the Western Hemisphere have changed during the last 200 years come from Massachusetts. One of the species for which there is especially good information is the Red Knot, with accounts dating back to Nuttall (1834), who noted that “They seem like a diminutive army marshaled in rank and spreading their animated lines.”

In our present account we have assembled a perspective on numbers of knots using the Massachusetts coast during the last 60 years, and show how numbers may have fluctuated following protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Some curious and interesting findings come to light.

In years following the accounts outlined above, Forbush (1925) noted that knots were “evidently increasing on New England coasts.” We aimed to have our account pick up in years following 1925 but found little information prior to the late 1930s. But we believe that a good representation of numbers of knots on the Massachusetts coast develops following 1940. To build this, we searched through journals and other accounts of shorebird numbers available through compilations such as *The Records of New England Birds*, *Bird Observer*, *American Birds* and its predecessors, and the International Shorebird Surveys. We also searched through our own field notes and those of Ludlow Griscom (archived at the Peabody Museum, Salem, MA) to find counts that had been recorded since about 1940.

More than 90% of the knots represented in the records we reviewed were from two regions of Massachusetts, so we have focused our attention to those regions, including shores of western Cape Cod Bay in the Plymouth/Scituate region and the eastern-most sections of outer Cape Cod in the Chatham/Orleans region.

The pattern that develops from our work is one of increasing numbers of knots on the Massachusetts coast between about 1940 and peaks during the late 1960s and early 1970s. At peak, a minimum of 6000 knots were visiting Massachusetts during southward migrations (Figure 1). The majority, however, were now using the Plymouth/Scituate region of the Massachusetts coast. This region was not mentioned in the historical accounts from the 1800s and early 1900s. Today we find relatively

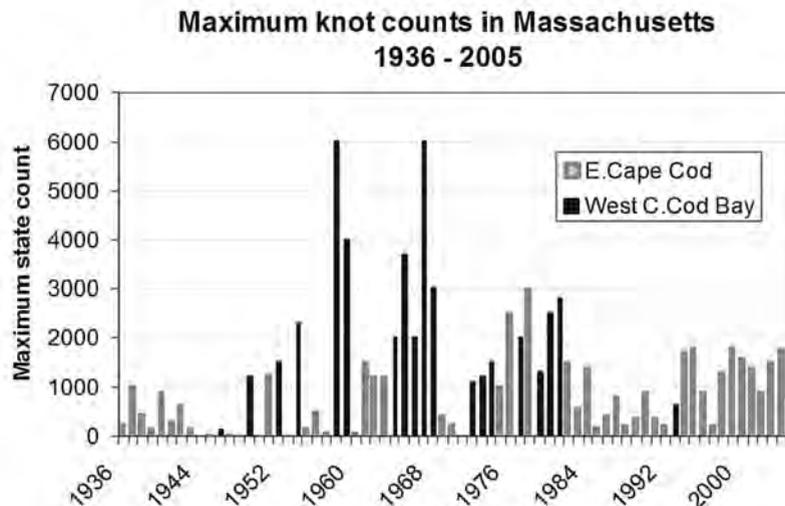


Figure 1. Maximum knot counts in Massachusetts, 1936-2006

few knots reported from the Cape Cod shores of Cape Cod Bay; this is where the highest numbers in the 1800s had been seen. On the other hand, starting in 1946 knots began to appear in higher numbers on the Western shores of Cape Cod Bay, specifically the estuaries and bays in the Scituate and Plymouth region (Figure 1).

As illustrated in the graph, counts here increased through the 1950s and 1960s to a point where most of the ones in Massachusetts occurred here. In the 1970s and early 1980s roughly equivalent numbers of knots were visiting eastern Cape Cod and western Cape Cod Bay. Later in the 1980s the large flocks of knots essentially stopped using the sites on western Cape Cod Bay, and since then all of the larger counts have been from the eastern Cape Cod sites.

Another interesting result of our study has been learning that the historically high numbers of knots reported by Mackay and Forbush (see above) were largely from the spring migration period. In our research, we found only one large spring count of knots since the 1920s, roughly five thousand on Monomoy Island during the spring of 1953 (Hill, 1965).

Using data from the International Shorebird Surveys, where shorebirds are counted about every 10 days during spring and fall migration, we also have found a curious change in times when southward migration of knots is happening in Massachusetts. In Figure 2 we compare the migration timing on Cape Cod (lower graph) to the western Cape Cod Bay sites (upper graph). Prior to 1990 the timing patterns are virtually identical in both regions, but more recently (dashed lines) the timing has changed (as compared to before 1990) on the Outer Cape sites but not on the western sites. 

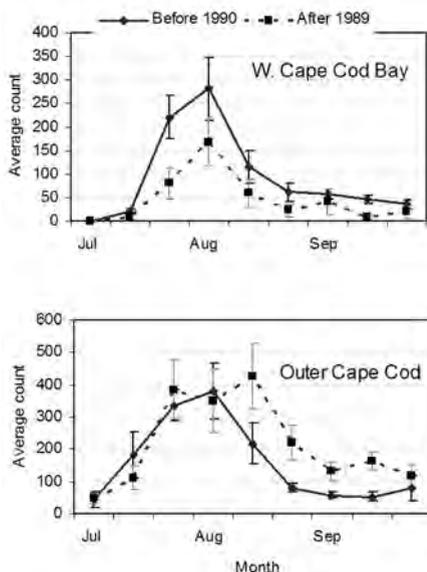


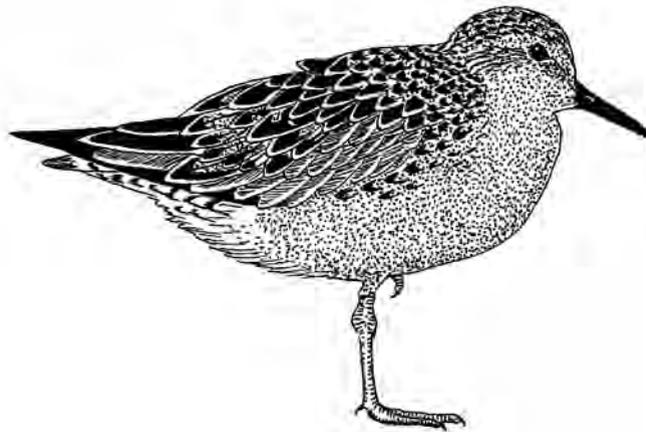
Figure 2. Migration timing of knots in Massachusetts has changed in the last 2 decades.

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Brian Harrington has been a biologist with Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences since 1971 and is now retired and on emeritus status. During his tenure most of his work focused on shorebirds and their migrations, and especially on conservation issues associated with the long-hop migration strategies that many shorebirds employ. His research has been conducted throughout North and South America. One species he has especially focused on is the Red Knot, chosen because it illustrates many of the conservation issues he has documented. Much of this work is described in a popular book, *The Flight of the Red Knot* (WW Norton Co., 1996). Since retirement Brian has continued his work with knots in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts coast continues to be a major migration stopover area for Red Knots, which sadly, have become a highly threatened bird since Brian's work on them began. He claims there is no connection! **Norman P. Hill** is a retired Fall River physician who specialized in internal medicine. Extensively traveled, Dr. Hill has birded on every continent, including some of the most remote locations in the world. A disciple of the late Ludlow Griscom, his experience with birds in Massachusetts, particularly on Cape Cod, is wide-ranging and extensive. Among his published ornithological contributions are the highly acclaimed *Birds of Cape Cod, Massachusetts* (1965) and all of the *Sharp-tailed Sparrow* accounts in *Bent's Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows and Allies* (1968). **Blair Nikula**, a native Cape Codder and lifelong birder, is a former regional editor for *American Birds* (now *North American Birds*), a past-president of the *Cape Cod Bird Club*, and currently serves as a member of the *Mass Avian Records Committee*. He has been surveying shorebirds on *Monomoy/South Beach* for the *International Shorebird Survey* since that program's inception over thirty-five years ago.

For more information about the *International Shorebird Surveys*, *The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan*, or the *Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences*, visit <http://www.manomet.org> and click on appropriate sections. The benchmark study on *Red Knots in the Western Hemisphere* published by the *Cooper Ornithological Society* can be found online at http://myfwc.com/docs/Conservation/FBCI_StatusoftheRedKnot.pdf.



SPRING RED KNOT BY GEORGE C. WEST

Edward Howe Forbush: Popularizer of Bird Study, Conservationist, and “Friend of the Birds”

William E. Davis, Jr.

Edward Howe Forbush was born on April 28, 1858, and lived through the transition from an era when there was virtually no protection for birds to a time when conservation was becoming an important facet in American thought. He began as a boy, shooting birds and small mammals with sling shots and bows and arrows, and by the end of his life on March 7, 1929, he had been at the forefront of every major conservation initiative in New England for three decades (Stone 1929) and had written a number of influential books, including the classic three-volume *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States* (1925, 1927, 1929). He was a major player in the shift from “shotgun ornithology” to the study of live birds (Figure 1).



E. H. Forbush.

Figure 1. Edward Howe Forbush. From Pearson 1930.

set upon by a couple of local hoodlums, he beaned one with a brick, knocking him backwards into a cellar hole.

By the age of 15, he had come to think of himself as a hunter/naturalist, and by 16 he had become active in the Worcester Natural History Society and proficient

Forbush, from Scottish roots, traced his ancestry in the United States at least as far back as 1660. His father, Leander, was a school teacher and administrator, and Edward grew up in a series of locations in and around Boston until he was 12 years old, at which point the family moved to Worcester. As a boy, he spent every spare moment in the fields and woods hunting with home-made bows and arrows or slingshots. Upon moving to Worcester, he had become proficient at drawing birds and mammals and tried his hand at taxidermy. In autobiographical notes quoted by John B. May (1928, p. 41), Forbush recounts some of his early adventures and depicts a boy who was a bit on the reckless side, falling off a shed roof, dropping a match in a bottle of gunpowder, falling into a cistern, setting a brush fire, splitting open his knee with an axe, and numerous other instances when caution might have been the better course of action. When he was

enough with birds to be appointed Curator of Ornithology of the Society's museum (May 1928). He dropped out of school but became an avid reader and writer, describing his many field observations. He organized courses and gave lectures for the museum and began a long and productive publishing career with a series of articles in the local newspaper, the *Worcester Daily Spy*, in 1880, the first of which was "Our Birds in July." His style was a bit purple prose, but his love of birds is evident:

After the noise of your passage has ceased, the birds will gather around, curious to discover its cause, and the fault will be your own if you do not use your eyes as intelligently as they do theirs. Listen for the slightest rustle in the leaves, watch for the swaying of a twig, for these slight signs reveal the presence of some modest songster whose delicate beauty surpasses that of the richest fabrics and whose graceful movements charm the fortunate observer who can find and see our birds at home. (quoted in May 1929, p. 9)

By this time, although he still collected specimens for the museum, he had decided that the study of living birds was more important than the study of dead ones. His commitment to conservation developed early. In his autobiographical notes, Forbush stated:

Such mummies [stuffed birds or study skins] have their uses, but later I came to see that life, not death, would solve all the riddles; that an examination of the dead was merely a preliminary to the study of the living, and that it was more essential to preserve the living than the dead. (quoted in May 1928, p. 39)

At age 18, his father arranged for him to spend a year with Charles J. Maynard in Newton to hone his skills in taxidermy and field ornithology. Maynard was a well-known naturalist and seller of natural history specimens who also offered field courses in ornithology (Davis 2002). Maynard was enthusiastic about young Forbush, as is evident from his recollections:

In 1875 Mr. L. P. Forbush of Worcester, brought his son, Edward H., then a lad of eighteen, to me to receive instruction in taxidermy and ornithology . . . The young man was very enthusiastic and proved to be an apt pupil, soon becoming familiar with the material I had in stock, and was very helpful in filling orders when they came in. He also learned to prepare specimens well and rapidly, not only making up bird skins . . . with skill and neatness, but also learning to mount other animals . . . In short, he became so proficient, that when I went south . . . in 1876, I left him in charge of my business and he proved a very proficient manager. (quoted in May 1929, pp. 11-12)

After his year with Maynard, Forbush took a trip to Florida, a very wild place in the 1880s, collecting birds for the Worcester Natural History Museum and having a variety of adventures, including mixing with a band of murderers. On his return, although the roots of a conservationist had sprouted, he set up a clearing house for natural history specimens, selling to museums and collectors. Eventually he sold his part of the business to Charles. K. Reed who, with his son, Chester A. Reed, was to

become the author of a series of field guides to birds and flowers, which by the 1930s had sold 600,000 copies (Wilson 2010). Forbush thus had an early, albeit indirect, influence on the popularizing of birds and natural history. Towards the end of his career, Forbush hired Maurice Broun and directed him into conservation work. Broun eventually became the first Director of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania (Harwood 1989).

Forbush became vice president and later president of the Worcester Natural History Society, as well as curator at the museum. In 1885, he became director of a natural history summer camp for the Society. He made collecting trips to Florida once again and to the West Coast, in some cases living off the land, eating his collected specimens: “The cormorant, which had been drawn when killed and later put to soak in salt water, was stuffed with wild onions and roasted over the coals. It seemed that more savory game had never passed my lips. The oyster-catchers were excellent . . .” (quoted in May 1928, p. 51). Despite his conservation promptings, he was still, in part, a museum man and endowed with an adventuresome spirit. He survived brushes with catastrophe when his Indian log canoe was swamped during a storm, and while collecting eggs in a sea-bird colony the footing beneath him gave way, and he was only saved by grabbing onto a dead tree.

His professional life changed radically in 1891 when gypsy moths were ravaging the woodlands of Massachusetts, and the Governor set up a commission to do something about it. Forbush was appointed Director for gypsy moth suppression in the state. It proved to be nine years of frustration, petty politics, and inadequate funding, but it may well be that he learned enough about state government during this period to prepare and guide him to his enormous success with governmental agencies during the ensuing 30 years. Forbush collaborated with Charles H. Fernald in the preparation of a book, *The Gypsy Moth* (1896), published by the State Board of Agriculture, which was to become a classic and set the pattern of having his books published by the State of Massachusetts, a model that was to serve him well. Another positive result of his gypsy moth work was that in 1893 he was appointed Ornithologist to the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture—birds do eat lots of insects.

In 1900, he bought a facility at Wareham where he studied the role of birds in agriculture, both for insect and weed control, and published his results in a booklet, *Two Years with the Birds on a Farm* (1903), which was revised and published in 1908, 1920, and 1923. He chose to take the practical approach to selling bird conservation to the public: birds had a sound, practical, monetary value. He also included sections in his booklet on bird feeding in winter, including suet, and putting out bird boxes in spring.

Forbush was not adverse to eliciting the help of others in his quest to get the Massachusetts Legislature to fund his publication projects. In a 1905 letter to William Brewster, then President of the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS), he relates securing the support of the National Association of Audubon Societies (NAAS) and the MAS for the legislative bill to fund the publication of *Useful Birds and Their Protection*:

Dear Mr. Brewster.

Since I saw you last I have done nothing in relation to the publication of the report on useful birds and their protection; but a bill (House.245) has been prepared by the Committee of our Board and introduced by Mr Jewett of Worcester. Mr Dutcher [President of NAAS] wrote me asking for some separates of my Auk article as I told you and when I replied I mentioned the project of the report and that you favored it.

Mr D. replied that he was much interested and would come on here and advocate the bill before the committees if I thought it would do any good. Last night I received a letter from Mr Allen (FH.), stating that Mr Hoffman [MAS] and Mr Dutcher had had some correspondence about the bill and that Mr Dutcher had advocated that the Mass Audubon Society take strenuous measures to push it, as he believes with me that work of this kind to influence Public sentiment in favor of bird protection is most important. (Letter, Forbush to Brewster, February 1, 1905, Special Collections, Ernst Mayr Library, Harvard)

In 1905, the Commonwealth authorized publication of a “special report on the birds of the Commonwealth, economically considered” (May 1928), and in 1907 *Useful Birds and Their Protection* was published. The conservation message in the title is clear, and again, Forbush made the practical argument that bird protection has economic merit—if you want to be persuasive, look to the bottom line. The book was such a success that it went through a second printing in 1907, a third in 1908, and a fourth in 1913. Forbush, who had worked at developing artistic abilities when he was learning taxidermy, contributed dozens of illustrations to the 1907 book (Figures 2-4). Obviously building a successful and influential career, Forbush was appointed State Ornithologist in 1908, and in 1920, following the restructuring of the Board of Agriculture into the Department of Agriculture, he was appointed Director of the Division of Ornithology.

In 1912, he wrote another landmark book, *A History of the Game Birds, Wildfowl and Shore Birds*, again published by the Board of Agriculture. The book had a strong conservation focus. He also produced a veritable barrage of conservation propaganda through a variety of publication outlets. He wrote ten *Educational Leaflets* for the National Association of Audubon Societies (NAAS), and he produced an *Items of Interest* monthly compendium of observations from a cadre of up to 800 people throughout the region. He wrote a series of *Nature Leaflets* for the State

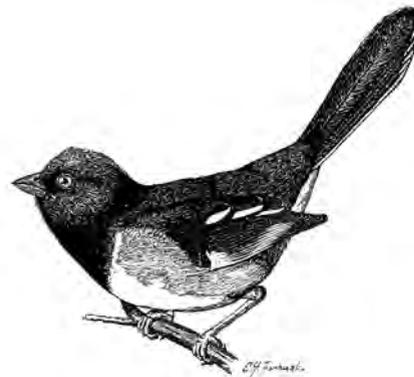


Figure 2. Eastern Towhee. From Forbush 1907.



Figure 3. Ovenbird. From Forbush 1907.

Board of Agriculture, including “Winter birds at the farm” (No. 12), “Owl Friends” (No. 14), and “How to approach birds” (No. 24). His contributions to the Board of Agriculture’s *Circular* series, included one (1915a) that highlighted the European Starling’s competition with native species for food and nest sites, and another (1915b) on the virtues of bird houses and nesting boxes. Time and time again, Forbush pushed a conservation perspective in his published reports to the Board of Agriculture. For example, in his report to the Board in 1905, he pulled no punches in identifying the major culprit in the destruction of birds, and in 1907 he

defended the natural role of raptors, which at the time were heavily persecuted:

The destruction of birds by the elements or by their natural enemies, is not to be compared for a moment with that inflicted by man on all species that come within the scope of his wants. (1905, p. 54)

It appears, then, that under natural conditions the birds of prey destroy merely the unfit and surplus individuals of the species on which they prey, and do not, on the whole, reduce their numbers below what the land will support. (1907, p. 13)

Forbush published conservation-orientated articles in a number of magazines and journals, including *Bird-Lore*, *Forest and Stream*, *Youth’s Companion*, and *The Auk*. He also frequently wrote articles for newspapers across Massachusetts and throughout New England. His total number of publications on birds was about 150 (Cheney 1928). In addition to his published works, Forbush was a tireless lecturer, spreading his conservation message at every available opportunity. According to May (1929), he gave hundreds of conservation lectures in New England and frequently appeared at legislative hearings in all of the New England states. In 1908 alone, Forbush gave 82 lectures in five New England states to nearly 20,000 people (Forbush, quoted in Pearson 1930, p. 141).

Forbush’s publications continued long after his death in 1929, and references to his work still appear today. A decade after Forbush’s death, Houghton Mifflin in Boston published a book *Natural History of the Birds of Eastern and Central North America* (Forbush and May 1939), which was a condensation and revision of Forbush’s *The Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*. It became very popular and went through a number of printings. In another example, Forbush’s 1916 article “The Domestic Cat: bird killer, mouser, and destroyer of wildlife,” was discussed at length in a 1991 article in the MAS’s *Sanctuary* magazine (Karr 1991).

Forbush had a long history with William Brewster of Cambridge. Brewster was the leader of the group of young ornithologists who, in 1873, founded the Nuttall Ornithological Club (NOC), the first organization dedicated to the studies of birds in North America, and the parent organization for the American Ornithologists' Union launched a decade later. The NOC had two levels of membership, Resident and Corresponding, and Forbush, because of his location in Worcester, became a Corresponding member in 1876 (Davis 1987). Brewster frequently sought help and information on one bird or another, and sometimes the answers provide insight into the youthful Forbush, his emphasis on studying live birds, and occasionally on some of his problems:

You ask for positive proof of occurrence of some birds 1st Acadian Flycatcher. . . . Four years since in June George Bigelow and myself saw a pair on the edge of swamp in Auburn, but I delayed shooting them as I wished to watch them and finally they got into the swamp which was a thick cedar. I cannot give exact data as all my note books covering this period were carefully burned by my wife who [thought] that they were of no account. (Letter, Forbush to Brewster, February 2, 1887, Special Collections, Ernst Mayr Library, Harvard)

One wonders whether Mrs. Forbush thought that maybe Edward was spending a bit too much time in the field.

Over the next several decades, Forbush remained in contact with Brewster and frequently supplied him with bird specimens. (Brewster had one of the finest private collections of bird skins in North America.) Some of Forbush's correspondence with Brewster suggests the degree to which the "shotgun school" of ornithology dominated late nineteenth century thinking and its impact on rare or declining birds. In one example, Forbush wrote:

The parakeets [Carolina Parakeets] are not fine skins by any means. But they are fair and I can make them up nicely if you wish. In regard to the parakeets, Bailey sold all he shot except those which he took just before coming home. I believe there are a doz. & he exterminated the flock. (Letter, Forbush to Brewster, April 26, 1889, Special Collections, Ernst Mayr Library, Harvard)

In 1889, Forbush was instrumental in establishing a bird club in Worcester and wrote a letter to Brewster about it:

Dear Mr. Brewster

. . . We have just organized a new ornithological club here of which I have the honor of being temporarily president. The name adopted is the Brewster Ornithological Club. I have been requested to inform you of this selection and ask you to allow the club the use of your name. We shall consider it an honor to the club and hope you will not consider that it will compromise your reputation. (Letter, Forbush to Brewster, May 23, 1889, Special Collections, Ernst Mayr Library, Harvard)



Figure 4. Brown Creeper. From Forbush 1907.

During the first decade of the twentieth century, Forbush became close friends with William Brewster, arguably New England's most prominent ornithologist of the time, and often stayed with him at his "October Farm" on the banks of the Concord River, where the two men made many canoe trips together. In 1906, when Brewster published *Birds of the Cambridge Region*, Forbush wrote Brewster with warm congratulations: "I have been going over your *Birds of the Cambridge Region* carefully and have read some parts of it twice. It is in my opinion a classic." (Letter, Forbush to Brewster, September 16, 1906, Special Collections, Ernst Mayr Library, Harvard)

Brewster was President of the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) and probably stimulated Forbush's interest in the workings of the Society, although Forbush was obviously involved with the organization, having been one of the founding members. In 1907, Forbush became the Field Agent for the National Association of Audubon Societies (NAAS) and in this capacity began his formal interactions with MAS. He became a member of the Board of Directors in 1908. Forbush tended to be a stronger advocate of all aspects of bird conservation than Brewster, who, for example, did not agree with proposed legislation, which Forbush was pushing, that would prohibit the sale of wild game. This was brought up for discussion at a 1911 Board of Directors meeting, and Brewster threatened to resign. The situation festered into 1913, when Brewster did hand in his letter of resignation. Forbush, in an attempt to forestall Brewster's resignation, wrote to him:

My dear Mr. Brewster:-

I received your letter of July 4th, enclosing your tender of resignation as President of the Audubon Society and also as a member of the Board of Directors. Of course, I shall have to keep this until the next director's meeting, and I hope and trust that before that time comes and after you have had a chance to think the matter over fully you may be willing to recall this action. . . . I have a personal reason for hoping that you may recall it and that is that so long as you remain director of the Audubon Society, I have always before me the hope that I shall see you at each director's meeting, and that is a strong inducement to keep me constantly in attendance. . . I am sure that they [the Board] will be unanimous in asking you to continue, partly from selfish reasons such as my own and partly because they realize what a tower

of strength you are to the organization. (Letter: Forbush to Brewster, July 7, 1913, Special Collections, Ernst Mayr Library, Harvard)

In December, 1913, Brewster did resign, and in 1914 Forbush succeeded Brewster as President of MAS, and he continued in this capacity until 1925 (Walton and Davis 2010). Forbush, working through the MAS, was influential in passing landmark federal legislation for bird protection. In 1913, Forbush was on the MAS Protection Committee, which coordinated its work with the NAAS, and he was sent to work on the 1913 tariff bill, which would ban importation of wild bird plumage for anything other than scientific or educational purposes, and the Weeks-McLean Law, which enabled provisions for the protection of migratory birds. In 1913, he was appointed to the US Department of Agriculture Advisory Board, which was established to advise the Department in handling regulations under the original Migratory Bird Act (May 1928).

In 1916, when the Migratory Bird Convention was nearly through Congress, a provision was brought up to allow for spring waterfowl shooting. The NAAS, under the threat of Congress abolishing the Biological Survey, acquiesced, but not the Massachusetts Audubon Society, still a powerful player in national policy decisions. Forbush, then president of MAS and long an opponent of spring shooting, sent in his letter of resignation to the NAAS and mobilized a continuing fight against the provision (Walton and Davis 2010). The Migratory Bird Convention was passed in December, 1916, and, although the spring shooting provision was included, hunting was not allowed after January 15. He also served on the Advisory Board of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, so his conservation work extended beyond national boundaries.

While President of MAS, Forbush was also involved with more scientific endeavors. In 1922, he was a founder and first President of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association (now Association of Field Ornithologists), although he remained as President for only a single year (Davis 2000). Virtually all of his writings were prefatory to his *magnum opus: The Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*. The first two parts (volumes) were published in 1925 and 1927, and the final part was nearly complete at the time of his death. Its publication was seen to by his successor as Massachusetts State Ornithologist, John B. May, who included an extensive biographical sketch of Forbush (May 1929). These volumes contained, among other things, the definitive accounts of species distribution in the New England states up to that time (Berry 2002).

Some of the species accounts are really engaging. Each account has a “Haunts and Habits” section, where Forbush waxes eloquent and includes little nuggets or snippets of information reported to him over the years by his cadre of correspondents. His language is often a bit flowery, but he brings the species to life. For example, Forbush opens the Haunts and Habits section on the Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) in the following glowing terms:

When autumn comes, when the leaves have turned to crimson and gold,
when white frost lies on the meadows at sunrise, when noisy jays and busy

squirrels are gathering their winter stores, then on the winding reaches of some sluggish river where the pickerel-weed and arrow-plant grow and where wild rice and cattail flags wave in the breeze, we may find the 'water-witches.' If undisturbed and at ease, they ride almost as lightly and buoyantly upon the water as an Indian canoe or an autumn leaf wafted along the surface. When apprehensive they sink slowly down, swimming with only the head or head and neck above water; but when really alarmed they go under so quickly that one can hardly see how they vanish. (Forbush 1925, p. 12)

Years later, noted writer E. B. White extolled the virtues of Forbush and his prose in a *New Yorker* article: "Annals of Birdwatching: Mr. Forbush's Friends" (1966). E. B. White thought that the *Haunt and Habits* sections were a delight:

Some are contributors of articles to nature publications, from which Mr. F has lifted a juicy passage. But scattered through the three volumes are the names of hundreds of amateurs and strangers, who by reporting some oddity of bird behavior or recording an unlikely arrival have achieved immortality; their names are embedded in the text of 'Birds of Massachusetts' as firmly as a bottle cap in a city pavement. Their lives, from the evidence, appear to be wonderfully haphazard and fortuitous.

White then goes on to list (sometimes heavily edited) dozens of his favorite snippets from the Forbush volumes, including :

Mr. Harold Cooke of Kingston. Found puffin in garage, offered it spaghetti. Spaghetti was accepted. February 1, 1922.

Mr. Stanley C. Jewett. Asserts that wounded red-breasted merganser at Netarts Bay, Oregon, dived to submerged root in three feet of water and died while clinging there. Apparent suicide. May, 1915.

Mr. George H. Mackay again. Presented Mr. Forbush with head of female eider duck that had been found dying on Nantucket with large mussel in mouth. Mussel had closed on bird's tongue. Bird starved. Mussel remained alive, did not relax grip. January 3, 1923.

White concluded: "If Edward Howe Forbush's prose is occasionally overblown, this results from a genuine ecstasy in the man, rather than from lack of discipline"—White clearly found reading Forbush a lot of fun.

As Forbush neared the compulsory retirement age of 70, plans went forward to honor the man and his long and fruitful career. He had been elected a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1903 and Fellow in 1912, attesting to his national reputation. He received a gold metal from the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture for "Outstanding achievement in economic ornithology," and the Federation of New England Bird Clubs established "The Edward Howe Forbush Wild Life Sanctuary" in Berkshire County. The Associated Wildlife Committees for Wild Life Conservation hosted a dinner for Forbush at the University Club in Boston, with 125 friends attending (Pearson 1930). May praised him (1929):

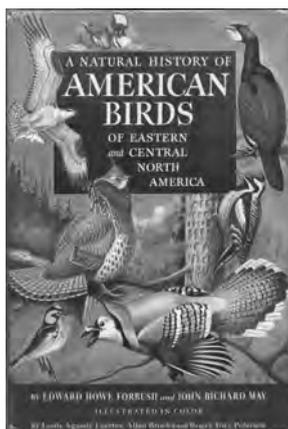
He was modest and unassuming in his bearing, but when, as the result of thorough investigation and keen judgment, he formed an opinion, he was ready to back it against any man or group of men, and his ideas were valued accordingly. His kindness, his saving touch of humor, his never-failing sense of justice, won friends even among those who opposed him in matters of policy in conservation, and he accomplished his ends with a minimum of effort as, tall, spare, and almost ascetic in appearance, he moved quietly about his chosen work. (May 1929, p. 31)

This statement may drift into a bit of hyperbole, but the evidence clearly indicates that Edward Howe Forbush was a highly successful leader in conservation circles and truly, as May put it, “A friend of the birds.” 🐦

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- William (Ted) E. Davis, Jr.** is Professor Emeritus at Boston University and the Cover Art Editor of *Bird Observer*. He thanks John Kricher for helpful comments on earlier drafts of this article.



Forbush and May 1939

ABOUT BOOKS

Going Coastal

Mark Lynch

Bayshore Summer: Finding Eden in a Most Unlikely Place. Pete Dunne. 2010. Boston, Massachusetts: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Half an Hour a Day on Foot: An Obsessive Exploration of the Nature of the South Shore of Boston. John J. Galluzzo. 2009. Self published.

To stand at the edge of the sea, to sense the ebb and flow of the tides, to feel the breath of a mist moving over a great salt marsh, to watch a flight of shorebirds that have swept up and down the surf lines of the continents for untold thousands of years, to see the running of the old eels and the young shad to sea, is to have knowledge of things that are as nearly eternal as any earthy life can be.

Rachel Carson

As any old Taoist walking out of the woods can tell you, simple-minded does not necessarily mean stupid.

Benjamin Hoff

Just as in a romance with a significant other, a person can carry on a love affair with a place, sometimes in a complex and crazy manner. It may start with the equivalent of dating, a series of visits to a location that becomes fascinating. You feel a certain connection. Something clicks, and you are hooked. Or, maybe like that certain girl or boy next door, you grew up knowing that place with all its ins and outs, and over time this familiarity developed into a deep love of the home turf. However it begins, we soon find that we are happiest when we are hiking, birding, or just being in that special place. Obviously we love the beauty and uniqueness of the spot, and over time we also learn to accept and even enjoy that place's foibles and idiosyncrasies. Granted, it may not be a perfect place, and we may wonder why it took so long to discover this town, this forest, and these trails. When we are not there, we miss the place and yearn to be there. We feel more relaxed and more ourselves when we are there. And like any great long-term relationship, there is always something new to explore and learn. I carry on such an *affaire de la geographie* with an area of the Southern Berkshires. Luckily, my wife Sheila shares my passion. Below, I review what are essentially two mash notes to two very different eastern coastal locations, both books passionate testaments by birders to a deep love of place.

Pete Dunne writes like he birds, with enthusiasm, boundless energy, humor, and genuine passion. Every time I have interviewed Pete, I find myself smiling. He is one of the most recognized names in contemporary North American birding because of his numerous books, articles, and his work as Vice President of the New Jersey Audubon Society and Director of its Cape May Bird Observatory. *Bayshore*



Summer is the second volume in a four-book series based on the seasons. The first book, *Prairie Spring: A Journey Into the Heart of a Season*, was published in 2009. This series should attract a wider audience for Pete Dunne's writing. But *Bayshore Summer* will be unique in the series because it is about home.

On most of our projects—including *Prairie Spring*—Linda and I have been far from home. Any item left on the kitchen table, however critical, was destined to remain there until we returned, weeks or months later. This project is different. This book is about home, the place we have chosen to live our adult lives. (p. 3)

Dunne's home is a particular area of southern New Jersey, the Delaware Bayshore. Somehow even today the bay shore has remained off the beaten track. It is an area of pine barrens, salt marshes, and beaches with crowds of horseshoe crabs and migrant shorebirds instead of sunbathers. The bay shore is a spot where few day-trippers ever end up and is mostly known only to locals, a number of whom still live lives intimately connected to the land and sea.

A land of black ducks and blue mud. Tight-knit communities composed of cedar-roofed and dowel-framed houses that hark back to a time when two-masted schooners and two story homes were built by the same men. (p. 14)

Only a few pages into *Bayshore Summer*, the reader seriously begins to wonder why Pete Dunne would write this book, because if he lived in such an Eden, he wouldn't want to publicize it.

Because of Dunne's love and closeness to the subject, the reader soon becomes like a favorite weekend visitor to a very gracious and enthusiastic host who feels he has to show you all his personal favorite spots. Each chapter is a mini adventure. Dunne goes out and hauls traps with blue crab fishermen, cuts and bales saltmarsh hay, hangs with the hopefuls on a party fishing boat, and talks with migrant farmers picking the renowned Jersey big red tomatoes. Sometimes he's just on his own, marveling at the colors of the salt marsh after a storm or enjoying the Perseid meteor shower in a secluded spot. He meticulously catalogues the biting invertebrates of the salt marsh, starting with the no-see-ums and working his way up through strawberry flies and ending with "the most feared predators of the marsh," (p. 99) greenhead flies.

While no-see-ums can be snuffed with a brush and strawberry flies give up the ghost at a swat, greenheads seem armor-plated and gifted with more lives than a cat. When you swat a greenhead, you learn to plant your hand and roll the insect beneath applied pressure. Even if you hear the crunch or snap that in the case of a strawberry fly means "game's over," you learn never to assume a greenhead is dead. (p. 102)

Every birder who has visited Plum Island or Monomoy in mid summer will immediately identify with Dunne's grudging admiration for the tenacious and wily greenhead. Yes, the greenheads are relentless, and their bites are shockingly painful, but they are also a kind of birder's badge of courage, the price any hardcore pays for

searching for a Least Bittern or flocks of migrant shorebirds. Besides, those greenheads make for great yarn spinning later, toughening up the image of the birder.

Bayshore Summer is an intimate and loving portrait of a place teetering on the edge of modernity. The onslaughts of sprawl and development so far have been kept at bay, and Dunne would dearly love that it always remains that way. The lives of the local fishermen and farmers are still intimately connected to the land and the creatures that live in it. Time and again, Dunne uncovers the considerable natural history knowledge of the longtime bay shore residents, the kind of understanding that can only come with living and eking out a living in a place for many generations. Dunne's passion for the area is palpable on every page, and his writing style conveys his emotional ties to the area: sometimes giddy, sometimes poetic. He is as interested in conveying the aesthetic experience of the marsh as detailing its natural history.

It's not just their delicate beauty that makes marsh pinks so standout showy. It's the backdrop of green—uniform in color but not in texture. In places, the marsh looked like some large dog had turned trampling circles in the grass and now left its bed. The “cowlicks” are a signature characteristic of *Spartina patens*, the fine “salt hay” that is the dominant vegetation of high marsh. Each stalk is fitted with a weak spot near its base that is designed to give as the plant matures, allowing the stalk to surrender its vertical stance for a horizontal recline. The weight of one weakening neighbor topples the next, and the grasses fall into swirling patterns that recall plastered down cowlicks. (p .139)

A number of color photographs taken at the bay shore by Linda Dunne beautifully accompany the text.

For any birder who has fallen in love with the salt marsh and the coastal environment or even just found a special birding location you hope remains the same forever, *Bayshore Summer* is the chronicle of an exciting summer by a kindred spirit.

Most birders know John J. Galluzzo as one of the essential figures of the Massachusetts South Shore birding community, a Mass Audubon trip leader and a Breeding Bird Atlas Regional Coordinator. He is also a prolific writer, having written and published over fifteen books about the history of the South Shore, typically focusing on areas like Hull, Scituate, and Nantasket Beach. At the end of 2008 he decided on a very particular project for 2009 after listening to a National Public Radio show: to walk 30 minutes every day. The reasons were entirely to improve his health.



I planned on making this my New Year's Resolution, a half hour a day on foot. But I couldn't wait. I'm 37 years old, 275 pounds, hypothyroid, pre-diabetic with a dead gall bladder, and I'm frustrated about my health. No matter what I have to do, in 2009, I will walk for a half an hour a day, at least. (p. 7)

I also want to mention he was in nicotine withdrawal. Along the way, Galluzzo kept detailed notes of the land and blogged about the weather, the birds, mammals, herps, and flowers he encountered and even started a sub-project, to see how many strangers he could say “hello” to while out hiking. The day-by-day diary of this mission has now been published as *Half an Hour a Day on Foot: An Obsessive Exploration of the Nature of the South Shore of Boston*.

There are a few gaps in this quest. For 73 days of the year, John was not on the South Shore. This doesn't mean he wasn't walking, but he was hiking in other places in Massachusetts, like Boston, Worcester, Cape Cod, and Nantucket. He also put in his thirty minutes in out-of-state locations like Lake Tahoe, Pennsylvania, Block Island, the Delmarva Peninsula, and Gettysburg. These non-South Shore ramblings have been published in a companion volume titled *Half an Hour On Foot: Stepping Out of Bounds*. John also discloses that, for a few days in October, he was down with pneumonia and in no condition to walk.

Galluzzo's account of this personal project makes entertaining reading, sometimes in surprising ways. It helps that John is good company. Though his prose is spare and often basic, he also has a sense of humor that pops up unexpectedly. The readers feel that they are along for the walk as Galluzzo trudges through park, seashore, forest, and marsh in fair weather and foul. The weather doesn't always cooperate, and Galluzzo does not portray himself as some rugged outdoorsman impervious to the elements. He grouches and complains loudly when it's too windy, too cold, or too wet. During early summer there is a stretch of several weeks when rain falls every day. Of course, Galluzzo is out on the pathways no matter what, and the phrase “Did I mention that it is still raining?” becomes the mantra for a number of entries.

Though John seeks out many places very familiar to birders across the state, like Wompatuck State Park, the Cumberland Farm fields, or Manomet Point, Plymouth, the reader is also introduced to numerous conservation areas and even small city parks likely known mostly to locals. Galluzzo makes a point of pulling out maps and heading to the few places or trails he isn't familiar with or has only heard about. Sometimes this new place is a revelation, but at other times the spot is a disappointment. On April 12, Galluzzo visits Faxon Park in Quincy, a new location for him. What he finds is an abused parcel of land that, with some clean-up and policing, could be a green gem instead.

I should have guessed, though, that I would find signs of rampant vandalism at the park. There's an inverse proportionality at work in public parks near great metropolitan places. The farther one moves from the city, the greener the park; the closer one is to the city, the heavier the misuse and abuse of the land. (p. 101)

John Galluzzo is a passionate natural historian, so the reader is privy to his genuine excitement at every bird sighting, every flower noted for the first time that year, every frog or snake encountered. Sometimes it's just the joy of standing in a beautiful place and being able to pause to soak it all in. But what separates *Half an*

Hour a Day on Foot from other local natural histories is Galluzzo's deep knowledge of South Shore human history. Almost every page contains some recounting of what person used to live in a house he is passing or what used to exist near a park he is exploring.

There's a very familiar house here, the place where Isaac Sprague lived, one of my favorite all-time characters. Isaac was an artist with immense skill, so good that John James Audubon took him up the Missouri River with him to sketch wildlife in 1843. He kept the most boring diary in the world, entering the weather for year after year until he finally hit upon two majestic words—"Married Hannah"—before going right back to the weather for years into the future. (p. 156)

This considerable knowledge of South Shore history is combined with personal recollections from Galluzzo's own childhood, making *Half an Hour a Day on Foot* an entertaining and informative guide to the South Shore.

What I found most surprising about Galluzzo's perambulatory diary is how it conveyed the slow but sure passage of the seasons and the day-to-day variations of weather. Spring happens slowly over many entries in the book and not without some setbacks. Time cannot be rushed, and the changes that annually occur in the natural history of the area happen at their own pace, ignoring our expectation and desire to rush the season. Because *Half an Hour a Day on Foot* is not just about the high points of the year, but all the days, events seem to slow down to the pace of a good daily walk. You have time to catch your breath, take in the view, and ponder what you are seeing along with John.

Half an Hour a Day on Foot is not a great book—at times it reads too much like a blog, and it could use a caring editor—but it is undeniably an enjoyable book. I found myself getting wrapped up in John's journeys, both geographical and personal. While you are learning about the flora, fauna, and history of the South Shore, you cannot help but root for John Galluzzo and his obsessive exploration of his home turf. "I never feel so alive as when I'm sharing the knowledge and information I have, and engaging in conversations that help me see things from a different perspective." (p. 99) 

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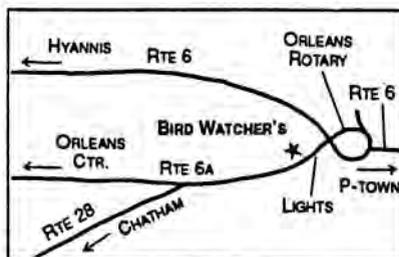
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BIRD SIGHTINGS

March/April 2010

Seth Kellogg, Marjorie W. Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist

March began with a temperature about 6° higher than average, accompanied by strong winds and a lot of rain, which helped melt the February snows. The mild weather continued until March 27, when the temperature finally fell below average, ending an amazing stretch of 46 days with average to above-average readings. A record-setting 14.77 inches of rain was recorded in Boston, 10.92 inches above normal for the month. This shattered the previous record of 11.0 inches in March 1953. March 2010 was also the second-wettest of *any* month, second only to 17.09 inches in August 1955 when Hurricanes Connie and Diane hit the northeast in a little over a week's time. A three-day nor'easter from March 13 to 15 dropped nearly seven inches of rain and brought severe flooding. This was followed by two more storms, with 2.30 inches during March 22–24 and 4.93 inches from March 29 to 31. All of New England was affected by the storm, with Rhode Island and Cape Cod getting even more rain. Governor Patrick declared a state of emergency as many rivers reached their highest levels and thousands lost electric power. On the bright side, Boston experienced less than an inch of snow.

April was very warm, almost summer-like, with two new temperature records. The month averaged 53.0°, 4.7° above normal, the second-highest April temperature on record. The highest occurred in April 1975 with an average of 55.1°. Record highs were recorded on April 4, when the mercury hit a balmy 77°, and then a scorching 90° occurred on April 7, the earliest date on record for a 90° reading. This warm weather was not appreciated by birders who lamented the greening of many trees even before the arrival of the first spring migrants. By the last week of April trees were fully leafed out, and bird song was the only way to detect some birds. Rainfall was a welcome 1.78 inches, 1.83 inches below normal, a big difference from the devastating rains of March. Not a trace of snow was noted.

Robert H. Stymeist

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

March and April include the bulk of the spring waterfowl migration, but this year's reports were unusually low. Puddle ducks such as American Wigeon and Northern Pintail, both of which are typically reported in double digits from several locations, broke into the double digits only once each. American Black Ducks are usually reported in the hundreds, but the only report exceeding 26 was at Plum Island. Reasonable numbers of Green-winged Teal were reported, but numbers fell off earlier than usual. Diving ducks were also poorly reported from inland sites: Ring-necked Ducks in triple digits from one location compared to six such locations last year; Lesser Scaup in double digits in two places compared to six last year; Common Mergansers in triple digits only once compared to eight last year. Only the numbers of Ruddy Ducks seemed to hold up well. Among the sea ducks, numbers were similarly poor, with just a handful of reports for the three scoters and Long-tailed Duck and unusually low numbers of Common Goldeneye.

There were some highlights among the waterfowl, but most were lingerers from January and February. A **Barnacle Goose** that showed up in Egremont the last week of February stayed into the first week of March. The two **Tundra Swans** that were reported on Nantucket in January reappeared on March 10. **Eurasian Wigeons** were reported from two new locations. A **Tufted Duck** was discovered in Wayland, not far from where one was seen last March, and another reported from Seekonk pleased birders in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island as it

swam around the East Providence Reservoir on the state line. A pair of **Barrow's Goldeneyes** returned to the same Maynard location where they were reported last March, an excellent inland sighting for this species.

Since 2005 Manx Shearwaters have been reported off Revere Beach starting in April and lingering throughout the summer. They arrived on April 2 this year, the earliest date yet, and as many as 12 individuals were seen. It seems very likely that they are breeding somewhere in Boston Harbor, but this has yet to be confirmed.

Black Vultures were reported from a number of locations beyond their stronghold in Sheffield. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was reported from Rehoboth on April 29, following two sightings in nearby Barrington, Rhode Island, on April 19 and 24. This distinctive vagrant is seldom seen for more than a day, but the proximity of these sightings certainly suggests it was the same bird. Because Broad-winged Hawks typically arrive during the second week of April, the individuals observed in Acton on March 27 and in Southwick on April 2 were unusually early.

The New Marlboro **Sandhill Cranes** arrived on schedule at the end of March. These birds have been seen annually since 2004 and were confirmed breeding in 2006. There has been a marked increase in sightings of this species over the past decade, and it is entirely possible that other pairs are nesting elsewhere in the state.

The shorebird of the season was a **Wilson's Plover**, discovered on Nantucket on March 28. This beats the previous earliest date by three weeks. Another exceptionally early shorebird was a Solitary Sandpiper on Plum Island on April 4. The only earlier record for this species was in Northampton on April 3, 1969. Other early shorebirds included a Lesser Yellowlegs on March 20 and early April reports of Upland Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher.

Three Caspian Terns were reported from inland locations. Roseate Terns arrived early in Mattapoisett on April 26, and a Black Skimmer at Plymouth Beach on April 24 was also early. Bucking the trend of early arrival was a Dovekie photographed on Nantucket on the exceptionally late date of April 22.

Marjorie Rines

Greater White-fronted Goose				Wood Duck			
3/2	Sharon	1	P. + F. Vale	thr	GMNWR	53 max	USFWS
3/7	Hadley	1	B. Zajda	3/20	Cumb. Farms	30	BBC (L. de la Flor)
3/7	Cumb. Farms	1 ad	M. Iliff#	4/2	Pittsfield	20	B. Wood
Snow Goose				4/4	Lenox	25	R. Wheeler
3/1	Concord (NAC)	1 blue	K. O'Neill	4/11	Longmeadow	35	S. Kellogg
3/1-26	P.I.	18 max	v.o.	Gadwall			
3/2-31	Acton	1 imm	C. Johnson	3/4, 4/24	P.I.	75, 37	T. Wetmore
4/1	DWWS	7	J. Galluzzo	3/7	Plymouth	94	G. d'Entremont
4/3-30	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher#	3/20	Arlington Res.	2	M. Rines#
Brant				3/27	Fairhaven	8	M. Lynch#
thr	Squantum	500 max	v.o.	4/4	W. Harwich	7	B. Nikula
thr	P.I.	110 max	v.o.	4/6	Plymouth	76	I. Davies#
3/7	Nantucket	225	K. Blackshaw#	4/10	Longmeadow	2	N. Eaton
3/20	Plymouth	146	I. Davies#	4/24	Hadley	2	S. Sumner
4/1, 17	Nahant	320, 200	L. Privacek	4/27	Ipswich	27	J. Berry
4/6	Orleans	180	P. Trull	Eurasian Wigeon			
4/11	Westport	103	M. Lynch#	3/1-16	Falmouth	1 m	v.o.
Barnacle Goose				3/6-7	Cumb. Farms	1 m	J. Carlisle
3/1-8	Egremont	1	v.o.	3/9-4/18	Nantucket	1 m	v.o.
Cackling Goose				3/13	W. Bridgewater	1	R. Sawyer
3/2, 18	Longmeadow	3, 2	Kellogg, Kingston	4/2-4	W. Harwich	1	O. Spalding
Mute Swan				American Wigeon			
3/7	Gill	24	R. Stymeist#	3/7, 4/8	P.I.	9, 3	Wetmore, Ely
3/27	Turners Falls	29	T. Gagnon	3/11	Sudbury	7	I. Davies#
4/11	Westport	28	M. Lynch#	3/15	Concord (NAC)	4	S. Perkins
Tundra Swan				3/21	Wayland	4	J. Trimble
3/10	Nantucket	2	V. Laux	3/21	S. Quabbin	3	L. Therrien
				3/23	Waltham	4	J. Forbes

American Wigeon (continued)				4/3	Carlisle	10	A. Ankers#
4/3	Newbpt	8	D. Bates#	4/11	Stoughton	10	SSBC (GdE)
4/4	Nantucket	25	K. Blackshaw#	Tufted Duck			
American Black Duck				3/11-16	Seekonk	1 m ph	M. Bornstein#
3/12	Chicopee	19	H. Allen	3/14-21	Wayland	1	J. Hines + v.o.
3/17	P.I.	252	L. Tatino	Greater Scaup			
3/17	Ipswich	44	J. Berry	3/6	Westport	48	R. Stymeist#
3/20	Sheffield	13	M. Lynch#	3/11	Seekonk	75	M. Bornstein
3/21	New Salem	19	B. Lafley	3/13	Falmouth	1100	BBC (M. Keleher)
3/31	Longmeadow	25	S. Kellogg	3/26	Turners Falls	6	B. Lafley
3/21	Fairhaven	26	M. Lynch#	4/3	Revere B.	3	F. Vale
Blue-winged Teal				4/11	Westport	19	M. Lynch#
3/28-4/30	P.I.	10 max	v.o.	4/25	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw#
4/1	DWWS	3	J. Galluzzo	Lesser Scaup			
4/4	Nantucket	10	K. Blackshaw#	3/2	Plymouth	3	R. Bowes
4/5	Newbury	12	P. Peterson	3/11	Sudbury	2	I. Davies#
4/9-11	Longmeadow	4	E. Rutman	3/13	Falmouth	35	BBC (M. Keleher)
4/11	Saugus	4	S. Zende#	3/13	Seekonk	178	M. Lynch#
4/12	Longmeadow	5	T. Alicea	3/13	Wakefield	6	P. + F. Vale
4/24	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2 m	P. Champlin	3/23	Waltham	3	J. Forbes
Northern Shoveler				3/25	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien
3/1-4/3	P.I.	5	v.o.	4/8	P.I.	2	D. Ely
3/6	Cotuit	1 m	S. Moore#	4/11	Westport	2	M. Lynch#
3/20	E. Boston (B.I.)	4	v.o.	King Eider			
3/21	Belmont	2 pr	C. Cook	3/1-4/17	Bourne/Sandwich	1 m	v.o.
3/26	Turners Falls	2	B. Lafley	3/7	Gloucester	1 m	I. Davies#
3/31	Concord (NAC)	2	S. Perkins	4/18	P.I.	1 m imm	S. Grinley#
4/1	Winthrop	3	R. Stymeist	Common Eider			
4/10-13	Longmeadow	2	N. Eaton	3/6	Westport	480	R. Stymeist#
4/18	Woburn (HP)	1 m	M. Rines#	3/7	Nantucket	500	K. Blackshaw#
Northern Pintail				3/12	Bourne	650	M. Keleher
3/1-4/2	P.I.	66 max	v.o.	4/4	N. Truro	450	D. Manchester
3/5-4/17	Longmeadow	1	v.o.	Harlequin Duck			
3/7	Wakefield	1 m	P. + F. Vale	3/6	Westport	9	R. Stymeist#
3/10	Turners Falls	1	H. Allen	3/6	Rockport	58	S. Hedman
3/11	Bolton Flats	9	R. Stymeist	3/25	Orleans	3	P. Trull
3/14	Concord (NAC)	9	S. Perkins	4/1	Bourne	3	I. Davies#
4/18	Mashpee	1	G. Hirth	4/1	Manomet	2	I. Davies#
4/24	Hadley	1	S. Sumner	4/11	P'town	2 m	J. Young
Green-winged Teal				Surf Scoter			
thr	P.I.	147 max	v.o.	4/1	Winthrop	48	R. Stymeist
3/1-4/8	E. Boston (B.I.)	30 max	v.o.	4/13	Truro	1100	B. Nikula
3/11	Bolton Flats	48	R. Stymeist	4/18	Duxbury B.	200	R. Bowes
3/13, 4/13	W. Bridgewater	100, 60	Sawyer, Ryan	4/25	Boston (Deer I.)	66	R. Stymeist#
3/14, 4/20	Concord (NAC)	140, 20	S. Perkins	White-winged Scoter			
3/20	Cumb. Farms	100	B. Cassie	3/11	P.I.	77	D. Chickering
3/21, 4/4	W. Harwich	30, 32	B. Nikula	4/11	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
3/28	Hadley	47	T. Gagnon	Black Scoter			
4/11	Longmeadow	55	S. Kellogg	4/1	Winthrop	11	R. Stymeist
Eurasian Green-winged Teal				4/2	P'town	110	B. Nikula
3/1-3	Yarmouth	1	E. Hoopes	4/10	P.I.	20	T. Wetmore
3/2-8	Concord (NAC)	1 m	S. Perkins	4/11	Westport	2	M. Lynch#
3/6	GMNWR	1	M. + D. Emmons	Long-tailed Duck			
3/21-4/10	W. Harwich	1	B. Nikula	3/27	Fairhaven	1 m	M. Lynch#
4/14	P.I.	1	MAS (D. Weaver)	3/28, 4/27	P.I.	60, 800	Tanino, Wetmore
Canvasback				4/9	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
3/7	Falmouth	2 m, 1 f	G. Hirth	4/11	Westport	13	M. Lynch#
3/9-18	Cambr. (F.P.)	1-3	v.o.	4/25	Boston (Deer I.)	12	R. Stymeist#
3/12-20	Braintree	1 m	v.o.	Bufflehead			
3/21	Nantucket	6	K. Blackshaw#	3/2	Winchester	18	R. LaFontaine
Redhead				3/6	Westport	215	R. Stymeist#
3/1-4/2	Plymouth	1 m	v.o.	3/7	Ipswich (C.B.)	35	J. Berry
3/1-19	Falmouth	1-4 m	v.o.	3/14	Nantucket	75	K. Blackshaw#
3/21	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw#	4/16	P.I.	25	T. Wetmore
Ring-necked Duck				4/19	Nahant	20	D. Bates#
3/8	Marstons Mills	127	M. Keleher	4/23	N. Quabbin	2	M. Lynch#
3/16	Wakefield	59	P. + F. Vale	Common Goldeneye			
3/21	S. Quabbin	77	L. Therrien	3/2	Longmeadow	16	S. Kellogg
3/25	Haverhill	87	S. Mirick	3/6	GMNWR	27	S. Perkins
3/27	Northampton	70	T. Gagnon	3/6	Westport	58	R. Stymeist#
3/27	Turners Falls	78	S. Sumner	3/6	P.I.	28	N. Landry
3/28	W. Warren	99	B. Zajda#	3/8	Winthrop	20	P. + F. Vale
4/1	Peabody	12	P. + F. Vale	4/11	Westport	4	M. Lynch#

Barrow's Goldeneye				Common Loon			
3/5	Hull	1 m	MAS (Galluzzo)	3/7	P.I.	40	T. Wetmore
3/8-4/1	Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab	4/1	Winthrop	24	R. Stymeist
3/10	Fairhaven	1 m	C. Longworth	4/7	Ipswich (C.B.)	22	J. Berry
3/20-4/1	Manomet	1 m ad	I. Davies#	4/11	P'town	38	B. Nikula
3/31	Salisbury	1 m imm	D. Weaver	4/11	Westport	23	M. Lynch#
Hooded Merganser				4/28	Turners Falls	7	H. Allen
3/5	Amherst	13	H. Allen	4/30	Southwick	8	J. Wojtanowski
3/6, 4/14	GMNWR	30, 9	Perkins, USFWS	Pied-billed Grebe			
3/6	Quabog IBA	19	M. Lynch#	3/13	Falmouth	2	BBC (M. Keleher)
3/13	Turners Falls	10	S. Svec	3/21	Nantucket	2	T. Pastuszak
4/24	Quabbin	7	C. Ellison	3/25	Haverhill	2	S. Mirick
Common Merganser				4/9	Longmeadow	2	E. Rutman
3/6	Quabog IBA	32	M. Lynch#	4/14	GMNWR	2	USFWS
3/9	Northampton	79	H. Allen	4/24	Wayland	2	G. Dysart
3/10	Turners Falls	55	H. Allen	Horned Grebe			
3/12	Braintree	30	P. Peterson	3/11, 4/5	P.I.	26, 33	T. Wetmore
3/14	Woburn (HP)	32	M. Rines	3/20	Plymouth	30	I. Davies#
3/16	Wakefield	79	P. + F. Vale	3/21	Fairhaven	16	M. Lynch#
3/21	S. Quabbin	617	L. Therrien	4/1	Winthrop	16	R. Stymeist
3/28, 4/18	Quabog IBA	70, 8	M. Lynch#	4/5	Falmouth	52	M. Keleher
4/24	Quabbin	7	C. Ellison	4/11	Westport	10	M. Lynch#
Red-breasted Merganser				Red-necked Grebe			
3/11, 4/18	P'town	1050, 4000	B. Nikula	3/7	Gloucester	22	BBC (I. Giriunas)
3/20	Belchertown	2	L. Therrien	3/7	P.I.	22+	S. Sullivan
3/21	P.I.	47	S. Sullivan	3/10	Nantucket	150	T. Pastuszak
4/11	Westport	198	M. Lynch#	4/1	Winthrop	169	R. Stymeist
4/16	S. Quabbin	4	L. Therrien	4/9	Turners Falls	3	H. Allen
4/24	N. Truro	1000	B. Nikula	4/18	Winthrop	5	K. Hartel#
Ruddy Duck				Northern Fulmar			
3/1-4/16	Melrose	19 max.	D. + I. Jewell	3/14	Rockport (A.P.)	4	B. Harris#
3/13	Seekonk	52	M. Lynch#	Manx Shearwater			
3/18-4/25	Chestnut Hill	69 max	v.o.	4/2-30	Revere B.	12 max	v.o.
3/19	W. Newbury	12	P. + F. Vale#	Northern Gannet			
3/20	Pembroke	64	SSBC (Peterson)	3/6	Rockport	2	S. Hedman
4/9	Melrose	16	P. + F. Vale	3/20	Duxbury B.	2 ad	R. Bowes
4/18	Brighton	31	P. Peterson	4/2, 5	P'town	300, 2000	B. Nikula
Northern Bobwhite				4/8, 22	P'town	900, 800	B. Nikula
4/22	N. Truro	2	D. Manchester	4/11	N. Truro	1920	B. Nikula
Ring-necked Pheasant				4/22	P.I.	13	N. Landry
3/17	W. Newbury	1	S. McGrath	Double-crested Cormorant			
3/20	Lee	1 m	M. Lynch#	4/5	Nahant	100	G. Jones
4/3	Lincoln	1 m	S. Perkins#	4/9	Turners Falls	112	H. Allen
4/11	Saugus	2	S. Zende#	4/18	Duxbury B.	1130	R. Bowes
4/11	Concord (NAC)	1	K. Hartel#	4/19	P.I.	100+	T. Wetmore
4/13	Ipswich	1	P. Peterson	4/20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	200	P. Champlin
4/14	ONWR	1	J. Hoye#	4/25	P'town H.	325	B. Nikula
4/17	Nahant	1	BBC (L. Pivacek)	4/28	W. Roxbury	160	M. Iliff
Ruffed Grouse				Great Cormorant			
3/12	Marshfield	1	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	3/thr	Medford	32 max	R. LaFontaine
3/21	Wompatuck SP	1	R. Finch#	3/7	Manomet	20	G. d'Entremont
3/28	Shrewsbury	1	J. Rose	3/7	Marshfield	22	G. d'Entremont
3/29	Hardwick	1	C. Ellison	3/27	Fairhaven	18	M. Lynch#
4/11	Plymouth	2	K. Doyon	4/7	N. Truro	15	D. Manchester
4/13	ONWR	2	G. Billingham	4/11	Westport	13	M. Lynch#
4/24	C. Quabbin	11	L. Therrien	4/30	P'town	8	B. Nikula
Wild Turkey				American Bittern			
3/11	Dalton	32	I. Davies	3/19	Harwich	1	M. Faherty
3/16	Belchertown	48	L. Therrien	4/2	N. Truro	1	D. Manchester
3/23	Newton	41	G. Long	4/18	Wompatuck SP	1	S. + J. Hill
3/28	Phillipston	26	R. Stymeist#	4/21	GMNWR	1	BBC (C. Swanson)
4/3	W. Gloucester	20	J. Nelson	Great Blue Heron			
4/12	Woburn	12	M. Rines	3/9	Acton	3 nests	D. Benham
Red-throated Loon				3/11	Stoneham	8 nests	D. + I. Jewell
3/19, 4/7	P.I.	30, 60	T. Wetmore	3/25-31	W. Warren	5 nests	B. Zajda#
3/20, 4/18	P'town	30, 110	B. Nikula	3/26	Peabody	7 nests	P. + F. Vale
3/31	Gardner	1	T. Piro	3/28	Rowley	25	J. Berry#
4/11	Wellfleet	515	M. Faherty	3/28	W. Andover	22	K. Klasman
4/11, 22	N. Truro	185, 260	B. Nikula	4/6	Northampton	58	T. Gagnon
4/24	N. Quabbin	1	C. Ellison	4/25	Petersham	3 nests	M. Lynch#
Pacific Loon				Great Egret			
3/21	P'town	2	B. Nikula	3/21-4/30	Ipswich	9 max	v.o.
4/11	P'town (R.P.)	1	M. Faherty	3/25	Mattapoisett	1	M. LaBossiere

Great Egret (continued)				Swallow-tailed Kite			
3/25	Squantum	2	P. Peterson	4/29	Rehoboth	1	K. Bartels
3/28	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	S. Zende	Bald Eagle			
4/10	Weymouth	7	S. + J. Hill	3/5	Medford	3	P. Roberts
4/25	P.I.	11	R. Heil	3/6	Wayland	3 ad	D. Peebles
4/26	Salisbury	29	S. McGrath	4/11-30	Barre Falls	13	Hawkcount (BK)
Snowy Egret				4/21	E. Quabbin	3	T. Pirro
4/3	Newbypt	1	E. Labato	4/22	N. Truro	3	Hawkcount (DM)
4/3, 28	Essex	3	Grinley, Vale	4/30	C. Quabbin	9	L. Therrien
4/10	Weymouth	5	S. + J. Hill	Northern Harrier			
4/11	N. Falmouth	6	I. Nisbet	thr	P.I.	7 max	v.o.
4/15	Squantum	2	P. Peterson	3/11	Cumb. Farms	5	C. Nims#
4/18	E. Boston	2	P. Peterson	3/19	Southwick	6	Hawkcount (JW)
Little Blue Heron				4/3	Gloucester	2 m	S. Hedman
3/21	Nantucket	1 ad	T. Pastuszak	4/3	Truro	4	R. Stymeist#
3/28	Essex	1, 3	Hedman, Vale	4/11	Bedford	2	L. Ferraresso
4/12	WBWS	1	R. Barstow#	4/11	Nantucket	3	K. Blackshaw#
4/22-23	W. Gloucester	1	J. Nelson + v.o.	4/14	W. Bridgewater	2	A. + D. Morgan
Cattle Egret				4/18	Quabog IBA	3	M. Lynch#
4/1-4	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw#	4/24	DWWS	2	M. Salett
4/11-30	Ipswich/Essex	1	v.o.	Sharp-shinned Hawk			
Green Heron				3/7	S. Egremont	4	J. Hoye#
4/10-21	P'town	1	B. Nikula	3/18, 20	Barre Falls	5, 6	Hawkcount (BK)
4/21	Marblehead	1	K. Haley	4/1-23	N. Truro	69	Hawkcount (DM)
4/22	Belchertown	1	S. Surner	4/3-30	Barre Falls	96	Hawkcount (BK)
4/22	N. Truro	2	D. Manchester	4/4-24	P.I.	39	Hawkcount (CJ)
4/23	Pittsfield	1	T. Collins	4/18	Quabog IBA	2	M. Lynch#
4/25	Medford	1	M. Rines	4/21	Andover	2	J. Berry
Black-crowned Night-Heron				4/21	Mt. Tom	19	T. Gagnon
3/29	Milton	2	P. Peterson	4/23	Marshfield	pr n	MAS (J. Galluzzo)
4/4	W. Harwich	1	A. Curtis	4/28	Ipswich	2	J. Berry
4/7	Harwich	2	A. Curtis	Cooper's Hawk			
4/10	Boston (PG)	1 imm	T. Factor	3/7	S. Egremont	2	J. Hoye#
4/11	Brookline	1	A. + D. Morgan	3/31	Topsfield	2 ad	J. Berry#
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				4/2-20	Barre Falls	16	Hawkcount (BK)
3/29	Yarmouthport	1 ad	A. Kimball	4/4-23	N. Truro	10	Hawkcount (DM)
4/5	Rockport	1 ad ph	D. Ramsey#	4/10	Waltham	2	J. Forbes#
Glossy Ibis				4/10	Kingston	pr	E. Dalton
4/1-4	Nantucket	4	K. Blackshaw	4/20	Groton	2	B. Hill
4/2	Newbypt	10	D. Chickering	4/21	Sudbury	pr n	J. St. Sauver
4/5	P.I.	17	K. Chihowski	4/21	Mt. Tom	5	T. Gagnon
4/8	Acton	12	J. Horowitz	4/30	Easton	pr	K. Ryan
4/10	W. Bridgewater	40	P. O'Neill#	Northern Goshawk			
4/11-19	Concord (NAC)	10	v.o.	3/18	Barre Falls	4	Hawkcount (BK)
4/18	Essex	10	C. Corley	3/19	W. Newbury	pr	P. + F. Vale#
Black Vulture				3/27	Barre Falls	2	Hawkcount (BK)
3/21	Egremont	6	M. + K. Conway	4/11	Hadley	1	B. Zaijda
3/25, 4/30	N. Truro	3, 2	Hawkcount (DM)	4/11	Littleton	1	C. Cook
4/3	S. Quabbin	2	M. Lynch#	4/18	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula
4/9	Palmer	2	B. Lafley	4/20	Boxford (C.P.)	1	J. Berry
4/9	Agawam	2	S. Kellogg	4/21	Mt. Tom	1	T. Gagnon
4/10	Weymouth	2	S. + J. Hill	4/25	Amherst	1	I. Schmitt
4/20	Sheffield	32	M. Lynch#	4/27	Sudbury	pr	J. St. Sauver
4/30	Dartmouth	2	A. Morgan	Red-shouldered Hawk			
Turkey Vulture				3/18, 19	Southwick	7, 7	Hawkcount (JW)
thr	Barre Falls	104	Hawkcount (BK)	3/20	Cumb. Farms	4	SSBC (Petersen)
3/20	Sheffield	47	M. Lynch#	3/21	Mashpee	2	M. Keleher
4/2	Southwick	23	Hawkcount (JW)	4/3	N. Truro	4	Hawkcount (DM)
4/8	Northboro	14	B. Volkle	4/4	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#
4/thr	N. Truro	388	Hawkcount (DM)	4/10	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	P. Champlin
4/24	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	20	P. Champlin	4/11	Stoughton	3	SSBC (GdE)
4/24	Quabbin	14	C. Ellison	4/20	Rehoboth	pr	K. Bartels
4/25	New Salem	16	M. Lynch#	4/22	Boxford	pr n	J. Berry
Osprey				Broad-winged Hawk			
3/20	Westport	1	J. + P. Roberts	3/27	Acton	1	B. + K. Principe
3/21	Bourne	1	C. Buckley	4/2	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
3/26	Mashpee	19	M. Keleher	4/8-30	Barre Falls	1060	Hawkcount (BK)
4/2-19	P.I.	21	Hawkcount (CJ)	4/11-30	N. Truro	21	Hawkcount (DM)
4/2-30	Barre Falls	75	Hawkcount (BK)	4/18	Quabog IBA	6	M. Lynch#
4/3-23	N. Truro	22	Hawkcount (DM)	4/19, 20	Barre Falls	261, 430	Hawkcount (BK)
4/10	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	9	P. Champlin	4/20	Groton	20	B. Hill
4/11	Westport	73	M. Lynch#	4/20, 21	Southwick	185, 318	Hawkcount (JW)
4/18	Southwick	14	Hawkcount (JW)	4/21	E. Quabbin	17	T. Pirro

Broad-winged Hawk (continued)				4/15	Winthrop	5	P. + F. Vale#
4/21	Deerfield	136	H. Allen	4/16	Duxbury B.	6	MAS (J. Galluzzo)
4/21	Mt. Tom	554	T. Gagnon	4/20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	P. Champlin
Red-tailed Hawk				4/24	WBWS	30	M. Faherty
3/6	Westport	8	R. Stymeist#	American Golden-Plover			
3/6-28	Barre Falls	49	Hawkcount (BK)	4/5	Chilmark	1	L. McDowell
3/20	P.I.	6	R. Heil	Wilson's Plover			
4/1	Southwick	15	Hawkcount (JW)	3/28-30	Nantucket	1 ph	E. Ray, T. Pastuszak
4/2-30	Barre Falls	16	Hawkcount (BK)	Piping Plover			
4/3-23	N. Truro	66	Hawkcount (DM)	3/19	Duxbury B.	1	S. Hecker
4/18	Quabog IBA	14	M. Lynch#	3/21	Plymouth B.	2	S. Hecker
Rough-legged Hawk				4/2	Ipswich (C.B.)	7	D. Williams
3/1-21	Cumb. Farms	1-3	v.o.	4/3	P'town	4	R. Stymeist#
3/11	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	4/10	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	6	P. Champlin
3/12	Boston (Logan)	1	N. Smith	4/16	Winthrop	6	T. Bradford
3/17	Southwick	1	Hawkcount (JW)	Killdeer			
3/20	Northfield	1 light	B. Zajda#	3/8	Amherst	5	H. Allen
Golden Eagle				3/11	Cumb. Farms	8	C. Nims#
3/17, 4/24	Southwick	1. 1	Hawkcount (JW)	3/21	Hadley	10	S. Surner
American Kestrel				3/23	Gardner	11	T. Pirro
4/2-29	Barre Falls	29	Hawkcount (BK)	3/31	Ipswich	12	J. Berry
4/3-22	N. Truro	61	Hawkcount (DM)	4/8	P.I.	10+	T. Wetmore
4/4-23	P.I.	230	Hawkcount (CJ)	4/17	Arlington Res.	10	S. Simpson#
4/7, 13	Southwick	11, 10	Hawkcount (JW)	4/25	Acton	10	C. Cook
4/10, 11	P.I.	63, 40	Hawkcount (CJ)	American Oystercatcher			
4/11	Hanscom	12	M. Rines	3/10	Nantucket	1	V. Laux
4/11	Saugus	4	S. Zende#	3/18, 4/18	Winthrop	1, 10	Vale, Stymeist
4/13	DWWS	6	J. Galluzzo	3/20	P'town (R.P.)	1	F. Caruso#
4/18	Cumb. Farms	24	H. Levesque#	3/27	Fairhaven	6	M. Lynch#
4/28	Boston (Logan)	7	N. Smith	4/5	W. Tisbury	2 pr	L. McDowell#
Merlin				4/28	Boston (Logan)	4	N. Smith
3/11	P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale	Spotted Sandpiper			
4/2-22	N. Truro	18	Hawkcount (DM)	4/23	Westfield	1	T. Gagnon
4/5-24	P.I.	27	Hawkcount (CJ)	4/25	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
4/24	Duxbury B.	2	R. Bowes	4/25	Arlington Res.	1	J. Forbes#
Peregrine Falcon				4/30	Chestnut Hill	1	S. Simpson
3/8	Cambridge	pr	G. Dysart	Solitary Sandpiper			
3/12	Boston (Logan)	2	N. Smith	4/4	P.I.	1	R. Heil
3/13	Deerfield	2	S. Kellogg	Greater Yellowlegs			
3/17	Amherst	3	N. Barber	3/18	WBWS	2	W. Sprauve
3/21	Carlisle	2	T. + D. Brownrigg	3/19	Harwich	2	M. Faherty
3/30	Gloucester	pr	S. Hedman	4/10	E. Boston (B.I.)	11	F. Bouchard
4/3	P.I.	2	N. Landry	4/24	WBWS	25	M. Faherty
4/30	MNWS	2	P. + F. Vale	4/25	P.I.	11	R. Heil
King Rail				4/27	Eastham (F.E.)	35	B. Nikula
4/22	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula	4/30	Longmeadow	7	H. Allen
Clapper/King Rail				Willet			
4/21-22	Harwichport	1	B. Nikula	4/24	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes
Virginia Rail				4/27	P.I.	1	S. McGrath
4/2	N. Truro	1	D. Manchester	4/28	Essex	1	P. + F. Vale
4/8	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	4/30	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	25	P. Champlin
4/9	Lynnfield	2	L. Newland	Lesser Yellowlegs			
4/19	Wayland	5	B. Harris	3/20	Harwich	1	A. Curtis
4/24	Burlington	4	M. Rines	4/4	Newbypt H.	12	L. Kramer
4/25	W. Roxbury (MP)	2	R. Stymeist#	4/4	W. Harwich	1	B. Nikula
Sora				4/30	Bolton Flats	1	J. Moosbrucker
4/22	P.I.	3	T. Wetmore	4/30	Longmeadow	4	E. Rutman
4/27	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	Upland Sandpiper			
American Coot				4/1	Duxbury	1 ph	S. Hecker
3/1-4/10	Plymouth	3	v.o.	4/2-4	Newbypt	1	D. Chickering#
3/11	Pembroke	2	C. Nims#	4/11	Saugus	1	S. Zende#
3/19-4/30	GMNWR	1-3	J. St. Sauver	4/28	Westfield	1	S. Kellogg
4/10	Lynn	2	S. Grinley#	4/29	Plymouth airport	3	G. d'Entremont
4/11	Woburn (HP)	2	P. Ippolito#	Ruddy Turnstone			
4/13	W. Bridgewater	1	K. Ryan	3/7	Gloucester	4	BBC (I. Giriunas)
4/25	P.I.	1	N. Landry#	3/8	Revere	3	P. + F. Vale
Sandhill Crane				4/24	WBWS	1	M. Faherty
3/20	New Marlboro	2	M. Lynch#	4/25	P'town H.	3	B. Nikula
4/2	P.I.	1 ph	P. + F. Vale	4/27	W. Newbury	2	P. + F. Vale
4/10	IRWS	1 ph	S. Mohammadi	4/30	Osterville	16	A. Curtis
Black-bellied Plover				Red Knot			
3/19, 4/11	P.I.	1, 3	v.o.	4/24	WBWS	2	M. Faherty

Sanderling				4/17	S. Quabbin	3	L. Therrien
3/7	Manomet	110	G. d'Entremont	4/17	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
3/21	Plymouth B.	40	S. Hecker	Laughing Gull			
3/22, 4/21	Duxbury B.	10, 10	R. Bowes	4/2	Plymouth B.	50	S. Hecker
4/25	Brewster	220	B. Nikula	4/11	P'town	55	P. Trull
4/28	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	1	P. Champlin	4/16	Duxbury	5	R. Bowes
Least Sandpiper				4/25	Brewster	100	B. Nikula
4/25	P.I.	1	J. Nelson	Iceland Gull			
Pectoral Sandpiper				3/4	Turners Falls	3	J. P. Smith
4/3	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	J. Hoye#	3/11, 4/11	P'town	8, 23	B. Nikula
4/8	P.I.	1	D. Ely	3/13	Gloucester (E.P.)	7	S. Grinley#
4/10	Concord (NAC)	1	S. Grinley#	3/14, 4/11	Nantucket	6, 12	K. Blackshaw#
4/30	Bolton Flats	1	J. Moosbruker	3/16	Winthrop B.	2 1W	T. Factor
Purple Sandpiper				3/18	Wellfleet	5	M. Faherty
3/7, 4/4	P.I.	5, 12	Wetmore, Heil	4/17	S. Harwich	2	B. Nikula
3/7	Nantucket	30	K. Blackshaw#	4/22	N. Truro	2	D. Manchester
3/13	Rockport (A.P.)	11	S. Grinley#	Lesser Black-backed Gull			
4/1	Nahant	15	L. Pivacek	3/4	Turners Falls	2	J. P. Smith
4/1	Manomet	12	I. Davies#	3/6	Boston	2	I. Giriunas#
4/10	N. Scituate	30	G. d'Entremont	3/14, 4/11	Nantucket	16, 25	K. Blackshaw#
4/11	Westport	16	M. Lynch#	4/10	Duxbury B.	2 ad	R. Bowes
4/15	Winthrop B.	18	T. Bradford	4/25	Brewster	1	B. Nikula
4/30	Osterville	6	A. Curtis	Glaucous Gull			
Dunlin				3/4	Turners Falls	1	J. P. Smith
3/20, 4/24	P.I.	25, 25	T. Wetmore#	3/21	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	J. Quigley
3/21, 4/21	Duxbury B.	1414, 625	R. Bowes	3/28	Salisbury	1 ph	I. Davies#
3/28, 4/24	Revere B.	21, 7	P. Peterson	3/28	Revere B.	1	P. Peterson
4/7	Duxbury B.	600+	R. Bowes	4/3	Salisbury	1	D. Bates#
4/27	Orleans	250	B. Nikula	4/11	Westport	1 1W	M. Lynch#
4/27	Eastham (F.E.)	50	B. Nikula	4/11	P'town	4	P. Trull
4/28	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	93	P. Champlin	4/19	Lawrence	1	J. Young
Short-billed Dowitcher				4/26	Nantucket	1 2W	K. Blackshaw
4/2	P.I.	1	N. Landry#	Caspian Tern			
4/3	Essex	1	G. Gove#	4/11	Concord (NAC)	1 ph	B. Harris#
4/4	Fairhaven	1	C. Longworth	4/15	Turners Falls	1	A. Richards
4/10	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	P. Peterson	4/17	Westboro	1	G. Gove#
4/20	WBWS	1	M. Faherty	Roseate Tern			
Wilson's Snipe				4/26	Mattapoisett	2	C. Mostello
3/17	Newbury	3	MAS (D. Larson)	Common Tern			
3/20	Cumb. Farms	11	B. Cassie	4/26	Mattapoisett	300	C. Mostello
3/28	W. Bridgewater	11	G. d'Entremont	Black Skimmer			
3/30	Concord (NAC)	40	S. Perkins	4/24	Plymouth B.	1	J. Fenton
3/27	Lexington	9	J. Forbes	Dovekie			
4/3	Newbury	8	C. Johnson#	3/5	Eastham	1	R. Mongold
4/4	New Braintree	18	M. Lynch#	4/22	Nantucket	1 ph	S. Murphy#
4/5	P.I.	10	T. Wetmore	Common Murre			
4/13	Longmeadow	5	T. Gagnon	4/2, 18	P'town	2, 1	B. Nikula
4/20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	6	P. Champlin	Thick-billed Murre			
American Woodcock				3/7	Gloucester	1	BBC (I. Giriunas)
3/20	Cumb. Farms	6	BBC (L. de la Flor)	Razorbill			
3/22	P.I.	26	T. Wetmore	3/7	Gloucester (E.P.)	3	I. Davies#
3/24	MSSF	6	G. d'Entremont#	3/7	Manomet	7	G. d'Entremont
3/25	E. Longmeadow	15	G. Kingston	3/13	Rockport (A.P.)	8	S. Grinley#
3/27	Andover	6	P. + F. Vale	3/18	Wellfleet	120	M. Faherty
3/28	Winthrop	6	D. + I. Jewell	3/19	P.I.	21	T. Wetmore
4/4	Westboro	28	M. Lynch#	4/2, 18	P'town	30, 3	B. Nikula
4/7	New Braintree	26	M. Lynch#	4/11	Nantucket	4	K. Blackshaw#
Black-legged Kittiwake				4/12	Wellfleet	50	M. Faherty
3/7, 21	P'town	30, 15	B. Nikula	Black Guillemot			
3/13	Rockport (A.P.)	14	S. Grinley#	3/7	Gloucester (E.P.)	13	I. Davies#
3/17	P.I.	1	L. Tatino	3/7	Marshfield	16	G. d'Entremont
Bonaparte's Gull				3/22	Sandwich	1	C. Gibson
4/3	Newbyp	2	D. Bates#	Large alcid species			
4/9	Turners Falls	1	H. Allen	3/21, 4/11	N. Truro	260, 425	B. Nikula
4/10	Lynn B.	125	P. Peterson	4/5, 30	P'town	1280, 11	B. Nikula

PARAKEETS THROUGH FINCHES

The pair of Monk Parakeets, which had been reported off and on in East Boston last fall, survived the winter. The Monk Parakeet is one of the few temperate-zone parrots and is capable of surviving cold climates. It is the only parrot that builds a stick nest in a tree or on a man-made structure rather than using a hole in a tree. The East Boston birds began nest construction in late March on a light pole on Bremen Street and continued into early May. These two parrots became instant celebrities in the neighborhood as well as with the birding community.

While spring migration was beginning, there were still some winter birds hanging around, including Snowy Owls, both on Plum Island and at Logan Airport as late as April 28. A single Snow Bunting and a single Lapland Longspur made it into April, but Fox Sparrows were moving north by mid March.

Strong southerly winds combined with a surge in temperature that started at the end of March and continued into the first two weeks of April resulted in a remarkable number of early arrivals. A dead Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found on March 28, the earliest date ever for the species. A similarly unlucky Yellow-throated Vireo was found dead in the wrack line at Race Point in Provincetown on March 31, shattering the previous early record of April 20; the typical arrival is during the first week of May.

Birds of Massachusetts (1993) says that White-eyed Vireo "is rare in Massachusetts before late April." This year, the first bird was noted on March 31, with another eight individuals reported by April 15! Other outstanding early migrants included a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and a Northern Parula on April 7 and a Prothonotary Warbler on March 31. A Red-eyed Vireo was netted and banded on the very early date of April 19 on Plum Island.

Along with the early migrants, there were arrivals of great magnitude. For example, 710 Tree Swallows in the Sudbury River Valley on March 21 was the most ever recorded in March, the previous high count being 350 at Great Meadows on March 30, 2000.

Avian highlights during the period included Red-headed Woodpeckers in Littleton and Petersham as well as three birds continuing on in the Lowell-Dracut State Forest. Common Ravens were tending young by March 6 in the Quabbin area, and as many as nine birds were seen together in Needham, a record high count for Metro Boston. Twenty species of warblers were noted in April, including two Orange-crowned, a **Prothonotary**, and two Hooded warblers. A big surprise was the rediscovery of the Salisbury **Sage Thrasher** on March 27. This bird, originally found and identified on January 11, was seen fairly regularly up until January 20 and then went missing. Apparently it found a good hiding place for 66 days! The **Common Chaffinch** was last seen on March 15 in Waltham, where it had begun to sing, and a recording was made.

The returning blackbirds arrived in large numbers by the end of March. The largest groups of Rusty Blackbirds were noted from Wompatuck State Park (40), Hadley (30), and Assabet NWR (25). Some winter finches were noted, mostly from Franklin and Berkshire counties.

Robert H. Stymeist

Monk Parakeet				4/6-12	Littleton	1 n	P. Peterson
thr	E. Boston	2 at nest	v.o.	4/7	Lunenburg	1 n	D. Martin
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				4/7	New Braintree	2	M. Lynch#
3/28	Salisbury	1 dead	H. D'Entremont	4/12	Peabody	nest/1 yg.	J. Berry#
Eastern Screech-Owl				4/17	Boston (FHC)	ad + 1 yg	R. Stymeist
thr	Reports of indiv. from 15 locations.			4/18	Northboro	2	M. Lynch#
3/19	Medford	pr	P. Devaney	4/22	Melrose	nest/2 yg	D. + I. Jewell
4/4	Westboro	4	M. Lynch#	4/26	Ipswich	nest/1 yg	J. Berry
Great Horned Owl					Snowy Owl		
4/4	Westboro	4	M. Lynch#	3/1-4/28	P.I.	1-2	v.o.

Snowy Owl (continued)			4/3	S. Quabbin	17	M. Lynch#	
3/12, 4/28	Boston (Logan)	3, 1	N. Smith	4/5	PI.	23	T. Wetmore
Barred Owl				4/6	N. Truro	11	D. Manchester
3/9	Sharon	2	D. Radovsky	4/11	Woburn (HP)	12	BBC (P. Ippolito#)
3/19	ONWR	2	C. Johnson	Pileated Woodpecker			
3/20	W. Newbury	2	J. Hoye#	3/16	S. Amherst	3	B. Cassie
4/4	Wompatuck SP	2	G. d'Entremont	3/21	New Salem	2	B. Lafley
4/5	Manchester	2	S. Hedman	3/28	Quabog IBA	3	M. Lynch#
4/7	New Braintree	3	M. Lynch#	4/4	W. Newbury	2	P. + F. Vale
4/12	Wayland	2	A. McCarthy#	4/8	Manchester	pr	S. Hedman
4/23	Boxford	pr n	J. Berry	4/18	Needham	pr	S. Miller#
Short-eared Owl				4/20	Boxford (C.P.)	pr n	J. Berry
3/2	PI.	1	K. Lynch	4/21	E. Quabbin	3	T. Pirro
3/9	Duxbury B.	1 ph	R. Bowes	4/21	Wompatuck SP	2	L. Kramer#
3/12	Boston (Logan)	1	N. Smith	Eastern Phoebe			
Northern Saw-whet Owl				3/18	Southwick	1	J. Wojtanowski
3/6	Framingham	1	L. Taylor	3/19	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher
3/6-22	Wayland	1	A. McCarthy#	3/19	Amherst	1	L. Therrien
3/10	Sharon	1	B. Cassie	3/19	Hadley	1	M. +
3/16	Williamsburg	1	A. Stokes	3/19	W. Tisbury	1	M. Pelikan
4/1-30	Pittsfield	1	A. Stokes	3/20	Cumb. Farms	4	I. Davies#
4/7	New Braintree	3	M. Lynch#	3/25	Brewster	12	P. Trull
Whip-poor-will				4/3	S. Quabbin	27	M. Lynch#
4/23, 30	PI.	1, 3	Hully, Landry	4/3	Sheffield	20	J. Drucker
4/24	Florence	5	T. Gagnon	4/4	W. Newbury	11	P. + F. Vale
4/30	Southwick	2	S. Kellogg	4/4	Ware R. IBA	17	M. Lynch#
Chimney Swift				4/23	Boxford	12	P. + F. Vale
4/21	PI.	2	P. Vale	Eastern Kingbird			
4/24	Hadley	5	S. Surner	4/28	Boston (F.Pk)	1	R. Mayer#
4/25	Melrose	3	D. + I. Jewell	4/30	Easton	1	K. Ryan
4/28	Framingham	2	J. Hoye#	Northern Shrike			
4/30	Sharon	3	W. Sweet	3/17	PI.	2	W. Tatro
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				3/20	Konkapot IBA	1	M. Lynch#
4/21	Duxbury	1	J. Galluzzo	White-eyed Vireo			
4/23	Newbury	1 m	S. Stichter	3/31	Yarmouthport	1	P. Crosson
4/30	Rochester	1	C. Wade	4/2	WBWS	1	M. Faherty
Belted Kingfisher				4/3	PI.	1	B. Flemer
3/20	Northfield	2	B. Zajda#	4/4	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
3/28	Mashpee	3	M. Keleher	4/8	Hull	1	N. Swirka
4/11	Stoughton	2 f	SSBC (GdE)	4/10	Manchester	1	S. Hedman
4/13	ONWR	2	G. Billingham	4/13	DWWS	1	S. Avery#
4/18	Quabog IBA	2	M. Lynch#	4/14-15	Wellfleet	1	S. Broker
4/23	Scituate	2	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	4/15-21	Jamaica Plain	1	M. Kaufman + v.o.
4/26	Salisbury	2	S. McGrath	4/21	Marblehead	1	K. Haley
Red-headed Woodpecker				4/23	Boston (F.Pk)	1	P. Peterson#
3/1-21	Dracut	1-3	Gaudet + v.o.	Yellow-throated Vireo			
4/4-12	Acton	1	M. Rosenstein	3/31	P'town (R.P.)	1 dead	D. Minsky
4/4	Petersham	1 ad	M. Lynch#	4/19	MNWS	1	K. Haley#
Red-bellied Woodpecker				4/24	P'town	1	B. Nikula
3/6	Westport	7	R. Stymeist#	Blue-headed Vireo			
3/7	N. Marshfield	10	G. d'Entremont	4/3	Sheffield	1	J. Drucker
3/10	Belmont	4	R. Stymeist	4/7	Winchester	1	R. LaFontaine
3/25	Boxford	4	J. Berry	4/7	PI.	1	T. Wetmore
3/27	W. Newbury	5	P. + F. Vale	4/11	Huntington	1	T. Gagnon
4/4	Boxford (C.P.)	8	J. Berry	4/19	Quabbin	13	B. Cassie
4/8	Medford	5	M. Rines	4/20	Boxford (C.P.)	3 m	J. Berry
4/12	Littleton	4	R. Stymeist	4/23	Royalston	5	C. Caron
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				4/25	Petersham	17	M. Lynch#
3/24	Mt.A.	2	D. Logan	4/30	Boston (PG)	3	T. Factor
4/6	Boston (PG)	2	T. Factor	Warbling Vireo			
4/17	Quabbin (G 22)	8	J. Hoye#	4/21	Jamaica Plain	1	A. Morgan
4/21	WMWS	4	G. Billingham	4/29	Medford	1	P. + F. Vale
4/21	E. Quabbin	25	T. Pirro	4/30	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
4/23	Royalston	2	C. Caron	4/30	Longmeadow	1	E. Rutman
4/24	Quabbin	4	C. Ellison	4/30	Boston (F.Pk)	1	P. Peterson
4/25	New Salem	3	M. Lynch#	Red-eyed Vireo			
Hairy Woodpecker				4/19	PI.	1 b	J. Standley
3/28	S. Quabbin	4	M. Lynch#	Fish Crow			
3/28	Mashpee	6	M. Keleher	3/9	Sharon	73	V. Zollo
4/18	Quabog IBA	5	M. Lynch#	3/11	Dalton	6	I. Davies
4/21	E. Quabbin	4	T. Pirro	3/20	Burlington	4	M. Rines
Northern Flicker				3/20	Plymouth	5	I. Davies#
4/3	Mt.A.	14	R. Schain	3/20	Southwick	4	S. Ricker

Fish Crow (continued)				Red-breasted Nuthatch			
3/27	Braintree	10	P. Peterson	3/28	Mashpee	14	M. Keleher
4/3	Wellfleet	6	R. Stymeist#	4/4	Ware R. IBA	5	M. Lynch#
4/5	Eastham	14	B. Nikula	4/10	New Braintree	6	M. Lynch#
4/7	Scituate	11	S. Maguire	4/21	E. Quabbin	14	T. Pirro
4/14	N. Truro	11	D. Manchester	4/22	Boxford	4	J. Berry
4/16	Harwich	30	A. Curtis	4/24	C. Quabbin	15	L. Therrien
4/28	Ipswich	1 on nest	J. Berry	4/24	N. Quabbin	8	C. Ellison
Common Raven				4/25	Petersham	5	M. Lynch#
3/6	Newbypt	2	T. Wetmore	4/25	Nantucket	6	K. Blackshaw#
3/6	S. Quabbin	ad + 2 yg	M. Lynch#	4/30	Sudbury	6	G. Billingham
3/6	Barre Falls	pr	B. Kamp	Brown Creeper			
3/20	Beckett	2	M. Lynch#	3/7	Lincoln	4	P. Peterson
3/21	Quabbin (G33)	2	B. Lafley	3/19	Pelham	5	H. Allen
3/25	Haverhill	1 n	S. Mirick	4/11	Holyoke	5	J. Rose
3/28	Woburn (HP)	2	P. Ippolito	4/21	Andover	pr n	J. Berry
4/10	Rehoboth	2	K. Bartels	4/24	C. Quabbin	5	L. Therrien
4/10	Waltham	2	S. Grinley#	4/25	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#
4/13-27	Sudbury	pr	J. St. Sauver	Carolina Wren			
4/18	Needham	9	S. Miller#	3/6	Westport	18	R. Stymeist#
4/21	E. Quabbin	3	T. Pirro	3/7	N. Marshfield	13	G. d'Entremont
4/thr	Quincy	pr + 5 yg	v. o.	3/21	Fairhaven	17	M. Lynch#
Horned Lark				4/11	Stoughton	9	SSBC (GdE)
3/7	Hadley	2	S. Surner	4/25	Nahant	5	G. d'Entremont
3/7	Ipswich (C.B.)	6	J. Berry	House Wren			
3/13, 4/21	Duxbury B.	18, 2	R. Bowes	4/19	W. Gloucester	1	J. Nelson
3/17	P.I.	14	L. Tatino	4/20	Belchertown	1	L. Therrien
3/19	Sandwich	1	K. Ryan	4/22-30	Reports of indiv. from	7 locations	
3/20	Cumb. Farms	4	I. Davies#	4/24	Newton	2	I. Reid
4/1	Bourne	6	I. Davies#	Winter Wren			
4/29	Plymouth airport	3	G. d'Entremont	3/21	Wompatuck SP	2	R. Finch#
Purple Martin				4/4	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#
4/1	Newton	1 f	P. Gilmore	4/24	Quabbin	3	C. Ellison
4/7	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula	4/25	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
4/14	P.I.	1	M. Pachomski#	Marsh Wren			
4/20	Concord (NAC)	1	P. Peterson	4/3	Sheffield	1	J. Drucker
4/24	DWWS	1	M. Salett	4/24	Burlington	1	M. Rines
4/24	Rehoboth	1 m, 1 f	R. Marr	4/25	P.I.	2	R. Heil
4/24	Rochester	2	M. LaBossiere	Golden-crowned Kinglet			
4/30	Mashpee	5	M. Keleher	3/28	Mashpee	10	M. Keleher
Tree Swallow				4/3	Nahant	8	L. Pivacek
3/12	Longmeadow	5	I. Davies	4/4	Ware R. IBA	11	M. Lynch#
3/16	S. Amherst	2	B. Cassie	4/4	P.I.	35	E. Nielsen
3/21	New Salem	20+	B. Lafley	4/6	MNWS	9	J. Offermann
3/21	Wayland	710	J. Trimble	4/11	Holyoke	9	J. Rose
3/27	Stoughton	125	G. d'Entremont	4/30	C. Quabbin	7	L. Therrien
4/11	Littleton	150	C. Cook	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
4/17	Southwick	230	S. Kellogg	3/6	E. Quabbin	1	C. Ellison
4/25	P.I.	120	R. Heil	3/21-4/30	Mt.A.	20 max	v.o.
4/28	Turners Falls	500	H. Allen	4/4-30	P.I.	23 max	v.o.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				4/4	Belchertown	4	S. Surner
4/5	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	4/8	Medford	9	R. LaFontaine
4/8	E. Boston (Oasis)	3	P. Peterson	4/10	Chestnut Hill	26	R. Schain
4/11	Milton	4	N. Hayward	4/11	Woburn	11	M. Rines#
4/12	Cheshire	5	G. Hurley	4/21	P'town	10	B. Nikula
4/16	Brighton	6	P. Peterson	4/21	E. Quabbin	26	T. Pirro
4/24	Quabbin	6	C. Ellison	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
4/28	W. Roxbury (MP)	8	M. Iliff	4/7	W. Roxbury (MP)	1	M. Barber
4/28	Melrose	20+	D. + I. Jewell	4/9	Pittsfield	1	C. Blagdon
Bank Swallow				4/10	Wayland	1	S. Grinley#
4/11	Northampton	2	S. Surner	4/13	Longmeadow	2	T. Gagnon
Cliff Swallow				4/24	Quabbin	4	C. Ellison
4/22	Amherst	2	H. Allen	4/24	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	4	P. Champlin
Barn Swallow				4/25	Wompatuck SP	10	BBC (E. Giles)
3/26	Wayland	1	B. Harris	4/25	ONWR	10	C. Cook
3/27	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher	Eastern Bluebird			
4/3	P'town	2	K. Hartel#	3/12	Grafton	10	R. Schain
4/21	N. Truro	3	D. Manchester	3/12	DFWS	9	P. Sowizral
4/24	Nahant	5	J. Malone	3/18	Ipswich	13	J. Berry#
4/25	Nantucket	5	K. Blackshaw#	3/20	Belmont	7	L. Ferrarosso#
4/25	P.I.	6	J. Nelson	4/3	Ipswich (A.F.)	7	J. Berry
4/26	GMNWR	10	A. Bragg#	Veery			
4/28	W. Roxbury (MP)	8	M. Iliff	4/24	Quabbin	1	C. Ellison

Hermit Thrush				4/21	P'town	80	B. Nikula
3/6	Westport	2	R. Stymeist#	4/21	Mt.A.	26	R. Stymeist
3/10	Belmont	2	R. Stymeist	4/21	Manomet	24	I. Davies
3/28-4/30	P.I.	21 max	v.o.	4/25	Boston (F.Pk)	33	P. Peterson
4/7	Nahant	8	G. Jones	4/25	P.I.	47	R. Heil
4/21	WMWS	12	G. Billingham	4/26	Medford	115	M. Rines
4/21	Marblehead	12	K. Haley	4/30	C. Quabbin	51	L. Therrien
4/21	E. Quabbin	6	T. Pirro		Black-throated Green Warbler		
4/21	Manomet	8	I. Davies	4/21	Deerfield	1	H. Allen
4/25	MNWS	9	G. d'Entremont	4/24	Quabbin	5	C. Ellison
4/30	Boston (Fens)	17	R. Schain	4/25	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
				4/26	Medford	1	M. Rines
Wood Thrush				4/30	Boston (F.Pk)	1	P. Peterson
4/9	Wompatuck SP	1	J. Galluzzo		Blackburnian Warbler		
4/10	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	P. Peterson	4/30	C. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien
4/18	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews		Pine Warbler		
4/27	Sudbury	2	J. St. Sauver	3/12	Northboro	1	A. Joslin
4/30	Mattapoisett	1	M. LaBossiere	3/19	Easton	1 m	K. Ryan
Gray Catbird				3/23	Newton	1	G. Long
3/7	Cumb. Farms	1	L. Ferraresso	4/4	S. Quabbin	12	L. Therrien
3/10	Wayland	1	J. Hoye#	4/18	Quabog IBA	17	M. Lynch#
3/27	Braintree	1	P. Peterson	4/19	Boxford (C.P.)	12	D. Bates#
4/3	Nahant	2	L. Pivacek	4/20	Waltham	20	J. Marino
4/30	MNWS	2	P. + F. Vale	4/21	Wompatuck SP	15	L. Kramer#
Sage Thrasher				4/21	E. Quabbin	91	T. Pirro
3/27-28	Salisbury	1 ph	S. Selesky# + v.o.	4/25	Nantucket	20	K. Blackshaw#
Brown Thrasher					Prairie Warbler		
4/3-30	P.I.	17 max	v.o.	4/6	Orleans	1	P. Trull
4/4	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	4/12	Jamaica Plain	1	A. + D. Morgan
4/7	Amherst	1	H. Allen		Palm Warbler		
4/8	Hull	1	N. Swirka	3/29	Hardwick	2	C. Ellison
4/21	Manomet	3	I. Davies	4/3	S. Quabbin	3	M. Lynch#
4/24	Essex	2	J. Nelson	4/4-30	P.I.	21 max	v.o.
4/25	Boston (F.Pk)	2	P. Peterson	4/8-30	Mt.A.	24 max	v.o.
4/27	Woburn (HP)	5	M. Rines	4/21	P'town	30	B. Nikula
American Pipit				4/21	Medford	37	M. Rines
3/21	Winthrop	1	K. Hartel#	4/21	Manomet	36	I. Davies
4/12	P.I.	1	W. Tatro	4/25	Boston (F.Pk)	25	P. Peterson
4/14	Brewster	1 ph	P. Trull		Black-and-white Warbler		
Cedar Waxwing				4/9, 26	Wompatuck SP	1, 11	Galluzzo, Burden
3/6	S. Quabbin	25+	M. Lynch#	4/21	E. Quabbin	1	T. Pirro
4/2	Plymouth	18	P. Peterson	4/22	Boston (Fens)	1	P. Peterson
4/7	Burlington	70	M. Rines	4/30	MNWS	11	P. + F. Vale
4/10	Waltham	20	J. Forbes#	4/30	Medford	3	M. Rines
4/12	Melrose	30	D. + I. Jewell	4/30	Mt.A.	3	F. Vale
4/21	Medford	15	M. Rines		American Redstart		
4/21	Mt.A.	34	R. Stymeist	4/24	N. Quabbin	1	C. Ellison
Orange-crowned Warbler				4/25	Acushnet	1	K. Langevin
4/21	Milton	1	B. Campbell		Prothonotary Warbler		
4/30	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	P. Champlin	3/31-4/3	Eastham	1 ph	J. Blake
Nashville Warbler					Worm-eating Warbler		
4/30	Pittsfield	1	T. Collins	4/27-28	Mt.A.	1	J. Damian + v.o.
4/30	Mt.A.	1	J. Trimble		Ovenbird		
4/30	Jamaica Plain	1	M. Iliff	4/19	Boxford (C.P.)	1	L. Ferraresso#
Northern Parula				4/26	Medford	1	M. Rines
4/7	Winchester	1	R. LaFontaine	4/30	Longmeadow	1	E. Rutman
4/15	E. Boston	1	P. + F. Vale#		Northern Waterthrush		
4/18	Jamaica Plain	1	J. Miller	4/12	Westfield	1	N. Eaton
4/20	Nahant	1	J. Offermann	4/21	Boston (PG)	1	T. Factor
4/21	P.I.	1	P. McFarland	4/22	Millis	3	J. O'Connell
4/22	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist#	4/23	Pittsfield	1	N. Mole
4/24	N. Quabbin	1	C. Ellison	4/28	Boston (Fens)	2	P. Peterson
Yellow Warbler				4/30	MNWS	5	P. + F. Vale
4/30	Longmeadow	8	E. Rutman		Louisiana Waterthrush		
4/30	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	P. Champlin	4/4	Ware R. IBA	1	M. Lynch#
4/30	Bolton Flats	1 m	J. Moosbrucker	4/4	Boston (PO Sq.)	1	P. Peterson + v.o.
4/30	Wayland	1	B. Harris	4/11	Holyoke	3	J. Rose
Black-throated Blue Warbler				4/24	Quabbin	3	C. Ellison
4/23	C. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	4/28	Wompatuck SP	1	SSBC (C. Nims)
Yellow-rumped Warbler					Common Yellowthroat		
3/3	Reading	1	I. Giriunas	4/3	Westport	1	J. Hoye#
3/6	Amherst	1	H. Lappen	4/23	Scituate	1	MAS (J. Galluzzo)
3/6, 4/21	E. Quabbin	2, 31	Ellison, Pirro	4/30	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes
3/6	Westport	11	R. Stymeist#				

Hooded Warbler				White-throated Sparrow			
4/18-20 Nahant	1 m ph		R. Stymeist# + v.o.	4/4 Westboro	60+		M. Lynch#
4/24-25 MNWS	1 m		J. Kalman + v.o.	4/21 Mt.A.	44		R. Stymeist
Eastern Towhee				4/25 Boston (F.Pk)	60		P. Peterson
3/10 Sharon	4 m		B. Cassie	4/25 MNWS	50		G. d'Entremont
4/4 Belchertown	3		L. Therrien	4/25 Nahant	40+		P. + F. Vale
4/10 Wompatuck SP	12		S. + J. Hill	White-crowned Sparrow			
4/21 E. Quabbin	36		T. Pirro	3/4 Northampton	1		T. Gagnon
4/25 P.I.	21		R. Heil	3/6 E. Quabbin	2		C. Ellison
4/26 Medford	18		M. Rines	3/11-20 Cumb. Farms	8 max		v.o.
American Tree Sparrow				3/21 Hadley	2		N. Barber
3/11, 4/2 P.I.	10, 1		Vale, Tatro	4/1 Winthrop	2		R. Stymeist
3/14 Quabog IBA	32		M. Lynch#	4/2 WBWS	2		O. Spaulding#
3/19 Salisbury	6		P. + F. Vale#	4/21 WMWS	1		G. Billingham
4/3 Lenox	1		R. Laubach	Dark-eyed Junco			
4/11 Amherst	1		B. Zaijda	3/5 W. Roxbury	42		P. Peterson
Chipping Sparrow				3/20 P.I.	30		T. Wetmore#
3/7 Wellesley	1		C. Marsh#	3/25 Mt.A.	54		R. Stymeist
3/21 Carlisle	1	T. + D.	Brownrigg	3/28 Quabog IBA	67		M. Lynch#
3/29 Hardwick	2		C. Ellison	4/22 Fitchburg-03	9		C. Caron
4/3 Wakefield	3		P. + F. Vale	4/23 Waltham	1		J. Forbes
4/3 Carlisle	4		A. Ankers#	4/24 P.I.	1		F. Vale
4/18 Quabog IBA	43		M. Lynch#	4/30 Boston (Fens)	1		R. Schain
4/30 Mt.A.	42		J. Trimble	Lapland Longspur			
Field Sparrow				3/10 Nantucket	1		T. Pastuszak
3/1, 4/18 Southwick	1, 14		S. Kellogg	4/4 P.I.	1		R. Heil
4/2 Hadley	2		H. Allen	Snow Bunting			
4/3 Truro	2		R. Stymeist#	3/7 P.I.	10		N. Landry
4/3 Woburn (HP)	3		K. Sweadner	3/7 Worcester	2		M. Lynch#
4/24 Quabbin	3		C. Ellison	4/1 Winthrop	1		R. Stymeist
4/25 Wakefield	4		D. + I. Jewell	Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
4/25 P.I.	3		R. Heil	4/25 Nantucket	1 m, 1 f		T. Pastuszak
Vesper Sparrow				4/27 Belchertown	1		S. Surner
3/7 Cumb. Farms	3		M. Garvey#	4/29 Dartmouth	1 m		J. Bogart
4/6 Bedford	1		M. Rines	4/30 C. Quabbin	1		L. Therrien
4/7 Chicopee	1	A. + L.	Richardson	Bobolink			
4/9 Acton	1		P. Peterson	4/30 Wayland	1		B. Harris
4/11 Hadley	2		S. Surner	Red-winged Blackbird			
4/28-29 W. Roxbury (MP)	1 ph		M. Iliff#	3/12 Grafton	350		R. Schain
Savannah Sparrow				3/20 P.I.	510		R. Heil
3/4 Northampton	1		T. Gagnon	3/28 Northampton	1000		T. Gagnon
3/7 Cumb. Farms	31		M. Garvey#	Eastern Meadowlark			
3/27 Longmeadow	20		S. Kellogg	3/6 E. Quabbin	1		C. Ellison
4/13 P.I.	18		P. + F. Vale	3/10 Sharon	1		B. Cassie
4/25 W. Roxbury (MP)	22		R. Stymeist#	3/12 Hingham	3		J. Galluzzo
Ipswich Sparrow				3/19 P.I.	6		N. Pau
3/21-4/19 P.I.	1		v.o.	3/25 Eastham (F.H.)	6		P. Trull
3/22, 4/18 Duxbury B.	3		R. Bowes	4/2 Hanscom	3		M. Rines
3/26 Salisbury	1		S. McGrath	4/11 Saugus	3		S. Zende#
Grasshopper Sparrow				Rusty Blackbird			
4/23 Westfield	1		T. Gagnon	3/7 Hadley	30		B. Zajda
Saltmarsh Sparrow				3/23 Gardner	15		T. Pirro
4/1 Eastham (F.H.)	2		P. Trull	4/2 Belchertown	11		S. Surner
Seaside Sparrow				4/4 W. Roxbury (MP)	14		T. Factor
4/16 Winthrop	1 ph		T. Bradford	4/11 SRV	14		B. Harris
4/24 P.I.	2		T. Wetmore	4/18 Wompatuck SP	40		S. + J. Hill
Fox Sparrow				4/19 Assabet R. NWR	25		J. Forbes
3/16 S. Amherst	2		B. Cassie	Common Grackle			
3/18 Newton	2		M. Kaufman	3/11 Bolton Flats	550		R. Stymeist
3/18 Mt.A.	2		L. Ferraresso#	3/13 Hadley	750+		B. Zajda
3/18 Cambr. (F.P.)	2		P. Peterson	3/21 Wayland	320		J. Trimble
3/18 Duxbury	3		E. Dalton	3/28 Northampton	7000		T. Gagnon
3/19 Holyoke	4		T. Gagnon	3/28 Newton	300+		H. Miller
4/1 Newton	3		P. Gilmore	3/29 Weston	900		W. Freedberg
4/18 Boston (Fens)	1		P. Peterson	Brown-headed Cowbird			
Swamp Sparrow				3/2 Sharon	32		P. + F. Vale
3/6 E. Quabbin	3		C. Ellison	4/1 Salisbury	75		J. Berry
3/17 W. Newbury	2		S. McGrath	4/4 P.I.	35		R. Heil
4/7 Burlington	23		M. Rines	4/10 New Braintree	24		M. Lynch#
4/7 P.I.	12		T. Wetmore	4/11 Westport	61		M. Lynch#
4/11 Wakefield	22		P. + F. Vale	Orchard Oriole			
4/18 Quabog IBA	13		M. Lynch#	4/26 Boston (F.Pk)	1		M. Iliff
				4/30 Jamaica Plain	1 m		A. Morgan

Baltimore Oriole				Red Crossbill			
4/1	Falmouth	1	C. Brothers	4/23	C. Quabbin	4	L. Therrien
4/25	Merrimac	1	B. + B. Buxton	4/25	Conway	2	S. Surner
4/27	Shutesbury	1	K. Weir	Pine Siskin			
4/30	Belchertown	1	L. Therrien	3/2	Plainfield	1	G. Hurley
Common Chaffinch				3/30	Duxbury	1	T. Nickerson
3/1-15	Waltham	1	J. Forbes	4/1	Merrimac	1	B. + B. Buxton
Purple Finch				4/2	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist
3/3	Sheffield	8	S. McDonald	Evening Grosbeak			
3/16	Hinsdale	4	D. Monl	3/28	Northfield	6	M. Taylor
3/21	New Salem	4	B. Lafley	4/9	Northampton	2	T. Gagnon
4/3	W. Gloucester	4	J. Nelson	4/17	New Salem	2	J. Hoye#
4/3	P.I.	12	T. Wetmore	4/18	Shutesbury	2	K. Weir
4/7	Ipswich (C.B.)	8	J. Berry	4/25	Conway	2	S. Surner
4/22	Fitchburg-03	4	C. Caron	4/26	Gloucester	pr	S. Hedman
4/23	C. Quabbin	7	L. Therrien				
4/25	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#				

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, 42nd through 51st Supplements, as published in *The Auk* 117: 847-58 (2000); 119: 897-906 (2002); 120: 923-32 (2003); 121: 985-95 (2004); 122: 1026-31 (2005); 123: 926-36 (2006); 124 (3): 1109-15 (2007); 125 (3): 758-68 (2008); 126 (3): 705-14 (2009); 127 (3): 726-44 (2010) (see <<http://www.aou.org/checklist/north>>).

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

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month, and may be submitted by postal mail or e-mail. Send written reports to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 36 Lewis Avenue, Arlington, MA 02474-3206. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). For instructions on e-mail submission, visit: <<http://massbird.org/birdobserver/sightings/>>.

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (indicated by an asterisk [*] in the Bird Reports), as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts, should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Matt Garvey, 137 Beaconsfield Rd. #5, Brookline, MA 02445, or by e-mail to <mattgarvey@gmail.com>.

News from the Birding Community E-bulletin

Reaching Youth: A Common Problem

The July-August issue of Ducks Unlimited magazine had an article <http://www.ducks.org/DU_Magazine/JulyAug2010/4983/PassingontheTradition.html?poe=JulyAug10Mag> by Scott Yaich, director of conservation operations at DU, titled "Passing on the Tradition." The subject was recruiting youth, the next generation of waterfowl hunters and conservationists.

You can just as easily replace the word "hunter," with "birder" or "wildlife photographer" or "naturalist," to appreciate that Yaich's observations, figures, and recommendations are not unique to the waterfowling community. There are common problems here.

Some key issues (e.g., unstructured exploration, the need for mentors, the need for more frequent trips, and just plain fun in the field) are certainly common problems, especially posed in light of the reduced time and opportunity devoted to these things, as well as family income issues these days.

One point raised by Yaich, and sometimes equally obvious among birders, is that "perhaps most unfortunately, many adult hunters expressed the feeling that the inconvenience and effort necessary to introduce youths and novices to hunting takes away from their own enjoyment of the sport." Again, this may not be unique to waterfowlers.

You can access past E-bulletins on the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) website: <<http://www.refugenet.org/birding/birding5.html>>.

ABOUT THE COVER

Red Knot

The Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) is the quintessential long-distance migrant. It nests in the high Arctic in some of the coldest areas of the world and spends the non-breeding season in some of the hottest, on tropical beaches and lagoons. Some birds migrate from the Arctic to Tierra del Fuego, a world away. A medium-sized rotund sandpiper with a proportionally large body, short legs, small head, and short bill, in breeding plumage it sports the orange-red underparts that give it a portion of its common name. The back is gray with black-edged feathers. In non-breeding plumage the rusty underparts are replaced by a stippled gray and white. The back is plain light gray. The Red Knot is the largest of the North American *Calidris* sandpipers and can be distinguished from similar-sized dowitchers by its shorter bill. Identification can be more challenging if the birds are roosting with their bills tucked as pictured on this issue's cover, where a Red Knot is to the left, a dowitcher to the right. Five subspecies are recognized worldwide that are thought to have diverged in isolated breeding areas during the last glaciation. Because these races have similar measurements, perhaps the way to distinguish the subspecies is by their migration patterns. *C. c. canutus* breeds in Siberia and winters in West Africa, *C. c. rufa* breeds in Canada north of the Arctic Circle and winters in southern South America, *C. c. islandica* breeds in eastern Canada and Greenland and migrates to Europe, and *C. c. roselaari* breeds in Russia and migrates to the Australasian region. The migration of *C. c. roselaari* is poorly known, but it probably breeds in Alaska and migrates to the Pacific Coast of the United States as well as Mexico, Florida, Texas, and the Atlantic Coast of South America. The Red Knot is closely related to the Great Knot and may be a transitional species between Surfbirds and *Calidris* sandpipers.

Red Knots are one of the longest distance migrants of any animal species and can make nonstop flights of thousands of miles. They typically congregate in staging areas to fatten up for these long flights, where they are vulnerable to predation or storm effects. Prior to migration, knots may gain 50% of their non-fat body mass, along with concomitant changes in muscle mass, such as loss of leg muscle and gain in flight muscle. They tend to be site-faithful to their staging sites. In Massachusetts the Red Knot is considered a locally uncommon spring migrant. In fall it is locally abundant. They occur along the coast, mainly at Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge in Chatham, and on sandy islands in Nauset Marsh in Eastham, on Cape Cod. Spring counts tend to be in the low hundreds in late May and June, and fall counts may reach the low thousands from late July through September. Occasionally small flocks of knots overwinter in Massachusetts, usually on Cape Cod.

Red Knots breed at various elevations, mostly near the coast in barren tundra habitats. Males make song-flights over their territory. They fly steeply up, level off, and make figure-eight maneuvers and short glides and climbs with stiff, quivering wing beats, uttering the flight call *poor-mee*, *poor poor* or *weee weee*. They also have a variety of alarm and other flight calls. Males are highly site-faithful and very

territorial, often performing defense and advertisement flights with exaggerated wing beats, using so-called V-wing flights. They may also stand with wings held vertically over their backs, or crouch with tail cocked. Chases are frequent, with chattering calls and some V-wing glides. Courtship displays include a male walking on stiff legs with posterior raised and calling *weee*. Or the male may toss grass over his back while sitting in his nest scrapes with wingtips pointed up.

Males make three to five nest scrapes, clearing grass by pulling with the bill, sitting in the scrape, and kicking back with the feet while rotating with breast pressed down. The scrapes are lined with grass or lichen. The usual clutch is four brownish eggs, spotted and blotched with darker colors. Both parents develop brood patches, and both incubate during the three weeks until hatching. They perform “rodent-run” distraction displays if the nest is approached. The young are precocial and leave the nest soon after hatching. Usually the male takes charge of leading the chicks to lower, wetter habitat once they are able to feed themselves. How long the male stays with the chicks and broods them is poorly known, but in some cases it is known to be about two weeks or so.

In non-breeding situations Red Knots are highly social, roosting together and rarely foraging alone. On their staging areas and wintering sites they prefer coastal beaches, peat banks, and tidal flats in lagoons or bays. They forage by pecking prey from the substrate in situations when prey are visible, for example, when they are harvesting horseshoe crab eggs in Delaware Bay in May or patrolling mud flats or beaches for small mussels or snails. They probe for bivalves and amphipods and sometimes plow with their bill while moving forward and making probing motions. They swallow prey whole and rely on their strong gizzards to crush up mollusk shells. They eat mostly terrestrial invertebrates during the breeding season, but in migration and on the wintering grounds, they take marine invertebrates, including mollusks, polychaete worms, shrimp, or crabs—almost anything that burrows or crawls. If they arrive on the breeding grounds before the snow is gone, they may even eat plant material, including shoots and seeds.

Red Knots were heavily hunted in the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries, but with protection, their numbers recovered, at least to some degree. They are still illegally hunted in parts of South America. Red Knots are subject to predation on the breeding grounds by Arctic foxes, Long-tailed Jaegers, and falcons, and their high-Arctic breeding locations are often subject to the vagaries of weather. Global warming may have a particularly negative effect on this species because of its Arctic breeding and because of the species’ coastal staging and wintering grounds, where sea level changes may have profound effects. Also troubling is the knot’s relatively low genetic diversity, which may constrain its evolutionary response to changing conditions. Inclusion of key staging areas and wintering grounds in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network is a continuing conservation goal for this species. Delaware Bay, with its horseshoe crabs and a number of important wintering sites, is already protected; however, this shorebird needs all the help it can get. 

William E. Davis, Jr.

About the Cover Artist: Barry Van Dusen

Once again, we have a cover by Barry Van Dusen, whose work our readers will certainly recognize. Barry is well known in the birding world, especially in Massachusetts, where he lives in the central Massachusetts town of Princeton. Since mid-April 2010 his work has been shown at the Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, MA—an exhibition of watercolors that will continue through the summer. In addition, there is an accompanying educational exhibit entitled *Bird Artist at Work*, which describes the methods and techniques of contemporary nature artists. Barry will be presenting several gallery talks, an evening reception, and a workshop through the summer. For details see <<http://www.fruitlands.org>>.

Barry has illustrated several nature books and pocket guides, and his articles and paintings have been featured in *Birder's World*, *Birding*, and *Bird Watcher's Digest*, as well as *Bird Observer*. Barry was one of thirteen artists to contribute to *Birds of Peru*, published by Princeton University Press in 2007.

An association with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, which began in 1982, caused Barry to become attracted to nature subjects. He has been influenced by the work of European wildlife artists and has adopted their methodology of direct field sketching. His skill as a field artist has enabled Barry to participate in projects abroad sponsored by the Netherlands-based Artists for Nature Foundation. With this organization he has traveled to India, Peru, England, Ireland, Spain, and, most recently, to Israel to raise funds for conservation of threatened habitats. In 2007 he became the first U.S. artist to be commissioned by the Wildlife Habitat Trust of Wexham, England, to design the 2007 UK Habitat Conservation Stamp, which is modeled after the U.S. Duck Stamp.

For more information about Barry's many achievements and activities, see <<http://www.barryvandusen.com>>. 



PIPING PLOVER PAIR ON PLYMOUTH BEACH BY SANDY SELESKY

AT A GLANCE

June 2010



WAYNE R. PETERSEN

Before attempting to identify the June issue's mystery species, it is important to get the photo image properly oriented in your mind. At first glance one *could* get the spurious impression that the picture depicts a small mammal, possibly a rabbit or a similar long-eared critter hiding behind a dark-colored rock. The fact that the backdrop for the picture is water, however, makes this a most unlikely possibility. Seriously, however, since the perspective of the picture may not be immediately obvious, let's work this one through together.

Sure, you're saying, "This is *Bird Observer's* 'At a Glance' column, so this has to be a bird, right?" Since there do not appear to be any instantly obvious avian features in the picture, we should proceed slowly just the same. The fact that the bird is obviously in the water is a significant clue, despite the fact that the head is completely obscured. We're actually looking at the underside of a bird with widely separated and partially obscured legs located well away from the midline of the bird. Since we're viewing the bird's underbelly, what at first looked like rabbit ears peering over a rock are actually the underside of the wing tips just visible above the mystery bird's tail.

With this orientation in mind, the picture plainly depicts the legs, underbelly, and tail area of a swimming bird—a duck, to be precise. Once it is recognized as a duck, the view presented of a foraging dabbling duck should not be unfamiliar. Visit your

local duck-feeding area and watch the Mallards grubbing for grain on the pond bottom to see what I mean.

There is now sufficient information to readily identify the duck in the picture. The prominent black tail coverts, white belly, and light-colored (actually yellow) legs at once identify the bird as a male Gadwall (*Anas strepera*). Although Northern Pintail and American Wigeon also have black tail coverts, they can be readily eliminated because they have noticeably longer, more pointed tails and dark-colored legs.

Gadwalls are locally common breeders at two national wildlife refuges, Parker River and Monomoy, and they can regularly be found in winter at several favored coastal sites. As migrants, Gadwalls are decidedly uncommon inland, or away from their favored coastal localities. The author photographed the pictured feeding male Gadwall in the winter at Jenney Gristmill Pond in Plymouth. 

Wayne R. Petersen

News from the Birding Community E-bulletin

A New Decision Impacting Migratory Birds

A federal court decision over dead birds in Kansas oil fields has redefined the coverage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. As a result of this decision, violators no longer need to intentionally kill the birds to be convicted. The MBTA makes it illegal to hunt, capture, or kill protected migratory birds. Violators can currently be subject to a maximum penalty of \$15,000 and six months in prison for a misdemeanor conviction.

Apollo Energies, Inc., and Dale Walker were accused of violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act after bird remains were found in both companies' heater-treaters. These devices are used to distill oil pumped from wells.

Both companies had appealed convictions for the deaths of a few birds, including Northern Flicker and Common Grackle. Apollo Energies was fined \$1500 and Walker \$500. The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in late July affirmed these two convictions, one against Apollo and another against Walker. The court ruled that the potential violators could be held responsible even if they didn't intentionally kill any birds.

In upholding the conviction against Apollo Energies, the appeals court emphasized that the company acknowledged that it failed to cover some potentially dangerous exhaust pipes as wildlife regulators had suggested following a 2005 inspection.

You can access past E-bulletins on the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) website: <http://www.refugenet.org/birding/birding5.html>.

AT A GLANCE



WAYNE R. PETERSEN

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

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