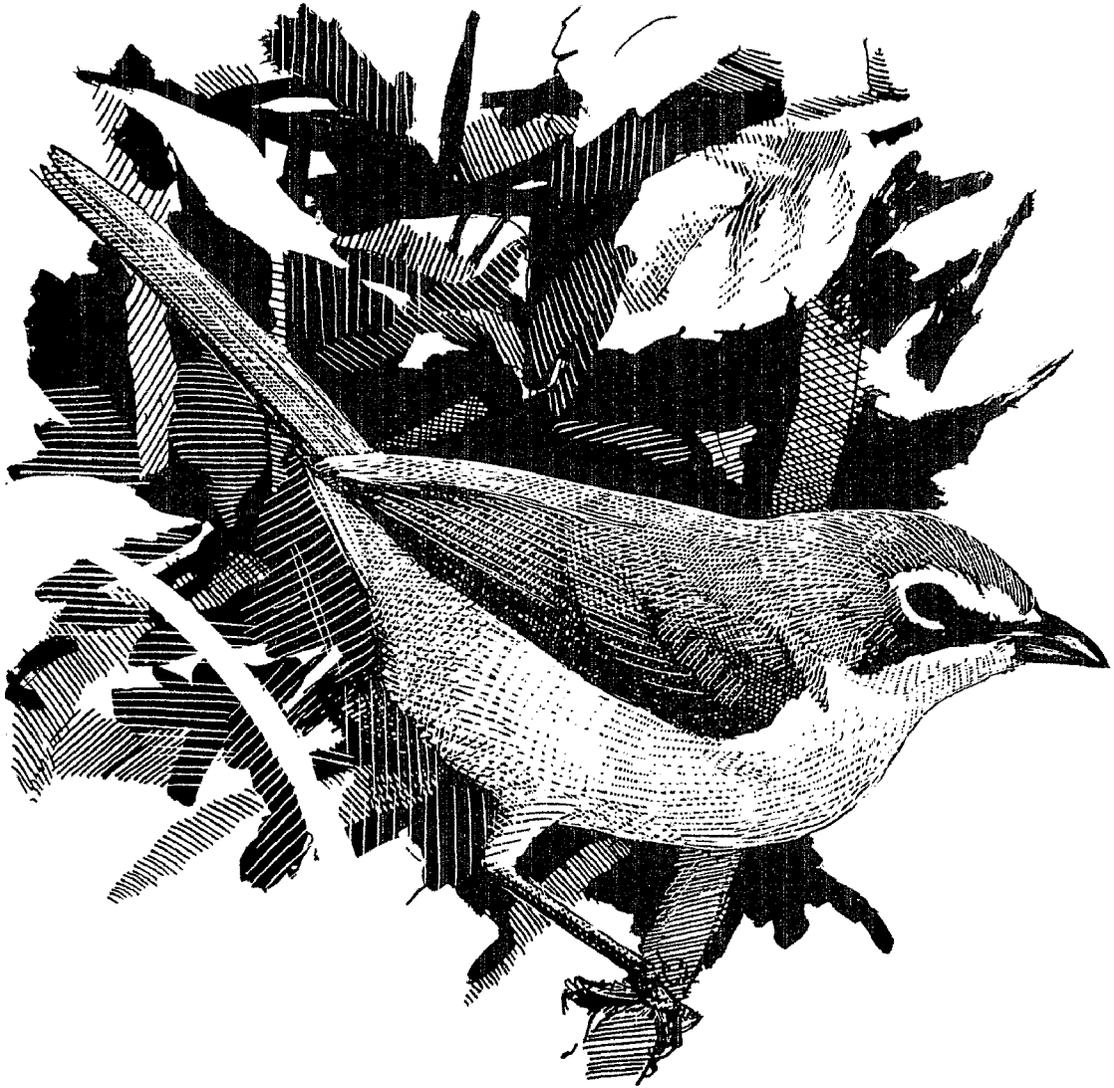


Bird Observer

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DECEMBER 2003



HOT BIRDS



This **Red Phalarope** was found by Tom Swochak on September 12, 2003, on the edge of a tobacco field in Westfield. It was a very popular attraction in the western part of the state over the next few days. Chris Buelow took this great image. How often do you get to see phalarope toes?

Whit Manter found this **Say's Phoebe** in West Tisbury near the shore of Tisbury Great Pond on September 10, 2003. Since the bird was happily feeding on flies, beetles, and larvae in a pasture, photographer Matt Pelikan reports that he literally crawled through sheep excrement (not his choice of word) to get the last couple of photos.



Phil Brown was chasing another influx of autumnal *Selasphorus* hummingbirds and managed a two-fer when he got these stunning images of female **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds**. Both the bird in Amherst (below, left) and the one in Lanesborough (below, right) were digiscoped on October 26, 2003.



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HOARY AND COMMON REDPOLLS BY GEORGE C. WEST

Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal — to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds
VOL. 31, NO. 6 DECEMBER 2003

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Significant Essex County Nest Records, 2002-2003

Jim Berry

In three previous *Bird Observer* articles, cited often in the following species accounts, I discussed the nesting history and some recent individual nests of nineteen species of birds that are either recent nesters in Essex County, Massachusetts, or uncommon nesters, or whose nests are otherwise not often found. In this article I write about the nesting of twelve species during the 2002 and 2003 nesting seasons, eight of which are follow-up reports on species previously dealt with, and four of which are new accounts. This time, a few of the birds are rather common nesters in the county, but the nests described are remarkable for one reason or another. The intent of this series of articles is to give the reader a more complete picture, both historical and technical, of the nesting status of the various species in northeastern Massachusetts.

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis*

In my third nesting article (Berry 2002) I discussed the Least Bittern's status as never more than a rare and local breeder in the county, and the consequent excitement caused by the discovery of two nesting pairs in 2001, the first nesting evidence here since 1987. Those pairs were in the beaver marsh in Willowdale State Forest in Ipswich and a brackish seaside pond in Rockport. The nests were not found, as they rarely are, but fledged young were seen in both cases.

On June 20, 2002, after an entire spring of not hearing Least Bitterns calling in the Willowdale marsh, as they had done frequently the two or three years before, I



LEAST BITTERN NEST BY JIM BERRY

finally spotted a male bittern flying into a stand of cattails where I had seen young in 2001. I had just bought a kayak, and took it into the marsh on July 9. Paddling around the perimeter of the same cattail stand, I heard the *unk-unk* call of a Least Bittern — in this case clearly an alarm call — and moved toward it. Very soon a male bittern flew straight up and away (both sexes incubate), and within minutes I found the nest. It was a shallow platform of bent-over dead cattail stalks, a flimsy affair about ten inches above the water and a perfect match to the nest photograph in Harrison (1975). There were three white eggs on it. Fortunately, I had the presence of mind in my euphoria to take several photographs before leaving the bitterns to their incubating.

I made two return trips by kayak but could not refind the nest. (I kept these searches short for the sake of the bitterns.) On August 1 I saw the female flush from the same area; her constant clucking signaled the presence of young, which given a 16-20-day incubation period would have hatched by then. I never found any young from the kayak, but on August 6 I set up my telescope on the eastern bank of the marsh and was able to spot a downy chick, less than half-grown, preening and climbing about at the edge of the cattails. It had moved many yards from the nest, which was in the interior of the stand. The small size of the baby made me think it was not much over a week old; they don't fly for about 25 days, but can climb out of the nest in as little as 4-5 days (Baicich and Harrison 1997). I suspect the other two eggs hatched as well, but I did not see any more bitterns that summer, nor were the birds evident in 2003. But as it was, this was one of the most gratifying nests I have ever found.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

Great Blue Herons are common birds over most of North America, but as nesters they have been somewhat of an enigma in Essex County. In fact, it has not been until recently that they have been found to be nesting much of anywhere in southern New England. For example, while Knight (1908) described the species as a “common summer resident” in most Maine counties, Howe and Allen (1901) called it “a rather common migrant; rare in winter” in Massachusetts, and did not mention a single nest record for the entire state! Forbush (1925) agreed, calling it a “common migrant and local summer resident” in the three northern states, but only a “common migrant” in the three southern states. He did say that it “bred not many years ago in Massachusetts” but was not more specific. Zeranski and Baptist (1990) state that the species “was probably a common nester in [Connecticut] during the early colonial period,” but suffered from hunting pressure in the 1800s and was not found nesting in modern times until 1975.

With regard to Essex County, Townsend (1905, 1920) was never able to record the Great Blue Heron as a breeding bird, “although it undoubtedly bred in former years.” Nor did Oscar Root (1957-58), who birded the Andover region as thoroughly as anyone, find any evidence of nesting in the western reaches of the county. As recently as midcentury, Griscom and Snyder (1955) called the bird a “rare and extirpated summer resident [in Massachusetts], first found breeding in the Harvard Forest at Petersham [Worcester County] (1925-1938)...at least 20 nests in tall pines in

the nearly primeval forest which was destroyed by the hurricane of 1938.” They mentioned subsequent reports of “possible nestings” but did not seem convinced that the birds had returned as certain nesters anywhere. Apparently they were skeptical of a 1947 report of a colony of 14 nests in Groton, in nearby Middlesex County, that had been “occupied for several years” (*Records of New England Birds* 3: 83). Unfortunately, this colony was never mentioned again in *RNEB* and was apparently not followed up to verify what would have been the only known nesting colony in the state at the time.

Veit and Petersen (1993) discuss the remote, isolated nature of Great Blue Heron nesting colonies, inland and strictly apart from the offshore mixed-species colonies of the other herons, and suspect that Griscom and Snyder “may have overlooked some of them.” Be that as it may, it was not until 1966 that the birds began to be found breeding again in the state, when colonies of up to 21 nests were discovered in Phillipston and Hawley (*RNEB*). Another colony was found in West Becket/Tyringham in 1968. The floodgates had opened; the map reprinted in Veit and Petersen (1993) from the unpublished 1974-1979 Massachusetts breeding-bird atlas project showed nesting confirmations from no fewer than 37 locations, but none in Essex County. By 1989 there were an estimated 266 nesting pairs in 22 colonies from Middlesex County westward (*ibid.*). The birds had finally taken off, beginning one of the most gratifying population explosions of any nesting species in Massachusetts.

The breakthrough in Essex County came in 1990, when two active nests each with four young were found in the Puritan Lawn Cemetery in West Peabody (H. Wiggin. Bird Sightings. *Bird Observer* 18: 234). The pond containing the nest trees was later severely disturbed (Bob Stymeist, pers. comm.), and no further nest efforts were reported there. Next came the discovery in 1993 of two nests along a swampy power line in West Boxford, about on the North Andover line. That colony grew to at least eight active nests in 1994 (T. Walker. Bird Sightings. *Bird Observer* 22: 214). I



GREAT BLUE HERON NESTING COLONY IN WEST BOXFORD BY JIM BERRY

have no data for the next two years, but when I walked this section in June 1997 during Bob Stymeist's annual power line survey of breeding birds, which some of us have done in that area since 1991, I found at least 40 active nests. And the colony kept growing for several more years: 55+ active nests in 1998, 61 in 1999, 72 in 2000, and 84 in 2001. That was the peak. There were about 77 active nests in 2002 and a maximum of 70 in 2003. And, I am happy to report, the colony was not affected by the laying of the new gas pipeline along that power line in the winter of 2003. The work was finished by early spring, just before the birds arrived back on territory (Tim Walker, pers. comm.). Some cleanup work occurred far along into the birds' nesting cycle, but another neighbor does not think it disrupted their activity (Bev Ingalls, pers. comm.).

Perhaps one reason the colony had fewer nests the last two years is that new colonies have been springing up literally all over the place, as if the county had suddenly become prime real estate for Great Blue Herons. I suspect that some of the birds from the Boxford colony, sensing that it was getting too big, discovered other suitable sites and started using them. The biggest so far known is one in a swamp in Georgetown discovered by Phil Brown in spring 2003, which had nest counts ranging from nine to seventeen. Unfortunately, there is evidence that it was disturbed and might have failed to produce young (Rick Heil, pers. comm.). Pike Messenger, the Middleton conservation agent, showed me a new colony of four nests in a recently dammed beaver swamp in that town, and the habitat is so thick with dead trees that there is plenty of potential for more herons. A single pair nested this year in the Willowdale State Forest beaver marsh in Ipswich and raised one chick to fledging; other herons fed here, and I expect this to become a small colony in 2004. In addition, some of us have suspected for several years that there may be a colony in Andover near the I-495/I-93 interchange. I was unable to find any nests when I searched the area in July 2003, but I did find four fresh juvenile herons in a creek.

When I reported these developments to the listserv *Massbird* in July and asked for more information, I learned of two more incipient colonies. Paul Guidetti told me of a single nest in Den Rock Park in Lawrence in 2002 and another one or two this year, and Steve Mirick reported a single nest ready to fledge a chick in Haverhill, near Kenoza Reservoir. And then there is the colony on a small island in Suntaug Lake on the Peabody/Lynnfield line that has been around at least since 1997, when six nests were observed in live white pines (W. Petersen. Bird Sightings. *Bird Observer* 25: 270). Dave Williams (pers. comm.) reports that it has been growing and had up to twenty nests in 2002. (I have no reports from 2003.) Finally, there is a recent colony in a beaver swamp in South Hampton, NH, only a mile north of the Essex County line. That one had eight active nests in 2002 and seventeen in 2003.

Essex County has therefore seen a change from no nesting Great Blue Herons as recently as 1989 to seven or eight colonies, or the beginnings thereof, in 2003, with another a mile north of the county line. The birds are clearly in a population boom, but why? Almost certainly one of the main reasons is the increase in beaver swamps. Most of these heron colonies are in them, and there is a lot more such habitat around nowadays. For example, it was in 1996 that the North Andover power line swamp was

flooded by beavers (Bob Stymeist, pers. comm.); the very next year the colony had ballooned to 40 nesting pairs. The Middleton colony started four years after that swamp was dammed. The Ipswich pair nested a comparable number of years after that marsh was dammed. And so forth. One can argue about the costs and benefits of the ban on leghold traps passed in Massachusetts a few years ago, but one result has been more beavers, more dams, and a lot more excellent wildlife habitat. Let's hope that enough humans become educated to the benefit of these industrious animals, and their positive effect on all wildlife, that their numbers will not be seen as a nuisance, as so many "inferior" species are labeled by people unwise in the ways of the natural world around them.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

In my first nesting article (Berry 2000) I mentioned the historical gap in the Osprey's nesting range between southeastern Massachusetts and coastal Maine, and the opinion of Townsend, Forbush, and other writers a century ago that they had not bred in this gap for many years, at least not since the early nineteenth century. Forbush (1927) stated, "There is every reason to believe that it was once a common breeding bird along the whole coast of New England and locally in the interior." But for whatever reasons it ceased to nest in northeastern Massachusetts and coastal New Hampshire. I then summarized the comeback of the Osprey in this area from its modern beginning in 1989, listing five current nest sites in Essex County, several in Rockingham County (NH) to the north, and one in Suffolk County to the south.

The trend since 2000 has been all positive. I know of at least three more nesting sites in Salisbury, Essex, and Ipswich. The Salisbury pair used one of the several platforms erected in the salt marsh along Ferry Road starting in 2003. The Essex pair has nested on the spindle at the mouth of the Essex River since 2002. These are typical nest sites for Ospreys. The third new site, perhaps reflecting what now amounts to an Osprey housing shortage, was built on the thatched roof of a *duck blind* in the Ipswich salt marsh in 2003. At least two young fledged from this nest the first week of August. Young hawks often return to the nest to receive food from their parents after fledging, so the determination of fledging dates is tricky without constant surveillance, and this nest was over half a mile from the nearest vantage point. But I knew they had fledged by August 4 when I saw one of the birds crash into the side of the blind when attempting to land on the nest. Clearly that was not an adult bird! (The poor thing recovered its composure and landed successfully on the next attempt.)



OSPREY PLATFORM ON NELSON'S ISLAND BY JIM BERRY

There is ample precedent for Ospreys building nests on low structures (this blind was only about five feet high) or even on the ground. The literature is replete with references to such nests, as well as nests on a wide variety of high structures and tall trees. The nest on the duck blind is a good sign, in that the local platforms have mostly been occupied, forcing new pairs to seek alternative sites. In fact, this nest is within sight of two occupied platforms, those on Nelson Island in Rowley and Plum Island in Ipswich. The species has made a rapid comeback over the last fifteen years, and is now at the point of nesting almost colonially, as they do farther south and north. What a welcome — and overdue — addition to the county's breeding avifauna.

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Last year (Berry 2002) I summarized the surprising nesting of a pair of Northern Harriers on Plum Island in 2001, the first documented Essex County nest since the early 1960s. The pair repeated in 2002, nesting in the same area of dead cattails near the north end of the North Impoundment near the Rowley-Newbury line. The pair was observed by various people from courtship in April through the fledging of two young by the end of July. But there was apparently no nest there in 2003. Birds were observed at times during the summer, but evidence of nesting was not obtained, or at least not published. With the future of the North Impoundment up in the air in terms of whether it will remain a fresh marsh or continue to be flooded with salt water, as it has been for several years, the future nesting of this state-listed species there is in some question. Fortunately Northern Harriers will nest in either fresh or salt marsh (Baicich and Harrison 1997, Bent 1937), so in this case it is probably the water level that matters more than salinity.

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*

This is my third report on nesting Sharpshins. First (Berry 2000) I recounted a nesting chronology on a spruce-covered island in Essex Bay in 2000, and later (Berry 2002) summarized a similar successful nesting event in a white pine grove in Willowdale State Forest in Ipswich in 2001. I speculated then that despite the lack of nests found in the county over the past century, the species has probably been nesting right along in small numbers.

That hunch was given additional support by the discovery of *two* Sharpshin nests in 2002 and another in 2003. The Willowdale pair nested again in both years, making it at least three years in a row in the same small area. But the results were quite different. In spring 2002 I went to look for them where they nested the year before, but instead found a pair of Great Horned Owls, *Bubo virginianus*, nesting in an old hawk nest very close to the one used in 2001 by the Sharpshins. But the hawks were not dissuaded from nesting; they simply moved about 150 yards west into a red pine grove, where they built a nest only about 50 yards from busy U.S. Route 1. On April 14 and 17 I watched the male break off pine twigs and take them to a nest about 60 feet up in a red pine at the edge of the grove while the female gave *peep* calls. Remarkably, the male worked on this nest despite my standing not 50 feet from it! I saw the hawks a couple more times, but by mid-May they had evidently deserted the

nest, and I saw no more of them. The reason may have been a pair of Broad-winged Hawks, *Buteo platypterus*, that moved into the neighborhood and nested in a white pine within 50 yards of the Sharpshins, but I cannot prove this, since I observed no interactions and have no information on how these two species get along.

In 2003 the pair built again in the same grove, this time in a nearby red pine about 75 feet up, more in the middle of the grove. I saw the pair copulating near the nest on April 23, and the female incubating on May 9, 15, and 23, each time eyeing me as I watched briefly from a distance through the scope. On none of these occasions did she move or make a sound. But on June 15 I could not spot the nest; it was simply missing. I walked over to the tree and to my dismay found the nest on the ground, with half a Sharpshin eggshell next to it. By this time the eggs had probably hatched, and a predator had most likely found the nest, eaten the young, and incidentally knocked the nest to the ground. It is possible that the wind knocked it down, but I think this much less likely, unless it blew down after predation had occurred and the nest had been loosened from its moorings.

The third Sharpshin nest had a happy outcome. This nest was found, of all places, in Breakheart Reservation in Saugus, an otherwise built-out town with much less open space than towns farther north in the county. It was found on May 25, 2002, when Inge and Dana Jewell saw a bird incubating about 45 feet up in a white pine. The site was a grove of the same species, but a small grove, and very open compared with most conifer groves. This nest, like those of the Ipswich pair, was beside a trail, and quite easy to observe. The Jewells, along with Fay and Peter Vale, monitored the nest throughout its use. The Jewells showed it to me on July 13, when I watched a food exchange from male to female, who then fed two fairly large but still white downy young. By July 25 one of the young had branched, and by May 28 both had fledged.

There have thus been at least five Sharp-shinned Hawk nests in Essex County in the last four years, 2000-2003. Either the birds have been here all along, or they are making a comeback as a breeding species. The most interesting thing to me about these birds at the nest is the variation in their reaction to people. Much has been written about the sensitivity of accipiters to human intrusion into their nesting territories. I now think this is most true of Northern Goshawks, *Accipiter gentilis*, judging by their fierce reactions to humans near the nest; they clearly evince stress. I think our viewing also affects many Cooper's Hawks, *Accipiter cooperii*, which tend to slink off the nest at our approach. But my experience in 2003 watching a Cooper's nest in Danvers, in a tall oak behind Mollie Taylor's house in a suburban neighborhood, showed me that, with this pair at least, stress from humans watching them was virtually zero. They seemed not to care at all about being observed, and were obviously used to human activity all around them. This amiable pair fledged three young by mid-July (Mollie Taylor, pers. comm.)

The Sharpshins on Choate Island in 2000 (Berry 2000) were as laid-back around the nest as hawks can be, as were the birds in Saugus. The Willowdale pair built their nests three years running right over the Bay Circuit Trail, which gets moderate daily use by pedestrians and mountain bikers. These birds were clearly used to humans

walking or riding through their territory. They were aggressive while they had young in the nest (if one were so rude as to stop), but were much less alarmed at human visits before hatching and after fledging, the more aggressive female even posing for photographs after her babies were safely flying. But this has not always been my experience. I have been attacked or at least chastised by Sharpshins in three other nesting situations in other states. I don't mean to suggest that it is all right for birders to spend a lot of time around raptor nests, or any other nests. I believe in making quick observations and leaving the area without delay, unless the nest can be watched through a telescope from a distance far enough away that the birds don't even notice. The less stress we cause them, the better, even if they don't always exhibit it.

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus*

I reported in my first article (Berry 2000) on the establishment of this species as a breeder in Essex County from the discovery of the first two known nestings in 1993. I also cited Marjorie Rines's observations of a consistently double-brooded pair of Redbellies in Medford, Middlesex County, through the 1990s. Double-brooding had apparently not been previously witnessed in New England, but is consistent with the birds' behavior farther south.

The last two breeding seasons have been a watershed for me in the discovery of Red-bellied Woodpecker nests in Essex County. In 2002 I documented three nestings in two nests, and in 2003 *six* nestings in *five* nests. In each of these years one of the pairs has been double-brooded, and the proximity of those two nests, on opposite sides of the same Ipswich beaver marsh in consecutive years, makes it likely that it was the same pair both years.

The 2002 nests belonged to that pair and another at the other end of Ipswich (actually in a corner of Topsfield), in the beaver marsh in Willowdale State Forest. The latter nest was about 30 feet up in a deciduous snag just below the beaver dam, and very close to a nest of Brown Creepers, *Certhia americana*, and a nest of Red-breasted Nuthatches, *Sitta canadensis*. I last saw the adult woodpeckers feeding young on June 20; fledging, if it occurred, happened by June 30, when there was no activity at the nest. The cavity was not reused that season. The double-brooded pair fledged their first brood from a cavity 22 feet up in a deciduous snag near the New England Biolabs property on the early date of May 30, then reused the same cavity for a second brood. I last saw the pair feeding young on July 26; there was no activity on August 1. The young were not yet coming to the hole on July 26, but were sizable enough that the adults had only to lean into the cavity to feed them, so it is likely that they fledged by the end of July, two months after the first brood fledged.

In 2003 I began finding Red-belly nests almost everywhere I went. Two of them were seen only once: one in the construction phase in a small beaver swamp in Martin Burns WMA in Newbury on April 30, and one in which the adults were feeding young in the huge beaver swamp in West Boxford on June 30. The other three were all in the Ipswich area: the two nesting pairs from 2002, and another pair in the interior of Willowdale State Forest. That nest, the only one of the five not in a beaver swamp, was about 40 feet up in a red oak in an oak/beech/hickory stand on a dry

hillside. I didn't make enough visits to know for certain whether the pair was single- or double-brooded, but they were feeding young on June 25 and July 9.

The pair below the beaver dam in Willowdale excavated a cavity in the same snag used the year before, on the opposite side of the trunk and one foot lower, about 29 feet above the water. This nest, observable from the beaver dam itself, was also hard to figure out in terms of the number of broods, for I saw activity as early as April 24 but did not see the birds feeding young until June 26. Since last year's brood would have fledged between June 20 and 30, and with an incubation period of 12-14 days and a nestling period of 24-27 days (Erlich et al. 1988), it is likely that the actual laying did not start until late May or early June, and there was only one brood. At any rate, I last saw the birds feeding young on July 9, when they were big enough to come to the hole to receive food. When I returned on July 14, the hole had been enlarged, most likely by a mammalian predator. I can only hope the young had fledged before the raid; on the other hand, why would a predator open up the hole unless it thought there was life inside? The lack of woodpecker activity in the area on subsequent visits did not foster optimism.

Meanwhile, the trusty New England Biolabs pair again raised two broods in the same cavity, this one about 30 feet up in a beech snag, very close to noisy construction activity where the company is building its new facility on the former Don Bosco property. The nest tree was about 200 yards across the swamp from last year's nest and easily observable from a horse/pedestrian bridge across the Miles River. This pair was also active in late April but did not duplicate last year's end-of-May fledging. They were feeding small young on May 27, indicated by their entering the hole completely with each delivery. This brood probably did not fledge until at least the middle of June, but their behavior on June 19 persuaded me that they were no longer feeding young. An exchange of places on the nest July 4 without a food delivery signaled incubation, and entering the nest all the way with food on July 14 again indicated the presence of small young. A happy note on this date was the female's chasing off one or two young from the first brood (no color on the head), virtually proving that the first nesting had been successful. Subsequent feedings on July 21 (still entering completely), July 25 (leaning in to feed larger young), and July 29 (leaning in only slightly, or young coming to hole to take food) revealed the progress of the nestlings' growth. There was no activity at the nest on August 3, but woodpecker calls nearby gave hope that the young had fledged.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*

Earlier (Berry 2001) I summarized the status of this species as an uncommon nester in the county whose nests are seldom found and described two nests I found in late June 2000 in the Bald Hill Reservation in Boxford. Another nest was discovered by Susan Hedman around the end of June 2002, this one in the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield. It was situated about 30 feet up in a red maple overhanging the Waterfowl Pond and visible from the stone bridge that crosses the inlet stream to that pond. Following Susan's directions, I found the nest on a very hot July 4. The female was on the nest, either incubating eggs or sheltering young from the hot sun,

while the male sang nearby. I returned July 14 to find the male singing from the nest as he performed one of the above duties. I did not observe feeding on either visit and did not return again, so I cannot report the results of this nesting.

Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius*

In the article cited above, I recounted the paltry history of Blue-headed Vireo nest confirmations in Essex County and its status as a less common nesting bird than the previous species. (Only the White-eyed Vireo, of the five nesting vireos in the county, is rarer, and that species, at the very northern end of its range, is rare indeed.) I went on to describe a Blue-headed Vireo nest I found in Willowdale State Forest in the far western corner of Ipswich on June 26, 2000.

Two years later to the day, I discovered a pair of these birds building a nest only a few hundred yards away, though this site was over the town line in the extreme eastern tip of Boxford. The site was also different: instead of the upland habitat of mixed pine/oak/maple of the earlier nest, this one was at the edge of a red maple swamp at the base of a hill entirely covered with eastern hemlock. It was also the highest nest of this species I have ever found, about 23 feet in a red maple sapling; most nests are less than 20 feet in height and often less than ten feet (Harrison 1975, Baicich and Harrison 1997). The nest was suspended in a crotch within a foot of the trunk and was easily viewable from the hillside, where I could sit and watch at a distance without disrupting the pair at work.

The birds were still building on the late date of June 26, perhaps having had an earlier false start. The female did most of the work, lining the nest with dried grass stems from the ground and strips of loose inner hemlock bark, which I saw her tear off a nearby tree. The male accompanied her and occasionally sang. The one time he sang repeatedly, he had a mouthful of nest material! I made two return visits to the nest on July 4 and 15 but saw no activity either time, nor did I hear the vireos. The nest looked intact, but it was clear that it had been deserted.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliptila caerulea*

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are fairly common birds in southern New England today, but this was not always the case. It is another species that has colonized our area only in the last half-century, perhaps related to the gradual warming of the climate in recent decades. A hundred years ago the species was a rare straggler from the south; Townsend (1905) knew of only two Essex County records, and when his *Supplement* was published fifteen years later there were only five (Townsend 1920). By the late 1920s there were 35 state records and nine from Essex County (Forbush 1929).

By midcentury things had begun to change. Griscom and Snyder (1955) reported “flight years” in the 1940s and early 1950s, and steadily increasing reports almost every year. They saw “no convincing breeding evidence” anywhere in the state, but they either missed or ignored a convincing account of a successful nest in Amesbury, very close to the New Hampshire line, in 1930 (Emerson 1930). But no matter; by 1993 the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher had become an “increasingly widespread and locally

fairly common breeder” in Massachusetts (Veit and Petersen 1993). These authors also missed the early Essex County nest, stating that, with the exception of a unique early breeding record in Maine mentioned by Forbush, “gnatcatchers did not breed in New England until the late 1950s.” But the important part is that “They now breed practically throughout the state at scattered localities in both mature and secondary-growth deciduous forests, usually near water.” There are also recent nest records in all three northern New England states.

Forbush (1929) gives a good summary of gnatcatcher nest specifications: “Usually in a tall coniferous or deciduous tree, rarely in a small sapling; from 10 to 70 feet up, usually high; saddled on a limb; composed of soft materials felted together and ornamented outside with tree lichens, fastened with spiders’ webs, resembling a hummingbird’s nest.” I have found eight nests in Essex County since 1977, three of them this year (2003), plus one in New Hampshire, two in Ohio, and two in the west. They are invariably coated with lichens and saddled on a horizontal branch or in a crotch, though I have never seen an eastern nest in a conifer. (The only one I have seen so situated was six feet in a pinyon pine in Colorado.) I would disagree with Forbush that the nests are usually in tall trees, as several I have found were in saplings. Others, however, were very high in large trees, showing the species’ versatility in selecting nest sites.



BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER NEST BY JIM BERRY

The three nests I found in 2003 were in quite different situations, and together are probably representative of the birds’ nesting habitats in Essex County. The first was discovered on May 10 in Willowdale State Forest in Ipswich, near a red maple swamp but not in it. Both birds were working on this half-finished nest directly over an esker trail with swamp on each side. It was about 30 feet up on a horizontal branch of a hophornbeam at an intersection with a vertical branch. (The field guides I have are in some disagreement about the naming of two species variously known as American hornbeam, hophornbeam, and ironwood, both species being in the birch family. The tree I’m talking about is the one with thin rectangular strips of shaggy bark. Most of the guides call this tree hophornbeam or ironwood, *Ostrya virginiana*, though one



FEMALE BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER BUILDING A NEST BY JIM BERRY

calls it American hornbeam. They all agree that it is *Ostrya virginiana*.) I checked this nest five more times in May and June but did not see any further activity and concluded that it had been deserted.

I discovered the second nest May 11 along Ash Street in West Newbury. This was by far the lowest gnatcatcher nest I have ever found, only three feet over the water in a tiny red maple snag in a brushy deciduous swamp without any canopy. The nest was sandwiched between two thin vertical stems and vertically elongated to conform to the shape of the crotch. It was also within ten feet of the road, and very easy to observe from the road, though at a distance if the birds were going to continue their activity. The female gnatcatcher was building on May 11, and the male lining the nest on May 15 with blades of grass. I was not able to return until June 18, when I found the nest destroyed by a predator. The likely suspects were the abundant blackbirds in the swamp, given the complete exposure of the nest to any prying eyes.

The third nest was a high one, about 45 feet in an ash snag in a beaver swamp in Middleton, the swamp containing one of the Great Blue Heron colonies mentioned above. When I discovered it on July 7, both adults were feeding two large young, one of which stood on the edge of the nest and appeared ready to fledge. This nest, like the first, was on a horizontal branch at its intersection with a vertical branch. The tree had drowned, and the nest had no leaf cover — not atypical given the species' proclivity to build on bare horizontal branches, often over water.

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*

Scarlet Tanagers are fairly common nesters in large forest tracts. But sometimes a nest is so unusual that it merits documentation no matter how common the species. And, it can be added, tanager nests are not as easy to find as those of many less secretive species. Until this summer (2003) I had seen only two in thirty years of birding in Essex County.

On August 18, 2003, I encountered a pair of Scarlet Tanagers carrying food in a fragmented forest near my home in Ipswich—unusual enough in itself, since they are known to prefer large, unfragmented forests. The male, given the late date, was well along in his molt from alternate to basic plumage and was mottled red and yellow-green. The birds were giving alarm calls and not moving from a small area only fifty yards from a polo field. This forest also differed from normal tanager habitat in that it was almost entirely coniferous, with a predominance of Norway spruce and red pine, and a scattering of eastern white pine, Douglas-fir (introduced), and northern red oak. I could not wait long enough that day to determine whether the birds were feeding nestlings or fledglings. As late as it was in the season, I suspected fledglings, though of course I was hoping to find a nest.

I returned two days later, August 20, to find the same pair still carrying food in the same small area and again giving alarm and/or scolding calls (*chip-burr*, sometimes without the second syllable) as long as I was near them. My dog and I withdrew about fifty yards and sat quietly. Soon the female delivered her food to a nest, about eighteen feet up in a Norway spruce, nestled on top of a fork near the end of a branch. After she made a second feeding, I knew it was time to seriously study this nest. I took the dog home and returned with my telescope.

Between 10:20 a.m. and 11:40 a.m. I observed twelve feedings by the adults (six each) to two large young easily visible in my scope from about forty yards away. They fed them large invertebrates, no doubt mostly insects, the male in two cases feeding immediately after the female. Another time the female fed twice within two minutes, and the male a minute later. The longest interval between feedings was seventeen minutes. At least twice the male removed fecal sacs from the nest after delivering food. On August 22 I again observed the feeding process at length, and saw eight feedings between 8:00 a.m. and 9:35 a.m. There followed a forty-minute gap with no feeding, whereupon I left, in case there was any possibility I was affecting the process. When I returned the morning of August 23, the nest was empty, the parents were giving alarm/scolding calls in either direction from the nest, and the male was carrying food. Although I didn't see or hear the babies, this was excellent evidence that they had fledged, and each was being tended by a parent.

Two things were remarkable about this nest. First was the coniferous habitat. Scarlet Tanagers are known to prefer oaks, and that is where most of their nests have historically been found. Oaks were the host trees for the two other nests I have seen, and there were a few red oaks interspersed with these conifers. The various nest guides, life histories, and breeding-bird atlases I checked occasionally mention nests in pines and hemlocks, but never spruces. The highest percentage of conifer nests I ran across was in Vermont, where "more than 50%" of 15 nests found during the Vermont atlas period were in conifers, "predominantly hemlock" (Laughlin and Kibbe 1985). Of two references I have thus far seen on Scarlet Tanagers nesting in spruces, one was from a field note in *Auk* 13:3 (1896) by one Henry Hales of Ridgewood, New Jersey, who watched a pair nest outside his upstairs window on a Norway spruce branch two years running. In fact, they built in 1895 in the same spot on the same branch where they had nested the year before! (The male in 1895 was driven so

strongly to feed young that he fed nearby nestling Chipping Sparrows, to the consternation of their parents, until his own young were born.) The second reference (Mowbray 1999) mentions four nests found in spruces in Ontario.

More remarkable was the late date of this nest. First, some numbers. Scarlet Tanagers incubate for 13-14 days, and nestlings fledge anywhere from 9-15 days after hatching. (The books differ significantly on this, and I doubt that the range in the nestling period is actually that wide.) The young are cared for by their parents for another two weeks after fledging. The two young in this nest fledged either late on August 22 or the morning of August 23. Conservatively assuming that they fledged on August 22 and had taken a full 15 days to fledge, that would put the hatching date at August 7. Again assuming the maximum incubation of 14 days, that in turn would mean laying was completed and incubation begun on July 24. On the other hand, if they fledged in only 9 days on August 23 and were incubated 13 days, hatching would have occurred on August 14 and incubation begun on August 1. Those dates establish the range within which incubation, hatching, and fledging must have occurred.

The question, then, is whether this was a second brood. All the books I checked say the species is single-brooded; Mowbray, who reviewed sources exhaustively in writing the definitive *Birds of North America* species account, states that no second brood has ever been documented. The only semi-exception to this widespread conclusion that I found is in Peterjohn and Rice (1991), which contains the statement, "Renesting attempts and pairs raising second broods are responsible for nests with eggs through August 3 and recently fledged young during the first half of August." (The source cited by those authors as giving those dates [Williams 1950] did *not* include evidence that the birds were raising second broods.) Given the May and June egg dates and late-June/early-July fledging dates commonly cited in the literature (e.g., Forbush 1929, Bent 1958, Mowbray 1999), and the late-July laying evident for the nest I found, it is clear that in terms of the calendar this could possibly have been a second complete nesting cycle. Would that I had birded this site earlier in the season.

That possibility notwithstanding, it is generally assumed that late Scarlet Tanager nests are probably a consequence of failed first attempts, which of course don't take up as much time as a successful nesting. The BNA account listed several nests in northern states roughly equivalent to this one in the degree of lateness: egg-laying (presumably incomplete clutches observed) on August 1 and 2; a nest with eggs on August 9; nestlings on August 14; and fledglings in New York on the incredibly late date of September 19. (One trusts that the last of these sightings was of fledglings still being fed by their parents, which would indicate a September fledging date.) Those being the latest nestings heretofore recorded, this nest with young still in it on August 22, 2003, is one of the latest ever documented for the species.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow *Ammodramus caudacutus*

This is another species that is common in the right habitat, and another whose nests are not often found. Until the summer of 2003 I had found only one nest, in the salt marsh between the road and the main salt pan on the Plum Island section of the

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in Newbury. The nest held four young, eyes not yet open, which an adult was feeding on August 2, 1987. It was probably a second nesting, since the species can be double-brooded (Harrison 1975, Erlich et al, 1988, Baicich and Harrison 1997).

On June 24, 2003, Rick Heil and I took a canoe into the marsh opposite the boat launch on Plum Island and spent several hours looking for nesting evidence for several species in the Newbury salt marshes, mostly outside the refuge. We covered an area of several acres and counted about 115 Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows and 21 Seaside Sparrows, *Ammodramus maritimus*. (We found no Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows, *Ammodramus nelsoni*, and, despite published evidence to the contrary, are not yet convinced that that species nests as far south as Massachusetts.) Though we found no Seaside Sparrow nests, we did find six nests of Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows. Four of the nests had four eggs, one had three eggs, and one had no eggs, though it was clearly a new nest. In each case the nest was found (all but one by Rick) when the adult bird flushed from it. Otherwise they would have been extremely hard to find because they were well hidden in the matted salt meadow grass (salt hay), *Spartina patens*. These were almost certainly the first clutches of the year for these birds. We did not revisit the site and therefore have no follow-up data. (It is unlikely that we would have been able to relocate the nests anyway, since we did not flag them.)

The most interesting thing about these nests was the difference in their structure. Five of them were domed affairs, with the entrance more or less on the side, as described in Baicich and Harrison (1997). These nests were covered with dried grass stems whose tan color contrasted with the green of the salt hay. Once the nest was



SALTMARSH SHARP-TAILED SPARROW NEST IN NEWBURY BY JIM BERRY



OPEN CUP NEST OF SALTMARSH SHARP-TAILED SPARROW IN NEWBURY BY JIM BERRY

located, it was relatively easy to see because of this difference in color, though for every nest there were countless other patches of dead grass! But the sixth was an open-cup nest, similar to those of most songbirds. It was a little higher than the others, about a foot above the ground level, as opposed to about six inches for the domed nests. It was sheltered by live *Spartina patens* stems rather than dried thatch. Another difference was that five of the nests were in broad expanses of salt hay, while the other was only a foot from the edge of a salt pan, akin to the nest I found in 1987.

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*

Earlier I summarized the local nesting history of the Orchard Oriole, a species near the northern edge of its range in Essex County (Berry 2001). I briefly described the only two nests I had found in the county. I revisit this bird not because the nests are all that rare, but because I had such a great opportunity to study one this year. This was thanks to Sharon Stichter of Newbury, in whose yard a pair nested, and quite late.

Sharon and her husband Joe feed both hummingbirds and orioles, and had several individuals of both oriole species in the yard in the spring and summer of 2003. These birds visited the hummingbird feeders as well as the orange halves and containers of grape jelly set out for them. On June 20, Sharon observed two Orchard Orioles mating as the female was building a nest in a Katsura — a poplar-like tree from Japan. The male of this pair was a first-summer bird and had not developed the brick-red color of the adult male. This in itself was interesting in that the female chose this male as her mate despite the presence of two adult males in the same neighborhood (who of course could have had other mates). The nest was 14 feet off the ground amid the leaves and was, typically, constructed of dried grasses in the shape of a ball. It was

about half-finished on that date. More of the same was witnessed on June 23 — incidentally the date on which Sharon also saw three fledglings from a nearby Baltimore Oriole nest. Thus, the Orchard Orioles were a month behind their congeners in the nesting cycle, perhaps due to a failed earlier effort, or a late start in getting paired.

By June 30 the female was seen incubating on a completed nest. Both birds often ate jelly from the feeders and clearly liked this food. On July 14 the female was seen carrying away either eggshells or fecal sacs, meaning the young had hatched. The adult birds went frequently to the nest with food; the food most often carried by the male was...grape jelly! On July 16 Sharon noticed that he would make two feeding trips at a time, then take a break to eat more jelly himself. She inferred from this that there were two young, and that proved to be the case. One of the young fledged on July 19, and was fed by the male in nearby brush while the female continued to feed young in the nest. When I visited the site on July 22, it was evident that a second nestling had fledged, because the female stopped going to the nest with food either that morning or sometime the previous day and had commenced feeding this youngster in a brush pile yards from the nest. (Sharon last saw her take food to the nest early in the morning of July 21.) There were no more returns to the nest by either adult, establishing two as the number of live young.

It was remarkable that the two nestlings fledged two or possibly even three days apart, when they had almost certainly been incubated starting at the same time and most likely hatched the same day. Both Erlich et al (1988) and Baicich and Harrison (1997) give a nestling period of 11-14 days; in this case most if not the full range of variation applied to siblings, which seems unusual. This would put hatching around July 8 (Sharon noticed “lots more coming and going from the OROR nest” on July 7, implying that at least one young hatched that day), and the white objects removed on July 14 were therefore fecal sacs. With incubation lasting 12-14 days (same sources), the clutch would have been complete, and incubation started between June 23 and 26. This implies that the egg-laying started as early as June 22. Since building was still going on June 23—though some fine-tuning of the nest can occur after eggs have been laid—let’s assume a 12-day incubation with eggs laid on June 24 and 25, and incubation starting that day. This in turn assumes that only two eggs were laid, whereas the normal clutch is four or five. Months later Sharon found the nest blown to the ground, and there was no evidence of an unhatched third egg. Perhaps the female was young as well as the male, and this was her first nesting; young birds often lay smaller clutches than older birds.

This is the kind of speculation one can engage in with a few reference points of observed behavior and the assistance of nesting field guides. Of course the real dates of laying, hatching, and fledging cannot be known with certainty without direct daily observation of the nest. In this case, while Sharon was never able to look into the nest; her regular observations and our luck in being able to isolate the fledging dates enabled the speculation to be reasonably accurate. It also enabled us to document a late nesting for the species, whose cycle starts in “early June in the north of range” (Baicich and Harrison 1997). I did not observe any specific activity at a nest I found

in Rowley on July 4, 2000, but a nest elsewhere in Rowley was under construction on May 25, 1981, almost four weeks earlier than the Newbury nest in 2003. 🐦

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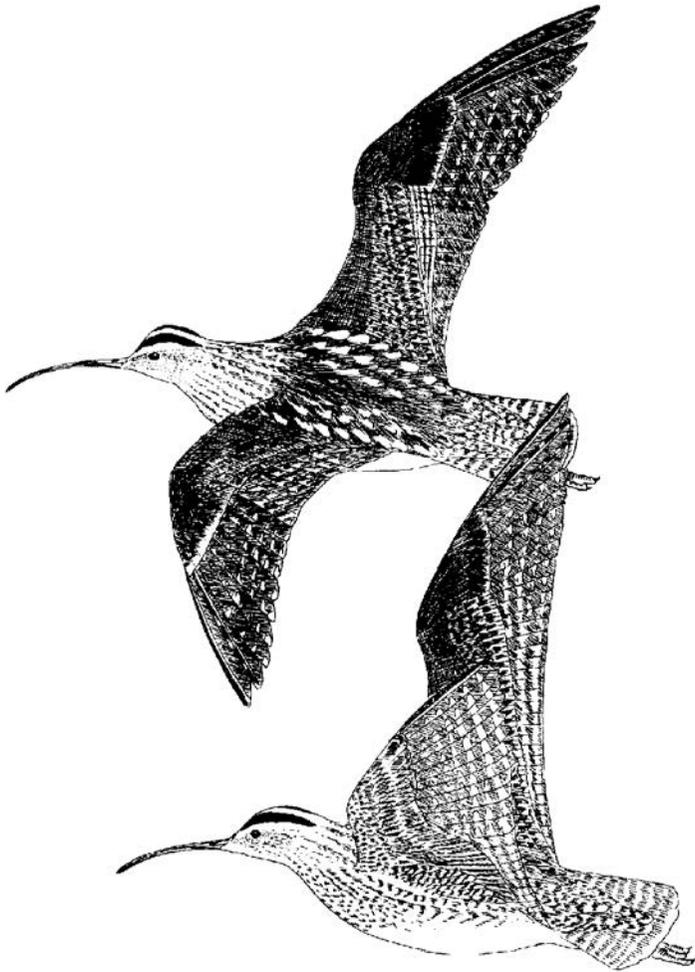
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Jim Berry is writing a book on the birds of Essex County. This series of articles is preliminary to some of the species accounts in the book, which will be adapted (and shortened!) from the accounts published in Bird Observer. Jim is also on the Bird Observer staff and is always looking for site guides from prospective authors on good birding locations in the six New England states.



WHIMBRELS BY GEORGE C. WEST

104th Christmas Bird Count

Birders of all abilities are encouraged to join in the Christmas Bird Counts. For further information, please make contact with the listed compilers at least two weeks before the count date.

Sunday, December 14

Cape Cod: Blair Nikula, 508-432-6348, odenews@odenews.net

Central Berkshire: Thomas Collins, 413-499-2799, tcbirder@berkshire.rr.com

Greater Boston: Robert Stymeist, 617-926-3603, rstymeist@juno.com

Groton - Oxbow N.W.R.: Julie Lisk, 978-448-0147, jalisk@earthlink.net, and Peter Alden, (978) 369-5768

Northampton: Jan Ortiz, 413-549-1768, jortiz@aol.com and Mary Alice Wilson, 413-548-9078, mwilson@k12s.phast.umass.edu

Westminster: John Williams, 978-249-7831, cwstudio@yahoo.com

Tuesday, December 16

Sturbridge: Mark Lynch, moa.lynch@verizon.net

Saturday, December 20

Andover: Lou Wagner, 978-927-1122 x2705, lwagner@massaudubon.org

Athol: David Small, 978-249-2094, dhsmall@gis.net

Buzzards Bay: Jeremiah Trimble, jtrimble@oeb.harvard.edu

Millis: Elissa Landre, 508-655-2296, x7301, elandre@massaudubon.org

Newport County, RI - Westport, MA: David Emerson, 508-822-7430, emdav12345@aol.com, and Robert Emerson, 508-541-8364, remerson@duffysweeney.com

Northern Berkshire: Pamela Weatherbee, 413-458-3538, pambweath@aol.com

Quincy: Glenn d'Entremont, 781-344-5857, gdentremont@juno.com, and Patricia O'Neill, 617-696-0831

Springfield: George Kingston, 413-525-6742, gcking@yahoo.com

Stellwagen Bank: Simon Perkins, 781-259-2148, sperkins@massaudubon.org

Worcester: John Liller, 508-757-6377, jliller@worcesteracademy.org

Sunday, December 21

Cape Ann: Barbara Volkle, 508-393-9251, barb620@world.std.com

Mid-Cape Cod: Peter Trimble, 508-477-3847, merlin@capecod.net

Monday, December 22

Truro: Tom Lipsky, 978-897-5429, tlip@massed.net

Saturday, December 27

Cobble Mountain (Westfield): Seth Kellogg, 413-569-3335, skhawk@comcast.net

New Bedford: Michael Boucher, 508-990-3910, britmm@juno.com

Quabbin: Scott Sumner, ssumner@aol.com

Uxbridge: Strickland Wheelock, 508-278-5885, skwheelock@yahoo.com

Sunday, December 28

Marshfield: Warren Harrington, 781-545-1325, hwharrington@att.net, and David Clapp, 781-738-9400

Martha's Vineyard: Robert Culbert, 508-693-4908, rculbert@dukescounty.org

Newburyport: Tom Young, 603-424-4512, redscreechowl@earthlink.net

Taunton-Middleboro: Russ Titus, 781-344-3516, rct6@cornell.edu

Thursday, January 1

Southern Berkshire: René Laubach, 413-637-0320, rlaubach@massaudubon.org

Friday, January 2

Tuckernuck: Simon Perkins, 781-259-2148, sperkins@massaudubon.org, and Richard Veit (tentative date)

Saturday, January 3

Nantucket: Ken Blackshaw, 508-228-0709, kenandcindy@copper.net, and Edie Ray, 508-228-1693, ackbird@aol.com

Sunday, January 4

Concord: Hank Norwood, 508-358-7524, hankn583@aol.com

No date released

Greenfield: Mark Fairbrother, 413-367 2695, bogelfin@crocker.com

Plymouth: Trevor Lloyd-Evans, 508-224-6521, tlloyd-evans@manomet.org



WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL BY GEORGE C. WEST

Gleanings from the Journal of William Brewster

Robert H. Stymeist

January 3, 1881 "Pig Rocks" off Swampscott, Mass.

Tringa maritima — Wishing to investigate the alleged occurrence of the Purple Sandpiper in winter off Lynn, I took the train to-day and after making some inquiries of Mr. Welch, I hired a dory and a fisherman to row it and started from Swampscott for the Pig Rocks. The day was a favorable one for the season and the sea was comparatively smooth but a chill wind swept over the water and made the trip anything but a pleasant one.

The Pig Rocks lie about four miles from Swampscott up the coast. They are a little over a mile from shore and in the open ocean. When we reached them the tide was nearly at its highest and we found exposed two oblong rocks about 100 yards apart and of nearly uniform size and shape. The sides rose nearly perpendicularly from the water to the height of perhaps fifteen feet and their nearly flat tops were covered with snow. Each was perhaps twenty yards long by ten in width. At low tide they are said to be surrounded by a considerable expanse of ledges which are of course covered with the usual shiny growth of sea-weed. These I could see under the water and the tops of the higher portions occasionally showed for an instant to be covered the next by the rolling swells.

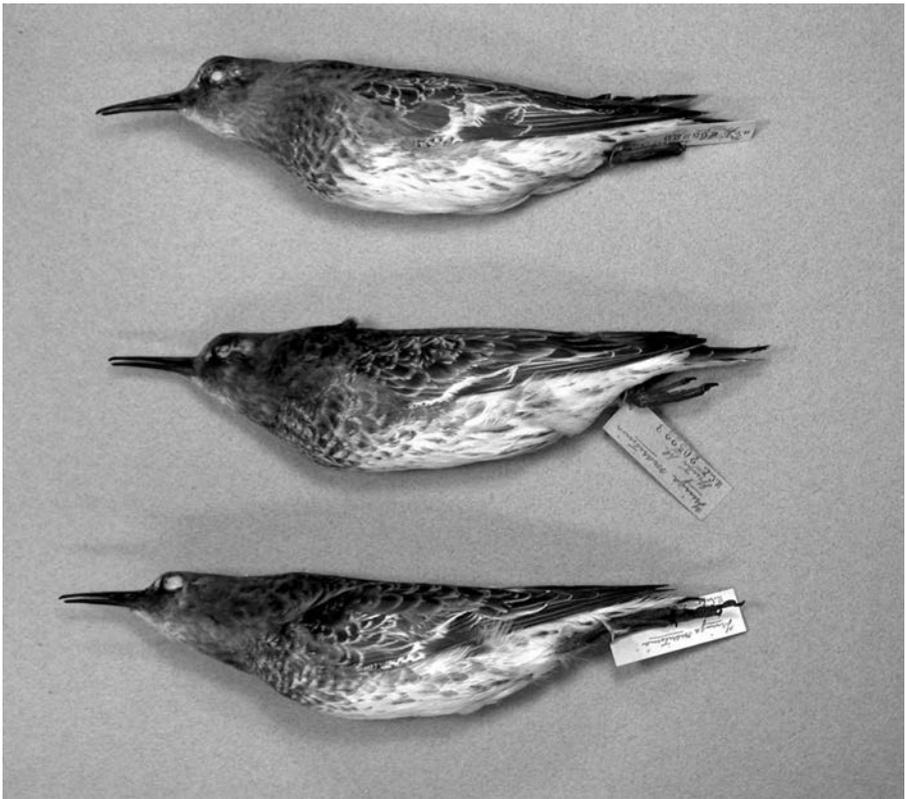
Upon the first rock we found nothing but a Black backed Gull which stood on the snow capped crest, outlined against the sky and of course took wing long before we were within gun range. As we approached the outer or eastern island however I saw something move and closely scanning the rough and nearly vertical wall of granite made out a number of Purple Sandpipers huddled together near the top where they were sheltered from the cold wind. My boatman afterwards said that he should have taken them for English Sparrows as they clung to the rough surface very much as Sparrows will cluster about the angles of a roof on a blustery day. Occasionally one or another would stretch his wings above his back and then deliberately refold them again, otherwise they seldom moved. It was to me a most interesting sight and one to be remembered, these boreal Sandpipers perched high above the water with a snow-drift above them and the icy surges incessantly sweeping past beneath or breaking in glistening spray on one of the outlying ledges. Their stronghold had indeed been well chosen for it is rarely smooth enough in the winter for boats to approach the spot. It is probable that they never leave their rocks except during heavy easterly weather when the surf breaks over the summit of the rocks and nothing can be there for a time.

After watching them a little while, I fired into them and secured seven with two barrels. Eight only were left and these after flying about for awhile lit on the other island when I followed them and secured three more. The remaining five there became so shy that we could not readily approach them and as the wind was fast freshening we started for the shore.

These Sandpipers flew swiftly in a close bunch and generally just over the crests of the waves. Once or twice they tried to alight on some of the ledges that were beginning to be uncovered by the falling tide but the surf always seemed to frighten them and they would swirl away again after just standing for a moment with opened wings. They uttered a short 'quit' when flying which closely resembled the note of the Sanderling. When perched on the gray rocks they looked nearly black. On one occasion when they had lit in a bunch on a flat ledge at the base of one of the rocks they scattered as we approached and apparently began to feed. I noticed that they walked in a slow, deliberate manner and indeed all their movements seemed sluggish. Upon dissecting several of them I found their stomachs filled with small shells several of which were whole.

In Lynn Harbor were great flocks of Old Squaws and a gunner who had some decoys out was apparently having good shooting at them. I was forcibly struck by the close resemblance which the male Old Squaw bore when flying to the Passenger Pigeon. 

Journal of William Brewster, pages 186-187 Volume 2. Reprinted with permission from the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.



PURPLE SANDPIPERS, COLLECTED BY WILLIAM BREWSTER AS DESCRIBED, FROM THE MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY, HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

FIELD NOTES

Gull Feeding Frenzies

David Larson

Anting Gulls. On Sunday afternoon, September 14, Susan and I stopped off at the Joppa boat ramp in Newburyport so that she could try out her new binoculars. We quickly realized that a substantial hatch of flying ants was in progress. While we picked the odd ants out of our hair, the real action was overhead. For an hour or so we watched hundreds of gulls and terns anting over our heads. Presumably in keeping with the flux in ant distribution, the hordes of gulls drifted back and forth, up-river and down, and low and high. At times the greatest concentration of gulls was overhead, at times over downtown Newburyport, over the river, or over the homes behind us. Gulls were clearly attracted from afar, since they were visibly streaming in from Salisbury to join in the feast.

The gulls included many Ring-billed and a few Herring, but the majority were Bonaparte's Gulls. Close attention to the hundreds of Bonaparte's paid off and netted us a Little Gull not 50 feet overhead. The few terns involved were mostly Common with at least a couple of Roseates. We assumed that the terns were anting, based on behavior similar to that of the gulls; for the most part they were too high for us to see their prey.

The feeding behavior of the gulls mostly involved hanging in the slight breeze and then stalling with a quick bill-up motion when seizing an ant. On occasion, a more elusive ant would necessitate a quick lateral snap of the head or even a contorted course correction (with flailing wings, tail, and feet). We could clearly see them selecting and snagging their prey.

The ants were everywhere. Even the House Sparrows were darting out from the shrubbery to snag ants. This was probably the best flying ant show I've ever seen — better even than watching Northern Cardinals hawk flying ants in our backyard a few years ago.

Wigglers on the Surf. Just over a week later, Susan and I were driving along Ocean Avenue in Marblehead Neck when we noticed a gull commotion of a different sort. Hundreds of gulls were on the water, facing into the considerable onshore breeze, all within yards of the beach. We pulled over to investigate. Aside from the relative few gulls in the air or on the shore, all of the gulls (including Great Black-backed, Herring, Ring-billed, and Laughing gulls) were bobbing on the surface, facing into the wind, and pecking delicately at the surface. The mass of gulls extended for about 100 yards along the rocky shore and beach.

Since we could not see the prey, we speculated wildly about what the birds were consuming so avidly. Some sort of influx of zooplankton? Bits of a decomposing

whale around the upwind rocks?
Perhaps chum from a Marbleheader with
a wry sense of humor?

Finally, we noticed masses of tan
objects on the shore, deposited by the
waves. I checked with my spotting
scope and the objects turned out to be
live, half-inch, maggot-like creatures.
They clearly writhed on the sand. In
with the tan wigglers were darker cases
from which some of the wigglers
appeared to be trying to free themselves
— an emergence? Gulls on the shore
were snapping up both the cases and the
wigglers.

At this point, our speculation
centered on maggots, perhaps tabanid
(greenhead) fly larvae, but how could
they have arrived there in such numbers?
Marblehead Neck is a rocky headland,
without salt marsh, the habitat of
greenheads. Perhaps the beasts were a
different type of maggot. Marblehead
Neck is also a place of limited access to the shore. For all we knew, a beached whale
could have been rotting just beyond the outcroppings up wind (but surely we would
have smelled it).

We did check public shore accesses
nearby, but there was no concentration
of feeding gulls. Returning home,
frustrated and fascinated, we hit the
books, but our library gave us no
answers. I had taken some marginal
photos and video, and I sent them off to
a friend at the Museum of Comparative
Zoology at Harvard. Though he checked
around, no answers were forthcoming.
At this point, it is speculation 10,
knowledge 0, and maybe we will never know. One thing for sure though, it was a
heck of a banquet.

Just the other day, I looked out over the Merrimack River estuary from a window
at the Joppa Flats Education Center in Newburyport. There was a flock of gulls,
wildly flailing at the water, probably after bait fish stirred up by snapper blues — ho
hum, just another gull feeding frenzy.... 🐦



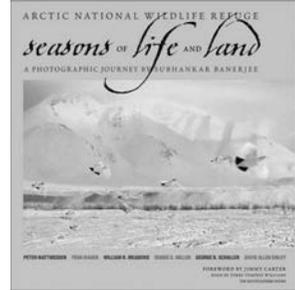
ALL IMAGES BY DAVID LARSON



ABOUT BOOKS

Editors' Choices for Seasonal Gifts

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Seasons of Life and Land. Subhankar Banerjee. 2003. The Mountaineers Books: Seattle.

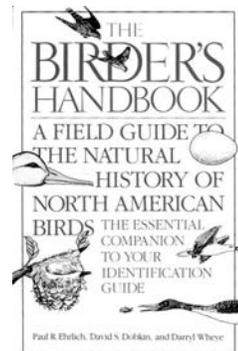


Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Seasons of Life and Land is subtitled *A Photographic Journey*, but it is more than just one man's images of the northland. It is a stunning paean in photographs and words to the most remote, most austere, most beautiful, and most threatened of our national wildlife refuges. Accompanying Banerjee's photographs are essays by Peter Mathiessen, Fran Mauer, William H. Meadows, Debbie S. Miller, George B. Schaller, and David Allen Sibley. These essays run the gamut from impassioned pleas to historical recitations, but they all contain a bit of the essence of the connection between the authors and this remarkable land. In some cases, the connections are lifelong, in others brief, but clearly this is a place that has had a profound influence on all.

So why give this book to a birder? Well, one reason might be to defy big oil and government plans to ruin the refuge for a piddling amount of oil. Or it might be to lend support to Banerjee, whose Smithsonian photographic exhibit was banished to the basement after the politicians found it too uncomfortable. Or maybe to help support conservation of this remarkable landscape. (I may never make it there, but it warms my heart to know it exists.) Or the reason might be the artistry of the photographs, for the muskoxen, mountains, lichen, caribou, and the birds: ptarmigan exploding from the snow, a Pacific Loon on the nest, golden plovers, eiders, the Gyrfalcon chick, or the displaying Buff-breasted Sandpiper on page 98 (my favorite image in the book). Or maybe for all of these reasons. You had better buy two copies; you will want to keep one.

David Larson

The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds. Paul R. Erlich, David S. Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye. 1988. Simon and Schuster: New York.



My favorite bird book, like everyone else's, is hard to choose. I have enjoyed various essay-type books, species monographs, and behavioral studies, but the ones I keep coming back to are the references. If I have to pick one book

above the others, for its overall value to me in my study of birds and writing about birds, it must be *The Birder's Handbook*.

The Birder's Handbook is an encyclopedia, and in that regard it is in the same league with Chris Leahy's *The Birdwatcher's Companion* (1982, with a second edition about to be published) and John Terres's *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds* (most recent edition 1996), which are also outstanding references. But it is *The Birder's Handbook* I use the most, and even carry in the field with me in the nesting season, because it is compact and carries more information on each species in half a page than any other book ever written on North American birds. The subtitle is not an exaggeration: it is an encyclopedia that is truly a *field* guide.

All the species accounts are on the left-side pages, two to a page. The right-side pages contain the essays on multitudinous subjects that make the book an encyclopedia. Those pages I use no more frequently than the other two works, but the species accounts are worth their weight in gold. Each contains a wealth of information on the nesting biology of the species, as well as the primary and secondary food sources and the means of obtaining them. Much of the information is in the form of symbols, with an easy-to-use key inside the front cover and a sample species layout with everything explained inside the back cover. All terms and symbols are defined in the introduction. The symbols tell me at a glance where the nest is likely to be placed and how high, who builds it (male and/or female), how many eggs are laid, whether the species is monogamous, promiscuous, etc., who incubates, how long it takes for the eggs to hatch and the young to fledge, who feeds the young before and after fledging, what the bird eats, and how it forages or hunts. That's a lot of information in less than an inch of space across the page!

Blackpoll Warbler

Dendroica striata Forster

NG-368; G-284; PE-232; PW-pl 50; AE-pl 563; AW-pl 609; AM(III)-156



2'-7'
(To 33')



F



4-5 (3-5)
MONOG
(POLYGYN)

F
I: 12? DAYS
ALTRICIAL
F: 11-12 DAYS
MF



BERRIES



BARK
GLEAN
HAWKS

The brief text below the symbols gives remarkably compact details on breeding habitat, displays, nest location and description, eggs, diet, conservation issues, and useful notes about the species, often behavioral. It also provides cross-references to related essays on the right-hand pages and, finally, bibliographical references. All this on half a page!

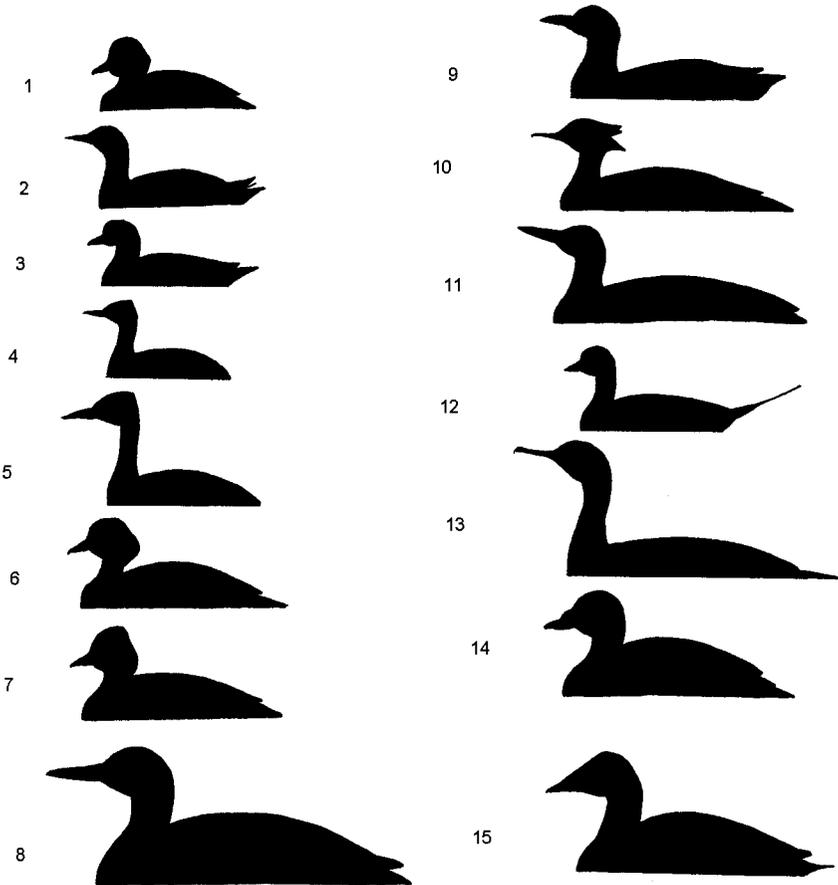
The Birder's Handbook is like no other book I have ever seen (except the authors' companion volume for European birds), and ounce for ounce is the best reference I own. I use it constantly in conjunction with my two cherished field guides to birds' nests, Hal Harrison's *Field Guide to Birds' Nests* (1975) and Paul Baicich and Colin Harrison's *Guide to the Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds*. I can't imagine a serious birder being without this book.

Jim Berry

Winter Waterfowl Quiz

When the light is lousy sometimes all you have to go on is a silhouette of a bird. If that bird is bouncing around on the waves, the wind is threatening the stability of your tripod, and your eyelashes are becoming crisp, you have entered the winter waterfowl zone. For now, relax indoors and try to match up these silhouettes with the species listed below. The sizes of the birds are approximately relative.

These images are supplied courtesy of Bill Gette, Sanctuary Director of the Joppa Flats Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Answers will appear in the next issue of *Bird Observer*.



Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Black Guillemot, Murre sp., Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Scoter sp., Common Eider, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Cormorant sp., Common Loon.

Help Produce *Bird Observer*

Bird Observer is produced by an all-volunteer staff who enjoy the chance to contribute something to the birding community. We are currently looking for someone to fill the following position:

Mailing Manager: Works with the Production Editor, Subscription Manager, and other volunteers to coordinate the printing and mailing of the journal. The Mailing Manager picks up the issue from the printer, maintains mailing supplies, organizes a team of mailers, and participates in labeling and sorting the issue. Not much time is involved, but this position requires good communication skills and a take-charge attitude.

Interested? To discuss it further, call David Larson at 978-462-9998, or e-mail him at dlarson@massaudubon.org.



BALD EAGLE FOUND DEAD IN CHESHIRE

Information Sought; Reward Offered

An immature bald eagle was found dead in the Stafford Hill Wildlife Management Area near Jenks Road in Cheshire, Mass., according to Special Agent Tom Ricardi of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Law Enforcement. X-rays of the eagle carcass showed multiple pellets, Ricardi said, indicating that it was likely shot. The bird was probably killed on Saturday [October 25, 2003].

"Thousands of Americans have worked for decades to restore the eagle population from the brink of extinction," Ricardi said. "How disheartening to see this majestic symbol of our nation deliberately killed."

Individuals with information about this crime are asked to contact Special Agent Ricardi at 860-240-3232 or Massachusetts Environmental Police at 800-632-8075. Callers may choose to remain anonymous.

Massachusetts hosts 30 resident nesting eagles and likely another 30 immature eagles, according to MassWildlife. Eagles usually start building nests when they are 5 years old. Bald eagles are protected by the Endangered Species Act, the Eagle Protection Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Penalties for violations range up to a \$10,000 fine. The Service is offering a reward of half of any fine collected up to \$2,500 for information about the shooting that leads to a conviction.

Additional information about bald eagles can be found at
<<http://endangered.fws.gov/i/B0H.html>>.

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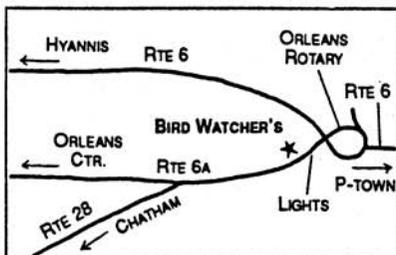
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BIRD SIGHTINGS

July/August 2003

Seth Kellogg, Marjorie Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist

July was the first month since October 2002 that had above normal temperatures in Boston. The first week of July recorded a record high minimum temperature of 78° on the 6th, surpassing 76° in 1994, the previous high in 133 years. Three days reached 90° or better in Boston, and the high of 93° occurred on July 5 and 6. A total of 2.11 inches of rain was recorded in Boston, about an inch less than average. Thunder was noted on three days and fog was frequent and was noted nearly daily during the middle of the month. August was nearly a carbon copy of July. Only two days reached the 90° mark, with 93° the high in Boston on August 22. Rain totaled 2.96 inches in Boston. No strong storms were noted and the peak gust of 33 mph out of the northwest occurred on August 22. R. Stymeist

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

With this issue *Bird Observer* begins using the new taxonomic order from the 44th Supplement of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Check-list, as published in *The Auk* 120: 923-32 (2003). Those unfamiliar with the new order should visit the Massbird web page, sponsored by *Bird Observer*, and you can download the Official Massachusetts State List as of August 2003 at <<http://massbird.org/marc/MARCstatelist.htm>>.

Each summer several species of waterfowl are discovered in our area which, for some reason, never made it to their breeding areas to the north. Two Brant were present throughout the period at Duxbury Beach and single individuals were noted from South Beach in Chatham and from Revere Beach. A group of 16 Black Scoters remained at Squibnocket Beach in Chilmark for the month of July, where a female Harlequin Duck was present until July 18. A Common Goldeneye returned for the fourth summer in a row to Turners Fall in early August. Some very early migrant waterfowl included three Ring-necked Ducks on South Monomoy and three Black Scoters from Andrew's Point in Rockport. Good numbers of Common Mergansers were noted from the Connecticut River Valley in August.

Common Loons, still a rare and local breeder in the state, were noted with young from three locations in central Massachusetts. Pied-billed Grebes, another increasingly rare breeder in the state, saw reports of juvenile birds from South Monomoy and from Stockbridge. There have been only seven records of Pied-billed Grebes from western Massachusetts in July since 1983. A **Yellow-nosed Albatross** was reported from shore in Nahant. Although seen without optics, the bird was less than 200 feet away and well-lit, allowing a clear view of the underwing pattern which the observer carefully sketched immediately after the bird soared out of view. Details have been submitted to Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC).

Pelagic species were reported in exceptional numbers during the period, as well as some unusual sightings, especially from a three day offshore trip to Hydrographer's Canyon. The Center for Oceanic Research (CORE) conducted this offshore trip to the continental shelf with an increased emphasis on birds this year. Among the more unusual species noted were **White-faced Storm-Petrel**, **Red-billed Tropicbird**, **Bridled Tern**, and two **South Polar Skuas**. For the second year in a row, numbers of Wilson's Storm-Petrels were noted from many coastal vantage points. Leach's Storm-Petrels reported during the period included a report of 25 pair breeding on No Man's Land, an island off Martha's Vineyard.

Only one report of a Least Bittern was noted during the period, continuing the dramatic decline of this species in Massachusetts in recent years. A **Reddish Egret** strayed briefly from a Rhode Island visit at the Charlestown Breachway and was discovered in Westport on July 20 (details to MARC). This is only the fourth record for Massachusetts. A **White-faced Ibis** was discovered feeding with ten Glossy Ibises in Rowley in early July (details to MARC). Rick Heil easily separated this bird from the Glossies by the bright red eyes and the bare reddish facial patch completely ringed by a comparatively broad white stripe which gradually blended in with the reddish-brown of the head. The legs were likewise reddish, brightest at the "knee". This White-faced Ibis was slightly larger than all the surrounding Glossies. This constitutes only the fifth record for Massachusetts. Totally bizarre was the sighting of four **Wood Storks** found in a farm pond in Barre in late August (details and photographs to MARC). Wood Storks are not strictly migratory but have a regular northward dispersal after nesting, and Florida birds wander well north into eastern states. The only other recent sighting of multiple storks in Massachusetts was a report of 11 from Plymouth Beach in November 1963.

Black Vultures have become fairly routine in the southwest corner of the state, especially near Sheffield in recent years, but it was a surprise to find one cruising around the lower Cape in late August. A pair of Cooper's Hawks was found nesting in Danvers during July. Until recently this species has been a rare and local breeder in the state, but it has become increasingly more common, outnumbering breeding Sharp-shins in the state. The first southward movement of raptors was detected in the closing days of August, with a small kettle of Broad-wings noted over Barre Falls Dam.

There were no reports of King Rail during the period. Much of their habitat has been lost or is no longer suitable. An adult Common Moorhen was noted with a juvenile bird in Stockbridge. Like the Least Bittern and King Rail, moorhen has become an increasingly scarce breeder in the state. Two Sora Rails also found in Stockbridge were the first reported from western Massachusetts during the summer since 1995. A single American Coot was found at Great Meadows in Concord in mid-July. This species has been a very irregular breeder in the state and the last known nesting at Great Meadows was in 1966.

For the second year in a row Semipalmated Plovers were noted in exceptional numbers during August, with high counts of 3000 individuals from South Beach in Chatham and 3000 from Coast Guard Beach in Eastham. Piping Plovers did well on Crane Beach in Ipswich, with over 50 young tallied in mid-July. A high count of 215 American Oystercatchers was tallied on South Beach at the end of August and another 200 individuals were noted from Sandwich. Eastern Willets reached an all-time high of 280 on South Beach, surpassing the previous high of 250 just last year. Hudsonian Godwits have been declining over recent years. A maximum of 80 were noted from South Beach as compared to a count of 200 as recently as 1992. This species fared far worse in the Newburyport area, where no more than three birds were seen at once. This species continues to evaporate as a migrant at Newburyport. In the 1970s peak counts were often in the 40-70 range, which dropped to an average of 34 birds between 1988 and 1994, to highs of 10, 7, and 8 for the last three years. The management at the Parker River Wildlife Refuge finally lowered the water levels at the Hellcat impoundments on July 22, much later than usual and within days shorebirds filled the flats, with over 5400 Semipalmated Sandpipers tallied there on July 25. Two adult **Red-necked Stints** were noted from South Beach and North Monomoy during the period (details to MARC). It was another banner year for Baird's Sandpipers, with as many as eight juveniles noted from Plum Island on the 26th. Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were located in Sandwich, the only report during the period. An adult **Curlew Sandpiper** was present on South Beach from August 18 up to the end of the month. Single male Ruffs were noted from Essex and Edgartown. Long-billed Dowitchers and

Stilt Sandpipers were extremely scarce this summer, especially at Plum Island, which has seen a steady decline in these species in recent years.

A Laughing Gull found in Longmeadow was only the tenth record for western Massachusetts and the first there since 1996. On Cape Cod Laughing Gulls were especially common, with over 600 noted from South Beach in mid-August and over 700 from Coast Guard Beach in Eastham. Last year the maximum number reported from South Beach was 100 and 200 from Coast Guard Beach. Only one Black-headed Gull was noted during the period from Lynn. A banded **Sandwich Tern** was present on South Beach in Chatham for about 10 days. Although the entire number on the band could not be read, the sequence indicated that the bird was probably banded as a chick near Morehead City, North Carolina, in June 2002. A **Sooty Tern** was found on Duxbury Beach in early August (details to MARC). Most records of Sooty Tern in Massachusetts have been associated with hurricanes or tropical storms, though there have been numerous sightings of non-storm-related birds. Sooty Terns disperse widely after breeding, although they are typically seen at sea. In his own words, David Clapp wrote: "The first impression was of a jaeger, then a skimmer. Black Tern was quickly dismissed due to the bird's large size. As it turned, still in the telescopic view, the white outer edges to the forked tail and the white on the forehead were easily visible. The actions of the bird gave us great views from all angles. It was decidedly black above and white below. The back was evenly, and darkly, colored. It had no sense of pale gray on the back nor did it have a collar separating the mantle from the head. It sailed back through the flock and then turned and did it again and again. It was larger and had a softer (less wing action) flight than the Common Terns, which were rather frenetic. It never dove or plucked anything from the surface." *R. Stymeist*

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Brant | | Harlequin Duck | | | | | |
| thr | Duxbury B. | 2 | D. Furbish | 7/1-18 | Chilmark | 1 f | A. Keith |
| 7/13 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 IS | R. Heil# | | Surf Scoter | | |
| 8/26 | Revere B. | 1 | BBC (P. + F. Vale) | 7/thr | Chilmark | 3 | A. Keith |
| Wood Duck | | White-winged Scoter | | 8/28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 5 | MAS (Faherty) |
| 7/13 | GMNWR | 51 | P. + F. Vale | 8/3 | Lynn B. | 4 | P. + F. Vale |
| 8/16 | Stockbridge | 101 | M. Lynch# | 8/3 | P'town (R.P.) | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 8/16 | Sheffield | 131 | M. Lynch# | 8/13 | Cape Ann | 2 | R. Heil |
| 8/26 | Longmeadow | 35 | S. Kellogg | 8/28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 7 | MAS (Faherty) |
| Gadwall | | Black Scoter | | | | | |
| 7/25, 8/14 | P.I. | 112, 15 | R. Heil | 7/thr | Chilmark | 16 | A. Keith |
| 8/23 | GMNWR | 1 | S. Perkins# | 8/28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 5 | MAS (Faherty) |
| American Wigeon | | Long-tailed Duck | | 8/30 | Rockport (A.P.) | 3 migr | R. Heil |
| 7/2 | Saugus | 1 imm m | J. Berry# | 7/5 | W. Harwich | 1 | E. Banford# |
| 8/23 | GMNWR | 5 | S. Perkins# | Common Goldeneye | | | |
| 8/28 | P.I. | 1 | MAS (L. Hunnewell) | 8/2 | Turners Falls | 1 | H. Allen |
| Blue-winged Teal | | Hooded Merganser | | | | | |
| thr | P.I. | 23 max 8/31 | v.o. | 7/8 | Northampton | 4 | R. Packard |
| 8/17-31 | GMNWR | 15 max 8/29 | v.o. | 7/19 | New Braintree | 3 | C. Buelow |
| 8/19 | S. Monomoy | 10 | W. Petersen# | 7/19 | Quabbin (G45) | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| 8/24 | Hadley | 1 | S. Surner | 7/27 | Paxton | 4 imm | M. Lynch# |
| 8/26 | Eastham | 3 | M. Faherty | 8/23 | HRWMA | 6 | T. Pirro |
| 8/29 | Hardwick | 2 | C. Buelow | 8/29 | Hardwick | 3 | C. Buelow |
| 8/30 | Longmeadow | 2 | S. Kellogg | Common Merganser | | | |
| Northern Shoveler | | Red-breasted Merganser | | | | | |
| 7/8 | P.I. | 1 | R. Heil | 8/11 | S. Hadley | 22 | H. Allen |
| 8/10 | Chatham (S.B.) | 7 | B. Nikula | 8/29 | Agawam | 13 | S. Kellogg |
| 8/19 | S. Monomoy | 7 | W. Petersen# | Wild Turkey | | | |
| Northern Pintail | | Ruffed Grouse | | | | | |
| 8/19 | S. Monomoy | 15 | W. Petersen# | 7/12 | Peru | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 8/23 | GMNWR | 14 | S. Perkins# | 7/29 | Worc. (BMB) | 1ad + 4 yg | J. Liller |
| 8/26 | Edgartown | 1 | J. Norton | 8/24 | Quabbin (G40) | 2 | C. Buelow |
| Green-winged Teal | | Wild Turkey | | | | | |
| 7/25-8/31 | P.I. | 25 max 8/31 | v.o. | 7/9 | Ipswich | 1 f + 3 yg | J. Berry |
| 8/23 | GMNWR | 175 | S. Perkins# | 7/26 | DWWS | 3 f ad + 2 yg | D. Furbish |
| 8/29 | Longmeadow | 1 | R. Packard | 7/26 | Winchester | 1 f ad + 6 yg | P. Devaney# |
| Ring-necked Duck | | Common Eider | | | | | |
| 8/19 | S. Monomoy | 3 | W. Petersen# | 8/1 | W. Newbury | 2 f + 12 yg | D. Larson |
| Common Eider | | Northern Bobwhite | | | | | |
| 7/thr | Chilmark | 15 | A. Keith | 8/24 | Hardwick | 2 + 11 yg | C. Buelow |
| 7/10, 24 | Duxbury B. | 140, 220 | D. Furbish# | 7/1 | Falmouth | 1 | C. Buelow |
| 8/3 | Truro | 17 | M. Lynch# | | | | |
| 8/16 | Gloucester | 55 | J. Berry | | | | |

Northern Bobwhite (continued)

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 7/1 | Truro | 1 m | R. Heil |
| 7/15 | Chatham | 1 | J. Offermann |
| 8/2 | WBWS | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| 8/3 | P'town (R.P.) | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| Common Loon | | | |
| 7/6 | P.I. | 5 | P. + F. Vale |
| 7/13 | Gardner | pr + 2 yg | T. Pirro |
| 7/18 | Princeton | pr + 2 yg | T. Pirro |
| 7/27 | Wachusett Res. | pr + 2 yg | M. Lynch# |
| 8/24 | E. Quabbin | 4 | C. Buelow |
| 8/26 | Wellfleet | 31 | M. Faherty |
| Pied-billed Grebe | | | |
| 7/8, 25 | P.I. | 1, 3 ad | R. Heil |
| 7/13 | Northampton | 1 | R. Packard |
| 8/7 | Washington | 2 | D. St. James |
| 8/16 | Stockbridge | 1 juv | M. Lynch# |
| 8/19 | S. Monomoy | 2 juv | W. Petersen# |
| 8/29 | Longmeadow | 1 | R. Packard |
| 8/30 | GMNWR | 3 | P. + F. Vale |
| Horned Grebe | | | |
| 8/8 | Chappaquiddick | 1 br pl | A. Keith# |
| Yellow-nosed Albatross (details submitted) * | | | |
| 8/29 | Nahant | 1 | L. Pivacek |
| Northern Fulmar | | | |
| 7/21 | Georges Bank | 1 lt | N. Bonomo |
| Cory's Shearwater | | | |
| 8/16 | Great S. Channel | 16 | B. Patteson# |
| 8/25 | 45 miles s of M.V.100 | | F. Khedouri# |
| Greater Shearwater | | | |
| 7/1 | Truro, P'town | 80, 140 | R. Heil |
| 7/1 | Chatham | 600 | R. Heil |
| 7/13 | Stellwagen | 120 | S. Spangenberg |
| 7/21 | Georges Bank | 750 | N. Bonomo |
| 8/16 | Great S. Channel | 4051 | B. Patteson# |
| 8/20 | Wellfleet | 15 | M. Faherty |
| 8/23 | Stellwagen | 22 | K. Hartel# |
| 8/25 | 45 miles s of M.V. 30 | | F. Khedouri# |
| Sooty Shearwater | | | |
| 7/1 | Truro, P'town | 25, 65 | R. Heil |
| 7/1 | Chatham | 520 | R. Heil |
| 7/13 | Stellwagen | 32 | SSBC (Emmons) |
| 7/21 | Georges Bank | 6 | N. Bonomo |
| 8/3 | Jeffries L. | 1 | J. Wallius |
| 8/16 | Cape Ann to Hydrog | 770 | B. Patteson# |
| 8/23 | Stellwagen | 1 | K. Hartel# |
| 8/25 | Wellfleet | 55 | C. Dalton |
| Manx Shearwater | | | |
| 7/1 | Chatham, Truro | 2, 3 | R. Heil |
| 7/20 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 | P. Flood |
| 7/21 | Georges Bank | 3 | N. Bonomo |
| 8/16 | Lydonia Canyon | 7 | B. Patteson# |
| 8/20 | Wellfleet | 5 | M. Faherty |
| 8/23 | Stellwagen | 1 | K. Hartel# |
| 8/25, 27 | Wellfleet | 15, 10 | C. Dalton |
| 8/30 | Rockport (A.P.) | 3 | R. Heil |
| Shearwater species | | | |
| 7/1 | Truro, Chatham | 150, 1300 | R. Heil |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel | | | |
| 7/1 | Truro, Chatham | 650, 270 | R. Heil |
| 7/13, 8/14 | Stellwagen | 1414, 335 | Emmons, Berry |
| 7/21 | Georges Bank | 250 | N. Bonomo |
| 7/26 | Stellwagen | 1000 | BBC (d'Entremont) |
| 8/2, 3 | Truro, P'town | 120, 70 | M. Lynch# |
| 8/3, 15 | Jeffries L. | 400, 100 | J. Wallius |
| 8/10 | Gloucester (B.R.) | 67 | P. + F. Vale |
| 8/15-16 | Cape Ann to Hydrog | 9240 | B. Patteson# |
| 8/20 | Wellfleet | 3000 | M. Faherty |
| White-faced Storm-Petrel (no details) * | | | |
| 8/15 | 10 m E of Hydrog | 1 | B. Patteson# |
| Leach's Storm-Petrel | | | |
| 7/5 | Truro | 8 | J. Young |
| 7/13, 8/2 | Stellwagen | 2 | Spangenberg, Lynch |
| 7/16 | Nomans Land | 25 pr | T. French# |
| 7/21 | Georges Bank | 20 | N. Bonomo |
| 8/15-16 | Cape Ann to Hydrog | 131 | B. Patteson# |
| Red-billed Tropicbird (no details) * | | | |
| 8/15 | Gilbert Canyon | 1 | B. Patteson# |

Northern Gannet

| | | | |
|--|------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 7/1 | Truro, P'town | 15, 6 | R. Heil |
| 7/13 | Marshfield | 1 imm | G. d'Entremont |
| 7/13 | Stellwagen | 2 | S. Spangenberg |
| 7/19 | Jeffries L. | 5 | S. Mirick# |
| 8/25 | Wellfleet | 5 | C. Dalton |
| 8/30 | Rockport (A.P.) | 12 sub ad | R. Heil |
| American Bittern | | | |
| 7/1 | Gardner | 1 | T. Pirro |
| 7/19 | New Braintree | 1 | C. Buelow |
| 7/26 | Lenox | 1 | R. Laubach |
| 8/10 | P.I. | 1 | T. Wetmore# |
| 8/23 | HRWMA | 1 | T. Pirro |
| 8/28 | Newbypt | 1 | D. Larson |
| 8/29 | GMNWR | 1 | C. Cook# |
| Least Bittern | | | |
| 8/23 | GMNWR | 1 | B. Miller |
| Great Egret | | | |
| 7/2 | Essex | 8 | J. Nelson |
| 7/8 | Newbypt area | 15 | R. Heil |
| 7/14, 8/30 | Longmeadow | 1, 7 | Bieda, Kellogg |
| 8/3 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 17 | P. + F. Vale |
| 8/5, 26 | P.I. | 35, 20 | R. Heil |
| 8/18-29 | Hardwick | 1 | C. Buelow |
| 8/23 | GMNWR | 2 | S. Perkins# |
| 8/27-29 | Westfield | 1 | S. Kellogg |
| Snowy Egret | | | |
| 7/2 | Essex | 25 | J. Nelson |
| 7/8 | Newbypt area | 70 ad | R. Heil |
| 7/31 | Southwick | 1 | S. Kellogg |
| 8/3 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 38 | P. + F. Vale |
| 8/5, 26 | P.I. | 175, 70 | R. Heil |
| 8/26 | Revere B. | 12 | P. + F. Vale |
| Little Blue Heron | | | |
| thr | P.I. | 1 ad | v.o. |
| 7/2 | Essex | 10 | J. Nelson |
| 7/12 | DWWS | 1 | D. Furbish# |
| 7/19 | Gay Head | 1 | A. Keith |
| 7/31 | Southwick | 1 | S. Kellogg |
| 8/21 | Essex | 3 | D. Brown# |
| Tricolored Heron | | | |
| 7/13-26 | P.I. | 1 | D. Chickering |
| Reddish Egret (details submitted) * | | | |
| 7/20 | Westport | 1 | D. Bowen |
| Cattle Egret | | | |
| 8/25 | Manchester | 1 ad | J. Berry# |
| Green Heron | | | |
| 7/8 | Newbypt area | 3 | R. Heil |
| 7/23 | Hardwick | 4 | C. Buelow |
| 7/30 | Lexington | 5 | J. Sutherland |
| 8/9 | Worc. (BMB) | 2 ad, 2 yg | J. Liller# |
| 8/28 | Norfolk | 3 | S. Perry |
| 8/29 | GMNWR | 7 | C. Cook |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | | | |
| 7/2 | Saugus | 7 | J. Berry# |
| 7/25 | P.I. | 6 | R. Heil |
| 8/2 | Wayland | 3 imm | E. Taylor |
| 8/18 | Deerfield | 1 | A. Richards |
| 8/19 | S. Monomoy | 10 | W. Petersen# |
| 8/28 | Pittsfield | 3 | T. Thorne |
| Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | | | |
| 7/1-13 | Duxbury | 1 ad | v.o. |
| 7/1-8/1 | Salem | 1 | v.o. |
| 8/13, 28 | Gloucester | 1 juv | Heil, Tyson |
| 8/17-23 | MNWS | 1 imm | R. Kipp# |
| Glossy Ibis | | | |
| 7/15, 8/2 | GMNWR | 8, 1 | Kamp, Vale |
| 7/15 | Agawam | 1 | J. Raffaele |
| 7/21 | Longmeadow | 1 | L. Atkinson |
| 7/24 | P.I. | 24 ad | R. Heil |
| 7/27 | Newbury | 50 | T. + L. Wetmore |
| 7/31 | Rowley | 42 | D. Furbish# |
| 8/1 | Framingham | 1 | J. Rees |
| 8/17 | Northboro | 1 | S. Moore |
| 8/19 | S. Monomoy | 14 | W. Petersen# |
| 8/30 | Edgartown | 2 | L. McDowell# |
| 8/31 | P.I. | 2 | R. Heil# |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| White-faced Ibis (details submitted) * | | | | 7/12 | Peru | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| 7/8-18 | Rowley | 1 | R. Heil + v.o. | 7/19 | Quabbin (G45) | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| Wood Stork (details submitted) * | | | | 7/1-8/11 | Natick | 2 ad + 3 yg | E. Taylor |
| 8/24, 25 | Barre | 4, 3 ph | Huntington, Buelow + v.o. | 8/14 | P.I. | 1 juv | R. Heil |
| Black Vulture | | | | 8/23 | Barre FD | 4 | M. Lynch# |
| thr | Sheffield | 2-4 | M. + K. Conway | 8/24 | Mt. Watatic | 4 | T. Pirro |
| 8/24 | Chatham | 1 | C. Dalton | 8/28, 31 | Barre Falls | 7, 21 | Hawkwatch |
| 8/27, 30 | Eastham | 1 | Hartel, Comins | American Kestrel | | | |
| Turkey Vulture | | | | thr | Reports of indiv. from 12 locations | | |
| 7/12 | Essex | 5 | P. + F. Vale | 8/3 | Sunderland | 3 | H. Allen |
| 7/19 | Quabbin (G45) | 4 | M. Lynch# | 8/19 | Leicester | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| 7/27 | Quincy | 14 | G. d'Entremont | Merlin | | | |
| 8/16 | Sheffield | 96 | M. Lynch# | 7/22-8/31 | Reports of indiv. from 8 locations | | |
| 8/25 | Barre | 30 | M. Lynch# | Peregrine Falcon | | | |
| 8/26, 29 | Hardwick | 6, 15 | C. Buelow | 7/20, 8/24 P.I. | | 1, 2 | Resch, Vale |
| Osprey | | | | 7/27, 8/28 | Longmeadow | 1, 1 | Surner, Kellogg |
| 7/1-8/8 | Ipswich | pr n + 2 yg | J. Berry | 8/10 | Nahant | 1 | D. Wilkinson |
| 7/1-8/14 | P.I. | pr + 3 yg | R. Heil | 8/15 | Edgartown | 1 | M. Pelikan# |
| 7/thr | Westboro | pr + 1 yg | E. Taylor | 8/16 | Newbypt | 1 imm | P. + F. Vale |
| 7/2 | Revere | pr n + 1 yg | J. Berry# | 8/18 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 imm | C. Marantz# |
| 7/27 | Squantum | ad + 1 imm | G. d'Entremont | 8/18-24 | Essex | 1 | D. Brown# |
| 8/thr | Westboro | pr + 1 yg | E. Taylor | 8/23-4 | GMNWR | 1 ad, 1 imm | v.o. |
| 8/9 | Falmouth | 4 | P. + F. Vale | 8/26 | Newbypt | 1 juv | R. Heil |
| 8/20 | Barnstable | 4 | G. Gove | Clapper Rail | | | |
| 8/23 | GMNWR | 3 | S. Perkins# | 7/6 | P.I. | 2 | P. + F. Vale |
| Bald Eagle | | | | 7/10, 24 | Duxbury B. | 1, 2 | D. Furbish# |
| 7/19 | Plymouth | 1 ad | B. Nikula # | 8/3 | P.I. | 1 | D. Chickering |
| 7/27 | Sterling | 1 imm | M. Lynch# | Virginia Rail | | | |
| 8/18 | Wellfleet | 1 juv | M. Faherty | 7/19 | New Braintree | 3 | C. Buelow |
| 8/20 | Barnstable | 1 imm | G. Gove | 7/29 | Worc. (BMB) | 2 | J. Liller |
| 8/24 | Blackstone | 1 imm | M. Lynch# | 8/16 | Stockbridge | 10 | M. Lynch# |
| 8/24 | Bradford | 1 imm | S. Carlson | 8/30 | GMNWR | 1 ad + 1 imm | M. Lynch# |
| 8/24 | Maynard | 1 imm | L. Nachtrab | thr | Reports of indiv. from locations | | |
| 8/28 | Newbypt | 1 imm | D. Larson | Sora | | | |
| 8/28 | P.I. | 1 imm | MAS (Larson) | 7/14 | Ipswich | 1 | J. Berry# |
| 8/28, 31 | Barre Falls | 4, 1 | Hawkwatch | 7/17 | Northfield | 1 | M. Taylor |
| Northern Harrier | | | | 7/23 | Hardwick | 1 | C. Buelow |
| 7/24 | P.I. | 1 | R. Heil | 7/29 | Worc. (BMB) | 1 | J. Liller |
| 7/25 | Sandwich | 1 m | M. Tuttle | 8/9 | Quabbin Pk | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 8/16 | HRWMA | 1 juv | T. Pirro | 8/16 | Stockbridge | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| 8/17 | Newbypt/P.I. | 7 | S. Sutton | 8/23 | GMNWR | 2 | S. Perkins# |
| 8/19 | S. Monomoy | 2 | W. Petersen# | 8/29 | Gay Head | 1 | M. Pelikan |
| 8/21 | Chatham (S.B.) | 2 | G. Hirth# | Common Moorhen | | | |
| 8/26 | P.I./Newbypt | 4 juv | R. Heil | 7/5 | Nantucket | 1 ad | B. Kennedy# |
| 8/28 | Barre Falls | 1 | Hawkwatch (Kamp) | 8/16 | Stockbridge | 1 ad + 1 imm | M. Lynch# |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | | | | American Coot | | | |
| 7/12 | Sheffield | 1 | R. Laubach | 7/15 | GMNWR | 1 | B. Kamp |
| 7/12 | Peru | 1 ad | M. Lynch# | Black-bellied Plover | | | |
| 7/13 | Wakefield | 1 ad | F. Vale | 7/9 | Chatham (S.B.) | 225 | B. Nikula |
| 7/27 | Saugus | 1 | P. + F. Vale | 8/2, 31 | Chatham (S.B.) | 350, 3500 | B. Nikula |
| 8/2 | Lenox | 1 | R. Laubach | 8/14, 26 | P.I./Newbypt | 65, 350 | R. Heil |
| 8/23 | HRWMA | 2 | T. Pirro | 8/20, 26 | Plymouth B. | 124, 1009 | A. Brissette |
| 8/28, 31 | Barre Falls | 5, 7 | Hawkwatch | 8/21 | Essex | 150+ | D. Brown# |
| Cooper's Hawk | | | | 8/23 | GMNWR | 1 juv | C. Floyd# |
| 7/thr | Danvers | pr n | M. Taylor | 8/24 | Eastham (CGB) | 750 | B. Nikula# |
| 7/18-8/9 | Reports of indiv. from 5 locations | | | American Golden-Plover | | | |
| 8/13-31 | Reports of indiv. from 17 locations | | | 8/1 | Chilmark | 4 | A. Keith |
| 8/24 | Mt. Watatic | 2 imm | T. Pirro | 8/9 | Newbypt | 1 br pl | I. Dukovski |
| 8/28 | Barre Falls | 2 | B. Kamp | 8/21 | Essex | 1 | D. Brown# |
| Northern Goshawk | | | | 8/23 | P.I. | 1 | T. Wetmore |
| 7/5 | Hawley | 1 | M. Lynch# | 8/23 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 | NHAS (S. Mirick) |
| 7/12 | Peru | 1 ad | M. Lynch# | 8/24 | Essex | 2 | D. Brown# |
| 8/16 | Stockbridge | 1 ad | M. Lynch# | 8/24 | Plymouth B. | 1 | A. Brissette# |
| 8/19 | Sheffield | 1 | D. St. James | 8/29 | N. Monomoy | 2 ad | B. Nikula |
| 8/25 | HRWMA | 1 | T. Pirro | 8/30 | GMNWR | 3 ad | S. Mirick# |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | | | | Semipalmated Plover | | | |
| 7/4 | Wompatuck SP | 1 | G. d'Entremont | 7/14 | Longmeadow | 1 | B. Bieda |
| 7/5 | Hawley | 1 | M. Lynch# | 7/20, 8/19 | Chatham (S.B.) | 400, 3000 | B. Nikula |
| 7/14 | Stoughton | 1 ad | G. d'Entremont | 7/21, 8/24 | Eastham (CGB) | 200, 3000 | B. Nikula# |
| 7/20 | Milton | 2 | V. Zollo | 7/24, 8/26 P.I. | | 285, 500 | R. Heil |
| 7/26 | DWWS | 1 | D. Furbish | 8/3 | Revere B. | 130+ | P. + F. Vale |
| 8/2 | Boxford | 1 | P. + F. Vale | 8/16 | Hadley | 16 | S. Surner |
| 8/18 | Barre Falls | 1 | B. Kamp# | 8/24 | Plymouth B. | 729 | A. Brissette# |
| 8/23 | Sandwich | 1 | M. Keleher# | 8/30 | GMNWR | 48 | S. Perkins# |
| 8/24 | Maynard | 1 | L. Nachtrab | Piping Plover | | | |
| Broad-winged Hawk | | | | 7/10 | Duxbury B. | 9 | D. Furbish# |
| 7/11 | Stow | 3 | L. Sutton | 7/15 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 52 yg | E. Johnson |
| 7/12 | Acton | 3 | M. Rines | 7/19 | P.I. | 22 | S. Mirick# |

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|---|------------------|-------------|---------------|--|--|
| Piping Plover (continued) | | | | | |
| 7/20, 8/31 | Chatham (S.B.) | 30, 45 | B. Nikula | | |
| 7/24 | Duxbury B. | 16 | D. Furbish | | |
| 8/7 | Eastham (CGB) | 15 | B. Nikula# | | |
| 8/12 | Nantucket | 3 b | E. Ray | | |
| Killdeer | | | | | |
| 8/6 | Harvard | 111 | T. Pirro | | |
| 8/16 | Hadley | 52 | S. Sumner | | |
| 8/17 | Newbury | 44 | P. + F. Vale | | |
| 8/18 | Southwick | 100 | S. Kellogg | | |
| 8/30 | GMNWR | 55 | S. Perkins# | | |
| American Oystercatcher | | | | | |
| 7/4 | Nantucket | 8 | E. Ray | | |
| 7/20, 8/31 | Chatham (S.B.) | 60, 315 | B. Nikula | | |
| 7/26 | Falmouth | 3 | R. Farrell | | |
| 8/9 | Swansea | 3 | J. Sweeney | | |
| 8/11, 21 | Marblehead | 3, 4 | Cronin, Kipp | | |
| 8/23 | Sandwich | 200 | G. Gove | | |
| Greater Yellowlegs | | | | | |
| 7/20, 8/31 | Chatham (S.B.) | 50, 300 | B. Nikula | | |
| 7/21, 8/24 | Eastham (CGB) | 160, 175 | B. Nikula# | | |
| 7/24 | P.I./Newbypt | 31, 175 | R. Heil | | |
| 8/18 | Amherst | 3 | A. Richards | | |
| 8/26 | Hardwick | 5 | C. Buelow | | |
| 8/30 | GMNWR | 30+ | M. Lynch# | | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | | | | | |
| 7/8, 8/5 | Newbypt | 175, 530 | R. Heil | | |
| 7/15, 8/24 | GMNWR | 8, 35 | Kamp, Perkins | | |
| 7/21, 8/24 | Eastham (CGB) | 140, 40 | B. Nikula# | | |
| 8/14 | N. Monomoy | 115 | B. Nikula | | |
| 8/19 | Amherst | 3 | H. Allen | | |
| 8/29 | Hardwick | 3 | C. Buelow | | |
| Solitary Sandpiper | | | | | |
| 7/13 | Northbridge | 3 | M. Lynch# | | |
| 7/15, 8/30 | GMNWR | 12, 6 | Kamp, Lynch | | |
| 7/16 | Deerfield | 4 | R. Packard | | |
| 8/11 | Cambridge | 3 | M. Rines | | |
| 8/25 | Belmont | 5 | K. Hartel | | |
| 8/26 | Hardwick | 4 | C. Buelow | | |
| Willet | | | | | |
| 7/8, 8/26 | P.I. | 109, 19 | R. Heil | | |
| 7/10 | Duxbury B. | 9+ | D. Furbish# | | |
| 7/20, 8/2 | Chatham (S.B.) | 220, 280 | B. Nikula | | |
| 7/27 | Falmouth | 3 ad, 2 juv | R. Farrell | | |
| 8/21 | Chatham (S.B.) | 40 | G. Hirth# | | |
| 8/23 | Sandwich | 40 | G. Gove | | |
| Western Willet | | | | | |
| 7/9, 8/31 | Chatham (S.B.) | 15, 25 | B. Nikula | | |
| Spotted Sandpiper | | | | | |
| 7/4 | Sterling | 6 | M. Lynch# | | |
| 7/6 | Sheffield | 40 | S. Kellogg | | |
| 7/13 | GMNWR | 8 | P. + F. Vale | | |
| 7/23 | Hardwick | 7 | C. Buelow | | |
| 7/24 | P.I. | 13 | R. Heil | | |
| 8/13 | Cape Ann | 7 | R. Heil | | |
| Upland Sandpiper | | | | | |
| 8/1 | Sandwich | 1 | D. Manchester | | |
| 8/7 | Katama | 3 | A. Keith | | |
| 8/23 | Plymouth Airport | 2 | S. Perkins# | | |
| 8/26 | P.I. | 1 | R. Heil | | |
| Whimbrel | | | | | |
| 7/1 | Duxbury | 1 | C. Dalton | | |
| 7/26 | Sandwich | 10 | D. Furbish# | | |
| 7/27 | P.I. | 4 | P. Brown | | |
| 8/2 | WBWS | 86 | M. Lynch# | | |
| 8/8 | Chappaquiddick | 10 | A. Keith# | | |
| 8/8 | W. Dennis B. | 9 | P. Flood | | |
| 8/13 | Chatham (S.B.) | 12 | S. Perkins# | | |
| 8/21 | Revere B. | 1 | K. Barney | | |
| 8/26 | Newbypt | 13 | R. Heil | | |
| 8/30-31 | GMNWR | 1 | B. Howell# | | |
| Hudsonian Godwit | | | | | |
| 7/20, 8/19 | Chatham (S.B.) | 30, 80 | B. Nikula | | |
| 7/27-8/26 | Newbypt H. | 2-3 | v.o. | | |
| 8/1 | Nauset Marsh | 3 | M. Lynch# | | |
| 8/7 | Edgartown | 1 | M. Pelikan | | |
| 8/23 | Sandwich | 12 | G. Gove | | |
| Marbled Godwit | | | | | |
| 7/9, 8/29 | N. Monomoy | 1, 1 | B. Nikula | | |
| 8/1 | Nauset Marsh | 1 | M. Lynch# | | |
| 8/2-19, 31 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1, 7 | B. Nikula | | |
| 8/16, 21 | Essex | 2 | D. Brown | | |
| 8/23 | Sandwich | 1 | G. Gove | | |
| 8/28 | Gay Head | 1 | S. Whiting# | | |
| Ruddy Turnstone | | | | | |
| 7/13, 8/31 | Chatham (S.B.) | 17, 175 | Heil, Nikula | | |
| 7/24, 8/14 | P.I. | 4, 21 | R. Heil | | |
| 8/3 | Lynn B. | 4 | P. + F. Vale | | |
| 8/9 | Fairhaven | 20 | J. Sweeney | | |
| 8/13 | Cape Ann | 23 | R. Heil | | |
| 8/19 | Marblehead | 27 | R. Heil | | |
| 8/24 | Plymouth B. | 127 | A. Brissette# | | |
| 8/31 | Salisbury | 10 | D. Small# | | |
| Red Knot | | | | | |
| 7/20, 8/19 | Chatham (S.B.) | 400, 1500 | B. Nikula | | |
| 7/22, 8/14 | P.I. | 2, 3 | R. Heil | | |
| 7/30 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 4 | E. Johnson | | |
| 8/2 | WBWS | 3 | M. Lynch# | | |
| 8/16 | Essex | 4 | D. Brown | | |
| 8/24 | Plymouth B. | 4 | A. Brissette# | | |
| Sanderling | | | | | |
| 7/20, 8/19 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1500, 4500 | B. Nikula | | |
| 7/22 | Nahant | 210 | R. Heil | | |
| 7/30 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 300 | E. Johnson | | |
| 8/5, 26 | P.I. | 40, 25 | R. Heil | | |
| 8/15 | Revere B. | 300+ | P. + F. Vale | | |
| 8/24 | Plymouth B. | 995 | A. Brissette# | | |
| 8/29 | Longmeadow | 1 | R. Packard | | |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | | | | | |
| 7/13 | Northbridge | 1 | M. Lynch# | | |
| 7/20, 8/2 | Chatham (S.B.) | 2000, 4500 | B. Nikula | | |
| 7/21, 8/7 | Eastham (CGB) | 1800, 5000 | B. Nikula# | | |
| 7/25 | Hadley | 1 | H. Allen | | |
| 7/25, 8/14 | P.I. | 5400, 1000 | R. Heil | | |
| 7/30 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 2100 | E. Johnson | | |
| 8/3 | Lynn B. | 3000+ | P. + F. Vale | | |
| 8/5 | Newbypt H. | 5000 | R. Heil | | |
| 8/24 | Plymouth B. | 831 | A. Brissette# | | |
| 8/30 | GMNWR | 100 | S. Perkins# | | |
| Western Sandpiper | | | | | |
| 7/9, 20, 8/31 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1, 2, 6 | B. Nikula | | |
| 7/28 | Chappaquiddick | 3 | G. Daniels# | | |
| 8/26 | P.I./Newbypt | 3 juv | R. Heil | | |
| Red-necked Stint (details submitted) * | | | | | |
| 7/8-9 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 ad ph | B. Nikula# | | |
| 8/14-19 | N. Monomoy/S.B. | 1 ad ph | B. Nikula# | | |
| Least Sandpiper | | | | | |
| 7/8, 8/26 | Newbypt area | 220, 175 | R. Heil | | |
| 7/13, 8/30 | GMNWR | 125, 200 | Vale, Perkins | | |
| 7/13 | Northbridge | 31 | M. Lynch# | | |
| 7/13 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1300 | R. Heil# | | |
| 7/15 | Nomans Land | 150 | T. French | | |
| 7/24 | P.I. | 545 | R. Heil | | |
| 8/28 | Longmeadow | 55 | S. Kellogg | | |
| 8/29 | Hardwick | 24 | C. Buelow | | |
| White-rumped Sandpiper | | | | | |
| 7/9, 8/31 | Chatham (S.B.) | 8, 500 | B. Nikula | | |
| 8/5 | Newbypt H. | 35 | R. Heil | | |
| 8/5, 16 | P.I. | 6, 110 | R. Heil | | |
| 8/13 | Cape Ann | 7 | R. Heil | | |
| 8/15, 29 | Revere B. | 8, 17 | P. + F. Vale | | |
| 8/23 | Sandwich | 300 | G. Gove | | |
| 8/24 | Eastham (CGB) | 60 | B. Nikula# | | |
| 8/24 | Plymouth B. | 18 | A. Brissette# | | |
| 8/30 | GMNWR | 5 | P. + F. Vale | | |
| Baird's Sandpiper | | | | | |
| 8/18, 20 | Southwick | 2, 3 | S. Kellogg | | |
| 8/21 | Essex | 1 | D. Brown# | | |
| 8/23 | Sandwich | 2 | G. Gove | | |
| 8/25 | GMNWR | 3 | S. Mirick# | | |
| 8/26 | P.I. | 8 juvs | R. Heil | | |
| 8/28 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 juv | MAS (Faherty) | | |
| 8/31 | Lynn B. | 1 | S. Zende# | | |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | | | | | |
| 7/17 | N. Monomoy | 1 | B. Nikula | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|------------|-------------------|--|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Pectoral Sandpiper (continued) | | | | Laughing Gull | | | |
| 7/25, 8/16 | Hadley | 1, 5 | Allen, Surner | 7/13, 8/19 | Chatham (S.B.) | 500, 600 | Heil, Nikula |
| 7/25, 8/14 | P.I. | 5, 5 | R. Heil | 7/21, 8/5 | Eastham (CGB) | 400, 700 | B. Nikula# |
| 7/27 | Longmeadow | 2 | S. Surner | 7/22 | Nahant | 72 | R. Heil |
| 8/10 | Chatham (S.B.) | 2 | B. Nikula | 7/26 | Plymouth | 33 BBC | (d'Entremont) |
| 8/23 | GMNWR | 55 | S. Perkins# | 8/7 | Longmeadow | 1 | A. Magee |
| 8/23 | Sandwich | 2 | CCBC (St. Miller) | 8/15, 29 | Revere B. | 8, 18 | P. + F. Vale |
| 8/24 | Eastham (CGB) | 2 | B. Nikula# | 8/26 | P.I./Newbypt | 13 | R. Heil |
| 8/29 | Hardwick | 3 | C. Buelow | 8/30 | Rockport (A.P.) | 17 | R. Heil |
| 8/30 | GMNWR | 30 | S. Perkins# | Little Gull | | | |
| Dunlin | | | | 8/5-22 | Lynn | 1 ad | J. Quigley |
| 7/8 | P.I. | 1 | R. Heil | 8/17-26 | Newbypt H. | 1 | v.o. |
| 7/17 | N. Monomy | 1 | B. Nikula | 8/19 | Marblehead | 1 1S | R. Heil |
| 8/31 | Chatham (S.B.) | 4 | B. Nikula | Black-headed Gull | | | |
| Curlew Sandpiper | | | | 8/3 | Lynn B. | 1 ad | P. + F. Vale |
| 8/18-31 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 ad | C. Marantz# | Bonaparte's Gull | | | |
| Stilt Sandpiper | | | | 7/21, 8/7 | Eastham (CGB) | 25, 30 | B. Nikula# |
| 7/25, 8/14 | P.I. | 6, 7 | R. Heil | 7/27, 8/29 | Revere | 204, 100 | P. + F. Vale |
| 7/25 | Sandwich | 1 br pl | M. Tuttle | 8/5 | Newbypt H. | 250 | R. Heil |
| 8/1, 8 | GMNWR | 2, 9 | M. Rines | 8/8 | Nahant | 300 | D. Wilkinson |
| 8/19 | S. Monomy | 2 | W. Petersen# | 8/26 | P.I./Newbypt | 220 | R. Heil |
| 8/31 | P.I. | 3 juv | R. Heil# | 8/26 | Newbypt | 200+ | J. Berry# |
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper | | | | Lesser Black-backed Gull | | | |
| 8/23 | Sandwich | 2 | G. Gove | 7/21 | Georges Bank | 1 1S | N. Bonomo |
| Ruff | | | | 7/27, 8/31 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1, 5 | Nims, Laux |
| 7/10 | Essex | 1 m | R. Heil | 8/5 | Eastham (CGB) | 1 | B. Nikula# |
| 8/8 | Edgartown | 1 m | A. Keith# | Herring x Great Black-backed Gull | | | |
| Short-billed Dowitcher | | | | 7/22 | Nahant | 1 ad | R. Heil |
| 7/10 | Duxbury B. | 50+ | D. Furbish# | Caspian Tern | | | |
| 7/13, 8/2 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1400 | Heil, Nikula | 8/5 | Newbypt H. | 1 br pl | R. Heil |
| 7/15-8/30 | GMNWR | 2-3 | v.o. | Royal Tern | | | |
| 7/21, 8/7 | Eastham (CGB) | 1600, 1400 | B. Nikula# | 7/15 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 | J. Offermann |
| 7/25, 8/14 | P.I. | 600, 130 | R. Heil | Sandwich Tern | | | |
| 7/29 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 110 | B. Mayer | 8/18 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 ph | P. Brown |
| 8/3, 26 | Revere B. | 15, 217 | P. + F. Vale | 8/29 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 CCBC | (D. Silverstein) |
| 8/6 | Hadley | 1 | H. Allen | Roseate Tern | | | |
| 8/9 | Fairhaven | 47 | J. Sweeney | 7/8 | Newbypt | 3 ad | R. Heil |
| 8/24 | Plymouth B. | 42 | A. Brissette# | 7/13 | Edgartown | 200 | V. Laux |
| Short-billed Dowitcher (hendersoni) | | | | 7/24 | P.I. | 3 ad | R. Heil |
| 7/13 | Chatham (S.B.) | 2 | R. Heil# | 8/2, 19 | Chatham (S.B.) | 275, 700 | B. Nikula, Flood |
| 7/25 | P.I. | 4 | R. Heil | 8/7 | Eastham (CGB) | 225 | P. Flood# |
| 8/5 | Newbypt H. | 3 | R. Heil | 8/26 | P.I./Newbypt | 25 | R. Heil |
| Long-billed Dowitcher | | | | Common Tern | | | |
| 7/25, 8/16 | P.I. | 5, 2 ad | R. Heil | 7/2 | Lynn | 40 | J. Berry# |
| 7/26 | GMNWR | 1 | R. LaFontaine# | 7/13, 8/19 | Chatham (S.B.) | 15,000, 14,000 | Heil, Flood |
| 8/7 | Eastham (CGB) | 1 | B. Nikula | 8/19 | S. Monomy | 400 | W. Petersen# |
| 8/19 | S. Monomy | 1 | W. Petersen# | 8/20 | Plymouth B. | 105 | A. Brissette |
| 8/24 | Plymouth B. | 3 | A. Brissette# | 8/24 | Eastham (CGB) | 5000 | B. Nikula# |
| Wilson's Snipe | | | | 8/25 | Wellfleet | 700 | C. Dalton |
| 7/27 | Sterling | 1 | M. Lynch# | 8/26 | P.I./Newbypt | 230 | R. Heil |
| 8/16 | Hadley | 1 | S. Surner | 8/26 | Revere B. | 175+ BBC | (P. + F. Vale) |
| 8/23 | GMNWR | 6 | S. Perkins# | 8/27 | Nantucket | 900+ | E. Ray |
| 8/27 | Arlington | 1 | M. Rines | Arctic Tern | | | |
| Wilson's Phalarope | | | | 7/12, 8/2 | Chatham (S.B.) | 40 1S, 8 1S | B. Nikula |
| 7/4-8/10 | P.I. | 1 | v.o. | 7/21 | Georges Bank | 1 ad | N. Bonomo |
| 8/18-21 | Chatham (S.B.) | 2 | C. Marantz# | 8/2 | Truro | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 8/28 | S. Dart. (A. Pd) | 2 | T. Raymond | Forster's Tern | | | |
| Red-necked Phalarope | | | | 7/20, 8/31 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1, 2 | Nikula, Laux |
| 7/21 | Georges Bank | 4 ad | N. Bonomo | 7/21, 8/24 | Eastham (CGB) | 6, 12 | B. Nikula# |
| 8/19 | S. Monomy | 1 | W. Petersen# | 8/2 | Truro | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 8/25 | 45 miles s of M.V. | 10 | F. Khedouri# | 8/5 | Newbypt H., P.I. | 2 ad, 2 juv | R. Heil |
| 8/31 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 | V. Laux# | 8/20 | Plymouth B. | 1 | A. Brissette |
| Red Phalarope | | | | 8/22 | Nantucket | 1 | E. Ray |
| 8/3 | Jeffries L. | 2 | J. Wallius | 8/25 | Wellfleet | 1 | C. Dalton |
| Phalarope species | | | | Least Tern | | | |
| 8/23 | Stellwagen | 1 | K. Hartel# | 7/9-11 | GMNWR | 2 ad | J. Lawrence |
| 8/28 | Wellfleet | 17 | M. Faherty | 7/13, 8/13 | Chatham (S.B.) | 40, 35 | Heil, Perkins |
| South Polar Skua (no details) * | | | | 7/25, 8/5 | P.I. | 21, 35 | R. Heil |
| 8/15 | Lydonia Canyon | 1 | B. Patteson# | 7/26 | Sandwich | 50+ | D. Furbish# |
| 8/16 | Great S. Channel | 1 | B. Patteson# | 8/8 | W. Dennis B. | 80 | P. Flood |
| Parasitic Jaeger | | | | 8/20 | Plymouth B. | 12 | A. Brissette |
| 7/1 | Chatham | 3 | R. Heil | 8/21 | Essex | 13 | D. Brown# |
| 8/16 | Great S. Channel | 1 | B. Patteson# | 8/27 | Nantucket | 3 | E. Ray |
| 8/20 | Wellfleet | 1 ad | M. Faherty | Bridled Tern (no details) * | | | |
| 8/23, 31 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1, 2 | B. Nikula# | 8/15 | 10 m E of Hydrog | 1 | B. Patteson# |
| 8/23 | Stellwagen | 1 | K. Hartel# | Sooty Tern (details submitted) * | | | |
| 8/25 | Wellfleet | 12+ | C. Dalton | 8/8 | Duxbury B. | 1 | D. Clapp# |
| 8/30 | Rockport (A.P.) | 1 ad | R. Heil | | | | |

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|------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Black Tern | | | | 8/24 | Plymouth B. | 1 juv | A. Brissette# |
| 7/2 | Oak Bluffs | 1 | D. Swanson | 8/26 | Newbypt | 2 juvs | R. Heil |
| 7/4, 8/27 | Nantucket | 1, 22 | E. Ray | 8/29, 30 | GMNWR | 1, 3 juv | Kwong, Perkins |
| 7/17, 8/13 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1, 5 | Nikula, Perkins | | Black Skimmer | | |
| 7/21, 8/7 | Eastham (CGB) | 1, 3 | B. Nikula# | 7/18-31 | Edgartown | 1 | L. McDowell# |
| 7/24, 8/5 | P.I. | 1 ad, 1 juv | R. Heil | 8/19 | Chatham (S.B.) | 2 | B. Nikula# |
| 7/25 | Sandwich | 16 | M. Tuttle | 8/29 | Chilmark | 2 | A. Fischer# |
| 8/3 | P'town (R.P.) | 2 ad | M. Lynch# | | Black Guillemot | | |
| 8/3 | Truro | 2 ad | M. Lynch# | 8/25 | Magnolia | 1 ad | J. Berry# |
| 8/9 | Fairhaven | 1 | J. Sweeney | 8/26, 30 | Rockport (A.P.) | 1 juv, 1 juv | R. Heil# |
| 8/19 | S. Monomoy | 3 | W. Petersen# | | | | |

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

July is one of the low months for songbird activity, the reduced singing as the breeding cycle winds down is obvious, but by mid-August these passerines are already on the move. The annual migration of the Common Nighthawk is one of the guarantees of late August, but numbers were down from last year. Birders in western Massachusetts reported another poor flight, the fourth year in a row with near record low counts. The best nights were from August 26-28, when nighthawks were reported from a great number of locations. The resident **Chuck-will's-widow** was still present at the Marconi site in Wellfleet as late as July 26.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was found hunting from the treetops of the Hiram Fox Wildlife Management Area in Chesterfield on July 27. Olive-sides are rare breeders in Massachusetts. Since this date is well outside typical spring and fall migration dates for this species, it is an intriguing record, raising speculation that this may have been part of a breeding pair. Migrant Olive-sides were noted as early as mid-August. Acadian Flycatchers were still present in Granville as late as July 24; the latest western Massachusetts record for this species is July 29, 2001.

The late summer gathering of Tree Swallows on Plum Island is another annual ritual that should not be missed. Over 50,000 birds were estimated at the end of August. Roost sites often become "standard" for many birds. At Bolton Flats 4200 American Robins were coming to a roost as early as mid-August, up from 3700 last year. There was an influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches near the end of August, with reports of higher numbers than we have seen in the past two years. American Pipits typically do not arrive until mid-September, so a flock of 15 on August 23 at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge was noteworthy.

Birds on the move included an early Philadelphia Vireo on August 21 and a **Prothonotary Warbler** at Morris Island in Chatham on August 9. By mid-August the first migrants were trickling through Plum Island. A Cerulean Warbler was noted from there on August 14, not quite expected, but a number of young Ceruleans have been seen at North Shore coastal locations in recent years during a relatively narrow period of time between the second and third weeks of August.

Interesting breeding birds included an adult Chestnut-sided Warbler feeding a juvenile in a unlikely Medford location and a very late breeding of Scarlet Tanagers, with fledging of young on August 23 in Ipswich. Among the more unusual reports this period included in the summary below were **Lark Sparrow**, **Blue Grosbeak**, and two **Yellow-headed Blackbirds**. There was clearly a movement of Purple Finches late in the period and there were reports of Evening Grosbeaks from seven localities.

R. Stymeist

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------|--|----------------|
| Black-billed Cuckoo | | | | 8/16 | HRWMA | 1 | | T. Pirro |
| thr | Reports of indiv from 7 locations | | | 8/24 | Berlin | 1 | | S. Sutton |
| 7/1 | Gardner | 2 ad, 1 fl | T. Pirro | Eastern Wood-Pewee | | | | |
| 7/8 | PI. | 2 | R. Heil | 7/4 | Holden | 15 | | M. Lynch# |
| 8/23 | Barre FD | 5 | M. Lynch# | 7/6 | Quabbin (G10) | 12 | | G. d'Entremont |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | | | | 8/23 | Barre FD | 27 | | M. Lynch# |
| thr | Reports of indiv from 9 locations | | | 8/23 | Medford | 6 | | M. Rines |
| 7/4 | Ipswich | 2 | J. Berry | 8/24 | Quabbin (G40) | 8 | | C. Buelow |
| 8/23 | Barre FD | 2 | M. Lynch# | Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | | | | |
| Eastern Screech-Owl | | | | 8/23, 30 | Medford | 1, 1 | | M. Rines |
| 7/3 | Pembroke | 1 ad, 2 juv | D. Furbish | 8/25 | Uxbridge | 1 b | | S. Wheelock |
| 7/25 | Ipswich | 2 | J. + N. Berry | Acadian Flycatcher | | | | |
| 8/26 | Maynard | 2 | L. Nachtrab | 7/10, 24 | Granville | 4, 2 | | S. Kellogg |
| Great Horned Owl | | | | Alder Flycatcher | | | | |
| 7/1 | Edgartown | 2 fl yg | A. Keith | 7/4 | Sheffield | 2 | | J. Hoye# |
| Barred Owl | | | | 7/27 | Worcester | 1 | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/6 | Quabbin (G10) | 1 | G. d'Entremont | 8/12 | Heath | 1 | | R. Packard |
| 7/9 | Hardwick | 1 | C. Buelow | Willow Flycatcher | | | | |
| 7/12 | Peru | 1 | M. Lynch# | 7/4 | Sterling | 5 | | M. Lynch# |
| 8/8 | Lincoln | 1 | M. Rines | 7/4 | Wakefield | 4 | | P. + F. Vale |
| 8/21/3 | Sherborn | 2 | S. McDonald | 7/8, 8/14 | PI. | 7, 8 | | R. Heil |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl | | | | 7/26 | Bolton Flats | 11 | | S. Sutton |
| 8/24 | Paxton | 1 | M. Lynch# | 8/22 | Hardwick | 1 | | C. Buelow |
| Common Nighthawk | | | | 8/24 | Hadley | 1 | | S. Surner |
| 8/17 | Sturbridge | 21 | I. Lynch | Least Flycatcher | | | | |
| 8/18 | HRWMA | 87 | T. Pirro | 7/4 | Holden | 2 | | M. Lynch# |
| 8/18 | Southwick | 85 | S. Kellogg | 7/5 | Hawley | 7 | | M. Lynch# |
| 8/19 | Boston | 55 | T. Carrolan | 7/6 | Quabbin (G10) | 6 | | G. d'Entremont |
| 8/19, 26 | Maynard | 39, 57 | L. Nachtrab | 7/12 | Peru | 2 | | M. Lynch# |
| 8/23, 24 | Blackstone | 53, 94 | M. Lynch# | 8/16 | HRWMA | 1 | | T. Pirro |
| 8/25 | Natick | 53 | D. Allen | 8/23 | Barre FD | 2 | | M. Lynch# |
| 8/25-31 | Northampton | 878, 238 max | 8/26 T. Gagnon | 8/26 | PI. | 1 | | R. Heil |
| 8/26 | Westboro | 535 | S. Sutton | 8/30 | Newton | 1 | | H. Miller |
| 8/27, 28 | Leicester | 983, 66 | M. Lynch# | Great Crested Flycatcher | | | | |
| 8/27, 28 | Mt.A. | 17, 70 | R. Stymeist# | 7/4 | Wompatuck SP | 6 | | G. d'Entremont |
| 8/28 | Leicester | 66 | M. Lynch# | 7/5 | Wakefield | 7 | | P. + F. Vale |
| 8/30 | Pepperell | 50 | M. + B. Torpey | 7/20 | Quabbin (G43) | 5 | | C. Buelow |
| 8/30 | GMNWR | 67 migr | S. Perkins# | 8/19 | Medford | 6 | | M. Rines |
| Chuck-will's-widow | | | | 8/23 | Barre FD | 5 | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/26 | Wellfleet | 1 | S. Kellogg | Eastern Kingbird | | | | |
| Whip-poor-will | | | | 8/23 | HRWMA | 17 | | T. Pirro |
| 7/6 | Dover | 2 | E. Taylor | 8/23 | Barre FD | 46 | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/7 | Newbury | 9 | BBC (T. Young) | 8/26 | PI. | 48 | | R. Heil |
| 7/31 | Southwick | 1 | S. Kellogg | 8/31 | Amherst | 5 | | H. Allen |
| 8/20 | Wellfleet | 1 | M. Faherty | White-eyed Vireo | | | | |
| Chimney Swift | | | | 8/31 | Brewster | 1 imm | | S. Finnegan |
| 7/21 | Taunton | 250 | J. Sweeney | Yellow-throated Vireo | | | | |
| 8/19 | Worcester | 200+ | M. Lynch# | 7/1 | Taunton | 2 | | J. Sweeney |
| 8/24 | Millbury | 300+ | M. Lynch# | 7/4 | Holden | 1 | | M. Lynch# |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | | | | 7/13 | Northbridge | 2 | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/13, 8/31 | Essex | 3, 8 | P. Brown | 7/19 | Quabbin (G45) | 5 | | M. Lynch# |
| 8/2, 8/24 | Hardwick | 5, 5 | C. Buelow | 7/26 | Bolton Flats | 1 | | S. Sutton |
| 8/3 | Lexington | 4 | M. Rines# | 8/23 | HRWMA | 1 | | T. Pirro |
| 8/23 | HRWMA | 3 | T. Pirro | Blue-headed Vireo | | | | |
| 8/23 | Blackstone | 3 | M. Lynch# | 7/4 | Holden | 2 | | M. Lynch# |
| 8/26 | PI. | 3 | R. Heil | 7/5 | Hawley | 19 | | M. Lynch# |
| 8/28 | Barre Falls | 7 | B. Kamp | 7/12 | Peru | 8 | | M. Lynch# |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | | | | 7/19 | Barre FD | 4 | | S. Sutton |
| 7/4 | Wompatuck SP | 2 | G. d'Entremont | 8/16 | Stockbridge | 2 | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/19 | Mt.A. | 2 | R. Stymeist | 8/24 | Quabbin (G40) | 3 | | C. Buelow |
| 7/thr | Ipswich | 3 pr n | J. Berry | Warbling Vireo | | | | |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | | | | 7/1 | Vineyard Haven | 1 | | A. Keith |
| 7/4 | Stockbridge | 2 | J. Hoye# | 7/4 | Wakefield | 13 | | P. + F. Vale |
| 7/5 | Hawley | 11 | M. Lynch# | Philadelphia Vireo | | | | |
| 7/6 | Quabbin (G10) | 17 | G. d'Entremont | 8/21 | Medford | 1 | | M. Rines |
| 7/12 | Peru | 5 | M. Lynch# | 8/31 | PI. | 1 | | R. Heil# |
| 8/23 | HRWMA | 2 | T. Pirro | Red-eyed Vireo | | | | |
| Pileated Woodpecker | | | | 7/4 | Wompatuck SP | 18 | | G. d'Entremont |
| 7/5 | Hawley | 3 | M. Lynch# | 7/5 | Hawley | 76 | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/19 | Quabbin (G45) | 5 | M. Lynch# | 7/6 | Quabbin (G10) | 47 | | G. d'Entremont |
| 8/7 | Gardner | 1 | T. Pirro | 7/12 | Peru | 71 | | M. Lynch# |
| 8/16 | Stockbridge | 2 | M. Lynch# | 7/19 | Barre FD | 84 | | S. Sutton |
| 8/18 | Hardwick | 2 | C. Buelow | 8/9 | Quabbin Pk | 59 | | M. Lynch# |
| 8/23 | HRWMA | 2 | T. Pirro | Fish Crow | | | | |
| 8/25 | Concord | 1 | S. Perkins | 7/26 | DWWS | 4 | | D. Furbish |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | | | | 8/9 | Longmeadow | 2 | | S. Kellogg |
| 7/27 | Chesterfield | 1 | R. Packard | 8/10 | Falmouth | 2 | | P. + F. Vale |
| 8/13 | Maynard | 1 | L. Nachtrab | 8/11 | Northampton | 2 | | R. Packard |

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|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Fish Crow (continued) | | | | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | | |
| 8/28 | Leicester | 1 | M. Lynch# | 7/4 | Wompatuck SP | 2 G. d'Entremont |
| 8/29 | Longmeadow | 2 | S. Kellogg | 7/7 | Middleton | pr n J. Berry# |
| Common Raven | | | | 7/19 | Quabbin (G45) | 2 M. Lynch# |
| 7/12 | Peru | 1 | M. Lynch# | 7/26 | Bolton Flats | 7 S. Sutton |
| 7/27 | Paxton | 2 | M. Lynch# | 8/7 | Amherst | 2 H. Allen |
| 8/9 | Quabbin Pk | 1 | M. Lynch# | 8/9 | Quabbin Pk | 3 M. Lynch# |
| 8/21 | Hardwick | 1 | C. Buelow | 8/18 | Lexington | 2 J. Forbes# |
| 8/23 | Barre FD | 3 | M. Lynch# | 8/19 | Sheffield | 1 D. St. James |
| 8/24 | Blackstone | 3 | M. Lynch# | 8/23 | MNWS | 2 P. + F. Vale |
| Horned Lark | | | | 8/23 | Chatham | 4+ B. Nikula |
| 7/1 | P'town | 1 | R. Heil | 8/24 | Quabbin (G40) | 2 C. Buelow |
| 7/11 | Chatham (S.B.) | 6 | G. Hirth | 8/26 | GMNWR | 3 M. Rines# |
| 8/1 | Eastham (F.E.) | 2 imm | M. Lynch# | Eastern Bluebird | | |
| 8/2 | WBWS | 2 | M. Lynch# | 7/29 | Worc. (BMB) | 6 imm J. Liller |
| Purple Martin | | | | 8/16 | Stockbridge | 6 M. Lynch# |
| 7/8, 8/26 | P.I. | 20, 10 | R. Heil | 8/thr | Sherborn | 15 E. Taylor |
| 7/26 | DWWS | 38 | D. Furbish | Veery | | |
| Tree Swallow | | | | 7/4 | Holden | 20 M. Lynch# |
| 7/25, 8/26 | P.I. | 15,000, 50,000 | R. Heil | 7/4 | Wompatuck SP | 30 G. d'Entremont |
| 8/9 | Sandwich | 550+ | P. + F. Vale | 7/5 | Hawley | 22 M. Lynch# |
| 8/28 | Duxbury B. | 5000+ | C. Cook | 7/6 | Quabbin (G10) | 28 G. d'Entremont |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow | | | | 7/9 | Hardwick | 6 C. Buelow |
| 7/4 | Wakefield | 12 | P. + F. Vale | Swainson's Thrush | | |
| 7/19 | Falmouth | 160 migr | R. Farrell | 7/5 | Hawley | 1 M. Lynch# |
| 8/23 | GMNWR | 25 | S. Perkins# | 7/11 | Windsor | 2 B. Wood |
| 8/23 | Westfield | 4 | S. Kellogg | 7/12 | Peru | 2 M. Lynch# |
| Bank Swallow | | | | Hermit Thrush | | |
| 7/19 | New Braintree | 65 | C. Buelow | 7/thr | Sherborn | 5 E. Taylor |
| 7/27 | Sterling | 60+ | M. Lynch | 7/4 | Wompatuck SP | 4 G. d'Entremont |
| 7/30 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 250 | E. Johnson | 7/5 | Hawley | 12 M. Lynch# |
| 8/23 | Hadley | 1000 | H. Allen | 7/6 | Quabbin (G10) | 5 G. d'Entremont |
| 8/24 | GMNWR | 500 | S. Perkins | 7/12 | Peru | 12 M. Lynch# |
| Cliff Swallow | | | | 8/7 | Montague | 5 C. Buelow |
| 7/12 | Alford | 6 | T. Gagnon | 8/9 | Quabbin Pk | 7 M. Lynch# |
| 7/20 | Sheffield | 2 | S. Surner | 8/23 | Barre FD | 29 M. Lynch# |
| 8/8 | Newbury | 4 | P. + F. Vale | Wood Thrush | | |
| 8/10 | Chatham (S.B.) | 4 | B. Nikula | 7/4 | Holden | 16 M. Lynch# |
| 8/24 | GMNWR | 2 | M. Rines | 7/4 | Wompatuck SP | 16 G. d'Entremont |
| 8/25 | Northampton | 2 | T. Gagnon | 7/7 | Middleton | 5 m J. Berry# |
| Barn Swallow | | | | 7/7 | Worc. (BMB) | 6 J. Liller |
| 7/19 | Falmouth | 95 migr | R. Farrell | 7/9 | Hardwick | 5 C. Buelow |
| 8/14 | P.I. | 180 | R. Heil | 7/12 | Peru | 8 M. Lynch# |
| 8/16 | Sheffield | 64 | M. Lynch# | 7/19 | Barre FD | 7 S. Sutton |
| 8/21 | Grafton | 80+ | M. Lynch# | 7/19 | Quabbin (G45) | 16 M. Lynch# |
| 8/24 | GMNWR | 800 | S. Perkins | 8/19 | Medford | 2 M. Rines |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | | | | Gray Catbird | | |
| 7/5 | Hawley | 11 | M. Lynch# | 7/4 | Wakefield | 29 P. + F. Vale |
| 8/19 | Montague | 20 | C. Buelow | 7/4 | Wompatuck SP | 21 G. d'Entremont |
| 8/22 | S. Wellfleet | 5 | C. Franklin | 7/19 | Mt.A. | 22 R. Stymeist |
| 8/23 | Barre FD | 39 | M. Lynch# | 8/9 | Worc. (BMB) | 25+ J. Liller# |
| 8/24 | Quabbin (G40) | 16 | C. Buelow | 8/13 | Cape Ann | 43 R. Heil |
| 8/28 | Belmont | 2 | M. Rines | 8/14 | P.I. | 95 R. Heil |
| 8/31 | Concord | 3 | M. Rines# | 8/16 | Sheffield | 48 M. Lynch# |
| Carolina Wren | | | | 8/23 | Barre FD | 50 M. Lynch# |
| 7/23 | Amherst | 4 | H. Allen | 8/31 | Lexington | 30+ P. + F. Vale |
| 8/13 | Cape Ann | 11 | R. Heil | Brown Thrasher | | |
| 8/19 | Medford | 6 | M. Rines | 7/22 | Harvard | pr + 3 yg L. Sutton |
| 8/19 | MNWS | 7 | R. Heil | 7/27 | Groveland | 6 D. Chickering |
| 8/27 | Mt.A. | 2 | R. Stymeist | 8/26 | P.I. | 14 R. Heil |
| House Wren | | | | American Pipit | | |
| 7/3 | Wakefield | 6 | F. Vale | 8/23 | GMNWR | 15 S. Perkins# |
| 8/9 | Quabbin Pk | 11 | M. Lynch# | Cedar Waxwing | | |
| 8/16 | Sheffield | 8 | M. Lynch# | 7/5 | Hawley | 27 M. Lynch# |
| Winter Wren | | | | 8/13 | Cape Ann | 26 R. Heil |
| 7/4 | Wompatuck SP | 2 | G. d'Entremont | 8/14 | P.I. | 210 R. Heil |
| 7/5 | Hawley | 16 | M. Lynch# | 8/23 | Barre FD | 57 M. Lynch# |
| 7/12 | Peru | 4 | M. Lynch# | 8/24 | Quabbin (G40) | 35 C. Buelow |
| Marsh Wren | | | | Blue-winged Warbler | | |
| 7/27 | GMNWR | 18 | P. + F. Vale | 7/9 | Hardwick | pr w/young C. Buelow |
| 7/28 | Wakefield | 4 | P. + F. Vale | 8/14 | P.I. | 2 R. Heil |
| 8/14 | P.I. | 17 | R. Heil | 8/23 | Westfield | 2 S. Kellogg |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | | | | 8/23 | Lexington | 1 P. + F. Vale |
| 7/5 | Hawley | 4 | M. Lynch# | 8/23 | Medford | 1 M. Rines |
| 7/7 | Granville | 1 | S. Kellogg | 8/23 | Barre FD | 1 M. Lynch# |
| 7/12 | Peru | 6 | M. Lynch# | 8/31 | Northampton | 1 T. Gagnon |
| 8/18 | Ipswich | 1 | J. Berry | Nashville Warbler | | |
| 8/23 | Barre FD | 6 | M. Lynch# | 7/2 | Chesterfield | 2 R. Packard |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|----------------|-------------------------|---------|--------|---------------------|
| Nashville Warbler (continued) | | | 8/14 | P.I. | 1 m 1W | R. Heil |
| 7/4 Wompatuck SP | 1 | G. d'Entremont | Black-and-white Warbler | | | |
| 7/5 Hawley | 1 | M. Lynch# | 7/4 Holden | 8 | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/12 Granville | 1 | S. Kellogg | 7/5 Hawley | 8 | | M. Lynch# |
| 8/17 Gardner | 3 | T. Pirro | 7/19 Barre FD | 20 | | S. Sutton |
| 8/22 MNWS | 1 | M. Taylor | 8/8 Hardwick | 4 | | C. Buelow |
| 8/25 Manchester | 1 | J. Berry# | 8/9 Quabbin Pk | 12 | | M. Lynch# |
| 8/30 Newton | 1 | H. Miller | 8/23 HRWMA | 6 | | T. Pirro |
| 8/31 Natick | 2 | E. Taylor | 8/25 Manchester | 3 | | J. Berry# |
| Northern Parula | | | American Redstart | | | |
| 8/23 Westfield | 1 | S. Kellogg | 7/5 Hawley | 6 | | M. Lynch# |
| Yellow Warbler | | | 7/19 P.I. | 5 | | P. + F. Vale |
| 7/4 Wakefield | 37 | P. + F. Vale | 7/19 Quabbin (G45) | 11 | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/23 Amherst | 2 | H. Allen | 7/19 Barre FD | 12 | | S. Sutton |
| 8/13 Cape Ann | 17 | R. Heil | 8/19, 23 Medford | 5, 35 | | M. Rines |
| 8/14, 26 P.I. | 56, 7 | R. Heil | 8/23 HRWMA | 23 | | T. Pirro |
| 8/23 Medford | 2 | M. Rines | 8/27 Mt.A. | 8 | | R. Stymeist |
| 8/27 Mt.A. | 7 | R. Stymeist | 8/31 Lexington | 8 | | P. + F. Vale |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | | | Prothonotary Warbler | | | |
| 7/5 Hawley | 16 | M. Lynch# | 8/9 Chatham | 1 | | J. Kinneally + v.o. |
| 7/6 Quabbin (G10) | 29 | G. d'Entremont | Ovenbird | | | |
| 7/12 Peru | 15 | M. Lynch# | 7/4 Wompatuck SP | 36 | | G. d'Entremont |
| 7/19 Barre FD | 18 | S. Sutton | 7/5 Hawley | 47 | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/19 Quabbin (G45) | 14 | M. Lynch# | 7/6 Quabbin (G10) | 27 | | G. d'Entremont |
| 8/6 Montague | 5 | C. Buelow | 7/12 Peru | 26 | | M. Lynch# |
| 8/15 Wakefield | 2 | F. Vale | 7/19 Barre FD | 20 | | S. Sutton |
| 8/23 Medford | 6 | M. Rines | 7/19 Quabbin (G45) | 15 | | M. Lynch# |
| 8/23 HRWMA | 4 | T. Pirro | 8/24 Quabbin (G40) | 3 | | C. Buelow |
| Magnolia Warbler | | | 8/25 Manchester | 2 | | J. Berry# |
| 7/5 Hawley | 7 | M. Lynch# | Northern Waterthrush | | | |
| 7/12 Peru | 15 | M. Lynch# | 7/20 Milton | 2 | | V. Zollo |
| 7/19 Barre FD | 4 m | S. Sutton | 8/3 Williamsburg | 3 | | H. Allen |
| 8/23 MNWS | 1 | P. + F. Vale | 8/7 Amherst | 2 | | H. Allen |
| 8/26 P.I. | 1 | R. Heil | 8/13 Cape Ann | 7 | | R. Heil |
| 8/27 Mt.A. | 1 | R. Stymeist | 8/14 P.I. | 2 | | R. Heil |
| 8/29 Lexington | 1 | C. Cook | 8/19 MNWS | 3 | | R. Heil |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | | | Louisiana Waterthrush | | | |
| 7/5 Hawley | 16 | M. Lynch# | 7/5 Hawley | 1 | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/6 Quabbin (G10) | 20 | G. d'Entremont | 7/16 Berlin | 2 | | S. Sutton |
| 7/12 Peru | 9 | M. Lynch# | 7/19 Quabbin (G45) | 1 | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/14 Petersham | 4 | C. Buelow | 8/7 Southwick | 2 | | S. Kellogg |
| 8/23 Barre FD | 3 | M. Lynch# | 8/11 Northampton | 1 | | R. Packard |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | | | 8/13 Gloucester | 1 | | R. Heil |
| 7/5 Hawley | 16 | M. Lynch# | Mourning Warbler | | | |
| 7/6 Quabbin (G10) | 4 | G. d'Entremont | 7/4 Washington | 2 | | J. Hoye# |
| 7/12 Peru | 9 | M. Lynch# | 7/5 Hawley | 2 | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/14 Petersham | 4 | C. Buelow | 7/10 Adams | 2 | | W. Laffey |
| 8/9 Bourne | 2 | P. + F. Vale | 7/11 New Ashford | 3 | | D. St James |
| 8/16 HRWMA | 4 | T. Pirro | 7/12 Peru | 1 m | | M. Lynch# |
| 8/23 Barre FD | 19 | M. Lynch# | 8/23 Chatham (S.B.) | 1 | | B. Nikula# |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | | | 8/24 Yarmouthport | 1 f imm | | St. Miller |
| 7/5 Hawley | 33 | M. Lynch# | 8/31 Concord | 1 | | M. Maurer# |
| 7/6 Quabbin (G10) | 13 | G. d'Entremont | Common Yellowthroat | | | |
| 7/12 Peru | 14 | M. Lynch# | 7/4 Wakefield | 28 | | P. + F. Vale |
| 7/19 Barre FD | 26 | S. Sutton | 7/6 Quabbin (G10) | 37 | | G. d'Entremont |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | | 8/23 Barre FD | 35 | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/5 Hawley | 29 | M. Lynch# | 8/23 HRWMA | 29 | | T. Pirro |
| 7/6 Quabbin (G10) | 2 | G. d'Entremont | 8/26 P.I. | 25 | | R. Heil |
| 7/12 Peru | 2 | M. Lynch# | Hooded Warbler | | | |
| 7/19 Barre FD | 3 | S. Sutton | 8/23 Barre FD | 1 f | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/19 Quabbin (G45) | 3 | M. Lynch# | Wilson's Warbler | | | |
| 8/8 Hardwick | 1 | C. Buelow | 8/17 Gardner | 1 | | T. Pirro |
| 8/23 HRWMA | 1 | T. Pirro | 8/23 HRWMA | 2 | | T. Pirro |
| Pine Warbler | | | 8/26 P.I. | 1 | | R. Heil |
| 7/4 Wompatuck SP | 15 | G. d'Entremont | 8/27 Mt.A. | 1 | | R. Stymeist# |
| 7/4 Holden | 19 | M. Lynch# | 8/30 Arlington | 1 | | M. Rines |
| 7/6 Quabbin (G10) | 11 | G. d'Entremont | Canada Warbler | | | |
| 7/10 Andover | 10 m | J. Berry | 7/4 Wompatuck SP | 1 f | | G. d'Entremont |
| 7/19 Quabbin (G45) | 13 | M. Lynch# | 7/5 Hawley | 1 | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/19 Barre FD | 20 | S. Sutton | 7/12 Peru | 1 | | M. Lynch# |
| Prairie Warbler | | | 7/19 Quabbin (G45) | 1 | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/1 Falmouth | 4 | C. Buelow | 7/27 Mattapoisett | 1 f | | M. LaBossiere |
| 8/6 Montague | 3 | C. Buelow | 8/8 Hardwick | 1 | | C. Buelow |
| 8/23 Barre FD | 5 | M. Lynch# | 8/9 Quabbin Pk | 2 | | M. Lynch# |
| Blackpoll Warbler | | | 8/19 MNWS | 4 | | R. Heil |
| 7/14 Greylock | 2 | R. Laubach | 8/23 HRWMA | 4 | | T. Pirro |
| Cerulean Warbler | | | 8/23 Barre FD | 2 | | M. Lynch# |
| 7/6 Quabbin (G10) | 3 | G. d'Entremont | 8/28 Wakefield | 2 | | F. Vale |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| Yellow-breasted Chat | | | 8/16 | Sheffield | 7 | M. Lynch# |
| 8/26 Lenox | 1 | C. Wheeler | 8/31 | Concord | 12 | M. Rines# |
| 8/28-29 Gay Head | 1 | S. Whiting# | Bobolink | | | |
| Scarlet Tanager | | | 7/2 | Saugus | 20 | J. Berry# |
| 7/4 Wompatuck SP | 7 | G. d'Entremont | 7/4 | Ipswich | 18 | J. Berry |
| 7/4 Holden | 11 | M. Lynch# | 7/31 | P.I. | 80 | D. Furbish# |
| 7/6 Quabbin (G10) | 14 | G. d'Entremont | 8/23 | Concord | 25 | P. + F. Vale |
| 7/19 Barre FD | 13 | S. Sutton | 8/27 | Leicester | 114 | M. Lynch# |
| 8/23 Barre FD | 5 | M. Lynch# | 8/30 | GMNWR | 82 | M. Lynch# |
| 8/23 Blackstone | 4 | M. Lynch# | 8/31 | Northampton | 148 | T. Gagnon |
| Field Sparrow | | | Eastern Meadowlark | | | |
| 8/6 Montague | 25 | C. Buelow | 7/2 | Saugus | 6 | J. Berry# |
| Vesper Sparrow | | | 7/12 | Ipswich | 3 | J. Berry# |
| 7/6 Sunderland | 2 | J. Hoye# | 7/27 | Worcester | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| Lark Sparrow | | | 7/27 | Lincoln | 1 | F. Vale |
| 8/30 Concord | 1 ad | S. Moore# | 8/5 | P.I. | 1 juv | R. Heil |
| Savannah Sparrow | | | 8/19 | Leicester | 5 | M. Lynch# |
| 7/2 Saugus | 10+ | J. Berry# | Yellow-headed Blackbird | | | |
| 7/27 Worcester | 16 | M. Lynch# | 7/29 | New Bedford | 1 m | C. Newport |
| 8/23 GMNWR | 12 | S. Perkins# | 8/12 | Nantucket | 1 | E. Ray |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | | | Orchard Oriole | | | |
| 7/1 Falmouth | 5 | C. Buelow | 7/1-22 | Newbury | pr n | S. Stichter |
| 7/13 Lincoln | 1 | P. + F. Vale | 7/5 | Wakefield | 2 | P. + F. Vale |
| 8/8 Falmouth | 1 | M. Keleher | 7/7 | Groveland | 2 | D. Chickering |
| Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow | | | 7/12 | DWWS | 1 ad + 2 yg | D. Furbish# |
| 8/31 P.I. | 1 | R. Heil# | 7/31 | WBWS | 4 imm | G. Gove |
| Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow | | | 8/8 | Falmouth | 5 | M. Keleher |
| 7/8 Newbypt area | 57 | R. Heil | 8/11 | Belmont | 4 imm | M. Rines |
| 7/17 N. Monomoy | 15 | B. Nikula | 8/23 | Medford | 1 | M. Rines |
| 7/27 E. Boston (B.I.) | 2 | P. + F. Vale | 8/23 | P.I. | 1 | S. Mirick# |
| 7/27 Squantum | 2 | G. d'Entremont | Baltimore Oriole | | | |
| 8/2 WBWS | 6 | M. Lynch# | 7/27 | Groveland | 10 | D. Chickering |
| 8/9 Fairhaven | 7 | J. Sweeney | 8/23 | Barre FD | 38 | M. Lynch# |
| 8/14 P.I. | 40 | R. Heil | 8/26 | P.I. | 16 | R. Heil |
| 8/23 Sandwich | 5 | M. Keleher# | 8/27 | Mt.A. | 9 | R. Stymeist |
| Seaside Sparrow | | | Purple Finch | | | |
| 7/29 P.I. | 2 ad, 1 juv | D. Larson | 7/4 | Wompatuck SP | 1 | G. d'Entremont |
| 8/15 Edgartown | 1 | M. Pelikan# | 7/5 | Hawley | 14 | M. Lynch# |
| 8/20 P.I. | 1 | D. Chickering | 7/8 | P.I. | 5 | R. Heil |
| White-throated Sparrow | | | 7/12 | Peru | 5 | M. Lynch# |
| 7/4 Washington | 2 | J. Hoye# | 7/13 | Northbridge | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 7/12 Peru | 16 | M. Lynch# | 7/13 | WMWS | 2 | M. Resch |
| 7/19 Barre FD | 2 | S. Sutton | 7/19 | Barre FD | 2 | S. Sutton |
| 7/23 Quabbin (G40) | 2 | C. Buelow | 7/22 | Hardwick | pr + 3 yg | C. Buelow |
| 8/17 Gardner | 3 | T. Pirro | 7/27 | Paxton | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| Dark-eyed Junco | | | 8/9 | Quabbin Pk | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| 7/5 Hawley | 3 | M. Lynch# | 8/23 | HRWMA | 2 | T. Pirro |
| 7/12 Peru | 1 | M. Lynch# | 8/24 | GMNWR | 1 | S. Perkins |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | | | American Goldfinch | | | |
| 7/4 Holden | 12 | M. Lynch# | 7/21 | DWWS | 340+ | D. Furbish |
| 7/6 Quabbin (G10) | 9 | G. d'Entremont | Evening Grosbeak | | | |
| 7/19 Quabbin (G45) | 8 | M. Lynch# | 7/4 | Holden | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 7/19 Barre FD | 7 | S. Sutton | 7/11 | Ashfield | 2 | S. Sauter |
| Blue Grosbeak | | | 7/13 | Pepperell | 1 | M. Resch |
| 7/1-6 S. Quabbin | 1 imm m | v. o. | 7/13 | Ashburnham | 1 | B. Nikula |
| Indigo Bunting | | | 7/17 | Gardner | 3 | T. Pirro |
| 7/1 MBWMA | 6 | D. Chickering | 8/5 | New Salem | 1 | W. Lafley |
| 7/9 Quabbin Pk | 5 | S. Hedman# | 8/25 | Becket | 5 | R. Laubach |
| 7/19 Barre FD | 5 | S. Sutton | | | | |

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO BIRD OBSERVER

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month, and may be submitted by postal mail or e-mail. Send written reports to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 94 Grove Street, Watertown, MA 02172. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). For instructions on e-mail submission, visit: <<http://massbird.org/birdobserver/sightings/>>.

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (indicated by an asterisk [*] in the Bird Reports), as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts, should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Marjorie Rines, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773, or by e-mail to <marj@mrines.com>.

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

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



AUGUST SWALLOWS BY DAVID LARSON

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Releases “Birding in the United States” Report

Contact: Nicholas Throckmorton, 202-208-5636

A new federal economic report found that 46 million birdwatchers across America spent \$32 billion in 2001 pursuing one of the Nation’s most popular outdoor activities according to a report from the Interior Department’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The report, *Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis*, is the first of its kind analyzing data from the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

“Nearly one in five Americans is a bird watcher,” said Service Director Steve Williams. “This report recognizes what we always thought to be true. Birdwatching is very popular and contributes greatly to our economy, so it is important that we continue to work with our partners to restore and protect habitat to ensure healthy bird populations.”

Montana, Vermont and Wisconsin led the Nation in birding participation rates as a percent of total State population. California, New York and Pennsylvania had the most birders.

Birders spent \$32 billion on gear such as binoculars, travel, food and big ticket items such as canoes, cabins and off-road vehicles. This spending generated \$85 billion in overall economic output and \$13 billion in federal and state income taxes, and supported more than 863,000 jobs.

To be considered a birdwatcher, an individual must take a trip a mile or more from home for the primary purpose of observing birds or must closely observe or try to identify birds around the home. Those who notice birds while mowing the lawn or picnicking at the beach were not counted as birders. Trips to zoos and observing captive birds also did not count as birdwatching. Watching birds around the home is the most common form of bird-watching. Taking trips away from home counted for 40 percent (18 million) of birders.

The full report is available on-line at
<http://library.fws.gov/nat_survey2001_birding.pdf>.



ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK NEST BY DAVID LARSON

Thirty Years Ago (From Bird Observer Vol. 1, No. 6, 1973)

Editor's note: As you look over this index for the first year of Bird Observer, note the scope and tone of the articles. Looks pretty familiar doesn't it? Well, a few of the names have changed, and the typography is a little more modern. Here's to thirty more years!



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Bulletin of the Essex County Ornithological Club, 1921

THE YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT

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

I have no personal knowledge of the status of the Chat prior to 1885 but E. A. Samuels states, in his book published in 1867, that a pair of Chats nested in Lynn three years in succession. Mr. Samuels came to Lynn to study the bird at my father's invitation which would indicate that even in their time this was considered a favorable locality.

As the Chat is now a comparatively rare species hereabouts, it is probable that the work of the Gypsy Moth Commission in cleaning up sprout land together with more recent forest fires has discouraged the bird and forced it to seek more congenial surroundings.

The following notes of recent occurrences are furnished me by Messrs. C. A. Clark and A. P. Stubbs.

A. P. STUBBS.

- 1902. Paradise woods, Swampscott, June 6. One male in song.
- 1906. Near Alden Waitt's residence, Lynn, June 4-10-20. A pair with nest.
- 1908. Marblehead Pumping Station, Loring Ave., Salem, June 18, three males.
- 1909. Highland Park, Salem, May 25. One male. 1911. Highland Park, Salem, May 30. One Male.
- 1912. Pine Grove Cemetery, Lynn, May 12. One bird.
- 1915. Near Rye Field, Fay Estate, May 23. One bird.
- 1918. Pratt's Pines, Lynn Woods Park, June 21-30. Breeding birds.
- 1919. Pratt's Pines, May 21. One male.

C. A. CLARK.

- 1918. Pratt's Pines, Lynn Woods Park. June 18-19-20 21-22-29, July 4. From one to three seen on each of these dates. Nest was found in the Fall.
- 1919. Same Region, May 23-27, June 10-21-28, July 8-11. On June 28 saw three. The young birds were large enough to fly.

W. D. MOON.

[Reprinted with the permission of the Essex County Ornithological Club of Massachusetts, Salem.]

ABOUT THE COVER

Yellow-breasted Chat

The Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) is a poorly studied, enigmatic species. Despite being our largest wood warbler, it is infrequently seen. Chats are cryptic, skulking, furtive denizens of dense thickets and thus are often overlooked. Olive and gray above, they have a bright lemon-yellow throat and breast, white belly, and black lores that separate a white supercilium (eye stripe) from a white streak behind the bill. When (and if) you see this bird, it is unmistakable. The sexes are similar in plumage, and winter-plumaged birds are somewhat drabber. The taxonomy of this species has at times been contentious because it certainly doesn't look or act like a typical wood warbler. It is very large and robust in build compared with other wood warblers (e.g., three times the weight of an American Redstart) and has a large, curved upper mandible, long tail, an un-wood warbler-like vocal repertoire and several anatomical features that are uncharacteristic of wood warblers. Its placement in the *Parulidae* has thus been challenged, but recent DNA analysis confirms its wood warbler status. Two subspecies are recognized, *I. v. virens* in the East and *I. v. auricollis* in the West, commonly called the "long-tailed chat."

The Yellow-breasted Chat is widely distributed in the east but has a more patchy distribution in the western United States, southern Canada, and northern Baja. In Massachusetts it is a rare and local breeder and an uncommon migrant. Chats are rare but regular in winter and have been seen at feeders. Some chats, particularly immature birds, apparently disperse north after breeding, which may account for birds that overwinter here. Most, however, are trans-gulf migrants that winter in Mexico and Central America.

Chats are generally monogamous, but the occasional male has two mates. They usually produce a single brood. They dwell in dense thickets that are characterized as low, dense, early second-growth, along power lines, in clearcuts, along streams, pond edges, fence rows—mostly habitats that are ephemeral in nature. Males have a rather bizarre song, more like a thrasher or mockingbird than a wood warbler. They are excellent mimics, and their songs have been described as rattles, whistles, catcalls, grunts, chuckles, mews, scolds—all rather unmusical. Females don't sing but do utter *cuk-cuk* and *cheow* calls. Males perform display flights both to attract females and for territorial advertisement. The flight, accompanied by song, is jerky and bouncy with exaggerated wing-beats, legs hanging, and tail often partly spread. Males sometimes fight at territorial boundaries, fluttering up into the air and grappling with their feet. Males guard their mate closely before egg laying, but not always successfully. In one DNA fingerprinting study about a third of nests had at least one chick sired by a different male. Chats are sedentary and territorial on the wintering grounds where they occupy the same scrubby habitat that they do for breeding.

Females build the nest, a bulky cup of twigs, bark, and leaves, lined with fine grass. The nest is usually placed in a thicket close to the ground. The usual clutch is

3-5 creamy eggs, spotted with a spectrum of browns, reds, and purples. Only the female develops a brood patch, and she alone incubates the eggs for the 11-12 days to hatching. The chicks are altricial (naked and with their eyes closed). The female broods the chicks, but they are fed a diet of insects by both parents and fledge in a little over a week.

Yellow-breasted Chats are foliage gleaners, foraging in low dense thickets and sometimes on the ground. In summer they eat mostly small invertebrates, including spiders, ants, wasps, mayflies, cicadas—about anything small that crawls or flies. They also eat fruit, and in winter fruit may be an important component of their diet.

Chat populations probably increased during the nineteenth century as forests were converted to farmland and are currently decreasing in the northeast as reforestation occurs. Breeding Bird Surveys indicate that some populations are increasing and others decreasing. Chats are not threatened nationally but are listed in some states. They rapidly colonize their patchy short-lived habitat as it becomes available and move from areas where thickets have grown into woodland or forest. Nesting near the ground, chats are vulnerable to nest predation by snakes and mammals, and their edge habitat is frequented by jays and other avian nest predators. Their nests are frequently parasitized by cowbirds, with various studies reporting 5 to 91 percent of nests containing cowbird eggs. Because they are nocturnal migrants they often collide with man-made structures. Considering the ephemeral nature of their preferred habitat, the high levels of nest predation and parasitism due to edge effects, and losses during migration, it is a wonder that these un-wood warbler-like warblers do as well as they do. 

William E. Davis, Jr

About the Cover Artist

David Sibley has written and illustrated articles on bird identification for *Birding* and *North American Birds* as well as regional publications and books, including *Hawks in Flight* and *The Birds of Cape May*. Since 1980 David has traveled the continent watching birds on his own and as a tour leader for Wings, Inc. He wrote and illustrated the monumental *Sibley Guide to Birds*, a comprehensive guide to North American birds, which has been followed by a companion volume, *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior* (illustrated by David A. Sibley, edited by Chris Elphick, John B. Dunning, Jr., and David A. Sibley). More recently, David has published *Sibley's Birding Basics*, *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America*, and *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*. You can see more of his artwork at his website <<http://www.sibleyart.com>>. He lives in Concord, Massachusetts, with his wife and two sons. 

AT A GLANCE

October 2003



DAVID LARSON

Don't you hate it when this happens? A bird that you are trying to see or identify only partially reveals itself, or is otherwise half-hidden, by an interfering bird feeder or tree branch. I suspect many readers have experienced this phenomenon at one time or another, such as when trying to view a rare hummingbird on the back side of a hanging feeder! Given the frequency of this challenging (if not irritating!) situation, it seems reasonable to feature an identification puzzle presenting just such a circumstance.

An immediate impression gained by the relatively small size of the pictured bird's eye is that the half-hidden mystery species is probably overall quite small. Furthermore, the bird is obviously quite pale (possibly white) beneath, although it clearly has distinct ventral streaking, most noticeable at the sides of the upper breast. While we cannot be certain from the printed image that the color of the bird's underparts are white, it would appear unambiguous that the bird has a very dark (black?) chin or throat patch. This feature alone provides something to work with.

There are relatively few eastern North American passerines that have a black chin or throat patch as reduced in extent as that shown by the mystery bird. Several species that could possibly present an impression similar to that demonstrated by the pictured bird are any chickadee species, Cedar Waxwing, House Sparrow, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Dickcissel, and both Common and Hoary redpoll. Taking the dark-

throated impression a step further, it might also be reasonable to consider things like Black-throated Gray Warbler, Harris's Sparrow, and Orchard Oriole. This actually represents quite a broad assortment of species from a number of different avian families.

Here is how to eliminate these species one by one. First, the presence of clearly defined streaks on the sides of the breast at once removes chickadees (as does the absence of a black cap and a white face), House Sparrow, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Orchard Oriole. These are plain-breasted species, despite the fact that they have dark on the chin or throat area. Although juvenile Cedar Waxwings (which regularly retain their juvenal plumage late into the fall) have streaks on their breast, they also have a crest and lack the black mask and chin patch of adults. The Black-throated Gray Warbler has a well-defined black cheek patch, which is separated from a black crown by a bold white stripe behind the eye. And finally, an adult Harris's Sparrow would show a black crown, in addition to a black face and a black bib on the upper chest.

Having now removed nearly all of the viable identification possibilities, it seems pretty clear that the mystery species can only be a redpoll (*Carduelis* sp.). This identification is consistent with the apparent white underparts, streaks at the sides of the breast, distinct black chin patch, and the fact that the bird in the picture appears to be feeding at a seed feeder, something redpolls routinely do while visiting Massachusetts during the winter. Because of the angle of the pictured bird, and the fact that the image is not in color, it is not possible to say with certainty what species, gender, or age is represented by the redpoll in the photograph.

Redpolls (i.e., Common Redpolls) are irregularly common to locally abundant irruptive winter visitors to Massachusetts. In some years redpolls are practically absent in the Bay State, while in others they are widespread and regular visitors at bird feeders or in weedy fields inland or grassy sand dunes near the coast. The image of the redpoll depicted in this issue was obtained by David Larson at a bird feeder at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Easthampton, Massachusetts. 

Wayne R. Petersen



GREEN HERON BY DAVID LARSON

AT A GLANCE



JIM BERRY

Can you identify this bird?

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

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