

BIRD OBSERVER



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BIRD OBSERVER

• a bimonthly journal •

To enhance understanding, observation,
and enjoyment of birds.

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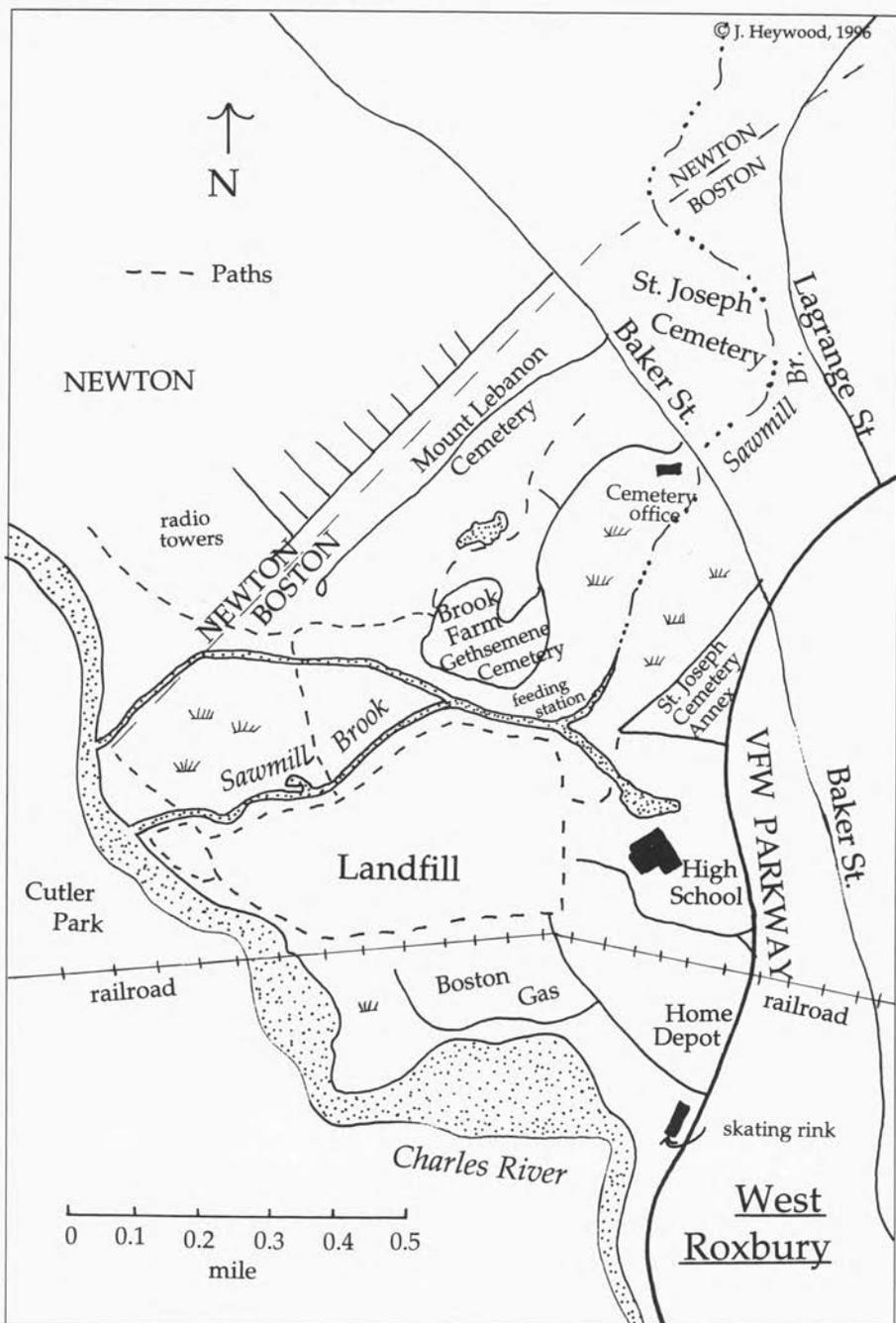
CONTENTS

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----|
| WEST ROXBURY: BIRDING ON THE EDGE IN BOSTON | Thomas Aversa | 292 |
| CHRISTMAS COUNT OWLING | Brian Cassie | 301 |
| NOTES ON THE RESPONSE OF SMALL BIRDS TO THE PRESENCE OF A COOPER'S HAWK AT WINTER BIRD FEEDERS | William E. Davis, Jr. | 304 |
| MIDDLESEX FELLS RESERVATION REVISITED . . . | Paul Donahue | 307 |
| BOOK REVIEW: <i>Stellwagen Bank: A Guide to the Whales, Sea Birds, and Marine Life of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary</i> by Nathalie Ward | Simon Perkins | 310 |
| TIDE TABLE, 1997 | Centerfold | |
| BIRD SIGHTINGS: July 1996 SUMMARY | | 313 |
| BIRD SIGHTINGS: August 1996 SUMMARY | | 320 |
| INDEX TO VOLUME 24, 1996 | | 329 |
| ABOUT THE COVER: Short-eared Owl | W. E. Davis, Jr. | 331 |
| ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Julie Zickefoose | M. Steele | 333 |
| AT A GLANCE | Wayne R. Petersen | 333 |
| Cover Illustration: Short-eared Owl by Julie Zickefoose | | |

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WEST ROXBURY: BIRDING ON THE EDGE IN BOSTON

by Thomas Aversa

West Roxbury, the southwestern corner of Boston, contains a large tract of open space along the city's western edge. The area is roughly delineated by the VFW Parkway to the east, the Charles River to the south, the Newton border to the west, and Baker Street to the north. The region includes the Gethsemene, Mount Lebanon, and Saint Joseph's cemeteries; the old city landfill and its surrounding upland and wooded wetland; and extensive marshlands adjacent to the Charles River. This habitat abuts acreage that includes Cutler Park across the river in Needham and Dedham and red maple wetlands extending into Newton. The combined area provides over 2000 acres of habitat for birds and wildlife. This article furnishes information on birding the diverse and productive areas in West Roxbury.

West Roxbury provides good year-round birding. However, late fall and winter are probably the most productive times to explore the area. The Charles River and Sawmill Brook act as corridors that are used by both migrant and resident species. Open water allows many half-hardy species to linger after their normal departure dates and in some cases survive the winter. Habitat variety is a definite factor influencing the numbers of birds found here. The capped Boston landfill provides open scrub grassland that meets red maple swamp across Sawmill Brook. Marshland extends all along the river. Unfortunately, phragmites and purple loosestrife have encroached upon the cattails, making most of the marsh too dry to support a diversity of wetland species. Cattails still lay claim to the wetter portions of the marsh, however, and these provide the best habitat.

Birding at seasons other than fall and winter can also be good, if not occasionally spectacular. Migrants, particularly in fall, can often be found in great numbers when the right meteorological conditions occur. In addition, several uncommon breeding species, along with various postbreeding dispersers, make summer birding here a worthwhile venture.

Brook Farm Historic Site

This 179-acre site, acquired by the Massachusetts District Commission (MDC) in 1988, completely encompasses Gethsemene Cemetery. It includes some of the best habitat in the area, and is readily accessible from Baker Street, located off the VFW Parkway. Note that the gate is usually opened around 7:30 AM and closed shortly before dark.

Brook Farm has a long and varied history. It is known primarily for the utopian transcendental community that was founded here in 1841. George and Sophia Ripley initially bought the dairy farm which was to become the

community made famous by its connection to renowned nineteenth century intellectuals such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, and Nathaniel Hawthorne. In its heyday the cooperative farm comprised 120 members. Several buildings were added before a devastating fire burned a large central residence, then under construction, to the ground. This 1847 financial disaster resulted in the disbanding of the community. The property has also been used as a Civil War training camp, an orphans' home, and a Lutheran school. The cemetery, founded in 1873, now includes the building known as the Print Shop, which was built around 1890. It currently stands just inside the cemetery entrance and will soon be taken over and restored by the MDC. The last reminder of the utopia, the Margaret Fuller Cottage, was regrettably torched by vandals in 1984.

Gethsemene Cemetery has long been a popular spot with local birders. A feeding station has been maintained there for thirty-five years by local bird enthusiast Paul Brenner. You will see his bird seed on a large rock at the southeast corner of the cemetery, where a windbreak is formed by mixed coniferous trees, at the edge of the marsh. All the usual feeder birds can be found here, including marauding Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks. Less common feeder visitors include Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Bobwhite, and Field and Fox sparrows. Rusty Blackbirds have wintered almost every year since 1987, when a flock of at least twenty-five were present. The sixty-foot conifers at this edge have harbored roosting Long-eared and Barn owls, and other conifers around the cemetery have held Northern Saw-whet, Great Horned, and Barred owls. An Eastern Screech-Owl can often be seen roosting in the hole of an apple tree on the south side of the cemetery entrance road, across from the old brick bunker.

The cemetery area can be checked fairly quickly by a drive through. Strategic brief hikes may also be undertaken. Upon entering the cemetery from Baker Street, check the sluggish Sawmill Brook on the left side of the road for ducks or wading birds, although the brook may be obscured by thick stands of knotweed during the summer months. The more adventurous birder can park at the cemetery office and walk into the marsh. Boots are recommended, but treading carefully is still advised in order to avoid ending up in waist-deep water. This is a prime spot to find wintering waterbirds. Waterfowl, Virginia Rail, and Common Snipe regularly take advantage of the perennially open water. Wintering numbers of Green-winged Teal have occasionally exceeded forty at this spot. Half-hardy passerines such as Winter Wren, Gray Catbird, and Swamp and Fox sparrows also frequent this area in winter.

In addition to the feeding station previously mentioned, the entire cemetery edge can provide good birding. Among the more notable visitors have been a wintering Lark Sparrow in 1992 and a singing Yellow-breasted Chat in June 1995. There is an MDC gate at the southwest corner of the cemetery and a path leading west into a red maple swamp. Several options are available if you

choose to walk this area. Turning right parallels the cemetery and takes one past a marshy pond (good for Wood Ducks) and then to upland areas between Gethsemene and Mount Lebanon cemeteries. Turning left will bring you deeper into the red maple swamp and the river floodplain. These woods can be good for migrating warblers in spring and fall, American Woodcock in early spring, and rarely a Ruffed Grouse. Another fork will eventually be reached. Turning right at this point will soon bring one to the Newton line and additional wooded swamp. The other fork terminates at Sawmill Brook beside the old landfill. From here one may choose to walk the landfill or return to the cemetery on the same trail.

Saint Joseph's Cemetery Annex

After birding Gethsemene Cemetery, drive south on Baker Street toward the VFW Parkway. Just before the parkway, on the right, is the entrance to the Saint Joseph's Cemetery annex. This unimpressive looking piece of land can be surprisingly productive. The open grass and dirt areas regularly hold Killdeer and sparrows. Various raptors, Virginia Rails, and Rusty Blackbirds frequent the marsh edges. The abundant supply of fruiting crab apple trees attracts American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, and occasionally Eastern Bluebirds. The south edge of this cemetery borders West Roxbury High School and an open marsh along the parkway where waterbirds may sometimes be found. Beside the high school a path leading right eventually ends at the landfill. Be aware that the cemetery gate is only open during working hours.

Old City Landfill

The capped landfill and surrounding habitat provide some of the finest birding in West Roxbury. The best way to access the landfill is to return to Baker Street and turn right on the VFW Parkway. Travel three-quarters of a mile, and take a right at the light before the skating rink. Proceeding straight will bring you to the landfill entrance. Park on either side of the road to ensure that public works trucks using the dump road will have easy access to the road, which is not open to public vehicles.

It is unclear how the future plans of the city of Boston will affect things at this locality. An environmental consulting firm has been hired to assess the value of the landfill as a city park, and there has even been talk of baseball diamonds and a greater overall public works presence. Whether enhancing the area's value for wildlife is a priority remains to be seen. In any case, change is undoubtedly on the horizon.

Finding birds in the dump area generally requires some walking. Fortunately, there is a profusion of roads around and across the landfill. A hike around the entire area cannot be done in much less than one hour. If one chooses to go all the way to the top of the hill, the time needed will be longer. The most

BIRD LIST FOR WEST ROXBURY

KEY: A = Abundant (greater than 20 per trip); C = Common (greater than 1 per trip); F = Fairly common (most trips); U = Uncommon (most years); R = Rare (less than three times)

List based on 134 trips since 1986. Abundance reflects the number of birds observed in the expected season.

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Pied-billed Grebe | R | Spotted Sandpiper | F |
| Double-crested Cormorant | F | Upland Sandpiper | U |
| Great Blue Heron | F | Semipalmated Sandpiper | U |
| Snowy Egret | R | Least Sandpiper | U |
| Green Heron | F | White-rumped Sandpiper | R |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | U | Common Snipe | F |
| Canada Goose | C | American Woodcock | C |
| Wood Duck | C | Ring-billed Gull | C |
| Green-winged Teal | C | Herring Gull | C |
| American Black Duck | C | Great Black-backed Gull | F |
| Mallard | C | Rock Dove | C |
| American Wigeon | R | Mourning Dove | C |
| Ring-necked Duck | U | Black-billed Cuckoo | U |
| Common Goldeneye | U | Yellow-billed Cuckoo | R |
| Bufflehead | U | Common Barn-Owl | R |
| Hooded Merganser | F | Eastern Screech-Owl | F |
| Common Merganser | F | Great Horned Owl | U |
| Red-breasted Merganser | U | Barred Owl | R |
| Turkey Vulture | R | Long-eared Owl | U |
| Osprey | U | Northern Saw-whet Owl | R |
| Northern Harrier | F | Common Nighthawk | F |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | F | Chimney Swift | F |
| Cooper's Hawk | F | Belted Kingfisher | F |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | F | Red-bellied Woodpecker | R |
| Broad-winged Hawk | R | Downy Woodpecker | C |
| Red-tailed Hawk | C | Hairy Woodpecker | F |
| American Kestrel | C | Northern Flicker | C |
| Merlin | U | Eastern Wood-Pewee | U |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | C | Alder Flycatcher | R |
| Ruffed Grouse | R | Willow Flycatcher | F |
| Northern Bobwhite | C | Least Flycatcher | R |
| Virginia Rail | F | Eastern Phoebe | F |
| Sora | R | Great-crested Flycatcher | U |
| Common Moorhen | R | Eastern Kingbird | F |
| Semipalmated Plover | R | Horned Lark | U |
| Killdeer | C | Tree Swallow | F |
| Greater Yellowlegs | R | No. Rough-winged Swallow | F |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| Bank Swallow | R | Palm Warbler | F |
| Barn Swallow | F | Blackpoll Warbler | F |
| Blue Jay | C | Black and White Warbler | F |
| American Crow | A | American Redstart | F |
| Fish Crow | F | Worm-eating Warbler | R |
| Black-capped Chickadee | C | Ovenbird | R |
| Tufted Titmouse | C | Northern Waterthrush | F |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | C | Mourning Warbler | R |
| Brown Creeper | U | Common Yellowthroat | A |
| Carolina Wren | U | Wilson's Warbler | U |
| House Wren | F | Canada Warbler | U |
| Winter Wren | U | Yellow-breasted Chat | U |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | U | Scarlet Tanager | U |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | U | Northern Cardinal | C |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | R | Rose-breasted Grosbeak | F |
| Eastern Bluebird | U | Indigo Bunting | C |
| Veery | R | Dickcissel | U |
| Swainson's Thrush | R | Eastern Towhee | U |
| Hermit Thrush | R | American Tree Sparrow | A |
| Wood Thrush | U | Chipping Sparrow | F |
| American Robin | A | Vesper Sparrow | U |
| Gray Catbird | A | Lark Sparrow | R |
| Northern Mockingbird | C | Savannah Sparrow | C |
| Brown Thrasher | C | Fox Sparrow | F |
| American Pipit | U | Song Sparrow | A |
| Cedar Waxwing | C | Lincoln's Sparrow | U |
| Northern Shrike | U | Swamp Sparrow | C |
| European Starling | A | White-throated Sparrow | C |
| Solitary Vireo | U | White-crowned Sparrow | U |
| Warbling Vireo | C | Dark-eyed Junco | C |
| Philadelphia Vireo | R | Snow Bunting | F |
| Red-eyed Vireo | U | Bobolink | U |
| Blue-winged Warbler | R | Red-winged Blackbird | A |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | U | Eastern Meadowlark | F |
| Nashville Warbler | F | Rusty Blackbird | C |
| Northern Parula | U | Common Grackle | A |
| Yellow Warbler | A | Brown-headed Cowbird | C |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | R | Orchard Oriole | U |
| Magnolia Warbler | U | Northern Oriole | C |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | U | Purple Finch | F |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | C | House Finch | C |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | F | Common Redpoll | R |
| Blackburnian Warbler | R | American Goldfinch | A |
| Pine Warbler | U | House Sparrow | C |
| Prairie Warbler | R | | |

productive areas are reached by proceeding hard right along the fence that separates the landfill from the high school athletic fields. Field and Savannah sparrows are year-round residents in this area. Eventually the road turns west along Sawmill Brook. During migration this waterway is the best bet for passerine activity. Both cuckoo species frequent this area, and the Black-billed Cuckoo nests. The wetlands across the brook have held a wintering Red-shouldered Hawk for several years.

Farther along is a gravel bed in the stream, and from here to the Charles River the brook seldom, if ever, freezes. Wintering Hooded Merganser and Green-winged Teal occur here sporadically. Flickers, hundreds of American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Purple Finches, and American Goldfinches use the munificence of crab apple and bittersweet as a winter food source. Other interesting finds along the brook have included American Bittern, Sora, Common Moorhen, Common Snipe, and Orange-crowned Warbler, all during fall migration. During the breeding season in spring and summer, Wood Duck and Green Heron are common sights.

Just before the river, the road ends at a T. Turning right crosses the brook and ends at the river, which is about 200 yards away. The scrubby habitat on the left and the marsh on the right make this short diversion worthwhile. Northern Harriers are often found hunting the marsh, the most notable sighting being in July 1992. Ubiquitous Red-tailed Hawks feed on the profusion of cottontails that are found throughout the area. Merlins, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks, and Northern Shrikes are also found here regularly at the appropriate seasons. Most remarkable have been spring records of Yellow-breasted Chat in 1991 and 1994. In 1994 a chat was observed in courtship flight.

Retracing your steps, and before reaching the T, take a side road to the right that goes along the brook to where it enters the Charles River. Walk south along the river toward the railroad tracks. A weedy area here can be very productive for songbirds, as well as providing a wonderful view of the Charles River. Orange-crowned and Nashville warblers have lingered here into November. During winter the river remains open at the railroad bridge, and as a result waterfowl can often be found. In drought years mudflats here may attract a variety of shorebirds, and rarely a Snowy Egret.

At this point, you can decide whether to return directly to your vehicle by taking the road that parallels the railroad tracks or to spend more time birding the top of the landfill. By climbing to the top of a century's worth of Boston's refuse, the hardy explorer is presented with a panoramic view of the city. The scrubby grassland atop the landfill is being taken over by phragmites and cottonwood, but it still provides habitat for several notable species. Upland Sandpipers occur almost annually from mid-July to August, and there is at least one spring record. Other grassland birds such as Dickcissel, Vesper and Savannah sparrows, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark have also been found,

primarily as fall migrants. Several times the meadowlarks and Savannah Sparrows have been year-round residents. American Kestrels nest every year in the light towers behind the high school, feeding primarily on the abundant supply of grasshoppers in the adjacent fields. The sparse areas on the west end of the landfill are most productive for grassland birds including American Pipit, Horned Lark, and Snow Bunting. This can also be a fine spot to watch American Woodcocks in the spring or migrating Common Nighthawks in the fall.

The birds are certainly not the only attraction in the West Roxbury area. The region's many paths also provide an array of hiking and cross-country skiing possibilities. Many mammals are also regularly found here. As the white-tailed deer population has exploded in recent years, coyotes have become more frequent. As these large canids have increased, their smaller cousins, the red foxes, have seemingly become less numerous. Rumors about the presence of fishers have circulated but so far remain unconfirmed. Beginning in spring, herps in the area also provide a treat for the inquisitive naturalist. Yellow and blue-spotted salamanders breed in the many vernal pools along the river's floodplain, and red efts, the land stage of the red-spotted newt, and spotted turtles have also been found. Both of these latter species are uncommon in eastern Massachusetts. No doubt an enterprising herpetologist could turn up additional surprises.

Although this article highlights some of the best birding spots in West Roxbury, it is likely that intensive exploration would turn up additional bird species around other cemetery edges or anywhere along the Charles River and its wetlands.

THOMAS AVERSA, born and bred in West Roxbury, has recently relocated to Seattle, Washington, to take a position at the Woodland Park Zoo after twelve years of working at Franklin Park. One of the things he will miss most in Boston is birding West Roxbury. He hopes that this article might stimulate some local birders to further explore the area. Tom would like to thank Cheryl Frederick and Wayne Petersen for reviewing an earlier version of this article.

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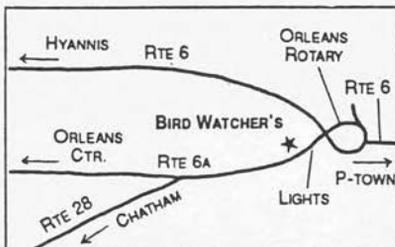
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CHRISTMAS COUNT OWLING

by Brian Cassie

Back in 1974, before I had ever heard an Eastern Screech-Owl, I was on the Greater Boston Christmas Bird Count (CBC) with Mike Curtis, and we thought it would be worthwhile to try to find an owl. It was maybe 5:30 AM, and neither of us had the slightest idea of where to look and listen for owls. I remember opening up a Peterson guide and reading that screech-owls give a mournful whinny, so I tried whinnying in a mournful sort of way. Mike thought I was losing my mind, but somewhere out in the Lexington or Waltham woods an owl answered, eventually. It was the highlight of the day, at least for me.

Twenty-two years and many CBCs later, the whinnying of Eastern Screech-Owls and the hooting and tooting of other owl species are still always the most satisfying moments on a count. I have learned a few things about owl calling since that first CBC episode, and some of them, I think, may help you in your owling.

First, hope that the night is calm. Trying to hear owls is frustrating on a windy night, and, if truth be told, I spend as little time as possible owling on windy evenings, even on CBCs.

Second, try to find a low-density traffic area. Where I live, in Foxboro, we have the mixed blessing of being surrounded on all sides by highways. If I have to get anywhere, I can be on Route 95, 495, or 1 in a matter of minutes. On the other hand, if I want to listen for owls, I have to do it somewhere besides Foxboro. All night long, trucks are whistling, droning, and humming along these highways, and the sound is a real distraction when listening for owls. Most CBCs have lots of areas suitable for owling. Ask the compiler if there are areas where no one is going out to look for owls. Chances are very good there will be.

Next, if there is an opportunity, scout the territory beforehand. In a few hours, you can mark your map with many likely owl spots. What are you looking for during your scouting trip? Generally, woodlands, meadows, or some combination of the two with no houses in close proximity to the road. You are out there to call in owls, not to wake people or their dogs. This is important.

Different species of owls have different habitat preferences, of course, and you will want to try to find a variety of owls. Here are a few takes on the most common owls in eastern Massachusetts.

Eastern Screech-Owl. I am convinced that this owl is as common as all other southeastern Massachusetts birds-of-prey combined. Look for it especially in deciduous woodlands. The most productive woods are not too dense (easy to see through at night), with thirty-to fifty-foot trees. It is usually easy to find screech-owls if you have patience, not the patience of Job, just the patience to give the owl or owls the chance to appear at their own schedule. Screech-owls

almost always have to be called to. They very seldom are calling when you emerge from your vehicle. I highly recommend learning to imitate this owl's call. Tape recorders are a drag, especially fumbling with them in the cold and dark. I usually call for about twenty seconds or so, listen for thirty or forty seconds, and repeat this until an owl responds. Eastern Screech-Owls often fly in quite close to the owl caller without making a sound. Scores of times I have seen these birds land on a branch over my head or across the street, never having called once. For this reason, you should always look around all the time you are out owling. When an owl does respond to your calls, try to "talk" to it, using the same inflection and spacing it does while calling. This is fun, and I think it brings the owl into view more quickly. Before long, you will realize that screech-owls have a lot more than just two calls. Do not call too loudly, especially once the owl is responding to you. And please do not keep up the whistling for too long at one spot. Winter is a tough season for owls, and you do not want to keep them from their hunting duties.

Great Horned Owl. This is the second most common owl in my experience, at least in the eastern part of the state. Getting this owl on your CBC list is also easy. Great Horned Owls start hooting all by themselves a couple of hours before dawn and keep it up until first light. Familiarize yourself with their very deep hooting, and just listen every time you get out of the car. More often than not, two will be calling, male and female on different pitches. These birds are seldom calling close to a road and often from the depths of a distant stand of white pines. You do not have much chance of seeing Great Horned Owls during predawn hours. If you really want to see one, mark down the locations of calling birds on your map, and look over the trees during daylight hours.

Barred Owl. After the above two species, all other eastern Massachusetts owls are relatively hard to find. Big woods, deciduous or mixed, are the places to hoot for Barred Owls, which usually have to be hooted in, although they will occasionally start calling with no prompting in December. If you are in an area that traditionally has Barred Owls, be persistent. When they finally start calling, you can be in for some spectacular hooting. Very often more than one will call, so again listen carefully.

Saw-whet Owl. These owls are just as cute at night as during the day and finding one on a CBC is a thrill. Every Saw-whet Owl I have found at night in Massachusetts was calling without prompting. I have yet to get one going from a "cold start," but I keep trying. The call is easy to learn and imitate. Even if you cannot get one to answer your calls, you can always listen for one. Like screech-owls, they will often fly in for a close look without vocalizing, as I have experienced in other areas.

Long-eared Owl. These birds are well known for their vocal repertory, which is varied, to say the least. There are a lot of sounds out there at night: chirps, creaks, moans, howls, screeches, and one of them may be a Long-eared

Owl. It is best to study this species' taped calls in advance. If you think you hear one on your owl prow, try to hoot it in, perhaps using its distinctive, short "wooo" call. If you do not have any luck, come back during the day, and check the evergreens. Long-eared Owls can make themselves virtually invisible, even in large pines. Check close to the trunk, all the way up to the crown of the tree.

What sort of success rate can you expect? If the night is calm and you get into the field early, you should be able to find a goodly number of owls. I try for Eastern Screech-Owls at virtually every stop and occasionally whistle or hoot for the other owls, depending on the location and how cold my toes are growing. Over the last decade, I have found CBC owls at the rate of one for every eight minutes in the field, including driving time. On two CBCs in December 1995 our groups found thirty-one Eastern Screech-Owls, eighteen Great Horned Owls, two Barred Owls, and one Long-eared Owl in six hours and forty minutes of nocturnal "watching" (plus one Short-eared Owl being mobbed by crows in mid-morning). That is one owl every 7.7 minutes, about average.

BRIAN CASSIE is in search of his 2000th owl! Brian is a writer and natural history consultant. He lives with his family in Foxboro.

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NOTES ON THE RESPONSE OF SMALL BIRDS TO THE PRESENCE OF A COOPER'S HAWK AT WINTER BIRD FEEDERS

by William E. Davis, Jr.

On December 12, 1995, at 9:50 AM, at my home in Foxboro, I noticed small birds flying in all directions away from my bird-feeding stations. On closer inspection I observed a female, subadult Cooper's Hawk on the ground under a forsythia bush, subduing a European Starling it had just caught. The hawk was present at the feeders for more than five hours. It fed continuously on the starling until 11:20 after which, for twenty-five minutes, it stood quietly on top of the remains. It recommenced feeding, and from 11:45 to 1:50 it intermittently fed on the starling. The hawk moved to a perch about eighteen inches above the kill at 1:50 and was still perched there at 2:55, when observation was interrupted. The bird was gone at 3:30.

This field note describes my observations of birds which came into the feeders (Figure 1) during the five hours that the hawk was present and, for most of the time, was actively feeding on the starling and was highly visible.

All birds had left the vicinity of the feeders after the initial intrusion (except the starling). After approximately twenty minutes birds began to return to the feeders and adjacent ground, and I recorded ten Dark-eyed Juncos; one male and one female Northern Cardinal; and one each of Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and American Tree, Song, and White-throated sparrows at this time. These birds foraged in a normal manner, mostly on the ground, and gave no obvious indication that they were aware of the feeding hawk except that the cardinals had fully erect crests throughout, and no birds foraged under the umbrella of the forsythia bush (Figure 1).

At 10:15 a chickadee perched in the forsythia within four feet of the feeding hawk. I have previously observed that chickadees are among the first birds to return to bird feeders when an accipiter is present, and I have observed chickadees making close approaches to feeding or perching hawks. This is surprising because, although they may be too small to be a major prey item for accipiters, they may be taken if the opportunity arises (John Fuller pers. comm.). Susan Smith (pers. comm.) suggested that the chickadees that closely approached the hawk were probably young, naive birds.

At 12:04 three Blue Jays made a brief appearance. Blue Jays are perhaps the most wary of the passerines that frequent the feeders. They are usually present throughout the day but made very infrequent appearances during the hawk's stay at the forsythia. At 12:20 four House Sparrows flew into the top of the forsythia within four feet of the hawk and watched it, but left without foraging. House Sparrows were not present in normal numbers during the hawk's visit. At 12:04 a female Red-bellied Woodpecker foraged at the hanging wild bird feeder and

showed no obvious concern for the hawk's presence.

A census from 1:45-1:55 tallied twenty-seven juncos, sixteen Mourning Doves, one Blue Jay, one chickadee, two female and one male cardinal, and one each of House, Tree, Song, and White-throated sparrows. These birds foraged in a normal manner, mostly on the ground, but stayed outside the umbrella of the forsythia and the number four feeder. Mourning Doves foraged on feeders number three and six, twelve feet from the feeding hawk. At 2:43 four House Finches joined other foraging birds.

The hawk, while perching above the kill, watched the foraging birds. It bent its head back to watch a junco that landed four feet above it in the forsythia, and turned its head to watch a Mourning Dove, which lit eight feet from it in the adjoining lilac (Figure 1). At no time during observation did it attack a second bird. The hawk's leisurely feeding pattern and the fact that it left parts of the starling carcass intact (wing bones connected to the wishbone) or uneaten (both legs) suggests that it may have been well fed. Cooper's Hawks can eat a starling-size prey in a few minutes and may eat legs and feet (pers. obser.).

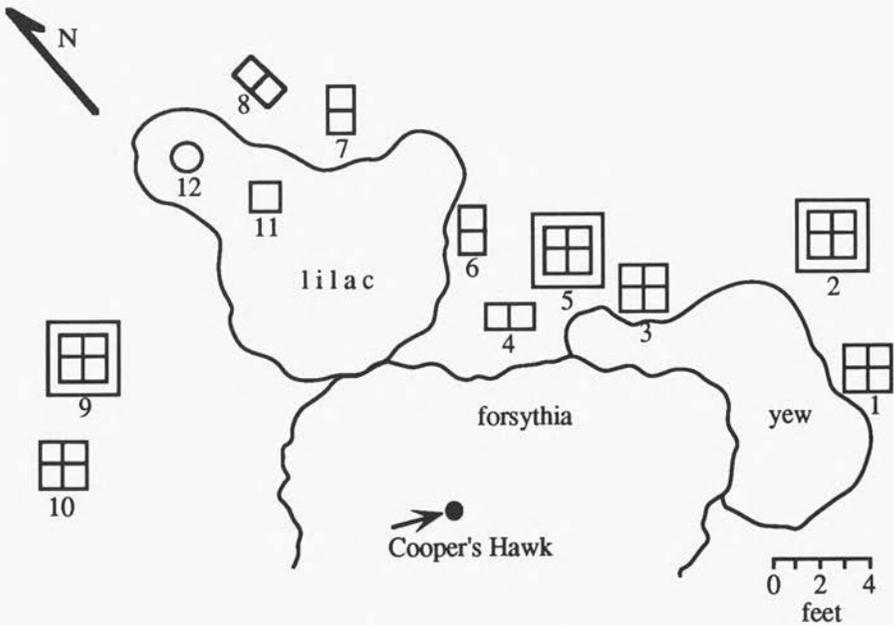


FIGURE 1. Figure 1 shows the locations of the feeders on the ground (#s 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 10), the platform feeders (four feet above the ground) (#s 2, 5, 9), and the two hanging feeders (#11 wildbird food, #12 sunflower seed). The platform and ground feeders are two or four-cell Potter traps used for capturing birds for banding. Wild bird seed was concentrated in the trap feeders but was also scattered on the ground throughout the area.

The birds using the feeders, except for jays and House Sparrows, appeared to forage in a normal way, even when the hawk was actively dismembering the starling. In experiments with well-fed and "sharp set" (hungry) captive Red-tailed Hawks, Frances Hamerstrom found that small passerines can distinguish between well-fed and hungry hawks, as evidenced by a substantially greater mobbing response to hungry hawks (Hamerstrom 1957). She also found that the presence of a hawk does not guarantee a mobbing reaction (there was no mobbing of the Cooper's Hawk at my feeders). Hamerstrom's experience also indicated that hawks on low perches (as was the case with the hawk at my feeders) elicited far less mobbing. The combination of the Cooper's Hawk being well fed and on the ground or a low perch may have signaled relative safety to the foraging birds, although no bird foraged within eight feet of the hawk. When I returned to see whether the hawk was still present at 3:30 I could tell at a glance that the hawk was gone. Juncos and other birds were foraging under the forsythia umbrella within two feet of where the hawk had been. That no birds foraged under the umbrella while the hawk was present strongly suggests that they were continually aware of its presence.

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WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR., contributes frequently to *Bird Observer*. He is professor of science at the College of General Studies at Boston University.

MIDDLESEX FELLS RESERVATION REVISITED

by Paul Donahue

I grew up in Winchester, Massachusetts. Fortunately for me, my family lived only a block or two from the west boundary of the Middlesex Fells Reservation, and it was there, in the 1960s, where I first began birding. Throughout my early birding years, up through high school and for several years afterward, I spent thousands of hours walking the reservation's many miles of trails in search of birds. During spring and fall migration, I would be in the Fells birding before school, after school, and on weekends and holidays. I came to know the woods, ponds, swamps, streams, and trails of the Middlesex Fells better than I have known any area since. Steve Everett was my close birding companion during my high school years and lived along the southwest boundary of the reservation near the "army camp," the best spot in the Fells for finding migrant landbirds. The Fells was like our own private birding reserve. I can still vividly recall our first discoveries there of "great rarities" such as Little Blue Heron, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, and Cerulean Warbler. As, I suppose, is normal, since moving away from the area I have spent much time reminiscing about my early birding experiences in the Fells.

This past May, after a hiatus of twenty years or so, I returned to the Middlesex Fells to see how the area had changed in my absence. It is always dangerous to return to places of one's youth, with changes for the worse being almost inevitable. However, I figured I would be safe in visiting the Fells. It was still a state reservation, and I knew it would not have been converted into a housing development or shopping plaza, the fate of so many of my past birding haunts. I parked by the army camp, in a new paved parking area along South Border Road, and headed on foot down the gravel road to the west.

The army camp had been an area of young second growth, a low hilltop covered with thickets of staghorn sumac, grassy openings, and lots of young gray birch. I had imagined that it would have changed considerably in twenty years, with the open, grassy areas filling in and the rest of the area growing up to young woodland. However, while it had grown up a little, the change was not nearly as dramatic as I had anticipated. The thickets of the army camp were a bit more extensive than I remembered, but the trees were still not very tall, and plenty of more or less open grassy areas remained. Perhaps the army camp had been the victim of several fires or perhaps I have just spent too much time in the Amazon, where a grassy field can evolve into a forty-foot-high young forest in only ten years.

I then continued west down the woods road. The area to the west of the army camp used to be covered with some of the tallest and richest woods in the reservation, an area where we had encountered Pileated Woodpeckers and

Kentucky Warblers. I remembered the woods here as looking very good twenty years ago, with many large trees, and was looking forward to seeing how much better they looked after twenty years more of undisturbed growth. But as I walked down the road, I was struck by the large number of dead and dying trees. The area did not look better than it did twenty years ago—it looked worse, much worse. Everywhere I looked were completely dead trees, trees with dead limbs sticking out of the crown, or trees with sparse and scraggly vegetation on their uppermost branches. All around were openings where trees had apparently fallen. Most of the dead and dying trees were green ash, which are known to be having problems throughout the region. When I reached up for a small leafy branch of a young ash for a closer look, it broke off easily in my hand, as brittle as an icicle. Many of the large black oaks looked less than healthy as well, and some of the large white pines in that area had broken off two-thirds of the way up their trunks. The scene reminded me of recent photographs I have seen of the once great forests of eastern Europe.

If green ash was the only species of tree suffering a decline in eastern North America, maybe it would be acceptable to simply blame the cause on some pathogen and dismiss the problem as unfortunate but unavoidable. But green ash is not the only species at risk. As I sit here writing in Machias, Maine, I can look out over the tops of numerous dying sugar maples, their crowns enveloped at the moment in acid fog. Throughout the Machias area, every sugar maple shows signs of slowly dying from the top down, and the species is doing poorly in the northeast region as a whole. White pines in the Machias area seem to have lost some of their strength. Every time a strong wind blows around here now, several more large trees snap off.

Other examples of tree death and disease are easy to find. At higher elevations in the mountains across northern New England, red spruce has been particularly hard hit by acid rain, and lower down on the same slopes the mountain and striped maples are suffering. Moving south and west, eastern and Carolina hemlocks in southern New England and the central Appalachians have been badly damaged by the hemlock woolly adelgid. Flowering dogwood is suffering as the result of anthracose fungus and butternut as the result of a canker. American beech in the Adirondacks is being heavily attacked by a scale insect. Fraser fir in the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina are suffering heavy mortality due to the balsam woolly adelgid. Red and white oaks, black locust, and hickories in West Virginia are dying of unknown causes. These are only some of the examples.

We can choose to view all these examples of dying trees as isolated cases, each caused by a specific insect or fungus or bacteria or virus or whatever. Or, more accurately, we can look on these pathogens as representing only the proximate causes of death, and consider forest decline and tree death across eastern North America for the pandemic that it is. Our industrial society with its

attendant air pollution is slowly killing our forests, as it has the forests of eastern Europe. We have all read about the effects of acid rain and ozone and other pollutants on our forests. But it is important to remember that these problems are no longer limited to the peaks of the Green Mountains in Vermont or of the Great Smoky Mountains in North Carolina. Pollutants have weakened and stressed trees throughout the eastern half of the continent, making them more susceptible to attack by pathogens.

So how long are we going to accept this transformation of our forests before we make changes in our own lifestyles and speak up to demand that the necessary changes be made in our society? We, as people interested in birds, have more at stake than many people in our society. Canadian biologists have discovered that the defoliation of the crowns of sugar maples has decreased the abundance of birds that rely on the canopy for food and shelter. In the Great Smoky Mountains the dying of the Fraser fir is having a considerable effect on bird populations. Bicknell's Thrush habitat on mountain tops across northern New England is suffering severe diebacks. Are these the trends we want for our future, or is it time to rise up en masse to let our legislators know what we want? If nothing is done and business as usual is allowed to continue, what is a young naturalist growing up near the Middlesex Fells Reservation today going to find when he or she returns to the area for a visit another twenty years from now?

PAUL DONAHUE is a regular contributor of cover art to *Bird Observer*.

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BOOK REVIEW: *Stellwagen Bank: A Guide to the Whales, Sea Birds, and Marine Life of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary*

by Simon Perkins

Stellwagen Bank: A Guide to the Whales, Sea Birds, and Marine Life of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary by Nathalie Ward, Down East Books, 1995.

In 1992 the U.S. Congress designated Stellwagen Bank and the waters immediately surrounding it as the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. For a vast majority of human visitors, this new sanctuary means one thing: whales. The thousands of curious tourists who, each year, board the fleets of whalewatch vessels bound for the Bank return to the dock satisfied, yet largely oblivious to the existence of all but the leviathans. This is not the fault of the very capable onboard naturalists. They would need weeks or months to adequately describe the riot of life in the waters over Stellwagen Bank. It would take an entire college course or one book—this book.

Nathalie Ward of the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown has produced a dense, highly informative volume that is at the same time very readable and visually attractive. She accomplishes this, in part, by combining concise scientific information with lighter narrative written by various other Stellwagen Bank authorities. Indeed, this book was written by a host of authors, too many to name and all chosen by Ward, the primary author and project editor, to represent and describe their respective areas of expertise and interests.

Ward explains in the preface that this book tells more than the biological story of Stellwagen Bank. "We wanted to create a book that described how marine life and people used the Bank, a habitat guide." The inclusion of narrative by the other writers not only provides pertinent information from authoritative sources but also offers the reader a measure of balance and an opportunity to read between the lines—to gain insights into the attitudes and lifestyles of the many different types of people for whom the Bank is a source of sustenance. In this regard, the chapter titled "Fish and Fishermen" is especially effective in describing the troubled world of modern commercial, marine fishermen. They are given a voice in the poignant words of Frank Mirarchi, a Scituate fisherman: ". . . when I think of the future, my satisfaction falters. I'm certainly not the first person to live from the sea; I don't want to be one of the last."

The early chapters of the book describe such subjects as the Bank's "discovery" in 1858 by Captain Henry Stellwagen, its geology, and its oceanographic character. We learn that the Bank is a submarine plateau, submerged beneath roughly 100 feet of water, that extends for roughly twenty miles in a line between Cape Cod and Cape Ann. Ocean currents deflected

vertically by the contours create strong upwellings from deeper, surrounding waters, and nutrients transported within these upwellings into the upper, sunlit layers of water provide ideal gardenlike conditions for an abundance of free-floating plants called phytoplankton. These plants form the base of a rich food pyramid that includes, to name a few, zooplankton (microscopic animals that eat the phytoplankton), shellfish, finfish, jellyfish, turtles, birds, whales, and humans. Some of the more conspicuous inhabitants, such as the larger fish, birds, seals, and, of course, whales, porpoises, and dolphins are described in detail in later chapters. The final chapter includes discussions concerning the future of the Bank and its conservation.

The task of producing a multiauthor volume often presents daunting editorial challenges, but in this case, whatever differences in literary style that might have existed among the many contributing writers were all but eliminated.

The layout in this book is rather complex and, in some places, slightly confusing. For example, narrative is occasionally split between noncontiguous pages by separate essays or information boxes, and the reader is left to search for the remaining text (e.g., page 39 to 42). The addition of "continued on page xx" notations might have alleviated this minor problem. Also, the authors' names and their affiliations are given in the margins next to their essays rather than following the title of the essay. A reader could thus begin a new section without noticing the change in authorship, and knowing something about the background of the writer is half the fun. All unlabeled text is written by Ward herself.

This 232-page paperback is not quite pocket-sized. A more compact design might have been more convenient for anyone wishing to carry it with him (for instance, on board a whalewatch vessel). On the other hand, the handsome full-page or double-page illustrations with accompanying text (e.g., pages 96-97) might have suffered within the spacial constraints of a smaller format. More than 200 photographs and illustrations adorn its pages. Some of the photographs are particularly outstanding, such as Richard Harbison's images of marine invertebrates (e.g., pages 52-53). Paul Murray's shot of a giant blue-finned tuna in hot aerial pursuit of a bluefish (page 121) is nothing short of spectacular.

Readers looking for bird information will not be disappointed. The ornithological content is ample, with an entire chapter devoted to seabirds. Several local birders made significant contributions to this section. To name a few, Wayne Petersen wrote an essay on seabird distribution and created the seasonality and abundance chart on page 81; Bob Abrams, David Clapp, Blair Nikula, and Peter Trull contributed excellent bird photographs; and many unnamed, behind-the-scenes players (without whose dedication our knowledge of local seabirds would be scant) have logged literally hundreds of hours offshore recording seabird data in Massachusetts waters (and elsewhere).

As editor and author of this excellent new book, Ward has orchestrated a

complex symphony, in which she plays one of the instruments. By carefully arranging the myriad notes that make up the melody and harmony of Stellwagen, she reminds us that the Bank and all systems like it are about much more than whales.

The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary headquarters in Plymouth, Massachusetts, can be reached by calling 508-747-1691. Further information is also available on one or both of the following two home pages on the internet: <http://vineyard.er.usgs.gov> (Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary) or [http://www.provincetown.com/coastal studies](http://www.provincetown.com/coastal%20studies) (Center for Coastal Studies).

SIMON PERKINS is a field ornithologist with the Massachusetts Audubon Society. He is the compiler of the Stellwagen Bank Christmas Bird Count.

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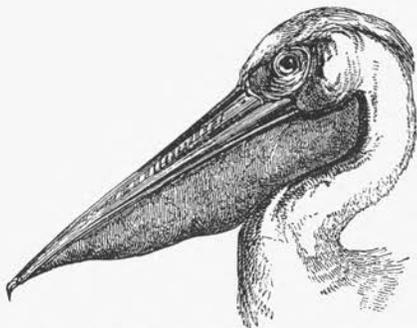
The Nuttall Ornithological Club announces the availability of grants from the Charles Blake Fund. Annual grants will support ornithological research, conservation, and education, with particular emphasis on the birds of New England and the Northeast. The Fund will support grants for research, publication, education, and other worthy ornithology-related efforts. Applicants may request up to \$15,000 for an annual grant. Applications for multiyear projects will be considered. The postmark-date deadline for applications is March 1, 1997. For application guidelines write to the committee chair, H. Christian Floyd, at the address below, or send e-mail to chrif@mitre.org.

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BIRD SIGHTINGS

JULY 1996

SUMMARY



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

Where was summer? July's weather was downright cool, very wet, and cloudy. The temperature at Boston averaged 71.9°, with a high of only 89° on July 8 and 18, and a chilly low of 59° on July 30 and 31. Rainfall totaled 5.22 inches, 2.38 inches more than average and the most in any month since January, with measurable amounts falling on 10 days. The highest daily total was on July 13, the remnants of Hurricane Bertha, the center of which passed east of Boston. Wind damage from Bertha was minimal, with the exception of the loss of a few trees and limbs in local areas.

R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The major non-event of the month was Hurricane Bertha which passed far to the east of Cape Cod after smashing the mid-Atlantic coast and producing a staggering roster of seabird vagrants in Chesapeake Bay. In Massachusetts the storm produced land-based sightings of species otherwise reported primarily from Stellwagen Bank.

Reports were received for Red-throated Loon and Red-necked Grebe, both species scarcely reported during the summer months. For the first time in nearly a decade shearwaters were reported in numbers on Stellwagen Bank. In particular, Sooty Shearwater was very well represented, and there were a few reports of early Cory's Shearwaters. An **American White Pelican** was discovered in South Dartmouth on the 14th, where it was present off and on through the rest of the month. The usual herons were present during the month, and by month's end numerous herons, including several Tricolored Herons, were coming to roost at the south end of Plum Island. One of the most unusual birds of the month was the all white form of the Great Blue Heron, the so-called "**Great White**" Heron, found at Nauset Marsh on July 9 and remaining through the end of the month. This form is resident in southern Florida and previously has wandered as far north as Pennsylvania and Long Island, New York. Least Bitterns were reported only from Plum Island. Duck reports were typical for the summer months, with Common Eider heading the list. A very unseasonal Bufflehead was noted in Newburyport. Raptor reports featured numerous wandering subadult Bald Eagles and the usual midsummer sighting of Cooper's Hawk, presumed breeders. For the third year in a row Merlin was observed in July at Plum Island. Single sightings of Clapper and King rails were made at Plum Island and West Harwich, respectively. The only breeding Common Moorhen and Sora were reported from Plum Island.

The shorebird migration appeared pretty much on schedule and was characterized by no reports of rarities. Most of the larger counts were made late in the month. Species typically noted as very common were Semipalmated Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Whimbrel, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Short-billed Dowitcher, with modest numbers of Hudsonian Godwit. High water levels on the freshwater pools on Plum Island mitigated against significant shorebird concentrations. There was only one report of Long-billed Dowitcher, several Western Sandpipers, and one to two Marbled Godwits in the usual South Beach/North Monomoy location. The only report of Wilson's Phalarope was from Martha's Vineyard, not a usual location for the species.

Summering groups of Bonaparte's Gulls at Lynn and Newburyport often host Little Gull, and this year proved no exception. Lesser Black-backed Gulls, all recognizably different by plumage, had a better-than-average midsummer showing. Reports of Royal Tern were fewer than usual, and a single sighting of **Sandwich Tern** was typical for the season. A dead **Sooty Tern** in Nauset Marsh was clearly storm related. Subadult Arctic Terns were numerous at South Beach in Chatham early in the month, while scattered Forster's Terns were located late in the month when a few Black Terns also appeared.

A **White-winged Dove** in Provincetown continued from June. Cuckoo reports decreased substantially from the previous month. A **Chuck-will's widow** made a surprising, but brief, midsummer appearance at

the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were well reported. Is there a response to the increased presence of hummingbird feeders? The Red-headed Woodpeckers nesting in Sherborn successfully fledged four young.

Far overshadowing any other avian event this month was the presence of a large, dark swift at Chappaquiddick Island on Martha's Vineyard on the morning immediately following Hurricane Bertha. The individual was identified as a **Black Swift** of the West Indian race, a species familiar to one of the observers. The bird was present until dusk, when it roosted for the night, but was not seen subsequently. Fairly decent photographs (considering it was a swift) were obtained and are now being circulated for opinions from knowledgeable sources. This sighting adds a whole new dimension to what can be anticipated from a storm of tropical origins.

R. A. F.

| Date | Location | Number | Observers | Date | Location | Number | Observers |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------|------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Red-throated Loon | | | | 28 | Stellwagen Bk | 11 | R. Lockwood# |
| 18 | N. Monomoy | 2 | E. Pierce | American White Pelican | | | |
| 27 | P.I. | 1 | R. Heil | 14-31 | S. Dart. (A.Pd) | 1 | B. Eliason + v.o. |
| Common Loon | | | | Great Cormorant | | | |
| 3 | Hubbardston | 3 ad | T. Pirrou | 9 | Squibnocket | 2 | V. Laux# |
| 3 | Ashburnham | 4 ad | T. Pirrou | Double-crested Cormorant | | | |
| 3 | Gardner | 2 ad | T. Pirrou | 18 | Boston H. | 650+ | M. Lynch# |
| 7 | Wellfleet | 5 | E. Pierce | Least Bittern | | | |
| 14 | Wachusett Res. | 2 | M. Lynch# | thr | P.I. | 1-3 | v.o. |
| 28 | Gloucester H. | 1 | R. Lockwood# | Great Blue Heron | | | |
| Pied-billed Grebe | | | | 2 | Pepperell | 28 | C. Robbins |
| 7 | P.I. | 1 | R. Lockwood | 6 | GMNWR | 13 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 15 | Provincetown | 1 | E. Pierce | "Great White" Heron | | | |
| Red-necked Grebe | | | | 10-31 | Nauset Marsh | 1 | K. Marty + v.o. |
| thr | E. Gloucester | 2 | J. Soucy | Great Egret | | | |
| 18 | N. Monomoy | 1 | E. Pierce | thr | S. Monomoy | 1 pr n | J. Megyesi# |
| Cory's Shearwater | | | | 21 | Sherborn | 1 | E. Taylor |
| 13 | Chatham | 2 | R. Heil | 22 | N. Monomoy | 7 | B. Nikula# |
| 18 | Stellwagen | 1 | M. Lynch# | 27 | P.I. | 78 | R. Heil |
| 31 | Stellwagen | 1 | R. Donovan | Snowy Egret | | | |
| Greater Shearwater | | | | 14 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 15 | P. + F. Vale |
| 4 | Stellwagen | 400 | C. Floyd | 27 | P.I. | 510 | R. Heil |
| 13 | P'town (R.P.) | 200 | R. Heil | 27 | Squantum | 27 | G. d'Entremont |
| 15 | Cape Cod Bay | 24 | M. LaBossiere | 28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 6 | W. Miller |
| 18 | Stellwagen | 790 | R. Heil | Little Blue Heron | | | |
| Sooty Shearwater | | | | 12 | P.I. | 1 | M. Rines |
| 7 | Stellwagen | 500 | M. Rines# | 27 | Chappaquiddick | 1 | A. Keith |
| 13 | Chatham | 1 | R. Heil | Tricolored Heron | | | |
| 13 | P'town (R.P.) | 150 | R. Heil | 6, 27 | P.I. | 3, 4 | R. Heil |
| 15 | Cape Cod Bay | 12 | M. LaBossiere | 6 | Chatham | 1 | V. Laux# |
| 18 | Stellwagen | 1150 | R. Heil | Green Heron | | | |
| Manx Shearwater | | | | 7 | Wakefield | 4 | P. + F. Vale |
| 8 | P.I. | 3 | BBC (S. Grinley) | 13 | WBWS | 2 | E. Pierce |
| 12 | Stellwagen | 1 | M. Rines# | 14 | Lexington | 2 | M. Rines |
| 13 | P'town (R.P.) | 1 | R. Heil | Glossy Ibis | | | |
| 15 | Cape Cod Bay | 2 | M. LaBossiere | 5 | Marshfield | 3 | D. Clapp |
| 18 | Stellwagen | 3 | R. Heil | 7 | N. Monomoy | 56+ | B. Nikula |
| Shearwater species | | | | 9 | Nauset B. | 60 | E. Pierce |
| 13 | P'town (R.P.) | 800 | R. Heil | 14 | E. Boston | 1 | P. + F. Vale |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel | | | | 27 | P.I. | 93 | R. Heil |
| 1-5 | Gloucester | 20-30 | J. Soucy | 28 | Lincoln (DFWS) | 2 | S. Ells |
| 4 | Stellwagen | 500 | C. Floyd | Brant | | | |
| 5 | Marshfield | 54 | G. d'Entremont | 20 | Boston H. | 2 | BBC (P. Stevens) |
| 8 | P.I. | 5 | S. Grinley | Wood Duck | | | |
| 12 | Stellwagen | 50 | M. Rines# | 4 | Wakefield | 20 | P. + F. Vale |
| 13 | P'town (R.P.) | 400 | R. Heil | 4 | Newbury | 25 | D. Chickering |
| 15 | Cape Cod Bay | 50 | M. LaBossiere | 6 | GMNWR | 34 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 18 | Stellwagen | 1200 | R. Heil | 27 | Wakefield | 21 | P. + F. Vale |
| Leach's Storm-Petrel | | | | Green-winged Teal | | | |
| 25 | S. Yarmouth | 1 | S. Miller | 7, 30 | P.I. | 6,2 | R. Lockwood |
| Northern Gannet | | | | Blue-winged Teal | | | |
| 5 | Marshfield | 1 imm | G. d'Entremont | 4 | Scituate | 1 | D. Clapp |
| 7 | Stellwagen | 15 | M. Rines# | 14 | P.I. | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 9 | Squibnocket | 2 | V. Laux# | Gadwall | | | |
| 27 | P.I. | 1 imm | R. Heil | 27 | P.I. | 33 | R. Heil |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| American Wigeon | | | | 29,30 | Edgartown | 1 ad | J. Verner |
| 28 | P.I. | 3 | W. Petersen# | 30 | Mansfield | 1 | G. d'Entremont |
| Greater Scaup | | | | Northern | Goshawk | | |
| 28 | P.I. | 1 | M. Rines# | 6 | Norfolk | 1 | B. Cassie |
| Common Eider | | | | 17 | Boston H. | 1 | B. Cassie |
| 12 | Provincetown | 25 | E. Pierce | 20 | Westport | 1 | R. Lockwood |
| 18 | Gloucester H. | 52 | R. Heil | Red-shouldered Hawk | | | |
| 18 | Boston H. | 90 | M. Lynch# | 1-25 | Brockton | 1 | G. d'Entremont |
| 28 | Westport | 11 | M. Lynch# | 5 | Rockland | 1 | G. d'Entremont |
| Oldsquaw | | | | Broad-winged Hawk | | | |
| 15 | Marblehead | 1f | R. Buckley | 16 | Chelmsford | 3 | J. Center |
| Black Scoter | | | | 28 | Westport | 1 ad | R. Stymeist# |
| 18 | N. Monomoy | 4 | E. Pierce | Red-tailed Hawk | | | |
| Surf Scoter | | | | 4 | Wakefield | 3 | P. + F. Vale |
| 18 | N. Monomoy | 16 | E. Pierce | 27 | Lynnfield | 1 | P. + F. Vale |
| White-winged Scoter | | | | American Kestrel | | | |
| 18 | N. Monomoy | 5 | E. Pierce | thr | Bedford (Hanscom) | 4 | R. Lockwood |
| Bufflehead | | | | Merlin | | | |
| 6 | Newburyport | 1 | M. Lynch# | 28 | P.I. | 1 | S. Arena# |
| Hooded Merganser | | | | Peregrine Falcon | | | |
| 27 | Petersham | 2 yg | M. Lynch# | 18 | Boston | 1 imm | M. Lynch# |
| Red-breasted Merganser | | | | 28 | S. Dart. (A.Pd) | 1 | G. d'Entremont |
| 6 | Chatham (S.B.) | 2 | V. Laux# | Ruffed Grouse | | | |
| 10 | P.I. | 1 fBBC | (T. Young) | 4 | Pepperell | 1 ad + 3 yg | E. Stromsted |
| 18 | N. Monomoy | 4 | E. Pierce | 7 | Quabog | 1 ad + 4 yg | M. Lynch# |
| 24 | Mt. A. | 1 juv | R. Stymeist | Wild Turkey | | | |
| 28 | N. Monomoy | 4 | W. Miller | 5 | Petersham | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| Turkey Vulture | | | | 6-13 | E. Boxford | 1 | J. Brown# |
| 6 | Boxborough | 2 | R. Lockwood | 27 | New Braintree | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 10 | Sherborn | 1 | E. Taylor | 31 | Wayland | 1 | K. Cavet |
| 14 | Dover | 2 | E. Taylor | Northern Bobwhite | | | |
| 20 | Westport | 1 | R. Lockwood | 7 | Orleans | 4 | R. Stymeist |
| 27 | Lynnfield | 2 | P. + F. Vale | 13 | WBWS | 5 | E. Pierce |
| 29 | Wakefield | 2 | P. + F. Vale | 29 | Rochester | 2 | M. LaBossiere |
| Osprey | | | | Clapper Rail | | | |
| thr | Rowley | pr | J. Berry | 7, 21 | P.I. | 1, 2 | R. Lockwood, M. Lynch# |
| 3 | W. Concord | 1 | R. Forster# | King Rail | | | |
| 5 | Saugus | 1 | J. Berry | 1-17 | W. Harwich | 1 | B. Nikula# |
| 12 | P.I. | 2 | M. Rines | Virginia Rail | | | |
| 18 | Eastham | 3 | E. Pierce | 6 | GMNWR | 3 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 20 | Marion | 2 | R. Lockwood | 14 | Lexington | 4 | M. Rines |
| 21, 28 | Wellesley | 1, 1 | R. Forster | 27 | Wakefield | 1 | P. + F. Vale |
| 28 | Pepperell | pr n | G. Coffey | 29 | P.I. | 1 ad + 2 yg | BBC (C. Floyd) |
| 28 | Westport | 85 | M. Lynch# | Sora | | | |
| 28 | Lynnfield | 1 | M. Rines# | 11 | P.I. | 1 ad + 1 yg | W. Drew# |
| 29 | Lincoln | 1 | R. Forster | Common Moorhen | | | |
| Bald Eagle | | | | 29 | P.I. | 2 ad + 6 yg | BBC (C. Floyd) |
| 5 | Rockport | 1 | J. Soucy | Black-bellied Plover | | | |
| 6 | Quabbin | 1 ad, 2 imm | R. Lockwood | 27 | Newburyport | 60 | R. Heil |
| 10 | P.I. | 1 imm | BBC (T. Young) | Semipalmated Plover | | | |
| 12 | Provincetown | 1 | E. Pierce | 6 | N. Monomoy | 8 | R. Finch |
| 13 | Wellfleet | 1 imm | R. Heil | 6 | P.I. | 1 | P. + F. Vale |
| 20 | Edgartown | 1 imm | V. Laux | 14 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 23 | P. + F. Vale |
| 20 | Lakeville | 3 | S. Kunz | 21 | Scituate | 225 | D. Clapp |
| 28 | P.I. | 2 | B. Zusavich | 27 | N. Monomoy | 400 | B. Nikula |
| 28 | S. Monomoy | 1 | R. Prescott | 27 | Newburyport | 60 | R. Heil |
| 28 | Orleans | 1 imm | S. Thompson | 27 | Squantum | 15 | G. d'Entremont |
| 28 | Chatham | 2 | B. Nikula# | 28 | Revere | 150+ | P. + F. Vale |
| Northern Harrier | | | | 28 | Westport | 57 | M. Lynch# |
| 6 | P.I. | 1 | P. + F. Vale | Piping Plover | | | |
| 10 | N. Monomoy | 2 | E. Pierce | 8 | Fairhaven | 6 | M. LaBossiere |
| 20 | Newbury | 1 | P. + F. Vale | 8 | Eastham | 12 | E. Pierce |
| 29 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 | S. + E. Miller | 14 | M.V. (Norton Pt) | 25 | V. Laux |
| Cooper's Hawk | | | | 17 | P.I. | 3 | M. Rines |
| 6 | Ipswich | 1 ad | J. Berry | 28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 25 | W. Miller |
| 6 | Sudbury | 1 | R. Forster | 28 | S. Dart. (A.Pd) | 6 | G. d'Entremont |
| 7 | Hingham | 1 | W. Petersen | 28 | Westport | 7 | M. Lynch# |
| 8 | Orleans | 1 | W. Petersen | American Oystercatcher | | | |
| 14 | Bourneedale | 1 | R. Forster | 8 | Fairhaven | 1 | M. LaBossiere |
| 17 | W. Peabody | 1 ad | R. Heil | 20 | Boston H. | 3 | BBC (P. Stevens) |
| 28 | Groveland | 1 | D. Chickering | 28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 25 | W. Miller |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|--|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------|--|----------------|
| American Oystercatcher (continued) | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | Westport | 1 | | M. Lynch# | 28 | Revere | 1 | | P. + F. Vale |
| Greater Yellowlegs | | | | | Least Sandpiper | | | | |
| 6 | Newburyport | 30 | | M. Lynch# | 6, 21 | P.I. | 10, 60 | | M. Lynch# |
| 14 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 9 | | P. + F. Vale | 7, 27 | N. Monomoy | 120, 300 | | B. Nikula |
| 20 | Newburyport | 40 | | T. Maloney# | 14 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 11 | | P. + F. Vale |
| 27 | Squantum | 32 | | G. d'Entremont | 14 | M.V. (Norton Pt) | 250 | | V. Laux# |
| 28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 350 | | W. Miller | White-rumped Sandpiper | | | | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | | | | | 7 | N. Monomoy | 2 | | B. Nikula |
| 6 | P.I. | 38 | | R. Heil | 21 | Scituate | 1 | | D. Clapp |
| 7, 27 | N. Monomoy | 15, 60 | | B. Nikula | 21 | P.I. | 1 | | M. Lynch# |
| 14 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 37 | | P. + F. Vale | 27 | Newburyport | 1 | | R. Heil |
| 27 | Newburyport | 850 | | R. Heil | 28 | Acoaxet | 2 | | M. Lynch# |
| Solitary Sandpiper | | | | | Pectoral Sandpiper | | | | |
| 27 | Quabbin (G41) | 2 | | M. Lynch# | 24 | Squantum | 1 | | R. Donovan |
| Willet | | | | | Stilt Sandpiper | | | | |
| 6, 27 | P.I. | 30, 6 | | R. Heil | 13 | P.I. | 1 | | H. Wiggin# |
| 7, 27 | N. Monomoy | 150, 150 | | B. Nikula | 27 | Newburyport | 3 | | R. Heil |
| 9 | M.V. | 1 | | V. Laux# | 28 | S. Monomoy | 1 | | R. Prescott |
| Spotted Sandpiper | | | | | 28 | N. Monomoy | 1 | | W. Miller |
| 2 | Pepperell | 3 | | E. Stromsted | 28 | P.I. | 8 | | R. Stymeist# |
| 27 | Wakefield | 2 | | P. + F. Vale | Short-billed Dowitcher | | | | |
| 29 | GMNWR | 2 | | J. Center | 4 | Marshfield | 5 | | D. Clapp |
| Upland Sandpiper | | | | | 6 | P.I. | 106 | | R. Heil |
| thr | Bedford | 26 max | | R. Lockwood | 7, 27 | N. Monomoy | 750, 1200 | | B. Nikula |
| 27 | Chatham | 1 | | B. Nikula | 8 | Fairhaven | 36 | | M. LaBossiere |
| 30 | Katama | 4 | | J. Verner | 14, 21 | Newburyport | 260, 800 | | M. Lynch# |
| Whimbrel | | | | | 14 | Stellwagen | 10 | | R. Lockwood |
| 13 | P'town (R.P.) | 35 | | R. Heil | 14 | M.V. (Norton Pt) | 85 | | V. Laux# |
| 17 | P.I. | 4 | | M. Rines | 20 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 307 | | R. Stymeist |
| 22, 28 | N. Monomoy | 344, 482 | | B. Nikula# | 24 | Squantum | 150 | | R. Donovan |
| 24 | Squantum | 1 | | R. Donovan | 28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 500 | | W. Miller |
| 28 | Acoaxet | 30 | | M. Lynch# | 28 | Newburyport | 600 | | W. Petersen# |
| 28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 10 | | W. Miller | 28 | Revere | 89 | | P. + F. Vale |
| 28 | Plymouth B. | 2 | | J. Center | Long-billed Dowitcher | | | | |
| Hudsonian Godwit | | | | | 27 | P.I. | 1 | | H. Wiggin# |
| 6 | Chatham (S.B.) | 17 | | V. Laux# | American Woodcock | | | | |
| 10, 14 | Newburyport | 4, 12 | | C. Ralph | 14 | Pepperell | 1 | | E. Stromsted |
| 10 | N. Monomoy | 1 | | E. Pierce | Wilson's Phalarope | | | | |
| 12 | P.I. | 4 | | M. Rines | 14 | M.V. (Norton Pt) | 1 | | V. Laux# |
| 22 | Newburyport | 30 | | J. Soucy | Red-necked Phalarope | | | | |
| 28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 125 | | H. Ferguson | 18 | Stellwagen | 14 | | R. Heil |
| 28 | Westport | 10 | | M. Lynch# | Parasitic Jaeger | | | | |
| Marbled Godwit | | | | | 28 | Provincetown | 1 | | R. Lewis |
| 7, 18 | N. Monomoy | 1, 2 | | B. Nikula, E. Pierce | 31 | Stellwagen | 2 | | R. Donovan |
| 15, 22 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1, 2 | | S. + E. Miller | Jaeger sp | | | | |
| 28 | Westport | 1 | | M. Lynch# | 5 | Stellwagen | 1 | | R. Lewis |
| Ruddy Turnstone | | | | | Laughing Gull | | | | |
| 6 | Chatham (S.B.) | 5 | | V. Laux# | thr | Lynn | 3 | | J. Quigley |
| 20 | Newburyport | 2 | | T. Maloney# | 13 | P.I. | 1 | | H. Wiggin# |
| 21 | Scituate | 11 | | D. Clapp | 14 | Stellwagen Bk | 2 | | R. Lockwood |
| 28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 124 | | W. Miller | 14 | E. Boston | 3 | | P. + F. Vale |
| Red Knot | | | | | Little Gull | | | | |
| 6 | Chatham (S.B.) | 40 | | V. Laux# | 4 | Lynn B. | 1 imm | | C. Floyd |
| 28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 2000 | | W. Miller | 4 | Nahant | 1 imm | | I. Romanow |
| Sanderling | | | | | 14 | P.I. | 1 | | BBC (M. Burns) |
| 21 | Scituate | 45 | | D. Clapp | Bonaparte's Gull | | | | |
| 27 | N. Monomoy | 1500 | | B. Nikula | thr | Lynn | 25-200 | | J. Quigley |
| 28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1000 | | W. Miller | 27 | Newburyport | 40 | | R. Heil |
| 28 | Revere | 200+ | | P. + F. Vale | Lesser Black-backed Gull | | | | |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | | | | | 13 | Eastham (F.E.) | 1 ad | | R. Heil |
| 7, 27 | N. Monomoy | 150, 1800 | | B. Nikula | 18 | Lynn | 1 2S | | J. Quigley |
| 14, 21 | Newburyport | 600, 5000 | | M. Lynch# | 27 | N. Monomoy | 2 1S | | B. Nikula |
| 21 | Scituate | 2900 | | D. Clapp | Royal Tern | | | | |
| 24 | Squantum | 600 | | R. Donovan | 3 | Nantucket | 1 | | D. Sutherland |
| 27 | Newburyport | 7000 | | R. Heil | 19 | P.I. | 1 | | D. Chickering |
| 28 | Revere | 250+ | | P. + F. Vale | Sandwich Tern | | | | |
| 28 | Newburyport | 8500 | | W. Petersen# | 10 | S. Monomoy | 1 | | J. Megyesi# |
| Western Sandpiper | | | | | Roseate Tern | | | | |
| 14 | M.V. (Norton Pt) | 1 | | V. Laux# | 6 | Chatham (S.B.) | 20 | | V. Laux# |
| 27 | P.I. | 1 | | H. Wiggin# | 20 | Marion | 2 | | R. Lockwood |
| | | | | | Common Tern | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| 31 | Stellwagen | 250 | R. Donovan | Eastern Screech-Owl | | |
| Arctic Tern | | | | 21 | Pepperell | 1 E. Stromsted |
| 6 | Chatham (S.B.) | 90 | V. Laux# | Barred Owl | | |
| 28 | Plymouth B. | 3 | J. Center | 7 | Quabog | 1 M. Lynch# |
| Forster's Tern | | | | Common Nighthawk | | |
| 7 | N. Monomoy | 1 | B. Nikula | 28 | Worcester | 1 M. Lynch# |
| 28 | Westport | 3 | R. Stymeist# | Chuck-will's-widow | | |
| 28 | S. Monomoy | 1 | R. Prescott | 22-27 | WBWS | 1 fide R. Prescott |
| 28 | P.I. | 1 ad | W. Petersen# | Whip-poor-will | | |
| 28 | Westport | 3 | R. Stymeist# | 1 | Tyngsboro | 8 J. Center |
| Least Tern | | | | 7 | Wellfleet | 1 E. Pierce |
| 28 | Westport | 15 | M. Lynch# | 10 | Newbury | 4 BBC (T. Young) |
| Sooty Tern | | | | Black Swift | | |
| 16 | Nauset Marsh | 1 ad, dead | fide J. Sones | 7/4 | M.V. | 1 A. Keith, G. Daniels, v.o. |
| Black Tern | | | | Ruby-throated Hummingbird | | |
| 6 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 | V. Laux# | thr | Pepperell | 2 B. Stromsted |
| 27 | Newburyport | 1 | H. Wiggin# | thr | Concord | 4+ R. Lockwood |
| 27 | Chappaquiddick | 1 | A. Keith# | thr | E. Boxford | 5-8 J. Brown# |
| 28-29 | S. Monomoy | 5 | R. Prescott | 8 | Wellfleet | 1 R. Stymeist# |
| 31 | Stellwagen | 1 | R. Donovan | 1-26 | Waltham | 2 fide L. Cocca |
| Black Skimmer | | | | 10 | P.I. | 1 C. Ralph |
| 28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 | H. Ferguson | 11 | Groveland | 1 D. Chickering |
| 28 | Westport | 2 | M. Lynch# | 20 | Marion | 1 R. Lockwood |
| White-winged Dove | | | | Red-headed Woodpecker | | |
| 1-4 | Provincetown | 1 | N. Champlng | 1-17 | Sherborn | 2 ad fide E. Taylor |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | | | | 28-31 | Sherborn | 2 ad + 4 imm E. Taylor |
| 28 | Cummaquid | 1 | S. + E. Miller | Red-bellied Woodpecker | | |
| 30 | Acushnet | 1 | M. LaBossiere | thr | Medford | pr n M. Rines |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | | | | 4 | Marshfield | 1 D. Clapp |
| 6 | Acushnet | 1 | M. LaBossiere | 5, 29 | E. Boxford | 1, 2 J. Brown# |
| 8 | Wellfleet | 2 | R. Stymeist# | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | | |
| 19 | E. Boxford | 1 | J. Brown# | 10 | Ashburnham | 1 R. Forster |

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

This cooler-than-normal July was conducive to good land birding. Normally hotter by midday, the birds seemed more active this season, and it was a lot more comfortable for the observers as well. Tree Swallows numbered at around 10,000 individuals at Plum Island by month's end, an earlier-than-normal date for such high concentrations. This species usually peaks in mid to late August.

Interesting reports included a female Golden-winged Warbler carrying food in Lexington (alas, evidently paired with a Blue-winged Warbler) and a glorious display flight by a Yellow-breasted Chat in Wellfleet. Two Red Crossbills showed up at a feeder on Chappaquiddick, and two Evening Grosbeaks were noted from Sudbury.

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------|-------|-----------------|
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | | | | 28 | Rowley | 2000 | E. Taylor |
| thr | Sherborn | 3 | E. Taylor | N. Rough-winged Swallow | | | |
| 4 | Ipswich | 6 | J. Berry | 3 | Ipswich | 2 | J. Berry |
| 6 | Medford | 10 | M. Rines | 4 | Wakefield | 4 | P. + F. Vale |
| Alder Flycatcher | | | | Bank Swallow | | | |
| 4 | Milton | 1 | G. d'Entremont | 1 | Scituate | 200 | D. Clapp |
| 17 | P.I. | 1 | M. Rines | 6, 27 | P.I. | 200 | R. Heil |
| 22 | Lincoln | 1 | R. Lockwood | 6 | GMNWR | 5 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 28 | Lynnfield | 1 | M. Rines# | Cliff Swallow | | | |
| Willow Flycatcher | | | | 4 | Marshfield | 16 | D. Clapp |
| 4 | Wakefield | 9 | P. + F. Vale | 4 | Newbury | 4 | D. Chickering |
| 7 | P.I. | 4 | R. Lockwood | 21 | W. Harwich | 1 | S. + E. Miller |
| 14 | Lexington | 4 | M. Rines | 21 | P.I. | 1 | J. Berry |
| Least Flycatcher | | | | Fish Crow | | | |
| 6 | P.I. | 1 | P. + F. Vale | 6 | Mt. A. | 4 | R. Stymeist |
| 6 | Ipswich | 1 | J. Berry | 24 | Wellesley | 2 | R. Forster |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | | | | Red-breasted Nuthatch | | | |
| 15 | Provincetown | 5 | E. Pierce | thr | Mt. A. | 4 | R. Stymeist |
| Horned Lark | | | | Carolina Wren | | | |
| 10 | N. Monomoy | 2 | E. Pierce | 23 | Brookline | 1 | B. Reilly |
| Purple Martin | | | | 29 | Worcester | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| thr | P.I. | 60 max | M. Lynch# | House Wren | | | |
| 5 | DWWS | 8 | D. Clapp | thr | E. Boxford | 4-5 n | J. Brown# |
| Tree Swallow | | | | 5 | DWWS | 6 | G. d'Entremont |
| 6, 27 | P.I. | 3000, 10,000 | R. Heil | 28 | Newbypt | 2 | P. + F. Vale |

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|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Marsh Wren | | | | 5 | Petersham | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| 4 | Wakefield | 17 | P. + F. Vale | Yellow-rumped Warbler | | | |
| 6 | GMNWR | 12 | G. d'Entremont# | 5 | Petersham | 4 | M. Lynch# |
| 12 | P.I. | 20 | M. Rines | 7 | Quabog | 4 | M. Lynch# |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | | | | 21 | W. Groton | 1 ad | R. Forster# |
| 13 | Rockport | 1 | H. Wiggin# | Black-throated Green Warbler | | | |
| Eastern Bluebird | | | | 4 | Ipswich | 3 | J. Berry |
| thr | Sherborn | 20 | E. Taylor | 5 | Petersham | 13 | M. Lynch# |
| 4 | S. Natick | 12 | BBC (E. Taylor) | Blackburnian Warbler | | | |
| 20 | Norfolk | 3 | E. Taylor | 5 | Petersham | 6 | M. Lynch# |
| Veery | | | | 7 | Quabog | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| 4 | Milton | 3 | G. d'Entremont | Pine Warbler | | | |
| 4 | Ipswich | 17 | J. Berry | 4 | Milton | 1 | G. d'Entremont |
| 5 | Petersham | 11 | M. Lynch# | 4 | Ipswich | pr | J. Berry |
| 7 | Quabog | 14 | M. Lynch# | Prairie Warbler | | | |
| Hermit Thrush | | | | 1 | MBWMA | 9 | BBC (S. Charette) |
| thr | Dover | 10 | E. Taylor | Cerulean Warbler | | | |
| thr | Sherborn | 10 | E. Taylor | 6 | Quabog | 1 | R. Lockwood |
| 4 | Ipswich | 1 | J. Berry | Black-and-white Warbler | | | |
| 5 | Petersham | 9 | M. Lynch# | 5 | Petersham | 7 | M. Lynch# |
| 9 | Quabog | 4 | M. Lynch# | 7 | Quabog | 11 | M. Lynch# |
| 14 | Wellfleet | 2 | E. Pierce | 12 | P.I. | 1 | M. Rines |
| Wood Thrush | | | | 28 | MNWS | 1 | L. Healey |
| 1 | MBWMA | 3 | BBC (S. Charette) | American Redstart | | | |
| 4 | Ipswich | 8 | J. Berry | 12 | P.I. | 3 | M. Rines |
| 4 | Milton | 3 | G. d'Entremont | Ovenbird | | | |
| 6 | Medford | 2 | M. Rines | 4 | Ipswich | 23 | J. Berry |
| Gray Catbird | | | | 5 | Petersham | 29 | M. Lynch# |
| 4 | Wakefield | 35 | P. + F. Vale | Northern Waterthrush | | | |
| 6 | Mt. A. | 30 | R. Stymeist | 4 | Ipswich | 1 | J. Berry |
| 14, 21 | P.I. | 63, 61 | M. Lynch# | 19 | Menemsha | 1 | H. Summers |
| Brown Thrasher | | | | Common Yellowthroat | | | |
| 1 | Bedford (Hanscom) | 1 | R. Lockwood | 4 | Wakefield | 17 | P. + F. Vale |
| 6 | Medford | 3 | M. Rines | 4 | Ipswich | 11 | J. Berry |
| 28 | P.I. | 6 | D. Chickering | 5 | Petersham | 25 | M. Lynch# |
| European Starling | | | | 6, 14 | P.I. | 16, 28 | M. Lynch# |
| 3 | Framingham | 3000 | E. Taylor | 7 | Quabog | 48 | M. Lynch# |
| White-eyed Vireo | | | | Canada Warbler | | | |
| 28 | Westport | 2 | R. Stymeist# | 5 | Petersham | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| Solitary Vireo | | | | 6 | Norwell | ad + yg | D. Clapp |
| 5 | Petersham | 6 | M. Lynch# | 7 | Quabog | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | | | | Yellow-breasted Chat | | | |
| 2 | Pepperell | 1 | E. Stromsted | 7 | Wellfleet | 1 | V. Page |
| 7 | Quabog | 2 | M. Lynch# | Scarlet Tanager | | | |
| Warbling Vireo | | | | thr | Dover | 10 | E. Taylor |
| 4 | Wakefield | 12 | P. + F. Vale | thr | Sherborn | 10 | E. Taylor |
| 6 | GMNWR | 3 | G. d'Entremont# | 4 | Ipswich | 9 m | J. Berry |
| 14 | Pepperell | 4 | E. Stromsted | 6 | Medford | 2 | M. Rines |
| Red-eyed Vireo | | | | 7 | Wakefield | 1 f n | P. + F. Vale |
| thr | Sherborn | 20 | E. Taylor | 21 | Groton | 5 | E. Stromsted |
| thr | Dover | 20 | E. Taylor | Rose-breasted Grosbeak | | | |
| 4 | Ipswich | 14 | J. Berry | 7 | Quabog | 6 | M. Lynch# |
| 5 | Petersham | 28 | M. Lynch# | Indigo Bunting | | | |
| 7 | Quabog | 14 | M. Lynch# | 4 | Ipswich | 1 | J. Berry |
| 28 | Boxford | 9 | E. Taylor | 5 | Barre | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| Blue-winged Warbler | | | | 6 | Medford | 3 | M. Rines |
| 1 | Lexington | 1 m | M. Rines | 20 | Boxford | 1 | J. Berry |
| Golden-winged Warbler | | | | 29 | Bedford (Hanscom) | 1 | R. Lockwood |
| 1 | Lexington | 1 f | M. Rines | Chipping Sparrow | | | |
| 3 | Sharon | 1 | P. Dorcus | 6 | Mt. A. | 24 | R. Stymeist |
| Northern Parula | | | | Field Sparrow | | | |
| 3 | Westminster | 1 | T. Pirrou | 1 | MBWMA | 8 | BBC (S. Charette) |
| Yellow Warbler | | | | 14 | Wellfleet | 6 | E. Pierce |
| 4 | Wakefield | 28 | P. + F. Vale | Vesper Sparrow | | | |
| 6 | GMNWR | 8 | G. d'Entremont# | 14 | Wellfleet | 1 | E. Pierce |
| 14, 21 | P.I. | 34, 10 | M. Lynch# | 26 | P.I. | 1 | H. Wiggin# |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | | | | Savannah Sparrow | | | |
| 4 | Ipswich | 3 | J. Berry | 12 | P.I. | 11 | M. Rines |
| 5 | Petersham | 6 | M. Lynch# | Grasshopper Sparrow | | | |
| 6 | Medford | 1 | M. Rines | 15-29 | Bedford (Hanscom) | 2-4 | R. Lockwood |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | | | | | | | |

BIRD SIGHTINGS

AUGUST 1996

SUMMARY



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

August 1996 was cool and very dry. The temperature averaged 70.9°, 1.0° below normal. The high was 90° on August 23, the first day since May that the temperature reached into the 90s. Rainfall was just 1.54 inches, 1.7 inches less than normal. Predominately southerly winds were in general light, averaging only 8.7 miles per hour.

R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A few Pied-billed Grebes began appearing, and a Red-necked Grebe continued its summer stay at Gloucester. Shearwaters and storm-petrels continued to be well reported in offshore waters, especially Sooty Shearwater. Cory's Shearwater was scarce reflecting the relatively cool offshore waters this summer. Holdovers from July, the **American White Pelican** in South Dartmouth and the "**Great White**" **Heron** at Nauset Marsh were noted off and on during the month. Excellent numbers of herons were reported from the evening roost at Plum Island, including a record count of Great Egret. The scarce Little Blue and Tricolored herons were well represented. Noteworthy this summer was the scarcity of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron observations. Early migrating waterfowl began appearing in the latter part of the month, with both teal species being particularly numerous.

A **Black Vulture** put in a cameo appearance on Martha's Vineyard. A few early migrating hawks were noted late in the month. A few Sharp-shinned Hawks were noted, and there was a scattering of Merlins, primarily at coastal locations. The numerous Cooper's Hawk reports reflect the presence of summer residents. Among the handful of reports of the rail family was the presence of a Common Moorhen with young at Plum Island. The species is now little more than a sporadic breeder in the eastern part of the state.

Most of the regular migrant shorebirds were reported from the usual locations in typical numbers. The month was almost devoid of any rare species save **American Avocet**, which is an annual visitor. Two coveted western Arctic breeding species appeared on schedule in the last week of the month: Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared in fair numbers, but Baird's were only sparsely reported. A few of the latter lingered for several days to be enjoyed by other observers, which is unusual. Another factor strongly affecting reports of shorebirds this month was the high water levels as a result of July rainfall, especially at inland locations. Note the virtual absence of inland reports for shorebird species. Notice also the very low counts for both Long-billed Dowitcher and Stilt Sandpiper. Both are normally present in modest numbers only at Plum Island, but the high water there resulted in the poorest showing for both species in recent memory. One wonders whether these birds bypass us when conditions are not suitable, or whether they settle into as yet undiscovered localities. American Golden-Plover put in a good early appearance, and Marbled Godwit was concentrated in the North Momonoy/South Beach area. Another western visitor, Western Sandpiper, appeared to be having a poor season to date with only three individuals reported. Conversely, White-rumped Sandpipers showed their usual late August migration surge. A few Red-necked Phalaropes were noted on offshore boat trips.

Parasitic Jaegers were also well reported on offshore boat trips, but only two Pomarine Jaegers were noted, reflecting their later migration schedule. An excellent count of Laughing Gulls was made at Revere Beach. Bonaparte's Gulls were limited to Newburyport and the Lynn Beach area, the latter location having **Little Gull** as well. Reports of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and **Sabine's Gull**, while somewhat expected, are nonetheless nice. Roseate Terns were well reported in post-breeding feeding areas, and Black Terns were widely reported from coastal waters. Conversely, reported numbers of Forster's Terns were well below average. This year's second summer report of **Atlantic Puffin** on Stellwagen was made by the same fortunate individual.

The Common Nighthawk migration began on schedule but there were no major movements noted. The breeding Red-headed Woodpeckers in Sherborn apparently attempted a second brood. R. A. F.

| Date | Location | Number | Observers | Date | Location | Number | Observers |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|----------|------------------|
| Common Loon | | | | Little Blue Heron | | | |
| 5 | Cape Ann | 2 | M. Rines | 3, 19 | P.I. | 13, 22 | R. Heil |
| 18 | Berkley | 1 | G. d'Entremont# | 23 | Edgartown | 1 | H. Summers |
| 19 | P.I. | 3 | R. Heil | 25 | Rowley | 1 ad | J. Berry |
| 22 | S. Monomoy | 2 | R. Donovan | 28 | WBWS | 1 imm | W. Petersen# |
| 24 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 6 | J. Berry | Tricolored Heron | | | |
| Pied-billed Grebe | | | | 3, 19 | P.I. | 3, 6 | R. Heil |
| 10 | P.I. | 1 | P. + F. Vale | 8 | Ipswich | 3 | J. MacDougall |
| 18 | Acoaxet | 1 | M. Lynch# | 25 | N. Monomoy | 2 | B. Nikula |
| 26 | GMNWR | 2 | M. Rines# | Cattle Egret | | | |
| 28 | Arlington Res. | 1 | M. Pelikan | 3, 10 | Hamilton | 5, 7 | J. Berry |
| Red-necked Grebe | | | | 3 | Essex | 1 | R. Stymeist# |
| 8 | Gloucester | 1 | L. Hennin | 8 | Manchester | 2 | S. + L. Hennin |
| Cory's Shearwater | | | | 30 | Ipswich | 10 | J. Berry |
| 23 | Stellwagen | 1 | R. Heil | Green Heron | | | |
| 25 | Nantucket | 2 | S. Perkins | thr | Mt. A. | 3-7 | R. Stymeist |
| Greater Shearwater | | | | 11 | Westboro | 5 | A. Boover |
| 3, 11 | Stellwagen (NW) | 85, 1000 | J. Berry# | 24 | Wakefield | 4 | P. + F. Vale |
| 26 | Cashes L. | 40 | BBC (S. Perkins) | 30 | Stow | 5 | S. + L. Hennin |
| Sooty Shearwater | | | | Black-crowned Night-Heron | | | |
| 3, 11 | Stellwagen (NW) | 22, 1500 | J. Berry | 10 | Eastham | 10 | M. Lynch# |
| 25 | Stellwagen | 1200 | P. Roberts | Glossy Ibis | | | |
| 26 | Cashes L./Stellw, 200 | BBC (I. Giriunas) | | 3, 21 | P.I. | 135, 69 | R. Heil |
| Manx Shearwater | | | | 11 | M.V. | 1 | V. Laux# |
| 3 | Stellwagen | 5 | S. Moore# | Mute Swan | | | |
| 11 | Stellwagen | 6 | P. Trull | 18 | Westport | 106, 145 | M. Lynch# |
| 26 | Stellwagen | 30 | BBC (G. Gove) | Brant | | | |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel | | | | 21-31 | P.I. | 1 | L. Hennin + v.o. |
| 5 | Stellwagen | 150 | M. Rines | Wood Duck | | | |
| 10 | Rockport (H.P.) | 3 | J. Berry | 4 | Rutland S.P. | 17 | M. Lynch# |
| 26 | Cashes/Phipennies | 2500 | BBC (S. Perkins) | 11, 31 | Wakefield | 44, 22 | P. + F. Vale |
| Leach's Storm-Petrel | | | | 31 | S. Monomoy | 2 | W. Harrington# |
| 26 | Cashes L. | 15 | BBC (S. Perkins) | Green-winged Teal | | | |
| Northern Gannet | | | | 7 | P.I. | 2 | C. Ralph |
| 5 | Cape Ann | 13 | M. Rines | 24, 31 | P.I. | 120, 190 | M. Lynch# |
| 23 | Stellwagen | 10 | R. Heil | 24 | E. Boston | 2 | R. Stymeist# |
| 24 | P.I. | 1 ad | M. Lynch# | 31 | S. Monomoy | 40 | S. Perkins# |
| American White Pelican | | | | Northern Pintail | | | |
| 1-29 | S. Dartmouth | 1 | v.o. | 23 | S. Monomoy | 6 | R. Donovan |
| Great Cormorant | | | | 31 | P.I. | 3 | S. + L. Hennin |
| 26 | Cashes Ledge | 1 | S. Perkins# | Blue-winged Teal | | | |
| 26 | Plymouth | 1 | BBC (I. Giriunas) | 21 | P.I. | 48 | R. Heil |
| 31 | S. Monomoy | 1 imm | S. Perkins# | 31 | S. Monomoy | 150 | S. Perkins# |
| American Bittern | | | | Northern Shoveler | | | |
| 25 | Holden | 1 | M. Lynch# | 31 | S. Monomoy | 8 | S. Perkins# |
| 29 | P.I. | 1 | R. Heil | Gadwall | | | |
| Least Bittern | | | | 17, 31 | P.I. | 7, 4 | M. Lynch# |
| 7-31 | P.I. | 1 | v.o. | 29 | Dorchester | 1 | R. Donovan |
| "Great White" Heron | | | | 31 | S. Monomoy | 15 | S. Perkins# |
| thr | Nauset Marsh | 1 ph | v.o. | American Wigeon | | | |
| Great Egret | | | | 21 | P.I. | 2 | R. Heil |
| 3, 21 | P.I. | 184, 286 | R. Heil | 31 | GMNWR | 3 | E. Taylor |
| 3, 25 | Rowley | 21, 44 | J. Berry | Ring-necked Duck | | | |
| 10 | Stellwagen | 3 | L. Healey | 18 | Waltham | 1 m | R. Forster |
| 14, 29 | S. Dart. (A. Pd) | 20, 10 | LCES (J. Hill) | Greater Scaup | | | |
| 18 | Fall River | 1 | G. d'Entremont# | 3 | P.I. | 1 | R. Heil |
| 19-31 | GMNWR | 1 | M. Rines | Common Eider | | | |
| 25 | N. Monomoy | 21 | B. Nikula | 18 | Acoaxet | 10 | M. Lynch# |
| Snowy Egret | | | | 23 | Gloucester | 25 | R. Heil |
| thr | Saugus/Revere | 90 max | J. Berry | Surf Scoter | | | |
| 3, 21 | P.I. | 965, 1415 | R. Heil | 9 | Chatham H. | 1 | J. Gottsche |
| 3, 25 | Rowley | 42, 225 | J. Berry | 26 | S. Monomoy | 3 | R. Donovan |
| 3 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 20 | E. Taylor | White-winged Scoter | | | |
| 4 | Squantum | 15 | M. Rines | 10 | Rockport | 2 | J. Berry |
| 14, 29 | S. Dart. (A. Pd) | 32, 46 | LCES (J. Hill) | 22 | Nant. Sound | 1 | S. Perkins |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| White-winged Scoter (continued) | | | | Red-shouldered Hawk | | | |
| 25 | S. Monomoy | 1 | R. Donovan | thr | E. Middleboro | 1-2 | K. Anderson |
| 27 | Provincetown | 1 | W. Petersen# | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| Bufflehead | | | | 25 | Westport | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 21 | Newbypt H. | 1 | L. Hennin | Broad-winged Hawk | | | |
| Hooded Merganser | | | | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 3, 3 | M. Lynch# |
| 3 | P.I. | 1 | J. Center | 19 | Worc. (BMB) | 2 | J. Coyne# |
| 9 | Essex | 1 | M. Hoar | 23 | Lexington | 1 | M. Rines |
| Red-breasted Merganser | | | | 26 | E. Boxford | 2 | K. Disney |
| 2 | P.I. | 2 | S. + L. Hennin | American Kestrel | | | |
| 9 | Chatham H. | 1 | J. Gottsche | 2 | Westboro | 2 | A. Boover |
| 27 | S. Monomoy | 4 | R. Donovan | 11 | Bedford (Hanscom) | 3 | M. Rines |
| Ruddy Duck | | | | 25 | Saugus-Everett | 5 | J. Young |
| 31 | S. Monomoy | 2 | W. Harrington# | Merlin | | | |
| Black Vulture | | | | 3 | Acoaxet | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 17, 20 | Oak Bluffs | 1 | D. Carr, D. Shreiber | 9 | Stow | 1 | L. Hennin |
| Turkey Vulture | | | | 16 | Maynard | 1 | L. Nachtrab |
| | Truro | 2 | G. d'Entremont# | 25 | Squantum | 1 | F. Bouchard |
| 20 | Lexington | 1 | M. Rines | 31 | P.I. | 2 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 23 | Brockton | 2 | K. Anderson | 31 | Newbypt | 1 | P. + F. Vale |
| 31 | Mt. Wachusett | 4 | E. Taylor | Peregrine Falcon | | | |
| 31 | Haverhill | 6 | M. Lynch# | 22 | Scituate | 1 | D. Clapp |
| Osprey | | | | 28 | Revere | 1 | BBC (P. + F. Vale) |
| 4 | WBWS | 4 | G. d'Entremont# | 30 | P.I. | 1 | B. Gette |
| 3, 10 | Rowley | 3, 2 | J. Berry | Ruffed Grouse | | | |
| 3 | P.I. | 2 | R. Heil | 14 | ONWR | 6 | L. Hennin |
| 6 | S. Carver | 1 or 2 | K. Anderson | Wild Turkey | | | |
| 8 | Medford | 1 | M. Rines | 4 | Rutland S.P. | 1 + 7 yg | M. Lynch# |
| 17 | Rowley | 1 | P. + F. Vale | 31 | N. Andover | 6 + 4 yg | J. Hogan |
| 18 | Belmont | 1 | M. Rines | Northern Bobwhite | | | |
| 20 | GMNWR | 1 | M. Rines | 11 | F. H. | 2 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 25 | Acoaxet | 8 | M. Lynch# | Clapper Rail | | | |
| 25 | P.I. | 2 | J. Berry | 24 | P.I. | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 31 | S. Monomoy | 1 | S. Perkins# | Virginia Rail | | | |
| Bald Eagle | | | | 3 | P.I. | 4 | BBC (R. Petersen) |
| 3 | Westport | 1 | M. Lynch# | 18 | GMNWR | 1 | G. Cranna |
| 3 | Newburyport | 1 imm | R. Heil | 19 | Worc. (BMB) | 1 | J. Coyne# |
| 6 | S. Carver | 1 imm | K. Anderson | 30 | DWWS | 1 imm | D. Clapp |
| 11, 14 | Edgartown | 1 | J. Verner | Sora | | | |
| 31 | Lincoln | 1 imm | K. Calmer | 2 | P.I. | 1 | S. + L. Hennin |
| Northern Harrier | | | | 22, 29 | Dorchester | 1 | R. Donovan |
| 3 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 1 | E. Taylor | Common Moorhen | | | |
| 8 | Sandwich | 1 | S. + E. Miller | 21 | P.I. | 2 ad + 2 yg | S. + L. Hennin |
| 10 | Eastham | 1 | M. Lynch# | Black-bellied Plover | | | |
| 17 | Rowley | 1 | P. + F. Vale | 10 | Ipswich | 130 | J. Berry |
| 19 | P.I. | 4 | R. Heil | 24 | Newbury | 500 | H. Wiggins# |
| 23 | Nantucket | 3 | S. Perkins | 28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 3000 | W. Petersen# |
| 23 | Scituate | 1 | D. Clapp | 28 | Revere | 50+ | BBC (P. + F. Vale) |
| 24 | Gardner | 1 | T. Pirrou | 29 | Edgartown | 450 | V. Laux |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | | | | American Golden-Plover | | | |
| 4 | Rutland S.P. | 1 ad | M. Lynch# | 3, 25 | Katama | 1, 6 | A. Keith, V. Laux |
| 11 | W. Barnstable | 1 | S. + E. Miller | 24 | Newbury | 6 | H. Wiggins# |
| 24 | Gardner | 2 | T. Pirrou | 25 | Nantucket | 3 | E. Ray |
| 25 | Sherborn | 1 | E. Taylor | 29 | Edgartown | 9 | V. Laux |
| 26 | Worc. (BMB) | 1 | J. Coyne# | 31 | S. Monomoy | 1 | S. Perkins# |
| 31 | Mt. Wachusett | 1 | E. Taylor | Semipalmated Plover | | | |
| 31 | P.I. | 2 | M. Lynch# | 3 | Westport | 403 | M. Lynch# |
| Cooper's Hawk | | | | 9 | Scituate | 1200 | D. Ludlow |
| 4, 10 | E. Boxford | 2 | J. Brown# | 9 | Squantum | 225 | R. Donovan |
| 4 | E. Harwich | 3+ imm | B. Nikula | 11 | Katama | 110 | V. Laux# |
| 7 | Bedford | 1 | M. Rines | 11 | Revere | 500+ | P. + F. Vale |
| 8 | Wellesley | 1 ad | R. Forster | 19 | Newbypt H. | 1300 | R. Heil |
| 11 | Worcester | 1 | M. Lynch# | 23-25 | Nantucket | 240 | S. Perkins |
| 17 | P.I. | 1 | P. + F. Vale | 23 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1900 | B. Nikula |
| 18 | Maynard | 1 ad | L. Nachtrab | 24 | Ipswich | 730 | J. Berry |
| 23 | S. Boston | 1 | R. Donovan | 26 | Cashes Ledge | 3 | BBC (G. Gove) |
| 24, 31 | P.I. | 1, 1 | M. Lynch# | Piping Plover | | | |
| 25 | P.I. | 1 | J. Berry# | 3 | Westport | 9 | M. Lynch# |
| 28 | WBWS | 1 | W. Petersen# | 17 | Chatham (S.B.) | 15 | S. Perkins# |
| 28 | Orleans | 1 | W. Petersen# | 24 | Ipswich | 7 juv | J. Berry |
| 29 | Dorchester | 2 | R. Donovan | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Killdeer | | | | 19 | Revere | 150+ | BBC (P. + F. Vale) |
| 9 | Scituate (3rd Cl) | 20 | D. Ludlow | 23 | Chatham (S.B.) | 2800 | B. Nikula |
| 10 | Ipswich | 113 | J. Berry | 24 | Ipswich | 410 | J. Berry |
| 10 | Newton | 21 | R. Stymeist | Semipalmated Sandpiper | | | |
| 24 | West Newbury | 44 | SSBC(M. Emmons) | 3, 25 | Acoaxet | 770, 17 | M. Lynch# |
| 31 | Ipswich | 49 | G. d'Entremont# | 8 | N. Monomoy | 1600 | B. Nikula |
| American Oystercatcher | | | | 9 | Squantum | 650 | R. Donovan |
| 8, 25 | N. Monomoy | 80; 100 | B. Nikula | 9 | Scituate (3rd Cl) | 2200 | D. Ludlow |
| 12 | New Bedford | 1 | P. Benac | 12, 26 | P.I. | 715, 900 | W. Drew# |
| American Avocet | | | | 17 | Newburyport | 3000 | M. Lynch# |
| 19-27 | Nauset Marsh | 1 | R. Hall + v.o.. | 18 | Lynn B. | 1200 | C. Floyd |
| Greater Yellowlegs | | | | 23 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1000 | B. Nikula |
| 4 | Squantum | 10 | M. Rines | 27 | Cumb. Farms | 75+ | R. Finch |
| 17 | P.I. | 30 | P. + F. Vale | Western Sandpiper | | | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | | | | 9 | Squantum | 1 | R. Donovan |
| 4 | Squantum | 1 | M. Rines | 17 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 basic pl | S. Perkins# |
| 17 | Newburyport | 70 | M. Lynch# | 31 | Newbypt | 1 | P. + F. Vale |
| 19 | Revere | 1 | BBC (P. + F. Vale) | Least Sandpiper | | | |
| 31 | P.I. | 45 | M. Lynch# | 3 | Rowley | 125 | J. Berry |
| Solitary Sandpiper | | | | 11 | Lynnfield | 18 | P. + F. Vale |
| 11 | Sandwich | 3 | G. d'Entremont# | 26 | Cashes Ledge | 2 | BBC (S. Perkins) |
| 18 | GMNWR | 1 | G. Cranna | 27 | Cumb. Farms | 100+ | R. Finch |
| 19-22 | Mt. A. | 1 | R. Stymeist | White-rumped Sandpiper | | | |
| 15, 23 | Arlington | 1, 4 | M. Rines | 9 | Squantum | 5 | R. Donovan |
| 24 | Pembroke | 1 | W. Petersen | 10 | Rowley | 3 | J. Berry |
| 24 | West Newbury | 3 | SSBC (M. Emmons) | 11, 28 | Revere | 1, 10 | P. + F. Vale |
| 27 | Cumb. Farms | 3 | R. Finch | 12, 26 | P.I. | 27, 211 | W. Drew# |
| 27 | Gardner | 8 | T. Pirrou | 12 | N. Monomoy | 5 | J. Gottsche |
| 28 | WBWS | 1 | W. Petersen | 16 | E. Sandwich | 2 | S. + E. Miller |
| Willet | | | | 19 | Newbypt/P.I. | 37 | R. Heil |
| 8, 25 | N. Monomoy | 4, 6 | B. Nikula | 22 | Nauset Marsh | 20+ | B. Nikula # |
| 17 | Chatham (S.B.) | 25 | S. Perkins# | 23 | Chatham (S.B.) | 20 | B. Nikula |
| Spotted Sandpiper | | | | 31 | S. Monomoy | 65 | S. Perkins# |
| 5-31 | Mt. A. | 1-3 | R. Stymeist# | Baird's Sandpiper | | | |
| 11, 24 | Wakefield | 6, 3 | P. + F. Vale | 24 | Newbury | 1 | H. Wiggin# |
| Upland Sandpiper | | | | 25 | S. Monomoy | 1 | H. Ferguson |
| 6, 29 | Katama (M.V.) | 6, 14 | V. Laux# | 29, 31 | P.I. | 1 | C. Floyd, L. Hennin |
| 8 | DWWS | 2 | D. Ludlow | Pectoral Sandpiper | | | |
| 23-25 | Nantucket | 2 | S. Perkins | 10 | P.I. | 1 | H. Wiggin |
| 24 | Newbury | 3 | H. Wiggin# | 12 | M.V. | 12 | A. Keith# |
| 30 | P.I. | 1 | D. Chickering | 17 | Chatham (S.B.) | 2 | R. Stymeist# |
| Whimbrel | | | | 24 | West Newbury | 3 | SSBC (M. Emmons) |
| | WBWS | 75 | G. d'Entremont# | 25 | Nantucket | 2 | S. Perkins |
| 4 | GMNWR | 1 | C. Ralph | 27 | Cumb. Farms | 4 | R. Finch |
| 9 | Scituate (3rd Cl) | 3 | D. Ludlow | 29 | Edgartown | 12 | V. Laux |
| 14 | Chatham (S.B.) | 140 | V. Laux | 30 | P.I. | 6 | B. Gette |
| 29 | P.I. | 12 juv | R. Heil | 31 | S. Monomoy | 1 | S. Perkins# |
| Hudsonian Godwit | | | | Dunlin | | | |
| 3 | Newburyport | 3 | H. Wiggin# | 8 | N. Monomoy | 2 | B. Nikula |
| 3 | Westport | 39 | M. Lynch# | 30 | Chatham (S.B.) | 3 | W. Petersen# |
| 17 | P.I. | 1 | P. + F. Vale | Stilt Sandpiper | | | |
| 19 | Newburyport | 21 | R. Heil | 3 | P.I. | 2 | R. Heil |
| 23 | Chatham (S.B.) | 95 | B. Nikula | 9 | Scituate (3rd Cl) | 1 | D. Ludlow |
| Marbled Godwit | | | | 14 | Chatham (S.B.) | 3 | V. Laux |
| 9 | Scituate (3rd Cl) | 1 | D. Ludlow | 18 | M.V. | 1 | A. Keith# |
| 10-30 | Chatham (S.B.) | 2-5 | v.o. | 25 | P.I. | 1 | J. Berry |
| 11-28 | Revere | 1 | P. + F. Vale + v.o. | Buff-breasted Sandpiper | | | |
| 17 | Squantum | 2 | P. Fitzgerald | 24 | Nantucket | 1 | S. Perkins |
| 25 | Saugus | 1 | P. + F. Vale | 25, 30 | Katama | 3, 1 | V. Laux, A. Keith |
| Ruddy Turnstone | | | | 29 | Edgartown | 4 | V. Laux |
| 3, 25 | Acoaxet | 9, 12 | M. Lynch# | 30 | Newbury | 2 | B. Gette |
| 9 | Scituate (3rd Cl) | 50 | D. Ludlow | 31 | S. Monomoy | 2 | S. Perkins# |
| 10 | P.I. | 2 | P. + F. Vale | 31 | P.I. | 3 | M. Argue# |
| 17 | Chatham (S.B.) | 150 | S. Perkins# | Short-billed Dowitcher | | | |
| 19 | Revere | 2 | BBC (P. + F. Vale) | 17 | Chatham (S.B.) | 500 | S. Perkins# |
| Red Knot | | | | 18 | Revere | 75 | P. + F. Vale |
| thr | Chatham (S.B.) | 900 max | 8/23 B. Nikula | 23-24 | Gardner | 1 | T. Pirrou |
| 9 | Scituate (3rd Cl) | 20 | D. Ludlow | 23-25 | Nantucket | 11 | S. Perkins |
| 10 | P.I. | 1 | H. Wiggin# | Long-billed Dowitcher | | | |
| 19 | Revere | 12 | BBC (P. + F. Vale) | 14 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 | V. Laux |
| Sanderling | | | | 31 | S. Monomoy | 1 | S. Perkins# |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Long-billed Dowitcher (continued) | | | | 30 | Eastham | 10 | W. Petersen# |
| 31 | P.I. | 2 | M. Lynch# | 31 | Newbypt H. | 3 | J. Berry |
| Common Snipe | | | | Least Tern | | | |
| 10 | P.I. | 1, 3 | H. Wiggin, B. Gette | 14 | S. Dart. (A.Pd) | 52 | LCES (J. Hill) |
| 27 | Cumb. Farms | 1 | R. Finch | 17 | Rowley | 2 | P. + F. Vale |
| American Woodcock | | | | 24 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 11 | J. Berry |
| 24 | Everett | 1 | R. Stymeist# | Black Tern | | | |
| Wilson's Phalarope | | | | 10 | P.I. | 3 | P. + F. Vale |
| 14 | Katama | 1 | N. Asher# | 17 | Chatham (S.B.) | 6 | S. Perkins# |
| 28, 30 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 | W. Petersen# | 19 | S. Dart. (A.P.) | 13 | F. Thurber |
| Red-necked Phalarope | | | | 22 | Nauset Marsh | 6 | B. Nikula # |
| 3 | Stellwagen (NW) | 3 | J. Berry# | 23 | Nantucket | 5 | S. Perkins |
| 26 | Cashes/Phipennies | 45 | BBC (E. Salmela) | 24 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 1 | J. Berry |
| 31 | Stellwagen | 7 | L. Healey | 24 | Plymouth H. | 1 | C. Floyd |
| Pomarine Jaeger | | | | 26 | Cashes L. | 2 | BBC(S. Perkins) |
| 3 | Stellwagen | 1 | S. Moore# | 28 | Eastham | 3 | W. Petersen# |
| 23 | Stellwagen | 1 | imm lt R. Heil | 29 | S. Monomoy | 30 | R. Donovan |
| Parasitic Jaeger | | | | 31 | Nant. Sound | 14 | S. Perkins# |
| 7 | Stellwagen | 11 | P. Trull | 31 | Off P.I. | 6 | M. Rines# |
| 10 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 | E. Taylor | Black Skimmer | | | |
| 17 | Essex Bay | 1 | D. Brown# | 10 | W. Dennis | 1 | S. Hedman |
| 19 | P.I. | 1 | lt R. Heil | 10 | Chatham (Morris I.) | 2 | S. Hedman |
| 24 | Plymouth B. | 4 | C. Floyd | 17 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 | M. Rines# |
| 27 | Stellwagen | 8 | W. Petersen# | 28 | Edgartown | 2 | J. Verner# |
| Jaeger species | | | | Atlantic Puffin | | | |
| 26 | Cashes Ledge | 2 | BBC (R. Donovan) | 24 | Stellwagen | 1 | C. Floyd |
| Laughing Gull | | | | Mourning Dove | | | |
| 4 | Squantum | 5 | M. Rines | 24 | Newbury | 81 | H. Wiggin# |
| 7, 24 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 5, 4 | J. Berry | Black-billed Cuckoo | | | |
| 10 | Rockport (H.P.) | 1 | imm J. Berry | 24 | W. Newbury | 1 | P. + F. Vale |
| 17 | Revere B. | 2000 | H. Wiggin# | 4, 11 | Rutland | 7, 3 | M. Lynch# |
| Little Gull | | | | Eastern Screech-Owl | | | |
| 10 | Lynn | 1 | 1S J. Quigley | 23 | MNWS | 1 | R. Stymeist |
| 18 | Lynn Beach | 1 | ad C. Floyd | 25 | E. Middleboro | 1 | K. Anderson |
| 25 | Beverly | 1 | ad F. Gardner | thru | Watertown | 1 | L. Cocca |
| Black-headed Gull | | | | Great Horned Owl | | | |
| 14 | Sandwich | 1 | R. Carlson | 12-14 | Mt.A. | 1 | R. Stymeist# |
| Bonaparte's Gull | | | | 14 | Westboro | 1 | A. Boover |
| 18 | Lynn Beach | 250 | C. Floyd | 30 | S. Monomoy | 2 | R. Donovan |
| 19 | Newburyport | 585 | R. Heil | 31 | E. Middleboro | 1 | K. Anderson |
| 24 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 29 | J. Berry | Barred Owl | | | |
| 28 | Revere | 200 | P. + F. Vale | 14 | E. Middleboro | 1 | K. Anderson |
| 31 | Newbypt H. | 350 | J. Berry | Common Nighthawk | | | |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | | | | 11 | Wellesley | 1 | R. Forster |
| 21 | Lynn | 1 | ad J. Quigley | 12, 17 | Mt.A. | 1, 1 | R. Stymeist |
| Sabine's Gull | | | | 13 | GMNWR | 1 | M. Pelikan |
| 14 | Stellwagen | 1 | imm P. Trull | 19, 30 | Methuen | 2, 19 | J. Hogan |
| Sandwich Tern | | | | 20-31 | Mt.A. | 217 total | R. Stymeist |
| 18 | M.V. (Norton Pt) | 1 | A. Keith# | 24, 26 | Maynard | 53, 106 | L. Nachtrab |
| Roseate Tern | | | | 24 | Westboro | 54 | A. Boover |
| 3 | Gloucester H. | 2 | J. Berry# | 25, 27 | Worcester | 11, 70 | M. Lynch# |
| 9 | Scituate (3rd Cl) | 5 | D. Ludlow | 26 | Leominster | 100s | T. Pirrou |
| 11 | Stellwagen | 40 | P. Trull | 26 | Lincoln | 45 | K. Calmer |
| 18 | P.I. | 3 | J. Center | 29 | Dorchester | 58 | R. Donovan |
| 23-25 | Nantucket | 1000 | S. Perkins | 31 | W. Newbury | 40 | R. Heil |
| 28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1400 | W. Petersen# | 31 | Waltham | 100 | W. Petersen |
| Common Tern | | | | 31 | GMNWR | 45 | E. Taylor |
| 9 | Scituate (3rd Cl) | 200 | D. Ludlow | 31 | Wakefield | 69 | P. + F. Vale |
| 11 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 32 | J. Berry | 31 | W. Newton | 18 | M. Murphy |
| 19 | Revere | 40 | BBC (P. + F. Vale) | Whip-poor-will | | | |
| 23-25 | Nantucket | 1200 | S. Perkins | 15 | Wellfleet | 3 | S. + E. Miller |
| 26 | Stellwagen | 2500 | +BBC (S. Perkins) | Chimney Swift | | | |
| 31 | Newbypt H. | 50 | J. Berry | 8 | Woburn | 14 | M. Rines |
| Forster's Tern | | | | 14 | Wakefield | 40 | P. + F. Vale |
| 6, 25 | M.V. | 1, 1 | V. Laux, A. Keith | Ruby-throated Hummingbird | | | |
| 11 | Stellwagen | 1-2 | J. Berry | thr | E. Boxford | 4-7 | J. Brown# |
| 12 | Lynn | 1 | J. Quigley | 9 | Maynard | 1 | L. Nachtrab |
| 15 | P.I. | 1 | L. Hennin | 15 | Wendell | 2 | K. Heard |
| 23 | Nantucket | 1 | S. Perkins | 19 | Lincoln | 1 | W. Petersen |
| 25 | Acoaxet | 6 | M. Lynch# | 24 | P.I. | 1 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 28 | S. Monomoy | 4 | R. Donovan | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 1, 1 | M. Lynch# |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Red-headed Woodpecker | thr | Sherborn | 2 ad + 4 imm | E. Taylor |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | thr | E. Boxford | 1 f + 1 yg | J. Brown# |
| | thr | Medford | pr + 1 yg | M. Rines |
| | 16 | Lincoln | 1 | S. Perkins |
| | 18 | Berkley | 1 | G. d'Entremont# |
| | 25 | Northboro | 1 | A. Boover |

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|--------------|-----|------------|
| Hairy Woodpecker | thr | E. Boxford | 2-4 | J. Brown# |
| | 11 | Medford | 3 | M. Rines |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 4 | Rutland S.P. | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| | 6 | Tyngsboro | 1 | J. Siopels |
| | 15 | Wendell | 2 | K. Heard |

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

The fall migration of passerines began quietly in early August and was well underway by month's end, despite the fact that no northwest winds were recorded all month. A total of 26 species of warblers were noted during the month, with highlights being Golden-winged and Hooded warblers, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Among the more unusual species recorded were a Yellow-headed Blackbird in Randolph and two Evening Grosbeaks that spent several days at a feeder in Essex.

R. H. S.

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|----------------|--------|------------------|
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | 4 | Rutland S.P. | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| | 11 | Rutland S.P. | 1 | S. + L. Hennin |
| | 17 | Newton | 1 | H. Miller |
| | 25 | M.V. | 1 | V. Laux |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | thr | Medford | 11 max | M. Rines |
| | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 25, 20 | M. Lynch# |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | 21 | Lexington | 1 | M. Rines |
| | 24 | Chelsea | 1 | M. Rines |
| | 29 | Brookline | 1 m | H. Wiggin# |
| | 29 | P.I. | 1 | R. Heil |
| | 31 | MNWS | 1 | G. d'Entremont# |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 4 | Quabbin (G45) | 1 | S. + L. Hennin |
| Alder Flycatcher | 4 | Rutland S.P. | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| Least Flycatcher | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 2, 2 | M. Lynch# |
| | 22 | Medford | 1 | M. Rines |
| | 31 | MNWS | 1 | G. d'Entremont# |
| Eastern Phoebe | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 12, 5 | M. Lynch# |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | 8 | Woburn | 1 | M. Rines |
| | 11 | Lexington | 1 | M. Rines |
| | 11 | Medford | 1 | M. Rines |
| | 11 | Sandwich | 2 | G. d'Entremont# |
| Eastern Kingbird | 11 | Wakefield | 19 | P. + F. Vale |
| | 19 | P.I. | 41 | R. Heil |
| Purple Martin | 25 | Acoaxet | 4 imm | M. Lynch# |
| | 31 | P.I. | 6 | G. d'Entremont# |
| Tree Swallow | 19 | P.I. | 50,000 | R. Heil |
| | 24 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 10,000 | J. Berry |
| | 31 | Newbypt H. | 5000 | J. Berry |
| | 26 | Cashes Ledge | 1 | BBC (R. Donovan) |
| N. Rough-winged Swallow | 1 | Wakefield | 15 | R. Heil |
| | 8 | Wellesley | 15 | R. Forster |
| Bank Swallow | 11 | Rutland S.P. | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| Barn Swallow | 10 | Chatham (S.B.) | 200 | E. Taylor |
| | 10 | GMNWR | 300 | E. Taylor |
| | 15 | Methuen | 500 | J. Hogan# |
| Fish Crow | 10 | Orleans | 2 | W. Petersen |
| | 11 | E. Middleboro | 34 | K. Anderson |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 28 | Eastham | 2 | W. Petersen | |
| Common Raven | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 1, 2 | M. Lynch# |
| | 4 | Quabbin (G45) | 1 | S. + L. Hennin |
| | 19 | Pepperell | 1 | M. Resch |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 147, 178 | M. Lynch# |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | thr | Mt.A. | 3 max | R. Stymeist |
| | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 23, 27 | M. Lynch# |
| | 11 | Sandwich | 2 | G. d'Entremont# |
| | 18 | Stow | 5 | S. + L. Hennin |
| | 18 | Berkley | 2 | G. d'Entremont# |
| | 18 | MNWS | 2 | P. + F. Vale |
| Brown Creeper | 25 | Northboro | 2 | A. Boover |
| Carolina Wren | 11 | Lexington | 3 | M. Rines |
| | 14 | Waltham | 1 | C. Ralph |
| | 18, 25 | MNWS | 1 | P. + F. Vale |
| | 21 | Brookline | 2 ad + 1 | fH. Wiggin# |
| | 25 | Acoaxet | 10 | M. Lynch# |
| | 25 | Nantucket | 5 | S. Perkins |
| | 29 | W. Newbury | 1 | R. Heil |
| | 29 | Stow | 1 | L. Hennin |
| House Wren | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 6, 7 | M. Lynch# |
| | 31 | Medford | 8 | M. Rines |
| Marsh Wren | 19 | P.I. | 12 | R. Heil |
| | 29 | Dorchester | 7 | R. Donovan |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | thr | Medford | 10 max | M. Rines |
| | 8 | GMNWR | 2 | L. Hennin |
| | 24 | E. Boston | 2 | R. Stymeist# |
| | 25 | M.V. | 1 | V. Laux |
| Eastern Bluebird | 9 | Bolton | 2 | L. Hennin |
| | 11 | Rutland S.P. | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| Hermit Thrush | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 40, 38 | M. Lynch# |
| | 6 | Milton | 1 | J. Young |
| Wood Thrush | thr | Medford | 1-2 | M. Rines |
| | 2 | E. Sandwich | 2 | E. + S. Miller |
| | 19 | Worc. (BMB) | 1 | J. Coyne# |
| Gray Catbird | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 47, 29 | M. Lynch# |
| | 8 | Woburn | 41 | M. Rines |
| | 19 | P.I. | 85 | R. Heil |
| Brown Thrasher | thr | Medford | 7 max | M. Rines |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------|------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------|------------------|
| Brown Thrasher (continued) | | | | 31 | P.I. | 10 | M. Lynch# |
| 8 | Woburn | 3 | M. Rines | Worm-eating Warbler | | | |
| 15 | Wellfleet | 3 | S. + E. Miller | 18 | Acoaxet | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 18 | MNWS | 1 | P. + F. Vale | Ovenbird | | | |
| 24 | P.I. | 2 | SSBC (M. Emmons) | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 9, 17 | M. Lynch# |
| White-eyed Vireo | | | | 11 | Medford | 1 | M. Rines |
| 18, 25 | Acoaxet | 9, 4 | M. Lynch# | 13 | S. Boston | 1 | R. Donovan |
| Solitary Vireo | | | | 25 | Northboro | 1 | A. Boover |
| 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 8, 14 | M. Lynch# | Northern Waterthrush | | | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | | | | 3 | MNWS | 3 | R. Stymeist# |
| 4 | Rutland S.P. | 2 | M. Lynch# | 24 | Plum Island | 3 | SSBC (M. Emmons) |
| Warbling Vireo | | | | 25 | MNWS | 2 | P. + F. Vale |
| 19 | Lexington | 4 juv | M. Rines | 3-31 | Reports of individuals from 12 locations | | |
| 30 | DWWS | 4 | D. Clapp | Louisiana Waterthrush | | | |
| Philadelphia Vireo | | | | 6 | Lexington | 1 | M. Rines |
| 30 | DWWS | 1 | D. Clapp | 17 | Winchendon | 1 | R. Forster |
| Red-eyed Vireo | | | | 18 | MNWS | 1 | P. + F. Vale |
| thr | Medford | 9 max | M. Rines | Mourning Warbler | | | |
| 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 89, 67 | M. Lynch# | 17 | Cummaquid | 1 | S. + E. Miller |
| Blue-winged Warbler | | | | 22 | Nahant | 1 | M. Rines |
| 1-22 | Medford | 1 | M. Rines | 25 | Nantucket | 1 | S. Perkins |
| 21 | Lexington | 1 | M. Rines | 29 | Stow | 1 | S. + L. Hennin |
| 25 | Acoaxet | 6 | M. Lynch# | Common Yellowthroat | | | |
| 25 | MNWS | 2 | P. + F. Vale | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 44, 54 | M. Lynch# |
| Golden-winged Warbler | | | | Hooded Warbler | | | |
| 19 | P.I. | 1 juv | R. Heil | 11 | Westport | 1 f | M. Resch |
| Nashville Warbler | | | | Wilson's Warbler | | | |
| 31 | P.I. | 1 | S. + L. Hennin | 25 | MNWS | 1 | P. + F. Vale |
| Northern Parula | | | | 31 | MNWS | 3+ | G. d'Entremont# |
| 22 | Medford | 1 | M. Rines | Canada Warbler | | | |
| Yellow Warbler | | | | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 4, 10 | M. Lynch# |
| 3 | MNWS | 3 | R. Stymeist# | 7 | Lexington | 1 | M. Rines |
| 8 | Woburn | 8 | M. Rines | 10 | Boxford | 1 | T. Martin# |
| 8, 24 | Medford | 4, 1 | M. Rines | 25 | MNWS | 3 | P. + F. Vale |
| 11 | F. H. | 2 | G. d'Entremont# | 31 | Medford | 1 | M. Rines |
| 17 | P.I. | 5 | G. d'Entremont# | Yellow-breasted Chat | | | |
| 18 | MNWS | 3 | P. + F. Vale | 29 | Newton | 1 | H. Miller |
| 24 | Chelsea | 5 | M. Rines | Scarlet Tanager | | | |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | | | | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 23, 18 | M. Lynch# |
| 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 10, 13 | M. Lynch# | 11 | Wakefield | 4 | P. + F. Vale |
| 25 | Nantucket | 1 | S. Perkins | 11 | Medford | 2 | M. Rines |
| 31 | P.I. | 2 | M. Lynch# | 25 | Northboro | 1 | A. Boover |
| Magnolia Warbler | | | | Rose-breasted Grosbeak | | | |
| 11 | Rutland S.P. | 4 | M. Lynch# | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 3, 7 | M. Lynch# |
| 24 | P.I. | 2 | SSBC (M. Emmons) | 12 | Mt.A. | 1 | R. Stymeist |
| 31 | Medford | 1 | M. Rines | 16 | Worc.(BMB) | 11 | L. Hennin |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | | | | Indigo Bunting | | | |
| 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 1, 3 | M. Lynch# | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 5, 5 | M. Lynch# |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | | | | 24 | Medford | 1 | M. Rines |
| 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 16, 56 | M. Lynch# | Dickcissel | | | |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | | | | 30 | W. Peabody | 2 | R. Heil |
| 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 19, 7 | M. Lynch# | 31 | S. Dartmouth | 2 | F. Thurber |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | | | Eastern Towhee | | | |
| 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 3, 7 | M. Lynch# | 2 | Medford | 42 | M. Rines |
| Pine Warbler | | | | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 17, 26 | M. Lynch# |
| 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 11, 17 | M. Lynch# | Chipping Sparrow | | | |
| Prairie Warbler | | | | 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 40, 50 | M. Lynch# |
| 18 | Freetown | 2 | G. d'Entremont# | 27 | Wellfleet | 30 | M. Lynch# |
| 31 | S. Monomoy | 2 | S. Perkins# | Field Sparrow | | | |
| Blackpoll Warbler | | | | 4 | Rutland S.P. | 8 | M. Lynch# |
| 31 | Medford | 1 | M. Rines | Vesper Sparrow | | | |
| Black-and-white Warbler | | | | 27 | Wellfleet | 3 | W. Petersen# |
| thr | Medford | 2-4 | M. Rines | Savannah Sparrow | | | |
| 3 | MNWS | 1 | R. Stymeist# | 2 | Westboro | 10 | A. Boover |
| 4, 11 | Rutland S.P. | 18, 26 | M. Lynch# | 10 | P.I. | 6 | P. + F. Vale |
| 18, 25 | MNWS | 8, 1 | P. + F. Vale | 25 | Nantucket | 20 | S. Perkins |
| American Redstart | | | | Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow | | | |
| thr | Medford | 15 max | 8/31M. Rines | 12 | N. Monomoy | 3 | J. Gottsche |
| 11 | Rutland S.P. | 8 | M. Lynch# | 14, 29 | S. Dart. (A.Pd) | 15, 10 | LCES (J. Hill) |
| 13 | S. Boston | 2 | R. Donovan | 24 | P.I. | 10 | M. Lynch# |
| 25, 31 | MNWS | 5, 4 | P. + F. Vale | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|-----------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Seaside Sparrow | | | 31 | Wakefield | 1676 | P. + F. Vale |
| 11 Barnstable | 2 | G. d'Entremont# | Orchard Oriole | | | |
| 14 S. Dart. (A.Pd) | 4 | LCES (J. Hill) | 2 E. Sandwich | 1 | S. + E. Miller | |
| White-throated Sparrow | | | Baltimore Oriole | | | |
| 4, 11 Rutland S.P. | 3, 8 | M. Lynch# | 6 Maynard | 7 | L. Nachtrab | |
| Dark-eyed Junco | | | 19 P.I. | 24 | R. Heil | |
| 17 Mt. Wachusett | 3 | E. Taylor | 23 Lexington | 17 | M. Rines | |
| Bobolink | | | 25 Worcester | 50 | M. Lynch# | |
| 2 Westboro | 6 | A. Boover | 31 MNWS | 6 | G. d'Entremont# | |
| 25 Nantucket | 35 | S. Perkins | Purple Finch | | | |
| 27 Cumb. Farms | 10 | R. Finch | thr E. Boxford | 4 | J. Brown# | |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird | | | 3 Essex | 2 | M. Rines# | |
| 10 Randolph | 1 m | D. Clements | Evening Grosbeak | | | |
| Common Grackle | | | 1-9 Essex | 2 | M. Hoar | |

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

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

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

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

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | | | |
|-------------|---|----------|---|
| ad | adult | H. | Harbor |
| alt | alternate | I. | Island |
| b | banded | L. | Ledge |
| br | breeding | M.V. | Martha's Vineyard |
| dk | dark (phase) | Mt.A. | Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge |
| f | female | Nant. | Nantucket |
| fl | fledged | Newbypt | Newburyport |
| imm | immature | P.I. | Plum Island |
| ind | individuals | Pd | Pond |
| juv | juvenile | P'town | Provincetown |
| loc | location | Quab. | Quabbin |
| lt | light (phase) | Res. | Reservoir |
| m | male | R.P. | Race Point, Provincetown |
| max | maximum | S.B. | South Beach, Chatham |
| mi | mile | S. Dart. | South Dartmouth |
| migr | migrating | S.F. | State Forest |
| n | nesting | S.N. | Sandy Neck, Barnstable |
| ph | photographed | S.P. | State Park |
| pl | plumage | Stellw. | Stellwagen Bank |
| pr | pair | Worc. | Worcester |
| S | summer (1S = first summer) | BBC | Brookline Bird Club |
| thr | throughout | BBS | Breeding Bird Survey |
| v.o. | various observers | BMB | Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester |
| W | winter (2W = second winter) | CBC | Christmas Bird Count |
| w/ | with | CCBC | Cape Cod Bird Club |
| yg | young | DFWS | Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary |
| # | additional observers | DWWS | Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary |
| A.A. | Arnold Arboretum | EMHW | Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch |
| A.P. | Andrews Point, Rockport | GMNWR | Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge |
| A.Pd | Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth | HRWMA | High Ridge Wildlife Management Area, Gardner-Westminster |
| Arl. | Arlington | IRWS | Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary |
| B. | Beach | LCES | Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies |
| B.I. | Belle Isle, E. Boston | MARC | Massachusetts Avian Records Committee |
| B.R. | Bass Rocks, Gloucester | MAS | Massachusetts Audubon Society |
| Buzz. | Buzzards Bay | MBO | Manomet Observatory |
| Cambr. | Cambridge | MBWMA | Martin Burns Wildlife Management Area, Newbury |
| 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 | NAC | Nine Acre Corner, Concord |
| E.P. | Eastern Point, Gloucester | NBC | Needham Bird Club |
| F.E. | First Encounter Beach, Eastham | NEHW | New England Hawk Watch |
| F.H. | Fort Hill, Eastham | ONWR | Oxbow 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 |
| G40 | Gate 40, Quabbin | USFWS | US Fish and Wildlife Service |
| G45 | Gate 45, Quabbin | WBWS | Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary |
| | | WMWS | Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary |

INDEX TO VOLUME 24, 1996

Issue Number, pages: 1, 1-68; 2, 69-136; 3, 137-180; 4, 181-236; 5, 237-288; 6, 289-336

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| About the Cover | William E. Davis, Jr. | |
| Bobolink | | 175 |
| Common Redpoll | | 62 |
| Green Heron | | 131 |
| Northern Goshawk | | 231 |
| Short-eared Owl | | 331 |
| White-winged Crossbill | | 283 |
| About the Cover Artist | Martha Steele | |
| Richard Salvucci | | 233 |
| Barry W. Van Dusen | | 64, 177 |
| Julie Zickefoose | | 133, 285, 333 |
| At a Glance | Wayne R. Petersen | |
| Acadian Flycatcher | | 135, 177 |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | | 235, 285 |
| Forster's Tern | | 67, 134 |
| Greater Shearwater | | 64 |
| Unidentified Sandpiper | | 287, 333 |
| Yellow-Rumped Warbler | | 179, 233 |
| Bird Sightings: Summaries | | |
| Richard A. Forster, Marjorie W. Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist | | |
| September 1995 | 40 | April 1996 221 |
| October 1995 | 50 | May 1996 261 |
| Nov./Dec. 1995 | 102 | June 1996 274 |
| Jan./Feb. 1996 | 163 | July 1996 313 |
| March 1996 | 213 | August 1996 320 |
| Book Reviews | | |
| <i>Birdfinder: A Birder's Guide to Planning North</i> | | |
| <i>American Trips</i> | Bruce Hallett | 154 |
| <i>The Flight of the Red Knot</i> | Wayne R. Petersen | 256 |
| The Identification Guide Series: An Overview | Mark Lynch | 29 |
| The Identification Guide Series: An Overview (Part Two) | Mark Lynch | 204 |
| <i>Last of the Curlews</i> | Wayne R. Petersen | 256 |
| Monographs About Birds: A Bewildering Assortment | William E. Davis, Jr. | 127 |
| <i>Stellwagen Bank: A Guide to the Whales, Sea Birds, and Marine Life of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary</i> | Simon Perkins | 310 |
| Breeding Birds of the Massachusetts Military Reservation | | |
| | Paul M. Cavanagh, Karen A. Wilson, and Peter B. Trimble | 192 |
| Cape Tip Birding by Bike | John C. Young | 199 |
| Christmas Bird Counts, 12/16/95 - 12/31/95 | | |
| | Marjorie W. Rines and Robert H. Stymeist | 116 |
| Christmas Count Owling | Brian Cassie | 301 |

Cover Illustrations

| | |
|---|-------|
| <i>Bobolink</i> by Barry W. Van Dusen | No. 3 |
| <i>Common Redpoll</i> by Barry W. Van Dusen | No. 1 |
| <i>Green Heron</i> by Julie Zickefoose | No. 2 |
| <i>Northern Goshawk</i> by Richard Salvucci | No. 4 |
| <i>Short-eared Owl</i> by Julie Zickefoose | No. 6 |
| <i>White-winged Crossbill</i> by Julie Zickefoose | No. 5 |

| | | |
|--|-----------------|-----|
| Experience with Clapper Rails in the Barnstable Great Marsh | Stauffer Miller | 152 |
|--|-----------------|-----|

Field Notes from Here and There

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----|
| The Birds of Post Office Square, Boston | Joseph M. Adamson | 158 |
| Cooper's Hawk and Great Horned Owl Encounter | Christopher Phillips and Paul Ricard | 36 |
| Fall Shorebird Migration in Central Massachusetts | Robert C. Bradbury | 38 |
| Observations on Killdeers and Starlings | Oakes Plimpton | 259 |
| Possible Bald Eagle Predation of a Piping Plover Nest | Jill A. Seale | 249 |
| A Report on the Bluebirds in Spencer, Massachusetts | Bill Allan | 157 |
| The Impact of Bird Feeding on Wintering Birds | Herb Wilson | 17 |
| Major Broad-Winged Hawk Flights Reported by the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch | Paul M. Roberts | 211 |
| Massachusetts Partners in Flight Working Group | Bradford G. Blodget | 86 |
| Middlesex Fells Reservation Revisited | Paul Donahue | 307 |
| The Mothers of Conservation | John Hanson Mitchell | 247 |
| Notes on 1995 Nesting Attempt of Green Heron Pair at Mount Auburn Cemetery | William E. Davis, Jr. | 90 |
| Notes on the Response of Small Birds to the Presence of a Cooper's Hawk at Winter Bird Feeders | William E. Davis, Jr. | 304 |
| On Collecting Vagrants | John C. Kricher | 24 |
| Partners in Flight: Proactive Conservation for Neotropical Migratory Birds and Their Habitats | Peter W. Stangel | 79 |
| Summary of 1995 North American Migration Count in New England | Michael Resch | 95 |
| Teaming with Wildlife | | 160 |
| Testing a Model that Predicts Future Bird List Totals | Robert W. Ricci | 252 |

Where to Go Birding

| | | |
|---|--|-----|
| Birding the Lower Blackstone River Valley, Rhode Island . . . | Rick Enser | 240 |
| Birding the Nashua, New Hampshire, Area | Ralph Andrews | 72 |
| Birding the Pawtucketaway Area of Southeastern New Hampshire | Alan Delorey | 140 |
| Bluff Point Coastal Reserve | Arnold Devine and Dwight G. Smith | 184 |
| Cumberland Farms Fields | Kathleen S. Anderson | 4 |
| Grafton Notch (Maine) State Park | Elizabeth C. Pierson, Jan Erik Pierson, and Peter D. Vickery | 145 |
| West Roxbury: Birding on the Edge in Boston | Thomas Aversa | 292 |

ABOUT THE COVER: SHORT-EARED OWL

The Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) is one of the most widely distributed of the world's owls, occurring on every continent except Australia and Antarctica. Although normally crepuscular in nature, it is often seen during the day bouncing through the air on slow, deliberate wing beats, resembling a giant moth. This medium-sized owl in flight shows a black patch near the bend of the underwing and a conspicuous buffy patch on the upper wing surface. It is a buffy brown-streaked owl with a well-defined facial disk and two small feather-tuft "ears" that are difficult to see. The wings are long and wide. The sexes are similar in plumage, but females average slightly larger, and the sexes can be separated in the breeding season by slight differences in plumage color, size, and behavior.

The Short-eared Owl is polytypic with eight or nine subspecies recognized worldwide, many of which are endemic insular races. In North America they breed from Alaska to Newfoundland and across the northern United States wherever suitable habitat occurs. In the northeast this owl has a patchy distribution extending south to New Jersey. In Massachusetts Short-eared Owls are an uncommon breeder on the islands off Cape Cod, with twenty to twenty-five pairs reported breeding on Monomoy, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, and other smaller islands. Northern birds migrate south in winter to the southern United States and Mexico. In Massachusetts the Short-eared Owl is considered a fairly common migrant and winter resident, with owls arriving in late September and remaining until early April. Highest concentrations occur in the Plum Island area, on the Boston marshes, in Middleboro, and on Cape Cod and offshore islands. The Short-eared Owl is considered by some as an irruptive species and is nomadic in parts of its range, seeking concentrations of its favored mouse and vole prey. Significant flights occurred in Massachusetts in the winters of 1961-1962, 1978-1979, and 1981-1982, with a high count of forty-three in 1961.

Short-eared Owls are seasonally monogamous breeders with reproduction and population dynamics tied to the density of small mammal prey. They prefer open habitats such as marshes, sand dunes, prairies, and tundra. They have a variety of calls, with males uttering a series of *hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo* tooting notes while "sky dancing" over the nest, soaring and swooping, sometimes "clapping" their wings together under their bodies with audible results. Other calls include *keeee-yow* and a variety of hisses, squeals, and bill-snaps. The male in courtship feeds the female. The threat display involves crouching with feathers ruffled and wings partially extended and lifted to face the opponent, which greatly exaggerates the bird's apparent size.

In Massachusetts nesting is underway by late May or early June. The usual nest is little more than a depression lined with grass or feathers, often hidden by tufts of grass. The clutch is four to seven creamy-white eggs. Incubation begins

before the last egg is laid, and hence the young hatch asynchronously, producing chicks of unequal size. This is probably an adaptation for maximizing the number of young produced during years of abundant food. Only the female owl has a brood patch, and she does all the incubating while the male provides the food. Both adults will give elaborate distraction displays when disturbed near the nest, including flopping about on the ground with wings spread while uttering a variety of barks, screams, and whines. The incubation period is three to four weeks and the birds fledge four to five weeks after hatching. The male provides the food for the young.

Short-eared Owls are efficient predators with asymmetrical ear openings enabling them to locate sound vertically and horizontally simultaneously. They also use sight to aid in prey capture. Normally hunting at dawn and dusk, they will forage during daylight if energy demands are high (e.g., while nesting) or prey is scarce. Their major prey is small mammals, although they also take small birds and insects. They hunt in a fashion similar to harriers, silently quartering low over fields or marsh, sometimes gliding on slightly dihedral wings, sometimes hovering, dropping down with legs extended upon prey. Occasionally they hunt from a low perch. They may cache food, presumably as a hedge against bad weather or ephemeral prey. They swallow small mammals whole or snip off their heads, and clip the wings off small birds before swallowing the bodies whole. They have been known to ravage tern colonies. They generally regurgitate a single pellet of feathers, fur, and bones after each meal.

Due primarily to habitat loss Short-eared Owls are declining in many parts of the United States, particularly in the Pacific northwest and in the northeast. Ironically, in the northeast reforestation may play a role in population declines. They were on the National Audubon Society Blue List, which included birds experiencing population declines or range reductions nationally. Seven northeastern states currently list the Short-eared Owl as endangered, threatened, or a species of special concern. As ground-nesting birds, they are subject to mammal predation and are sometimes preyed upon by large raptors, including eagles and other owl species. They lose eggs and young to corvids, gulls, and jaegers. Habitat loss appears to be the major threat to their survival, although fluctuations in prey abundance may affect local populations.

In many parts of the United States and Canada, however, Short-eared Owl populations seem more secure, and because of their wide distribution they should continue to brighten our winters into the foreseeable future.

William E. Davis, Jr.

ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

This is the second consecutive issue that Julie Zickefoose's art has graced *Bird Observer's* cover. Julie worked for six years as a field biologist for The Nature Conservancy before turning to full-time freelance art. She contributes regularly to magazines from *Ladybug* to *Bird Watcher's Digest*, for which she is a contributing editor. Book illustration credits include the Academy of Natural Sciences, for which she is contributing illustrations to the multivolume work *The Birds of North America*.

Julie has shown her work at Harvard University, the National Zoo, the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, and the XIX International Ornithological Congress. She also sings and plays in a band, The Swinging Orangutans, whose members include her husband, Bill Thompson III, editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Julie can be reached at Indigo Hill Arts, Route 1, Box 270, Whipple, Ohio 45788.

M. Steele

AT A GLANCE *October 1996* _____ *Wayne R. Petersen*

Shorebirds are always interesting, and when they are seen at dusk (or underexposed in printing!), they can be especially difficult to identify. Because of the obvious darkness of October's mystery photo, identification needs to be based on a series of soft impressions rather than one or two obvious field marks.

Many identification possibilities can be eliminated at once on the basis of structural characteristics. The slim, slightly tapered bill, rounded head, and long-winged appearance remove all of the plovers as options. Bill shape and the shortness of the bird's legs eliminate yellowlegs and their allies, curlews and godwits, and species such as Ruddy Turnstone, Dunlin, Stilt Sandpiper, and the dowitchers.

So what choices remain? Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Red Knot, Sanderling, all the peep, and Pectoral, Purple, and Buff-breasted sandpipers should come to mind. Spotted Sandpiper is out because of its uniform back pattern, and Red Knot never displays the boldly fringed, dark-centered tertials of the mystery sandpiper. This tertial pattern, along with the long-winged aspect of the bird, also eliminate Sanderling. Both Pectoral and Purple sandpipers have notably longer, more decurved bills. In addition, a Purple Sandpiper would appear darker and more uniform on the back and chest. A Pectoral Sandpiper would display more prominent streaks on its breast and back. Upland Sandpiper can be ruled out by its longer neck, streaking on the sides and flanks, and long

tail that actually protrudes beyond the folded wing tips.

This leaves only the five peep (i.e., Baird's, White-rumped, Western, Semipalmated, and Least sandpipers) and the Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Returning to the mystery bird's long-winged appearance, it appears that the folded and crossed primary tips actually extend noticeably beyond the tail. On this character alone we can virtually eliminate all but Baird's and White-rumped sandpipers. Assuming that the mystery shorebird is a juvenile on the basis of the scaly look to its back, scapulars, and wing coverts, as well as the previously noted pale fringes on the tertials, we would expect a young White-rumped Sandpiper to possess a distinct supercilium, have pale back streaks, and show at least a few streaks on the sides and flanks.

Failing to see these telltale field marks of a juvenile White-rumped Sandpiper, we are further led to the possibility that the sandpiper could be a juvenile Baird's Sandpiper. But what about Buff-breasted Sandpiper? The two species are very similar in coloration and pattern, and even habitat preference and seasonality in Massachusetts. Although Buff-breasted Sandpipers typically assume a more upright posture than Baird's, possess an eye ring and a different breast pattern, and have mustard-yellow legs instead of black, these last features are impossible to discern accurately from the exposure of the photo. Although the absence of side streaks and the length of the folded wings point to Baird's, Buff-breasted Sandpiper cannot be conclusively eliminated from the view and exposure in this photograph. Consequently, the identity of this mystery photograph is most appropriately left as indeterminate.



AT A GLANCE

Photo by Emily Goode Courtesy of MAS



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CONTENTS

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----|
| WEST ROXBURY: BIRDING ON THE EDGE IN BOSTON | Thomas Aversa | 292 |
| CHRISTMAS COUNT OWLING | Brian Cassie | 301 |
| NOTES ON THE RESPONSE OF SMALL BIRDS TO THE PRESENCE OF A COOPER'S HAWK AT WINTER BIRD FEEDERS | William E. Davis, Jr. | 304 |
| MIDDLESEX FELLS RESERVATION REVISITED . . . | Paul Donahue | 307 |
| BOOK REVIEW: <i>Stellwagen Bank: A Guide to the Whales, Sea Birds, and Marine Life of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary</i> by Nathalie Ward | Simon Perkins | 310 |
| TIDE TABLE, 1997 | Centerfold | |
| BIRD SIGHTINGS: July 1996 SUMMARY | | 313 |
| BIRD SIGHTINGS: August 1996 SUMMARY | | 320 |
| INDEX TO VOLUME 24, 1996 | | 329 |
| ABOUT THE COVER: Short-eared Owl | W. E. Davis, Jr. | 331 |
| ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Julie Zickefoose | M. Steele | 333 |
| AT A GLANCE | Wayne R. Petersen | 333 |
| Cover Illustration: Short-eared Owl by Julie Zickefoose | | |
