

BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



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BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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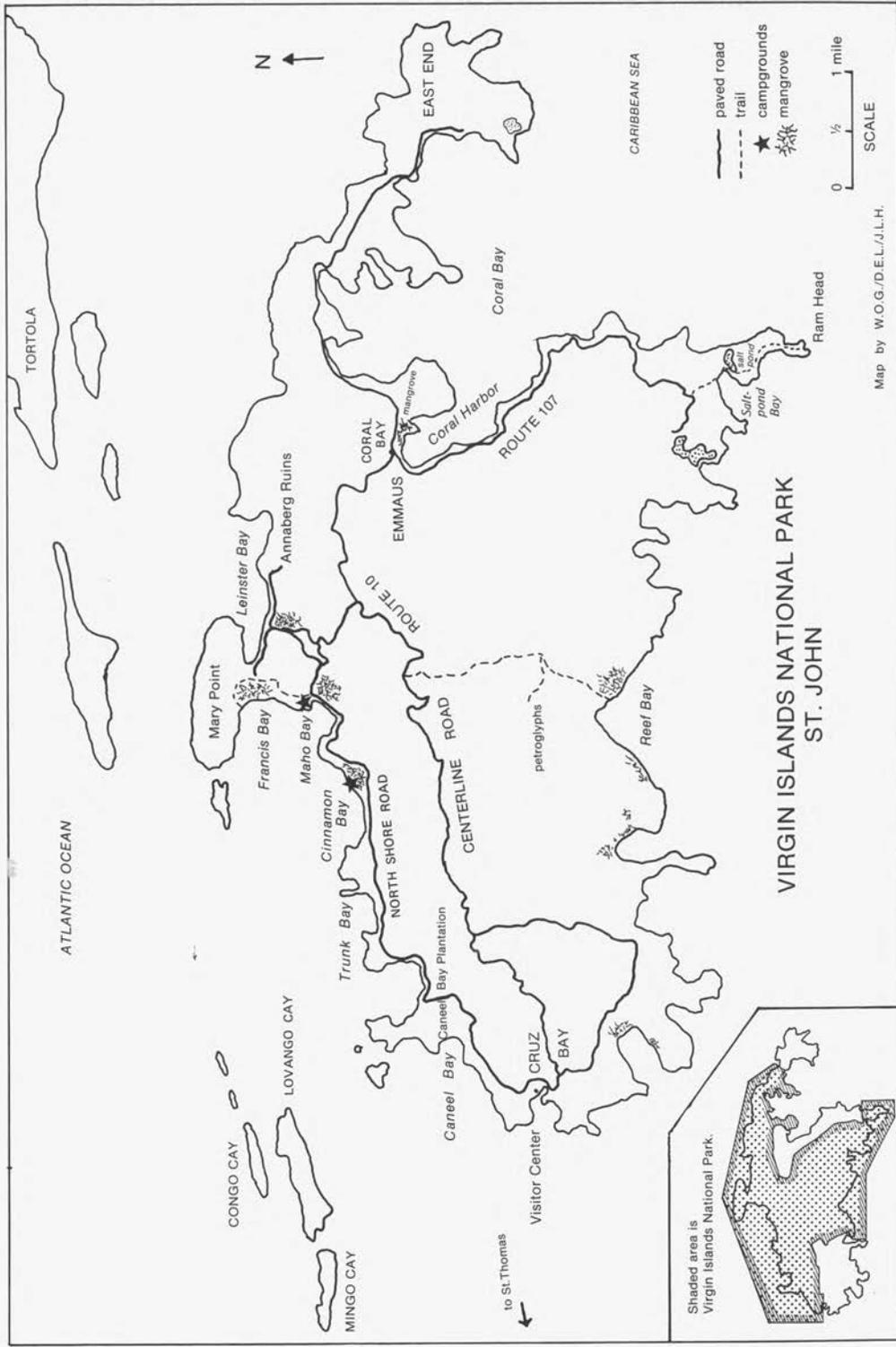
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The staff of Bird Observer is profoundly saddened by the death of Barbara Phillips in September 1986. Barbara was a member of the staff from 1982 until her illness became incapacitating. She served our publication in many ways with great efficiency and agreeable readiness. She graciously performed any task requested - from the dreary job of typing field records and transforming hand-written scrawls into camera-ready copy to scrupulous editing and meticulous proofreading and occasionally contributing material for publication. She was an appreciative and enthusiastic field companion and often devoted birding time to population surveys to provide annual counts for the records of night-herons at the Watertown roost, night-hawks in migration, and the autumn build-up of pond Wood Ducks. Those among us who knew her well admired her intellectual vigor and honesty. She has been sorely missed by the staff of Bird Observer and will be long remembered by her many friends.



VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK
ST. JOHN

Shaded area is Virgin Islands National Park.

Map by W.O.G./D.E.L./J.L.H.

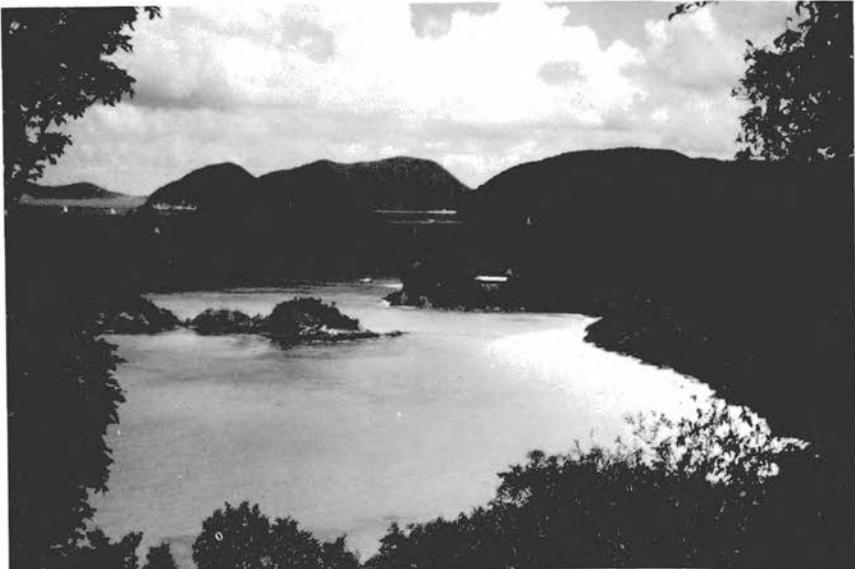
BIRDING ON ST. JOHN, U. S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

by William O. Gette, Bedford

St. John, the smallest and least populated of the U. S. Virgin Islands, covers approximately twenty square miles. The feature that makes this island of particular interest to birders and nature enthusiasts is the Virgin Islands National Park, which covers over sixty percent of the island's land area. Due to the conservation efforts of the Park Service and St. John's residents, much of the island remains unspoiled tropical wilderness.

In April 1986, I had the opportunity to spend a family vacation on St. John. For eight days, we stayed at the Maho Bay Camps. The campground is located on the northern side of the island about six miles northeast of the town of Cruz Bay. Cruz Bay contains numerous shops, the ferry landing, and the Virgin Islands National Park Visitor Center.

For individuals who wish to camp so that they can be close to nature, Maho Bay Camps is absolutely fantastic. This campground provides tents erected on platforms, bedding, and a gas stove so that you can live in relative comfort. The tent platforms are connected together by a series of boardwalks leading to toilets and unheated showers, administration buildings, the dining hall, and the beach. The boardwalks are built slightly off the ground to protect the habitat from foot traffic and erosion. From these boardwalks, I was able to see numbers of Bananaquits, Pearly-eyed Thrashers, Gray Kingbirds, Antillean Crested Hummingbirds, Zenaida Doves, Scaly-naped Pigeons, Mangrove Cuckoos, and Black-faced Grassquits.



Trunk Bay, St. John

Photo by David E. Lange

I found the Maho Bay Camps an especially good base from which to make birding trips. First, the people who run the campground are genuinely interested in the beauty of their island and its natural history. Although the people at Maho are not necessarily birders, they are very willing to provide information about the island and directions to areas where they have seen concentrations of birds. This type of information can be especially helpful during the dry season when water levels recede in the freshwater ponds and the birds move to less accessible areas. It is helpful to show camp staff members pictures of the birds you want to see since most of the people know birds only by their local names, not by the names in the field guides.

A second reason for visiting Maho is the fact that the campground is only a fifteen-minute hike from Mary Point, an excellent birding area when there has been adequate rain. Mary Point is bounded on the west by Francis Bay and on the east by Leinster Bay. The Park Service maintains a 0.3 mile trail that leads from the public road, passes Mary Point Pond, and ends at a bathing area on Francis Bay. The Park Service often conducts bird walks to this area; check with the rangers at Cruz Bay for details. Despite the fact that St. John was in the middle of a dry spell and Mary Point Pond was nearly empty, my walks in this area were very productive. I was able to see Common Ground-Doves, Zenaida Doves, Black-Whiskered Vireos, Black-faced Grassquits, Smooth-billed Anis, Antillean Crested Hummingbirds, Little Blue Herons, Green-throated Caribs, plus the ever-



Black Mangrove, Coral Bay, St. John

Photo by David E. Lange

present Bananaquits and Pearly-eyed Thrashers. Northern Waterthrushes, Northern Parulas, Yellow Warblers, and Ruddy Turnstones were also present in good numbers.

The third reason for recommending Maho Bay is the fact that the camp provides convenient access to a wide variety of activities offering numerous opportunities for birding. These activities include both camp-sponsored events and programs conducted by the Park Service. One such event was an all-day snorkeling trip by power boat circumnavigating St. John. Besides the splendid snorkeling at four different locations, there was also adequate time to observe ocean birds. Although you can see Magnificent Frigatebirds, Brown Boobys, Royal Terns, and Brown Pelicans from many locations on the island, the boat trip offers the opportunity to see these birds in greater concentrations and at closer range. I observed the largest numbers of Brown Boobys on and around Lovango and Mingo cays. These two islands are located just off the northwest tip of St. John. Next to these two islands is Congo Cay, the reported nesting site for a small group of White-tailed Tropicbirds. The boat captain and manager of Maho Bay Camps, Bob Berner, made a special detour by Congo Cay at my request so that we could see these birds. Three tropicbirds flew off the cliffs and circled overhead. What a magnificent sight they were with their long tails streaming out behind!

Another very rewarding trip was a half-day sail in the waters around St. John, Jost van Dyke, and Tortola. On this trip, I saw eight Brown Noddys and relatively small numbers of Royal and Sandwich terns. From the park rangers I learned that the terns had just begun returning to St. John during the first and second weeks of April. Therefore, I did not see any sizable concentrations of terns.

The final camp-sponsored trip in which I participated was a tour of the island, emphasizing both its history and natural history. I feel that this tour is the best way to see the island for the first time. You can rent jeeps on St. John, but be careful! You must drive on the left, and the roads are extremely narrow, winding, and steep. The tour driver, Hamilton Eugene, does an excellent job telling about the island's history and folklore as well as pointing out much of its natural history. Hamilton was extremely helpful to me, pointing out the best birding spots and making detours on his route so that I could do some birding on my own.

The island tour began at the historic Annaberg Sugar Mill ruins on the north side of St. John. Just 0.2 mile west of the mill on Leinster Bay was an extensive mangrove swamp, which is best for birding during the rainy season. From Annaberg, we traveled east via Route 10 (Centerline Road) to the village of Coral Bay which is bordered by mud flats, mangrove swamps, and pasture land with the accompanying Cattle Egrets. Again, due to the dry conditions, birds were scarce; however, I was told that large concentrations of birds are often seen in this area. From Coral



Magnificent Frigatebird

Photo by David E. Lange

Bay we traveled south via Route 107 to the Saltpond Bay area at the extreme southeastern corner of St. John. Just 0.3 mile past the parking lot for Saltpond Bay is a large, unnamed freshwater pond. This pond proved to be a fruitful birding location. The highlights for me were eight White-cheeked Pintails, Wilson's Plovers, a Caribbean Elaenia, and Lesser Antillean Bullfinches. I also saw Common Ground-Doves, Zenaida Doves, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitchers, a Northern Mockingbird, and several warbler species.

Besides being choice for swimming, the Saltpond Bay area also provides some fine habitat for birds. Salt Pond, located just behind the southern end of the beach, is a very good place for shorebirds and waterfowl. I saw several Wilson's Plovers (one pair had young) plus Semipalmated Plovers, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Ruddy Turnstones.

A Park Service tour, which I felt was very informative, was a ranger-guided hike down the Reef Bay Trail. The Reef Bay Trail is 2.5 miles long and follows an old Danish sugar-mill road. It begins at Route 10 (Centerline Road) and descends first through a shady, moist forest and then through a dry forest to Reef Bay on the southern part of the island. A small group of petroglyphs on a spur trail is well worth seeing. The park rangers do a superb job pointing out plants and animals and describing the history of the area. During my hike, I saw a Bridled Quail-Dove, Mangrove Cuckoos, Black-whiskered Vireos, Red-tailed Hawk, and numerous warblers. A real advantage of going on the ranger-guided tour is the fact that a boat picks you up when you reach Reef Bay and takes you back to Cruz Bay. If you take the hike on your own, you must walk back up the trail, a strenuous walk in hot weather.

There are other good birding spots that can be reached by regular island bus runs. Caneel Bay Plantation was the best location I found for seeing Green-throated Caribs. Throughout the island, I saw almost ten times as many Antillean Crested Hummingbirds as Green-throated Caribs; however, at Caneel I saw large numbers of both species. Also at Caneel Bay were numerous lesser Antillean Bullfinches. At Trunk Bay, site of the park's world-famous underwater snorkeling trail, I found the largest groups of Bridled Quail-Doves. In a small mangrove swamp across the road from the Maho Bay beach area, I saw Common Moorhens and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. The people at Maho refer to this beach as "Big Maho" and call the small beach at the camp "Little Maho." "Big" Maho Bay is a ten-minute hike from camp via the Goat Trail.

A trip to St. John is a wonderful experience! The Virgin Islands National Park makes it a very special place for nature lovers. The scenery, water sports, nature trails, and relative peace and quiet are delightful, and birding enhances the enjoyment. I highly recommend Maho Bay Camps, but there are other places to stay. Cinnamon Bay is a campground concession in the national park. If you wish to be fancy, look into Caneel Bay Plantation. The following addresses will be useful for further information.

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Virgin Islands National Park | Maho Bay Camps, P.O. Box 310 |
| P.O. Box 7789 | Cruz Bay, St. John |
| Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas | U.S. Virgin Islands 00830 |
| U.S. Virgin Islands, 00801 | 800-392-9004 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Virgin Islands Div. of Tourism | OR |
| 1270 Avenue of the Americas | 17-A East 73rd Street |
| New York, NY 10020 | New York, NY 10021 |
| 212-582-4520 | 212-472-9453 |

Cinnamon Bay Campground, P.O. Box 720
Cruz Bay, St. John
U.S. Virgin Islands, 00830
800-223-7637 or 800-442-8198 (NY)

Recommended bird books:

Birds of the West Indies by James Bond, Houghton Mifflin, 1980.
A Guide to the Birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands by Herbert A. Raffaele, Fondo Educativo Interamericano, San Juan, 1983. This guide contains maps for a number of birding locations on St. John, including Mary Point.

WILLAM O. GETTE is the manager of a computer products manufacturing and test facility for Honeywell in Billerica. Bill became interested in birding while working as a student assistant and boatman at the National Audubon Camp of Maine on Hog Island and is now an avid birder and field trip leader.

BINOCULARS FOR SALE

Carl Zeiss-Jena, 10x50, multicoated, conventional binoculars.
New condition: \$75. Phone 353-2955 (tape). Ned Mueller

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON ST. JOHN

by David E. Lange, Arlington

During the summers of 1983 and 1984, I was fortunate to spend five weeks on St. John at Maho Bay Camps vacationing and teaching at two ecology workshops. I heartily agree with William Gette that St. John is a great place to vacation and learn about the Caribbean, and I offer the following additional information about the islands.

Additional species. The Park Service bird checklist lists 155 species occurring in the Virgin Islands National Park. Two of these, Puerto Rican Screech-Owl and Puerto Rican Flycatcher, are endemic to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rican Screech-Owl is listed as extremely rare on St. John. (Because of its larger size and more diverse habitats, Puerto Rico supports an additional twelve endemic species.) One additional permanent resident is the Shiny (Glossy) Cowbird. I have seen a small flock of Shiny Cowbirds several times around Coral Bay. Another interesting species, the Lesser Antillean Bullfinch, apparently arrived on St. John via Hurricane Donna in 1960.

Hiking. Annaberg is a 1.3 mile hike from Maho Bay Camps, passing by the mangrove swamp along Leinster Bay. After visiting Annaberg, continue east along Leinster Bay following a dirt road for 0.7 mile to a mud flat. This mud flat may have water and thus attract waders. Birding is good all along this route from Maho. One additional hike I would recommend is to Ram Head, which is beyond Saltpond Bay. This hike (0.9 mile) is through the dry part of the island. The view is spectacular, but the hike is hot and dry, so take plenty of water.

Accommodations on St. John. Cinnamon Bay Campground is a concession in the National Park, whereas Maho Bay Camps are privately owned. Three types of accommodations are available at Cinnamon Bay: small cottages, tents on wooden platforms, and bare tent sites. Maho Bay has tents on wooden platforms. There is no running water except in the bath houses, and the water is not heated for showers but comes out of the tap tepid. Fresh water is precious on St. John and must be conserved; one is asked to take only one shower per day. The Cinnamon Bay cottages have electric lights as do the tents at Maho Bay. Cinnamon Bay Campground is at beach level, whereas Maho Bay Camps are located on a steep hillside with many steps to reach the beach, the dining hall, or your tent. The big advantage of being on a hill is that most of the tent sites have an excellent outlook, and the pavilion has a beautiful panoramic view. Cinnamon Bay has a cafeteria with breakfast, lunch, and dinner available. Maho Bay has a dining hall that serves only breakfast and dinner. Two entrees are offered for dinner. Buy your dinner ticket in the morning as they usually sell out before dinner time. Propane stoves are available at each site at

Cinnamon and Maho except for the bare tent sites at Cinnamon. More information can be found in their respective brochures. Reservations are recommended and are a must from December through April.

A few rental units can be found elsewhere on St. John. Check with a travel agent or the Division of Tourism.

Seasonal variations. The Gettes visited St. John in the spring, and I have been there in both the spring and summer. I have found the summer very pleasant as it is off-season. The average monthly temperature difference between January and July is about six degrees. The number of species of birds is less in the summer when the winter residents and migrants are gone, but most of the specialty species are permanent residents, and some, like the Antillean Nighthawk, do not arrive until late May. Late summer and fall are the wetter times of the year, but rain may occur in any season. Rain usually occurs as brief showers, often at night. Wet weather brings out the insects, and one should remember to bring along insect repellent. Mosquitoes and sand flies are the problem, and Muskol is recommended by Maho Bay Camps. A pair of long pants and socks at dinner time help protect against insects.

Snorkeling. Snorkeling St. John's waters is superb, and one can snorkel right at Maho or Cinnamon bays. Of special interest are sea turtles; the Green and the Hawksbill are frequently seen in Maho and Francis bays. A motorboat or sailboat trip offers a way to get to the best snorkeling spots. A late afternoon snorkel is a good means of cooling off.

Bookstores. The park service visitor's center in Cruz Bay offers the only real selection of natural history books on St. John. A few fish guides and local books are available at many places including the commissaries at Cinnamon and Maho. Bookstores on St. Thomas are few, and it is best to buy your field guides before you leave.

DAVID E. LANGE is an Electron Microprobe Specialist in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard University. Dave started birding in 1974 after attending a meeting in southern California where a group of birders took a side trip to Mount Piños to observe California Condors. After returning home to New Mexico, Dave took up birding and became active in the local National Audubon chapter. Dave moved east in 1980 and joined the staff of *Bird Observer* in 1981 to become subscription manager and then treasurer.

MAINE SAW IT FIRST! MORE ON THE RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD

Allied Whale, College of the Atlantic
Bar Harbor, Maine December 5, 1986

Dear Mr. Forster,

Kyle Jones has suggested that I write to you concerning our sighting of a Red-billed Tropicbird at Mt. Desert Rock (MDR), a three-and-a-half-acre island located approximately 22 miles south of Mt. Desert Island, Maine. MDR has been the site of a field research station since 1973 and is manned every summer by personnel from the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine. We keep watch from the 21-meter lighthouse tower on MDR during daylight hours to count marine mammal and pelagic bird species utilizing the area.

On August 31, 1986, David James was on first watch. David is a first-class birder from Australia who has spent a lot of time on the shelf edge of eastern Australia looking for pelagic birds and is familiar with many species of prion, petrel, storm-petrel, and albatross.

At 6:15 A.M., David spotted the bird and using 10x40 binoculars, was able to identify it as an adult Red-billed Tropicbird. He noted pale barring on the back, black primaries, blood-red bill, and two-foot tail streamers. The bird flew around the perimeter of the island several times, and David was able to verify his identification.

By the time the rest of the crew was up, the bird had gone. However, at approximately 11:00 A.M. the tropicbird returned to the area. Again it flew several times around the island and almost landed among a group of seven Black-legged Kittiwakes. At this time I photographed the bird from the lighthouse tower, using a 300 mm zoom lens and taking six frames at about 400 meters distance. I also noted the field characteristics of the bird, which do not come out well on film because of extreme distance. Through binoculars, the barring on the back was distinct, as were the bill and primaries. The tropicbird remained in the area for another ten minutes or so and finally left, heading in a south-southwesterly direction. It was not seen again at MDR.

Once back on the mainland, I copied several of the slides onto black-and-white film but have not yet sent the original to be duplicated. I am sending along the negative in lieu of a slide as I'm sure you appreciate documentation whenever possible. Although just as distant, the quality of the slide is better than this negative.

I know we're all wondering whether or not this is the same bird as the one on Martha's Vineyard; if so, I can't help being pleased that we spotted and identified it first.

Harriet Corbett
Project Director
Mt. Desert Rock Marine Research Station

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD IN NEW ENGLAND, 1986

by Kyle Jones, Bar Harbor, Maine

Maine and Massachusetts both established first records for Red-billed Tropicbird in the autumn of 1986. A great deal of similarity in the two events prompted this review. The sightings establish new northerly limits for the species in the northwestern Atlantic.

To make a comparison of the two sightings, I examined the published information on the Martha's Vineyard discovery (Arvidson 1986; Rosenwald 1986), notes from the Mount Desert Rock appearance provided by David James and Harriet Corbett, photographs from Jonathan Alderfer (in Rosenwald 1986) and Corbett, and personal experience with the Martha's Vineyard bird.

The Red-billed Tropicbird was seen at Mount Desert Rock, Maine, on August 31, 1986 (see Corbett, this issue). Fifteen days later another Red-billed Tropicbird was documented on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts (September 15, 1986), although the bird may have been present there for as much as "two weeks" prior to its identification (Rosenwald 1986). Both sightings occurred after the passing of Tropical Storm Charley in mid-August, but no signs of storm-caused wear were apparent (e.g., abraded flight feathers, broken tail streamers, fatigue).

Aside from the temporal similarities of these events, the physical appearances are also noteworthy. Both records are of adult-plumaged birds in an apparently healthy condition with full tail streamers and very pale dorsal barring.



Red-billed Tropicbird
Martha's Vineyard, MA September 15, 1986

Photo by Jonathan Alderfer

A look at past records for this species in the northwestern Atlantic include single dead or dying specimens from New York and Rhode Island. Reference for the Newfoundland Banks (A.O.U. 1957) was reported by Arvidson (1986) as "unsubstantiated." Thus, the Maine record establishes the most northerly record for the species, and both sightings provide first state records.

What does all of this mean? To me, it suggests that the same individual may have been responsible for both appearances. One possible scenario is that the bird came north, with or without the assistance of Tropical Storm Charley, briefly visited Mount Desert Rock, and then turned up on Martha's Vineyard, 165 nautical miles to the southwest, sometime in the first half of September.

No conclusive evidence has been found to prove or disprove this hypothesis, but it provides stimulating possibilities for the comment posed by the Massachusetts Audubon Society's public service information release about ". . . what it was doing for two weeks prior to being seen" (M.A.S. 1986).

I thank those authors and photographers kind enough to publish details on this important event, Harriet Corbett and David James for allowing me access to their personal notes and photographs, and *Bird Observer* and the Massachusetts Audubon Society for bringing the discoveries to the public.

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KYLE JONES lives in Bar Harbor, Maine, and works for Acadia National Park. His experience in Massachusetts includes working with tern colonies on Cape Cod, an internship and several pelagic cruises for the Manomet Bird Observatory, and regularly sneaking into the state to capitalize on birding opportunities not found downeast. He has begged, blundered, and beaten his way into such avian delights as Ross' Gull, Red-billed Tropicbird, and Sooty Tern.

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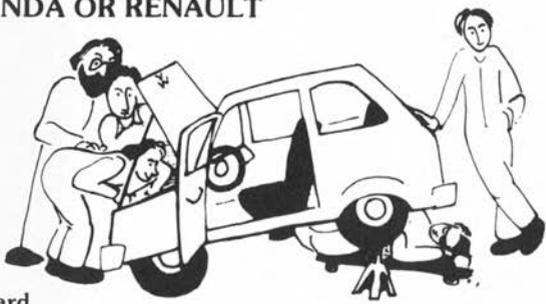
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CATESBY'S COLONIAL FIELD GUIDE

by Richard K. Walton, Concord

A revolution of sorts took place in 1934 with the publication of Roger Tory Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds*. A reviewer in *The Auk* commended its young author: "On the general conception of the work and its admirable consummation we heartily congratulate him." Peterson's innovation involved the authoring of a single volume of bird plates and descriptions that stressed recognizable field characteristics of the birds inhabiting eastern North America. Armed with this small volume and a pair of binoculars (in lieu of the previously obligatory shotgun), the field birder was well equipped to identify birds for pleasure or study. Since its appearance in 1934, the "Peterson Field Guide" has been through four major revisions and more than forty printings and has sold over two million copies. Although the Peterson Guide is the paradigm, there are two other classic field guides that have been in general use during the past quarter century. In the 1950s Richard Pough and Don Eckelberry collaborated on a three-volume set, *Audubon Bird Guides*, that have become standards on the birder's bookshelf. The other much-used work, by Chandler Robbins et al., is *Birds of North America*. The latest generation of field guides includes the three volumes of *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding* and National Geographic's *Field Guide to Birds of North America*. Indicative of the sophistication and complexity that has evolved in the writing and production of field guides are the dozens of consultants, illustrators, and authors that were employed to complete these last two works. But what works were available before Peterson? Frank Chapman's *Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America* was first published in 1895. A number of editions and revisions, including ones illustrated by Louis Agassiz Fuertes, established this guide as the workhorse during the first part of the twentieth century. As we move backwards through the nineteenth and eighteenth centuries, we find works on American ornithology that differ significantly from present-day field guides. However, Coues, Nuttall, Audubon, and Wilson all produced books about American birds that served the birders of their times. The first comprehensive "field guide" to birds of the Western Hemisphere was Mark Catesby's *Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands*.

Mark Catesby (1682-1749) was an Englishman who made two trips to the New World, the first in 1712 to 1719 and the second in 1722 to 1726. After returning from his second voyage, he began work on his *Natural History*. Before Catesby, from the late sixteenth through the seventeenth centuries, there was very little in the way of systematic descriptions of the New World's natural resources. A few early explorers and settlers including Thomas Morton and John Josselyn of the northern colonies and Thomas Hariot and William Strachey in Virginia provided general descriptions with some references to the birdlife. Two other early visitors, John White and John Lawson, did provide Catesby with

specific information and illustrations that he would incorporate in his work.

John White made four voyages to the Carolina coast in the 1580s and 1590s. He completed over a hundred drawings of various fishes, reptiles, and arthropods as well as thirty-five bird drawings representing thirty-two New World species. Catesby apparently plagiarized several of White's drawings (four fish, a crab, and a butterfly). John Lawson, like many early American naturalists, made his living in the colonies by collecting plants and other natural oddities for European patrons. He was also in the land-promotion business and his *A New Voyage to Carolina* (1709) was essentially an advertisement for potential landowners and would-be settlers. Lawson's work included many natural history details as well as notes on American Indians. His bird list names and describes some 129 different forms. Many of Lawson's faunal descriptions, however, were based on hearsay and contained a heavy dose of folklore. Catesby was to make generous use of Lawson's work, sometimes giving credit, at other times not. In those cases where Catesby actually embellished his predecessor's fanciful accounts, the result is sensational but does little to clarify the natural history. Typical of such descriptions is Catesby's version of Lawson's devilfish (manta ray).

It is a large fish, and of great strength, as will appear by the following circumstance. A sloop of 80 ton lying at anchor in the harbor of Charles-Town, was on a sudden observed to move and scud away at a great rate; this being in view of hundreds of spectators, and it being known that nobody was on board it, caused no small consternation. At length it appeared to be one of these fish, which had entangled its horns with the cable, and carried the sloop a course of some leagues before it could disentangle itself from it, which at length it did, and left the sloop at anchor again, not far from the place he moved it from. [Feduccia, p. 160]

The final chapters to White's and Lawson's sojourns in the colonies indicate the difficulties under which these early naturalists worked. White's daughter, granddaughter, and son-in-law were all part of the ill-fated Roanoke Colony. Not a trace would be found of them, and White returned to England to live out his days. John Lawson's fate was even more tragic. In 1711, while exploring lands for a new colony, he was captured by the Tuscarora Indians. Catesby, in giving credit to Lawson for his Indian accounts, explained what happened.

I cannot but here lament the hard fate of this inquisitive traveler, who though partial in his favorable opinion of these barbarians, died by their bloody hands, for they roasted him alive in revenge for injuries they pretended to receive from him. [Ibid., p. 144]

Mark Catesby was also in the Americas under the patronage of wealthy Englishmen. In fact, in his introduction to *Natural History* he apologizes to his readers that on his first trip to Virginia he had no intention of writing a book on natural history but rather, "I chiefly gratified my inclination in observing and admiring the various productions of those countries; only sending from thence some dried specimens of plants . . . at the request of some curious friends" (ibid., p. 137). Catesby lists eleven patrons with a financial interest in his second trip. Just as the proprietary colonies of the Carolinas were economic adventures, Catesby was, to a large degree, the economic agent of his patrons. He was to send them valuable plants and seeds for practical application by their apothecaries or for inclusion in their private botanical gardens. The naturalist's job was to interpret the "productions" of nature so as to reveal their usefulness. When Catesby found areas that seemed unproductive, his comments often reflect this utilitarian perspective.

The further parts of these marshes from the sea, are confined by higher lands, covered with woods, through which, by intervals, the marsh extends in narrow tracts higher up the country, and contracts gradually as the ground rises; these upper tracts of marshland, by their advantageous situation, might with small expense be drained, and made excellent meadowland, the soil being exceedingly good. But so long as such spacious tracts of higher land remain uncultivated, and continue of no other use than for their cattle to range in, such improvements are like to lie neglected, and the marshes, which is a considerable part of the country, remain of little or no use. [Ibid., p. 141]

Catesby often recommended ways for his patrons to turn a profit. One innovative idea, expressed in a letter to Dr. William Sherard (an accomplished botanist and major fund raiser for Catesby's second trip), was the possibility of establishing an opium trade by growing Turkish poppies in Carolina. Among other practical suggestions given by Catesby in *Natural History* are recipes for pickled sturgeon and caviar. Indeed, this was a wide-ranging work covering a variety of topics. The extended title of this work makes reference to birds, beasts, fishes, serpents, insects, plants (especially trees and shrubs), air, soil, water, agriculture, and several other topics. Although the birds are mentioned first, it may well have been that Catesby saw them as supplemental to his botanical illustrations.

On his second trip Catesby spent the better part of four years exploring what is now South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and the Bahama Islands. This was not entirely a wilderness experience. Catesby's English connections provided him with various letters of introduction to the governors of the crown colonies, and he enjoyed the comforts of their hospitality. Catesby did, however, trek through many unsettled areas as he fulfilled his contract with his patrons by collecting and sending to England seeds, plants, and animals. When Catesby returned to England anxious

to begin work on his *Natural History*, he found little or no support from his former employers. Although they had been enthusiastic about paying Catesby's way when he was returning goods directly to them, they had little inclination to go into the book business. Catesby was to spend the rest of his life struggling with the details of eighteenth century book production.

From an ornithological viewpoint, his struggles were worthwhile. Catesby's illustrations and descriptions constitute the earliest comprehensive work on North American birds. His use of associated plants and birds was an innovative idea that would be used by Audubon in the next century. Many of Catesby's bird descriptions contain useful field marks, details of distribution, and notes on seasonal occurrence - just what we might expect in a modern field guide. His Red-headed Woodpecker offers a typical example.

This bird weighs two ounces; the bill sharp, somewhat compressed sideways, of a lead color; the whole head and neck, deep red; all the under part of the body and rump white; as are the small wing feathers; which when the wings are closed, joins to the white on the rump, and makes a broad white patch cross the lower part of the back; the upper part of which is black, as are the quill feathers and tail, which is short and stiff. In Virginia very few of these birds are to be seen in winter; in Carolina there are more, but not so numerous as in summer; wherefore I conceive they retire southward, to avoid the cold. This is the only one of the woodpeckers that may be termed domestic, frequenting villages and plantations, and takes a peculiar delight in rattling with their bill on the boarded houses; they are great devourers of fruit and grain. The hen in color differs little or nothing from the cock.

[Ibid., p. 81]

Catesby occasionally passed along folklore, perhaps to enliven his accounts. The Osprey, he claimed, having caught a fish invariably calls to the eagle who in turn often relieves the Osprey of his prey. Catesby's notion that the entrails of the Carolina Parakeet were poisonous to cats was to endure well into the following century. His account of the Ruddy Turnstone combines dry humor and exaggeration.

This bird has, in proportion to its body, a small head, with a straight tapered black bill, an inch long. All the upper part of the body is brown, with a mixture of white and black. The quill feathers of the wings are dark brown; the neck and breast are black; the legs and feet light red. In a voyage to America, in the year 1722, in 31 Deg. N. Lat. and 40 leagues from the coast of Florida, the bird, from which this was figured, flew on board us, and was taken. It was very active in turning up stones, which we put into its cage; but not finding under them the usual food, it died. In this

action it moved only the upper mandible; yet would with great dexterity and quickness turn over stones of above three pounds weight. . . [Ibid., p. 44]

In all, Catesby described and illustrated 109 species. Because his work is pre-Linnaean, many of the names Catesby used were ultimately changed. Linnaeus himself, however, made ample use of Catesby's work by describing and naming 71 species based on the text and drawings of *Natural History*. In effect, Catesby's illustrations became the original type specimens of many North American birds.

The author of *Natural History* also showed an inclination to deal with several of the larger ornithological puzzles - ones that remain to this day subjects of research. Catesby debunked the myth of hibernation in birds. "The reports of their lying torpid in caverns and hollow trees, and of their resting in the same state at the bottom of deep waters," he said, "are notions so ill attested and absurd in themselves, that they deserve no further notice" [ibid., p. 163]. As an alternative to hibernation, Catesby presented first hand evidence of migration. In the fall of 1725, Catesby recorded the movement of Bobolinks on three successive nights over the Bahamas. He suggested that many species must move to the Southern Hemisphere during the North American winter. In his attempt to explain the distribution of species, Catesby's speculations implied the idea of continental drift. "To therefore account for this extraordinary circumstance [the same species of land birds in Europe and America] there seems to remain but one more reason for their being found on both continents, which is the nearness of the two parts of the earth to each other heretofore, where now flows the vast Atlantic Ocean" [ibid., p. 163]. Another aspect of distribution that Catesby commented on was the relatively larger diversity of animals in the tropics as compared with the temperate zone.

Catesby published the first volume of his work in five parts between 1729 and 1732. In 1733 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society. Although he was to achieve a certain amount of fame during his lifetime, fortune was not to be Catesby's lot. He struggled financially through the entire process. A second volume to his *Natural History* was completed in 1743 and ultimately an appendix in 1747 - less than two years before his death. Catesby's work would provide a benchmark for many of America's prominent naturalists including Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Wilson, and John James Audubon. In fact, all the future generations of American naturalists would look back and say with Wayne Hanley: In the beginning there was Mark Catesby.

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RICHARD K. WALTON, author of *Birds of the Sudbury River Valley - An Historical Perspective*, is a free-lance writer/naturalist of philosophical bent. A lecturer, teacher, birdwatcher, and regular contributor to *Bird Observer*, Dick is currently conducting Massachusetts Audubon Society's Butterfly Atlas Project. The above article has been prepared as a chapter for a future book.



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BOOK VIEWS

by Brian E. Cassie, Millis

THUMBS UP!

TALES OF A LOW-RENT BIRDER by Peter Dunne. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick. 1986. 157 pages; drawings by David Sibley. \$15.95.

This is a wonderfully written book. Rarely does one find an author who both knows his birds and writes with style. Pete Dunne is such a gifted writer, and this book reflects his ability to transmit the scientific, humorous, or evocative aspects of birdlife at Cape May, New Jersey, into praiseworthy prose. Get this one!

A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING IN NEW JERSEY by William J. Boyle. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick. 1986. xvii+512 pages, illustrations by David Sibley, maps; flexible binding. \$19.95.

Here is another good bird book by Rutgers University Press. In fact, Boyle's book has everything a regional bird finding guide should have: the writing is clear and informative; the maps are excellent, as are the directions; the book is well indexed for birds and localities; and the appendices include an annotated checklist and good information on pelagics and on hawkwatching. The drawings by David Sibley are classy. I recommend this volume highly. (Maybe we'll have one like this for Massachusetts some day.)

THE BIRDS OF CANADA, revised edition, by W. Earl Godfrey. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa. 1986. 595 pages; 74 color plates, maps. \$39.95.

If you liked the old Godfrey, you will like the new Godfrey better. The text has not changed dramatically, although there are obviously a lot of distributional and extralimital records from the last twenty years worked in, and the author now discusses 578 species (versus 519 in the first edition). Of the seventy-four plates, thirty are unchanged from the first edition, thirty-one have been reworked with additional species illustrated, and thirteen are entirely new. (For the millions of birders who cannot seem to get enough of seabirds and shorebirds, nine of the new plates cover these.) Although the dimensions of the book are greater in this revised edition, the distributional maps are forty percent smaller; and that, dear readers, is my only criticism.

THE BIRDS AROUND US, A. E. Mace, editor. 1986. Ortho Books, San Francisco. 352 pages; hundreds of color illustrations. \$25.

Mace and a battery of twelve writers, including Kenneth Able, Jerome Jackson, and a number of other well-known ornithologists,

have put together an attractive and worthwhile introduction to bird life. There are chapters on evolution, behavior, flight, migration, ecology, attracting birds, and photographing birds, as well as a substantial "Gallery of Birds," with short species accounts and color photographs of 125 common North American birds. Considering the publisher, I trust this book will be available in every nursery and lawn and garden shop in the U. S., as well as in bookstores. I hope that a lot of the backyard birdwatcher/gardeners will pick it up.

THUMBS DOWN!

BIRDS FOR REAL by Rich Stallcup. 1985. Privately printed. 100 pages; illustrations; paperback. \$6.00.

Rich Stallcup is one of the premier bird identification experts in America, and his knowledge of subtle field marks is tremendous. In this little book, Stallcup has taken up the challenge of detailing all of the errors (as he perceives them) in the revised edition of Robbins' *A Guide to Field Identification of Birds of North America*. What a waste! Stallcup's remarks are directed at serious birdwatchers, and birdwatchers at this level do not, in my experience, use the Robbins guide; so all of his advice essentially falls on deaf ears. Besides, one hundred pages of nitpicking is boring. Do something positive with all of that ability, Rich.

OWLS: AN INTRODUCTION FOR THE AMATEUR NATURALIST by Gordon Dee Alcorn. 1986. Prentice Hall, New York. xiv + 176 pages; illustrations; paperback. \$9.95.

Owls are a favorite subject of nature writers; every year I add one or two volumes to my owl book collection. I have a feeling that this owl book will have a hard time finding a spot on my shelf. Mr. Alcorn writes anecdotally and uninterestingly, and he does not always have his facts straight. And that is enough to make this a poor "introduction for the amateur naturalist." To make matters worse, the author uses his own dreadful renditions to illustrate the book. How did this one get by the editors?

BRIAN E. CASSIE, birdwatcher, bird tour leader, lepidopterist, book dealer, father of three, and director of the Millis Christmas Bird Count, has gained (with the support of a host of devoted bird-feeding friends and neighbors) for the quiet town in which he resides a national reputation as the nation's number one stronghold and winter playground of the Black-capped Chickadee.

A LITTLE-KNOWN FIELD MARK FOR WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER

by Leif J. Robinson, Wellesley,
and Ted Raymond, Dedham

During our stay at Churchill, Manitoba, in June, 1986, we observed a multitude of White-rumped Sandpipers. All of these birds showed, to a greater or lesser degree, a conspicuous orange area on the lower mandible. It extended from the head to about a third of the way toward the tip of the bill.

This mark is unique among our common peep. Nevertheless, it is specifically mentioned and depicted in only two popular field guides, *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding* (John Farrand, Jr., editor) and *Shorebirds* (Peter Hayman et al.). In the first it is shown in photographs of birds in juvenile, breeding, and (though tough to see) winter plumage. In the second it is shown in all plumages.

Among other guides and sourcebooks readily available, only P. A. Johnsgard (*The Plovers, Sandpipers, and Snipes of the World*) and E. Forbush (*Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*) mention this orange mark. The *Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds* shows the bill mark well, as does W. Godfrey's *The Birds of Canada*; the National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* is less helpful.

Curiously, the bills of White-rumped Sandpipers are rendered totally black in the Peterson guides (east and west) as well as in Robbins' guide. More surprisingly, they are also depicted that way (and with no mention in the text of this coloration) in *The Shorebirds of North America*, edited by G. Stout.

To us, this mark proved useful for quickly separating White-rumps from Baird's Sandpiper, which was also common. Both birds are about the same size and have similar long-bodied profiles. (Of course, the standard field marks served equally well.) We write this note merely to point out that the orange lower mandible of the White-rump might be especially useful in the fall (though the mark might be less bright) when this species' flank spots become subdued and when a bird might be mistaken for a Baird's. This field mark could also help to identify a lone sitting bird at any season.

LEIF ROBINSON is the editor of *Sky and Telescope*, a former editor of *Bird Observer*, and a world traveler, circling the globe four times in the last fourteen months, on the track of birds, comets, eclipses, and other natural phenomena.

TED RAYMOND, professionally affiliated with the Kidder, Peabody company, is a member of the Board of Directors of Massachusetts Audubon Society, and a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club. He has been reporting birds for the records since the early days of the *Records of New England Birds*.

AMERICAN KESTREL NESTING BOX PROGRAM

by Paul Roberts, Medford

The American Kestrel is our smallest and most colorful falcon. Found throughout North America, this valuable insect and rodent predator was formerly quite common. Numbers have declined significantly throughout the U. S. over the past decade, however. A shortage of nest sites is believed responsible. The kestrel is our only hawk that nests primarily in tree cavities, such as old woodpecker holes. The felling of mature trees for firewood and construction has destroyed suitable sites in otherwise excellent habitat, producing a severe "housing shortage."

The kestrel is a hawk of open country, preferring farmlands, meadows, and abandoned fields. It has also adjusted well to urban and suburban life, nesting in mature trees along highways and feeding along right-of-ways and parkland. Massachusetts has ample habitat to maintain a sizable kestrel population. What the state lacks are adequate nest sites. Fortunately, the kestrel will nest in artificial holes, i.e. nest boxes. Kestrel nesting-box programs have been very successful in restoring populations of this species in Virginia and Pennsylvania. You can help to bring the kestrel back in Massachusetts.

Kestrel boxes are surprisingly simple to build. All you need is six feet of one-inch-thick board that is ten inches wide plus thirteen inches of one-inch-thick board that is twelve inches wide. Complete construction directions are provided in the accompanying figure supplied by Kestrel Karetakers of 3549 Devon Drive, Falls Church, Virginia 22042 (telephone: 703-533-2114).

In general, ideal locations for the boxes are on large isolated trees in the open, along fence rows, or on posts in treeless areas. Boxes should be placed fifteen to twenty feet off the ground, facing south or east. In our latitude, breeding adults return March and early April, so nesting boxes should be erected by mid-March. The female lays three to five eggs, which take twenty-eight days to incubate. Most young leave the nest by July and will return to the same general area to breed the following spring.

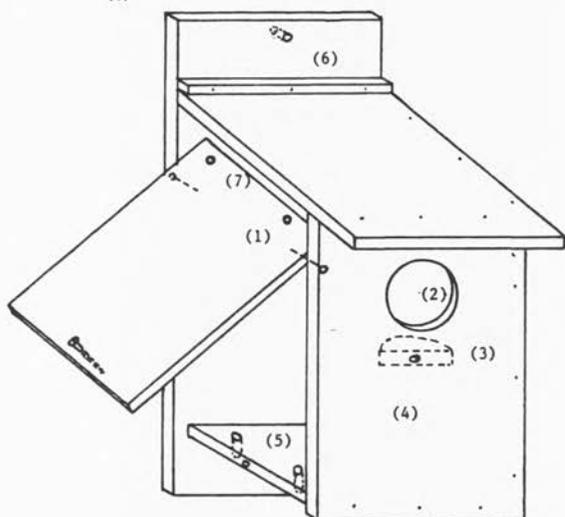
Nesting-box construction can be an excellent service project for a scout troop, a school shop course, a 4H club, or any individual handy with tools.

The Brookline Bird Club is encouraging people to build kestrel nesting boxes and has appropriated funds to help pay for construction materials for these boxes. If you are interested in building the boxes or know of any organization that is, please contact Paul M. Roberts, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155. or call 617-483-4263 after 8:00 P.M. He will provide information on the availability of funding for construction materials or additional information on American Kestrels and the nesting-box program.



BUILDING A KESTREL HOUSE

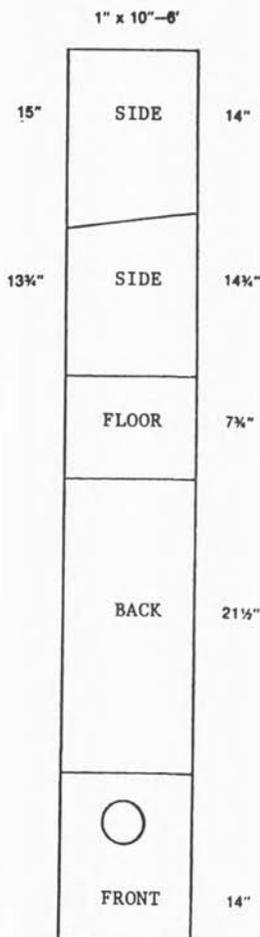
HOMES FOR OUR SMALLEST FALCONS



GUIDE

- 1) Nails act as hinges to swing side open for cleaning and monitoring.
- 2) Entrance hole is 3" in diameter and 9"-10" above the floor.
- 3) An inside perch should be placed 3" from bottom of entrance hole. Use half of entrance cut-out and attach by screw.
- 4) Use a screwdriver or auger to make indentations inside the front under the entrance hole to enable young to climb to exit.
- 5) Five ¼" holes should be drilled in floor for water drainage.
- 6) A cleat above roof is optional but may hold the roof in place better and prevent rain seepage.
- 7) Two 3/8" holes should be drilled at top of both sides for ventilation.
- 8) A 6-foot board, 1" x 10" can be used with no waste. For the roof, a 1" x 12" board 13" long should be used.

Construction tips. The roof should be put on last. The first step is nailing side to back, then front to side, then hinged side and lastly, the roof. Note that the hinged side is ¼" shorter than the other side to allow side to swing open. The roof and top of front could be beveled 5° for a tighter fit. Use raw wood. Do not paint or treat it with preservative. Do not construct an outside perch. It will only attract starlings.



Place 3" of sawdust or shavings on the bottom. Kestrels do not bring nesting materials into the box. When attaching the box to a tree, use only one nail or wood lag on the top and one on the bottom. Additional nails will split the backboard as the tree grows.

If you must look in the box while the hawks are nesting, use a ladder and not a pole climber. Any scent left on the trunk will attract predators such as raccoons who will follow the trail to investigate.

This article is based on information published by the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association and Kestrel Karetakers.

THE THIRD NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL HAWK MIGRATION CONFERENCE will be held at the Holiday Inn in Holyoke, Massachusetts, on April 4 and 5, 1987. Sponsored by the New England Hawk Watch, the theme of the all-day conference is the full life cycle of hawks. In addition to an overview of New England's hawk migration (Seth Kellogg, editor HMANA Newsletter) and the weather that affects it (Mel Goldstein, Ph.D., Director of the Weather Center, Western Connecticut State University), additional presentations will focus on current research on hawks being conducted in New England. Topics covered range from a survey of potential breeding areas for raptors (Nancy Martin-Ellison, Vermont Institute of Natural Science) to a review of our knowledge of raptor wintering grounds (Hawk Mountain Sanctuary staff). There will be papers on the breeding ecology of Northern Harriers (Pat Serentino, Research Assistant, University of Rhode Island); the Bald Eagle project in Maine (Mark McCullough, University of Maine Wildlife Department); the reintroduction of eagles at Quabbin (Jack Swedberg, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife); the Osprey project in Connecticut (Gerald S. Mersereau, raptor specialist); characteristic behavior of raptors (Lillian and Donald Stokes, authors); the Turkey Vulture (Carol Smith, Director of Wildlife Programs, Audubon Society of New Hampshire); raptor rehabilitation (Mark Pokras, D.V.M., Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine); raptor banding (Michael Olmsted, raptor specialist); and a personal computer program for migration data (Ed Mair, author and computer specialist).

Clay Sutton, director of the Cape May Bird Observatory, will be the featured banquet speaker, giving an illustrated presentation on the raptors of western North America. The conference will also offer a special art exhibit of renditions of native raptors by noted young New England artists. On Sunday, April 5, a field trip to Mt. Tom, Bray Tower, will be held to witness the early spring hawk migration.

The Holiday Inn is reached by following Route 91 north toward Holyoke from the Mass. Turnpike (Route 90) and taking exit 15 east from 91. Advance registration is recommended - the conference is limited to 300. The registration fee is \$5, and the banquet is \$15. For complete conference information and registration materials write: HAWKS, P.O. Box 212, Portland, CT 06480.

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Field Records

August 1986



by George W. Gove, Robert H. Stymeist, Lee E. Taylor

August was very cool and cloudy, with near normal rain. The temperature averaged 70.5 degrees, 1.4 degrees below normal. The high was 87 degrees on the ninth, and the low was 47 degrees on August 29, which tied the record low for the date, set in 1908. Rain totaled 3.32 inches, 0.36 inch less than normal but frequent enough to promote lush lawns. Rain from "Charley" was less in the north, the Boston area recording 1.18 inches of rain and the suburbs generally getting less than an inch. More fell to the south with some southern suburbs heavily hit. At Hull, for example, more than four inches fell on the eighteenth, causing local street flooding. Five days had thunderstorms, one more than average for August.

COMMON LOON THROUGH GLOSSY IBIS

A Red-necked Grebe in nearly full breeding plumage was found at midmonth at Wachusett Reservoir and was seen several times through the end of the month. The shearwater story was grim this August with very few reports of Cory's, Greater, or Sooty on Stellwagen Bank. The sand lance were gone, the Humpback whales were gone, and the birds were also gone. Wilson's Storm-Petrels were noted in fair numbers but again nowhere near the August numbers of previous years. A single Leach's Storm-Petrel was seen at First Encounter on August 28. An immature Great Cormorant was noted at Lakeville at the end of the month.

A Least Bittern was found at Great Meadows, and as many as five, including 3 young, were found throughout the month at Hellcat Swamp at Plum Island. Great Egrets were noted from seven localities with a high location count of 47 birds at Allens Pond in South Dartmouth on August 25. A maximum count of 270 Snowy Egrets was reported at Plum Island on the last day of the month. Little Blue Herons were reported from eight locations, and Tricolored Herons were seen on Monomoy. A maximum count of 49 Cattle Egrets was made in Ipswich on August 31. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found in four locations, and Black-crowned Night-Herons totaled 178 birds at Hemenway Landing in Eastham and 163 birds in Yarmouthport, two roosting areas. R.H.S.

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> | <u>AUGUST 1986</u> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Common Loon: | | | | |
| 1, 14 | P'town, Duxbury Beach | 1, 2 | P.Trimble, W.Petersen | |
| 26, 28 | N.Scituate, Barnstable | 1, 3 | W.Petersen | |
| 29 | Lakeville | 1 | W.Petersen | |
| Pied-billed Grebe: | | | | |
| 3-31; 17, 30 | P.I.; Lakeville | 1; 1 | v.o.; W.Petersen | |
| Red-necked Grebe: | | | | |
| 14 | Sterling(Wachusett Res.) | 1 | F. McMenemy | |
| Seen several times after the 14th. | | | | |
| Cory's Shearwater: | | | | |
| 1 | off S.Wellfleet (Atlantic) | 1 | P.Trimble | |
| 23, 28 | Stellwagen, Eastham(F.E.) | 1, 3 | K.Holmes, W.Petersen | |
| Greater Shearwater: | | | | |
| 1, 22; 27 | Stellwagen-Jeffreys Ledge | 1, 4-6; 25 | J.Berry; D.Morimoto | |
| 1 | off S.Wellfleet (Atlantic) | 5 | P.Trimble | |
| Sooty Shearwater: | | | | |
| 1 | off S.Wellfleet (Atlantic) | 3 | P.Trimble | |
| 19, 27 | P'town, Jeffreys Ledge | 1, 2 | W.Petersen#, D.Morimoto | |
| 28 | Eastham(F.E.) | 5 | W.Petersen# | |

| SPECIES/DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | AUGUST 1986 |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Manx Shearwater: | | | | |
| 1 | off S.Wellfleet (Atlantic) | 3 | P.Trimble | |
| 19 | Eastham(F.E.), P'town | 4, 8 | W.Petersen# | |
| 19, 27 | Monomoy, Jeffreys Ledge | 2, 1 | R.Heil, D.Morimoto | |
| 28 | Eastham(F.E.) | 15 | W.Petersen# | |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel: | | | | |
| 1, 22, 31 | off Gloucester | 195, 250, 165 | J.Berry | |
| 1 | off S.Wellfleet (Atlantic) | 700+ | P.Trimble | |
| 2, 9 | N. Monomoy (flats) | 1 | R.Stymeist# | |
| 19, 23 | P.town, Stellwagen | 200, 500+ | W.Petersen# | |
| 22, 23 | Cape Cod Bay | 500+, 1000+ | D.Briggs#, K.Holmes | |
| 27 | Jeffreys Ledge | 40 | D.Morimoto | |
| 28 | Eastham(F.E.) | 700 | W.Petersen# | |
| Leach's Storm-Petrel: | | | | |
| 28 | Eastham(F.E.) | 1 | W.Petersen# | |
| Northern Gannet: | | | | |
| thr. | Stellwagen-Jeffreys | 1-2 imm. | v.o. | |
| 19, 28 | P'town, Eastham(F.E.) | 2, 20 | W.Petersen# | |
| Great Cormorant: | | | | |
| 29, 30 | Lakeville | 1 imm. | W.Petersen# | |
| Double-crested Cormorant: | | | | |
| thr. | Winthrop | max. 100 (8/18) | J.Cumming | |
| thr. | Gloucester Harbor | max. 100 (8/22) | J.Berry | |
| thr. | Beverly-Boston (train) | max. 140+ (8/11,8/12) | J.Berry | |
| 22 | Marshfield(DWWS) | 170 | D.Clapp | |
| American Bittern: | | | | |
| 10, 27 | P.I., GMNWR | 1, 1 | BBC(T.Prince), G.Gove | |
| Least Bittern: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 5 incl. 3 yg.(8/14) | D.Arvidson + v.o. | |
| 3 | GMNWR | 1 | J.Heywood | |
| Great Blue Heron: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 12 (8/3,8/28) | M.Lynch + v.o. | |
| thr. | Saugus-Revere(train) | max. 7 | J.Berry | |
| 4, 25 | Uxbridge, S.Dartmouth | 8, 14 | R.Hildreth, R.Marshall | |
| 30 | Eastham(Nauset Marsh) | 12 | S.Carroll# | |
| Great Egret: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I., S.Monomoy | max. 15 (8/4), max. 2 | v.o., v.o. | |
| thr. | S.Dartmouth, Medford | max. 6, 2 | LCES(R.Maker), H.Roddis | |
| 15, 17 | Marshfield, E.Boston | 1, 2 | W.Petersen#, J.Cumming | |
| 23 | Centerville | 5 | J.Aylward# | |
| 25 | S.Dartmouth(Allens Pond) | 47 | LCES(R.Marshall) | |
| Snowy Egret: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 270 (8/31) | R. Heil + v.o. | |
| thr. | Salem-Revere(train) | max. 55(8/21) | J.Berry | |
| 25, 30 | Eastham(Hemenway) | 109 | R.Prescott# | |
| 30 | Scituate | 75+ | W.Petersen# | |
| Little Blue Heron: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 5 imm. (8/31) | R.Heil + v.o. | |
| 4, 10-23 | Halifax, S.Monomoy | 1, 1 | L.Pratt, v.o. | |
| 15, 26 | Marshfield, Rowley | 1 ad., 3 imm. | R.Forster, R.Heil | |
| 30 | Scituate | 1 | W.Petersen# | |
| 30 | Rowley, Essex | 1, 1 (both ad.) | R.Forster | |
| Tricolored Heron: | | | | |
| 2 | N.Monomoy | 1 | G.Gove# | |
| 23-31 | S.Monomoy | max. 2 | B.Nikula# | |
| Cattle Egret: | | | | |
| thr. | Ipswich-Essex | max. 49(8/31) | R.Stymeist# + v.o. | |
| 11 | Middleboro, Berkley | 1, 1 | P.Griffith, M.+A.Stetson | |
| Green-backed Heron: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 6(8/10) | v.o. | |
| thr. | E.Boston(Belle Isle) | max. 3(8/3) | J.Cumming | |
| 31 | Holliston | 1 | R.Hildreth | |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron: | | | | |
| thr. | Eastham(Hemenway) | max. 178 | R.Prescott + v.o. | |
| thr. | P.I. | max 15(8/24) | v.o. | |
| thr. | Yarmouthport | max. 163 | J.Aylward | |
| Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | 1 ad. | v.o. | |
| 7, 10 | Saugus, Cuttyhunk I. | 1 ad., 3 | B.Sorrie, P.Trimble | |
| 30 | Eastham(Nauset) | 1 imm. | M.Lynch# | |

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|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Glossy Ibis: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 20 (8/17) | V.Albee + v.o. | |
| 2, 6-19 | N.Monomoy, Revere | 8, 2 | R.Stymeist#, J.Berry | |
| 10 | S.Monomoy | 5 | B.Nikula# | |
| 10 | Cuttyhunk I. | 1 | P.Trimble | |
| 30 | Ipswich | 7 | R.Forster | |

WATERFOWL

At Stony Brook in Norfolk, the count of Wood Ducks totaled 318 on August 31, a new high for August. At Plum Island good concentrations of ducks were tallied at the end of the month and included 500 Green-winged Teal, 110 Blue-winged Teal and 10 Northern Shovelers. A drake Eurasian Wigeon in eclipse plumage was found at Plum Island on the twenty-first. Early fall migrants included Ring-necked Ducks in Lakeville, building up to 60 individuals at the end of the month. R.H.S.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--|
| Canada Goose: | | | | |
| 3, 23 | P.I. | 52, 93 | M.Lynch, S.Carroll | |
| Wood Duck: | | | | |
| 2, 4 | GMNWR, Uxbridge | 45, 8 | R.Stymeist, R.Hildreth | |
| 23, 31 | Milford, Norfolk | 17, 318 | R.Hildreth, B.Cassie | |
| Green-winged Teal: | | | | |
| 25, 26 | Sharon, P.I. | 2, 500 | W.Petersen, R.Heil | |
| American Black Duck: | | | | |
| 23 | P.I. | 63 | M.Lynch# | |
| Northern Pintail: | | | | |
| 30 | Scituate, P.I. | 1, 4 | W.Petersen#, R.Forster | |
| Blue-winged Teal: | | | | |
| 16, 26 | P.I. | 100+, 110 | J.Berry, R.Heil | |
| 29, 31 | E.Orleans, Ipswich | 8, 60+ | D.+E.Williams, J.Berry | |
| Northern Shoveler: | | | | |
| 26, 30 | P.I. | 10, 9 | W.Petersen, R.Forster | |
| Gadwall: | | | | |
| 26, 28 | Scituate, P.I. | 1, 5 | W.Petersen, M.Lynch# | |
| Eurasian Wigeon: | | | | |
| 21 | P.I. | 1 m. | E.Harper# | |
| American Wigeon: | | | | |
| 3, 16 | GMNWR, P.I. | 1, 1 | R.Stymeist#, J.Berry# | |
| Ring-necked Duck: | | | | |
| 29, 30 | Lakeville | 20, 60 | W.Petersen# | |
| Greater Scaup: | | | | |
| 17-29, 31 | Lakeville, P.I. | 1 m., 1 m. | W.Petersen, R.Heil | |
| Common Eider: | | | | |
| 1, 22, 31 | Gloucester Harbor | 35, 12, 15+ | J.Berry | |
| 31 | S. Monomoy | 25 | B.Nikula# | |
| King Eider: | | | | |
| 27-30 | Nant.(Low Beach) | 1 | S.Perkins | |
| Black Scoter: | | | | |
| 16-31 | P.I. | 1 | R.Forster + v.o. | |
| 16 | Scituate | 1 | W.Petersen | |
| 31 | S.Monomoy | 4 | B.Nikula# | |
| Surf Scoter: | | | | |
| 31 | S.Monomoy | 3 | D.Holt# | |
| White-winged Scoter: | | | | |
| 28 | P'town | 2 | W.Petersen# | |
| 31 | S.Monomoy, Scituate | 2, 3 | D.Holt#, D.Morimoto | |
| Hooded Merganser: | | | | |
| 25, 26 | S.Hanson, Ipswich | 1, 3 | W.Petersen, E.Harper# | |
| Red-breasted Merganser: | | | | |
| 16, 30; 17 | P.I., N.Scituate | 1, 1; 4 | R.Forster; G.d'Entremont | |
| 30 | N.Scituate | 2 | W.Petersen# | |

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS

A Black Vulture reported from Wingsheek Beach in Gloucester was surely the same individual reported in July in the Cape Ann area. A kettle of 42 Turkey Vultures was noted in Barre, and Ospreys were on the move by August 23. An immature Bald Eagle was found in Lakeville on August 30. Merlins were found on Plum Island and at Wellfleet Bay, and an adult Peregrine Falcon was reported tormenting shorebirds at Plum Island several times between August 21-27. R.H.S.

| SPECIES/DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | AUGUST 1986 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| <u>Black Vulture:</u> | | | | |
| 1 | Gloucester | 1 | N.Claflin | |
| <u>Turkey Vulture:</u> | | | | |
| 2, 17, 24 | Barre | 6, 18, 42 | M.Lynch+S.Carroll | |
| 4, 5 | Norton, Holliston | 1, 1 | K.Holmes, R.Hildreth | |
| 19, 24 | Framingham, Ipswich | 1, 1 | K.Hamilton, J.Berry | |
| 24, 27-28 | Millis, Haverhill | 1, 2 | R.Hildreth, Mrs. Kimball | |
| <u>Osprey:</u> | | | | |
| 23, 29 | Uxbridge, Millis | 1 mig., 1 mig. | R.Hildreth, R.Forster | |
| 30, 31 | Marshfield, Natick | 1, 2 | D.Clapp, J.Miller | |
| <u>Bald Eagle:</u> | | | | |
| 30 | Lakeville | 1 imm. | W.Petersen# | |
| <u>Northern Harrier:</u> | | | | |
| 10, 30 | Newbypt-P.I. | 4, 5 | BBC(T.Prince), R.Forster | |
| 25, 28 | S.Dartmouth(Allens Pond) | 3 | LCES(R.Marshall) | |
| 28 | WBWS | 2 | M.Lynch# | |
| <u>Sharp-shinned Hawk:</u> | | | | |
| 25, 26 | Hingham, MNWS | 1, 2 imm. | D.Morimoto, R.Forster | |
| <u>Cooper's Hawk:</u> | | | | |
| 24 | P.I. | 1 | J.Gordon# | |
| <u>Red-shouldered Hawk:</u> | | | | |
| thr. | E. Middleboro | 1-3 daily | K.Anderson | |
| 2, 3 | Plymouth, Hamilton | 1, 1 | G.d'Entremont#, J.Berry | |
| 15, 16 | Marshfield, Norwell | 2, 1 | W.Petersen | |
| 28, 30 | W.Hanover, Scituate | 2, 1 imm. | G.d'Entremont#, W.Petersen | |
| <u>Broad-winged Hawk:</u> | | | | |
| thr. | E.Middleboro | 1-2 | K.Anderson | |
| 1, 8 | Topsfield, Medfield | 1-2, 1 ad.+3yg. | J.Berry, D.Arvidson# | |
| 29 | Rockport | 3 imm. | R.Heil | |
| <u>Red-tailed Hawk:</u> | | | | |
| 4 | Uxbridge | 4 ad.+3 imm. | R.Hildreth | |
| 26 | P.I. | 1 imm. | W.Petersen | |
| <u>American Kestrel:</u> | | | | |
| thr. | Salem-Boston | max. 7 (8/15) | J.Berry | |
| 15, 17 | Halifax, N.Scituate | 4, 1 | K.Anderson, G.d'Entremont | |
| 30 | Truro, Wellfleet | 3, 2 | G.d'Entremont#, D.Brown# | |
| <u>Merlin:</u> | | | | |
| 28, 30 | P.I., WBWS | 2, 1 | M.Lynch#, S.Carroll# | |
| <u>Peregrine Falcon:</u> | | | | |
| 21-27 | P.I. | 1 adult | B.Cassie + v.o. | |
| <u>Ruffed Grouse:</u> | | | | |
| 9-31 | E. Middleboro | 1-3 daily | K.Anderson | |
| <u>Wild Turkey:</u> | | | | |
| 26 | Royalston | 6 | R.Freudenheim | |
| <u>Northern Bobwhite:</u> | | | | |
| 30 | Wellfleet, Belmont | 12, 1 | G.d'Entremont#, L.Taylor | |
| <u>Clapper Rail:</u> | | | | |
| 30 | Nauset | 1 | M.Lynch# | |
| <u>Virginia Rail:</u> | | | | |
| 23 | Milford | 1 | R.Hildreth | |
| <u>Sora:</u> | | | | |
| 17 | Halifax | 1 imm. | K.Anderson | |
| <u>Common Moorhen:</u> | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max.6 (1 ad.+5 yg.) | D.Arvidson + v.o. | |
| 23 | Milford | 1 imm. | R.Hildreth | |

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH SKIMMER

The maximum number of Piping Plover reported from North Monomoy this month was 6. In the ten year period 1973-1982, the greatest numbers were in the range of 15 to 67 birds and have been declining since then. The maximum number of 50+ American Oystercatchers at North Monomoy is the highest total in *Bird Observer* records as is the total of 750 Lesser Yellowlegs at Plum Island. About 240 Whimbrel were roosting at North Monomoy; the highest total of this species was 360 in August 1979. Approximately 30 Hudsonian Godwits were seen departing southeasterly from North Monomoy on August 19, the day after Hurricane Charley, along with dowitchers, yellowlegs, and peep.

A Marbled Godwit was present at Newburyport-Plum Island at month's end. A total of 4 to 6 Western Sandpipers were reported this month and a Little Stint was present for about a week at Duxbury Beach, where it was photographed.

Possible Hurricane Charley-related birds included 75 Red-necked Phalaropes, and 34 Parasitic Jaegers seen on the Cape. Hurricane Charley passed well offshore on August 18. A skua species was seen at Eastham, but "no body color was observed." An adult Franklin's Gull was seen at Plum Island, two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted at Annisquam, and an early Glaucous Gull was reported from East Sandwich. A Gull-billed Tern was noted in Eastham, and Caspian and Royal terns were seen at North Monomoy. A total of 10 to 16 Forster's Terns was seen at five locations, and many Black Terns were reported including 60 seen on August 19, a result of Hurricane Charley. G.W.G.

| SPECIES/DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | AUGUST 1986 |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Black-bellied Plover: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 500 | BBC + v.o. | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max. 1000 | B.Nikula# | |
| 13-31 | Halifax | max. 16(8/29) | K.Anderson# | |
| 20, 26 | Scituate, Newbypt | 150, 800 | W.Petersen | |
| Lesser Golden-Plover: | | | | |
| 22, 29 | S.Monomoy, Halifax | 1, 18 ad. | B.Nikula, W.Petersen# | |
| 27-28 | Nant. | 60 | S.Perkins | |
| 23-31 | Individuals at 6 locations. | | | |
| Semipalmated Plover: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 920 (8/16) | v.o. | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max. 600 (8/24) | B.Nikula# | |
| 15-31 | Halifax | max. 3 (8/29,31) | K.Anderson | |
| 16, 17 | Scituate, Ipswich | 400, 100 | W.Petersen, J.Berry | |
| Piping Plover: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max. 6 (8/9) | BBC(R.Stymeist) + v.o. | |
| Killdeer: | | | | |
| 10-31 | Halifax | max. 20 (8/10) | K.Anderson | |
| 20 | Rockland | 35 | W.Petersen | |
| 20, 28 | Marshfield | 26, 51 | D.Clapp | |
| 23, 30 | Northbridge | 16, 10 | R.Hildreth | |
| American Oystercatcher: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max. 50+(8/10) | B.Nikula# | |
| thr. | Orleans | max. 29 | R.Prescott | |
| 10 | Cuttyhunk I. | 3 | P.Trimble | |
| Greater Yellowlegs: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 178(8/28) | v.o. | |
| 2, 9 | N.Monomoy | 28, 80 | R.Stymeist# | |
| 25 | Dartmouth | 37 | LCES(R.Marshall) | |
| 31 | E. Boston | 90 | J.Cumming | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 750(8/23) | v.o. | |
| 10-31 | Halifax | max. 23(8/10) | K.Anderson | |
| Solitary Sandpiper: | | | | |
| 9 | Middleboro | 6 | D.Clapp | |
| 14-30 | Halifax | 1 | K.Anderson | |
| 23, 30 | Northbridge | 6, 8 | R.Hildreth | |
| Willet: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max. 45(8/10) | B.Nikula | |
| thr. | S.Dartmouth | max. 8 | LCES(R.Marshall) | |
| 16, 17 | P.I., Ipswich | 3+1 "Western", 1 | R.Stymeist, J.Berry | |
| Spotted Sandpiper: | | | | |
| 10 | S.Monomoy | 15 | B.Nikula# | |
| 17 | N.Scituate | 5 | G.d'Entremont | |
| 3, 23 | P.I., Concord | 5, 3 | M.Lynch#, L.Taylor# | |
| 13-30 | Halifax | max. 2 (8/17) | K.Anderson | |
| 23 | Northbridge | 3 | R.Hildreth | |
| Upland Sandpiper: | | | | |
| 3 | W.Newbury, Newbypt | 4, 5 | M.Lynch# | |
| 4 | Watertown | 1 | R.Stymeist# | |
| 25, 28 | Chatham, P'town | 2, 1 | B.Nikula#, W.Petersen | |
| | Individuals from four to six locations. | | | |
| Whimbrel: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max.240(8/10) | B.Nikula# | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 18(8/10) | v.o. | |
| 24 | WBWS | 13 | F.Bouchard | |
| Hudsonian Godwit: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max.100(8/10) | B.Nikula# | |
| thr. | E.Boston | max. 21(8/10) | J.Cumming | |
| thr. | P.I.-Newbypt | max. 42(8/16) | v.o. | |
| 28 | P'town | 10 mig. | W.Petersen | |
| Marbled Godwit: | | | | |
| 21-31 | P.I.-Newbypt | 1 | B.Cassie# + v.o. | |

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> | <u>AUGUST 1986</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Ruddy Turnstone: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max. 115(8/9) | v.o. | |
| 16 | Winthrop | 45 | J.Cumming | |
| Red Knot: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max.400(8/10) | B.Nikula | |
| 16, 17 | Scituate, Winthrop | 1200, 55 | W.Petersen, J.Cumming | |
| Sanderling: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max.1200(8/16,24) | B.Nikula# | |
| 22 | Duxbury | 390 | D.Clapp | |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max.200(8/10) | B.Nikula# | |
| thr. | P.I. | max.600(8/14) | v.o. | |
| 10-31 | Halifax | max. 80(8/29) | K.Anderson | |
| 16 | Scituate, Newbypt | 1200, 4000 | W.Petersen, R.Heil | |
| Western Sandpiper: | | | | |
| 14, 15 | Duxbury | 1, 2 | W.Petersen# | |
| 23 | Halifax | 1 | K.Anderson | |
| 23, 29 | P.I. | 1, 1 | S.Carroll#, H.Wiggin | |
| Little Stint: | | | | |
| 6-14 | Duxbury | 1 ph. | W.Petersen# | |
| Least Sandpiper: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max.300(8/10) | B.Nikula# | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 90(8/23) | v.o. | |
| 10-31 | Halifax | max. 18(8/23) | K.Anderson# | |
| White-rumped Sandpiper: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 18(8/16) | v.o. | |
| 19 | Scituate | 67 | J.Hassett | |
| 19 | P'town | 15 | W.Petersen | |
| Baird's Sandpiper: | | | | |
| 23 | Newbypt, P.I. | 1, 1 | S.Carroll#, M.Blazis# | |
| Pectoral Sandpiper: | | | | |
| 7-23 | P.I. | max. 10(8/23) | v.o. | |
| 10-31 | Halifax | max. 25(8/10) | K.Anderson | |
| 7 | Middleboro | 7 | D.Clapp | |
| 10 | S.Monomoy, N.Monomoy | 8, 7 | B.Nikula# | |
| 31 | Mashpee | 2 | P.Trimble | |
| Dunlin: | | | | |
| 15, 21 | Scituate, P.I. | 1, 1 | B.Hallett#, B.Cassie | |
| Stilt Sandpiper: | | | | |
| 2-23 | P.I. | max. 34(8/16) | v.o. | |
| Short-billed Dowitcher: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max.100(8/2,23) | BBC + v.o. | |
| thr. | E.Boston | max. 40 | J.Cumming | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max.1000(8/10) | B.Nikula# | |
| Long-billed Dowitcher: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 82(8/16) | BBC + R.Heil | |
| Common Snipe: | | | | |
| 9 | Middleboro | 1 | D.Clapp | |
| 10-31 | Halifax | max. 7(8/23) | K.Anderson | |
| Wilson's Phalarope: | | | | |
| 23-30 | P.I. | 1-2 | v.o. | |
| 30 | Scituate | 1 | W.Petersen | |
| Red-necked Phalarope: | | | | |
| 1 | off Gloucester | 13 | J.Berry | |
| 19 | P'town | 75 | W.Petersen | |
| 28, 29 | Eastham, Rockport | 9, 6 | W.Petersen, R.Heil | |
| Red Phalarope: | | | | |
| 23 | Stellwagen | 1 | K.Holmes | |
| Pomarine Jaeger: | | | | |
| 28 | Eastham | 9 | W.Petersen | |
| Parasitic Jaeger: | | | | |
| 2, 9 | N.Monomoy | 1 ad. | R.Stymeist# | |
| 8 | off S.Wellfleet | 7 | P.Trimble | |
| 19 | Eastham | 4 | W.Petersen | |
| 19 | P'town, N.Monomoy | 8, 2 | W.Petersen | |
| 28 | Eastham | 12 | W.Petersen | |
| skua sp.: | | | | |
| 28 | Eastham | 1 | W.Petersen, R.Forster | |
| Laughing Gull: | | | | |
| 5, 11 | S.Wellfleet, Nahant | 300, 255 | R.Forster, R.Heil | |
| 18 | Winthrop | 22 | J.Cumming | |
| 25 | S.Dartmouth | 22 | R. Marshall | |

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| <u>Franklin's Gull:</u> | | | | |
| 16 | P.I. | 1 ad. | R.Heil, I.Smith | |
| <u>Little Gull:</u> | | | | |
| 2-17 | P.I.-Newbypt | 1 - 2 | v.o. | |
| 27 | Nant. | 1 | S.Perkins | |
| <u>Common Black-headed Gull:</u> | | | | |
| 9, 11 | Nahant | 1 ad. | R.Heil | |
| 16-17 | Winthrop | 1 ad. | J.Cumming | |
| <u>Bonaparte's Gull:</u> | | | | |
| thr. | Newbypt | max. 350(8/26) | v.o. | |
| 11 | Nahant-Winthrop | 600 | R.Heil | |
| 18 | Winthrop | 76 | J.Cumming | |
| <u>Lesser Black-backed Gull:</u> | | | | |
| 8, 21 | Annisquam | 1(1S), 1 ad. | H.Wiggin | |
| 27 | Nant.(Low Beach) | 1 | S.Perkins | |
| <u>Glaucous Gull:</u> | | | | |
| 16 | E. Sandwich | 1 | J.Aylward, R.Pease | |
| <u>Black-legged Kittiwake:</u> | | | | |
| 19, 28 | P'town | 1, 1 | W.Petersen# | |
| 23 | Stellwagen | 2 | W.Petersen# | |
| <u>Gull-billed Tern:</u> | | | | |
| 19 | Eastham | 1 ad. | R.Heil | |
| <u>Caspian Tern:</u> | | | | |
| 25 | N.Monomoy | 1 imm. | B.Nikula# | |
| <u>Royal Tern:</u> | | | | |
| 16, 19 | N.Monomoy, Eastham | 1, 1 | B.Nikula#, R.Heil | |
| <u>Roseate Tern:</u> | | | | |
| 9, 16 | N.Monomoy, Newbypt | 120, 15 | R.Stymeist#, R.Heil | |
| <u>Common Tern:</u> | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max.100(8/23) | BBC + J.Berry | |
| 9 | N.Monomoy | 800 | R.Stymeist# | |
| <u>Arctic Tern:</u> | | | | |
| 9 | N.Monomoy | 4 | C.Floyd# | |
| <u>Forster's Tern:</u> | | | | |
| 10-31 | S.Monomoy | max. 3 | B.Nikula | |
| 10 | N.Monomoy | 4 | B.Nikula | |
| 10, 16 | P.I. | 2, 2 | J.Grugan, R.Heil | |
| 24 | WBWS | 4 | F.Bouchard | |
| 30 | S.Duxbury | 1 | W.Petersen | |
| <u>Least Tern:</u> | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 6 | BBC | |
| 6 | Plymouth | 7 | B.Sorrie# | |
| 10 | Cuttyhunk I. | 30 | P.Trimble | |
| 30 | Scituate | 20 | W.Petersen# | |
| <u>Black Tern:</u> | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max. 3 | B.Nikula# | |
| 10-31 | S.Monomoy | max. 5 | B.Nikula# | |
| 2-17 | P.I. | max. 7(8/16) | v.o. | |
| 19 | Eastham, P'town | 60, 6 | W.Petersen# | |
| 28 | Eastham | 5 | W.Petersen# | |
| Individuals reported from five locations. | | | | |
| <u>Black Skimmer:</u> | | | | |
| 1-14 | N.Monomoy | max. 3(8/9) | R.Stymeist#, B.Nikula# | |
| thr. | Orleans | max. 3 | R.Prescott | |

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A White-winged Dove was photographed in Chatham and was present for three days. Six species of owls were reported, and Common Nighthawks were migrating after August 20. An immature *Selasphorus* species hummingbird (Allen's/Rufous type) was photographed at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, where it came to a hummingbird feeder for a few days. It was at first thought that the bird was a Rufous Hummingbird and, in all probability, it was. See *Bird Observer* 8: 143, August 1980, for a discussion of the *Selasphorus* species and the likelihood of its appearance in Massachusetts.

G.W.G.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------|-------------------------|--|
| <u>White-winged Dove:</u> | | | | |
| 8-10 | Chatham | 1 ph. | T. + M. Vose | |
| <u>Black-billed Cuckoo:</u> | | | | |
| 9, 14 | ONWR, P.I. | 1, 1 | M.Lynch#, J.Grugan | |
| <u>Yellow-billed Cuckoo:</u> | | | | |
| 28, 30 | P.I., Scituate | 1, 1 | S.Carroll#, W.Petersen# | |

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| Common Barn-Owl: | | | | |
| 1, 21 | N.Middleboro, Lakeville | 1, 11 | S.Peak, K.Holmes | |
| Eastern Screech-Owl: | | | | |
| 1-21 | Ipswich | 1 | J.Berry | |
| 4-22 | E. Middleboro | 1 | K.Anderson | |
| 28 | Scituate | 3 | W.Petersen | |
| Individuals from four locations. | | | | |
| Great Horned Owl: | | | | |
| thr. | Ipswich | pair | J.Berry | |
| 12 | Middleboro | 1 | S.Peak | |
| 20 | Lakeville | 1 | K.Holmes | |
| 26 | Bridgewater | 1 | K.Holmes | |
| Burrowing Owl: | | | | |
| thr. | M.V. | 1 | V.Laux + v.o. | |
| Barred Owl: | | | | |
| 23 | Middleboro | 1 calling | D.Briggs | |
| Long-eared Owl: | | | | |
| 12 | Middleboro | 1 | S.Peak | |
| Short-eared Owl: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | 1-2 | v.o. | |
| Common Nighthawk: | | | | |
| 20-31 | Lexington | max. 42(8/25), total 190 | L.Taylor | |
| 20-29 | Mt. A. | total 478 | R.Stymeist | |
| 27 | Sherborn-Millis | 110 | R.Forster | |
| 20-31 | Many other reports of 1-75 birds. | | | |
| Whip-poor-will: | | | | |
| 21 | Middleboro | 1 | K.Holmes | |
| Chimney Swift: | | | | |
| 2, 4; 29 | P.I.; Worcester | 5, 10; 40 | BBC; M.Lynch# | |
| 25 | Whitman, S. Hanson | 50, 40 | W.Petersen | |
| 20, 29 | Mt.A. | 30, 20 | R.Stymeist | |
| <i>Selasphorus</i> species: | | | | |
| 27-29 | WBWS | 1 imm. m. ph. | D.Reynolds# | |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird: | | | | |
| thr. | E. Middleboro | 1-2 | K.Anderson | |
| 10 | Princeton | 2 | J.Gordon# | |
| 22, 23 | Hopkinton | 2, 2 | G.Gove | |
| 9-28 | Individuals from five locations. | | | |
| Belted Kingfisher: | | | | |
| 4 | Uxbridge | 4 | R.Hildreth | |
| 24 | Millis-Milford | 3 | R.Hildreth | |
| Northern Flicker: | | | | |
| 28, 31 | P.I., Milton(F.M.) | 5, 20 | M.Lynch#, D.Brown | |
| Pileated Woodpecker: | | | | |
| 27 | Weston | 1 | S.Carroll# | |

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

Post-breeding dispersal and migration were evident throughout the month and for several species occurred on the early side. Movement in the first weeks of August was most noticeable primarily among the warblers, with Blackpoll, Black-and-white, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush and Mourning among others appearing at the usual migrant traps. Dickcissels were also moving in the first half of August. Weather conditions changed to northwest winds accompanied by record low temperatures on the twenty-eighth, bringing a large migratory movement which continued through the thirty-first. Clear migrant reports at this time covered most genera and included Olive-sided Flycatchers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Veerys, Philadelphia Vireos, Palm Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chats, and Northern Orioles. The Lark Sparrows on August 29 and 30 are matched in the last ten Augusts only by the count of two in 1979. Both of these cases are evidence of the early movement this year.

Counts of 127 Eastern Kingbirds and 50 Cliff Swallows in Norfolk on August 30 eclipse August daily highs for both these species during any of the last ten years. The Eurasian Jackdaw continued on Nantucket and in Annisquam a Common Raven was reported for the second August in a row. This individual was both heard and seen in comparison with American Crows which were mobbing it. Counts of 1 to 2 Carolina Wrens totaling 8 individuals were received from 6 locations, all south and west of Boston; there were also two single individuals reported from northeastern Massachusetts sites. Four hundred American Robins in Lexington were observed late in the day, all flying towards a presumed roost in the same area where several thousand robins congregated several years ago. Warbler species for August totaled thirty, highest in any of the ten years, and provided another indication of early fall migration this year. Southern warbler species of note included a Yellow-throated on Nantucket and a Kentucky in

Annisquam. All Mourning Warbler reports were concentrated in Marblehead Neck. Uncommon sparrows seen included a Clay-colored at Fowl Meadow in Milton on August 31 and a carefully described Lark Bunting in the brown plumage at Monomoy on August 23. For the second straight August, Evening Grosbeaks were reported, this year from Annisquam, last year from Hudson. L.E.T.

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|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Olive-sided Flycatcher: | | | | |
| 26, 28 | Falmouth, P.I. | 1, 1 | B.Sorrie, M.Lynch# | |
| 29, 30 | Lexington, MNWS | 1, 1 | L.Taylor, R.Forster | |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee: | | | | |
| 23 | Hamilton | 8 | J.Berry | |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: | | | | |
| 31 | MNWS | 1 | B.Hallett | |
| Least Flycatcher: | | | | |
| 9, 20 | Lancaster, Scituate | 1, 1 | S.Carroll#, W.Petersen | |
| 31 | Milton | 2 | BBC(D.Brown) | |
| Great Crested Flycatcher: | | | | |
| 25, 28 | Annisquam, P.I. | 1, 1 | H.Wiggin, M.Lynch# | |
| Western Kingbird: | | | | |
| 27 | Nant. | 1 | S.Perkins | |
| Eastern Kingbird: | | | | |
| thr., 30 | P.I., Norfolk | max. 32(8/28), 127 | v.o., B.Cassie | |
| Horned Lark: | | | | |
| 9, 23-24 | N.Monomoy, E.Boston | 8, 18-25 | R.Stymeist#, S.Thomas | |
| Purple Martin: | | | | |
| thr., 4 | P.I. | 1-3, 50 | v.o., BBC | |
| 1-28 | E.Middleboro | 1 | K.Anderson | |
| 30 | Ipswich, E.Middleboro | 3, 10 | R.Forster, W.Petersen# | |
| Tree Swallow: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 5000(8/24) | v.o. | |
| 29 | Worcester | 50+ | M.Lynch | |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow: | | | | |
| 10, 30 | Cuttyhunk, Norfolk | 5, 2 | P.Trimble, B.Cassie | |
| Bank Swallow: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 10 (8/4) | v.o. | |
| Cliff Swallow: | | | | |
| thr., 30 | 9 locations, Halifax | 9 singles, 8 | v.o., W.Petersen# | |
| 30 | Norfolk | 50 | B.Cassie | |
| Barn Swallow: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 200 (8/4) | v.o. | |
| Eurasian Jackdaw: | | | | |
| thr. | Nantucket | 1 | E. Andrews# | |
| Fish Crow: | | | | |
| 11-31, 21 | W.Hanover, Whitman | 1-3, 3 | G.d'Entremont, W.Petersen | |
| 25 | S.Hanson | 2 | W.Petersen | |
| Common Raven: | | | | |
| 28 | Annisquam | 1 (details) | H. Wiggin | |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch: | | | | |
| 3, 12 | Annisquam, Sherborn | 1, 1 | H.Wiggin, R.Forster | |
| 23-30, 31 | 7 locations, P.I. | 9 total, 5 | v.o., R.Heil | |
| Carolina Wren: | | | | |
| thr. | S.Dartmouth, 6 loc. | max. 3, 8 total | LCES(R.Maker), v.o. | |
| 9, 11 | Rockport, MNWS | 1 b., 1 | R.Norris, R.Heil | |
| 16 | W. Medway | 5 | C. Quinlan | |
| Marsh Wren: | | | | |
| 3, 24 | P.I., GMNWR | 12, 5 | S.Carroll, BBC(A.Clayton) | |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: | | | | |
| 9, 17-31 | ONWR, 5 locations | 6, 5 singles | M.Lynch, v.o. | |
| 26, 29 | N.Scituate, Rockport | 2-3, 7 | W.Petersen, R.Heil | |
| Eastern Bluebird: | | | | |
| thr., 18 | E.Middleboro, Plymouth | max. 4(8/6), 2 broods | K.Anderson, R.Turner | |
| Veery: | | | | |
| 13, 30 | MNWS, Waltham | 1, 3 | R.Forster, L.Taylor | |
| Hermit Thrush: | | | | |
| 1 | Hopedale | 1 | K.Holmes | |
| American Robin: | | | | |
| 12, 22 | Lexington, DWWS | 400, 70 | L.Taylor, D.Clapp | |
| Gray Catbird: | | | | |
| thr., 31 | P.I., Milton(F.M.) | max. 50(8/4), 25 | v.o., BBC(D.Brown) | |
| Northern Mockingbird: | | | | |
| thr., 31 | P.I., Watertown | max. 11(8/3), 8 | v.o., R.Stymeist# | |
| Brown Thrasher: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 10(8/23) | v.o. | |

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| Cedar Waxwing: thr., 23 | P.I., Wareham | max. 30(8/2), 9 | v.o., F.Bouchard | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo: | | | | |
| 1, 2 | P.I., Holliston | 1, 1 | B.Hallett#, R.Hildreth | |
| 21, 26 | P.I., MNWS | 1, 1 | B.Cassie, R.Forster | |
| 29, 30 | W.Newbury, Waltham | 1, 1 | D. Briggs, L.Taylor | |
| Warbling Vireo: | | | | |
| 20 - 30 | 5 locations | 7 total | v.o. | |
| Philadelphia Vireo: | | | | |
| 25-30, 30 | 5 locations, Brookfield | 5 singles, 2 | v.o., R.Hildreth | |
| Blue-winged Warbler: | | | | |
| thr., 9 | 5 locations, ONWR | 7 total, 4 | v.o., M.Lynch# | |
| 9 | Nahant | 3 | R.Heil | |
| Golden-winged Warbler: | | | | |
| 20 | Manomet | 1 b. | MBO | |
| "Brewster's" Warbler: | | | | |
| 21 | Chatham | 1 | W. Bailey | |
| Tennessee Warbler: | | | | |
| 30 | P.I. | 1 | R.Forster | |
| Nashville Warbler: | | | | |
| 9, 31 | ONWR, Milton(F.M.) | 2, 2 | S.Carroll#, BBC(D.Brown) | |
| Northern Parula: | | | | |
| 29 | W.Newbury | 1 | D. Davis | |
| Yellow Warbler: | | | | |
| 1-28 | P.I. | max. 20(8/4) | v.o. | |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler: | | | | |
| 9, 26-31 | ONWR, 5 locations | 3, 10 total | M.Lynch#, v.o. | |
| Magnolia Warbler: | | | | |
| 26 | MNWS | 1 | R.Forster | |
| Cape May Warbler: | | | | |
| 3-26 | Annisquam | 1-2 | H.Wiggin | |
| 23-30 | 3 locations | 4 total | v.o. | |
| 25, 26 | P.I., N.Scituate | 6, 5 | J.Grugan, W.Petersen | |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler: | | | | |
| 26, 29 | N.Scituate, S.Dartmouth | 2, 2 | W.Petersen, J.Smith | |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler: | | | | |
| 30, 31 | WBWS, Mashpee | 1, 1 | S.Carroll#, P.Trimble | |
| Black-throated Green Warbler: | | | | |
| 21, 31 | Annisquam, Waltham | 1, 3 | H.Wiggin, L.Taylor | |
| Blackburnian Warbler: | | | | |
| 29 | E.Middleboro | 1 | K.Anderson # | |
| Yellow-throated Warbler: | | | | |
| 22 | Nantucket | 1 | S.Perkins | |
| Pine Warbler: | | | | |
| thr., 28 | E.Middleboro, WBWS | 1-2, 4 | K.Anderson, R.Forster | |
| 30 | Lakeville | 8 | W.Petersen# | |
| Prairie Warbler: | | | | |
| 13, 14 - 31 | MNWS, 5 locations | 1, 8 total | R.Forster, v.o. | |
| Palm Warbler: | | | | |
| 27 | Worcester | 1 | M.Lynch | |
| Bay-breasted Warbler: | | | | |
| 23, 26 | P.I., N.Scituate | 10, 5 | S.Carroll#, W.Petersen | |
| Blackpoll Warbler: | | | | |
| 12, 16 | MNWS, P.I. | 1, 1 | R.Heil, R.Forster | |
| Black-and-white Warbler: | | | | |
| 18, 21 | E.Boston, Annisquam | 1, 2 | S.Thomas, H.Wiggin | |
| 29, 30 | S.Dartmouth | 2, 1 | LCES(R.Maker) | |
| American Redstart: | | | | |
| 23, 30 | P.I., S.Dartmouth | 6, 2 | M.Lynch, LCES(R.Maker) | |
| Ovenbird: | | | | |
| 13, 31 | MNWS, Milton(F.M.) | 1, 2 | R.Forster, BBC(D.Brown) | |
| Northern Waterthrush: | | | | |
| 13 | MNWS | 2 | R.Forster | |
| Kentucky Warbler: | | | | |
| 25 | Annisquam | 1 m. singing | H.Wiggin | |
| Mourning Warbler: | | | | |
| 11-31 | MNWS | 6 total | v.o. | |
| Common Yellowthroat: | | | | |
| 9, 31 | Lancaster, Milton(F.M.) | 12, 15 | M.Lynch#, BBC (D.Brown) | |
| Wilson Warbler: | | | | |
| 18, 26 | Middleboro, MNWS | 2 m., 5 | D.Briggs, R.Forster | |
| Canada Warbler: | | | | |
| 17, 17-31 | Bridgewater, 4 locations | 1, 6 total | W.Petersen, v.o. | |

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| Yellow-breasted Chat: | | | | |
| 15, 30 | Rockport | 1 b., 1 b. | R.Norris | |
| 25-29 | 3 locations | 4 total | v.o. | |
| Scarlet Tanager: | | | | |
| 14, 31 | P.I., Waltham | 1, 3 | J.Grugan, L.Taylor | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak: | | | | |
| 4, 16 | Annisquam, Wayland | 3, 8 | H.Wiggin, BBC(B.Howell) | |
| Dickcissel: | | | | |
| 6, 12 | Annisquam, MNWS | 1, 1 | H.Wiggin, R.Heil | |
| 23 | S.Monomoy | 1 | B.Nikula# | |
| Rufous-sided Towhee: | | | | |
| thr., 3 | P.I., Hamilton | max. 12(8/23), 8 | v.o., J.Berry | |
| Chipping Sparrow: | | | | |
| 30 | Wellfleet | 14 | G.d'Entremont | |
| Clay-colored Sparrow: | | | | |
| 31 | Milton(F.M.) | 1 ad. | D.Brown# | |
| Field Sparrow: | | | | |
| 3, 31 | Hamilton, Milton(F.M.) | 3, 5 | J.Berry, BBC(D.Brown) | |
| Vesper Sparrow: | | | | |
| 19-30, 30 | Wellfleet, Truro | max. 8(9/19), 2 | v.o., D.Morimoto | |
| Lark Sparrow: | | | | |
| 29, 30 | Newbypt, Scituate | 1, 1 imm. | H.Wiggin, D.Clapp | |
| Lark Bunting: | | | | |
| 23 | S.Monomoy | 1 f. (details) | B.Nikula# | |
| Grasshopper Sparrow: | | | | |
| 25 | S.Dartmouth | 1 | R.Marshall | |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow: | | | | |
| thr., 25 | P.I., S.Dartmouth | max. 20(8/23), 16 | v.o., R.Marshall | |
| 30 | Scituate | 3 | D.Clapp | |
| Seaside Sparrow: | | | | |
| 11 | S.Dartmouth | 4 | R.Marshall | |
| 15 | Duxbury Beach | 1 imm. | W.Petersen | |
| 23, 31 | Newbypt, P.I. | 6, 1 | J.Berry#, G.Gove# | |
| Song Sparrow: | | | | |
| thr., 9 | P.I., Lancaster | 15 max., 45 | v.o., S.Carroll# | |
| White-throated Sparrow: | | | | |
| 21 | MNWS | 1 | R.Heil | |
| Bobolink: | | | | |
| 2, 9 | Annisquam, Lancaster | 1, 30 | H.Wiggin, M.Lynch# | |
| 16, 30 | Wayland, Ipswich | 75, 300 | BBC(B.Howell), R.Forster | |
| 31 | Milton (F.M.) | 75 | BBC(D.Brown) | |
| Eastern Meadowlark: | | | | |
| 3, 23 | Newburyport, Berkley | 18, 19 | S.Carroll#, M.Stetson# | |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird: | | | | |
| 12-15, 23-27 | Nantucket, P.I. | max. 2(8/13), 1 m. | N.Jenks-Jay, v.o. | |
| Brown-headed Cowbird: | | | | |
| 2, 20 | Rowley, Marshfield | 190, 144 | J.Berry, D.Clapp | |
| Northern Oriole: | | | | |
| 5, 26 | Holliston, Watertown | 10, 3 mig. | R.Hildreth, R.Stymeist | |
| 30 | P.I., Wellfleet | 8, 5 | R.Forster, G.d'Entremont | |
| Purple Finch: | | | | |
| 26 | P.I. | 2 | W.Petersen | |
| Evening Grosbeak: | | | | |
| 13 | Annisquam | 1 m. (details) | H.Wiggin | |



White-winged Dove
Chatham, MA
August 8-10, 1986
Photo by Herbert P. Vose



Field Records September 1986

by George W. Gove, Robert H. Stymeist, and Lee E. Taylor

September was a cool, dry and cloudy month; the temperature averaged 63.2°, 1.4° below normal and 2.2° cooler than a year ago. The month was mostly cool until the final two days, which brought a return of midsummer weather. The high mark was 87° on September 30, topping the old record for that date (85°) set in 1959. The month's low was 45° on the seventeenth. Rain totaled 1.08 inches, 2.33 inches less than normal but the least in September since 1983, which had 1.06 inches. Measurable amounts fell on five days. Fog was frequent, with heavy fog noted on three days, one more than average. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

Reports of Pied-billed Grebe increased during the month with a high count of twelve tallied at Lakeville on September 20. A total of thirty-five birds was reported this September as compared with nineteen individuals last September. The sparsity of tubenose reports continued at Stellwagen with just one Northern Fulmar and one Manx Shearwater noted. At Hydrographer Canyon, well offshore, the reports were more promising, though counts were way down from previous years. Highlights included three Audubon's Shearwaters and one Band-rumped Storm-Petrel. Also observed was a subadult White-tailed Tropicbird with a partial tail streamer; last year during September and after Hurricane Gloria two were reported.

The birding news of the month and the year was the discovery of an adult Red-billed Tropicbird at Gay Head on Martha's Vineyard on September 15. The full report for this first state record appeared in the October 1986 issue of *Bird Observer*, 5:238. R.H.S.

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|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Common Loon: | | | | |
| 1, 18 | Scituate, P.I. | 5, 28 | D.Clapp, R.Heil | |
| 20 | Lakeville, Quincy-Plymouth | 1, 32 | W.Petersen, SSBC | |
| Pied-billed Grebe: | | | | |
| 6, 14; 13 | Quabbin(G40);S.Dartmouth | 2, 1; 1 | M.Lynch#; LCES(R.Maker) | |
| 14, 20 | S.Monomoy, M.V. | 4, 4 | J.Barton#, M.Lynch# | |
| 20 | Quincy-Plymouth, Lakeville | 26, 12 | SSBC, W.Petersen | |
| 21, 24 | Framingham, P.I. | 4, 1 | R.Forster, R.Stymeist | |
| 26, 27 | Cambridge (F.P.), GMNWR | 1, 3 | R.Stymeist, BBC(R.Vernon) | |
| 27 | W.Newbury | 2 | BBC(I.Giriunas) | |
| Northern Fulmar: | | | | |
| 26, 27 | Stellw.,Gloucester(E.P.) | 1, 6 | D.Morimoto, R.Heil | |
| Cory's Shearwater: | | | | |
| 4, 5 | Hydro.Canyon, off C.Cod | 6, 1 | C.Haney + v.o. | |
| Greater Shearwater: | | | | |
| 4, 5 | Hydro.Canyon, off C.Cod | 100+, 10+ | C.Haney + v.o. | |
| 27 | Gloucester(E.Pt.) | 1 | R.Heil | |
| Sooty Shearwater: | | | | |
| 4, 5 | Hydro.Canyon, off C.Cod | 3, 7 | C.Haney + v.o. | |
| Manx Shearwater: | | | | |
| 4, 5 | Hydro.Canyon, off C.Cod-Stellw. | 2, 6-8 | C.Haney + v.o. | |
| 7, 13 | Stellwagen, P'town | 1, 6 | BBC(W.Drummond), R.Heil | |
| Audubon's Shearwater: | | | | |
| 4 | Hydrographer Canyon | 3 | C.Haney + v.o. | |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel: | | | | |
| 4, 5 | Hydro.Canyon, off C.Cod-Stellw. | 2000+, 1000+ | C.Haney + v.o. | |
| 7, 13 | Stellwagen, P'town | 15+, 35+ | BBC(W.Drummond), R.Heil | |
| Leach's Storm-Petrel: | | | | |
| 4, 5 | Hydro.Canyon, off C.Cod | 16-20, 1 | C.Haney + v.o. | |

| SPECIES/DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | SEPTEMBER 1986 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Band-rumped Storm-Petrel: | | | | |
| 4 | Hydrographer Canyon | 1 | C.Haney + v.o. | |
| White-tailed Tropicbird: | | | | |
| 4 | Hydrographer Canyon | 1 subad. | C.Haney + v.o. | |
| Red-billed Tropicbird: | | | | |
| 15-30 | Gay Head area, M.V. | 1 ad. ph. | J.Rosenwald# + v.o. | |
| Northern Gannet: | | | | |
| 5, 7 | off Cape Cod, Stellwagen | 1, 8 | C.Haney#, BBC(W.Drummond) | |
| Great Cormorant: | | | | |
| 1, 4 | Marshfield, Rockport | 1 imm., 2 imm. | J.Hassett, R.Heil | |
| 7, 20 | Boston Harbor, Lakeville | 1 imm., 1 imm. | G.d'Entremont#, W.Petersen | |
| 20 | Quincy-Plymouth, M.V. | 21, 3 | SSBC, B.Hallet + v.o. | |
| 28 | Cuttyhunk | 5 | P.Trimble | |
| Double-crested Cormorant: | | | | |
| thr. | Beverly-Boston (train) | max. 80(9/8) | J.Berry | |
| 7, 13-14 | Boston Harbor, Monomoy | 200+, 300+ | BBC(W.Drummond, J.Barton) | |
| 20, 21 | Quincy-Plymouth, Winthrop | 2693, 330 | SSBC, J.Cumming | |
| 25, 27 | Winthrop, Belmont | 266, 44 | R.Stymeist, L.Taylor | |
| 28 | Wachusett Res. | 23 | M.Lynch# | |

HERONS

A roost of herons and egrets at Plum Island was tallied on September 27; the results were 46 Great and over 750 Snowy egrets. Cattle Egrets continued in the Ipswich area, and Tricolored Herons were noted from Orleans and from Monomoy. Good numbers of Black-crowned Night-Herons were counted at roosts in Yarmouthport and at Hemenway Landing, Eastham. Six Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported this month. R.H.S.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| American Bittern: | | | | |
| 8, 27 | GMNWR | 1, 1 | R.Walton, BBC(R.Vernon) | |
| 13, 28 | N.Monomoy, S.Monomoy | 1, 1 | H.Coolidge#, B.Nikula# | |
| 26 | Peabody | 1 | R.Heil | |
| Great Blue Heron: | | | | |
| thr. | S.Dartmouth | max. 12 | LCES(R.Maker) | |
| thr. | Saugus-Somerville(train) | max.10-12(9/2) | J.Berry | |
| 13, 19 | Eastham (F.H.), Peabody | 52, 11 | R.Heil | |
| 20 | Quincy-Plymouth | 52 | SSBC | |
| 27, 28 | GMNWR, Ipswich | 3, 6 | BBC(R.Vernon, J.Nove) | |
| Great Egret: | | | | |
| thr. | S.Monomoy, S.Dartmouth | max. 6(9/28), max. 23(9/30) | W.Petersen#, LCES(R.Maker) | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 46(9/27), 44(9/28) | R.Heil, G.Wood + v.o. | |
| 1, 6 | Cohasset(Little Harbor), Scituate | 14, 4 | D.Clapp#, W.Petersen | |
| 20 | Quincy-Plymouth | 19 | SSBC | |
| 20, 23 | Manchester, S.Dartmouth | 3, 15 | BBC(G.Hotz), R.Marshall | |
| Snowy Egret: | | | | |
| thr. | Salem-Revere (train) | max. 18(9/2) | J.Berry | |
| thr. | E.Boston, P.I. | max. 15(9/20), max. 750+(9/27) | J.Cumming, R.Heil + v.o. | |
| 1, 6 | Cohasset(Little Harbor), Scituate | 220, 100+ | D.Clapp#, W.Petersen | |
| Little Blue Heron: | | | | |
| 1; 9, 28 | P.I. | 1; 1, 2 | D.Oliver#, G.Wood | |
| 12, 15 | Marshfield, Eastham | 1 imm., 1 | J.Hassett, B.Nikula | |
| 14, 17 | Monomoy, S.Dartmouth | 1, 1 | J.Barton#, R.Marshall | |
| 20 | Duxbury Beach | 1 ad. | W.Petersen# | |
| Tricolored Heron: | | | | |
| 7, 14 | E.Orleans, S.Monomoy | 1, 2 | A.Williams, BBC(J.Barton) | |
| Cattle Egret: | | | | |
| thr. | Ipswich | max. 19(9/1) | J.Berry | |
| 12 | Marshfield | 1 | J.Hassett | |
| Green-backed Heron: | | | | |
| 1, 13 | Cohasset, Bolton Flats | 4, 3 | D.Clapp, M.Lynch# | |
| 20 | Quincy-Plymouth | 5 | SSBC | |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron: | | | | |
| thr. | Yarmouthport | max. 230(9/7) | J.Aylward | |
| thr. | Eastham (Hemenway) | max. 153(9/17) | B.Nikula + v.o. | |
| 13, 14 | P.I., S.Monomoy | 25, 24 | J.Cumming, BBC(J.Barton) | |
| 20 | Quincy-Plymouth | 29 | SSBC | |
| Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: | | | | |
| 6, 13 | Squantum, Eastham | 1 ad., 2 imm. | G.d'Entremont, R.Heil | |
| 13, 14 | Newburyport, S.Monomoy | 1 ad., 1 | T.Raymond#, D.Morimoto | |
| 14 | Yarmouthport | 1 | J.Aylward | |
| Glossy Ibis: | | | | |
| 17, 27 | S.Dartmouth, P.I. | 1, 2 | R.Marshall, R.Heil | |

WATERFOWL

Snow Geese were seen migrating over Plum Island on September 28, and eighteen were found there on the next day. Three Eurasian Wigeon were reported, two more than last September. An exceptionally early Redhead was noted on the Vineyard on the ninth. Ring-necked Duck numbers were building up in West Newbury and in their stronghold, Lakeville, by the end of the month. The young male King Eider continued at Low Beach on Nantucket and a female Harlequin Duck was found off Eastern Point in Gloucester.

R.H.S.

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|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mute Swan: | | | | |
| 1, 5 | Ipswich, S.Dartmouth | 7, 10 | BBC(J.Berry), R.Marshall | |
| 14 | S.Monomoy | 1 | BBC(J.Barton) | |
| Snow Goose: | | | | |
| 28, 29 | P.I. | 4 mig., 18 | R.Heil, G.Wood + v.o. | |
| Brant: | | | | |
| 20 | Plymouth Beach | 1 | W.Petersen | |
| Canada Goose: | | | | |
| 28, 29 | Bolton Flats, W.Newbury | 138, 288 | M.Lynch#, R.Stymeist | |
| Wood Duck: | | | | |
| 10, 11 | Bolton Flats,Salem(train) | 21, 10-12 | E.Salmela, J.Berry | |
| 21, 26 | Petersham, Mt.A. | 2, 2 | S.Carroll#, R.Stymeist | |
| 27 | Quabbin (Gate 40), GMNWR | 8, 20 | S.Carroll#, BBC(R.Vernon) | |
| 28 | S.Monomoy | 5 | B.Nikula# + v. o. | |
| Green-winged Teal: | | | | |
| 19, 28 | S.Monomoy | 200, 250 | B.Nikula# | |
| 27 | P.I. | 200 | BBC(I.Giruinas) | |
| American Black Duck: | | | | |
| 19, 28 | S.Monomoy | 100 | B.Nikula# + v.o. | |
| Northern Pintail: | | | | |
| 14, 24 | P.I. | 3, 25 | J.Berry, R.Stymeist | |
| 19, 28; 20 | S.Monomoy; Halifax | 40; 1 | B.Nikula# + v.o.;W.Petersen | |
| Blue-winged Teal: | | | | |
| 1 | Ipswich | 90+ | BBC(J.Berry) | |
| 13, 26 | Eastham, Peabody | 42, 11 | R.Heil | |
| 13, 27 | Bolton Flats, GMNWR | 2, 25 | M.Lynch#, BBC(R.Vernon) | |
| 19, 28 | S.Monomoy | 60, 75 | B.Nikula# | |
| Northern Shoveler: | | | | |
| 19, 28 | S.Monomoy | 12, 20 | B.Nikula#, + v.o. | |
| 24, 27 | P.I., GMNWR | 6, 4 | M.Flor#, BBC(R.Vernon) | |
| Gadwall: | | | | |
| 19, 28 | S.Monomoy | 40 | B.Nikula# | |
| Eurasian Wigeon: | | | | |
| 9, 27 | M.V., Ipswich | 1, 1 m. | V.Laux#, R.Heil | |
| 27-28 | S.Monomoy | 1 m. | W.Harrington# + v. o. | |
| American Wigeon: | | | | |
| 27 | GMNWR, Ipswich | 75, 120 | BBC(R.Vernon), R.Heil | |
| 27 | Sandwich | 5 | P.Trimble | |
| Redhead: | | | | |
| 9 | M.V. | 1 | V.Laux# | |
| Ring-necked Duck: | | | | |
| 20, 26 | Lakeville, Cambridge(F.P.) | 280, 7 | W.Petersen, R.Stymeist | |
| 28, 29 | S.Monomoy, W.Newbury | 5, 60 | B.Nikula#, R.Stymeist | |
| Greater Scaup: | | | | |
| 20, 27 | Lakeville, Falmouth | 10, 3 | W.Petersen, P.Trimble | |
| King Eider: | | | | |
| 23 | Nantucket (Low Beach) | 1 eclipse m. | M.J.Litchfield | |
| Harlequin Duck: | | | | |
| 27 | Gloucester (E.Point) | 1 f. | R.Heil | |
| White-winged Scoter: | | | | |
| 21 | Winthrop | 7 | J.Cumming | |
| Hooded Merganser: | | | | |
| 19, 26 | Peabody, Mt.A. | 6, 3 | R.Heil, R.Stymeist | |
| Common Merganser: | | | | |
| 13 | Eastham | 1 | J.Aylward | |
| Ruddy Duck: | | | | |
| 19, 28 | S.Monomoy | 4, 30 | B.Nikula# | |

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS

At press time, we had not received the report from the New England Hawk Watch (NEHW) group, who monitor daily migration of raptors at Wachusett Mountain in Princeton. Raptor reports continue to be encouraging, especially for Osprey, Northern Harrier, and Peregrine Falcon. In Fitchburg a single kettle of 18 Turkey Vultures was counted on September 25. A total of 88 Ospreys were tallied, 61 on three days at Wachusett, and 14 from West Newbury. Three immature Bald Eagles were found along the Merrimac River in Haverhill and another immature was seen at Great Meadows in Concord. Forty-eight Northern Harriers were observed, with higher counts at coastal locations than in previous years. Nine Cooper's Hawks were reported, but only one Northern Goshawk as compared with 12 last year. An early Rough-legged Hawk was found at Salisbury and at Plum Island on September 29. Northwest winds on September 8 resulted in a count of 1244 Broad-winged Hawks and 26 Sharp-shinned Hawks. Merlin reports came from thirteen locations totaling over 38 individuals. Over 15 Peregrines were found along the outer cape during the month, and 16 others were noted from ten locations.

On September 21, an immature falcon was observed on the south end of Morris Island, Chatham. Identified as a hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) it could not be found for several days but then reappeared at South Monomoy where it was seen until September 28. The consensus of opinion was that it was different and most likely was a hobby. However, because this would be the second record for North America and there is no photographic evidence to be examined by others more experienced with the plumage variations of the hobby, it is best considered hypothetical. R.H.S.

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|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Turkey Vulture: | | | | |
| 1, 6, 14 | Quabbin (Gate 40) | 2, 4, 3 | M.Lynch# | |
| 1, 6 | Framingham, Hamilton | 1, 3 | K.Hamilton, J.Berry | |
| 8, 9, 14 | Wachusett Mtn. | 2, 2, 4 | P.Roberts# | |
| 13, 14 | P'Town, W.Newbury | 2, 2 | R.Heil, B.Deveikis | |
| 25, 27 | Fitchburg, W.Newbury | 18(one kettle), 2 | E.Taylor, R.Heil | |
| 28, 30 | Millbury, Westboro | 1, 3 | S.Carroll# | |
| Osprey: | | | | |
| thr. | Saugus (train) | 1+ | J.Berry | |
| 8, 9, 14 | Wachusett Mtn. | 23, 23, 15 | P.Roberts# | |
| 14 | P.I., W.Newbury | 1, 14 | J.Berry#, G.Wood | |
| 20, 21 | Manchester, Rutland | 2, 1 | BBC(G.Holz), S.Carroll# | |
| 25, 27 | Annisquam, GMNWR | 1, 3 | H.Wiggins, BBC(R.Vernon) | |
| 27, 28 | Marshfield(DWWS), Bolton Flats | 1, 1 | J.Hassett, S.Carroll# | |
| 29, 30 | Everett, Marshfield | 1, 1 | J.Berry, J.Hassett | |
| Bald Eagle: | | | | |
| 15 | Haverhill (Merrimac River) | 3 imm. | K.Carpenter | |
| 17 | GMNWR | 1 imm. | R.Walton | |
| Northern Harrier: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 6(9/1) | D.Oliver + v.o. | |
| thr. | S.Dartmouth(Allens Pond) | max. 4(9/17) | LCES(R.Marshall) | |
| thr. | Nantucket | max. 8(9/14) | M.Litchfield | |
| 6, 13 | Marshfield, Monomoy | 2, 2 | W.Petersen, BBC(J.Barton) | |
| 8, 9, 14 | Wachusett Mtn. | 3, 2, 3 | P.Roberts + v.o. | |
| 13, 28 | Bolton Flats | 2, 3 | M.Lynch, S.Carroll | |
| 27, 28 | GMNWR, Ipswich | 1, 2 | BBC(R.Vernon, J.Nove) | |
| 28 | S.Monomoy | 6+ | B.Nikula# | |
| 28, 30 | Cuttyhunk, Belmont | 3, 1 | P.Trimble, L.Taylor | |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk: | | | | |
| 3, 6 | Arlington, Waltham | 1, 1 | L.Taylor | |
| 8, 9, 14 | Wachusett Mtn. | 26, 6, 25 | P.Roberts + v.o. | |
| 13 | Bolton Flats, Oxbow NWR | 1, 2 | M.Lynch, S.Carroll | |
| 14 | P.I., Cuttyhunk-S.Dartmouth | 6, 12 | G.Wood, T.Raymond# | |
| 14, 27 | Quabbin (Gate 40) | 5, 5 | M.Lynch, S.Carroll | |
| Cooper's Hawk: | | | | |
| 1, 4 | Quabbin (Gate 40), Essex | 1 imm., 1 | M.Lynch#, R.Heil | |
| 7, 14 | Gloucester, Paxton | 1 ad., 1 ad. | C.Leahy, S.Carroll# | |
| 14 | Wachusett Mtn. | 1 | BBC(P.Roberts) | |
| 14 | Cuttyhunk-S.Dartmouth | 2 | T.Raymond# | |
| 17, 28 | S.Dartmouth, S.Monomoy | 1, 1 | R.Marshall, W.Petersen# | |
| Northern Goshawk: | | | | |
| 8 | Wachusett Mtn. | 1 | P.Roberts + v.o. | |
| Red-shouldered Hawk: | | | | |
| 8, 17 | Wachusett Mtn., Sudbury | 1, 1 | P.Roberts#, R.Forster# | |
| 20, 28 | Lakeville, Millis | 1, 1 | W.Petersen, R.Forster | |
| Broad-winged Hawk: | | | | |
| 8, 9, 14 | Wachusett Mtn. | 1244, 631, 617 | P.Roberts + v.o. | |
| 27 | GMNWR, Sherborn | 1, 1 | BBC(R.Vernon), R.Hildreth | |

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| Red-tailed Hawk: | | | | |
| 8, 9 | Wachusett Mtn. | 4, 1 | P.Roberts# | |
| 13 | Oxbow NWR | 4 | M.Lynch# | |
| Rough-legged Hawk: | | | | |
| 29 | Salisbury, P.I. | 1, 1 | R.Stymeist, M.Kasprzyk# | |
| American Kestrel: | | | | |
| thr. | Ipswich-Boston (train) | max. 6(9/19) | J.Berry | |
| 1 | P.I., Ipswich | 4, 3 | BBC(D.Oliver, J.Berry) | |
| 8, 14 | Wachusett Mtn. | 1, 6 | P.Roberts + v.o. | |
| Merlin: | | | | |
| 5 | Lexington (Whipple Hill) | 1 | L.Taylor | |
| 13-30 | P.I. | max. 5+(9/24) | v.o. | |
| 14 | Cuttyhunk-S.Dartmouth | 3 | T.Raymond# | |
| 14, 27 | Ipswich | 1, 1 | W.Petersen, J.Berry | |
| 14, 19 | S.Monomoy, Peabody | 1, 6 | D.Morimoto, R.Heil | |
| 20; 24, 28 | M.V. (Gay Head) | 5+; 1, 2 | v.o.; J.Cumming | |
| 21 | Orleans, Scituate | 1, 1 | P.Trimble, D.Morimoto | |
| 21, 23 | S.Dartmouth(Allens Pond) | 1, 1 | LCES(R.Marshall) | |
| 26 | Belmont (Rock Meadow) | 1 ad. | R.Stymeist | |
| 28, 29 | Cuttyhunk, Salisbury | 5, 2 | P.Trimble, R.Stymeist | |
| Peregrine Falcon: | | | | |
| thr. | Outer Cape Cod, P.I. | 15+, 3+ | v.o. fide B.Nikula, v.o. | |
| 7, 10 | MNWS, Mt. Watatic | 1, 1 | B.Hallett, E.Salmela | |
| 13; 19, 29 | Eastham; Scituate | 1; 2, 1 | R.Heil; J.Hassett | |
| 19; 20, 24 | Nauset Beach; Gay Head | 2; 1, 1 | H.Ferguson;M.Lynch#,J.Cumming | |
| 21, 27 | S.Dartmouth, Manchester | 1, 1 | R.Marshall, R.Heil | |
| 28 | S.Monomoy, Nantucket | 2, 1 | W.Petersen#, M.Litchfield | |
| <u>Northern Hobby:</u> | | | | |
| 21-28 | Chatham (Morris I.) | 1 | W.Bailey# | |
| Northern Bobwhite: | | | | |
| 20, 27 | M.V., Sandwich | 30+, 21 | G.d'Entremont#, P.Trimble | |
| Virginia Rail: | | | | |
| 13, 18 | Bolton Flats, Marshfield | 1, 1 | M.Lynch#, J.&A.Hassett | |
| Common Moorhen: | | | | |
| 13, 27; 19 | P.I.; S.Monomoy | 1 imm., 3; 1 | J.Cumming, G.Wood;B.Nikula# | |
| American Coot: | | | | |
| 20, 27 | Lakeville, GMNWR | 1, 6 | W.Petersen, BBC(R.Vernon) | |

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

A number of reports from the South Shore Bird Club annual fall roundup from Quincy to Plymouth, which has been conducted for thirty-two years, are included here. Except for the Nantucket reports, numbers of Lesser Golden-Plover are lower than usual for September. A high count of Semipalmated Plovers was made at North Monomoy. Upland Sandpipers have been reported in every previous September but this. Eastern Willets generally clear out by the end of August, and the birds seen here in September are usually the Western race; the majority reported this month were identified as Western. The counts of Whimbrel are low as are those of Pectoral Sandpiper. Hudsonian Godwits remained in good numbers, and Marbled Godwits were reported as they usually are in this month. White-rumped Sandpipers were present at Plum Island in unprecedented numbers with 600 to 800 being reported on September 13 and 14. They were also present on Cape Cod in good numbers. Baird's Sandpiper was noted from five locations, including two inland sites, but Buff-breasted Sandpipers were noted only on Monomoy.

A trip to Hydrographer Canyon produced Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers, South Polar Skua, and a Sabine's Gull. Large flocks of Laughing Gulls were seen hawking insects on three occasions in as many locations. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at five locations, and a third-winter Glaucous Gull was reported from Nantucket.

A Sandwich Tern spent three days at North Monomoy where up to 15,000 Common and Roseate terns were noted, not an unusual occurrence for September but certainly notable.

G.W.G.

Black-bellied Plover:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max.1000(9/13) | B.Nikula |
| 20, 29 | Winthrop, Nantucket | 250, 31 | J.Cumming, M.Litchfield |
| 20 | Quincy-Plymouth | 505 | SSBC(R.Fox) |
| Lesser Golden-Plover: | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 5(9/9) | v.o. |
| 6, 14 | Scituate, Nantucket | 5, 34 | W.Petersen, M.Litchfield |
| 20 | Quincy-Plymouth | 8 | SSBC(R.Fox) |

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| Semipalmated Plover: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy, P.I. | max.400(9/1), max.50 | B.Nikula, BBC+v.o. | |
| 5, 20 | S.Dartmouth, Orleans | 50, 35 | R.Marshall, P.Trimble | |
| Piping Plover: | | | | |
| 5, 13 | S.Dartmouth, Barnstable | 3, 6 | R.Marshall, H.Ferguson | |
| 13, 20 | N.Monomoy, Orleans | 3, 1 | BBC(J.Barton), P.Trimble | |
| 19 | Nauset Beach | 3 | H.Ferguson | |
| Killdeer: | | | | |
| 1, 6 | Ipswich, Worcester | 20, 7 | J.Berry, M.Lynch | |
| 20 | Quincy-Plymouth | 102 | SSBC(R.Fox) | |
| 21, 28 | M.V., Ipswich | 12, 13 | W.Petersen, J.Berry | |
| American Oystercatcher: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max. 25(9/22) | B.Nikula# | |
| 7, 14 | Nantucket, Cuttyhunk | 6, 5 | F.Bouchard, T.Raymond# | |
| Greater Yellowlegs: | | | | |
| thr. | E.Boston | max. 90 | J.Cumming | |
| 14 | P.I. | 200 | BBC(W.Van Cor) | |
| 20 | Quincy-Plymouth | 65 | SSBC(R.Fox) | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs: | | | | |
| 1, 14 | P.I. | 80, 100 | BBC(D.Oliver), BBC(W.Van Cor) | |
| 19 | Newburyport | 19 | G.Wood | |
| Solitary Sandpiper: | | | | |
| 14, 18 | E.Boston, Marshfield | 2, 1 | J.Cumming, J.Hassett | |
| 20, 28 | Quincy-Plymouth, Bolton | 2, 1 | SSBC(R.Fox), M.Lynch# | |
| Willet: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max.10(8Western)(9/1) | B.Nikula# | |
| 4, 14 | P.I., Newburyport | 2(Western), 1 | R.Heil, W.Petersen | |
| Spotted Sandpiper: | | | | |
| 6, 14 | Scituate, P.I. | 4, 2 | W.Petersen | |
| 28 | S.Monomoy | 1 | W.Petersen | |
| Whimbrel: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 7(9/9) | v.o. | |
| 7, 13 | E.Orleans, Barnstable | 10, 16 | A.Williams, H.Ferguson | |
| 25, 29 | Revere, P.I. | 2, 3 | R.Stymeist | |
| Hudsonian Godwit: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max. 16(9/10) | B.Nikula + v.o. | |
| 1-19 | Newburyport-P.I. | max. 35 | v.o. | |
| 6-20 | E.Boston | max. 11(9/6) | J.Cumming | |
| Marbled Godwit: | | | | |
| 1, 9-13 | Cohasset, P.I. | 1, 1 | D.Clapp#, B.Hallett# + v.o. | |
| 17 | N.Monomoy | 1 | v.o. (fide B.Nikula) | |
| Ruddy Turnstone: | | | | |
| 1, 13 | Ipswich, N.Monomoy | 3 imm., 6 | BBC(J.Berry), BBC(J.Barton) | |
| 20, 25 | Manchester, Winthrop | 6, 75 | BBC(G.Hotz), R.Stymeist | |
| 20 | Quincy-Plymouth | 33 | SSBC(R.Fox) | |
| Red Knot: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max. 125(9/17) | B.Nikula# | |
| 6 | Scituate | 250+ | W.Petersen | |
| 13, 29 | Barnstable, P.I. | 100, 62 | H.Ferguson, R.Stymeist | |
| Sanderling: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max.1200(9/10,13) | B.Nikula# + v.o. | |
| 25, 27 | Revere, Nantucket | 236, 120 | R.Stymeist, M.Litchfield | |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max. 200(9/1,10) | B.Nikula | |
| thr. | P.I.-Newburyport | max. 100(9/1) | BBC | |
| 15, 20 | Orleans, Quincy-Plymouth | 500, 417 | B.Nikula, SSBC(R.Fox) | |
| Western Sandpiper: | | | | |
| 6, 28 | Scituate | 2, 2 | W.Petersen, D.Morimoto | |
| 13, 18 | N.Monomoy, Orleans | 3, 8+ | BBC(J.Barton), B.Nikula | |
| Least Sandpiper: | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max. 100(9/13) | B.Nikula | |
| 1, 6 | P.I., Scituate | 12, 300+ | BBC(D.Oliver), W.Petersen | |
| 20 | Quincy-Plymouth | 59 | SSBC(R.Fox) | |
| White-rumped Sandpiper: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I.-Newburyport | max.600-800(9/13,14) | v.o. | |
| 6, 7 | Barnstable, S.Monomoy | 30, 35+ | H.Ferguson, B.Nikula | |
| 7, 13 | N.Monomoy | 100, 100 | B.Nikula | |
| Baird's Sandpiper: | | | | |
| 9-14 | P.I. | 1-8, max.8(9/14) | v.o. | |
| 9, 20 | M.V., Halifax | 2, 1 | V.Laux, W.Petersen | |
| 26; 27, 28 | Peabody; S.Monomoy | 1; 5, 3+ | R.Heil; W.Harrington# | |

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| <u>Pectoral Sandpiper:</u> | | | | |
| 17, 28 | S.Dartmouth, P.I. | 3, 2 | R.Marshall, G. Wood | |
| 20, 24 | Quincy-Plymouth, Halifax | 3, 4 | SSBC(R.Fox), K.Anderson | |
| <u>Purple Sandpiper:</u> | | | | |
| 20 | Hingham | 2 | SSBC(R.Fox) | |
| <u>Dunlin:</u> | | | | |
| thr. | N.Monomoy | max. 200(9/22) | B.Nikula | |
| 17, 27 | S.Dartmouth, P.I. | 17,100 | R.Marshall, BBC(I.Giriunas) | |
| <u>Stilt Sandpiper:</u> | | | | |
| 9-24 | P.I. | max. 5(9/14) | v.o. | |
| 23 | Halifax | 1 imm. | K. Anderson | |
| <u>Buff-breasted Sandpiper:</u> | | | | |
| 1, 17 | N.Monomoy | 1, 2 | v.o. | |
| 27, 28 | S.Monomoy | 4, 1 | W.Harrington#, W.Petersen# | |
| <u>Short-billed Dowitcher:</u> | | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 40(9/1) | BBC | |
| <u>Long-billed Dowitcher:</u> | | | | |
| 4, 14 | P.I. | 85, 10 | R.Heil, BBC(W.Van Cor) | |
| 7, 19, 28 | S.Monomoy | 2, 1, 1 | B.Nikula# | |
| <u>Common Snipe:</u> | | | | |
| 6 | Halifax | 5 | K.Anderson | |
| 20, 28 | Quincy-Plymouth, Bolton | 1, 4 | SSBC(R.Fox), M.Lynch# | |
| <u>American Woodcock:</u> | | | | |
| 14, 20 | Bolton, Quincy-Plymouth | 1, 2 | M.Lynch#, SSBC(R.Fox) | |
| <u>Wilson's Phalarope:</u> | | | | |
| 1, 9 | P.I. | 1, 2 | BBC(D.Oliver), B.Cassie# | |
| <u>Red-necked Phalarope:</u> | | | | |
| 5, 7, 14 | Stellwagen | 20, 7, 2 | C.Haney+v.o., BBC, B.Nikula | |
| 7 | S.Monomoy | 1 | B.Nikula | |
| <u>Red Phalarope:</u> | | | | |
| 5, 12 | Stellwagen, P.I. | 5, 1 | C.Haney + v.o., N.Clayton | |
| <u>Pomarine Jaeger:</u> | | | | |
| 4 | Hydrographer Canyon | 1 | C.Haney + v.o. | |
| <u>Parasitic Jaeger:</u> | | | | |
| 5, 13 | Stellwagen, Eastham | 10, 4 | C.Haney + v.o., R.Heil | |
| 7, 22 | N.Monomoy | 4, 2 | B.Nikula# | |
| <u>South Polar Skua:</u> | | | | |
| 4 | Hydrographer Canyon | 1 | C.Haney + v.o. | |
| <u>Laughing Gull:</u> | | | | |
| 9, 16 | Lynnfield, Nantucket | 50+, 200 | R.Forster, M.Litchfield | |
| 19, 21 | Peabody, Winthrop | 65+, 85 | R.Heil, J.Cumming | |
| 25, 28 | Nantucket, Cuttyhunk | 200, 200 | M.Litchfield, P.Trimble | |
| <u>Little Gull:</u> | | | | |
| 1, 13 | Newburyport | 2, 1 ad. | BBC(D.Oliver), R.Forster | |
| <u>Bonaparte's Gull:</u> | | | | |
| 20, 21; 25 | Winthrop; Swampscott | 200+; 220 | J.Cumming; R.Stymeist | |
| <u>Ring-billed Gull:</u> | | | | |
| 25 | Revere | 300 | R.Stymeist | |
| <u>Lesser Black-backed Gull:</u> | | | | |
| 7 | Stellwagen | 1 ad. | BBC(J.Barton) | |
| 16, 24 | Nantucket | 2 ad., 1 ad. | M.Litchfield | |
| 19, 20 | S.Monomoy, Plymouth | 1 ad., 1 ad. | B.Nikula#, W.Petersen | |
| <u>Glaucous Gull:</u> | | | | |
| 16-30 | Nantucket | 1 (3W) | M.Litchfield | |
| <u>Black-legged Kittiwake:</u> | | | | |
| 7 | Stellwagen | 2 | BBC | |
| <u>Sabine's Gull:</u> | | | | |
| 5 | Stellwagen | 1 ad. | C.Haney + v.o. | |
| <u>Caspian Tern:</u> | | | | |
| 12, 26 | Plymouth, Duxbury | 1 ad., 1 ad.+ 2 imm. | J.Brown | |
| 18, 19 | P.I., Newburyport | 3, 2 | M.McClellan, G.Wood | |
| 19; 20, 21 | Peabody; Winthrop | 1; 1 ad.+ 1 imm. | R.Heil; J.Cumming | |
| 28 | S.Monomoy, Cuttyhunk, Nant. | 2, 1, 3 | v.o., P.Trimble, M.Litchfield | |
| <u>Sandwich Tern:</u> | | | | |
| 10-13 | N.Monomoy | 1 | B.Nikula# | |
| <u>Roseate Tern:</u> | | | | |
| 12-27 | Nantucket | max. 500(9/16) | M.Litchfield | |
| 13 | N.Monomoy | 50 | H.Wiggin# | |
| <u>Common/Roseate Tern:</u> | | | | |
| 1 | N.Monomoy | 15,000+ | B.Nikula# | |

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| Common Tern: | | | | |
| 1-20, 1 | P.I., Ipswich | max.35(9/1),60 | BBC, J.Berry | |
| 5, 14 | S.Dartmouth, N.Monomoy | 77, 2000 | R.Marshall, BBC(J.Barton) | |
| 12-25 | Nantucket | max. 300(9/16) | M.Litchfield | |
| 20 | Quincy-Plymouth | 119 | SSBC(R.Fox) | |
| Forster's Tern: | | | | |
| 1, 13 | Newburyport, N.Monomoy | 1, 4 | BBC(D.Oliver), H.Wiggin | |
| 6, 13 | Scituate, Eastham | 2, 15 | W.Petersen, R.Heil | |
| 15, 21; 27 | Orleans; Nantucket | 12+, 4; 2 | B.Nikula#; M.Litchfield | |
| Least Tern: | | | | |
| 1, 6 | P.I., Scituate | 2, 6 | BBC(D.Oliver), W.Petersen | |
| 13, 14 | N.Monomoy | 4 | BBC(J.Barton) | |
| Black Tern: | | | | |
| 7, 13 | Stellwagen, N.Monomoy | 1, 3 | BBC, BBC(J.Barton) | |
| 12, 19 | Nantucket, S.Monomoy | 1, 2 | M.Litchfield, B.Nikula# | |

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A family of one adult plus four young Common Barn-Owls was observed in a nesting box in a barn on Martha's Vineyard where the Burrowing Owl continued from July (see *Bird Observer* 14:229, October 1986 for details of this record). Short-eared Owls were seen at roosts on South Monomoy and Nantucket. Common Nighthawks were counted on their migration during the first half of the month, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were passing through during the last quarter of the month. G.W.G.

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--|
| Mourning Dove: | | | | |
| 26, 27 | Peabody, Ipswich | 205, 200 | R.Heil | |
| Black-billed Cuckoo: | | | | |
| 14 | Cuttyhunk | 2 | T.Raymond# | |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo: | | | | |
| 14 | S.Monomoy | 1 | D.Morimoto | |
| Common Barn-Owl: | | | | |
| 20 | W.Tisbury | family of 5 | V.Laux# | |
| Eastern Screech-Owl: | | | | |
| thr. | Ipswich | 1 | J.Berry | |
| 2, 12 | Mt.A., Orleans | 2, 1 | R.Stymeist, H.Wiggin | |
| 10, 27 | Sandwich, S.Dartmouth | 1, 2 | P.Trimble, LCES(R.Maker) | |
| Great Horned Owl: | | | | |
| 1, 15; 13 | Ipswich; W.Newbury | 2; 2 | J.Berry; S.Bontemps | |
| 6, 13, 26 | E.Orleans | 2 | A.Williams# | |
| <u>Burrowing Owl:</u> | | | | |
| thr. | Martha's Vineyard | 1 | V.Laux + v.o. | |
| Barred Owl: | | | | |
| 14, 27 | Quabbin (Gate 40) | 1, 1 | M.Lynch# | |
| 22 | Hanover | 1 | R.Forster | |
| Short-eared Owl: | | | | |
| 18, 28 | Nantucket, S.Monomoy | 6, 9 | M.Litchfield, B.Nikula# | |
| Common Nighthawk: | | | | |
| 1 | Framingham, Holliston | 900+, 56 | K.Hamilton, R.Hildreth | |
| 2 | Worcester, Holliston | 249, 200 | M.Lynch#, G.Gove | |
| 2 | Lexington, Mt.A. | 181, 93 | L.Taylor, R.Stymeist | |
| 6, 9 | Worcester, Boston | 227, 50 | M.Lynch#, D.Morimoto | |
| 13, 20 | Dedham, W.Tisbury | 35, 1 | T.Raymond, K.Griffis# | |
| Whip-poor-will: | | | | |
| 13 | S.Dartmouth | 1 | T.Raymond# | |
| Chimney Swift: | | | | |
| 1, 6 | S.Natick, Worcester | 25, 175 | BBC(E.Taylor), M.Lynch# | |
| 13 | Worcester | 30 | M.Lynch# | |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird: | | | | |
| 8, 14 | Wachusett Mt. | 3, 3 | P.Roberts# | |
| 6, 18 | Quabbin (Gate 40), Nant. | 1, 1 f. | M.Lynch#, M.Litchfield | |
| Belted Kingfisher: | | | | |
| thr. | S.Dartmouth | max. 5(9/27) | LCES(R.Maker) | |
| thr. | Beverly to Somerville(train) | max. 9(9/26) | J.Berry | |
| Red-headed Woodpecker: | | | | |
| 14 | Cuttyhunk | 1 imm. | T.Raymond# | |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker: | | | | |
| 20, 21 | W.Tisbury, S.Natick | 1, 1 | K.Griffis#, E.Taylor | |
| 27 | Randolph | 1 | G.d'Entremont | |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: | | | | |
| 9, 19 | Annisquam, P.I. | 1, 1 | H.Wiggin, D.Morimoto | |
| 22, 28 | Chatham, Cuttyhunk | 4, 3 | R.Forster, P.Trimble | |
| 28 | Ipswich, P.I. | 11, 6 | BBC(J.Nove), R.Heil | |

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| Northern Flicker: | | | | |
| 6, 14, 27 | Quabbin (Gate 40) | 11, 10, 10 | S.Carroll# | |
| 14, 23 | Cuttyhunk, P.I. | 60, 23 | T.Raymond#, R.Stymeist | |
| Pileated Woodpecker: | | | | |
| 1, 6 | Quabbin (Gate 40) | 1, 1 | M.Lynch# | |
| 27, 28 | Ipswich, Westford | 1 m., 1 | J.Berry, D.Coburn | |

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

By most measures, this September's passerine migration and vagrancy reports were uninspiring. Warbler diversity, at thirty-one species for the month, was typical. The few uncommon warblers reported included two Ceruleans, one Hooded, and three Connecticut, the latter mostly at far inland sites. Thrushes as a genus were lightly reported, as was Mourning Warbler. With only two individuals sighted, Loggerhead Shrike continued its recent trend of low numbers, which should be compared to averages a decade ago of five per September. With the exception of two North Shore Pine Siskin sightings, winter finches went unreported.

A few species did exhibit noticeable September migration, including Red-breasted Nuthatch throughout the month and Golden-crowned Kinglet from the twenty-second on. The more than sixty Black-and-white Warblers at Chatham on September 20 constitutes an exceptional number, triple the highest single-day count in the last ten Septembers. In a similar vein, the 40,000 grackles in Marshfield on the same date are more than six times the highest recent single September day count. Other good numbers logged during September but not necessarily involving migrants included twelve Carolina Wrens in Falmouth on the twenty-seventh and two hundred Fish Crows at West Hanover during most of the month. The latter individuals constituted two-thirds of a group of crows convening nightly in a staging area for a roost.

September 1986 produced a rather small harvest of passerine rarities, consistent with the light migration in general. With the exception of the jackdaw, which continued on Nantucket from 1982, none of the rarities lingered for more than a single day. During the course of the South Shore Bird Club's fall roundup on the twentieth, a Northern Wheatear was well seen and described by several observers. On the same date, a wheatear was also seen on Great Island Beach in Wellfleet. Among sparrows, rarities included two Lark Buntings and a LeConte's Sparrow all at coastal sites. L.E.T.

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Olive-sided Flycatcher: | | | | |
| 1, 6, 14; 6 | Quabbin (Gate 40), MNWS | 1, 1, 1; 1 | S.Carroll#, B.Hallett | |
| 9, 14 | M.V., Holliston | 3, 1 | V.Laux#, R.Hildreth | |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee: | | | | |
| 1-15, 1-14 | S.Dartmouth, Quabbin(G40) | max. 4, max. 11 | LCES(R.Maker), M.Lynch# | |
| 14 | Cuttyhunk | 5 | T.Raymond# | |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: | | | | |
| 1, 6 | P.I., Scituate | 1, 1 | BBC(D.Oliver), W.Petersen | |
| 22 | Chatham | 1 | R.Forster | |
| Least Flycatcher: | | | | |
| 1, 27; 6 | Quabbin (G40), Scituate | 2, 1; 1 | S.Carroll#, W.Petersen | |
| 13, 14 | Lancaster, Truro | 2, 1 | M.Lynch#, H.Coolidge# | |
| Eastern Phoebe: | | | | |
| thr. | P.I., Quabbin(G40) | max. 10(9/24), max. 19(9/6) | v.o., S.Carroll# | |
| 14, 28 | Cuttyhunk, Lancaster | 8, 5 | T.Raymond#, M.Lynch# | |
| Great Crested Flycatcher: | | | | |
| 20, 24 | M.V., P.I. | 1, 1 | G.Gove#, R.Stymeist | |
| Western Kingbird: | | | | |
| 27 | Ipswich | 1 | R.Heil | |
| Eastern Kingbird: | | | | |
| 1-7, 6 | P.I., Scituate | max.16(9/1), 5 | v.o., W.Petersen | |
| 14, 23 | Cuttyhunk, Nantucket | 5, 1 | T.Raymond#, M.Litchfield | |
| Horned Lark: | | | | |
| 20 | M.V. | 6 | v.o. | |
| Purple Martin: | | | | |
| 4, 6 | E.Middleboro, Annisquam | 10, 1 m. | W.Wiksten, H.Wiggin | |
| Tree Swallow: | | | | |
| 1, 1-13 | Ipswich, P.I. | 3000, max. 2000(9/9) | BBC(J.Berry), v.o. | |
| 13-14, 18 | Monomoy, Westport | 500, 3000+ | BBC(J.Barton), K.Anderson | |
| Cliff Swallow: | | | | |
| 1, 4 | Chatham, Orleans | 1, 1 | G.d'Entremont, R.Heil | |
| 14 | Salisbury | 1 | W.Petersen | |
| Barn Swallow: | | | | |
| 20 | Scituate | 14 | SSBC | |

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| Blue Jay: 26, 27 | Peabody, Essex Co. | 85+, 150+ | R.Heil | |
| <u>Eurasian Jackdaw:</u> thr. | Nantucket | 1 | E.Andrews# | |
| Fish Crow: 9-30, 9 15, 20-27 | W.Hanover, MNWS E.Middleboro, S.Dartmouth | <u>200+</u> , 1 2, 1 | G.d'Entremont, R.Forster K.Anderson, LCES(R.Maker) | |
| Common Raven: 1, 10 | Quabbin(G40), Mt.Watatic | 2, 9 | M.Lynch#, E.Salmela | |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch: thr. | Annisquam, Quabbin(G40) | max. 6(9/18), max. 26 | H.Wiggin, S.Carroll# | |
| 1, 13-14 | Waltham, Monomoy | 3, 2 | L.Taylor, BBC(J.Barton) | |
| 21, 28 | Ipswich, Cuttyhunk | 10, 10 | J.Berry, P.Trimble | |
| Brown Creeper: thr., 13 | Quabbin(G40), S.Dartmouth | max. 3(9/1), 5 | M.Lynch#, LCES(R.Maker) | |
| Carolina Wren: thr., 13 | S.Dartmouth, W.Newbury | max. 5, 1 | LCES(R.Maker), S.Bontemps | |
| 20 | Marshfield, Plymouth | 6, 6 | SSBC | |
| 20, 27 | W.Tisbury, Falmouth | 6, <u>12</u> | R.Stymeist, P.Trimble | |
| Winter Wren: 14, 27 | Quabbin (Gate 40) | 1, 2 | S.Carroll# | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet: 18, 22 | Whitman, Chatham | 1, 7 | W.Petersen, R.Forster | |
| 27, 28 | Essex Co., Cuttyhunk | 35, 6 | R.Heil, P.Trimble | |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 21, 27 | N.Scituate, Quabbin(G40) | 1, 3 | D.Morimoto, S.Carroll# | |
| 28 | Cuttyhunk, Holliston | 3, 2 | P.Trimble, R.Hildreth | |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 | Waltham, Quabbin (G40) | 1, 6 | L.Taylor, M.Lynch# | |
| 1, 17 | Marblehead, Scituate | 1, 1 | J.Cumming, J.Hassett | |
| 20 | Scituate, Plymouth | 2, 1 | SSBC | |
| <u>Northern Wheatear:</u> 20 | Plymouth, Wellfleet | 1(details), 1(ph.) | SSBC(R.Fox), J.Wallace# | |
| Eastern Bluebird: thr., 19 | Quabbin(G40), Peabody | max. 18(9/14), 18 | S.Carroll#, R.Heil | |
| thr. | E.Middleboro | max. 20(9/24) | K.Anderson | |
| Veery: 1, 6 | Quabbin (Gate 40), MNWS | 1, 2 | M.Lynch#, R.Forster | |
| 17, 28 | Scituate, Cuttyhunk | 2, 1 | J.Hassett, P.Trimble | |
| Swainson's Thrush: 14, 17 | P.I., Scituate | 1, 5 | W.Petersen, J.Hassett | |
| 20 | Scituate, Marshfield | 2, 3 | SSBC | |
| 20, 21 | W.Tisbury, N.Scituate | 1, 1 | R.Stymeist#, D.Morimoto | |
| Hermit Thrush: 14, 27 | Quabbin (Gate 40) | 3, 1 | S.Carroll# | |
| Wood Thrush: 1, 14 | Quabbin (Gate 40) | 1, 1 | M.Lynch# | |
| 14, 15 | MNWS, Whitman | 1, 1 | R.Forster, W.Petersen | |
| 20 | Marshfield, Plymouth | 2, 3 | SSBC | |
| Gray Catbird: thr., 13 | P.I., Lancaster | max. 62(9/24), 12 | v.o., S.Carroll# | |
| Water Pipit: 19-30, 28 | P.I., Lancaster | max. 30(9/27), 4 | v.o., M.Lynch# | |
| Cedar Waxwing: thr., 1-14 | Quabbin, P.I. | max. 65(9/6), max. 35(9/1) | v.o. | |
| 1, 13-14 | Ipswich, Monomoy | 35, 12 | BBC(J.Berry, J.Barton) | |
| 14, 16 | Holliston, Sandwich | 20, 20 | R.Hildreth, P.Trimble | |
| Loggerhead Shrike: 2, 17 | Marshfield(DWWS), Chatham | 1, 1 | D.Clapp#, W.Bailey | |
| White-eyed Vireo: 20 | Plymouth | 2 | SSBC | |
| Solitary Vireo: 6-27, 9-22 | Quabbin(G40), 3 loc. | max. 8(9/14), 3 singles | M.Lynch#, v.o. | |
| 20, 24 | Plymouth, P.I. | 3, 5 | SSBC, R.Stymeist | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo: 1, 6 | Quabbin (Gate 40) | 1, 2 | S.Carroll# | |
| 13, 24 | Lancaster, P.I. | 1, 1 | M.Lynch#, M.Flor# | |
| Warbling Vireo: 1, 10 | P.I., S.Dartmouth | 1, 1 | BBC(D.Oliver), R.Maker | |
| Philadelphia Vireo: 1-20, 4 | 11 locations, MNWS | 15 total, 6 | v.o., R.Heil | |
| 24 | P.I. | 6 | R.Stymeist | |

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| Red-eyed Vireo: | | | | |
| 6, 24 | Quabbin (Gate 40), P.I. | 14, 7 | S.Carroll#, R.Stymeist | |
| 25, 27 | MNWS, Ipswich | 2, 4 | R.Stymeist, J.Berry | |
| Blue-winged Warbler: | | | | |
| 1-17 | 5 locations | 9 total | v.o. | |
| Golden-winged Warbler: | | | | |
| 19, 20 | Peabody, Hingham | 1, 1 | R.Heil, SSBC | |
| Tennessee Warbler: | | | | |
| 14, 24; 28 | P.I.; Lancaster | 2, 2; 2 | v.o.; M.Lynch# | |
| Orange-crowned Warbler: | | | | |
| 13, 18 | Truro, Nantucket | 1, 1 | R.Heil, M.Litchfield | |
| 20 | Scituate, Plymouth | 1, 1 | SSBC | |
| 27 | Quabbin (Gate 40) | 1 | S.Carroll# | |
| Nashville Warbler: | | | | |
| 13, 25 | ONWR, MNWS | 2, 1 | M.Lynch#, R.Stymeist | |
| Northern Parula: | | | | |
| 13, 24 | S.Dartmouth, P.I. | 1, 4 | LCES(R.Maker), R.Stymeist | |
| Yellow Warbler: | | | | |
| 1, 24 | Nahant, P.I. | 3, 1 m. | R.Stymeist | |
| 28 | Lancaster, S.Monomoy | 1, 3 | S.Carroll#, W.Petersen | |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler: | | | | |
| 20, 24 | Lakeville, Sandwich | 1, 1 | W.Petersen, P.Trimble | |
| Magnolia Warbler: | | | | |
| 21, 24 | N.Scituate, P.I. | 2, 6 | D.Morimoto, R.Stymeist | |
| Cape May Warbler: | | | | |
| 2, 20 | Millis, M.V. | 5, 1 | R.Forster, M.Lynch# | |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler: | | | | |
| 21, 24 | N.Scituate, P.I. | 3, 3 | D.Morimoto, R.Stymeist | |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler: | | | | |
| 1 | P.I., Quabbin (Gate 40) | 1, 1 | BBC(D.Oliver), S.Carroll# | |
| 28 | Lancaster, Ipswich | 30, 23 | M.Lynch#, BBC(J.Nove) | |
| Black-throated Green Warbler: | | | | |
| thr., 24 | Quabbin (Gate 40), P.I. | max. 16(9/14), 9 | S.Carroll#, R.Stymeist | |
| 28 | S.Monomoy | 5 | W.Petersen | |
| Blackburnian Warbler: | | | | |
| 1-14, 24 | Quabbin (Gate 40), P.I. | max.8(9/14), 3 | M.Lynch#, R.Stymeist | |
| 27 | Sandwich | 1 | P.Trimble | |
| Pine Warbler: | | | | |
| thr. | E.Middleboro, Quabbin(G40) | 2, max.44(9/6) | K.Anderson, S.Carroll# | |
| 14, 20 | Wellfleet, Plymouth | 2, 27 | H.Wiggin#, SSBC | |
| 28 | Cuttyhunk | 2 | P.Trimble | |
| Prairie Warbler: | | | | |
| 14, 28 | P.I., S.Monomoy | 2, 3 | W.Petersen | |
| Palm Warbler: | | | | |
| 6, 27; 24 | Quabbin (Gate 40); P.I. | 1, 2; 4 | M.Lynch#; R.Stymeist | |
| Bay-breasted Warbler: | | | | |
| thr., 17 | Quabbin(G40), Marshfield | max. 7(9/14), 11 | S.Carroll#, J.Hassett | |
| Blackpoll Warbler: | | | | |
| thr., 26 | P.I., Cambridge | max. 47(9/24), 11 | v.o., R.Stymeist | |
| Cerulean Warbler: | | | | |
| 5, 9 | Nantucket, M.V. | 1, 1 | E.Andrews, V.Laux# | |
| Black-and-white Warbler: | | | | |
| 1, 20 | MNWS, Chatham | 4, 60+ | R.Stymeist, B.Nikula# | |
| 24 | P.I. | 9 | R.Stymeist | |
| American Redstart: | | | | |
| 1 | Waltham, Nahant | 6, 15 | L.Taylor, R.Stymeist | |
| 8, 20 | Waltham, Scituate | 12, 24 | H.C.Floyd, SSBC | |
| 20, 21 | Plymouth, N.Scituate | 18, 9 | SSBC, D.Morimoto | |
| Ovenbird: | | | | |
| 1 | Nahant, MNWS | 4, 3 | R.Stymeist | |
| 21, 24 | N.Scituate, P.I. | 1, 3 | D.Morimoto, R.Stymeist | |
| Northern Waterthrush: | | | | |
| 1 | Nahant, MNWS | 3, 4 | R.Stymeist | |
| 21, 24 | N.Scituate, P.I. | 5, 13 | D.Morimoto, R.Stymeist | |
| Connecticut Warbler: | | | | |
| 6, 14 | Princeton, Quabbin (G40) | 1, 1 imm. | B.Blodget, M.Lynch# | |
| 20 | Hingham | 1 | SSBC | |
| Mourning Warbler: | | | | |
| 1, 6, 9; 1 | MNWS; Nahant | 1, 1, 1; 1 | v.o.; R.Stymeist | |
| Common Yellowthroat: | | | | |
| thr., 24 | Quabbin (Gate 40), P.I. | 14, 13 | M.Lynch#, R.Stymeist | |
| Hooded Warbler: | | | | |
| 20 | Scituate | 1 | SSBC | |

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> | <u>SEPTEMBER 1986</u> |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Wilson's Warbler: 21, 24 | N.Scituate, P.I. | 3, 4 | D.Morimoto, R.Stymeist | |
| Canada Warbler: 1; 6, 14 | Nahant, MNWS; Quabbin(G40) | 3, 1; 2, 1 | R.Stymeist; S.Carroll# | |
| Yellow-breasted Chat: 20, 25 | M.V., P.I. | 1, 1 | G.d'Entremont, H.C.Floyd | |
| Scarlet Tanager: 1-14, 14 20 | Quabbin(G40), Cuttyhunk W.Tisbury | max. 12(9/6), 6 6 | M.Lynch#, T.Raymond# R.Stymeist# | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1, 17 20 | Quabbin(G40), Marshfield Hingham, Marshfield | 3, 9 10, 7 | S.Carroll#, J.Hassett SSBC | |
| Indigo Bunting: 14, 28 | Milton, Cuttyhunk | 1, 1 | G.d'Entremont, P.Trimble | |
| Dickcissel: 21, 26 | M.V., Peabody | 1, 1 | W.Petersen, R.Heil | |
| Rufous-sided Towhee: thr. | P.I. | max. 38(9/24) | v.o. | |
| Chipping Sparrow: thr., 1 13, 18 | Quabbin (G40), Rowley Harwich, Annisquam | max. 16(9/6), 15 50, 15 | M.Lynch#, J.Berry J.Aylward#, H.Wiggin | |
| Clay-colored Sparrow: 18, 20 20-21 | Nantucket, Duxbury Beach M.V. | 1, 1 3 | M.Litchfield, W.Petersen# G.d'Entremont | |
| Lark Sparrow: 21 | Cuttyhunk | 1 | P.Trimble | |
| Lark Bunting: 14, 18 | M.V., Rockport | 1, 1 f. or imm. | J.Alderfer, fide D.Abbott | |
| Savannah Sparrow: 20, 28 | Plymouth, Lancaster | 79, 88 | SSBC, S.Carroll# | |
| LeConte's Sparrow: 27 | Newburyport | 1 (details) | R.Heil | |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 9, 20 20 | S.Dartmouth (2 loc.) Scituate, Marshfield | 5, 2 15, 3 | LCES SSBC | |
| Seaside Sparrow: 9, 27 | S.Dartmouth, P.I. | 1, 17 | LCES(R.Maker), R.Heil | |
| Song Sparrow: 20, 28 | Plymouth, Lancaster | 44, 105 | SSBC, M.Lynch# | |
| Lincoln's Sparrow: 17, 17-28 19, 28 | Marshfield, 10 locations Peabody, Lancaster | 3, 19 total 10, 6 | J.Hassett, v.o. R.Heil, S.Carroll# | |
| Swamp Sparrow: 28, 29 | Lancaster, Salisbury | 45, 4 | M.Lynch#, R.Stymeist | |
| White-throated Sparrow: 17, 21 24, 28 | Nantucket, N.Scituate P.I., Lancaster | 2, 40 85, 53 | M.Litchfield, D.Morimoto R.Stymeist, S.Carroll# | |
| White-crowned Sparrow: 20; 27, 29 28 | Quincy, Marshfield; P.I. Lancaster, Marshfield | 1, 1; 1, 1 1 ad., 1 imm. | SSBC; v.o. M.Lynch#, J.Hassett | |
| Dark-eyed Junco: 17, 18-27 | Scituate, 9 locations | 12, 25 total | J.Hassett, v.o. | |
| Bobolink: 6 13, 28 | Millis, Milton Lancaster | 100, 150 40, 5 | R.Forster, G.d'Entremont S.Carroll# | |
| Red-winged Blackbird: 20, 27 | Marshfield, Randolph | 5000, 100 | SSBC, G.d'Entremont | |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird: 9-11, 13 14 | Wareham, P'town S.Monomoy | 1 f. at feeder, 1 imm. m. 1 f. | L.Kutil, R.Heil D.Morimoto | |
| Rusty Blackbird: 21 | Ipswich | 1 | J.Berry | |
| Common Grackle: 20 | Marshfield | 40000 | SSBC | |
| Brown-headed Cowbird: 20 | Marshfield | 500 | SSBC | |
| Northern Oriole: 1, 14 | Quabbin (G40), Cuttyhunk | 3, 3 | M.Lynch#, T.Raymond# | |
| Purple Finch: 1, 26 | Quabbin (G40), Peabody | 8, 41 | S.Carroll#, R.Heil | |
| Pine Siskin: 20, 28 | Annisquam, P.I. | 4, 1 | H.Wiggin, R.Heil | |

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|---------|--|
| ad. | adult | F.M. | Fowl Meadow, Milton |
| b. | banded | H.P. | Halibut Point, Rockport |
| br. | breeding | I. | Island |
| dk. | dark (phase) | M.V. | Martha's Vineyard |
| f. | female | Mt.A. | Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge |
| imm. | immature | Nant. | Nantucket |
| ind. | individuals | Newbypt | Newburyport |
| loc. | location | P.I. | Plum Island |
| lt. | light (phase) | P'town | Provincetown |
| m. | male | R.P. | Race Point, Provincetown |
| max. | maximum | S.N. | Sandy Neck, Barnstable |
| migr. | migrating | Stellw. | Stellwagen (Bank) |
| ph. | photographed | BBC | Brookline Bird Club |
| pl. | plumage | BOEM | Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts |
| pr. | pair | CCBC | Cape Cod Bird Club |
| S | summer (1S = first summer) | DFWS | Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary |
| thr. | throughout | DWWS | Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary |
| v.o. | various observers | FCBC | Felix Cutler Bird Club |
| W | winter (2W = second winter) | GMNWR | Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge |
| w/ | with | IRWS | Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary |
| yg. | young | LCES | Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies |
| # | additional observers | MAS | Massachusetts Audubon Society |
| A.A. | Arnold Arboretum | MBO | Manomet Bird Observatory |
| A.P. | Andrews Point, Rockport | MNWS | Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary |
| B.R. | Bass Rocks, Gloucester | NEHW | New England Hawk Watch |
| Buzz. | Buzzards (Bay) | ONWR | Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge |
| C. | Cape as in Cape Cod | PRNWR | Parker River National Wildlife Refuge |
| Cambr. Res. | Cambridge Reservoir | SRV | Sudbury River Valley |
| E.P. | Eastern Point, Gloucester | SSBC | South Shore Bird Club |
| F.E. | First Encounter Beach, Eastham | WBWS | Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary |
| F.H. | Fort Hill, Eastham | | |

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SPRING BIRDING IN TEXAS
APRIL 1987

SPECIES SOUGHT: Audubon's Oriole, Golden-cheeked Warbler, Brown Jay, Whooping Crane, and many other area specialties.

LOCATION: lower Rio Grande valley, San Antonio area, Aransas Wildlife Refuge.

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The identification of the owl photo in October's At a Glance was apparently no problem for our readers. All who wrote in identified it correctly.

Because owls have large heads with frontal, binocular vision and look at us straight on, our attention is apt to focus on the owl's face. Identification of a perched owl is very akin to the method we use in recognizing our human and other mammalian friends. A birding friend who loves the owls, as she does all raptors, often refers to them as "persons." When we are identifying owls in the field, a combination of fairly obvious characteristics such as voice or voice responded to, size, presence of ear tufts, habitat in which the bird is found, and flight or other behavior enable us to identify these raptors without much difficulty. Seldom is it necessary for us to examine critically the details of plumage the way we must when we are sorting out shorebirds or sparrows or flycatchers. But the plumage features of the owl in the October photo are exactly what must be examined in order to identify the bird correctly.

Karen Holmes wrote us that the plumage of the bird in October's photo is distinctive. She cited *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*, page 174 (J. Farrand, Alfred A. Knopf, 1983): "The breast is dark. . . with irregular white spots. The boldly patterned belly feathers are crosshatched and have conspicuous dark vertical markings." This description is similar to the one in *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*, volume 4, page 572 (Stanley Cramp et al., Oxford University Press, 1985): "Underbody broadly streaked and blotched on chest and sharply streaked and barred (both boldly and finely) elsewhere." Karen further noted that Great Horned Owls "have underparts that are barred [only] and also display a noticeable white bib. The October At a Glance photo bird has no bib. . ." Hence, she eliminates *Bubo virginianus* as a possibility and identifies the bird as a Long-eared Owl.

Of course the presence of ear tufts on the pictured owl limits our choices to three species: the Great Horned, the Long-eared, and a screech-owl. We do not need to consider the minimally-tufted Flammulated Owl because it has not yet appeared in Massachusetts, and At a Glance only features birds that have been sighted in the Commonwealth. How can we eliminate screech-owl, which also has a streaked belly and ear tufts? There are no good clues in the photo as to the size of the bird or the length of the ear tufts, which are laid back close to the head. However, these tufts do seem to arise closer to the middle of the head than they do in *Asio otus*, the Eastern Screech-Owl. Finally, a careful evaluation of the face reveals that the facial disk is gently rounded and more elongate than is typical of the screech-owl. I concur with those readers who sent in their answers. The October photo is a picture of *Otus asio* - a very intriguing shot of a Long-eared Owl. D.R.A.

At a Glance . . .

Photo by Roger Everett



Can you identify this bird? Identification will be discussed in next issue's *At a Glance*.



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DECEMBER 1986

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