

BIRD OBSERVER



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BIRD OBSERVER

• a bimonthly journal •

To enhance understanding, observation,
and enjoyment of birds.

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TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

This issue marks the twentieth anniversary of *Bird Observer*. To celebrate our longevity, we have compiled a series of special articles looking back in time at birding in Massachusetts. *Bird Observer*, originally titled *Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts*, published its first issue in February 1973. The inaugural issue stated that the publication was started because "Many birders, newcomers and old-timers, have expressed an interest in and a need for an informative regional publication of purely bird news." *Bird Observer* also began publishing bird reports (now "sightings") in eastern Massachusetts, an important function due to the 1968 discontinuation of the *Records of New England Birds*, published by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Through the years many individuals (listed on pages 68 and 69) have worked hard to keep *Bird Observer* growing. In 1992 we had our highest number of subscribers ever, nearly 800, and we continue to have astounding subscriber loyalty, with an annual renewal rate of about ninety percent. We sincerely thank you, our subscribers, for your support, and we hope to continue providing a publication that enhances your understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds.

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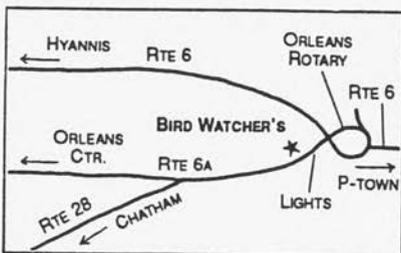
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**FIFTY YEARS OF BIRDING:
AN INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET ARGUE**

by Martha Steele

Margaret Argue was among the first group of women voted as members of the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1974. She began birding in 1941 with her husband, the late Arthur Argue, and continues to bird at least every Saturday. She joined the staff of the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) on January 2, 1944, eventually serving on the lecture staff in 1947, and buyer of books, binoculars, scopes, birdhouses, and feeders from 1945 to 1959. She was also the Society's window decorator from 1944 to 1968. Since the MAS moved to Lincoln in February 1958 and closed its Boston store in February 1968, Mrs. Argue has been a volunteer at the Museum of Fine Arts slide library two days a week, where she continues today.

Mrs. Argue is a recognized authority on the birds of the Boston Public Garden. In 1986 she wrote an article for "A Victorian Promenade" program, sponsored by the Friends of the Boston Public Garden, the oldest public garden in the United States, and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. The article was titled, "The Spring Migration: A Birdwatcher's Perspective" and recounted the bird species that can be found in the public garden during migration.

The following article is a combination of notes that Mrs. Argue wrote and two interview that took place with Mrs. Argue on Sunday, October 25, 1992, and Sunday, January 10, 1993, in her Boston home.

Steele: How did you start birding?

Argue: Arthur and I were walking in an old orchard in New Hampshire one day fifty-one years ago, when we saw a hole in a tree. We then saw a flicker on the tree and got an absolutely marvelous look at it. That bird was what got us going.

Steele: Tell us a bit about the evolution of equipment over the years.

Argue: Back in the early 1940s, many people started birding with French opera glasses, which were four-power glasses. Ludlow Griscom of Harvard University had a Zeiss single barrel telescope, with rotating oculars of twenty, thirty, and forty power. Arthur and I had a Zeiss binocular telescope with the same rotating oculars and power. The telescope, case, and wooden tripod weighed over twenty pounds. On Audubon bus trips, we used to line up to look at birds in the telescope. Then Bausch and Lomb developed the spotting scope sometime in the mid- to late 1950s.

Steele: What field guides did you use?

Argue: We used Roger Tory Peterson's field guide, first published in 1934. I began using the National Geographic guide as well when it was first published

(1983). In my mind, Peterson is number one in birding. Besides his illustration skills, we should also remember that he is a great photographer and writer, and one who has always worked extremely hard at his crafts.

Steele: You mentioned the Audubon bus trips. What were these?

Argue: Beginning in 1945, the Massachusetts Audubon Society organized eight birding bus trips a year. You have to remember that back in those days, very few people had cars. The trips started at the Audubon House at 155 Newbury Street in Boston, the site of Audubon headquarters at the time and now a parking lot. The bus trips always ran on Sundays, and Arthur, Ruth Emery, and I were the guides. We usually had about fifty people on the trips. In January we went to the South Shore as far as Plymouth. The February trip went to Cape Ann and Newburyport, Chain Bridge, and Plum Island. The March trip often went to South Dartmouth and Westport. The April bus trip started at Lynnfield Marsh, then Ipswich, West Newbury, and Plum Island. The May trip started at Lynnfield Marsh and wandered through West Newbury, Newburyport, and Plum Island. We did not have trips in June and July. In August we went to Newburyport, Plum Island, and Salisbury, where we stopped at a small pond that attracted terns and shorebirds. We would end the day at Clark's Pond in Ipswich, where Least Bittern and moorhen used to nest.

In October we went to Topsfield, Boxford, and a Georgetown feeding station looking for Evening Grosbeak. We did the rice marshes, the upper Merrimack River, Newburyport, and Plum Island, and ended the day at Clark's Pond in Ipswich. The November trip went to Manchester, Magnolia, Gloucester, and Rockport.

One memorable trip was on April 20, 1953, a cold and windy day. We changed our plans for birding in Essex County to be at our new Ipswich River Sanctuary at noon. Ludlow Griscom, Roger Tory Peterson, and the great English birder, James Fisher, spoke on WBZ radio. There were a couple of hundred Audubon members at the sanctuary to hear the three great birders of the day. This was the second stop on Peterson and Fisher's one-hundred-day and 30,000-mile birding tour of the United States, which ended in the Pribilofs. The notes made by both Peterson and Fisher became the famous book, *Wild America*, published in 1955.

Sometime in the 1950s, after more people got cars and relied less on public transportation, the bus trips were discontinued. Audubon eventually began organizing trips to more distant locations, such as Venezuela.

Steele: You have spoken of Ludlow Griscom. What do you recall about birding with him?

Argue: During World War II, from 1941-1945, Ludlow Griscom had a B ration card, which allowed him to go afield in his own vehicle about once a week. The cards were a means of rationing gas during the war. Most of the rest of us did not have such a card, and we would take a train from North Station in

Boston to Newburyport, walk from the train station in town to the Yacht Club, and bird there in all seasons. We would then work our way to Plum Island, checking the haystacks on all the straddles for Snowy Owls in the winter. They liked to perch on the haystacks because rodents often ran under the straddles, which kept the hay above the high tide mark.

In order to carry binoculars along the coast during the war, we had to have a Coast Guard pass with our picture on the pass. There seemed to be Coast Guardsmen on every fifth or sixth front porch. On the train back to North Station we always had to pull the shades because of the blackout, enforced along coastal areas to prevent lighted objects from being obvious targets.

I remember a memorable day of birding in September 1944 with Ludlow Griscom. Joining us were Edwin Way Teale, author of *North with the Spring*, Ruth Emery, Richard Curtis, and Russell Mason. Ludlow's lethal tour began at the Hayes Bickford restaurant, Harvard Square, at 5:00 A.M. for breakfast. Daybreak was most always, except in winter, at Lynnfield Marsh, and dusk was at Clark's Pond in Ipswich. Griscom's field birding was a competitive game to make or break a record or extend a known range. A day in the field with Griscom was always punctuated with his characteristic phrase: "let's stop here and flap our ears;" "now someone find a bird with some zip in it;" "first record for Massachusetts, well we didn't do so badly." Ludlow Griscom's last life bird was the Hawk Owl in Concord, Massachusetts, in 1958. He died in 1959.

Steele: Who are some other memorable personalities you birded with?

Argue: One person who was quite a character was Clara DeWindt of Painted Redstart fame. She lived in Newburyport, and to my knowledge she was the only birder to actually reside in Newburyport in my day. One day, she and



Margaret Argue in earlier times

Daisy Searle were birding on Marblehead Neck and saw this unusual bird. In the back seat of her car, Clara DeWindt carried the seven volumes of the octavo edition of Audubon's *The Birds of America*. Today's price of the octavo edition is about \$25,000. Anyway, on a Saturday night, she called me at home about the bird. We had an Audubon bus trip scheduled the next morning, so I asked her to call me again early the next day to let me know whether the bird was still there. She called at 7:45 A.M. the next morning with the news that the redstart was still around, and so the bus headed to Marblehead Neck. We all saw the Painted Redstart very well and got good photographs.

Another well-known birder was Wallace Bailey, the first director of Audubon's Wellfleet Sanctuary. In 1945, at the war's end, Wallace thought he had to have a "duck," which was an amphibious vehicle that could travel on either land or water. He bought a surplus duck from the government. One day, he picked us up in Boston, drove to Ipswich Beach, and headed for Plum Island with the mere shift of a gear. We had to be careful rounding Emerson's Rocks. We rumbled the length of the island and into Newburyport to get gas. The vehicle caused quite a stir in Newburyport. Wallace kept the vehicle about two years. It was certainly not a good birding vehicle.

Steele: How were birdwatchers viewed back in the 1940s and 1950s?

Argue: We were definitely seen as an odd group, and there were far fewer birders back then than today, of course.

Steele: What about the number of women birding then compared with today?

Argue: There were always more women birding than men. Today it seems like it has evened out a bit, with about equal numbers of men and women.

Steele: What were the Cape Cod campouts?

Argue: The Massachusetts Audubon Society also organized these trips, run on the second weekend of September, except for the first one, which was over Labor Day weekend, September 4 through 7, 1942, at Chatham. We went from Boston by train to Hyannis and then took a bus to Chatham. Our list of birds that first year was 134 species. On the campouts, which were two days long except for the first Labor Day weekend campout, half the group would go on a pelagic trip while the other half would go on a land trip, usually down Monomoy, the first day, and then the groups would switch places the second day. The pelagic trips went to the south side of the Cape out into Nantucket Sound.

On that first campout in 1942, after the first group started out on the pelagic trip, a German submarine was spotted by the Coast Guard off Cape Cod. That put an end to pelagic trips for a long time. For those of us going on the land trip, we drove down in three station wagons to the south end of Monomoy, birding all the way down and back to Morris Island. That was our first trip with Ludlow Griscom, for he was the guide in our beach buggy, but it certainly was not the last trip. Audubon continued with the campouts for about twenty years.

Monomoy at that time was a long straight arm from the Cape that you could go right on down. In the late 1950s or early 1960s, a storm "broke" the island off from the mainland. A later storm eventually resulted in the island becoming two islands, and the islands continue to undergo change.

Audubon also organized a Berkshires campout trip every year. The first one was in 1945 and always took place the third weekend of June. We stayed at the top of Mount Greylock at Bascom Lodge. In the late evenings we listened for Bicknell's Thrush, and the next morning we walked a short distance down the road and listened to the Mourning Warbler sing. After doing the trails to the Conservation Corps camp, we listened for the Olive-sided Flycatcher and the Winter Wren in the tall spruces. We took in Pleasant Valley Sanctuary and then drove down to South Egremont for nesting Peregrine Falcon and Henslow's Sparrow and a chance to see a Turkey Vulture, at that time rare in the state.

Steele: You mentioned pelagic trips. What were these trips like?

Argue: Boat trips generally began in the 1950s, and usually went out of Gloucester to Stellwagen Bank. The most striking difference is the fact that we never expected to see a whale, very unlike today. Whales just were not seen back then. We would see jaegers and shearwaters, among others, but we never saw skuas on these trips.

Steele: Was the Brookline Bird Club (BBC) active at the time?

Argue: Oh yes, they were the largest birding group around. They ran a lot of trips, such as to the south end of Plum Island by boat from Ipswich. We would also walk from the Ipswich railroad station to Clark's Pond, which was the only place we could hope to see a Short-eared Owl. Another popular trip involved taking the Boston & Worcester bus to Saxonville, where we walked to the Heards Pond area and into Wayland Center to take the bus to Park Square. We rode the Boston and Worcester bus to Wayside Inn, Sudbury, did the Marlboro sewer beds, and walked back to Wayland by the Raymond Estate. Other trips went to the Fay estate in Lynn and to Hoar's Dam, now the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. In the 1940s and early 1950s Hoar's Dam was owned by Samuel Hoar, and it was his private hunting preserve. The dam was overgrown with buttonbush and other vegetation and was almost impenetrable.

Early morning walks by the BBC included Mount Auburn Cemetery, Boston Public Garden, Boston Fenway, and the Arnold Arboretum. Evening walks often went to Lynnfield Marsh for rails, Mount Auburn, Woburn, and Horn Pond. From 1942 to 1962, Arthur and I birded the Boston Public Garden every morning in May from about 6:00 A.M. to 7:30 A.M. After 1962 we started going to Mount Auburn Cemetery because the birds were better and more numerous there.

Steele: What was Plum Island like compared with what it is now?

Argue: The southern part of Plum Island, which is now the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, was established in 1942. It was formerly owned by

the Massachusetts Audubon Society in the 1930s. They kept a warden there, whose house was located where the maintenance garages are now located. That is why older birders refer to that area as the warden's area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spent three years building the two miles of dikes, which created 215 acres of freshwater marsh. There is fresh water in the three major pools. Before they drained the Stage Island pool, now refilled, Common Tern, Pied-billed Grebe, coot, moorhen, and Ruddy Duck nested there, and some years the King Rail also nested in this area. The salt pans were not there when the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service took over Plum Island. I guess the action of ice cakes in the winter formed the pans.

When the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service split the hunting season for ducks, it ruined Newburyport Harbor for ducks during the winter. There were always a thousand-plus Greater Scaup in the harbor each winter, as well as large flocks of goldeneye, Bufflehead, and Oldsquaw.

In late January and February we often stirred up flocks of Common Redpolls and sometimes a Hoary Redpoll. We also saw Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, and Horned Larks. In the spring, summer, and fall, there were dozens of Black-crowned Night Herons in the marshes on either side of the road on the way to Plum Island. In shorebird season at high tide, we spent hours at what we called Plumbush. It was on the south side of the road, just before the Plum Island bridge: a place where for years they cut the salt hay first. All the shorebirds lined up in row after row, waiting for the tide to go out and uncover the mudflats, so they could forage for food at the next low tide. We always had a few Buff-breasted Sandpipers each year, and one August day we had seven at Plumbush. In the old days we always spent some time at the Coast Guard Station at 65th Street at the north end of Plum Island. We could observe the jetties, the estuary, and look out to sea. The Coast Guardsmen were very tolerant of our parking there. The station was washed away in a storm in 1947 and relocated in Newburyport. We also looked for shorebirds and terns in back of the Catholic Church on Plum Island. .

In Newburyport we always birded at the Yacht Club. It was great for shorebirds. The birding there is not as good today because the way the tide goes in and out is very different than it was in the past. For instance, the tide used to go out quite slowly, and we could get wonderful views of shorebirds feeding on the flats as the tide receded. Today the tide seems to go out much faster, and most of the shorebirds are far out and more difficult to see.

From the Yacht Club we could also see Bald Eagles across the way. When DDT began causing problems with these and other birds, we no longer saw the eagles in Newburyport. It was then that we started going out to Quabbin Reservoir to see Bald Eagles, beginning sometime in the late 1950s or early 1960s. I heard that this year (1993), about fifty Bald Eagles were counted at Quabbin. That is just wonderful.

Steele: Tell us about the development of the Voice of Audubon.

Argue: In 1945 Bill and Annette Cottrell got the Massachusetts Audubon Society to continue the *Records of New England Birds*. [The Boston Society of Natural History published the *Bulletin of New England Bird Life* from 1936 to 1944. In 1945 the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) took over publishing the regional compilation of bird reports, renamed the *Records of New England Birds*. The MAS published *Records of New England Birds* until 1968, except for a two-year period, 1962 and 1963, when it was not published.] Then, in 1954 the Voice of Audubon was started with Ruth Emery doing the Voice until she retired in 1986. In late 1962 and early 1963 when Ruth was laid up with a broken hip, I did the Voice three times a week, and I started adding the numbers of each species being reported. You know, we never had any trouble reporting on bird sightings three times a week back then. We had plenty of sightings to report and plenty of people who were willing to call us with their reports.

Steele: What do you recall about the Ross' Gull in 1975?

Argue: This was of course the rarest bird of all and one of the great birding experiences we have ever seen. The Ross' Gull in Newburyport was the first ever recorded in North America south of Point Barrow, Alaska, and was identified on March 2, 1975, a very cold day. Walter Ellison of White River Junction, Vermont, saw the bird at Salisbury Beach and called the attention of other birders to it. The presence of a Ross' Gull in Newburyport was first suspected on January 12, 1975, by Phil Parsons and Herman Weissberg of Manchester, Massachusetts, who saw what was apparently the same individual and noted most of the field marks, except the tail. The Ross' Gull has a wedge-shaped tail, the only gull in the world with such a tail. At that time, it was just so difficult to believe that a Ross' Gull might be here in Massachusetts. Anyway, on March 3, 1975, Roger Tory Peterson arrived at Newburyport Harbor and was delighted to see the Ross' Gull, which was the 668th species that he had recorded on his life list for the United States. Birders from all over the country flocked to Newburyport to witness this remarkably rare gull. The Ross' Gull now nests at Churchill on Hudson Bay. It is regarded by some as the most beautiful of the world's gulls.

Steele: What were some other unusual birds or birding experiences you had?

Argue: There were certainly many, most of which I have listed separately for you (see Table 1). But let me talk about a few such experiences. The first Ivory Gull was sighted in 1946 in Gloucester. After the Ross' Gull in 1975, this is probably the most memorable experience for me. The bird was sighted during an Audubon bus trip that actually had two buses that day. The bird was sick and died the next day.

On October 31, 1944, my husband wrote the following about our experience seeing Brown Creepers in Newburyport: "Walking toward Pine

Table 1. Memorable Birds Seen By Margaret Argue

Arctic Loon¹	1961, 1963, 1965, 1966, 1984
Eared Grebe	1947 to 1953 (Gloucester); 1990 (Gloucester Harbor)
Western Grebe	1947, 1948 (Rockport, a Griscom impossible at the time, now regular)
Little Egret	1989 (Plum Island)
White Ibis	May 1970 (Orleans), March 1989 (Middleboro)
White-faced Ibis	1984 (Essex)
Wood Stork	all summer 1955 (Henry's Pond in Rockport)
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	1974 (Stilt Pond in Rowley)
Trumpeter Swan	1969 (Wenham Lake)
Black Brant²	1975 (North Beach in Chatham)
Garganey	1985 (Plum Island)
Eurasian Green-winged Teal³	1973, 1988 (Plum Island)
Greater Flamingo	1964 (extreme southwest corner of Plum Island)
Eurasian Wigeon	1983, 1989 (Plum Island)
Steller's Elder	1977 (Scituate)
Gray Sea Eagle⁴	1944 (Yacht Club in Newburyport)
Gyr Falcon	1945 (Newburyport); 1979, 1983 (Plum Island)
Gyr Falcon, white-phase	1990 (Westport)
Wild Turkey	1977, 1991 (New Salem)
Purple Gallinule	1981, 1984 (Great Meadows in Concord)
Sandhill Crane	1979 (Danvers), 1988, 1989, 1990 (Ipswich, Plum Island, Belchertown)
Black-necked Stilt	1953, 1969, 1972, 1979 (Plum Island); 1983 (Ipswich)
Bar-tailed Godwit	1976, 1978 (Newburyport)
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1974 (Newburyport)
Long-tailed Jaeger	1942 (Monomoy)
Franklin's Gull	1942 (Monomoy); 1944, 1946, 1948, 1952, 1961 (Newburyport)
Mew Gull	1974, 1983, 1985 (Newburyport)
Thayer's Gull	1951, 1982 (Plum Island)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1974-1980, 1981, 1985, now every year
Ross' Gull	1975 (Newburyport); summer 1981 (Newburyport)
Sabine's Gull	1973 (Eastham); 1980 (Nantucket); 1981, 1985 (at sea)
Ivory Gull	1946 (Gloucester); 1949, 1959 (Newburyport); 1975, 1976, 1977 (Salisbury)
Gull-billed Tern	1973, 1991 (Plum Island)
Atlantic Puffin	1953 (Rockport)
Barn Owl	1942, 1943, 1944 (nesting in a barn in Ipswich); 1944 (nesting in a sycamore tree at Fresh Pond, Cambridge, another Griscom impossible)
Northern Hawk Owl	1958, 1959 (Concord)
Great Gray Owl	1973 (Gill); 1979 (Topsfield); 1984 (Hadley and Newburyport)
Boreal Owl	1978 (Salisbury)
Chuck-will's-widow	1969 (Mount Auburn Cemetery); 1990 (Marblehead Neck)
Lewis' Woodpecker	1969 (at a feeder in West Newbury)
Three-toed Woodpecker	1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962 (Newton); 1963, 1964 (Rowley); 1975 (Harvard)

- Black-backed Woodpecker** 1975 (Swampscott); 1990 (Upton)
Say's Phoebe 1957 (Plum Island)
Ash-throated Flycatcher 1991 (Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary)
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 1959 (Wayland); 1974, 1981 (Marshfield)
Fork-tailed Flycatcher 1980 (Orleans); 1990 (Fresh Pond in Cambridge)
Gray Jay 1966 (Amherst); 1973 (Ipswich)
Black-billed Magpie 1944 (Mount Auburn Cemetery); 1981 (Belchertown)
Rock Wren 1965, 1966 (Rockport)
Sedge Wren 1942-1974 (nested in Lexington); 1985 (Prudential Center in Boston); 1986 (Harvard)
Northern Wheatear 1963 (Salisbury); 1970 (North Eastham)
Fieldfare 1986 (Concord, and the last life bird for Ruth Emery in the U.S.)
Varied Thrush 1963 (Magnolia); 1975 (Athol); 1979 (Chelmsford)
Bohemian Waxwing 1969 (Quabbin); 1977 (Plum Island); 1987 (Boxford)
Loggerhead Shrike 1947 (attempted nesting on Hale Street in Newburyport)
"Lawrence's" Warbler⁵ 1955, 1957 (West Newbury); 1991 (Groveland)
Black-throated Gray Warbler 1962 (Concord)
Townsend's Warbler 1978 (Mount Auburn Cemetery)
Hermit Warbler 1964 (Mount Auburn Cemetery)
Yellow-throated Warbler 1968 (Plum Island); 1977 (Mount Auburn Cemetery); 1983 (Plum Island)
Painted Redstart 1947 (Marblehead Neck, see text)
Western Tanager 1954, 1957, 1959, 1973, 1974
Green-tailed Towhee 1953 (Magnolia); 1963 (at the Winthrop Estate in Ipswich)
Lark Bunting 1951, 1962 (Newburyport); 1965, 1969 (Salisbury); 1979, 1988, 1990 (Plum Island)
Henslow's Sparrow 1940 to mid-1950 (nested in back of Scotland Road, Newburyport, and in South Egremont); 1982, 1983 (Brookline)
Le Conte's Sparrow 1970 (Great Meadows in Concord); 1989 (Newburyport)
Harris' Sparrow 1946 (at a feeder in Ipswich); 1960, 1963, 1965, 1968
McCown's Longspur 1977 (Bridgewater)
House Finch 1965 (Marblehead Neck)
European Goldfinch 1969 (at a feeder in Marshfield)

Editor's Footnotes

- 1 Recently split into two species, Arctic Loon and Pacific Loon (Ehrlich, P.R., D.S. Dobkin, and D. Wheye. 1988. *The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds*. New York: Simon and Schuster).
- 2 Black Brant is the western form of Brant. For years the Black Brant was considered a separate species, but the 1976 A.O.U. Check-List had it as a subspecies of Brant (Terres, J.K. 1980. *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.).
- 3 Old World subspecies of Green-winged Teal.
- 4 Gray Sea Eagle is another name for White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) (Terres, J.K. 1980. *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.).
- 5 First discovered in the 1870s, "Lawrence's" Warbler was thought to be a separate species. It was dropped from the 1910 edition of the A.O.U. Check-List. "Lawrence's" Warbler is a hybrid of the Blue-winged Warbler and Golden-winged Warbler (Terres, J.K. 1980. *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.).

Island (a wooded area in the marsh), we observed twenty Brown Creepers. The birds were climbing up the sides of buildings, up telephone poles and fenceposts as well as trees. Proceeding to Pine Island, we found thirty more creepers. Here they were on trees and rocks and even on the ground. One alighted for a moment on my trouser leg" (in *Bent's Life Histories of North American Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrashers, and Their Allies*, Bulletin 195). Today I am happy if I see two Brown Creepers a year.

In May 1956 we saw over one hundred White-crowned Sparrows in the Boston Public Garden, an incredible thrill. In April 1957 we saw over one hundred Hermit Thrushes crossing the road as we drove down Plum Island. On another occasion, November 11, 1961, we saw eighteen Snowy Owls on Plum Island and two more at Salisbury.

An unusual story concerns Rosario Mazzeo, staff manager of the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) and bass clarinet player who used to bird with us in the 1940s and 1950s. In June 1952 Rosario was in London with the BSO. He visited the Stockholm Bird Observatory in South Wales. He was asked to take a Manx Shearwater with him back to Boston that night, June 3, to be released at Logan Airport in Boston the following morning. He carried the bird in a box under his seat in the plane. He released the bird at 8:45 A.M. in Boston on June 4, 1952. The Manx Shearwater returned to its burrow, a distance of three thousand miles, twelve and one-half days later. What a record!

Another notable bird was the Gray Sea Eagle [White-tailed Eagle], a European bird, at the Yacht Club in Newburyport in the winter of 1944. Ludlow Griscom, who used to bird at the Yacht Club every Saturday, first saw it. We went up the next day and saw it. By the following weekend, the bird was gone.

Steele: What about some of the birds that are not as common today as when you were birding?

Argue: There are quite a few that are not around as much or at all now. Some examples that come most to mind include the fact that I used to see huge mixed flocks of blackbirds in the fall, and we used to get pretty high counts of blackbirds on the Christmas Bird Counts. I just do not see the really large flocks any more. We also used to get good flocks of Evening Grosbeaks on our Audubon bus trips, but where are they now? On the other hand, we never used to see the Bohemian Waxwing, and now they show up every now and then. And of course the House Finch. I guess some people brought this bird from the western part of the United States to New York City. We used to hear about the finches on Long Island for many years. Then one year, they irrupted into Massachusetts; the first report I can remember came from Marblehead. Now, of course, they are everywhere.

MARTHA STEELE, editor in chief of *Bird Observer*, is a public health specialist for a private environmental consulting firm in Waltham, Massachusetts.

LUDLOW GRISCOM: THE BIRDWATCHER'S GURU

by William E. Davis, Jr.

Ludlow Griscom is a legendary figure in the history of ornithology and birdwatching in Massachusetts. His major role in the early twentieth century shift from the "shotgun" to "binocular" school of ornithology and enormous influence on the development of birdwatching as a sport and hobby are well known and have been extensively chronicled by many of those who were the direct beneficiaries of Griscom's expertise (especially Roger Tory Peterson). Certainly, Ludlow Griscom was responsible, more than any other single individual, for the development of the technique of rapid identification of birds in the field. His Master's Thesis at Cornell University in 1915 on the identification of the eastern North American Anatidae (primarily ducks) is a classic, and gave an early indication of the leadership he was to provide the ornithological and birding community during the first half of the twentieth century. Griscom was also a teacher of methods of rapid identification of birds in the field and played that role throughout his career. Perhaps because he was a museum biologist (Research Curator of Birds, the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University) rather than a college professor, discussion of Griscom's contributions have not focused on his influence as a teacher.

In the following retrospective, I have relied heavily on interviews that I conducted with Griscom's contemporaries and protégés. The interviews deal with a broad spectrum of his activities as a teacher of the field identification of birds and proponent of the sport and hobby of birdwatching.

Ludlow Griscom had little formal practice teaching ornithology. He taught summer school at the University of Virginia while he was a graduate student at Cornell, and his only other opportunity to present a formal course in ornithology was in the Harvard summer school program. He made the most of this latter opportunity in the summers of 1935 and 1936, when he taught a six-week course in ornithology. It met every day during the week and featured a day-long field trip each weekend. In an April 12, 1935, letter to Mrs. Delabarre Fordyce, Ludlow described his course:

The main object of this course will be to give the beginner some acquaintance with a certain number of species of birds in life by means of a series of field trips and the lectures will take up the various phases of the life history and activities of birds. The course is not a technical one and there will be no anatomy, dissections, or studies in classification.

As far as preparation is concerned, it would be advisable if you had Chapman's Handbook, Peterson's recently-issued and most excellent Guide, a pair of good field glasses, and some outing clothes, and a



Ludlow Griscom

Photo courtesy of MAS

willingness to start early in the morning, and if necessary, to get your feet wet. The course is, of course, designed for people who have had no training in biology at all.

Judging from the comments from several people who took the course, Griscom made ornithology interesting. Tudor Richards, a Nuttall Ornithological Club (NOC) member and former executive director of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, remarked in 1982 that the course had been very good and that he still had the notes nearly fifty years later. Juliet French, a student in the course, said that Griscom was an impressive teacher:

It took just one lecture to get me sold. He was a very stimulating person, he looked sort of fascinating, he wore a scarf because he had just had a slight operation on his throat. He had such a command of the English language and he was so definite, what he said was right, there was no questioning it. . . He spoke with such innate authority, and had a very good sense of humor. He would give a lot of

anecdotes, and I think that you could have heard a pin drop—everyone was so wrapped up in what he was saying.

Griscom did not like to read lectures: "It has been my avid practice for many years to give lectures on the basis of a topical outline and not read a manuscript out loud." French and David L. Garrison, another summer school student, became favorites of Griscom, and after the course was over he often invited them along on his birding excursions. They both became Griscom protégés, and he was responsible for both of them becoming staff members at the New England Museum of Natural History. (Ludlow was on the Board of Directors of the Boston Society of Natural History, which operated the museum. The museum evolved in the early 1950s into the present Boston Museum of Science.) The course was discontinued in 1937 because of financial difficulties with the Harvard summer school program, a consequence, in all probability, of the Great Depression.

Griscom's greatest influence came not from classroom activities, but from the innumerable field trips that he led and the dozens of people who learned field identification of birds under his direction. R. Dudley Ross gave the following eulogy, which was later published by the Linnaean Society of New York:

His influence will continue to be felt throughout the length and breadth of the continent—through the many disciples whom he initiated into the mysteries of field ornithology, many of whom have become accomplished and prominent professionals. These graduates of the Griscom school have in turn passed on their knowledge to others so that a veritable groundswell has reached many who never met or even saw Griscom.

The comments made by individuals who learned their field identification skills from Griscom are remarkably consistent in their praise of him. His influence on the youngsters was considerable; one young man even carried a picture of Griscom in his wallet.

A letter sent to me from Theodore L. Eliot, Jr. relates two anecdotes that give some insight into the Griscom style of teaching:

In October, 1947 (. . . it may have been November) I was in Newburyport birding with a fellow Nuttall member, the late Ben Keenan. We stopped in town for a bowl of chowder and ran into Ludlow Griscom. He told us to go to Marblehead to a certain address where we would find something interesting in a certain tree—if we hurried. We did hurry and found a Painted Redstart. We were impressed that he did not tell us ahead of time what we were going to see.

On another occasion in the spring of '47 (I was 19), I stood with him and some others looking at the Newburyport Harbor mudflats. There

was a dull, largish shorebird there. I didn't know what it was. He said that if I wanted to learn this bird I should flush it. That required a really difficult, slogging walk of fifteen minutes up to my knees (it seemed) in mud. The result was my first Willet, and I have never forgotten that bird and have since always enjoyed the beauty of a Willet's wing pattern in flight. Yes, Ludlow Griscom was a great teacher.

Sibley Higginbotham, an NOC member and frequent birding companion of Griscom's, commented on Griscom's "teaching in the field" style:

We were out on the plowed fields in Newburyport, probably the best place in the state for longspurs and buntings. It was characteristic of the way he approached something. "Take a look at that Horned Lark." I did and he said, "What strikes you about that?" It had a white supercilary stripe . . . He said, "Yeah, it does. Do you notice anything else? Would you say looking at that bird and the others there, it looks a bit big to you?" And I said, "Yes, it does." He had an almost absolute ability, like perfect pitch, an absolute ability to judge size, and the lark was bigger. He would draw you out, he always wanted other people along, sometimes testing you, teaching you too . . .

Ruth Emery, the original Voice of Audubon and one of the most revered of Massachusetts' birders, suggested that Ludlow was a bit intimidating at first. Nevertheless, Ruth became a frequent birding companion of Griscom.

The first time I ever went out with him, Mr. Mason [executive director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society] was with him. Margaret [Argue] and I went. I was terrified to open my mouth. Down in Newburyport, around the haystacks coming out of Rowley, I saw a hawk sitting out over the marsh. I was afraid to call it in fear it might be a crow. But when we got by it, I said, "There was a hawk back there," and he said, "Why didn't you say so?" So he said, "Back up Russell," and we backed up and there was a Rough-legged Hawk. He said, "That's good, that's my first one of the season." I perked up a bit.

On the north end of Plum Island, Margaret and I didn't know what we were looking at, and we described it and Griscom said, "Did it have a surprised look on its face?", and we said yes, it did, and he said, "That was a White-eyed Vireo" . . .

Ludlow had established a reputation for field identification that complemented his considerable taxonomic, "museum" study skin abilities. As a result, his correspondence is dotted with letters asking him for help in identification, including letters from Arthur C. Bent asking for identification of sandpipers, from Witmer Stone asking for tips on identifying Forster's and Roseate terns in life, and from the bird painter Allan Brooks asking

identification assistance on Seaside Sparrows. As the guru of field identification, he was constantly being asked for advice on field-related matters, such as the best binoculars to use.

Griscom was a prolific lecturer. The series of eight lectures which he gave at the Lowell Institute in January 1944 were widely acclaimed and became the basis of his book, *Modern Bird Study* (1945, Harvard University Press). He was frequently asked to talk to bird clubs and was a particular favorite of the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS), as the following 1945 letter to Griscom from C. Russell Mason, executive director of the MAS, illustrates:

Our Annual Meeting Committee held a conference today and decided unanimously that you should be on our program on January 25. I am telling you their decision at the start of the letter, because I figure that you will probably protest on account of having been on the program last year and the year before. However, the expression of the Committee was that Ludlow Griscom should be a permanent feature of all our Annual Meeting programs. So you can see that there is real demand for whatever you have to offer us.

When the *Bulletin of New England Bird Life* was established in 1936 by the Boston Society for Natural History and later carried on by the MAS as *Records of New England Birds*, Griscom provided direction for the journal, and his protégés compiled this tally of regional bird sightings. French, then Juliet Richardson was the first editor, and Garrison, Roland Clement, Ruth Turner, Annette and William Cottrell, Emery, Donald Alexander, Henry Parker, Ruth Higginbotham, and James Baird followed as editors. All were intimately connected with Griscom.

Ludlow Griscom had a strong influence over the years on Harvard University students who constituted the Harvard Ornithological Club (HOC). Griscom was the freshman advisor to many, but known to all through his contribution to the club's activities. He took many of the HOC members into the field with him, not only on his day trips through Essex County, but also to Cape Cod and its specialty, Monomoy. Richard Hinchman recalled:

Some of Griscom's brusqueness was his sense of humor, some was teasing. If someone made a superficial remark, Ludlow didn't hesitate to express his feelings, but he wanted to teach, he would explain field marks, he was a good teacher, he'd run the legs off us even though we were twenty years younger.

The Harvard graduates to whom Griscom was freshman advisor include Norman Hill, who would, after Griscom's death in 1959, compile Griscom's field notes into *The Birds of Cape Cod, Massachusetts* (1965, William Morrow, New York), and Chandler S. Robbins, the noted field guide author and biologist. According to Hill, Griscom was always available for advice and was kind and patient. Chandler remembers Griscom as the most frequent speaker at the HOC

meetings, providing perhaps twenty-five percent of the evening programs. Griscom was always flexible, saying "What do you want me to talk about?" He routinely gave a summary of the season, as he did at the NOC, and, although he did not use slides, his talks were generally well received. Robbins recalled the only time that he disagreed with Griscom was on a winter boat trip. Griscom said, "What was that?" and Robbins answered, "I think it was a Red-breasted Merganser." Griscom said, "It was a Dovekie!" Fortunately, they had been looking at different birds.

The HOC members were for the most part more than happy to put up with the Griscom brusqueness and tendency to dogmatic pronouncements. Griscom was affectionately christened, The Great God Gristlebottom, by the members.

Theodore L. Eliot, Sr. wrote to me about the self-assurance and instant identification skills that characterized Griscom, as well as his habit of looking at every bird, watching a flock long after everyone else had given up. Griscom taught by example.

Sometime in the mid-'30s on a Christmas Count, a group of NOC members stood on a cold December afternoon gazing at the frozen Newbury marsh when suddenly, about 300 yards away, two ducks rose from a saltwater ditch and before any of us could raise a binocular the birds, within two or three seconds disappeared into a parallel ditch. "Shovelers" said Ludlow. "Aw! come on Ludlow" was the general outcry. "Well, if you don't believe it then go out there and take a look" was the reply. Three of us non-believers trudged out there, flushed the birds, and—you guessed it, they were shovelers.

On a spring morning in the '30s I was with a group of birders along with Ludlow and we had a flock of peeps under observation along the beach leading from Revere to Nahant. They were semipalmated sandpipers and semipalmated plovers. I remember we all, except Ludlow, stopped looking at the flock. Shortly, still looking through his binoculars he said: "I'm almost certain there's a Wilson's plover in that flock. Yes, that's what it is. Will someone get my gun out of the car; I want to collect it." The Wilson's was duly dispatched.

Perhaps the most famous of the HOC members, S. Dillon Ripley, an ornithological expert on the Indian subcontinent and former secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, related some recollections of Griscom in the field. The last paragraph of his recollections perhaps reveals the most important element which any teacher can hope to impart—a lasting personal memory and impression. This statement highlights Ludlow Griscom as a teacher.

I went out with him several times in the winter of 1940-41 and found him amusing and intelligent, but fascinatingly didactic on bird sightings. A gray early morning with heavy mist and near-zero visibility was no preventive from his loud pronouncement of

"Mourning Dove" as a distant shape hurried away, virtually unknownst to the rest of the straining-eyed crew. (Mourning doves were most uncommon then in New England winters.) No matter.

I remember the famous Clay-colored Sparrow which hung about in a bush near the road north towards Ipswich, discovered by Ludlow. We joked about it during its visitation, saying that Ludlow had had it tethered to a bush there as his object lesson.

I had only one minor triumph with Ludlow on a cold winter morning. He could not recognize a distant anonymous waterfowl sitting in the middle of a pond. Lying on our stomachs, I did my best and came up with "Gadwall female" and Ludlow agreed. I felt a warm sense of satisfaction which I have not forgotten.

WILLIAM E. (TED) DAVIS, JR., president of Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc., teaches at Boston University. He has recently completed a biography, *Ludlow Griscom, Ornithologist, Conservationist, and "Dean of the Birdwatchers."* The book is being published by the Smithsonian Institution Press and is scheduled for release in late 1993 or early 1994. The letters of Fordyce and Mason are archived in the Ludlow Griscom Papers in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections at the Cornell University library. Ted is grateful for permission to publish excerpts from the letters.

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BEST BIRDS IN MASSACHUSETTS: 1973-1992

by Wayne R. Petersen

Since its inception in 1973, *Bird Observer* has served as a digest for eastern Massachusetts bird reports. These bird reports have included an astounding assortment of unusual vagrants. While vagrant records are by no means the most valuable bits of data in this twenty-year record, the discovery of unusual birds is often the motivation for the countless hours of field birding spent by many observers. In this age of superb field guides, high quality optics, detailed bird-finding manuals, and a steadily growing interest in international bird touring, an increasing number of people are gaining personal familiarity with more and more bird species. As a result the overall record of bird distribution in many parts of the world is more complete than ever before. With a state bird list of over 450 species to its credit, Massachusetts justifiably holds a prominent place as a leader of this trend in North America.

Massachusetts birders should be congratulated for their dedication to broadening our understanding of local bird populations and rightfully be proud of the serious ornithological tradition that has persisted in the Commonwealth for over a century. The extraordinary roster of vagrant reports that has appeared in *Bird Observer* is simply a manifestation of this rich legacy, as well as a tribute to the skill and persistence of the Massachusetts birding community.

The following summary of twenty years of unusual bird records should be placed in context. For many birders the "bird of the day," or even the "bird of the year," may not necessarily be a great rarity or an unusual sighting. Instead, such birding highlights may be a first encounter with an unfamiliar species, the observation of an interesting or novel bird behavior, the appearance of a previously unrecorded species at a favorite birding locality, or the sight of an especially astounding concentration of birds (e.g., Tree Swallows at Plum Island). Yet, despite the intensely personal nature of many bird sightings, certain bird records from the last twenty years are especially notable, either because of their rarity in the local area or because of the pleasure the birds themselves gave to so many people. These characteristics were kept in mind while compiling the list that follows.

During the past two decades approximately thirty new species were added to the state list, eight of which were first records for at least the lower United States. These additions represent species from many parts of the world. While the exact origin of most vagrants can never be determined with precision, it is possible to make valid predictions for some. For example, we know from specimen evidence that the Massachusetts Marbled Murrelet was of the Siberian race and that the Brown-chested Martin belonged to the migratory population from southern South America. Likewise, there can be little doubt that Black-browed and Yellow-nosed albatrosses in Massachusetts waters originate in the southern hemisphere, or that the Red-billed Tropicbird almost certainly came from the Caribbean Sea. For other species the route of arrival from the point of

origin is more questionable. For example, do Ross' Gulls that show up in Massachusetts arrive over land by way of Hudson Bay, or do they come "over the top" from arctic Canada? Or, did the Western Reef-Heron come directly from Africa or from somewhere in the Caribbean or South America? And what about the Steller's Eider and the Jackdaw? Could these birds possibly have been of captive origin?

To keep the twenty-year list of outstanding bird records at a manageable length, only two selections were chosen for each year, except in years when such a remarkable assortment of records occurred that it was impossible to single out only two. For each record the location of the sighting is indicated in parentheses, and a brief notation is included to explain why I selected the record.

- 1973** **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** (Newburyport): second state record, third New England record, juvenile on the harbor flats.
Great Gray Owl (Gill): first in Massachusetts in over thirty years; attracted many birders, some of whom searched for several days as the owl moved unpredictably from deep woods to open pasture.
- 1974** **Black-browed Albatross** (Nantucket Sound): second state record, spectacular bird seen and beautifully described from the Hyannis-to-Nantucket ferry.
Fulvous Whistling-Duck (Rowley): seen by many and photographed, three birds appeared and lingered at the Rowley dump marsh.
- 1975** **Ross' Gull** (Newburyport): first in lower United States, seen by thousands and one of the great birding events of this century, written up in *Time*.
Ivory Gull (Salisbury): a rare extended visit by this arctic bird, seen and fed by hundreds at the Salisbury boat ramp.
Three-toed Woodpecker (Harvard): first in the state in many years, generally rare in eastern North America, spent many days leisurely foraging on a diseased American elm on a busy roadside.
Chestnut-collared Longspur (Orleans): first record since 1878, a rare prairie visitor among a large flock of Lapland Longspurs on North Beach.
- 1976** **Yellow-nosed Albatross** (Georges Bank): second state record, seen by only one observer.
Eurasian Curlew (Monomoy): second United States record, Old World counterpart of the Long-billed Curlew.
- 1977** **Steller's Eider** (Scituate): second East Coast record of this arctic specialty (first record was in Maine), beautiful drake.
MacGillivray's Warbler (Lexington): first state record; banded, photographed, and released unharmed; later enjoyed by many birders.
McCown's Longspur (Bridgewater): first record east of Illinois, dozens endured bitter cold to enjoy this western vagrant, banded and photographed.
- 1978** **Selasphorus hummingbird**, probably Rufous (Newton): first state record; only able to be identified from photographs taken before the bird departed from a suburban backyard, where it fed on early-blooming snowdrops.
Townsend's Warbler (Cambridge): first state record; unlike most western vagrants, this striking warbler appeared in May at Mount Auburn Cemetery, where it was photographed and seen by many.

- 1979** **Black-chinned Hummingbird** (Cohasset): first Atlantic Coast record north of Florida; this southwestern bird attempted to survive in a greenhouse, where its identification was confirmed after it died.
Lucy's Warbler (Ipswich): only Atlantic Coast record, probably arrived under the same meteorological influences as the Black-chinned Hummingbird.
- 1980** **Rufous-necked Stint** (Monomoy, Scituate): first and second state records, photographed.
Little Stint (Monomoy): first state record and one of very few recorded in the United States at the time, appeared on Monomoy at the same time as the Rufous-necked Stint, photographed.
Burrowing Owl (Plymouth, Monomoy, Martha's Vineyard): first state records since 1875.
- 1981** **Common Cuckoo** (Martha's Vineyard): one of the most remarkable birds on the state list, this Old World vagrant was netted, photographed, and released, thus eliminating confusion with the similar Oriental Cuckoo; only North American record outside Alaska.
Townsend's Solitaire (Martha's Vineyard): second state record of this Rocky Mountain visitor, spent several weeks enjoying winter berries, photographed and seen by many.
- 1982** **Marbled Murrelet** (Middleboro): first Atlantic Coast record, freshly dead specimen brought in by cat, a Pacific alcid belonging to Siberian population.
Jackdaw (Nantucket): first United States record, eventually joined by a second individual, the two birds survived for several years on Nantucket.
Swainson's Warbler (Provincetown): first state record, heard singing and well photographed.
- 1983** **Western Reef-Heron** (Nantucket): first continental record; spent spring and summer on Nantucket, where birders from all over North America came to see and photograph the bird.
Myiodynastes flycatcher, probably Sulphur-bellied (Martha's Vineyard): first state record, color photographs could not definitively eliminate the South American Streaked Flycatcher as an alternative possibility.
Brown-chested Martin (Monomoy): photographed alive in the company of Barn Swallows, later obtained as a specimen, extraordinary record was first record north of Costa Rica.
- 1984** **White-faced Ibis** (Essex): first state record; started more careful searches for this species, which has resulted in several additional state occurrences.
Long-billed Curlew (Monomoy): fourth twentieth century state record, seen by many during a brief stay.
- 1985** **White-tailed Tropicbird** (Chatham, Byfield): a hurricane carried two of these striking seabirds to Massachusetts; Byfield bird captured, flown to Bermuda, and released.
Brown Pelican (Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket): first state records in twenty-five years, sighted in the wake of the same storm that delivered the tropicbirds.
- 1986** **Red-billed Tropicbird** (Martha's Vineyard): first state record, adult seen off Gay Head cliffs for several weeks in September and October, presumably the same bird returned for several years in succession, seen by hundreds.
Fieldfare (Concord): first state record and one of few in the United States, discovered in a large flock of migrating American Robins at Nine Acre Corner,

excellent example of careful birding.

- 1987** **Anhinga** (Nahant): first state record, a soaring bird reminding future observers to check all high-flying cormorants especially carefully.
- Cox's Sandpiper** (Duxbury): first continental record; the most mysterious bird ever to appear in Massachusetts, the specific identify and precise taxonomic status of this shorebird remain a mystery; whatever a Cox's Sandpiper is or is not, its appearance in the state is apparently the first such event outside of Australia; photographed.
- 1988** **Allen's Hummingbird** (Nantucket): first Atlantic Coast record, captured in a mist net, eventually died, the presence of this California hummingbird established that at least two species of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds are possibilities in the eastern United States.
- Gray Kingbird** (Martha's Vineyard): third state record, well photographed.
- Sprague's Pipit** (Provincetown): first state record, discovered by a diligent team of observers who had the land detail in an otherwise pelagic Stellwagen Bank Christmas Bird Count.
- 1989** **Little Egret** (Plum Island): first United States record, found among Plum Island's late summer egrets, lingered for several weeks and eventually seen by hundreds.
- Le Conte's Sparrow** (Newbury): obligingly posed for dozens of birders and photographers for several weeks in midwinter.
- 1990** **Spotted Redshank** (South Wellfleet): second state record, photographed and seen by many while it rested during high tide in Goose Pond at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Terek Sandpiper** (Plum Island): first record for lower United States, Old World shorebird appeared in Plum Island salt pans for less than one hour in mid-June, four observers saw this distinctive vagrant.
- 1991** **Black-capped Petrel** (Stellwagen Bank, Cape Cod Bay): second and third state records of this Gulf Stream pelagic species, identifiable photographs were obtained of the April bird on Stellwagen Bank.
- Rock Wren** (Orleans): second state and Atlantic Coast record, survived through the fall and narrowly missed being recorded on the Cape Cod Christmas Bird Count.
- 1992** **Reddish Egret** (Martha's Vineyard): third state record, photographed and seen by many, second state record had occurred in 1991.
- Ancient Murrelet** (Rockport): first Atlantic Coast record, seen and meticulously documented by a large group of out-of-state birders.

The decades ahead offer increasing threats to bird populations and their habitats. John Terborgh in his recent book, *Where Have All the Birds Gone?* (1989), has graphically articulated these threats which, if true, should serve as grim reminders to birders and conservationists alike that the next twenty-year list of "best birds" may not be as rich as the present list. Let us all strive toward ensuring that such will not be the case. Good birding in the decades ahead!

WAYNE R. PETERSEN is a field ornithologist at the Massachusetts Audubon Society in Lincoln, Massachusetts.



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HISTORIANS OF ESSEX COUNTY AND THE ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB OF MASSACHUSETTS

by Jim MacDougall

My first Essex County Ornithological Club of Massachusetts (ECOC) Ipswich River trip was in 1974, my introduction to serious birding. Some of the old-timers who were there could identify more by ear than I could by sight. Some, however, had lost their hearing and were so well along in years that they had to be transported overland from bridge to bridge in a big old Buick convertible and wait for those of us who were floating down the river in canoes. At each bridge we would compare notes. They were not so feeble as to show us a roosting nighthawk straddling a branch or the Prothonotary Warbler perched by the river. I had many firsts that day, but what impressed me the most were the evening festivities. After the buffet dinner all the participants pulled out their small bound notebooks, and the day's tally began. The reminiscing was more fun than the actual birding. There was intellectual sparring, a great deal of laughter, and a few omnisciently raised eyebrows at the announcement of single-observer rarities, the usual good-natured camaraderie one develops from shared experience. We recorded 132 species for that weekend, thanks to the efficient recording of Don Alexander, a member of ECOC since 1936. Some members of the day's group had been keeping track of the birds along the Ipswich River since 1906, when the first river trip was run. Ten years later, in 1916, the ECOC was founded, and our group included charter members.

Before the ECOC, the history of birds in Essex County and the men who kept records of their occurrences are best acquired from the writings of Dr. Charles W. Townsend, who in 1905 wrote *The Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts*, published by the Nuttall Ornithological Club. It is ostensibly from this work that we can look back over the previous three hundred years at the bird trends within this small area north of Boston.

The Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts

The Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts contains an annotated list of the birds recorded from 1616 to 1904. It also contains descriptions of notable habitats along the coast, an ornithological history of Essex County, and records from local lighthouse keepers. Townsend compiles nearly all the writings dating back to 1616 of Essex County bird observations from William Brewster, John Josselyn, Thomas Nuttall, William Wood, Francis Higginson, and many others. These men, without knowing the impact of their diligence, created a body of knowledge that exclaims that we take notice of the trends of the past and demands the necessity of keeping records today. The picture of that three hundred-year period is a disappointing one, with only an occasional turnaround



*Logo of the Essex County Ornithological Club by Frank Benson
Courtesy of the Peabody and Essex Museum*

that offers a glimmer of hope for conserving the diversity and abundance of birds that Essex County at one time hosted.

When one reads Townsend, it is difficult not to become saddened. To think that once upon a time, men, women, and children could simply look up at millions and millions of Passenger Pigeons, it is an outrage that none exist today. Imagine the sight of it: literally hours upon hours of a sky full of pigeons flying over during spring and fall migration. Townsend wrote:

The Passenger Pigeon, now rapidly becoming a bird of the past, was in former days very conspicuous from its vast numbers. Higginson writing in Salem, in about 1630, says: "Upon the eighth of March from after it was faire daylight until eight of the clock in the forenoon, there flew over all the towns in our plantacons soe many flocke of doues, each flock containyng many thousands, and soe many that they obscured the light that passeth credit, if but the truth should be written.

Wood, writing in 1634, says: "I have seen them fly as if the Aeyerie regiment had been pigeons; seeing neyther beginning nor ending, length, or breadth of these Millions of Millions . . . so they continued for foure or five

hours together." The last Passenger Pigeons seen in Essex County were a pair on August 17, 1904, at Kent's Island in Newbury. They were seen by Mr. John Sears, curator of Geology, Mineralogy, and Botany at the Peabody Museum of Salem (Massachusetts). The last one died in 1914 in Cincinnati.

Townsend wrote of another notable extinction. The Heath Hen, an eastern subspecies of the Greater Prairie Chicken, ". . . was formerly 'so common on the ancient bushy site of the city of Boston, that laboring people or servants stipulated with their employers not to have the Heath-Hen brought to table oftener than a few times in the week!'" The last one died on Martha's Vineyard in 1932.

Mixed among the tales of extinction are records of birds that have been extirpated as breeding birds and migrants from the county and the state. Sandhill Crane was common during colonial times and thought to breed here. Tundra Swan and Eskimo and Long-billed curlews were also common migrants at the time of the establishment of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Upland Plover, Common Snipe, and Purple Martin were already on the wane in 1905, but a few decades earlier they were common breeders. Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, White-eyed Vireo, Orchard Oriole, and Yellow-breasted Chat were common breeders in 1905.

In Townsend's *Supplement to the Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts* (1920), he begins to paint a rosier picture for the existence of birds in the future. A number of laws had been enacted between the turn of the century and 1920 that substantially reduced the gunning seasons for shorebirds and waterfowl. Concurrently, the National Audubon Society's crusade to eliminate hunting of terns and egrets for the millinery industry had been successful.

Townsend's books can be found in many local libraries. I recommend that you take the time to look them up. Like Forbush, Brewster, and Bent, these are writings that every birder and local wildlife professional should read.

History of the Essex County Ornithological Club

The ECOC, founded in 1916, actually got its start on the Ipswich River in the cane seats of a couple of canoes owned by Ralph Lawson and Gil Emilio of Salem ten years earlier. With trolleys, trains, and locally based liveries, it was convenient to catch a trolley from Salem out to Howe's Station in Middleton, pick up one's canoe "parked" at the waterhole below Spofford's Boathouse on the river, and canoe down to Ipswich center. Mr. Spofford would pick up the canoes and ferry them back up to Middleton. Lawson, Emilio, and company would board the Boston-bound train and depart for Salem. And so the tradition began and has continued to this day with the annual ECOC Ipswich River trip.

The club published an annual bulletin from 1919 to 1938. Contributors included Emilio, Lawson, Townsend, John Phillips, Norman Brown, and Ludlow Griscom. The artwork was supplied by their first president, Frank

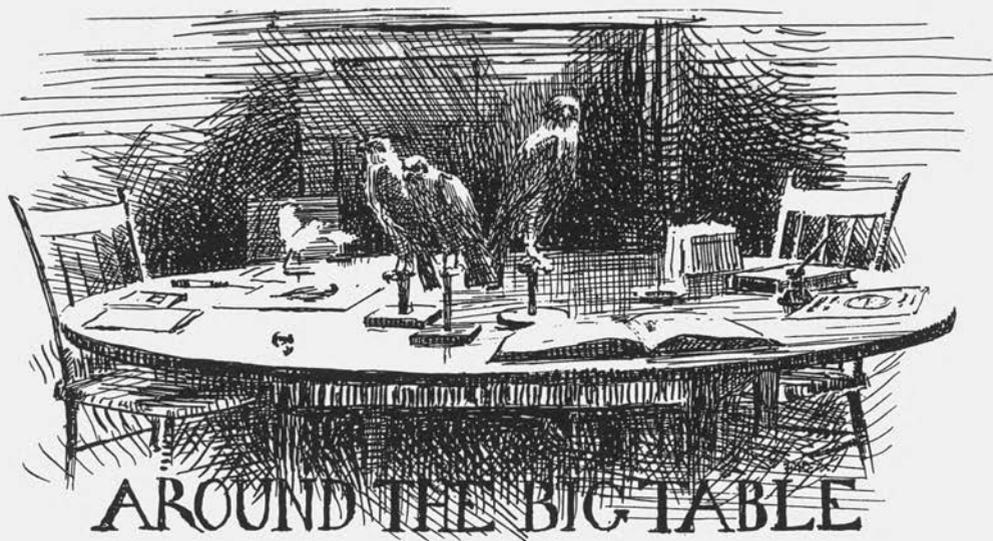


Illustration by Frank Benson

Courtesy of the Peabody and Essex Museum

Benson, internationally acclaimed portrait and wildlife artist. Within the bulletin one can also read of accounts of a young R. T. Peterson tagging along with Griscom and Lawson. Membership averaged about sixty-five members, all men, until about 1975, when women were voted into membership.

Topics covered in the bulletin included birds sighted on each annual Ipswich River trip, compilations of the early Danvers Christmas counts, a five-year comparison of Christmas counts at Cape Ann and Cape Cod, reports of land acquired by the Federation of New England Bird Clubs, and the initiation of Big Days by Ludlow Griscom.

A feature in the bulletin was "Around the Big Table," which covered accounts of rarities and behavioral notes on birds. The feature was named for the round table that served as the club's meeting place in the Peabody Museum of Salem.

To give you a taste of their observations and the flavor of the times, I have included below some brief accounts verbatim from the ECOC Bulletin.

J. W. Goodridge (1920) "Bird Notes on Plum Island:" April 24th and 25th when ECOC visited my camp at the island we found five Piping Plover," and "While on a fishing trip, off to sea of Plum Island, May 28th, I saw my first Terns for 1920. There were both Wilson (Common) and Roseate and with them were Herring, Bonaparte and Laughing Gulls, all feeding upon the sand eels, driven to the surface by schools of pollack and codfish. The Terns were being pestered by their enemies, the

Jaegers.

Albert Morse, curator of Natural History at the Peabody Museum of Salem (1921): I wish to place on record a New England example of Franklin's Gull . . . in the Essex County collection of the PMS. It is labeled "o, Salem, Oct. 28, 1885, Geo. O. Welch."

A. P. Stubbs (1921): One of the most pleasant recollections of woodland life in my younger days is my acquaintance with the Yellow-breasted Chat, which during the years 1885-1895 was very plentiful in this part of the state. In one season I personally knew of as many as twelve pairs breeding in Lynn, Salem and Peabody. Nearly all the nests were in thick clumps of young barberry bushes.

A. B. Fowler (1922) "The Drumming of the Snipe:" It was just before dusk on April 25, 1922, when a party of Club members gathered about a clump of bushes on the edge of Nichol's Brook (Middleton). The object of the meeting was to listen to the drumming of the Snipe and, if possible, observe birds in this aerial performance. The men composed themselves, and there was as much silence as the different dispositions of the group would allow. There were never more than five men talking at once.

The sun had long since set and night was drawing its curtain across the afterglow and in the swamp the thrushes, song sparrows and other birds were singing to the passing day. Down the road a large dog pointed his nose to heaven and tried to break all long-distance records for uproarious vocalization. Different sounds, both tame and wild, were identified and commented upon, until there came a lull; even the talkative members of the club were silent, and then from above was heard a sound similar to that made by the air rushing through the wings of a domestic pigeon. The Snipe had arrived and everything else was forgotten. During the next half hour the air was filled with drumming of the Snipe and the conjectures of the party. The darkness made it impossible to catch but fleeting glimpses of the birds as they darted downward from the sky or fluttered to the ground. No one was able to see how the sound was made, but everyone heard it and caught an occasional quick view of the birds. Some saw one bird, others saw more, and one man went so far as to declare he saw five Snipe, thereby drawing on himself sundry observations more pointed than scientific.

Charles W. Townsend (1923) "Birds in Their Relation to Changes in Vegetation:" Juncos and White-throated Sparrows and probably Myrtle Warblers occasionally nest within its [Essex County] limits, and Red Crossbills, Canada Warblers, Winter Wrens, Brown Creepers, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets have all been

recorded as breeding in the county. The less typically Canadian birds like Hairy Woodpeckers, Olive-sided Flycatchers, Solitary Vireos, Nashville and Blackburnian Warblers, and Hermit Thrushes also breed here.

In earlier days, before the forest was invaded by the white man and before the swamps were drained, the sun was unable to warm and dry much of the land which is now open to its rays. The coolness and dampness of the forest floor was favorable to the growth of Canadian plants, and these, instead of being few in numbers and limited in kind as today are the vestiges of a larger Canadian flora and are doomed to disappear if the land is all given over to pasture and to cultivated land and to the habitations of man.

Charles J. Maynard (1926) "Ornithological Reminiscences of Ipswich Beach:" Another bird then common in the hills of Ipswich was the "Esquimaux" Curlew, once exceedingly abundant in the autumn, but even then in the days of which I am writing (cir. 1870), not very common, and now gone forever.

This brings to mind another extinct bird. About 1874 I was rowing across Plum Island sound one day to reach the mouth of the Ipswich River. The tide was running out with great force and I had to make considerable effort to hold my course in the whirling, rushing water. Suddenly a duck appeared very near the mouth of the Ipswich which I was confident was a Labrador. Although I had my gun with me, I knew if I attempted to take in my oars and pick it up, my boat would be whirled about so quickly that I could not shoot. The bird remained but a brief moment in sight then dived and I saw no more of it. . . . If this was a Labrador Duck it was one of the last of the species and very probably the last to ever come to Ipswich.

Ralph Lawson (1926) "Herring Gulls Nesting in Salem Bay:" The following letter received from Mr. Bernard B. Bancroft of Salem is most interesting: "One Sunday sometime around the first of July, a party of five, myself included, landed on North Gooseberry Island to eat lunch and found quite a lot of young Herring Gulls that were unable to fly. I could hardly credit it until I caught and examined a few of them and found that they were about four or five weeks old, so I made up my mind that they must have hatched there. I went looking about for nests and found at least twenty nests, . . ." Frank Benson Esq., of Salem, tells me that when he was a boy fifty years ago there were no gulls nesting in the bay, and he believed that at that time that these birds had not nested there for many years before owing to constant shooting and the collection of eggs. This may, therefore, be the first nesting there for

nearly a century.

Horace Green (1929) "Note on the Yellow Rail:" The Yellow Rail usually seems to be overlooked by the Club Members and is not included in the "Annotated Lists." I think this species is to be found regularly in the meadow near Lynnfield Centre. On September 28, 1929, I shot an adult in good plumage and on October 5th, I shot a male which I judge to be a young bird in his first plumage. I also shot an adult in the same meadow on October 3, 1924, and I have found it there on several other occasions and regard it as a regular visitor.

My usual experience with this bird has convinced me that their usual habitat is in the drier parts of the meadow where wild meadow grass grows thickly, and not often in the wet ground or among cattails, where snipe, Virginia Rails and Soras may be found. One must almost step on a Yellow Rail to make it fly, and then it will rise barely high enough to clear the vegetation, and after fluttering along a short distance, it will drop into the grass again.

Ralph Lawson (1930) "The Stoop of a Hawk:" I have been told recently of a most interesting observation made by a man well fitted and well placed to judge the speed of the stoop of a hawk, probably a Duck Hawk, the story coming from the observer himself. I know this man well and although his conclusion may seem very impossible, I am confident that it is very close to the actual truth. My friend was in Texas for some months completing his training as a pilot before he went overseas. He was flying a small pursuit plane, which had a normal speed of about 125 miles per hour and, while cruising about at a considerable altitude, he saw a bunch of ducks flying far below and ahead of him. Thinking to gain some experience in diving at a moving object, he turned the nose of his plane down and opened the throttle of his engine, thereby gaining speed rapidly. While he was still some distance from the ducks he glanced at a wing tip of his plane to see how much vibration his swoop was causing and as he did so, a hawk shot by him "as though the plane was standing still," and struck one of the ducks which fell towards the ground apparently lifeless. At the time the hawk passed the plane the latter was traveling at a speed of nearly 175 miles per hour and my friend thinks that the hawk was stooping two feet to his one but of course that is only an estimate as under the conditions no accurate computation was possible. We do know however that this particular hawk was moving at a rate of speed much greater than 175 miles per hour and perhaps not far from double that rate, as the observation was made by a man whose business it was to make fairly accurate observations while traveling through the air at high speed and who

came through much active service in France and England without any serious mishaps.

Charles W. Townsend (1931) "The Desertion of the Heronries in the Ipswich Dunes:" In May and June, 1931, I found that the populous heronries in the two large pitch pine groves of the Ipswich Dunes were devoid of breeding Black-crowned Night Herons. No cloud of herons arose over the trees at my approach. No deafening cries of young and old were to be heard. The ground, bushes and trees, which in former years had been white with droppings, and where the odor had been overpowering, were now clean, and fragrant only of the pines. The unusual silence there, except for the cheerful songs of Maryland Yellow-throats, Redstarts and other birds, was most surprising. The sand and the mud flats of the neighboring creeks and estuaries, formerly abounding in Night Herons even in the daytime, all intent on procuring fish for their young, were noticeably deserted of these birds. Comparatively few were to be seen.

The southerly pine grove where the original heronry was established had diminished in popularity for the herons since 1926 when raccoons first appeared there, or rather their tracks, for the animal itself, largely nocturnal in habits, has almost never been seen in the dunes . . .

This spring and summer of 1931 I have often seen Night Herons flying north towards Plum Island and I believe our birds have taken up residence there, for the heronry on this island has more than doubled in size. The distance from the Ipswich heronries is about four miles.

Although Night Herons had previously roosted in the southerly grove of the pines in the Ipswich dunes, it was not until 1916 that I found their nests there, some 25 in all. These increased in numbers yearly, and, in 1918, a census taken in December of the nests showed the numbers to be at least 761. The heronry in the northerly grove a few hundred yards from the southerly grove was begun in 1923.

The same issue of 1931 contains an early history of the acquisitions on Plum Island by the Federation of New England Bird Clubs to establish a wildlife reservation. Edward Howe Forbush, first president of the Federation, urged that Plum Island become a bird sanctuary because he thought it was the most important region on the Massachusetts coast. In 1929 Miss Annie H. Brown of Stoneham, a lover of birds, died leaving \$15,000 for the purchase of a wildlife sanctuary to bear her name. The money was used to purchase 300 acres on Plum Island for a sanctuary. The Federation of New England Bird Clubs then purchased an additional 600 acres. In 1931 the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) purchased seventy-five more acres adjoining the Annie H. Brown Refuge. In 1947 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchased the land that is now the Parker River Wildlife Refuge. The MAS used the money toward the

purchase of the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in 1951.

The ECOC Bulletin also contained bird lists from each of the annual Ipswich River canoe trips, run on the weekend closest to May 15. It was a two-day trip with an overnight at the club's camp (behind Masconomet High School, Boxford) or at the Pines, now Perkins Island within the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary. These lists have been carried forward to the present largely by Alexander. There is a hiatus in this record keeping from 1951 to 1962. Some highlights (first year seen) from eighty-five years of the river trip are as follows: Least Tern (1965), Cattle Egret (1971), Snowy Egret (1968), Glossy Ibis (1971), Gadwall (1970), Canada Goose (1931), Mallard (1932), Red-tailed Hawk (1961), Turkey Vulture (1979), Willet (1983), Ring-billed Gull (1963), Rock Dove (1935), Pileated Woodpecker (1964), Great-crested Flycatcher (1918), Tufted Titmouse (1970), House Wren (1924), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (1963), European Starling (1919), Blue-winged Warbler (1963), House Sparrow (1919), Northern Cardinal (1969), and Northern Mockingbird (1963).

Also of interest are the years that some birds were last seen: American Bittern (1987), Northern Bobwhite (1927), Cooper's Hawk (1970), Common Snipe (1971), Whip-poor-will (1977), Short-billed Marsh Wren (1946), Eastern Bluebird (1975), Golden-winged Warbler (1981), Vesper Sparrow (1968), and Eastern Meadowlark (1986).

This is but a brief review of the history of the record-keepers of birds of Essex County. Because of Townsend, Brewster, Higginson, and Alexander, we have history. There are many lessons within this history. Is it enough to simply notice? How can we offset future population declines? Locally we are losing marsh birds, the Whip-poor-will, bluebirds, Purple Martins, Bank and Cliff swallows, Golden-winged Warblers, and Red-shouldered Hawks. The overall populations of waterfowl, shorebirds, and wood warblers are on the wane. We must accurately determine by how much the populations are declining and help to identify possible causes. Do we want to be the record-keepers of the last Golden-winged Warbler?

JIM MACDOUGALL is Land Manager of the Essex County Greenbelt Association. He is treasurer of the ECOC and editor of the sixth edition (1988) of *Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts, A Field List*, initiated by the ECOC and first published in 1921. The original field list was based solely on the procurement of specimens, the protocol of the times. The sixth edition largely relies on the monthly sightings reported in *Bird Observer*. Jim urges birders to continue to submit bird sightings to *Bird Observer* and to provide details on any rarities or out-of-season avian visitors.

BIRDING MEMORIES FROM OUR READERS



Saturday, January 24, 1987: Rarities at our feeding line in midwinter are few and far between and completely unpredictable, of course. A visitor, known in the birding lore as a "stray," came to our line from the Pacific Northwest in the body and feathers of a Varied Thrush and completely startled and exhilarated my birdwatching senses. Looking out with my binoculars to count juncos under the laurels, I was amazed to see this bird, for the first time ever, on the ground on about eight inches of snow. His orange and brown facial markings announced him in my mind so distinctly. He was there for ten or so seconds: 12:15 P.M. and again at 4:30 P.M.

This bird stayed around for about a month and a half, and a number of birding friends were equally charmed by the bird during his stay.

Eric Cutler, Dedham, Massachusetts



No matter how much I tried to think of my most memorable birding experience over the life of *Bird Observer*, I kept coming back to one event in the spring of 1975, May 10, to be precise. I was walking through Boxford State Forest when a blood-curdling scream broke the spring stillness: *kek-kek-kek-kek-kek-kek-kek*. Where had I heard a sound like that before? When was the only other time a bird had caused chills to run up and down my spine?

It was in the summer of 1963, when I was standing, absolutely alone, in an Ontario wilderness and heard a similar raucous call, turned, and saw a giant black-and-white woodpecker land on a dead tree and proceed to tear it apart in front of my eyes. I was riveted: the chills did not go away for several minutes.

But this time it was not a Pileated Woodpecker. It was an enraged goshawk, and it was coming at my head at a speed that gave me about one second to hit the ground. Now *that* was a thrill, one that was repeated several times in the course of my retreat. That bird was making a statement.

I experienced the phenomenon one other time, but I do not particularly care if I experience it much more. Not because it inspired fear (which it did not). Not because I do not want to interrupt the birds' nesting (which I do not). I think the real reason is that I do not want the memory of that moment diminished by repeated episodes. Repetition would not exactly take the thrill out of it, but it would make it less unexpected. I am certainly not going to avoid places where goshawks live, but that one experience is so indelible it will serve up a lifetime of memories. Because it was my most memorable birding experience, it needs no reinforcement.

Jim Berry, Ipswich, Massachusetts



Some of my favorite birding encounters took place not over rarities or life species in the hot spots of Mount Auburn or Plum Island, but among the more common varieties in my own suburban backyard.

Most impressive was the frosty December morning I looked out to see a starving Sharp-shinned Hawk resting on the lawn. After several hours' attempt to seek help, the local Animal Control netted the bird and deposited it at a local Science Center, where it recuperated for two weeks. Since its successful release, he returns every winter to haunt my bird feeders, much to my delight, albeit to the sparrows' dismay.

Then, there was the abandoned baby robin I raised. And most recently, a mockingbird with a fractured pelvis was my patient for five weeks. What a glorious sound to hear him sing from my bedroom, but how more glorious that he is now singing outside the window, coming to the doorstep for raisins.

As humans we have created so many obstacles to wildlife's survival; it is essential, even in a small way, to help a few survive. Not only is it a joyful reward to see that creature take flight again, but also one senses a universal bond, a common understanding between living things.

Update, Halloween 1992: *My sharpie has just returned again!*

dottie case [lowercase by choice], Needham Heights, Massachusetts



April 27, 1992, began as one of those days when everything goes wrong. I was having a difficult morning at home. I decided a bird walk was the cure, and as spring migration was picking up, I hoped to find something interesting. I started down the mowed path through our hayfield wondering what birds awaited me in the woods, when suddenly I flushed a large tawny-colored sandpiper. To my delight, it only flew a short distance, and I was able to observe it carefully for the next half-hour. I was ecstatic at this sighting, for I had often told my husband that given the habitat preferences of Upland Sandpipers, there was no reason why we could not have one. I feverishly jotted down details on the bird fearing no one would believe me. Fortunately, the bird lingered, allowing my husband to observe it as well. In fact, this Upland Sandpiper remained in our hayfield for four days, giving us ample opportunity to observe and photograph it. It is especially thrilling when such an unusual bird occurs in your own backyard.

Barbara Delorey, Chester, New Hampshire



I was standing in a grove of white pines at Broadmoor Sanctuary in Natick, when I heard a peeping sound about six feet from my head. Seeing nothing overhead, I looked at the ground and saw that I was nearly stepping on two Ruffed Grouse chicks that could not have been more than ten days old. I then saw the mother grouse standing about fifteen feet away. When she gave a few clucks, the two chicks ran over and climbed up into the highbush blueberry bushes that hung over the brook. As the mother grouse walked away through the leaves on the ground, the chicks followed her by running along the branches and fluttering from bush to bush over the water. Had I been a fox, I would have followed the scent of the mother and never known that the chicks were up in the bushes.

Eliot Taylor, Sherborn, Massachusetts

BIRD OBSERVER WELCOMES MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION

Bird Observer would like to remind its readers that we welcome contributions for publication. These contributions can include field notes and observations, articles on where to find birds, reviews of bird-related literature or equipment, notes on conservation issues affecting bird populations or important habitats, bird identification difficulties, population surveys, photographs or drawings, and others. The masthead of each issue contains more specific information on article length and format.

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Barn Owl
 at Route 1 bridge
 Newbury, MA
 September 1992
 Photo by Marjorie Rines



BIRD SIGHTINGS

SEPTEMBER 1992

SUMMARY

by Glenn d'Entremont, Richard A. Forster, Marjorie W. Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist

September's weather in Boston was near normal. The temperature averaged 63.9 degrees, just 0.7 degrees below normal. The first week was quite cold, with temperatures averaging 5 degrees below normal. On September 18, however, the temperature was 13 degrees above normal, and on September 30, 14 degrees below normal. The month's high was 85 degrees on September 9 and 17, and the low was 39 degrees on the 30th. Rainfall totaled 3.46 inches, just .05 more than normal. The highest rainfall amount was 1.22 inches on September 26, the remnants of Hurricane Danielle. September 26 also saw winds that peaked at 30 mph out of the northeast, not strong enough for windblown seabirds to be spotted from shore.

R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH RAILS

The Red-necked Grebe present since June in Gloucester was last seen on September 7, and the first migrant Rednecks were noted later in the month from three locations, including an inland report from Wellesley. Reports from Stellwagen Bank were virtually nonexistent, and the only significant numbers of pelagic species were seen well offshore at Cashes Ledge. A Leach's Storm-Petrel, found exhausted on a golf course in North Scituate after a mild northeast storm on September 24, died soon thereafter. Hurricane Danielle weakened before reaching the Northeast, and its peak gust of only 30 mph did little to drive any pelagics close to shore. On September 1 an adult White-tailed Tropicbird was seen over Seaside Beach on Nantucket.

The Reddish Egret was still present on South Monomoy through most of the month. This bird was first discovered on Chappaquiddick Island on July 5, where it remained until July 29. It moved to South Beach Island in Chatham the next day, then to Monomoy shortly thereafter. Birders kept track of its movements until its disappearance sometime after September 20. A maximum of 40 Cattle Egrets were counted in Ipswich on September 19, the highest count this year from any location.

Migrating waterfowl returned early in the month, with the vanguard of Ring-necked Ducks appearing as early as September 6 at Cherry Hill Reservoir in West Newbury.

Hawkwatchers reported few good days; the bulk of the Broadwing flight was from September 11-13, and a total of 13,533 individual Broadwings were counted on September 12 from just three locations. It was a very good September for Bald Eagles with 35 individuals noted. On Wachusett Mountain and Mount Wataatic 19 Bald Eagles were tallied on September 12. The counts for Northern Harrier were particularly disturbing, especially from manned Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch sites, where numbers were the lowest recorded for September in many years.

The Sandhill Crane continued to be seen off and on from the Plum Island area. One or two of these cranes have been around Essex County all summer.

R. H. S.

Red-throated Loon			
27	Gloucester	6	BBC (J. Nove)
Common Loon			
12	N. Scituate, Wachusett Mt.	4, 3	G. d'Entremont, E. Taylor
13, 20	E. Gloucester, Salisbury	6, 7	C. Leahy, R. Forster
24, 27	Worc. (BMB), Clinton	4, 5	M. Lynch#
27	Westport	7	S. Arena
Pied-billed Grebe			
4-30, 6	P.I., Easton	1-3, 1	W. Drew# + v. o., S. Arena
7, 20	Orleans, Falmouth	1, 3	K. Jones, P. Trimble
27, 28	Wakefield, GMNWR	5, 2	P. + F. Vale, S. Perkins#
Reports of 7 individuals from 6 locations.			

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1992
Red-necked Grebe				
1-7, 13	E. Gloucester, Boston	1, 1	J. Soucy, S. Donovan	
19, 30	W. Newbury, Wellesley	1, 2	T. Raymond, C. Quinlan	
Northern Fulmar				
7	Cashes Ledge, Phipennies Ledge	2, 5	R. Abrams#	
Cory's Shearwater				
7	Phipennies Ledge	1	R. Abrams#	
Greater Shearwater				
7, 13	Cashes Ledge	605, 12	R. Abrams#	
Manx Shearwater				
1	Cape Cod Bay	2	P. Trimble	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
7, 13	Cashes Ledge	5200, 4000	R. Abrams#	
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
7, 13	Cashes Ledge	44, 5	R. Abrams#	
24, 27	N. Scituate, N. Monomoy	1 dying, 1	fide D. Clapp, B. Nikula	
White-tailed Tropicbird				
1	Nantucket	1 ad	B. Peterson	
Northern Gannet				
1, 13	Cape Cod Bay, Cashes Ledge	2, 6	P. Trimble, R. Abrams#	
17, 27	Nantucket, Barnstable	1, 1	J. Brown#, G. d'Entremont#	
Great Cormorant				
2, 4	P'town, Martha's Vineyard	1 imm, 2	W. Petersen#, S. Perkins	
5, 21	Squantum, Wellesley	1 imm, 1 imm	G. d'Entremont, C. Quinlan	
Double-crested Cormorant				
10, 20	Saugus, Cuttyhunk	200+, 250	J. Berry, P. Trimble	
American Bittern				
15, 24; 19, 26	GMNWR; Eastham (F.H.)	1; 1	v. o.	
20, 25-27	S. Monomoy, P.I.	1, 1 or 2	D. Reid, v. o.	
26-27, 27	Barnstable, E. Boston	2, 1	G. d'Entremont#, I. Rogers	
Great Blue Heron				
thr	P.I., GMNWR	21 max, 10 max	v. o.	
19	Rowley, Eastham	14, 30	J. Berry, P. Trimble	
20, 29	Salisbury, S. Dart. (A.Pd)	17, 12	K. Hamilton#, LCES (J. Hill)	
Great Egret				
thr	P.I., S. Dart. (A.Pd)	58 max, 37 max	W. Drew#, LCES (J. Hill)	
27	Barnstable, N. Monomoy	9, 4	G. d'Entremont#, B. Nikula	
Snowy Egret				
thr	P.I., S. Dart. (A.Pd)	250 max, 31 max	v. o., LCES (J. Hill)	
Little Blue Heron				
thr	P.I., S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1-3, 1	v. o., LCES (J. Hill)	
10, 13	Eastham, Lakeville	1, 1	H. Coolidge#, R. Turner	
Cattle Egret				
1-25	Ipswich	40 max 9/19	T. Raymond + v. o.	
Reddish Egret				
1-20	S. Monomoy	1	v. o.	
Green-backed Heron				
11	Mt. A., Arlington	2, 6	M. Rines	
20, 23	Cuttyhunk, Marlboro	3, 1	P. Trimble, R. Graefe	
27, 29	P.I., Worc. (BMB)	1, 1	T. Young, M. Lynch#	
Black-crowned Night Heron				
13, 26	S. Dartmouth, Eastham (F.H.)	4, 14	M. Boucher, M. Lynch#	
Yellow-crowned Night Heron				
6, 18; 19, 26	P.I.; Eastham (F.H.)	1 imm, 1; 1, 1	v. o.	
26	Barnstable	1	D. Brown#	
Glossy Ibis				
4; 6, 16	Martha's Vineyard; P.I.	1; 6, 2	V. Laux; v. o.	
Mute Swan				
5, 17	Westport, Nantucket	159, 75	R. Stymeist#, J. Brown	
Canada Goose				
27	Clinton (Wachusett Res.)	182	M. Lynch#	
Wood Duck				
1, 7	Salem, S. Natick	6, 10	I. Lynch#, BBC (E. Taylor)	
11; 24	ONWR, Bolton; GMNWR	18, 60; 92	T. Aversa; S. Perkins	
Green-winged Teal				
thr	P.I., Arlington	346 max 9/4, 23	max 9/26 W. Drew#, L. Taylor#	
5, 13	Westport, S. Monomoy	72, 40	R. Stymeist#, B. Nikula	
American Black Duck				
4, 18, 25	P.I.	58, 90, 205	W. Drew#	
Mallard				
4, 18, 25	P.I.	55, 96, 35	W. Drew#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1992
Northern Pintail				
5, 6	S. Monomoy, P.I.	30, 1	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
27	Barnstable	7	G. d'Entremont#	
Blue-winged Teal				
6	Rowley, P.I.	32, 16	M. Lynch#, BBC (W. Drummond)	
7, 13	Middleboro, S. Monomoy	6, 40	M. Boucher, B. Nikula	
Northern Shoveler				
4, 5	P.I., S. Monomoy	4, 12	T. Aversa, B. Nikula	
17	Edgartown	1	J. Norton	
Gadwall				
4, 18, 25	P.I.	32, 44, 14	W. Drew#	
5, 13	Rowley, S. Monomoy	12, 10	J. Berry, B. Nikula	
American Wigeon				
6, 20; 13	P.I.; S. Monomoy	6, 20; 15	W. Drew#, R. Forster#; B. Nikula	
19, 26; 27	Arlington; GMNWR	20, 32; 11	L. Taylor; D. F. Oliver	
Ring-necked Duck				
6, 20; 11, 26	W. Newbury; Clinton	4, 20; 4, 36	R. Forster#; R. Bradbury	
16, 30	Arlington Res., Cambridge (F.P.)	3, 17	M. Rines, R. Stymeist	
Greater Scaup				
6, 26	P.I., Barnstable (S.N.)	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#	
26	Clinton	1 m	R. Bradbury	
Lesser Scaup				
5, 13	S. Monomoy	1, 2	B. Nikula	
13, 27	Boston, Wakefield	2, 3	S. Donovan, P. + F. Vale	
Common Eider				
6, 20	N. Monomoy, Westport	72, 220	R. Stymeist#, M. Boucher	
White-winged Scoter				
6, 20	Westport, Cuttyhunk	13, 4	M. Boucher, P. Trimble	
Hooded Merganser				
4, 26; 9, 23	P.I.; S. Peabody	3, 4; 1, 1	T. Aversa, J. Center#; T. Aversa	
Ruddy Duck				
30	Cambridge (F.P.)	2	R. Stymeist	
Turkey Vulture				
5, 6	Barre, S. Dartmouth	7, 6	M. Lynch#, M. Boucher	
12, 19	Mt. Watatic, ONWR	3, 5	EMHW, BBC (M. Lynch)	
27, 28	Westport, Sherborn	4, 1	S. Arena, E. Taylor	
Osprey				
12, 13, 19	Bolton Flats	23, 28, 21	EMHW	
12; 12, 13	Wachusett Mt.; Mt. Watatic	33; 28, 27	EMHW	
23	Milton	16	N. Smith	
Reports of individuals from 7 locations.				
Bald Eagle				
5, 12, 13	Mt. Watatic	1, 7, 6	EMHW	
12; 13, 19	Wachusett Mt.; Bolton	12; 1, 2	EMHW	
7, 20	W. Newbury, Quabbin (G45)	1 ad, 4 ad	C. Goodwin, M. Lynch#	
27	Clinton	1 imm	M. Lynch#	
eagle species				
24	Wayland	1	S. Arena	
Northern Harrier				
thr	P.I., Rowley	5 max, 5 max	v. o.	
12, 13, 19	Bolton Flats	7, 2, 4	EMHW	
12	Wachusett Mt., Concord	4, 3	EMHW, S. Perkins#	
25-30, 30	Wayland, GMNWR	1, 1	S. Arena, J. Center	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
11, 12	Wachusett Mt.	27, 36	EMHW	
12, 13, 19	Bolton Flats	27, 31, 50	EMHW	
12, 13	Mt. Watatic	36, 37	EMHW	
12	Concord, Nantucket	21, 15	S. Perkins#, J. Brown#	
18, 20	S. Dart. (A.Pd), Westport	6, 6	LCES (J. Hill), M. Boucher	
20	Wellfleet, Quabbin (G45)	6, 11	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch#	
30	Gay Head	32	G. Daniels	
Reports of 1 or 2 individuals in 11 locations.				
Cooper's Hawk				
12, 13	Bolton, Mt. Watatic	2, 3	EMHW	
15, 30	Nantucket, Norfolk	4, 2	J. Brown#, B. Cassie	
30	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins#	
Reports of individuals from 11 locations.				
Northern Goshawk				
11, 13	Wachusett Mt., Mt. Watatic	1, 1	EMHW	
12, 19; 19	Bolton; Harwich	1, 1; 1	EMHW; R. Rozsa	
23, 25	Milton, ONWR	1, 1	N. Smith, M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1992
Red-shouldered Hawk				
12	E. Middleboro	3	K. Anderson	
12	Bolton, Mt. Watatic	2, 1	EMHW	
20, 23	Paxton, S. Peabody	1, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Broad-winged Hawk				
4, 7	Gay Head, Arlington	1, 40	V. Laux#, K. Jones	
11, 12	Wachusett Mt.	294, 9692	EMHW	
12, 13, 19	Bolton Flats	599, 12, 252	EMHW	
12, 13	Mt. Watatic	3242, 3990	EMHW	
20	Quabbin (G45), Cuttyhunk	34, 2	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
21	N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher	
Golden Eagle				
12	Mt. Watatic	1	EMHW	
American Kestrel				
12, 13, 19	Bolton Flats	14, 25, 34	EMHW	
12; 12, 13	Wachusett Mt.; Mt. Watatic	4; 9, 26	EMHW	
13	Cashes Ledge	3	R. Abrams#	
19, 26-27	ONWR, Nantucket	5, 7	BBC (M. Lynch), BBC (D. Davis)	
Merlin				
12; 12, 13	Wachusett Mt.; Bolton	1; 1, 1	EMHW	
thr, 13	P.I., Cashes Ledge	1 or 2, 5	v. o., W. Petersen#	
19, 20	ONWR, Cuttyhunk	2, 2	BBC (M. Lynch), P. Trimble	
Reports of individuals from 10 locations.				
Peregrine Falcon				
thr, 12	P.I., Mt. Watatic	1 or 2, 2	v. o., EMHW	
30	Cambridge (F.P.)	1	S. Howell#	
Reports of individuals from 8 coastal locations.				
Ruffed Grouse				
11, 29	ONWR, N. Acton	3, 1	T. Aversa, J. Center	
Wild Turkey				
5, 17	Petersham, Plymouth	13, 1	R. Bradbury, G. d'Entremont	
Northern Bobwhite				
thr, 12	Yarmouthport, Scituate	32 max, 5+	K. Hamilton, G. d'Entremont	
Clapper Rail				
20	S. Monomoy	1	D. Reid	
Virginia Rail				
1, 6	Salem, Cumb. Farms	1, 4	I. Lynch#, S. Arena	
8, 12	Worc. (BMB), Bolton	2, 5	M. Lynch#, M. Lynch#	
26	Eastham (F.H.)	1	S. Arena	
Sora				
3	N. Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	
American Coot				
9	S. Peabody, Milford	1, 1	T. Aversa, R. Bradbury	
Sandhill Crane				
6, 19	P.I.	1, 1	S. Arena, T. Raymond	

PLOVERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Monomoy Island continued to have exciting as well as good numbers of shorebirds all month. An observer reported up to 1700 Black-bellied, 350 Semipalmated, and 14 Piping plovers on the island. In addition a maximum of 100 American Oystercatchers was seen early in the month. Hudsonian, Marbled, and Bar-tailed godwits were all present throughout the month on North Monomoy, and a juvenile Ruff was found on South Monomoy.

In Lynn cooperative shorebirds were found along the seawall feeding in a rack of clams. Birders had an opportunity to see "up close and personal" both Baird's and Buff-breasted sandpipers feeding alongside the usual Ruddy Turnstones, Red Knots, and "peeps," all without binoculars!!

Among the more unusual shorebirds were an American Avocet from Provincetown, a leucistic Whimbrel from Wellfleet, and inland reports of Semipalmated Plover and White-rumped Sandpiper from Uxbridge.

Two trips to Cashes Ledge and nearby waters produced 28 Pomarine Jaegers, 11 Great Skuas, and a Sabine's Gull. Interestingly the only Parasitic Jaegers were reported from land bases. An adult Franklin's Gull was observed hawking insects over a parking lot in Wellesley, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from five locations, with a first winter bird noted from Martha's Vineyard. Caspian Tern reports were concentrated in the weekend of September 20th, and good counts of both Roseate and Common terns were reported. An immature Black Skimmer was unusual in Lynn.

A family of Barn Owls continued to be found under a bridge on Route 1 in Newbury. The bridge is scheduled to be destroyed in the near future, and plans to set up an alternate nesting site for the owls nearby are being discussed. Short-eared Owls were seen on both Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, and a Barred Owl was closely watched catching a gray squirrel at Mount Auburn Cemetery during the month.

DATE LOCATION NUMBER OBSERVERS SEPT. 1992

The fifth year of censusing Whip-poor-wills in the Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth ended with the last calling bird on September 24, although one was still present on the last day of the month. Common Nighthawks were still migrating early in the month with a particularly good flight September 9th, when over 1200 were tallied in Worcester. R. H. S.

Black-bellied Plover				
thr, 6	N. Monomoy, Cumb. Farms	1700 max 9/27, 98	B. Nikula, K. Anderson	
19, 29	Newbypt, S. Dart. (A.Pd)	125+, 35	J. Berry, LCES (J. Hill)	
Lesser Golden-Plover				
1, 5	Chappaquidick, Westport	22, 3	V. Laux, R. Stymeist#	
6, 7	Concord (N.A.C.), Middleboro	1, 9	J. Center, G. d'Entremont#	
11, 23	Nantucket, Newbury	43, 11	C. Floyd#, T. Aversa	
Semipalmated Plover				
thr, 4	N. Monomoy, Uxbridge	350 max 9/6, 1	B. Nikula, R. Bradbury	
7, 13	Revere, S. Dartmouth	230, 50+	R. Stymeist#, M. Boucher	
17, 25	Barnstable (S.N.), P.I.	150, 333	R. Scott#, R. Springfield#	
Piping Plover				
thr, 2	N. Monomoy, S. Dart. (A. Pd)	14 max 9/16, 1	B. Nikula#, LCES (J. Hill)	
Killdeer				
3, 6	Northbridge, Concord (N.A.C.)	11, 58	R. Bradbury, J. Center	
6, 7	Easton, Ipswich	53, 49	S. Arena, BBC (J. Berry)	
23, 26	Newbury, Arlington	90, 27	T. Aversa, L. Taylor	
26-27, 29	Nantucket, Cumb. Farms	47, 25+	BBC (D. Davis), K. Holmes	
American Oystercatcher				
thr, 2	N. Monomoy, S. Dart. (A.Pd)	100 max 9/5, 1	H. Doherty + v. o., LCES (J. Hill)	
20, 26-27	Cuttyhunk, Nantucket	5, 7	P. Trimble, BBC (D. Davis)	
American Avocet				
5-8	Provincetown	1	P. Champlin#	
Greater Yellowlegs				
6, 16, 13	Newburyport, P.I., Cashes L.	60, 60, 3	BBC (W. Drummond), T. Young, R. Abrams#	
20, 26	Cuttyhunk, Eastham (F.H.)	7, 95	P. Trimble, M. Lynch#	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
4, 6	Northbridge, Newbypt	7, 200+	R. Bradbury, S. Perkins	
9, 27	S. Peabody, WBWS	12, 1	T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont#	
Solitary Sandpiper				
9	Nantucket, S. Peabody	8, 8	J. Papale, T. Aversa	
13	Stellwagen Bank	1	R. Forster#	
17, 30	Wayland, Concord	5, 2	H. Parker, J. Center	
Willet				
2, 29	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2, 2	LCES (J. Hill)	
Willet (<i>inornatus</i>)				
thr	N. Monomoy	8 max 9/16	B. Nikula	
Spotted Sandpiper				
4, 12	Arlington Res., N. Scituate	3, 2	M. Rines, G. d'Entremont	
28, 30	Sherborn, Waltham	1, 1	E. Taylor, W. Petersen	
Upland Sandpiper				
2, 7	Ipswich, Cumb. Farms	3, 1	N. Nash, G. d'Entremont	
Whimbrel				
3, 6, 13	WBWS, P.I., Cashes L.	35, 7, 1	M. Smith, J. Berry, S. Perkins#	
10, 20	Wellfleet, Salisbury	1 leucistic, 7	fide D. Reid, K. Hamilton#	
Hudsonian Godwit				
thr, 6	N. Monomoy, Newbypt	11 max 9/6, 26	B. Nikula, S. Perkins	
7-9, 26	Revere, Eastham (F.H.)	2, 2	J. Brown#, M. Lynch#	
Marbled Godwit				
19	Eastham (F.H.), Eastham (F.E.)	1, 1	P. Trimble, K. Jones	
27	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
Bar-tailed Godwit				
1-5, 6-30	N. Monomoy	2, 1	H. Doherty#, v. o.	
Ruddy Turnstone				
6, 20	Westport, Wellfleet	35, 30	M. Boucher, R. Stymeist	
Red Knot				
thr, 6	N. Monomoy, Newbypt	210 max 9/27, 2	H. Ferguson#, S. Perkins	
12, 19	Lynn, Eastham (F.H.)	3, 8	R. Forster#, P. Trimble	
20, 27	Revere, Wellfleet	16, 3	S. Perkins, S. Perkins#	
Sanderling				
thr, 7	N. Monomoy, Revere	1200 max 9/6, 500	B. Nikula, J. Brown	
12, 27	Lynn-Nahant, Westport	450, 325	R. Forster, S. Arena	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
thr, 13	N. Monomoy, S. Dartmouth	175 max 9/6, 75+	B. Nikula, M. Boucher	
20, 27	Revere, Westport	110, 36	S. Perkins, S. Arena	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1992
Western Sandpiper				
6; 6	N. Monomoy; Squantum, Newbypt	5; 2, 2	B. Nikula; S. Arena	
6, 7	P. I., Revere	3, 4	G. d'Entremont#, J. Center#	
12	Eastham (F.E.), Lynn	5, 4	K. Jones, R. Forster#	
20, 27	Revere, N. Monomoy	1 juv, 3	S. Perkins, B. Nikula	
Least Sandpiper				
thr, 3	N. Monomoy, Northbridge	80 max 9/6, 10	B. Nikula, R. Bradbury	
7, 13	Phipennies Ledge, Uxbridge	1, 14	R. Abrams, R. Bradbury	
13, 20	S. Dartmouth, Cuttyhunk	100+, 2	M. Boucher, P. Trimble	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
thr, 5	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	30 max 9/6, 20	B. Nikula	
6	Newbypt	30	R. Forster#	
6, 12	P.I., Eastham (F.E.)	19, 5	S. Arena, K. Jones	
13, 20	S. Dart., Uxbridge	1, 1	M. Boucher, R. Bradbury	
Baird's Sandpiper				
6-24, 3-12	P. I., Lynn	2, 1	v. o., K. Disney + v. o.	
9-12, 5, 18	N. Monomoy, P'town, M. V.	1, 1, 1	v. o., P. Champlin, V. Laux	
10, 17	Nantucket	3, 3	C. Floyd#, E. Andrews#	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
thr, 5-11	N. Monomoy, Cumb. Farms	55 max 9/27, 5 max 9/7	B. Nikula, v. o.	
9, 18	Arlington Res., Rowley	1, 7	T. Aversa, N. Nash	
Dunlin				
thr, 3	N. Monomoy, Eastham	300 max 9/27, 1	B. Nikula, W. Petersen#	
6, 19	Newburyport	1, 4	S. Perkins, J. Berry	
Stilt Sandpiper				
12, 27	Plum Island	1, 2	BBC (S. Charette), C. Floyd	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				
5-12, 5	Lynn, Cumb. Farms	1, 1	K. Disney#, v. o.	
6, 17	P.I., Eastham (F.E.)	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, K. Jones	
20, 27	Salisbury, Cumb. Farms	1, 1	R. Forster, E. Salmela	
Ruff				
13	S. Monomoy	1 juv	R. Prescott#	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
5, 7	Squantum, Revere	7, 22	G. d'Entremont, J. Brown#	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
6	Plum Island	10	S. Perkins	
Common Snipe				
16, 29	Nantucket, Concord (N.A.C.)	1, 4	J. Brown#, S. Perkins	
American Woodcock				
3, 10	North Middleboro	2, 1	K. Holmes	
Wilson's Phalarope				
1, 5; 6	DWWS, N. Monomoy; P.I.	1, 1; 1	H. Doherty#; J. Berry	
6, 11	Newbypt, Scituate	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, R. Abrams	
18	Nantucket	1	N. Claflin#	
Red Phalarope				
4; 7	Cashes L.; Cashes L., Phipennies L.	4; 4, 1	R. Abrams	
Red-necked Phalarope				
13	Cashes Ledge	40	R. Abrams + v. o.	
Pomarine Jaeger				
7; 13	Cashes L., Phipennies L.; Cashes L.	12, 1 dk ad; 15	R. Abrams	
Parasitic Jaeger				
7, 9, 16	North Monomoy	1, 1, 1	B. Nikula, H. Wiggin, B. Nikula	
13; 17	Nauset; Nant., Barnstable (S.N.)	1; 2, 2	H. Ferguson; J. Brown#, R. Scott#	
jaeger species				
7	Cashes L., Phipennies L.	3, 1	R. Abrams	
Great Skua				
7	Cashes L., 42°34'N 69°32'W	9, 1	R. Abrams#	
13	Cashes L.	1	S. Perkins#	
skua species				
7	Cashes Ledge	3	R. Abrams#	
Franklin's Gull (details submitted)				
9	Wellesley	1 ad	C. Quinlan	
Laughing Gull				
16; 20	P.I.; Cuttyhunk, Nahant	2 imm; 140+, 45	T. Young; P. Trimble, S. Perkins	
27	Westport, Chatham	150, 50+	S. Arena, S. Perkins#	
Little Gull				
17, 19, 26	Barnstable (S.N.), Lynn, Truro	1 ad, 1, 1	R. Scott#, J. Brown#, G. Martin	
Common Black-headed Gull				
12	Nahant	1 ad	R. Forster#	
Bonaparte's Gull				
6, 12	Newbypt, Lynn-Nahant	325, 410	S. Perkins, R. Forster#	
19, 28	Lynn, Boylston	650, 1	J. Brown#, R. Bradbury	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1992
Ring-billed Gull 17	Barnstable (S.N.)	500	B. Nikula#	
Lesser Black-backed Gull 5, 6, 18 26-29, 27	Lynn, S. Dart., M.V. Nantucket, N. Monomoy	1 ad, 1 ad, 1 (1W) 2, 2 ad	K. Disney#, G. Mock, V. Laux J. Soucy# + v. o., B. Nikula	
Black-legged Kittiwake 7 7 13	Phippenies L., Wildcat Knoll Stellwagen Bank Cashes Ledge	1 juv, 2 ad 3 7	R. Abrams# R. Abrams# R. Abrams#	
Sabine's Gull 7	Cashes Ledge	1 ad	R. Abrams#	
Caspian Tern 3, 19 20, 21	P. I., Squantum S. Dartmouth, Squantum	1, 2 2, 3	N. Nash, T. Cameron B. Nickerson, D. Wilkinson	
Roseate Tern 15-17, 27	Nantucket, Chatham	250-400, 12	J. Brown#, S. Perkins#	
Common Tern 7 7, 13 19, 26-27 27	Ipswich Cashes Ledge Newbypt, Nantucket Westport, Chatham	34 9, 20 130+, 410 43, 500	BBC (J. Berry) R. Abrams# J. Berry, BBC (D. Davis) S. Arena, S. Perkins#	
Forster's Tern 1, 5 6, 15-17 16, 19	Chappaquiddick, S. Monomoy Westport, Nantucket N. Monomoy, P.I.	6, 5 1, 5-7 4, 1-2	V. Laux, B. Nikula# M. Boucher, J. Brown# B. Nikula#, J. Berry	
Least Tern 6	Westport	3	M. Boucher	
Black Tern 1, 6 5-20, 12 17	Chappaquiddick, P.I. S. Monomoy, P.I. Barnstable (S.N.), Nant.	8, 3 8 max 9/20, 2 2, 2	V. Laux, v. o. v. o., BBC (S. Charette) R. Scott#, J. Brown	
Black Skimmer 11	Lynn	1 imm	K. Disney + J. Wood	
Mourning Dove 20, 26-27	Cuttyhunk, Nant.	18, 158	P. Trimble, BBC (D. Davis)	
Black-billed Cuckoo 17	Nantucket	1	J. Brown	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 9-10, 22	Nantucket, Gay Head	1, 1	J. Papale, S. Whiting	
Barn Owl thr 26	Newbury (Rt US 1 bridge) Nantucket	1+ ad and 3 juv 1	v. o. BBC (D. Davis)	
Eastern Screech-Owl 5, 6 11, 22	Westport, Wellesley Ipswich, W. Gloucester	2, 1 1, 1	R. Stymeist#, R. Forster J. Berry#, T. Young	
Great Horned Owl 3-11; 3, 14	Ipswich; N. Middleboro Reports of six individuals from six locations.	3 max 9/3; 2, 3	J. Berry#; K. Holmes	
Barred Owl 12, 25	E. Middleboro, Mt. A.	2, 1	K. Anderson, R. Martel	
Short-eared Owl 16, 19	Nantucket, Katama	1, 1	J. Papale, V. Laux	
Common Nighthawk 7, 8 9 16	Vineyard Haven, Wakefield Wellesley, Worcester Nantucket	24, 8 257, 1200+ 1	A. + E. Brown, P. + F. Vale R. Forster, F. McMenemy# J. Papale	
Whip-poor-will 2; 10, 17, 24, 30	Easton; Plymouth (MSSF)	1; 4, 5, 1, 1	S. Arena; G. d'Entremont#	
Belted Kingfisher 6, 19 20; 27	GMNWR, Rowley (Nelson's I.) Cuttyhunk; Barnstable, Truro	2, 5 1; 1, 2	G. d'Entremont#, J. Berry P. Trimble; G. d'Entremont#	
Chimney Swift 6, 12 16, 19	Newbypt, Harvard New Bedford, ONWR	2, 1 34, 5	BBC (W. Drummond), M. Lynch# M. Boucher, BBC (M. Lynch)	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1, 12	E. Middleboro, MNWS Reports of 9 individuals from seven locations.	3, 2	K. Anderson, K. Hamilton	
Red-headed Woodpecker 20	Wellfleet	1 imm	R. Stymeist	
Red-bellied Woodpecker 15, 30	Worcester (BMB), Framingham	1, 1	M. Lynch#, K. Hamilton	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1992
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
2, 13	Worcester (BMB), Gay Head	1, 1	M. Lynch#, G. Daniels	
24, 30	P.I., Worcester (BMB)	4, 1	B. Cassie, M. Lynch#	
Pileated Woodpecker				
2; 20	Stoughton; Berlin, Quabbin (G45)	1; 1, 1	S. Arena; E. Taylor, M. Lynch#	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

All of the normally appearing September flycatchers were seen, but in below-normal numbers with the exception of Eastern Phoebe and Eastern Wood-Pewee. Although barely discernible from these reports there was a fairly good movement of Blue Jays beginning at midmonth. A very high count of chickadees occurred in Wellfleet, where good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were also found. Scattered groups of Red-breasted Nuthatches were found at other locations but not in numbers that indicated a significant flight. Carolina Wren has replaced House Wren as the most common and widely-reported wren. A good movement of Golden-crowned Kinglets was evident at Plum Island near the end of the month. A Northern Wheatear at Eastham was one of the highlights of the month. The bulk of the reports for the species are from September, with most remaining for only one day. With the possible exception of Veery, thrush reports were very discouraging. A flurry of Veery sightings occurred early in September, following a dismal showing in August. Researchers have singled out Wood Thrush as one of the species in serious decline. Reports of only three individuals in September tend to support that theory. Scattered reports of American Pipit at the end of the month signaled the onset of its typical migration period.

R. A. F.

Olive-sided Flycatcher				
1	MNWS	1	N. Nash	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
2, 30; 9	Worc. (BMB); MNWS	8, 1; 1	M. Lynch#; T. Aversa	
19, 20	ONWR, P.I.	2, 2	BBC (M. Lynch), J. Berry	
27, 28	Nantucket, Wellesley	1, 1	BBC (D. Davis), R. Forster	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
1, 7	Chatham, Nahant	1, 1	W. Petersen#, R. Stymeist	
15	Worcester (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#	
Willow Flycatcher				
12	MNWS	1	S. Perkins#	
"Traill's" Flycatcher				
20	Squantum	1	G. d'Entremont	
Least Flycatcher				
1, 4	Chatham, Martha's Vineyard	1, 2	W. Petersen#, S. Perkins#	
7, 18	MNWS, Worc. (BMB)	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
25, 26-27	Wellfleet, Nantucket	1, 1	S. Howell, BBC (D. Davis)	
Eastern Phoebe				
thr, 10	Worc. (BMB), P.I.	18 max 9/24, 15	M. Lynch#, R. Abrams	
11, 20	Mt. A., Squantum	6, 6+	M. Rines, G. d'Entremont	
20, 25	Waltham, ONWR	6, 11	L. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
28, 30	N. Dartmouth, Cambridge (F.P.)	4, 5	M. Boucher, R. Stymeist	
Great Crested Flycatcher				
2	Worc. (BMB), Medford	1, 2	M. Lynch#, M. Rines	
5	Wellesley, Westport	1, 1	R. Forster, R. Stymeist#	
9, 27	N. Middleboro, Nantucket	1, 1	K. Holmes, BBC (D. Davis)	
Western Kingbird				
20	Cuttyhunk	1	P. Trimble	
Eastern Kingbird				
4; 6	M. V.; P.I., Newbury	30; 2, 2	S. Perkins; M. Lynch#	
16, 27	Worcester (BMB), Nantucket	1, 1	M. Lynch#, BBC (D. Davis)	
Horned Lark				
20	Falmouth	10	P. Trimble	
Purple Martin				
4	Martha's Vineyard	1	V. Laux	
Tree Swallow				
6, 27	P.I., Westport	10,000+, 1500+	J. Berry#, S. Arena#	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
1	Chatham (Morris I.)	3	W. Petersen#	
Bank Swallow				
6	P.I.	8	R. Forster#	
Cliff Swallow				
4	Northbridge	1 imm	R. Bradbury	
Barn Swallow				
4, 6	Wachusett Mt., N. Monomoy	15, 8	E. Taylor, H. Ferguson#	
6, 7	P.I., Cumb. Farms	10+, 15	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
7, 9	Ipswich, Orleans	13, 2	BBC (J. Berry), H. Wiggin#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1992
Blue Jay thr, 20	Worc. (BMB), Quab. (G40)	54 max 9/24, 63	M. Lynch#	
Fish Crow 7, 18-19	Cumb. Farms, Wellesley	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, R. Forster	
Common Raven 9, 12	Wachusett Mt., Clinton	2, 4	E. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
13, 20	Mt. Watatic, Quabbin (G45)	3, 1	L. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
Black-capped Chickadee 20	Wellfleet	155	R. Stymeist	
Red-breasted Nuthatch 7, 11	Jamaica Plain, Mt. A.	7, 4	R. Forster, M. Rines	
13, 15	Mt. Watatic, Arlington	2, 5	L. Taylor, M. Rines	
20	Quabbin (G45), Wellfleet	9, 20	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
White-breasted Nuthatch 20, 25	Quabbin (G45), ONWR	14, 13	M. Lynch#	
Brown Creeper 20	Nantucket, ONWR	2, 2	S. Arena#, M. Rines	
Carolina Wren thr	Wellesley, Worc. (BMB)	4 max, 1 or 2	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
5, 9	Westport, MNWS	32, 6	R. Stymeist#, T. Aversa	
15, 20	E. Gloucester, Wellfleet	6, 14	C. Leahy, R. Stymeist	
House Wren thr, 7	Worc. (BMB), Cumb. Farms	6 max, 1	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
Winter Wren 13, 16	S. Dartmouth, Worc. (BMB)	1, 1	M. Boucher, M. Lynch#	
Marsh Wren 1, 28	Salem, GMNWR	9, 3	I. Lynch#, S. Perkins#	
Golden-crowned Kinglet 7, 24	Jamaica Plain, P.I.	2, 340	R. Forster, B. Cassie	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 9, 19	MNWS, ONWR	1, 1	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
20	P.I., Wellfleet	2, 1	R. Forster#, R. Stymeist#	
27, 30	Gloucester, Worc. (BMB)	3, 6	BBC (J. Nove), M. Lynch#	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1, 2	MNWS, Medford	1, 1	N. Nash, M. Rines	
4, 20	Gay Head, Nantucket	4, 1	S. Perkins#, S. Arena	
Eastern Bluebird thr, 6	Worc. (BMB), Newburyport	12 max, 4	M. Lynch#, BBC (W. Drummond)	
19, 20	Martha's Vineyard, Truro	12, 8	fide S. Whiting, J. Brown#	
25, 26	Shirley, Medford	8, 20	T. Aversa, P. Roberts	
28	Norfolk	33	B. Cassie	
Northern Wheatear 15-18	Eastham (F.H.)	1	G. Martin + v. o.	
Veery 1, 2	Chatham, Stellwagen Bk.	1, 1	W. Petersen#, T. Aversa	
4, 5	Mt. A., Squantum	2, 1	M. Rines, G. d'Entremont	
5, 9	Westport, MNWS	2, 3	R. Stymeist#, T. Aversa	
Gray-checked Thrush 14, 16	MBO, Worc. (BMB)	1, 1	MBO Staff, M. Lynch#	
20, 27	Quabbin (G45), ONWR	1, 1	M. Lynch#, E. Salmela	
Swainson's Thrush 12; 13, 20	Bolton; Nantucket	1; 1 b, 1 b	R. Bradbury; E. Andrews	
20, 23	Quabbin (G45), Worc. (BMB)	6, 3	M. Lynch#	
Hermit Thrush 15-30, 20	Worc. (BMB), Quabbin (G45)	1, 4	M. Lynch#	
25	ONWR	3	M. Lynch#	
Wood Thrush 19, 20	ONWR, Squantum	1, 1	BBC (M. Lynch), G. d'Entremont	
23	Worcester (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#	
American Robin 10, 30	P.I., Cambridge (F.P.)	700, 250	R. Abrams, S. Perkins#	
Gray Catbird thr, 3	Worc. (BMB), N. Middleboro	36 max, 20+	M. Lynch#, K. Holmes	
6, 7	P.I., Framingham	35, 35	R. Forster#, K. Hamilton	
20, 27	Wellfleet, Gloucester	45, 15	R. Stymeist, BBC (J. Nove)	
Brown Thrasher 15, 20	Worc. (BMB), Squantum	4, 1	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
20, 21	Nahant, Nantucket	1, 1	S. Perkins, S. Arena	
American Pipit 20, 26	Gay Head, Arlington Res.	4, 2	A. Fisher, L. Taylor	
27, 29	Westport, Concord (N.A.C.)	1, 2	S. Arena, R. Abrams#	
30	Worcester (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1992
Cedar Waxwing				
2	Worc. (BMB), Gay Head	54, 200	M. Lynch#, V. Laux	
13, 20	Cashes Ledge, P.I.	1, 40	S. Perkins#, J. Berry	

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

Reports of all the vireos were received, with Philadelphia Vireo in fairly good numbers. Particularly noteworthy was a "plumbeous" Solitary Vireo from Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge on the 6th. This western form is very rare in eastern portions of the country. It is interesting to note that it was the earliest of the Solitary Vireo reports.

The wood warblers have received much attention as a group of neotropical migrants in alarming decline. Based on *Bird Observer* reports from 1981 to 1991, inclusive, a remarkably consistent 31 to 33 species of warblers are reported each September in eastern Massachusetts. This year's total was 32 species. Compared to the 1981-1991 period, species reported in unusually low numbers for this year's September migration are Tennessee, Nashville, Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Canada warblers, Ovenbird, and Northern Waterthrush. Species that appear to be holding their own include Northern Parula, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Prairie, Blackpoll, and Wilson's warblers, and American Redstart. A large diurnal flight of Blackpolls was observed virtually throughout the day at Wachusett Mountain in Princeton on September 19. Good finds among the warbler group were a Prothonotary Warbler and Kentucky Warbler the same day in Chatham, another Prothonotary on Nantucket, and a Hooded Warbler at Cuttyhunk. Disappointing results included reports of only three Connecticut Warblers and two Yellow-breasted Chats.

The sighting of a **Western Tanager** on Martha's Vineyard on September 2 is interesting particularly in terms of the date. Until 1980 it was recorded annually with most reports occurring between November and January, often appearing at feeders. The species was especially prevalent in the late 1950s into the very early 1960s, when there were numerous reports in Massachusetts and elsewhere in the Northeast. Even then, reports were concentrated from mid-November into January, with few proven occurrences in September. Since 1980 twelve reports for the species (excluding spring reports) in the state occurred after mid-November with two reports in late September. Clearly the Martha's Vineyard sighting falls well outside this pattern.

The western contingent of unusual seed-eating birds was well represented with Blue Grosbeak (5), Dickcissel (9), Clay-colored (5) and Lark (3) sparrows, and Yellow-headed Blackbird (2) all reported. Within this group the Dickcissel total was the best since 1983, and the Clay-colored Sparrow in Wellfleet on the 2nd was early but not unprecedented. Since most of the remainder of this group attains peak abundance during the first half of October, it is difficult to draw any conclusions from the reports. However, Swamp Sparrow was very well reported late in the month, and the number of Lincoln's Sparrows was indicative of a good early flight.

The most interesting report of the month was a **Western Meadowlark** observed and heard singing in the company of Eastern Meadowlarks for 45 minutes at Falmouth on the 20th. This is only the second report of a Western Meadowlark since 1981. During the 1960s and continuing into the mid 1970s, Western Meadowlark was recorded on a nearly annual basis with all but one report during May or early summer. The exception was a bird heard singing at Salisbury on October 11, 1971.

There was no semblance of an early movement of winter finches.

R. A. F.

White-eyed Vireo			
5	Westport	1	R. Stymeist
Solitary Vireo			
6, 13	ONWR, Boston (F.Pk)	1	"plumbeous", 1 M. Blazis, T. Aversa
20, 25	Quabbin (G45), ONWR	7, 5	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa
25, 29	P.I., Worcester (BMB)	3, 2	M. Rines, M. Lynch#
Yellow-throated Vireo			
19, 20	ONWR, P.I.	1 (singing), 1	BBC (M. Lynch), R. Forster
21	Gay Head	1	G. Daniels
Warbling Vireo			
1-19, 5	Wellesley, Westport	1 or 2, 1	R. Forster, R. Stymeist#
12, 16	Cambridge (F.P.) Worc. (BMB)	2, 1	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#
20	Wellfleet, Squantum	1, 1	J. Heywood#, G. d'Entremont
20, 21	Nantucket, Gay Head	1, 3	S. Arena, G. Daniels
Philadelphia Vireo			
1, 12, 13	Chatham	1, 4, 3	W. Petersen#, B. Nikula#, W. Bailey
1, 6; 4, 12	ONWR; MNWS	1, 1; 1, 1	R. Bradbury; T. Aversa + v. o.
7, 12	Martha's Vineyard, N. Scituate	2, 2	V. Laux, G. d'Entremont
15, 16	E. Gloucester, Worc. (BMB)	3, 1	C. Leahy, M. Lynch#
20, 24	Cuttyhunk, P.I.	1, 1	P. Trimble, B. Cassie
Red-eyed Vireo			
2, 12	Waltham, N. Scituate	6, 8	L. Taylor, G. d'Entremont
13, 20	Chatham, Wellfleet	5, 13	P. Trimble, R. Stymeist

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1992
Red-eyed Vireo (continued)				
20, 21	Cuttyhunk, Gay Head	3, 25+	P. Trimble, G. Daniels	
Blue-winged Warbler				
2, 4	Worc. (BMB), MNWS	2, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
5	Westport, W. Newbury	1, 1	R. Stymeist, P. + F. Vale	
11	ONWR, Mt. A.	2, 1	T. Aversa, M. Rines	
Golden-winged Warbler				
1, 2	Chappaquiddick, Waltham	1 f, 1	V. Laux, L. Taylor	
6	Nantucket	1 b	E. Andrews	
Tennessee Warbler				
1, 9	ONWR, Stoneham	2, 1	R. Bradbury, T. Aversa	
13; 17, 30	Chatham; Worc. (BMB)	1; 2, 1	P. Trimble; R. Bradbury	
20	Cuttyhunk, Nantucket	1, 1	P. Trimble, S. Arena	
Orange-crowned Warbler				
24	Nantucket	1	J. Papale	
Nashville Warbler				
2, 30	Worc. (BMB)	4, 1	M. Lynch#	
9, 11	MNWS, ONWR	1, 2	T. Aversa	
Northern Parula				
11	ONWR, Mt. A.	3, 2	T. Aversa, M. Rines	
17, 20	Worc. (BMB), Cuttyhunk	3, 1	R. Bradbury, P. Trimble	
20	Salisbury, Wellfleet	1, 1	R. Forster, R. Stymeist#	
20, 21	Quabbin (G45), Nantucket	9, 2	M. Lynch#, S. Arena	
Yellow Warbler				
7, 9	Squantum, MNWS	2, 3	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
12	Bolton, Nahant	5, 1	M. Lynch#, K. Hamilton#	
20, 26	P.I., Nantucket	1, 1	R. Forster#, BBC (D. Davis)	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
4, 11	MNWS, ONWR	3, 5	T. Aversa	
13, 20	Chatham, Cuttyhunk	1, 1	P. Trimble	
20	Wellfleet, Truro	1, 1	J. Heywood#, J. Brown#	
Magnolia Warbler				
11, 12	ONWR, N. Scituate	6, 2	T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont	
12, 20	MNWS, Wellfleet	5, 1	K. Hamilton#, R. Stymeist	
21, 30	Cambridge, Worc. (BMB)	1, 2	M. Rines, M. Lynch#	
Cape May Warbler				
1, 2	MNWS, Mt. A.	1, 1	N. Nash, M. Rines	
13-30, 20	Nantucket, Wellfleet	28 b, 6	E. Andrews, R. Stymeist#	
20	Cuttyhunk, Quabbin (G45)	2, 1	P. Trimble, M. Lynch#	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
11, 13	ONWR, Chatham	2, 1	T. Aversa, P. Trimble	
20, 25	Cuttyhunk, P.I.	1, 10+	P. Trimble, M. Rines	
30	Worcester (BMB)	1 m	R. Bradbury	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
2, 30; 25	Worc. (BMB); P.I.	1, 42; 50+	M. Lynch#; M. Rines	
25, 30	ONWR, Cambridge (F.P.)	55, 13	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
7, 13	Jamaica Plain, Chatham	2, 2	R. Forster, P. Trimble	
19	ONWR, Medford	6, 2	BBC (M. Lynch), M. Rines	
20	Quabbin (G45), Wellfleet	21, 7	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist	
28, 30	Wellesley, Worc. (BMB)	4 or 5, 4	R. Forster, R. Bradbury	
30	Cambridge (F.P.)	3	S. Perkins#	
Blackburnian Warbler				
1	MNWS, Chatham	1, 1	N. Nash, W. Petersen#	
5, 11	Milton (F.M.), Bolton	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
12, 20	Nahant, Quabbin (G45)	1, 2	R. Forster#, M. Lynch#	
20	P.I., Wellfleet	1, 1	R. Forster#, R. Stymeist	
Pine Warbler				
12, 13	Concord, Chatham	6, 7	S. Perkins#, P. Trimble	
20	Quabbin (G45), Newburyport	18, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Berry#	
20, 27	Wellfleet, WBWS	16, 15	R. Stymeist, G. d'Entremont	
Prairie Warbler				
2, 16; 3	Worc. (BMB); Medford	6, 2; 1	M. Lynch#; M. Rines	
4, 23; 12	MNWS; ONWR	1, 1; 5	T. Aversa; T. Aversa#	
Palm Warbler				
12, 17	Nahant, N. Dartmouth	6, 5	R. Forster#, M. Boucher	
17, 30	Worcester (BMB)	3, 13	R. Bradbury, M. Lynch#	
20, 30	Falmouth, Wayland	4, 5	P. Trimble, S. Arena	
Bay-breasted Warbler				
11, 12	ONWR, N. Scituate	2, 1	T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont	
13, 20	E. Gloucester, Cuttyhunk	1, 1	C. Leahy, P. Trimble	
20, 24	Wellfleet, Worc. (BMB)	1, 4	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch	

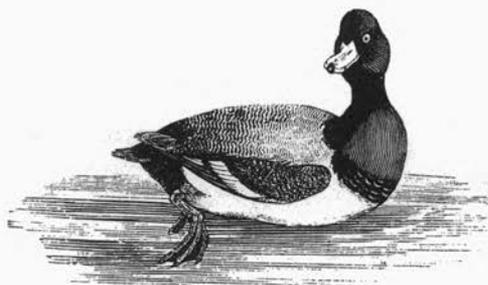
DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1992
Blackpoll Warbler				
4, 6	Mt. A., P.I.	1, 1	M. Rines, K. Hamilton#	
8-30, 19	Worc. (BMB), Wachusett Mt.	51 max, 300+	M. Lynch#, S. Perkins	
20, 25	Quabbin (G45), ONWR	58, 53	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
28, 30	Wellesley, Cambridge (F.P.)	25, 15	R. Forster, R. Stymeist	
Black-and-white Warbler				
19	Medford, ONWR	4, 2	M. Rines, BBC (M. Lynch)	
20	Quabbin (G45), P.I.	5, 2	M. Lynch#, R. Forster#	
20, 30	Nantucket, Worc. (BMB)	1 or 2, 1	S. Arena, M. Lynch#	
American Redstart				
2, 4	Waltham, Mt. A.	14, 9	L. Taylor, M. Rines	
12, 16	N. Scituate, Worc. (BMB)	13, 5	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
19, 20	ONWR, Quabbin (G45)	10, 9	BBC (M. Lynch), M. Lynch#	
20	Wellfleet, Cuttyhunk	14, 4	R. Stymeist, P. Trimble	
Prothonotary Warbler				
13, 21	Chatham, Nantucket	1, 1	W. Bailey, G. Soucy#	
Ovenbird				
4, 5	MNWS, Milton (F.M.)	1, 1	T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont	
11, 20	ONWR, Wellfleet	1, 1	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist	
20, 25	Quabbin (G45), P.I.	2, 1	M. Lynch#, M. Rines	
26, 30	Newton, Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 2	S. + C. Hepburn, S. Perkins#	
Northern Waterthrush				
6, 23, 29	MNWS, P.I., Worcester (BMB)	2, 1, 1	P. + F. Vale, T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Kentucky Warbler				
13	Chatham	1	W. Bailey	
Connecticut Warbler				
2, 19	Worcester (BMB), ONWR	1, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Hoye#	
19	Tisbury	1	S. Whiting	
Mourning Warbler				
6, 9	Lancaster, S. Peabody	1, 1	R. Bradbury, T. Aversa	
9, 13	MNWS, E. Gloucester	1, 1	T. Aversa, C. Leahy	
16, 26	Cambridge (F.P.), Nantucket	1, 2	R. Stymeist, BBC (D. Davis)	
Common Yellowthroat				
2, 30; 5	Worcester (BMB); Westport	28, 7; 26	M. Lynch#; R. Stymeist#	
13, 20	Cashes Ledge, Wellfleet	1, 11	R. Forster#, R. Stymeist#	
Hooded Warbler				
20	Cuttyhunk	1	P. Trimble	
Wilson's Warbler				
5, 9	Milton (F.M.), MNWS	1, 5	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
11, 12	ONWR, Cambridge (F.P.)	2, 1	T. Aversa, M. Rines#	
16, 20	Worc. (BMB), Cuttyhunk	1, 1	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
25, 27	P.I., Nantucket	1, 1	M. Rines, BBC (D. Davis)	
Canada Warbler				
1, 2	Chatham, Worc. (BMB)	1, 1	W. Petersen#, M. Lynch#	
9, 21	MNWS, Medford	2, 1	T. Aversa, M. Rines	
24, 30	P.I., Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 1	B. Cassie, S. Perkins#	
Yellow-breasted Chat				
2, 13	Gay Head, Nantucket	1, 1 b	V. Laux#, E. Andrews	
Scarlet Tanager				
5, 20	Milton (F.M.), Quabbin (G45)	1, 8	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
25, 28	P.I., Yarmouthport	2, 1	M. Rines, K. Hamilton	
30	Worc. (BMB), Medford	2, 1	M. Lynch#, M. Rines	
Western Tanager				
2	Gay Head	1	V. Laux#	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
4, 12	Wayland, MNWS	5, 1	S. Arena, R. Forster	
12, 18	Nahant, Worc. (BMB)	3, 8	R. Forster, M. Lynch	
19, 20	Wellesley, Quabbin (G45)	1, 5	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
Blue Grosbeak				
15; 18, 30	Nantucket; Wellesley	3; 1, 1	J. Brown#; R. Forster	
Indigo Bunting				
8, 12	Worc. (BMB), ONWR	4, 2	M. Lynch, S. Arena	
20, 30	Cuttyhunk, Wayland	2, 1	P. Trimble, S. Arena	
Dickcissel				
3, 7, 17	Gay Head	1, 3, 1	R. Shriber, V. Laux, S. Whiting	
12, 20	Scituate, Nahant	1, 1	R. Abrams, S. Perkins	
20, 27	Nantucket	1, 1	S. Arena, BBC (D. Davis)	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
thr, 20	Worc. (BMB), Quabbin (G45)	12 max, 20	M. Lynch#	
20	Cuttyhunk, Wellfleet	12, 28	P. Trimble, R. Stymeist	
20, 30	P.I., Plymouth (MSSF)	5, 8	J. Berry, G. d'Entremont	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPT. 1992
Chipping Sparrow				
1, 17	Cumb. Farms, N. Dartmouth	45, 75+	S. Arena, M. Boucher	
20, 26	Falmouth, Newton	30, 48	P. Trimble, C. + S. Hepburn	
Clay-colored Sparrow				
2, 7	Wellfleet, Cumb. Farms	1, 1	W. Petersen#, G. d'Entremont	
20, 21	Gay Head, Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 1	G. Daniels, M. Rines	
27-30	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan	
Field Sparrow				
5; 8, 30	Milton (F.M.); Worc. (BMB)	3; 8, 2	G. d'Entremont; M. Lynch#	
25	Peabody	5'	M. Rines	
Vesper Sparrow				
2	Wellfleet (Marconi)	1	W. Petersen#	
Lark Sparrow				
12	Scituate	1	R. Abrams	
26-27, 29	Newton, Concord	1, 1	C. + S. Hepburn, J. Center	
Savannah Sparrow				
20	Salisbury	30	R. Forster#	
Grasshopper Sparrow				
28	Norfolk	1 ad	B. Cassie	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
6, 18	Newbury/P.I., S. Dart. (A.Pd)	23, 13	R. Forster#, LCES (J. Hill)	
26, 27	Eastham (F.H.), Nantucket	2, 4	M. Lynch#, BBC (D. Davis)	
Seaside Sparrow				
18, 29	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1, 1	LCES (J. Hill)	
Song Sparrow				
thr, 20	Worc. (BMB), Cuttyhunk	36 max, 30	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
Lincoln's Sparrow				
2; 12, 30	Waltham; Cambridge (F.P.)	1; 1, 1	L. Taylor; R. Stymeist	
14, 20	ONWR, Nantucket	1, 1	R. Bradbury, S. Arena	
20, 24	Ipswich, Wayland	1 dead, 2	J. Berry, S. Arena	
27, 30	Bolton, Worc. (BMB)	3, 3	M. Lynch#, R. Bradbury	
Swamp Sparrow				
2, 30; 25	Worc. (BMB); ONWR	1, 19; 26	M. Lynch#	
27, 29	Bolton, Wayland	67, 60	M. Lynch#, S. Perkins	
White-throated Sparrow				
12; 16, 30	MNWS; Worc. (BMB)	2; 2, 20	R. Forster; M. Lynch#	
18; 19, 25	Lexington; ONWR	2; 5, 9	L. Taylor; M. Lynch#	
White-crowned Sparrow				
30	Cambridge (F.P.), Worc. (BMB)	1 imm, 1 imm	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch#	
Dark-eyed Junco				
13, 20	Mt. Watatic, Quabbin (G45)	6, 14	L. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
20	Boston, P.I.	1, 2	K. Hudson, R. Forster	
20	Salisbury, Medford	2, 2	K. Hamilton, D. F. Oliver	
"Oregon" Junco				
26	Boston (Long I.)	1	R. Donovan	
Lapland Longspur				
25	Wellfleet	1	S. Howell	
Bobolink				
2, 4	Gay Head, W. Bridgewater	250, 30+	V. Laux, S. Arena	
6, 8	Cumb. Farm, Worc. (BMB)	50+, 21	S. Arena, M. Lynch#	
12, 13, 29	Bolton, S. Monomoy, Wayland	13, 25, 4	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula#, S. Perkins#	
Red-winged Blackbird				
6, 12	Newburyport, Bolton	100+, 650+	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
Eastern Meadowlark				
20, 24	Falmouth, ONWR	30, 4	P. Trimble, M. Lynch	
29	Marlboro	6	R. Graefe	
Western Meadowlark				
20	Falmouth (Otis AFB)	1 singing	P. Trimble	
Rusty Blackbird				
26	P.I., Wayland	1, 3	BBC (J. Center), D. F. Oliver	
29, 30	Concord, Cambridge (F.P.)	4, 1	S. Perkins#	
Yellow-headed Blackbird				
12, 27	N. Monomoy, Martha's Vineyard	1, 1	J. Sones#, V. Laux	
Common Grackle				
1, 25	W. Bridgewater, N. Dartmouth	250+, 1500	S. Arena, M. Boucher	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
20	Salisbury	50	R. Forster#	
Northern Oriole				
2, 16; 5	Worc. (BMB); Squantum	5, 1; 1	M. Lynch#; G. d'Entremont	
20	Nantucket, Cuttyhunk	4, 2	S. Arena, P. Trimble	
Purple Finch				
20, 25	Quabbin (G45), ONWR	2, 2	M. Lynch#	

BIRD SIGHTINGS

OCTOBER 1992

SUMMARY



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

October was cold and dry. The temperature averaged 52.5 degrees, 2.3 degrees below normal. This was the eighth consecutive month with lower than normal readings. The high mark in Boston was 78 degrees on October 3, and the lowest temperature was 35 degrees on Halloween. Rainfall totaled 1.62 inches, 1.74 inches less than average, and heavy fog was noted on four days, double the past average. R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

The lack of severe storms or strong onshore winds resulted in few pelagic species and few significant flights of waterfowl. Based on the reports at hand, October experienced a lackluster migration at best. In light of the general concern for Pied-billed Grebe (and marsh nesting birds in general), the monthly total was encouraging. Gannets were quite prevalent late in the month but only from Cape Cod and the Islands. For the most part waterfowl presented rather traditional fare, with only South Monomoy providing good numbers of the less common puddle ducks. Not really surprising but nonetheless interesting was the presence of "coastal" waterfowl at inland locations. A flock of Brant flying overhead in Petersham delighted the observer. Also noteworthy were Brant, Oldsquaw, all three scoter species, and Red-breasted Mergansers at inland locales the 30th and 31st. Two Harlequin Ducks in North Scituate on October 31 were a shade on the early side. Ruddy Ducks were well reported.

Very little of significance in the hawk group occurred. If there were any major movements, they must have happened while hawkwatchers were not watching. Cooper's Hawk was again very well reported from a wide geographical area. A Golden Eagle became entrapped in a pen while attempting to take captive birds at a game farm in Ayer. The bird was starving due to a foot injury and eventually succumbed despite attempts at rehabilitation. October is the month for Peregrine Falcons. Compared to the last few years, fewer Peregrine Falcons were reported. The only interesting rail report was a Clapper Rail at East Orleans. The Sandhill Crane continued to play hide-and-seek with hopeful observers at Plum Island. R. A. F.

Red-throated Loon			
18	Lynn, Essex	2, 5	R. Forster#, J. MacDougall
26	Martha's Vineyard	40	V. Laux
Common Loon			
thr, 4	Wachusett Res., Randolph	15 max, 5	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont
18, 25	Nantucket, Barnstable (S.N.)	45, 10	S. Perkins, P. Trimble
Pied-billed Grebe			
1, 5	Boston, Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 3	K. Hudson, D. Flood
10-31, 11-31	Arlington, GMNWR	4 max, 5 max	L. Taylor#, v. o.
12, 13-31	S. Monomoy, Nantucket	6, 6 max	B. Nikula, v. o.
18, 24	Westport, Lakeville	4, 6	R. Stymeist#, W. Petersen#
25, 30	Wellesley, Norfolk	8, 6	C. Quinlan, B. Cassie
Reports of 1-4 individuals from 8 locations.			
Horned Grebe			
14, 18	Cambridge (F.P.), Lynn	2, 5	D. Flood, R. Forster#
19, 24-31	Waltham, Lakeville	1, 10 max	S. Perkins, W. Petersen#
24, 25-31	P.I., Wachusett Res.	2, 5 max	H. Wiggan#, M. Lynch#
Red-necked Grebe			
18, 26	Clinton, M. V.	1, 1	R. Bradbury, V. Laux
27, 31	P.I., Manomet	2, 1	W. Drew#, W. Petersen#
Leach's Storm-Petrel			
5, 19; 22	Barnstable (S.N.); Yarmouthport	3, 1; 3	v. o.; K. Hamilton

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCT. 1992
Northern Gannet				
17, 22	Eastham, Yarmouthport/Dennis	750+, 9000	K. Jones, K. Hamilton	
23, 24	Nantucket, N. Monomoy	1000, 300	J. Papale, B. Nikula#	
25, 26	Barnstable (S.N.), M. V.	600+, 300	P. Trimble, V. Laux	
Great Cormorant				
12, 14	E. Gloucester, M. V.	5, 5	S. Perkins, V. Laux	
18, 31	Nantucket, Rockport	24, 15	S. Perkins, H. Wiggin#	
Double-crested Cormorant				
3, 7	Boston, Westport	600, 500	J. Young, M. Boucher	
10	Wachusett Res., Orleans	108, 600+	M. Lynch#, K. Jones	
17, 18	Newbytp/P.I., Ipswich	1500, 300	BBC (C. Floyd), J. Berry#	
American Bittern				
3-24; 14, 24	P.I.; Cumb. Farms	1 or 2; 1, 1	v. o.; T. Aversa, S. Arena	
17	Eastham (F.H.), Nantucket	1, 1	T. Aversa#, S. Perkins	
18	Brookfield, Essex	2, 1	R. Bradbury, J. MacDougall	
23, 25; 31	GMNWR; Squantum	1, 1; 1	S. Perkins, G. d'Entremont#; M. Hall	
Great Blue Heron				
8, 12	S. Dart. (A.Pd), Eastham	17, 16	LCES (J. Hill), M. Lynch#	
17, 18	P.I., Truro	47, 27	K. Disney, M. Lynch#	
18, 21	Westport, Nantucket	38, 18	R. Stymeist#, J. Papale	
Great Egret				
8, 20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	17, 7	LCES (J. Hill)	
17, 27	Nantucket	7, 1	S. Perkins#, J. Papale	
17	Ipswich, Barnstable	8-10, 4	J. Berry, H. Ferguson	
18, 22	Westport, P.I.	25, 20	R. Stymeist#, W. Drew#	
Snowy Egret				
3, 17	P.I.	30+, 10	M. Lynch#, BBC (C. Floyd)	
8, 20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	11, 4	LCES (J. Hill)	
18	Essex	1	J. MacDougall	
Little Blue Heron				
10-17	P.I.	1 or 2	v. o.	
Cattle Egret				
12	Ipswich	8	S. Perkins#	
Green-backed Heron				
3, 17	P.I., Eastham (F.H.)	1, 1	H. Wiggin#, T. Aversa#	
Black-crowned Night Heron				
1, 12	Chilmark, outer Cape Cod	4, 28	R. Stymeist#, R. Fox#	
18, 28	Westport, P.I.	15, 1	R. Stymeist#, T. Young	
Mute Swan				
10-31, 24	Arlington, S. Monomoy	8 max, 26	L. Taylor#, H. Ferguson#	
18	Westport, S. Dartmouth	52, 75	R. Stymeist#	
Snow Goose				
2, 4	Sandwich, Westport	52, 5	S. Hecker, M. Boucher	
8, 10	P.I., Ipswich	5, 6	W. Drew#, I. Lynch	
10	Framingham, Wachusett Res.	1, 1	K. Hamilton#, M. Lynch#	
17, 31	Newburyport, Salisbury	20, 44	K. Disney, R. Forster#	
Brant				
17, 18	Provincetown, Essex	3, 36	T. Aversa#, J. MacDougall	
18, 20	P.I., Petersham	35, 13 migr	T. Young, J. Baird	
26, 31	Westport, Brookfield	15, 26	M. Boucher, R. Bradbury	
31	S. Boston, Orleans	120, 310	M. Hall, K. Jones	
Canada Goose				
thr, 7	P.I., Rochester	500 max, 475	W. Drew#, M. Sylvia	
10, 15	Wachusett Res., Lakeville	930, 434	M. Lynch#, M. Sylvia	
18, 31	GMNWR, Waltham	600, 425	E. Taylor, L. Taylor	
Wood Duck				
thr	GMNWR, Worcester (BMB)	60 max, 12 max	v. o., M. Lynch#	
3, 6	Boston, MNWS	2, 4	K. Hudson, I. Lynch	
12, 18	S. Monomoy, Nantucket	17, 6	B. Nikula, v. o.	
22, 23	IRWS, W. Roxbury	22, 23	J. MacDougall, T. Aversa	
Green-winged Teal				
thr	P.I., Arlington Res.	525 max, 42 max	W. Drew#, v. o.	
12, 18	Ipswich, Scituate	35, 34	S. Perkins#, G. d'Entremont#	
12, 18	S. Monomoy	150, 100	B. Nikula	
American Black Duck				
thr, 11	P.I., Brookline	885 max, 28	W. Drew#, R. Stymeist	
18, 24	S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy	300, 94	B. Nikula, R. Stymeist#	
Northern Pintail				
thr, 12	P.I., Ipswich	31 max, 8	W. Drew#, S. Perkins#	
18	Scituate, S. Monomoy	1, 90	G. d'Entremont#, B. Nikula	
23-31, 24	Arlington Res., Manomet	1, 1	v. o., W. Petersen#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCT. 1992
Blue-winged Teal				
2, 7	P.I., Bolton Flats	45, 3	W. Drew#, R. Bradbury	
7, 12	Westport, S. Monomoy	1, 15	M. Boucher, B. Nikula	
12, 18	Ipswich, Wenham	15, 1	S. Perkins#, N. Nash	
Northern Shoveler				
11-26, 17	Boston, P.I.	1 m, 2	K. Hudson, W. Petersen#	
18	S. Monomoy	45	B. Nikula	
Gadwall				
thr, 13	P.I., Wayland	28 max, 6	W. Drew#, K. Hamilton	
18	DWWS, S. Monomoy	1, 35	G. d'Entremont, B. Nikula	
19, 22-31	Lincoln, Arlington Res.	1 m, 1	S. Perkins, D. Arvidson	
25, 31	Ipswich, Manomet	80, 1	J. Berry, W. Petersen#	
Eurasian Wigeon				
12, 24	S. Monomoy	1 m, 2 m	B. Nikula, R. Stymeist#	
17-22, 31	P.I., Manomet	1 m, 1 m	v. o., W. Petersen	
American Wigeon				
thr	P.I., Arlington Res.	220 max, 140 max	W. Drew#, v. o.	
12, 17	S. Monomoy, Ipswich	120, 80+	B. Nikula, I. Lynch	
31	Manomet	40	W. Petersen#	
Canvasback				
12, 14-31	W. Newbury, Cambridge (F.P.)	1 f, 126 max	S. Perkins, v. o.	
17, 30	Ipswich, Waltham	1, 1 m	I. Lynch, S. Perkins	
Redhead				
12-31	Waltham (Cambridge Res.)	1 m	R. Stymeist#	
Ring-necked Duck				
thr, 6	Cambridge (F.P.), W. Newbury	138 max, 416	R. Stymeist#, T. Young	
12, 15	S. Monomoy, Lakeville	55, 1167	B. Nikula, M. Sylvia	
24, 31	Braintree, Southboro	25, 666	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
Greater Scaup				
5-31, 10	Cambridge (F.P.), Wachusett Res.	7 max, 1	v. o., M. Lynch#	
12, 15	W. Newbury, Lakeville	5, 29	S. Perkins, M. Sylvia	
18, 25	Randolph, Southboro	14, 4	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
Lesser Scaup				
15, 24	Plymouth, P.I.	36, 7	S. Arena, T. Young	
26, 28	Nantucket, W. Newbury	13, 2	J. Papale, K. Disney	
29, 31	Norfolk, Lakeville	2, 200	B. Cassie, W. Petersen#	
Common Eider				
6, 18	Gay Head, Provincetown	375, 52	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
26, 31	Westport, Rockport	750, 600	M. Boucher, H. Wiggin#	
Harlequin Duck				
23, 31	N. Scituate	2	S. Bolton, T. Cameron#	
Oldsquaw				
18	Nantucket, Provincetown	5, 5	S. Perkins, M. Lynch#	
18, 25	Brookfield, Barnstable (S.N.)	1 m, 60	R. Bradbury, P. Trimble	
30, 31	Cambridge (F.P.), Wachusett Res.	3 m, 1	M. Rines, M. Lynch#	
31	Rockport	150	H. Wiggin#	
Black Scoter				
7, 18	Westport, Brookfield	25, 12	M. Boucher, R. Bradbury	
18, 30	P'town, Lincoln	46, 16	M. Lynch#, S. Ells#	
31	Wachusett Res., Rockport	4, 100	M. Lynch#, H. Wiggin#	
Surf Scoter				
7, 18	Westport, Rockport	40, 20	M. Boucher, P. + F. Vale	
24, 25	Barnstable, Wachusett Res.	400, 3	T. Cameron, M. Lynch#	
White-winged Scoter				
17, 18	P.I., Lynn/Nahant	200+, 1800	T. Young, R. Forster#	
18, 31; 18	Clinton; P'town	3, 16; 157	R. Bradbury#, M. Lynch#; M. Lynch#	
23, 26	W. Boylston, M. V.	7, 4000	R. Bradbury, V. Laux	
31	Brookfield, Rockport	4, 200	R. Bradbury, H. Wiggin#	
Common Goldeneye				
24, 31; 24	Lakeville; Newbypt	1, 20; 2 f	W. Petersen#; P. + F. Vale	
31	Holden, Southboro	1, 12	M. Lynch#	
Bufflehead				
16, 31; 18, 25	Clinton; Southboro	2, 19; 5, 12	R. Bradbury; M. Lynch#	
18	Randolph, Lakeville	6, 19	G. d'Entremont, M. Boucher	
18	Lynn, Essex	22, 7	R. Forster#, J. MacDougall	
23-31, 26	Cambridge (F.P.), M. V.	4-6, 200	v. o., V. Laux	
31	S. Boston, Squantum	300+, 150+	M. Hall	
Hooded Merganser				
17, 18	P.I., Randolph	3, 4	J. Brown#, G. d'Entremont	
18, 23	W. Newbury, Boston	3, 9	J. Berry#, T. Aversa	
27, 31	Melrose, Lexington	9, 32	P. + F. Vale, R. Stymeist#	

Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 5 locations.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCT. 1992
Common Merganser				
21, 25	Petersham, Lincoln	12, 2 f	J. Baird, G. d'Entremont	
30, 31	Boylston, Holden	7, 7	R. Bradbury, M. Lynch#	
31	Lakeville, Melrose	28, 6	W. Petersen#, P. + F. Vale	
Red-breasted Merganser				
22, 23	Yarmouthport/Dennis, W. Boylston	8000, 1	K. Hamilton, R. Bradbury	
26, 31	M. V., S. Boston	1500, 150	V. Laux, M. Hall	
31	Southboro, Wachusett Res.	13, 19	M. Lynch#	
Ruddy Duck				
thr	Arlington Res., Cambridge (F.P.)	59 max, 118 max	M. Rines, R. Stymeist	
9-31, 18	Southboro, S. Monomoy	214 max, 120	R. Bradbury, B. Nikula	
18	Randolph, W. Newbury	200, 140	G. d'Entremont, J. Berry#	
19, 25	Waltham, Lincoln	15, 89	S. Perkins, G. d'Entremont#	
Turkey Vulture				
4, 15	Quabbin (G40), Wayland	16, 12	BBC (M. Lynch), S. Arena	
17	Newbury, IRWS	1, 3	R. Stymeist, J. MacDougall	
18	Scituate, Westport	2, 4	G. d'Entremont#, R. Stymeist#	
26	Randolph	1	W. Petersen#	
Osprey				
1, 2	Boston, Chilmark	1, 2	K. Hudson, R. Stymeist#	
10, 18	Wachusett Res., GMNWR	1, 1	M. Lynch#, E. Taylor	
24	Lakeville	1	W. Petersen#	
Bald Eagle				
3, 4	Orleans, Quabbin (G40)	1 imm, 2 ad	R. Rozsa, BBC (M. Lynch)	
18; 24, 31	N. Monomoy; Lakeville	1; 2 ad, 1 ad	B. Nikula; W. Petersen#	
25, 28	Concord, W. Harwich	1 imm, 1 ad	S. Perkins, L. Tillson	
31	S. Monomoy	1	H. Ferguson#	
Northern Harrier				
thr, 1	P.I., Gay Head-Chilmark	5 max, 4	v. o., R. Stymeist#	
3, 6	Salisbury, Sandwich	4, 1	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
7, 17	Westport, Peabody	1 f, 1	M. Boucher, I. Lynch	
23, 27	Needham, Wellesley	1, 1	D. Case, R. Forster	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
1, 2; 3	Gay Head; P.I.	48, 20; 3	R. Stymeist#; BBC (D. Dillavou)	
4	Quabbin (G40), Medford	12, 3	BBC (M. Lynch), M. Rines	
18	Westport, S. Dartmouth	9, 3	R. Stymeist#	
Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 9 locations.				
Cooper's Hawk				
Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 14 locations.				
Northern Goshawk				
3	Cumb. Farms, Truro	1, 1	S. Arena, S. Sumer	
4, 15	Lincoln, Sandwich	1, 1	BBC (J. Nove), P. Trimble	
27	Ipswich	1	J. Brown#	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
23, 29	W. Roxbury, Wellesley	1 ad, 1 ad	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
Broad-winged Hawk				
1, 4	Chilmark, Medford	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, M. Rines	
4, 5	S. Dartmouth, Wenham	1, 1	M. Boucher, N. Nash	
Red-tailed Hawk				
4, 25	Quabbin (G40), Wayland	8, 5	BBC (M. Lynch), BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
Golden Eagle				
20	Ayer	1 (died)	T. Early, fide T. French	
American Kestrel				
1	Gay Head	7	R. Stymeist#	
Merlin				
1, 2; 5-24	Gay Head; P.I.	3, 5; 3 max	R. Stymeist#; v. o.	
9, 17	Arlington Res., Newton	1, 1	M. Rines, G. d'Entremont#	
18	Scituate, Peabody	1, 1 ad m	G. d'Entremont, R. Forster#	
26, 28	Boston, Essex	1, 1	K. Hudson, J. MacDougall	
Peregrine Falcon				
thr, 3	P.I., S. Monomoy	3 max, 3+ imm	v. o., B. Nikula#	
8-30, 12	N. Monomoy, Nantucket	5 max, 5	v. o., N. Brooks	
14, 29	M. V., P'town (R.P.)	3, 1	V. Laux, K. Jones	
Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 8 locations.				
Ring-necked Pheasant				
18, 25	Ipswich, Wayland	2 m, 3	J. Berry#, G. d'Entremont	
Ruffed Grouse				
18, 20	Ipswich, N. Middleboro	1 m, 3	J. Berry#, K. Holmes	
23, 28	Worcester (BMB), Westwood	2, 1	M. Lynch#, D. Case	
Wild Turkey				
29	Charlton	28	R. Dustin	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCT. 1992
Northern Bobwhite				
18	Scituate, Truro	2, 24	G. d'Entremont#, M. Lynch#	
27	Nantucket	2	J. Papale	
Clapper Rail				
18-19	E. Orleans (Pochet I.)	1	R. Hall	
Virginia Rail				
11, 18	GMNWR, DWWS	3, 1	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
22	IRWS	1	J. MacDougall	
Sora				
3	Sandwich	1	P. Trimble	
American Coot				
18, 19	S. Monomoy, Nantucket	15, 5	B. Nikula, J. Papale	
19	Southboro, Clinton	6, 7	R. Bradbury	
20, 23	P.I., GMNWR	8, 9	K. Disney, S. Perkins	
24, 30	Arlington, Norfolk	17, 30	L. Taylor, B. Cassie	
31	Plymouth	200	W. Petersen#	
Sandhill Crane				
2, 31	P.I.	1 ad, 1 ad	W. Drew#, K. Hamilton#	

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

As usual Monomoy produced the lion's share of shorebird highlights. These included two late Piping Plovers, three godwit species, including what is likely a record late date for **Bar-tailed Godwit**, a juvenile Ruff, and a Red Phalarope. Most of the other usual species were recorded in diminishing numbers during the month. Only one jaeger, a Pomarine, was seen, compared with last year's record total of 1100, the result of one memorable storm. Gulls were very thinly reported with the exception of Lesser Black-backed Gulls. In keeping their species' pelagic tendencies, most were reported from the far reaches of Cape Cod and beyond. Fairly good numbers of Common Terns were reported, with Forster's Terns mixed in here and there. A single report of five Razorbills on October 6 was on the early side.

Owls were fairly routine and included only single reports of the less common species. The Snowy Owl reported at Logan Airport on October 27 was the earliest recorded (by two days) in an ongoing ten-year study there. A Common Nighthawk on October 9 in Brookline was late. Reports of Red-headed and Red-bellied woodpeckers were scattered throughout the month, while most Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were recorded during the first week.

R. A. F.

Black-bellied Plover				
11, 28	N. Monomoy	1500, 400	H. Ferguson#, B. Nikula	
22, 25	Dennis, Ipswich	40, 60	K. Hamilton, J. Berry	
27, 31	Nantucket, Squantum	45, 24	J. Papale, M. Hall	
Lesser Golden-Plover				
thr, 8	Newburyport, N. Monomoy	19 max, 1	v. o., B. Nikula	
10, 14	Eastham, Cumb. Farms	1, 10	R. Fox#, T. Aversa	
18, 24	Scituate, S. Monomoy	1, 2	G. d'Entremont#, M. Rines#	
25, 26	Ipswich, M. V.	1, 4	J. Berry, V. Laux	
Semipalmated Plover				
8, 28	N. Monomoy	60, 3	B. Nikula	
12, 24	S. Monomoy	120, 24	B. Nikula, H. Ferguson#	
10, 17	Barnstable (S.N.)	80, 15	H. Ferguson	
12, 28	Newburyport, P.I.	30, 10	S. Perkins, K. Disney	
Piping Plover				
8	N. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula#	
Killdeer				
thr, 3	Arlington Res., Newburyport	28 max, 60	L. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
16	Westboro	70	C. Quinlan	
17, 27	Nantucket	100, 40	S. Perkins, N. Brooks	
25, 30	Concord (N.A.C.), Lexington	30, 15	G. d'Entremont#, S. Perkins	
American Oystercatcher				
1-24, 1-26	N. Monomoy, M. V.	60 max, 13 max	B. Nikula, V. Laux	
17-18	Nantucket	10	S. Perkins	
Greater Yellowlegs				
thr, 8	P.I., Eastham	215 max, 130	W. Drew#, K. Jones	
16, 22	Clinton, Yarmouthport	1, 82	R. Bradbury, K. Hamilton	
25, 26	GMNWR, Nantucket	1, 160	G. d'Entremont#, J. Papale	
29, 30	S. Dart. (A.Pd), Lexington	36, 3	LCES (J. Hill), S. Perkins	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
4	Squantum	1	G. d'Entremont#	
Solitary Sandpiper				
4	Outer Cape Cod	1	BBC (R. Timberlake)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCT. 1992
Spotted Sandpiper 10, 16 18	Wachusett Res., Danvers Randolph	1, 1 1	M. Lynch#, J. Brown# G. d'Entremont	
Hudsonian Godwit thr thr, 1-20 31	Newburyport, Eastham N. Monomoy, P.I. Salisbury	6 max, 5 max 4 max, 2 max 1	v. o., K. Jones M. Boucher, v. o. R. Forster#	
Bar-tailed Godwit 12-28	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
Marbled Godwit 8-28	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
Ruddy Turnstone 7, 12 24	Westport, outer Cape Cod S. Monomoy	8, 8 2	B. Nikula, R. Fox# H. Ferguson#	
Red Knot 8, 28 10, 25	N. Monomoy Barnstable (S.N.), Ipswich	500, 175 75, 10	B. Nikula H. Ferguson, J. Berry	
Sanderling 10, 11 22, 27 28	Barnstable (S.N.), Revere Dennis, Nantucket P.I., N. Monomoy	660, 23 125, 330 150 (inc. 1 albino), 1400	H. Ferguson, P. + F. Vale K. Hamilton, J. Papale K. Disney, B. Nikula	
Semipalmated Sandpiper 8, 15 12, 24 30	N. Monomoy S. Monomoy Newburyport	20, 5 120, 17 3	B. Nikula B. Nikula, H. Ferguson# R. Heil	
Least Sandpiper 4, 8 8	Westport, N. Monomoy S. Dart. (A.Pd)	3, 20 7	M. Boucher, B. Nikula LCES (J. Hill)	
White-rumped Sandpiper 12, 13 18, 24 28, 31	S. Monomoy, Eastham Scituate, N. Monomoy P.I., Salisbury	20, 35 7, 11 13, 21	B. Nikula, K. Jones G. d'Entremont#, H. Ferguson# K. Disney, R. Forster#	
Pectoral Sandpiper 1-24, 3 3-11; 8, 15 12, 18; 28	Arlington Res., Squantum Cumb. Farms; N. Monomoy S. Monomoy; Wayland	10 max, 7 13; 50, 25 20, 6; 7	L. Taylor, J. Young S. Arena; B. Nikula B. Nikula; K. Hamilton	
Dunlin 3, 10 18, 22 27, 28	Arlington Res., Barnstable (S.N.) Scituate, Dennis P.I., N. Monomoy	1, 250 100, 350 652, 1200	L. Taylor#, H. Ferguson G. d'Entremont#, K. Hamilton W. Drew#, B. Nikula	
Stilt Sandpiper 12, 18	Ipswich, P.I.	1, 1	S. Perkins, W. Petersen#	
Ruff 15	N. Monomoy	1 juv	B. Nikula	
Short-billed Dowitcher 12	Newburyport	1 juv	S. Perkins	
Long-billed Dowitcher thr, 18	P.I., Scituate	70 max, 1	v. o., G. d'Entremont	
Common Snipe 3, 11 12, 16 18, 25	Salisbury, Cumb. Farms Arlington Res., MNWS Truro, Concord (N.A.C.)	1, 4 1, 1 1, 2	M. Lynch#, S. Arena M. Rines, T. Aversa M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont#	
American Woodcock 7, 12 20 24, 30	P.I., Provincetown Boston, Sandwich Medford, Medfield	1, 2 1, 2 2, 3	T. Young, R. Fox# K. Hudson, P. Trimble P. Roberts, T. Aversa	
Red Phalarope 12	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
phalarope species 19	Nantucket	1	N. Brooks	
Pomarine Jaeger 8	Stellwagen Bank	1	W. Petersen#	
Laughing Gull 15, 18 22, 25	Lynn, Westport Dennis, Wellfleet	1, 22 325, 50+	J. Quigley, R. Stymeist# K. Hamilton, B. Nikula	
Common Black-headed Gull 30, 31	Winthrop, Salisbury	1, 1	T. Cameron, BBC (S. Bolton)	
Bonaparte's Gull 12, 24	Newburyport, Lynn	450, 500	S. Perkins, J. Quigley	
Lesser Black-backed Gull thr, 8-17 8; 12, 18	Lynn, N. Monomoy Brookline; S. Monomoy	1 ad, 2 max 1 ad; 2, 1	v. o., B. Nikula W. Petersen; B. Nikula	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCT. 1992
Lesser Black-backed Gull (continued)				
18	M. V., Nantucket	1, 1 ad	V. Laux, S. Perkins	
26, 29	Wellfleet, P'town (R.P.)	1 ad, 2 ad	K. Jones	
Black-legged Kittiwake				
6, 22	Stellwagen Bank, Dennis	5, 85	N. Nash, K. Hamilton	
25	Rockport (A.P.)	4	J. Berry	
Caspian Tern				
5, 12	Squantum, Truro	2, 1	T. Cameron#, M. Lynch#	
Common Tern				
8, 10	N. Monomoy, Barnstable	600, 200	B. Nikula, H. Ferguson	
17; 17, 31	Nantucket; Eastham	150; 50, 29	S. Perkins; K. Jones	
18, 22	Truro, Dennis	150, 250	M. Lynch#, K. Hamilton	
Forster's Tern				
8, 12	N. Monomoy, Newburyport	15, 1	B. Nikula, S. Perkins#	
17, 18	Eastham (F.E.), Westport	3, 15	K. Jones, R. Stymeist#	
tern species				
17	Eastham (F.E.)	350+	K. Jones	
Razorbill				
6	Provincetown (R.P.)	5	K. Jones#	
Barn Owl				
3	Newburyport	1	v. o.	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
3, 11	Waltham, Brookline	2, 2	R. Stymeist	
	Reports of individuals from 8 locations.			
Great Horned Owl				
thr, 2	Ipswich, Wayland	3 max, 2	J. Berry#, J. Hoye#	
7, 10	P.I., N. Middleboro	1, 3	T. Young, K. Holmes	
13, 22	Milton, IRWS	1, 1	S. Arena, J. MacDougall	
Snowy Owl				
27	Boston (Logan airport)	1	N. Smith	
Barred Owl				
9, 11	MNWS, Boxford	1, 1	L. Pivacek, J. MacDougall	
Long-eared Owl				
10, 31	Topsfield, Ipswich	1, 1	J. MacDougall, I. Giriunas	
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
27	P.I.	1	N. Clafin	
Common Nighthawk				
9	Brookline	1	O. Komar	
Belted Kingfisher				
10, 18	Wachusett Res., Truro	3, 3	M. Lynch#	
Red-headed Woodpecker				
2, 12	Maynard, Chatham	1 imm, 1 ad	L. Nachtrab, P. Bailey#	
19-31, 20	Mansfield, Petersham	1 imm, 1 imm	P. Burke, J. Baird	
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
4, 18	Dover, West Newton	1, 1	M. Murphy	
18, 27	Marshfield, Foxboro	1 m, 1	G. d'Entremont#, B. Cassie	
28, 30-31	Chatham, Braintree	1, 1	B. Nikula, R. Campbell	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
1; 3	Gay Head, Chilmark; P.I.	1, 1; 3	R. Stymeist#; H. Wiggin#	
4	Squantum, Quabbin (G40)	1, 2	G. d'Entremont, BBC (M. Lynch)	
6, 12	MNWS, Orleans	1, 1	I. Lynch, M. Lynch#	
12, 17	E. Gloucester, Essex	1, 1	S. Perkins, T. Young	
Hairy Woodpecker				
thr	Worcester (BMB), Boxford	2, 4 max	M. Lynch#, J. Brown#	
4, 18	Quabbin (G40), Ipswich	3, 2	BBC (M. Lynch), BBC (J. Nove)	
Northern Flicker				
thr, 2	Worcester (BMB), Gay Head	19 max 10/2, 25	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
Pileated Woodpecker				
4, 22	Quabbin (G40), Concord	1, 1	BBC (M. Lynch), J. Locke	
30	IRWS	1	J. MacDougall	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Unlike last October, this month had very few surprises in the passerine group. Highlights included a **Sedge Wren** in Lincoln, a **Yellow-throated Warbler** on Nantucket, and a **Le Conte's Sparrow** in Sandwich. A Hermit Warbler was reported from Martha's Vineyard on the 20th. This report merits mention since it is only the second sighting in Massachusetts and the first report in the fall. The species is an extreme vagrant anywhere in eastern North America, and the sighting awaits validation by the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee.

Good warbler movements were reported on the first weekend of the month, while the end of the month

DATE LOCATION NUMBER OBSERVERS OCT. 1992

produced large numbers of migrating American Robins and Snow Buntings. Late migrants included an Eastern Kingbird in Ipswich, a Wood Thrush and 5 Solitary Vireos on Nantucket, a Bay-breasted Warbler in Peabody, and a Hooded Warbler in Marblehead.

Eastern Phoebes were reported in excellent numbers. Twenty-six species of warblers were reported during the month with good numbers of Nashville, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Yellow-rumped, and Blackpoll warblers early in the month.

Highlights among the field birds were at least 13 Blue Grosbeaks and 18 Dickcissels, over half of which were reported on October 12. Sparrow reports included 6 Clay-colored, 3 Lark, and 6 Grasshopper sparrows. Lincoln's, White-crowned, and Fox sparrows were also well represented from many areas. R. H. S.

Eastern Wood-Pewee

1, 2 Gay Head, Worcester (BMB) 3, 1 V. Laux#, M. Lynch#
4 Cambridge (F.P.) 1 R. Stymeist#

Least Flycatcher
2 Gay Head 1 R. Stymeist#

Eastern Phoebe
1-27 Worcester (BMB) 13 max 10/2 M. Lynch#
1-24 Belmont 24 max 10/3 R. Stymeist#
2 Quincy, M. V. 12, 9 R. Abrams, V. Laux#
3, 4 SRV, Squantum 6, 6 R. Forster, G. d'Entremont
4 Peabody, Quabbin (G40) 8, 21 M. Rines, BBC (M. Lynch)
4, 18 Framingham, Nahant 5, 3 K. Hamilton, R. Forster
18, 25 Westport, Lincoln 18, 1 R. Stymeist#, R. Abrams#
30 W. Boylston 1 R. Bradbury

Western Kingbird
12; 20-26, 31 Gay Head; Nantucket 1; 1, 2 V. Laux#; J. Papale

Eastern Kingbird (details submitted)
18 Ipswich (Town Farm) 1 J. Berry, T. Young

Horned Lark
21, 31 Nantucket, P.I. 7, 30 J. Papale, BBC (S. Bolton)

Tree Swallow
5, 18 Barnstable (S.N.), Nantucket 2000+, 50 K. Jones#, S. Perkins
18 Scituate, DWWS 15, 45 G. d'Entremont#

Cliff Swallow
2, 6 Chappaquiddick, N. Truro 2, 1 V. Laux, K. Jones#

Barn Swallow
5, 7 Barnstable (S.N.), Rochester 1, 1 K. Jones, M. Sylvia

Blue Jay
3, 12 Belmont, E. Gloucester 60+, 125 migr R. Stymeist, S. Perkins
18 Westport, Ipswich 85, 50+ M. Rines#, J. Berry#

Fish Crow
24 Braintree (S. Shore Plaza) 75 G. d'Entremont

Common Raven
15 Harvard 2 R. Walton

Red-breasted Nuthatch
4, 18 Quabbin (G40), N. Truro 42, 5 BBC (M. Lynch), M. Lynch#
29 Yarmouthport 8 K. Hamilton

Brown Creeper
4 Waltham, Squantum 1, 2 L. Taylor, G. d'Entremont
17, 19 P.I., Nantucket 1, 2 T. Young, J. Papale

Carolina Wren
thr, 1-2 Wellesley, Gay Head-Chilmark 4 max, 35 R. Forster, R. Stymeist#
12, 13 Nantucket, Brookline 7, 3 J. Papale#, H. Wiggin#
18 Westport, S. Dartmouth 12, 8 R. Stymeist#

House Wren
2, 3 Worcester (BMB), Belmont 4, 5 M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist
8, 20 Topsfield, Wellesley 1, 2 J. Brown#, R. Forster

Winter Wren
4 Waltham, Quabbin (G40) 2, 1 L. Taylor, BBC (M. Lynch)
5; 16, 20 P.I.; MNWS, Boston (F.Pk) 3; 3, 4 T. Young; T. Aversa
Reports of single individuals from 8 locations.

Sedge Wren
4 Lincoln 1 BBC (J. Nove)

Marsh Wren
24, 25 Eastham (F.H.), GMNWR 3, 2 S. Arena, G. d'Entremont#

Golden-crowned Kinglet
2, 5 Gay Head, P.I. 25, 50+ R. Stymeist#, T. Young
18, 19 Marshfield, Nantucket 50, 90 G. d'Entremont#, J. Papale
31 Salisbury-P.I., Clinton 25, 25 R. Forster#, M. Lynch#

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCT. 1992
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
1, 4	Gay Head, Waltham	8, 15	R. Stymeist#, L. Taylor	
4, 6	Quabbin (G40), Worc. (BMB)	37, 22	M. Lynch#	
18, 19	Nahant, Nantucket	12, 20	R. Forster, J. Papale	
Reports of 4-10 individuals from many locations.				
Eastern Bluebird				
thr, 9	Worcester (BMB), Norfolk	2-8, 25	M. Lynch#, B. Cassie	
23, 24	Concord, Medford	9, 22	N. Claffin, P. Roberts	
24, 27	Millis, Holliston	9, 11	T. Aversa, C. Jurewicz	
Gray-cheeked Thrush				
1, 3	Chilmark, Belmont	1, 1	V. Laux#, R. Stymeist	
Swainson's Thrush				
1, 2	Chilmark, Wellesley	1, 3	R. Stymeist, R. Forster	
4, 10	Quabbin (G40), P.I.	1, 2	BBC (M. Lynch), M. Rines	
Hermit Thrush				
thr	Worcester (BMB), Waltham	8 max, 9 max	M. Lynch#, L. Taylor	
5, 16	P.I., MNWS	5, 7	T. Young, T. Aversa	
18	Ipswich, Nahant	9, 8	J. Berry#, R. Forster#	
23, 27	Boston (F.Pk), Mt. A.	6, 6	T. Aversa, D. Arvidson	
Wood Thrush				
16, 20	MNWS, Nantucket	1, 1	T. Aversa, J. Papale	
American Robin				
20, 27	Wayland, Wellesley	800, 606	K. Hamilton, R. Forster	
27, 29	Essex, Wellesley	150+, 426	T. Young, R. Forster	
Gray Catbird				
1-23, 1	BMB, Gay Head-Chilmark	11 max, 100	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist	
12, 18	E. Gloucester, Truro	14, 6	S. Perkins, M. Lynch#	
20, 31	N. Middleboro, P.I.	4, 4	K. Holmes, R. Forster#	
Northern Mockingbird				
14, 17	Squantum, Peabody	25, 11	R. Abrams, I. Lynch	
Brown Thrasher				
12, 18	E. Gloucester, Truro	1, 2	S. Perkins, M. Lynch#	
19, 27	N. Dartmouth, Worc. (BMB)	1, 1	M. Boucher, M. Lynch#	
31	P.I.	1	R. Forster#	
American Pipit				
3-24, 10	Arlington Res., Wachusett Res.	15 max, 20+	v. o., M. Lynch#	
16, 17	Westboro, Nantucket	60, 20	C. Quinlan, S. Perkins	
18, 25	Uxbridge, Concord (N.A.C.)	50+, 75	R. Bradbury, G. d'Entremont	
26, 30	Martha's Vineyard, P.I.	25, 50	V. Laux, R. Heil	
Reports of 5-15 individuals from many locations.				
Cedar Waxwing				
thr, 4	BMB, Quabbin (G40)	18 max, 45	M. Lynch#, BBC (M. Lynch)	
12, 25	Truro, N. Dartmouth	50+, 35	M. Lynch#, M. Boucher	
25, 28	Wellesley, Westwood	20, 12	R. Forster, D. Case	
Solitary Vireo				
2; 3	BMB; Belmont, Cambridge	4; 2, 2	M. Lynch#; R. Stymeist	
4	Waltham, Quabbin (G40)	5, 5	L. Taylor, BBC (M. Lynch)	
16	MNWS, P.I.	2, 1	T. Aversa, BBC (C. Floyd)	
18, 27	Ipswich, Nantucket	1, 5	J. Berry#, N. Brooks	
Philadelphia Vireo (details submitted)				
7	P.I.	1	T. Young	
Red-eyed Vireo				
12	E. Gloucester, Waltham	2, 1	S. Perkins, L. Taylor	
12, 16	Nantucket, MNWS	2, 1	N. Brooks, T. Aversa	
18	S. Dartmouth, Truro	2, 2	M. Rines#, M. Lynch#	
Tennessee Warbler				
1, 4	Chilmark, Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	V. Laux#, BBC (M. Lynch)	
6, 16	Worcester (BMB), MNWS	1, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Orange-crowned Warbler				
12, 18	P.I., Scituate	1, 2+	T. Gagnon, G. d'Entremont#	
18	M. V., S. Dartmouth	1, 1	V. Laux, R. Stymeist#	
23, 24	Worcester (BMB), Medford	1, 1	M. Lynch#, P. Roberts	
29	Harwich	1	K. Hamilton	
Nashville Warbler				
2, 4	Gay Head-Chilmark, Lincoln	4, 3	R. Stymeist#, BBC (J. Nove)	
15, 16	Arlington Res., S. Peabody	1, 1	M. Rines, T. Aversa	
3-16	Reports of single individuals from 8 locations.			
23	Worcester (BMB), Boston	1, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Northern Parula				
2	Gay Head, Worcester (BMB)	1, 6	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
5, 14	P.I., Worcester (BMB)	2, 1	T. Young, M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCT. 1992
Yellow Warbler				
5	P.I.	1	T. Young	
Magnolia Warbler				
1, 2	Gay Head, Wellesley	3, 2	R. Stymeist#, R. Forster	
2, 5	Worcester (BMB), P.I.	2, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Young	
Cape May Warbler				
16, 17	Nantucket, Truro	2, 1	J. Papale, T. Aversa#	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
4, 5	Waltham, Wenham	3, 2	L. Taylor, N. Nash	
22, 27	Yarmouthport, Mt. A.	1, 1	K. Hamilton, D. Arvidson	
1-17	Reports of single individuals from 12 locations.			
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
2, 4	Quincy, Nantucket	400+, 122 (55 b)	R. Abrams, E. Andrews	
5, 10	P.I., N. Truro	125, 200	T. Young, J. Hoye#	
18, 27	Westport, Mt. A.	175, 500+	R. Stymeist#, D. Arvidson	
	Reports of many good-sized flocks throughout the area.			
Black-throated Green Warbler				
1	Gay Head, Cambridge (F.P.)	4, 5	R. Stymeist#, D. Flood	
2	Chilmark, Worcester (BMB)	6, 14	M. Rines#, M. Lynch#	
4	Squantum, Waltham	3, 5	G. d'Entremont, L. Taylor	
11, 18	Malden, Truro	1, 1	P. + F. Vale, M. Lynch#	
Hermit Warbler (details submitted)				
20	Gay Head	1	G. Daniels	
Blackburnian Warbler				
2, 12	Worcester (BMB), Nantucket	1, 1	M. Lynch#, N. Brooks	
Yellow-throated Warbler (details submitted)				
19	Nantucket	1	N. Brooks	
Pine Warbler				
3, 4	P.I., Quabbin (G40)	3, 4	BBC (D. Dillavou), BBC (M. Lynch)	
Prairie Warbler				
2, 5	Gay Head, Wenham	5, 1	R. Stymeist#, N. Nash	
12, 18	Beverly, Westport	1, 1	J. Brown, M. Rines#	
Palm Warbler				
2, 3	Gay Head-Chilmark, Belmont	17, 6	M. Rines#, R. Stymeist	
4, 6	Quabbin (G40), Worc. (BMB)	35, 15	M. Lynch#	
15, 18	Wayland, Sandwich	11, 22	S. Arena, P. Trimble	
22, 27	Beverly, Nantucket	4, 6	J. Brown#, N. Brooks	
Bay-breasted Warbler				
5, 18	P.I., Peabody	1, 1	M. Argue# + v. o., R. Forster	
Blackpoll Warbler				
2, 3	Worcester (BMB), Belmont	36, 17	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist	
4	Quabbin (G40), Wellesey	16, 7	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
18	S. Dartmouth, Westport	2, 2	M. Rines#, R. Stymeist#	
18, 24	Brookfield, Wayland	1, 1	R. Bradbury, T. Aversa	
Black-and-white Warbler				
1, 4	Chilmark, Lincoln	2, 1	R. Stymeist#, BBC (J. Nove)	
6	MNWS	2	I. Lynch	
American Redstart				
3, 16	Belmont, MNWS	4, 1	R. Stymeist#, T. Aversa	
17, 18	P.I., Nahant	1, 1	BBC (C. Floyd), R. Forster	
Ovenbird				
3, 11	Arlington, Brookline	1, 1	M. Rines, R. Stymeist	
Northern Waterthrush				
4, 10	Lincoln, Newton	1, 1	BBC (J. Nove), O. Komar	
Mourning Warbler				
15	Wellesley	1	R. Forster	
Common Yellowthroat				
2	Gay Head, Worcester (BMB)	19, 12	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
15, 18	Sandwich, Westport	6, 8	P. Trimble, R. Stymeist#	
Wilson's Warbler				
14, 23	Salisbury, Boston	1, 1	J. Hoye#, T. Aversa	
Hooded Warbler				
4	MNWS	1 m	L. Pivacek	
Yellow-breasted Chat				
2, 12	Gay Head	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, V. Laux#	
18	Lexington, Nantucket	1, 1	C. Floyd, S. Perkins	
Scarlet Tanager				
2, 14	Wellesley, M. V.	1, 1	R. Forster, V. Laux	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
3, 12; 4	Belmont; Medford	3, 1; 1	R. Stymeist; M. Rines	

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Blue Grosbeak				
4, 4-18	Lexington, N. Truro	1, 1+	C. Floyd#, R. Timberlake + v. o.	
6, 10-14	Harwich, Belmont	1, 1	K. Hamilton, R. Stymeist + v. o.	
10-17, 12	Newton, Woburn	1 or 2, 1	M. Murphy + v. o., L. Taylor	
12, 15-20	Boston, Sandwich	1, 1	R. Stymeist, P. Trimble	
17, 18	Nantucket, M. V.	3, 1	S. Perkins, V. Laux	
Indigo Bunting				
3	Lexington, Belmont	2, 8	M. Rines, R. Stymeist	
6, 12	Sandwich, N. Truro	10, 2	P. Trimble, M. Lynch#	
19, 20	Nantucket, P.I.	1, 1	J. Papale, K. Disney	
Dickcissel				
thr, 4	Sandwich, Wellesley	2, 1	P. Trimble, R. Forster	
6, 6-9	Provincetown, Nantucket	1, 1	K. Jones#, B. Vigneau#	
11-12, 11	Lexington, Malden	1, 1	D. F. Oliver#, P. + F. Vale	
12	Belmont, Boston; Gay Head	1, 1; 3	R. Stymeist#; C. Floyd#	
12, 12-30	Eastham, Truro	1, 1	K. Jones, v. o.	
12	Chatham, S. Monomoy	1, 1	B. Nikula	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
2	Gay Head-Chilmark	53	R. Stymeist#	
14, 18	Worcester (BMB), Truro	7, 10	M. Lynch#	
American Tree Sparrow				
24, 27	Medfield, Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 1	T. Aversa, M. Rines	
31	Lakeville, Salisbury-P.I.	5, 7	W. Petersen#, R. Forster#	
Chipping Sparrow				
7, 12	N. Dartmouth, Lexington	24, 15	M. Boucher, L. Taylor#	
15, 19	Newton, Waltham	40, 75	T. Aversa, E. Taylor	
Clay-colored Sparrow				
1-3, 2	Dorchester, Belmont	1, 1	R. Donovan, L. Taylor	
4-18, 12-24	Truro, P.I.	1+, 1+	R. Timberlake + v. o., T. Gagnon + v. o.	
16-18, 17	S. Peabody, Salisbury	1+, 1	T. Aversa#, R. Stymeist	
Field Sparrow				
6, 14	Worcester (BMB), Squantum	8, 6	M. Lynch#, R. Abrams	
18, 19	Westport, Nantucket	9, 20+	R. Stymeist#, J. Papale	
Vesper Sparrow				
4, 9	Framingham, Wayland	2, 1	K. Hamilton, S. Arena	
10, 16	Provincetown, Clinton	1, 2	J. Hoye#, R. Bradbury	
17, 18	Rochester, Sandwich	1, 8	M. Sylvia, P. Trimble	
18	Nahant, Nantucket	1, 1	R. Forster, S. Perkins#	
26	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	M. Boucher	
Lark Sparrow				
4-12, 11	Belmont, Newbury	1, 1	L. Taylor + v. o., H. Wiggin#	
30-31	Marion	1	P. Cutler	
Savannah Sparrow				
thr, 4	Sandwich, Framingham	60 max 10/18, 35	P. Trimble, K. Hamilton	
14, 15	P.I., Wayland	20, 65	J. Hoye#, S. Arena	
"Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow				
27	Nantucket	1	N. Brooks	
Grasshopper Sparrow				
2-13, 2	Wayland, Chilmark	1, 1	S. Arena, V. Laux#	
15-24, 16	Sandwich, S. Peabody	1 or 2, 1	P. Trimble, T. Aversa	
23	Boston (Forest Hills Cem.)	1	T. Aversa	
Le Conte's Sparrow (details submitted)				
6, 20	Sandwich	1	P. Trimble	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
3; 6-9	Salisbury, P.I.; Worc. (BMB)	30+, 5; 1	M. Lynch#; R. Bradbury	
8, 20, 29	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2, 4, 2	LCES (J. Hill)	
12	Newbury	20	S. Perkins	
Seaside Sparrow				
10, 25	P.I., Hyannis	2+, 1	M. Rines, P. Trimble	
Fox Sparrow				
6, 10	Gay Head, W. Roxbury	2, 1	V. Laux, T. Aversa	
14, 23	Squantum, Boston	1, 1	R. Abrams, T. Aversa	
25	Wellesley, Wayland	1, 1	R. Forster, M. Rines	
25, 30	Belmont, Watertown	1, 1	L. Taylor, R. Stymeist	
30	Marion, Framingham	2, 1	P. Cutler, K. Hamilton	
30; 31	Medford; Brighton, Cambridge	1; 3, 6	M. Rines; R. Stymeist	
Song Sparrow				
3, 4	Belmont, Quabbin (G40)	85, 56	R. Stymeist, BBC (M. Lynch)	
6, 18	Sandwich, Ipswich	90, 150+	P. Trimble, J. Berry#	
Lincoln's Sparrow				
1-23, 2-12	Worc. (BMB), Belmont	3 max, 7 max	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist	
3, 4	SRV, Cambridge (F.P.)	3, 2	R. Forster, R. Stymeist	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCT. 1992
Lincoln's Sparrow (continued)				
11	Wayland, Athol	4, 10	K. Hamilton#, J. Johnstone	
15; 18	Newton, Ipswich; M. V.	4, 4; 6	T. Aversa, J. Berry#; V. Laux	
Reports of single individuals from 14 locations.				
Swamp Sparrow				
3, 11	Belmont, Cumb. Farms	35, 40	R. Stymeist, S. Arena	
11	Athol, GMNWR	70, 30+	J. Johnstone, M. Lynch#	
18	DWWS, Ipswich	35, 50+	G. d'Entremont, J. Berry#	
White-throated Sparrow				
3, 4	Belmont, Squantum	58, 50	R. Stymeist#, G. d'Entremont	
18	Truro, Ipswich	85, 42	M. Lynch#, BBC (J. Nove)	
23, 27	Worcester (BMB), Nantucket	50, 50	M. Lynch#, N. Brooks	
White-crowned Sparrow				
2-23, 3-25	Worc. (BMB), Belmont	2 max, 7 max	M. Lynch#, L. Taylor + v. o.	
3	Lexington, Framingham	5, 4	L. Taylor, R. Forster	
10-18, 16	Truro, S. Peabody	13 max, 13	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
17, 18	Nantucket, Ipswich	15, 24	S. Perkins, J. Berry#	
18	Westport, E. Gloucester	10, 10	R. Stymeist#, C. Leahy	
Reports of 1-5 individuals from many locations.				
Dark-eyed Junco				
4, 7	Squantum, P.I.	50, 30	G. d'Entremont, T. Young	
18	Ipswich, Peabody	30+, 40	J. Berry, R. Forster#	
19	Nantucket	200	J. Papale	
Lapland Longspur				
8, 12, 24	N. Monomoy	7, 9, 6	B. Nikula + v. o.	
12, 13	Provincetown, Eastham	1, 3	M. Lynch#, K. Jones	
17, 18	Barnstable (S.N.), Scituate	10, 5	H. Ferguson, G. d'Entremont#	
31	Salisbury, P.I.	3, 2	R. Forster#	
Snow Bunting				
6, 24	Gay Head, Eastham	40, 1	V. Laux, K. Jones	
27	Boston (Logan), Norfolk	1000, 40+	N. Smith, B. Cassie	
31	Reports of 85 individuals from 6 locations.			
Bobolink				
12, 14	M. V., E. Middleboro	14, 1	V. Laux, T. Aversa	
18	Ipswich, Westport	1, 1	J. Berry#, R. Stymeist#	
Red-winged Blackbird				
16, 18	Essex, Ipswich	300+, 200+	T. Young, J. Berry#	
24, 25	Waltham, Concord	200, 500+	L. Taylor, G. d'Entremont#	
Eastern Meadowlark				
1, 16	Marlboro, S. Peabody	5, 4	R. Graefe, T. Aversa	
18, 19	Truro, Nantucket	9, 7	M. Lynch#, J. Papale	
Rusty Blackbird				
7, 9	ONWR, Norfolk	5, 12	R. Bradbury, B. Cassie#	
12	Lexington, Provincetown	15+, 10	M. Rines, R. Fox#	
18, 28	Westport, Westwood	10, 5	R. Stymeist#, D. Case	
Common Grackle				
2, 12	Ipswich, Wellfleet	150, 200	T. Young, M. Lynch#	
18	Hanover, Truro	250+, 400+	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
24, 27	Waltham, Worcester (BMB)	1100+, 435	L. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
11, 18	W. Bridgewater, Westport	150+, 600+	S. Arena, R. Stymeist#	
Northern Oriole				
15	Wellesley, N. Dartmouth	1, 1	R. Forster, M. Boucher	
19, 31	Nantucket, P.I.	1, 1	J. Papale, R. Forster	
Purple Finch				
12, 23	Truro, Worcester (BMB)	1, 4	J. Young, M. Lynch#	
25, 31	Concord, Nantucket	3, 1	G. d'Entremont, J. Papale	
Pine Siskin				
11	Nantucket	1	J. Papale	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

ABOUT THE COVER: THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS

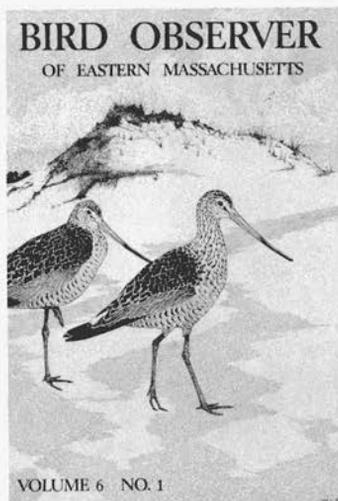


Twenty years ago the first issue of *Bird Observer* (then *Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts*) appeared with a black-and-white cover featuring two stylistic Sanderlings. The inspiration and artwork were from Paula Butler, a graduate of the Museum School of Boston's Museum of Fine Arts and *Bird Observer's* first editor. Her idea was to have a striking cover that would catch people's attention and get them to pick up a copy of the publication. This cover was used for the first five years of *Bird Observer*.

Beginning with Volume 6, Number 1, a new cover featured two Hudsonian

Godwits. These fine birds were hunted to near extinction by market gunners and have been slowly recovering since they received legal protection early in this century. This cover was chosen in a competition in which a dozen designs were considered. The artist was Margaret La Farge, a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. This lovely picture graced the cover of *Bird Observer* for nine years.

In 1986 the winds of change were gusting about *Bird Observer*. A Computer Committee was fast implementing the conversion to modern desktop publishing, and a Cover Art Committee was meeting to see whether a new approach to cover art—a different cover with each issue—was feasible. Changing the name of the publication to reflect a more cosmopolitan audience was actively considered. All of these changes appeared in the first issue of 1987. Typewritten copy gave way to right-justified margins and Times Roman print; the title was shortened to *Bird Observer*; and Scott Hecker's Great Horned Owl became the first of the new series of covers.





Cover by Rick Frey



Cover by Robert Shetterly



Cover by Scott Hecker

The cover of this twentieth anniversary issue is the thirty-seventh in the series and is a collage of eleven covers representing the work of the eleven artists who have contributed all of *Bird Observer's* cover art. Since switching to a different cover for each issue, we have tried to choose subjects that match the season of the issue and that represent a broad spectrum of bird families. The illustrations have generally been representational, although we broke with this tradition somewhat with the wraparound Great Horned Owl cover of the December 1992 issue. With the exception of the Great Horned Owl (two covers) and the Peregrine Falcon (three covers), a different species has graced the cover of each issue. Shorebirds have been well represented (four covers), as have owls (three species). Waterfowl and gamebirds, gulls and terns, thrushes, blackbirds, and herons and seabirds have been featured on two covers; finches on three; and "dicky birds," including a hummingbird, sparrow, vireo, nuthatch, two warblers, and two wrens on a dozen covers.

The eleven artists who have contributed covers to *Bird Observer* remain active in the art world, and most continue to contribute either cover art or artwork that enlivens *Bird Observer's* text. Paula Butler spends most of the year in Puerto Rico, where she has largely shifted from doing bird art on plates and other ceramics to landscapes in watercolor. Margaret La Farge has illustrated a number of books, including George Gaylord Simpson's *Penguins: Past and Present*, and Roger Pasquier's *Watching Birds: An Introduction to Ornithology*. Rick Frey of Oklahoma continues as an artist specializing in birds. The Black-capped Vireo, his sole contribution so far to *Bird Observer* cover art, accompanied a where-to-find-birds article on Concan,

Texas, where this rare species breeds. Robert Shetterly, whose work frequently appears in magazines and books, has also contributed a single cover, field studies of Peregrine Falcons. Scott Hecker and William (Ted) Davis have each contributed two covers. Scott, whose collage cover is an Eastern Screech Owl, is currently coordinator for the Coastal Breeding Bird Program for the Massachusetts Audubon Society and an active artist. Ted, *Bird Observer's* department head for cover art, contributed the Great Blue Heron silhouette. Julie Zickafoose, whose Song Sparrow cover is among her three covers, has done



Cover by Ted Davis

many covers for *Bird Watcher's Digest*. John Sill's Evening Grosbeak was originally published in the *Bird Identification Calendar* by Stephen Greene Press. The second of his five covers came from his *A Field Guide to Little-Known and Seldom-Seen Birds of North America* and featured several make-believe species of "Yellowlegs." Gordon Morrison, whose eiders are one of his six covers, has recently published a series, "Birds in the Garden," in *Horticulture Magazine* and did the illustrations for the forthcoming *A Field Guide to Ecology of Western Forests*, authored by John Kricher. Paul Donahue continues to paint birds in the winter in Maine (where he often sees Common Redpolls, his collage cover) and spends most of the year in Peru working for International Expeditions, Inc., at the Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research. Barry Van Dusen provided the Cox's Sandpiper cover, along with eight others. He continues to be a successful independent artist, with recent displays in the international show, "Birds in Art," at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin.



Cover by Gordon Morrison



Cover by Julie Zickafoose



Cover by Paul Donahue



Cover by John Sill



Cover by Barry Van Dusen

We hope that our readers will agree that in the case of *Bird Observer*, you can "judge a book (journal) by its cover," and that the verdict is a positive one.

W. E. D., Jr.

STAFF ROLL CALL: GATHERING THE FLOCK _____

Since its inception in 1973 *Bird Observer* has been produced entirely by volunteer staff. In addition, all articles and artwork are donated by the authors and artists. We list below, in alphabetical order, all individuals who have appeared on *Bird Observer's* masthead and their ever-changing and sometimes repeating roles, as shown on the masthead, vis-à-vis *Bird Observer* or its parent organization, Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc. (in 1992 *Bird Observer* showed for the first time the organization's Board of Directors). *Bird Observer* owes its existence to those listed below.

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AT A GLANCE *December 1992* _____ *Wayne R. Petersen*

December's At A Glance photograph provides two views of the same species. Since it is clear from the slender pointed bill that the mystery bird is a warbler, the two angles of the species' head are especially useful in making an identification because nearly all warblers are identifiable by their head and facial patterns alone. The most outstanding features of the mystery birds are their prominent facial stripes, dark through and below the eyes and light above the eyes. In addition, the pictured warbler shows distinct pale crescents below the eyes, along with dark side streaks and at least one pale wing bar. Also, the tail is relatively long when compared to certain other warbler species.

Although the true coloring of the mystery warbler cannot be appreciated in the photograph, the supercilium, suborbital crescents, and the underparts are actually bright yellow. When this bright yellow coloration is seen in conjunction with the previously mentioned facial patterns and black side streaks, the pictured birds can only be Prairie Warblers (*Dendroica discolor*).

Besides their brilliant yellow plumage, Prairie Warblers characteristically wag their tails, which are extensively white on the terminal outer corners. Their ascending buzzy song is a frequently heard summer sound along powerline cuts and in pine barren areas.



Photo by Ralph E. Lawrence

Courtesy of MAS

AT A GLANCE



Can you identify these birds? Identification will be discussed in the next issue. Photos by S. Perkins (upper right), W. Ervin (lower right), and W. Petersen (left). Courtesy of MAS.

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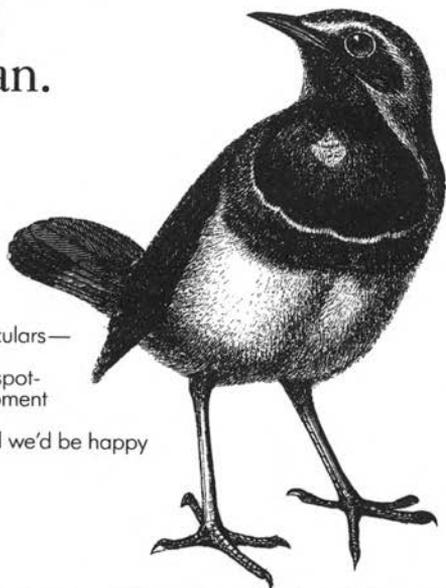
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