

# BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



AUGUST 1986

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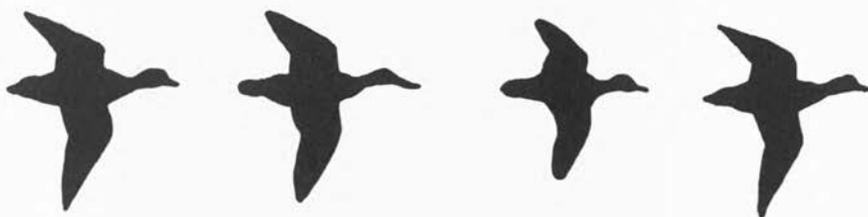


## **Bird Observer Fall Workshops**

### **BALDPATES AND BLUEBILLS, SKUNKHEADS AND SQUEAKERS - a waterfowl workshop**

A waterfowl workshop: a survey of the nearly 35 species of ducks, geese, and swans occurring in Massachusetts. Topics will include waterfowl adaptations, breeding biology, migration, and tips on how to identify local species.

Scheduled for October, the workshop will include a two-hour lecture and a one-day weekend field trip. Cost: \$25.



### **MARINE BIRDS AND MAMMALS**

Due to the interest expressed in the marine bird and mammal workshop two years ago, BIRD OBSERVER is again pleased to offer this program. The workshop will examine not only the various factors that affect the distribution of marine birds and mammals at sea but will also consider how these organisms have adapted themselves to survive in a marine environment. Attention will be given to helping participants learn to recognize marine birds and mammals under field conditions.

Scheduled for late October, the workshop will include a full day's sea trip to Stellwagen Bank and a two-hour indoor lecture. Cost: approximately \$40.



**Wayne R. Petersen will conduct both of these workshops.**

**For more information, call Wayne R. Petersen, 617-447-0332.**

Exact dates and times will be announced. For early registration, call or write Martha Vaughan, Bird Observer Program Coordinator, 15 Elmwood Park, Newtonville, MA 02160. Telephone: 617-244-0166, 6 P.M. to 10 P.M. only.

## RELICT OF DAYS PAST: WEST QUABBIN

by Peter H. Yaukey, Boulder, Colorado

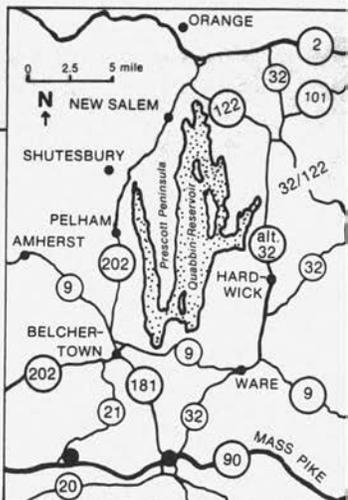
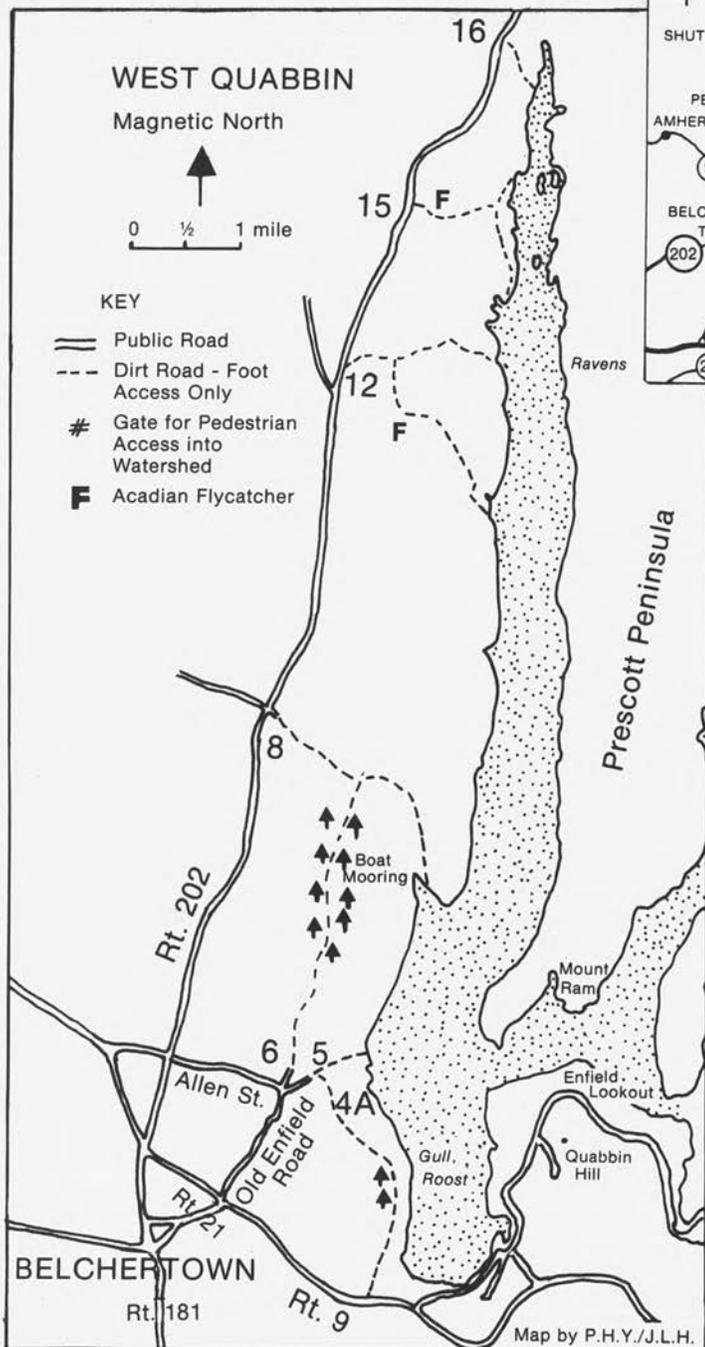
The Quabbin Reservoir in central Massachusetts is a pristine, eighteen-mile-long lake secluded within 55,000 acres of uninhabited woodland. Most of these forests are accessible only on foot along old roadbeds that are entered through fifty-five gates that border the watershed. This article focuses on the habitat and birdlife of the western side of Quabbin, a region that has received less attention from birdwatchers than the rest of the watershed.

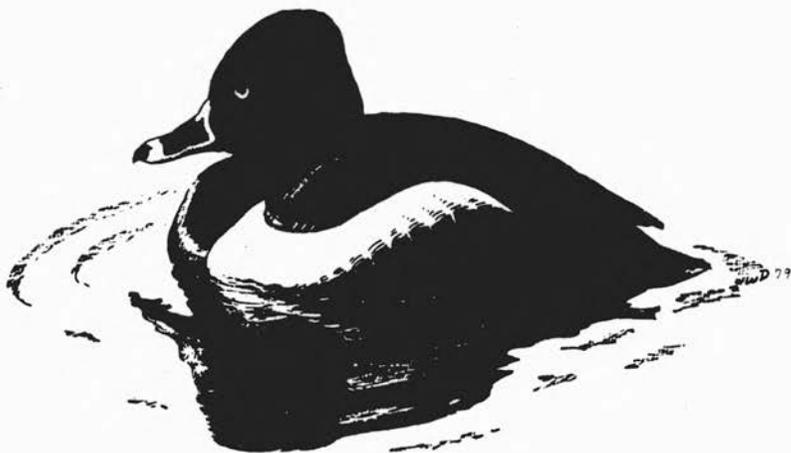
West Quabbin's forests are mostly deciduous with a significant scattering of conifer groves, chiefly red pine. Mysterious and intriguing against this backdrop are low, crumbling stone walls and defunct cellar holes, relicts of habitation fifty or more years in the past. Trees of great girth sometimes line the roadways; distinctly older than the trees behind them, they once stood alone in a field. Recent logging has thinned out the woods in some places, although nowhere by clear-cutting.

This scene hosts a rich avifauna, particularly during the breeding season when six flycatcher, five thrush, and eighteen warbler species nest here. When birdsong is at its peak in early June, large numbers of birds can be recorded: in one three-hour hike to the water and back on June 1, 1981, the rich tally included fourteen Veerys, twenty Red-eyed Vireos, twenty-three Black-and-white Warblers, twenty-seven Ovenbirds, and twenty American Redstarts. It is possible to find five or more of several warbler species in an outing: Blackburnian, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided warblers, and Louisiana Waterthrush, and similar numbers of Least Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Scarlet Tanager.

Among the less common species at this season are birds with both northern and southern affinities. The Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Magnolia, and Canada warblers, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Purple Finch are among the northerners. The southern contingent includes Pine Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, and a West Quabbin specialty, Acadian Flycatcher, which can be found at gates 12 and 15 as indicated on the map. Conveniently, the walk inside gate 12 passes an old beaver pond favored by sapsuckers and bluebirds, and the walk inside gate 15 provides the best spot from which to scan for ravens. Their nest cliff across the water on inaccessible Prescott Peninsula was once home to a Peregrine Falcon eyrie.

In wintertime, the predominantly deciduous forest becomes gray and barren, strikingly peaceful, silent but for the wind pushing through the trees and the crunch of snow underfoot. The few birds that remain from summer include chickadees, titmice, White-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Downy and Hairy woodpeckers,





*Ring-necked Duck*

*Illustration by William E. Davis, Jr.*

and an occasional Pileated Woodpecker or Ruffed Grouse. Conifer groves, where Red-breasted Nuthatches reside the year round, now attract Golden-crowned Kinglets, and, sporadically, northern finches such as Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, Evening and Pine grosbeaks, or even Red or White-winged crossbills. A large spruce grove that narrowly lines about two miles of trail at gate 6 has held Red Crossbills, and may someday host Boreal Chickadees.

In early spring and again from late fall until freezeup, the waters of Quabbin attract the most birds; in summer, they are worth scanning for a Common Loon, found here at one of their southernmost breeding outposts. Gates 5 and 16 provide the easiest access to the waters of West Quabbin.

Walking to the water from gate 5 takes ten minutes, and on the way you are likely to encounter a Red-breasted Nuthatch or a Golden-crowned Kinglet; Red Crossbills and Common Redpolls have also been seen. One year between October and freezeup, Snow Buntings were found on the shoreline here, and Red-necked Grebes, Oldsquaw, American Coot, and Black Scoters were seen on the water. Peak counts of that period included twenty Horned Grebes, thirteen Ring-necked Ducks, twelve Buffleheads, thirty-three Common Mergansers, and three Bald Eagles: such good results this far inland beg for further coverage.

During the only two visits to gate 16 during waterfowl season that have been recorded, Common Loons and six duck species were found. Solitary and Spotted sandpipers have been found on the flats in August, and the ten-minute walk to the water has produced Red Crossbill in April.

Gulls often roost at the southwest corner of Quabbin on winter evenings with 2600 at one count. White-winged species have been found among the hundreds of milling Herring Gulls. The best opportunity for close views may be via the twenty-minute walk in from gate 4A, which passes through an attractive spruce grove.

Quabbin is a wilderness enclosed in an ever-encroaching world. Its expansive forests and varied birds seem a throwback to a peaceful time long departed.

#### Directions for travel through West Quabbin.

Access to Quabbin is from Massachusetts Route 9 and U. S. Route 202. To reach their intersection at West Quabbin's southwest corner in Belchertown, take Route 202 south from Route 2, or Route 9 west from Worcester, or Massachusetts Route 181 north from exit 8 of the Massachusetts Turnpike.

Some gates are not labeled with their numbers, so follow directions carefully. From the intersection of Routes 9 and 202, proceed east on Route 9 to its intersection with state Route 21 on the right. On the left here is Old Enfield Road, at the end of which is gate 5. Gate 4A is located 0.1 mile down the dirt road to the right of gate 5.

Return to the intersection of 202 and 9 and proceed north on 202 for one mile. Turn right on Allen Street. Proceed 1.3 miles and turn left on Juckett Hill Road. A quarter mile along it is gate 6, one mile inside of which is found a spruce grove.

Eight miles farther north on 202 is a scenic overlook of West Quabbin. Gate 12 is on the south edge. A half mile inside the gate, take the first major right; 0.75 mile beyond, look for Acadian Flycatcher in the hemlock grove on the right.

On Route 202, 1.75 miles beyond the overlook, gate 15 is located down the embankment on the right shoulder, at the apex of a left-hand bend. Hemlock areas, beginning 0.25 mile in on the left, are Acadian Flycatcher habitat. About one mile in, turn right at the "T" and walk one mile to the water to scan the sky for ravens.

Four miles north of the overlook on Route 202, gate 16 is found on the right, next to a large parking area.

PETER YAUKEY has been birding since elementary school in Amherst, Massachusetts, where he grew up. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.A. degree in biology (1983) and is currently working on a master's degree in geography at the University of Colorado. Since 1979, when he was employed by Massachusetts Audubon to collect field data for the state Breeding Bird Atlas, Peter has spent every summer doing field research on birds, including work in northern Maine, New Hampshire, Virginia, and at Manomet Bird Observatory, where he was an intern.

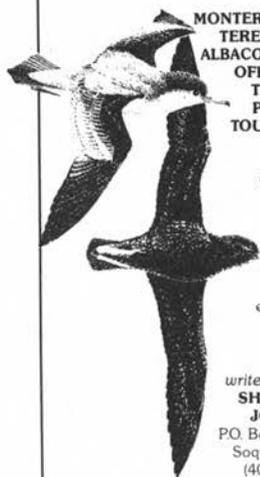
The author wishes to thank Keith Hadley and David Shankman for their helpful comments on an earlier draft.

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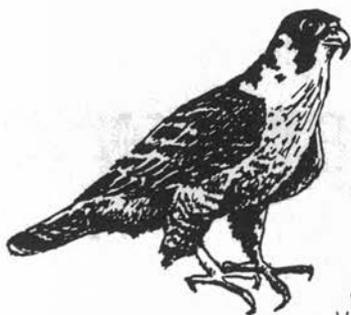
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## Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch

Hawks are migrating once again, giving birders in the state an excellent opportunity to see significant numbers of hawks in good variety. The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch (EMHW), in its eleventh year, will attempt to monitor portions of this flight.

The EMHW will maintain a consecutive-day hawkwatch on the summit of Wachusett Mountain in Princeton from September 1 through October 13, and continuing on all weekends through November 23, if the number of volunteer observers permits. Help is especially critical for weekdays at Wachusett from September 22 through October 13, the period when accipiters and some of the larger buteos are best seen.

Participating in a coordinated hawkwatch throughout New England, the EMHW will also cover as many sites as there are volunteers available on four weekends — September 13-14, 20-21, 27-28, and November 1-2. Volunteers are needed to report the level of hawk migration activity from any site on any of the eight coordinated weekend dates. Select a site near your home or contact the EMHW coordinator for recommendations as to the best sites available for coverage.

You don't have to be a hawk identification expert to participate and report. Reporting the number of hawks seen - not identifying every one of them - is the critical requirement. If you would like to learn more about hawk migration and identification, the EMHW coordinator can team you with a more experienced hawkwatcher at any of a number of sites across the eastern half of the state, from the Cape to the Connecticut.

Volunteers are needed for all dates, especially for the four coordinated weekend-watches and for Wachusett on weekdays from September 22 to October 13.

If you would like to participate, please contact  
PAUL M. ROBERTS, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155.  
Telephone: 617-483-4263 (after 8:00 P.M.)

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If you would like more information on hawkwatching in eastern Massachusetts, including copies of the EMHW reports for the fall of 1985 and spring 1986 flights, please write Paul Roberts at the address above and include \$1.00 to help defray costs. The information packet includes two fliers: "Why People Watch Hawks" and "Where and When to Watch Hawks in Eastern Massachusetts."

Additionally, a six-page silhouette guide to hawks of the north-east is available for \$1.64 (including postage), and a sixteen-page *Beginner's Guide to Hawkwatching* is available for \$1.22 (including postage). Checks should be payable to Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch and mailed to the above address.

TIPS FOR TYROS - CONFUSING FALL WARBLERS:  
BLACKPOLL, BAY-BREASTED, AND PINE

by James Baird, Massachusetts Audubon Society

Although they can't hold a candle to the Old World warblers, which are confusing at all seasons, the fall-plumaged North American wood warblers do add an element of confusion to a new birder's identification problem. Foremost among these are the Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*), the Bay-breasted Warbler (*D. castanea*), and the Pine Warbler (*D. pinus*). We'll do the easiest first.

Pine Warbler. The Pine Warbler is uncommon to rare in the fall in New England. Although it breeds commonly on Cape Cod and is widely but thinly distributed elsewhere across the state, it is an early migrant, and adults especially are seldom seen after August. Immatures may be seen, usually singly, until mid-October. What this means is that from September on the chances are good that the bird you're looking at is not a Pine. However, if it appears large (for a warbler), has a clear yellow breast, white wingbars, and an unstreaked back, then it may well be an adult-plumaged Pine Warbler. The immature has wingbars, is unstreaked and tan-colored (darker above and lighter below), thus giving it a "clean-looking" appearance.

Bay-breasted and Blackpoll warblers. The Bay-breasted Warbler is most abundant from late August to mid-September and is widely distributed as a migrant, although its numbers may vary dramatically from year to year. Blackpoll Warbler migrants appear in small numbers in late August and early September, and reach peak abundance from mid-September to mid-October. Its numbers also may vary from year to year.

In general appearance, the Bay-breast bears close resemblance to the Blackpoll in that both are greenish above and light below with white wingbars and tail spots and a streaked back. The real tip off as to its identity is the color of the upperparts, which in the Bay-breast is yellow green and in the Blackpoll is gray green. The underparts are equally distinctive. The Bay-breast is buffy below, a feature that is most pronounced on the undertail coverts. In addition, all age and sex classes except the immature female show varying degrees of bay on the sides. The Blackpoll's underparts are whitish yellow with the yellow varying from a tinge to a complete suffusion. If doubt remains, then check the legs, which are lead gray in the Bay-breast and brownish yellow in the Blackpoll. If you have particularly good glasses, check the soles of the feet - which are yellow in the Blackpoll!

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This article was originally printed by the Massachusetts Audubon Society as a *Public Service Information* sheet, July 25, 1978, and is reprinted here with the permission of the author and the Society.

## LINNAEUS AND THE LISTERS

by Richard K. Walton, Concord

Sometime during the twenty-first century a latter day Benton Basham will be awakened with a Code 5 call. He will receive a report of Stejneger's Petrel in the waters off Monterey, California. A short helicopter ride and it will be all over - the entire "field trip" recorded on video. Within days the ABA Lord Justice will certify the list. Our man will have become the first to have seen 800 species of birds in North America.

Birdwatchers are inveterate listers. Fortunately, there is an organization that caters to this urge to list. The American Birding Association (ABA) devotes much of its time and resources to the orderly keeping of bird lists. At first glance it may appear that the existence of such an institution is hardly necessary. However, the services that this organization provides are critical - if bird lists are to be taken seriously. Rules need to be made (and enforced), areas defined, lists drawn up, disputes arbitrated, and data published. The ABA maintains and publishes, by rank, total bird species seen by individuals for a wide variety of time frames and places. Included among the lists are life lists, annual lists, and Big Day lists. State and Provincial lists, ABA Area lists, continent lists, and ultimately world lists are all duly recorded. The ABA also spends a good deal of time educating its members on the hows and wheres of building bigger lists as well as celebrating the top listers.

Consider the case of Joe Taylor. In the early 1970s Joe was one of North America's top bird listers. A dedicated lister will go almost anywhere to add another bird to his or her list. Taylor and others like him spend a good deal of time in out-of-the-way places such as Baja California (Mexico) and Alaska. Attu Island is a perennial favorite, and it is not your standard tourist stop - even in Alaska. Attu lies at the extreme western end of the Aleutian Island archipelago in the Bering Sea. The island's only occupants are a few Loran Station technicians. Every so often Attu's population swells as a planeload of birders drops in to wander bleak beaches and scrubby hillsides in search of Asian exotics. One not so fine day in early September of 1971, Joe Taylor was with such a group. A six-mile walk to Murder Point had paid off. Taylor recorded the 699th species of bird seen by him in North America. He had sighted a Smew - a small black-and-white diving duck from Siberia. The stage was set. But I'll let Mr. Taylor tell it.

. . . It was a lousy, cold, misty, rainy morning and in spite of raincoats and all I was soaked. Only a real nut would have been out on a day like that. . . . The 700th bird was a Gray-spotted Flycatcher, a rather undistinguished looking little bird. I found it on the west shore of Casco Cove. . . . It is a small flycatcher - smaller than the Least - gray brown above and dirty white below with pronounced breast and flank streaking.

Another milestone in American bird listing had been reached.

To the backyard birdwatcher the activities of Joe Taylor and his peers may seem a bit fantastic, even foolish. But it is an unwritten ethic among listers not to judge the relative appropriateness of another lister's list. And this arrangement seems to me to be a useful one. Within its context we can appreciate the wide spectrum of the birding culture - from the pigeon fancier in the park to the seeker of exotics on Attu. In spite of this diversity, there are several common strands holding this culture together. Besides the obvious interest in birds shared by the park bench pensioners and the Attu beachcombers, there are some empirical ties. Such diverse documents as Darwin's list of the Galapagos finches and Aunt Nellie's Metro Park breeding bird census share common ground. The twentieth century student of birds can make sense out of either list. And although this may seem a trifle, it is a relatively recent state of affairs. For centuries, indeed millenia, lists of birds (and other animals and plants) were drawn up and passed along with the intent of informing future generations. Unfortunately, the major impact of many of these lists was confusion. For most of mankind's history, it was not at all clear which name referred to which organism.

If the ABA does not already have a patron saint of lists, the honor should go forthwith to Karl von Linné or, as he is more commonly known, Linnaeus. More than anyone else, Linnaeus laid the groundwork for orderly bird listing, and, as we shall see, Linnaeus was no slouch at list building himself. Once the bones of Linnaeus are enshrined in the appropriate reliquary, the ABA should set about to honor that most important date in listing history - January 1, 1758. On that day, the possibility of sensible listing became a reality.

Linnaeus (1707-1778) was born in the southeastern province of Smaland in Sweden. He was raised among the plants of his father's rectory garden. Karl's father, Niils von Linné, used family picnic outings to expand his son's knowledge of local natural history. Linnaeus' later remembrances of these trips indicate his early devotion to the natural world. "The meadows resemble more the most splendid groves and richest flower gardens, than their actual selves, so that one may sit in summer and hear the cuckoo with other different bird songs, insects piping and humming, and at the same time view the glowing and splendidly colored flowers. One cannot but turn giddy at the Creator's magnificent arrangement . . ." Karl, an inquisitive and willing student, repeatedly asked the names of all those "colored flowers" Linnaeus was, at an early age, developing a fascination with names and lists.

Although Linnaeus' formal education and degree were in medicine, this vocation was always secondary to his work in the natural sciences. While studying at Uppsala, he wrote his first important paper. The "Praeludia Sponsalarium Plantarum" (Preliminaries to the Nuptials of Plants), 1729, was an innovative description of

the sexual functions of the floral parts of plants. It was also at Uppsala that Linnaeus and Petrus Artedi became best of friends. Together they devised a plan to enumerate and organize all of the earth's plants, animals, and minerals into three great kingdoms. Although such a scheme may have appeared sophomoric in its conception, one of Linnaeus' great strengths lay in his lack of humility. Anyone who would write no less than five autobiographies must have anticipated certain accomplishments. Linnaeus agreed to do the birds, flowers, and minerals; Artedi, the fish, amphibians, and insects. A pact between the youthful students required each to do the other's share if tragedy struck either one. Within five years Artedi was accidentally drowned in an Amsterdam canal. Linnaeus did not forget their vows.

In May of 1732 Linnaeus set out on a trip to Lapland. The purpose of the trip was to determine both the cultural and natural history of relatively unknown portions of northern Sweden and Lapland. Linnaeus went alone on horseback carrying a small leather bag. He carefully listed the contents:

This bag contained one shirt, two pairs of false sleeves and half shirts; an inkstand, pencease, microscope and spying glass, a gauze cap to protect me occasionally from gnats, a comb, my journal, and a parcel of paper stitched together for drying plants, both in folio, and my manuscripts on Ornithology, *Flora Uplandica* and *Characteres Generici*. I wore a hanger [knife] at my side, and carried a small fowling piece as well as an octangular stick, graduated for the purpose of measuring. . . .

Linnaeus' journal of his Lapland trip describes the countryside and its people as well as providing accounts of plants, birds, mammals, and insects. A typical selection is his entry for June 14.

An owl appeared, flitting every now and then at short distances from me. Laying hold of my gun, I ventured to take aim, though my horse kept going at a good rate. It was quarter past twelve at night, though not at all dark. I was lucky enough to hit the bird, but in such a manner that one side of it was too damaged to allow of stuffing it. This was *Noctua dorso fusco* etc. [hawk-owl]. Just as I was about to draw up a description of this owl, a little beetle crept out of its plumage. By its antennae it was evidently a scarab. The whole body was oblong, shaded with blue or black; the belly white.

Linnaeus rarely passed by an opportunity to draw up a list. A rather unusual entry appears in the journal for the end of June. It lists eighteen different ways in which milk and milk products are used by the citizens of Vasterboten. Although Linnaeus' Lapland venture brought him notoriety as far away as America, this may not have been altogether deserved. It turns out that Linnaeus fabricated a certain portion of the trip. Apparently he felt a story about an eight-hundred-mile trek to the inland area of Torne Fells would interest his public. And so it did. Unfortunately for Linnaeus, later researches have established

that such a trip would have been impossible - given the time needed to cover such distances.

This fanciful sidetrip created by Linnaeus is illustrative of one facet of his character. Linnaeus was more of a closet naturalist than a field man. He built his castles (and his lists) in the study while envoys did the legwork. In 1737 Linnaeus published *Systema Naturae*. The tenth edition of this work published in 1758 and Linnaeus' *Species Plantarum* (1753) and *Genera Plantarum* (1754) were epic achievements. These works revolutionized scientific nomenclature and classification. Linnaeus provided the scientific community, which was rapidly becoming worldwide, with an orderly method for naming and classifying plants and animals. The glory of his system was that it worked (for the most part). Although his specific method of classification had soon outlived its usefulness, there were enough people willing and able to use it for a long enough period to allow for systematic change. Linnaeus was the man who assured that the center would hold. One of the keys to the Linnaean system is the use of binomials (two names, e.g., *Homo sapiens*) for each organism. In hindsight, such a suggestion seems commonsensical and all too obvious. A look back at one of the Lapland journal entries, however, demonstrates the pre-Linnaean naturalist's dilemma. Linnaeus referred to the Hawk Owl as *Noctua dorso fusca* etc. It was the "etc." that was one of the problems. Names, even Latin ones, tended to be long descriptions, which could be interpreted in different ways by different naturalists. The situation was even worse when vernacular or common names were used. Besides the problems created by the language barrier, one man's wood duck was another's summer duck. Linnaeus established the practice of using a two-part Latinized name for each species. Establishing an agreed upon name clears up a host of problems. If an organism's identity was in question, it could be checked against written descriptions or the actual type specimens (the skin of an animal or botanical specimen for which the specific name was applied). If still no match was found, the Linnaean nomenclature provided an orderly way to name the new species. The system also established an efficient filing method. The naturalist was now able to find out information about related organisms as well as add new information to be used by others.

With his system soundly in place, Linnaeus set about the business of naming, describing, and classifying most of the known natural world. Although there was some grumbling as Linnaeus dismantled a large portion of the old nomenclature, most naturalists were relieved to have a workable, universal arrangement. The establishment of the new method required a firm hand, and Linnaeus left little doubt who was in charge. He answered to no one - at least no one on earth. Referring to himself in the third person, Linnaeus wrote, "God Himself guided him with His almighty hand. He caused him to see more of creation than any other mortal before him. He bestowed on him the greatest insight into natural history, greater than any other had ever received." Or, as he was fond of reminding his fellowman: "God creates, Linnaeus

arranges." As a result of his work, 12,000 plants and animals have names given by Linnaeus himself. All future students of natural history would be constantly reminded of Linnaeus as they worked with the nomenclature.

Linnaeus sent field men to all parts of the earth: Peter Thunburg to Japan, Forskal to Arabia, Solander to Australia, Kalm to America, and Hasselquist to Syria. And he sat in his study at Uppsala—building his lists. Some like Peter Collison, whose correspondences acted as a conduit for eighteenth century naturalists, complained that the road to Uppsala was a one-way street. "It is a general complaint that Dr. Linnaeus receives all and returns nothing." But Linnaeus was never short on admirers. His own greatest admirer, Linnaeus also surrounded himself with fawning students. Short collecting excursions to the countryside culminated in triumphal returns to Linnaeus' botanical gardens. The entourage of master and students made their entry complete with flying banners, drums, and trumpets, the young men cheering, "Viva scientia! Viva Linnaeus!"

Linnaeus lived a long life and received many honors, including knighthood. His old age was, however, accompanied by a certain unease. During his later years he compiled what was to be his most bizarre list. Linnaeus was convinced that God was keeping his own lists; these records enumerated the sins of each man. When the notations reached a certain length, God would visit swift and sure punishment on the evildoer. Linnaeus in an unpublished manuscript, "Nemesis Divina," painstakingly created a list which documented such retributions. He drew on literature and his own experiences to provide examples. This work continued until his death in 1778.

Whether Linnaeus continued his work as "God's Registrar" on the other side of the grave is a moot point. His earthly fame is certainly well deserved. Linnaeus instituted order where there was chaos; his system of nomenclature endures to this day. All students of nature from the lister to the researcher, thanks to Linnaeus, share a common language. Future generations will have little difficulty understanding our lists. Several ornithologists have speculated (perhaps with tongue in cheek) that, given enough time, all the bird species in the world will show up in North America. The confirmation of such an eventuality is only possible because we share a common nomenclature. The clock began ticking on January 1, 1758, with the publication of the tenth edition of *Systema Naturae*; this is the day zoologists accept as the beginning of "the list according to Linnaeus."

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ANNOUNCEMENT! PROJECT FOR REPRINTING FUERTES PLATES  
BY STATE DIVISION OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

The original Louis Agassiz Fuertes paintings for *The Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States*, commissioned in 1925 by the Commonwealth, were recently "rediscovered" in the state archives and have been restored with a \$35,000 grant from the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

In 1985, a bill was passed enabling the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, together with the Nongame and Endangered Species Program, to produce limited edition prints for sale to the public. All proceeds will be divided between the Inland Fisheries Fund and the Nongame Wildlife Fund and will be used for continued wildlife research, management, and habitat acquisition.

This set of watercolors is considered to be the best work of Fuertes' career. The pieces available for reproduction are considered to be more accurate, more realistic, and more detailed than those of John James Audubon. This will be a unique product. There is currently no group or individual selling Fuertes' artwork on the market.

The Nongame Wildlife Fund and the Inland Fisheries Fund need money to initiate the production of three of the available plates and are trying to locate corporate and individual donors to contribute the initial investment to begin printing the paintings. If any *Bird Observer* subscriber has a personal interest in the project or has a suggestion about an individual or corporation that might be interested, please call Dwight Galler at 727-3151.

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RECORD REVIEW: SONGS OF THE WARBLERS OF NORTH AMERICA

by Michael R. Greenwald, West Roxbury

*SONGS OF THE WARBLERS OF NORTH AMERICA* (Identified on the cover as *WARBLERS*) by Donald J. Borror and William W. H. Gunn, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in association with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. 1985. Three 12-inch 45 RPM records or two cassettes. \$34.95.

In this expanded version of their *Songs of Warblers of Eastern North America*, Borror and Gunn have presented the birding community with yet another new concept in bird-sound recordings. This set contains 281 examples of the songs and calls of the 57 species of warblers that had occurred in North America at the time of production, including Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*), Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*), Fan-tailed Warbler (*Euthlypis lachrymosa*), Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*), and Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*). The Crescent-chested Warbler (*Vermivora superciliosa*), whose first and only North American occurrence was in Arizona, September 3-15, 1983, is not included. Several regional and seasonal variations are given for each warbler species, and, if applicable, variant song-types are given as well. Call notes are included for many species.

The recording quality is superb and has been engineered to bring to ordinary discs and cassettes the closest possible approximation of the quality available on the original tapes as played on laboratory equipment. Furthermore, quite useful and most innovative is the accompanying fifty-page booklet. This booklet contains precise information for locating the tape source of each recording, a short article on the general features of warbler song, and, available perhaps for the first time, a key to warbler songs done in the couplet style of other biological keys. Each pattern or variant of warbler song is shown on a sonogram which, unlike those shown in some field guides, is 1.25 inches high and 3.75 to 11 inches long, thereby making it easier to read and showing much more detail.

If there is any weakness at all in this set, it lies in the sparseness of comments comparing the song of one species with that of another. To be sure, other recordings of bird songs do not have such notations, but since this set has some and is otherwise so thorough, more discussion would be welcome.

However, there are certain factors of which the buyer should be aware, although they should not be considered defects. Discs and cassettes come in an *identical package*. Be sure you know which you are buying before you take the package off the shelf. Second, the discs are 45 RPM in order "to achieve maximum undistorted playback level" (page ii). Although they have standard size holes, you should be sure your turntable can accommodate this speed. Finally, this set is not really designed for field use.

One of the technical notes on adjusting the cassette deck should be adequate to demonstrate that fact: "Set the equalization switch for Chrome, Type II (70 microsecond) tape" (page ii). The cassette recorders which most birders carry into the field are not capable of making such an adjustment.

This set is not for beginners. Those who have no familiarity at all with warbler song will find it overwhelming. Those who are just starting to learn bird sounds are better advised to use recordings that are limited to one or two examples of the bird's most typical song (such as Roger Tory Peterson's *A Field Guide to Bird Songs*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company and The Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, 1983). However, to those who already have some familiarity with warbler song, this set is indispensable and represents a major advance in the availability of bird sound to the nonprofessional.

MICHAEL R. GREENWALD began birding by ear in New Hampshire's White Mountains in the early 1970s. He has served as a resident naturalist in the hut system of the Appalachian Mountain Club for eight years, has worked with the New Hampshire Breeding Bird Atlas since 1982, and has been a guest lecturer on the subject of birding in the White Mountains. He has been on the editorial staff of *Bird Observer* since the spring of 1984.



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IDENTIFICATION OF THE PHILADELPHIA VIREO  
IN THE AUTUMN

by Richard A. Forster, Massachusetts Audubon Society

Of all the warblers and vireos that combine to give the beginning birder problems in identification in the fall, the Philadelphia Vireo ranks high as a troublemaker. This is so not only because it is somberly colored and virtually without field marks, but it also has two look-alikes: the Warbling Vireo and the Tennessee Warbler.

At first glance there shouldn't be any difficulty in separating vireos from warblers, and there really isn't, once you know vireos. On average, vireos tend to be chunky, large-headed, and thick-billed (with a hook on the tip of the upper mandible that is only discernible at close range), and they move in a slow, deliberate manner. By contrast, warblers are slim and small-headed with a thin bill and nervous behavior. Despite these obvious differences, it will take practice to differentiate between them.

Field Identification. Generally speaking, the Philadelphia Vireo has a gray head, an olive gray back (which gives the bird a capped appearance), olive gray wings and tail, and yellowish underparts. However, individuals vary in the degree of yellowish suffusion to the plumage, with some birds appearing quite gray with a pale yellow suffusion to the underparts, whereas others are olive gray with more obviously yellow underparts.

Philadelphia Vireos that are strongly yellow are readily identified, but those that are grayish could be confused with the Warbling Vireo. Briefly, the head and upperparts of the Warbling Vireo are a uniform light gray with a faint olive green tinge, which doesn't produce the prominent capped appearance of the Philadelphia Vireo. The underparts are usually clear white below but can be slightly yellow, especially in the fall. However, the yellow is restricted to the sides and does not cover the entire underparts as in the Philly. The lores (area between the bill and eye) are the most diagnostic field mark: Philadelphia Vireos have black lores, whereas the Warbling Vireo's are gray.

Tennessee Warblers can be troublesome if you are still having difficulty separating warblers from vireos, but fall-plumaged Tennessees should cause no problem since they are fairly uniformly yellow green, i.e., no cap. They also have, in addition to the eye stripe, at least one, and sometimes two, whitish wing-bars (lacking in the Philly). Breeding-plumaged Tennessees, which are sometimes seen in the fall, have a gray cap, bright yellow green back, wings, and tail, and clear whitish underparts. However, Tennessee Warblers are quite small, a fact that should be readily noticeable.

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This article was originally printed by Massachusetts Audubon Society as *Field Problems*, no. 13, October 31, 1975.

Occurrence of Fall Migrants. The Philadelphia Vireo is more frequently seen in the fall at coastal landbird traps, where it can be expected with reasonable frequency from August 20 through the end of September. The scarcity of inland records is more probably related to the difficulty of seeing Phillys in woodlands than it is a reflection of abundance. The Tennessee Warbler migrates throughout the same period and can be seen with equal frequency, both inland and coastally. Warbling Vireos also occur during this period but are rarely seen on the coast and are very unusual after mid-September.

Summary. Philadelphia Vireos are sluggish, chunky, heavy-billed birds with yellow underparts, no evident wingbars, a capped appearance, and black lores. Tennessee Warblers are similar in appearance but exhibit a restless behavior and have a thin bill, an obvious wingbar, and uniform yellow green upperparts. The Warbling Vireo is distinguished by whiter underparts and the lack of dark lores.

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# Field Records

## April 1986

by George W. Gove and Lee E. Taylor

April 1986 included near normal temperatures, scant rain, but lots of fog and clouds. The temperature averaged 48.4° F, and the month began very warm with the high temperature of 72° occurring on April 2. The low was 34° on April 11 and 12.

Rain totaled only 1.59 inches, 2.14 inches below normal in spite of having eleven days with measurable precipitation, including eight days in a row, April 21-28. There was a trace of snow on April 6, leaving the seasonal total of 18.1 inches, 23 inches less than average and one of the lowest snowfall years on record. There was 51 percent of possible sunshine. Wind speed averaged 11.4 mph, with gusts to 31 mph from the northeast on April 18 and to 40 mph from the northeast on April 25. On twenty-one of the days the wind was from an easterly direction, a new record for fifty-one years of airport records. Fog was unusually frequent for the last ten days of the month, with extremely poor visibility on five of these days. G.W.G.

### LOONS THROUGH HERONS

The Western Grebe in Winthrop was a carry-over from March. A Northern Fulmar and Northern Gannets were noted at Stellwagen Bank. Double-crested Cormorants were migrating north in numbers after April 20. American Bitterns were noted at three locations, and the usual spring assortment of herons was reported, including Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Cattle Egret, and Glossy Ibis. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>APRIL 1986</u>
Common Loon:				
6, 26	Plum Island, P'town	9, 50+	BBC (J.Nove), K.Holmes	
Red-necked Grebe:				
5	Scituate	1	F.Bouchard	
Western Grebe:				
6	Winthrop	1	E.Nielsen	
Northern Fulmar:				
20	Stellwagen	1	K.Holmes	
Northern Gannet:				
14, 26	P. I., Stellwagen	10, 16	BBC (D.Dillavou), K.Holmes	
Great Cormorant:				
12	Newburyport	10	E.Nielsen	
Double-crested Cormorant:				
12, 20	Ipswich, Wachusett	58, 900	BBC (G.Gove), P.Roberts#	
20	Newburyport, SRV	400, 150	E.Nielsen, F.+M.McClellan	
26	Bridgewater	100 (est.)	SSBC (K.Anderson)	
American Bittern:				
6	Marshfield	1	E.Nielsen	
20, 27	Hamilton, Lynnfield	1, 1	J.Berry, R.Forster	
Great Blue Heron:				
8, 12	Saugus, Boxford	9, 6	J.Berry, BBC (G.Gove)	
20, 21	Topsfield, Mount Auburn	7, 4	E.Nielsen, BBC (M.Greenwald)	
Great Egret:				
9, 12	Concord, Ipswich	1, 1	R.Forster, BBC (G.Gove)	
15, 27	Essex, Ipswich	6, 1	R.Heil, J.Berry	
Snowy Egret:				
2, 5	Squantum, Marshfield	2, 2	W.Cornwell, F.Bouchard	
12, 19	Ipswich	10, 14	BBC (G.Gove), R.Forster	
Little Blue Heron:				
12, 13	Ipswich, Newburyport	2 ad., 1	BBC (G.Gove), BBC (R.Hale)	
18	Middleboro	1	R.Bishop	
Tricolored Heron:				
29	N.Monomoy	1	R.Humphrey	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1986
Cattle Egret:				
21	Ipswich	20+	J.Geiger	
Green-backed Heron:				
22	Cambridge (F.P.)	1	BBC (D.Lange)	
Black-crowned Night-Heron:				
thr.	Mount Auburn	max. 8 (4/25)	v.o.	
13	Lexington	5	BBC (S.Sanders)	
Glossy Ibis:				
7,12	Haverhill, Ipswich	1, 40	D.Hildt#, BBC (G.Gove)	
24,27	Ipswich	95, 56	R.Forster, J.Berry#	

#### WATERFOWL

Compared with the last two Aprils, the number of Snow Geese migrating through Massachusetts was very low. Other migrating waterfowl were present in not great numbers. Female Hooded Mergansers were noted nesting at three sites in southeastern Massachusetts, and Red-breasted Mergansers were still concentrated around Monomoy in early April.  
G.W.G.

Mute Swan:				
thr.	S.Dartmouth	max. 19 (4/1)	LCES (R.Marshall)	
Snow Goose:				
1-10,2	N.Monomoy, Plum Island	1, 55	B.Nikula#, F.Hamlen	
26,28	Newburyport, Bolton	1, 5	J.Berry#, M.Witte	
Brant:				
5,27	Scituate, Nahant	50, 250	SSBC, W.Crawford	
Wood Duck:				
13,26	Ipswich, Middleboro	12, 2	J.Berry, SSBC (K.Anderson)	
Green-winged Teal:				
2,9	Plum Island, Millis	200, 160	F.Hamlen, B.Cassie	
24	Essex County	230	R.Forster	
American Black Duck:				
thr.	S.Dartmouth	max. 188 (4/1)	LCES (R.Marshall)	
Northern Pintail:				
2,13	Plum Island, S.Monomoy	15, 16	F.Hamlen, B.Nikula#	
Blue-winged Teal:				
2,12	Plum Island, Ipswich	4, 2	F.Hamlen, BBC (G.Gove)	
13,25	Westport, Easton	6, 2	R.Stymeist#, R.Turner#	
Northern Shoveler:				
2,12	Plum Island, Ipswich	3, 2	F.Hamlen, BBC (G.Gove)	
13,20	S.Monomoy, Plum Island	20, 2	B.Nikula#, E.Nielsen	
Gadwall:				
2,13	Plum Island, S.Monomoy	12, 30	F.Hamlen, B.Nikula#	
26	Provincetown	6	K.Holmes	
American Wigeon:				
5,24	Arlington Reservoir, Ipswich	37, 3	L.Taylor, R.Forster	
Ring-necked Duck:				
12,13	Ipswich, Newburyport	2, 26	BBC (G.Gove), BBC (R.Hale)	
19,26	Milton, Lakeville	7, 2	BBC (G.d'Entremont), SSBC (K.Anderson)	
Greater Scaup:				
2,26	Newburyport	12, 40	F.Hamlen, BBC (W.Van Cor)	
Lesser Scaup:				
13,21	S.Monomoy, Lakeville	9, 5	B.Nikula#, K.Holmes	
Common Eider:				
6	Winthrop	150	E.Nielsen	
Oldsquaw:				
thr.	Newburyport	400	E.Nielsen	
White-winged Scoter:				
26	Provincetown	100	K.Holmes	
Common Goldeneye:				
2,12	Newburyport	30, 150	F.Hamlen, E.Nielsen	
Barrow's Goldeneye:				
2,5	Newburyport, Scituate	1, 1 f.	F.Hamlen, W.Petersen	
Bufflehead:				
thr.	Beverly-Salem	max. 27	J.Berry	
Hooded Merganser:				
1	S.Hanson, Easton, S.Carver	f. w/eggs, f. w/eggs, f. on nest	R.Turner	
2,6	Dover, Arlington	2 f., 5	F.Hamlen, L.Taylor	
Common Merganser:				
13,26	Newburyport	21, 12	BBC (R.Hale), BBC (W. Van Cor)	
27, 30	Wakefield, Wayland	45 f., 5	R.Forster	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1986
Red-breasted Merganser:				
thr.	S.Dartmouth	max. 103 (4/30)	LCES (R.Marshall)	
4,13	N.Monomoy	2000, 1500	B.Nikula	
Ruddy Duck:				
5	Arlington	9	L.Taylor	

TURKEY VULTURE THROUGH NORTHERN BOBWHITE

All of the raptors were represented in migration, with no unusual numbers. The third week of the month appeared best for the most species and numbers reported. Northern Goshawks were noted at nests in Boxford and in East Middleboro, where Red-shouldered Hawks were also present at a nest. Reports of Peregrine Falcons were concentrated from the Boston area. The Boston birds were banded and spent their time at the Custom House feeding on starlings and migrants, such as flickers. An adult was seen at Mount Wachusett harassing four Turkey Vultures. G.W.G.

Turkey Vulture:				
5-27	Petersham	total 9	E.Nielsen	
3,17	Manchester, Swansea	4, 3	R.Heil, V.Paquette	
5-30	10 loc.	1-2 ind.(24 total)	v.o.	
Osprey:				
10,20	Sharon, Mt. Watatic	1, 8	K.Ryan, R.Stymeist#	
20,26	Mt. Wachusett, Lakeville	13, 6	P.Roberts#, SSBC (K.Anderson)	
Bald Eagle:				
5;6,21	Petersham; Lakeville	1; 1 ad.	E.Nielsen; K.Holmes	
Northern Harrier:				
5,6	E.Middleboro, Plum Island	1, 3	K.Anderson, BBC (J.Nove)	
10	Lincoln	1 m.	J.Carter	
Sharp-shinned Hawk:				
20,30	Mt. Wachusett, Easton	24, 2	P.Roberts#, K.Ryan	
Cooper's Hawk:				
3,13	Concord, Petersham	2, 1	R.Walton, E.Nielsen	
14,19	Middleboro, W.Newbury	1, 1	D.Briggs#, R.Forster	
20	Mt. Wachusett, Mt. Watatic	1, 1	P.Roberts#, G.Gove#	
Northern Goshawk:				
thr.	E.Middleboro	pr. at nest	K.Anderson	
thr.	Boxford	pr. at nest	J.Berry + v.o.	
19,27	Ipswich, Petersham	1, 1	BBC (J.Berry), E.Nielsen	
Red-shouldered Hawk:				
thr.	E.Middleboro, Boxford	pr. at nest, 1-3	K.Anderson, v.o.	
5,27;30	Petersham; Norwell	1, 2; 2	E.Nielsen; W.Petersen	
Broad-winged Hawk:				
20	Mt. Wachusett, Mt. Watatic	73, 63	P.Roberts#, L.Taylor#	
20,27	Concord, Petersham	9, 4	J.Carter, E.Nielsen	
Red-tailed Hawk:				
thr.	E.Middleboro, Petersham	1-2, 1-2	K.Anderson, E.Nielsen	
Rough-legged Hawk:				
5,22	W.Bridgewater, Lincoln	1, 1	F.Bouchard#, J.Carter	
28,30	Saugus	1 (lt.)	J.Berry	
American Kestrel:				
6,19	Plum Island, Ipswich	4, 4	BBC (J.Nove), BBC (J.Berry)	
20,26	Mt. Wachusett, W.Newbury	32, 6	P.Roberts#, J.Berry	
Merlin:				
20;24,27	Mt. Watatic; Ipswich, P.I.	1; 1, 1	L.Taylor#; R.Forster	
Peregrine Falcon:				
5,13	Squantum, Milton	1 ad., 1	K.Ryan, F.Bouchard	
21-22,19	Boston, Mt. Wachusett	1-2, 1 ad.	J.Berry, J.Gordon#	
29	Cambridge	1	L.Robinson	
Ruffed Grouse:				
thr.	E.Middleboro, Petersham	1-2, max. 6	K.Anderson, E.Nielsen	
Northern Bobwhite:				
28	Ashland	8	G.Gove	

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

A Lesser Golden-Plover was noted at Plum Island; one or two reports of this species in April are usual. Piping Plover were noted in good numbers on migration at Monomoy, where Willets were well represented also. The highest April count of Willets was on April 24, 1980, with 122 birds reported. No Spotted Sandpipers were reported this month, which is unusual. Including this April, Whimbrels have been reported in ten of the last fourteen Aprils. Over the sea off Provincetown, one was seen flying. An early White-rumped Sandpiper was both seen and heard on April 1 at Essex. The high-pitched

"jeet" call was noted. Only two other April reports appear in *Bird Observer* records, both on April 29. Two Ruffs were reported, and two Long-billed Dowitchers were seen flying on Plum Island. The richly colored underparts were noted, as was the "keek-keek" call.

Reported from Newburyport harbor were six Little Gulls and three Common Black-headed Gulls. The Mew Gull continued at Raccoon Island in Quincy. Caspian Terns were noted off Provincetown and at Yarmouthport. A Razorbill with a broken wing was seen at Chatham.  
G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>APRIL 1986</u>
Virginia Rail:				
12,19	Dover, Milton	1, 1	F.Hamlen, BBC (G.d'Entremont)	
26	Wayland, GMNWR	4, 1	R.Forster, G.Gove	
Common Moorhen:				
20,22	Milton, Lynnfield	1, 2	R.Abrams, P.Lynch	
Black-bellied Plover:				
15	Duxbury	145	D.Clapp	
Lesser Golden-Plover:				
19,20	Plum Island	1	R.Forster, E.Nielsen	
Piping Plover:				
thr.,26	S.Dartmouth, Plum Island	max. 3 (4/16),1	LCES (R.Marshall), G.Gove	
6,13,20	N.Monomoy	15, 30, 51	R.Humphrey	
Killdeer:				
4,8	Marshfield, Pembroke	11, 12	D.Clapp	
American Oystercatcher:				
4,30	N.Monomoy	14, 15	B.Nikula#	
Greater Yellowlegs:				
thr.	S.Dartmouth	max. 10 (4/30)	LCES (R.Marshall)	
23,24	Newburyport	21, 45	BBC (A.Blaisdell), R.Forster	
Lesser Yellowlegs:				
2,10	Plum Island, Concord	4, 1	F.Hamlen, R.Walton	
21,24	Lakeville, Newburyport	1, 1	K.Holmes, R.Forster	
Solitary Sandpiper:				
1, 23	Essex, Concord	1, 1	R.Heil, R.Forster	
Willet:				
29,30	S.Monomoy, Chatham	47, 30	R.Humphrey, P.Trull	
30	S.Dartmouth	2	LCES (R.Marshall)	
Upland Sandpiper:				
22,24	Lincoln, Ipswich	1, 1	J.Carter, R.Forster	
Whimbrel:				
20	off Provincetown	1	K.Holmes	
Ruddy Turnstone:				
15	Duxbury	1	D.Clapp	
Sanderling:				
15,19	Duxbury, Plum Island	23,30	D.Clapp, BBC (D.Dillavou)	
White-rumped Sandpiper:				
1	Essex	1 (seen and heard)	R.Heil	
Pectoral Sandpiper:				
2,20	Newburyport	22, 41	F.Hamlen, E.Nielsen	
1,24	Essex-Ipswich, Topsfield	70, 14	R.Heil, R.Forster	
Purple Sandpiper:				
5,19	Marshfield, Plum Island	115, 6	F.Bouchard#, BBC (D.Dillavou)	
Dunlin:				
thr.	S.Dartmouth	max. 125 (4/9)	LCES (R.Marshall)	
15	Duxbury	750	D.Clapp	
Ruff:				
5-6,29	WBWS, Newburyport	1, 1	fide M.O'Connor, R.Heil	
Short-billed Dowitcher:				
6;19,24	Plum Island	2;2	BBC (J.Nove); R.Forster	
Long-billed Dowitcher:				
24	Plum Island	2	R.Forster	
Common Snipe:				
5,16	W.Bridgewater, Millis	30, 95	F.Bouchard#, B.Cassie#	
19,27	Plum Island, Newbury	20, 60	BBC (D.Dillavou), R.Forster	
American Woodcock:				
13,15	Lexington, IRWS	2, 4	BBC (S.Sanders), BBC (A.Blaisdell)	
29	Nahant	1	J.Paputseanos	
Red-necked Phalarope:				
26	Stellwagen	1	K.Holmes	
Laughing Gull:				
26	off Provincetown	1	K.Holmes	
Little Gull:				
19,20	Newburyport	max. 4 ad. + 2 imm.	v.o.	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1986
Common Black-headed Gull:				
12,19,20	Newburyport	max. 2 ad. + 1 imm.	v.o.	
30	Chatham	1 ad.	R.Humphrey	
Mew Gull:				
1-8	Quincy	1 (from Dec.)	D.Brown + v.o.	
Iceland Gull:				
19,27	Plum Island	10, 2	BBC (D.Dillavou), R.Forster	
Glaucous Gull:				
27	Newburyport	1	R.Abrams	
Caspian Tern:				
26,29	off P'town, Yarmouthport	1, 2	K.Holmes, R.Scott#	
Thick-billed Murre:				
20	Stellwagen	3	K.Holmes	
Razorbill:				
6,20	Chatham, Stellwagen	1,1	B.Nikula#, K.Holmes	
Black Guillemot:				
20	off Provincetown	5	K.Holmes	

#### OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Great Horned Owls nested in Lexington on the state hospital grounds in plain view from the roadway, fledging three young on April 27, one of them a younger "adopted" owlet added to the nest by banders. Pairs of Barred Owls were noted in Medfield and Holliston, where they nest, and two saw-whet owls were also seen in Holliston. A Long-eared Owl appeared in Sudbury, a Red-headed Woodpecker in Concord, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers were found at three sites. Four Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen at Mt. Auburn Cemetery. Individual Pileated Woodpeckers were reported from eight locations. G.W.G.

Eastern Screech-Owl:				
1-9	E.Middleboro	1	K.Anderson	
Great Horned Owl:				
thr.,4	Lexington,E.Middleboro	nest w/3 yg. fledged 4/27, 1	D.Arvidson+v.o., K.Anderson	
Barred Owl:				
3	Medfield, Holliston	1 pr., 2 pr.	fide B.Cassie	
13,19	Petersham, Ipswich	1, 1	E.Nielsen, J.Berry	
Long-eared Owl:				
14	Sudbury	1	R.Forster	
Short-eared Owl:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 4 (4/22)	R.Humphrey#	
1,16	S.Dartmouth	1, 1	LCES (R.Marshall)	
Northern Saw-whet Owl:				
3	Holliston	2	fide B.Cassie	
Chimney Swift:				
26,30	Gardner, Easton	2, 1	J.Baird, K.Ryan	
27,28	Mount Auburn	1, 1	R.Martel, J.Heywood	
Belted Kingfisher:				
1,12	Watertown, Ipswich	1, 2	J.Gordon#, BBC (G.Gove)	
12,13	W.Newbury, Petersham	2, 3	BBC (G.Gove), E.Nielsen	
Red-headed Woodpecker:				
7	Bedford	1	R.Dodge	
Red-bellied Woodpecker:				
1-18,12	Concord, Wayland	1 f., 1	M.Rubel, J.Kenneally	
14-30	Millis	1 f.	B.Cassie	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:				
2,6	Lexington, Boxford	1 m., 1 m.	M.Baird, J.Berry#	
14,23-28	Dedham, Mount Auburn	1, 1-4	J.Marshall, S.Zendeh + v.o.	
Downy Woodpecker:				
5,5-19	Woburn, Petersham	2, max. 4	BBC (R.Clayton), E.Nielsen	
Hairy Woodpecker:				
13-27,13	Petersham, Topsfield	max. 7, 3	E.Nielsen, J.Berry	
12,30	Brookline, Saugus	pr., 4	H.Wiggin, F.Bouchard	
Northern Flicker:				
19, 27	Milton, Petersham	15, 12	BBC (G.d'Entremont), E.Nielsen	
Pileated Woodpecker:				
thr.	Boxford	1-2	v.o.	

Reports of individuals from seven locations.

#### EASTERN PHOEBE THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAK

Weather patterns this year did not support a strong April passerine migration. Remarkably, winds were, in general, consistently from the east, accompanied by cold air masses. The sole exceptions were the periods during April 1-4 and April 21-22. Either during or immediately after both of these periods a few interesting first

arrivals were noted, including Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Loggerhead Shrike, Palm Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Rufous-sided Towhee. The auspicious weather during the third week of the month brought Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black-and-white Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting, though not in the numbers that are normally expected based on recent Aprils. The dearth of migration was especially evidenced by two warbler parameters: species diversity and numbers of Palm Warbler (the one species that usually completes the bulk of its migration through Massachusetts during April). The total of warbler species reported for April this year was seven, lowest in the last ten years; this may be compared with an average of seventeen species. Similarly, at a total of sixteen individuals, Palm Warbler reports were at a ten-year low and may be compared with norms of slightly over a hundred individuals. Other expected migrant species for which reports were notably missing were House Wren and Gray Catbird.

The month provided two reports of spectacularly rare species. On April 6, a Fieldfare was discovered in a Concord field enjoying the worm fare with robins and constituting the first Massachusetts state record. Refer to the April 1986 issue of this periodical for further details of this occurrence, one of relatively few for North America. On April 24, two female Boat-tailed Grackles were observed for a short time along the road from Newburyport to Plum Island. Based on recent reports from Rhode Island, this first state record for the species had been anticipated. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>APRIL 1986</u>
Eastern Phoebe:				
thr.	Mt. Auburn, Petersham	8 max. (4/3),	8 max. (4/19)	v.o., E.Nielsen
12-19,19	Boxford, Milton	8 max. (4/19),	3	v.o., BBC (G.d'Entremont)
Great Crested Flycatcher:				
26	Topsfield	1		J.MacDougall
Horned Lark:				
9,26	Concord, Plum Island	2, 4		R.Forster, BBC (W.Van Cor)
Purple Martin:				
16,20-27	Middleboro, Plum Island	1 m., 4 max. (4/20)		D.Briggs, v.o.
Tree Swallow:				
5,26	Marshfield, Lakeville	6, 50		F.Bouchard, SSBC (K.Anderson)
Northern Rough-winged Swallow:				
10,19	Wayland, Milton	4, 3		R.Forster, BBC (G.d'Entremont)
25,29	Concord, Marshfield	2, 2		J.Carter, D.Clapp
Bank Swallow:				
19,26	Ipswich, Lakeville	1, 6		R.Forster, SSBC (K.Anderson)
Cliff Swallow:				
29	Marshfield	1		D.Clapp
Barn Swallow:				
20,23	Raynham, Wayland	1, 9		R.Forster
<u>Eurasian Jackdaw:</u>				
thr.	Nantucket	1		E.Andrews#
American Crow:				
5	Woburn, Bolton	40, 150		BBC (R.Clayton), E.Nielsen
Fish Crow:				
thr.	Mt. Auburn, E. Middleboro	pr. nesting,	1-2	v.o., K.Anderson
6-27,30	4 locations, Saugus	5 singles, 4		v.o., F.Bouchard
Common Raven:				
20	Mt. Watatic, Mt. Wachusett	3, 7		J.Gordon#, P.Roberts
Red-breasted Nuthatch:				
thr.	E.Middleboro, Boxford	2, 2 max.		K.Anderson, v.o.
5-27,15-30	Petersham, Mt. Auburn	10 max., 2-3		E.Nielsen, v.o.
Brown Creeper:				
6-12,12	Boxford, Weston	6 max., 8		v.o., R.Stymeist
5-27,19	Petersham, Milton	15 max., 3		E.Nielsen, BBC (G.d'Entremont)
Carolina Wren:				
6,13	Ipswich, Rowley	1 m., 1		J.Berry, BBC (R.Hale)
Winter Wren:				
13,20	Topsfield, Eastham	1 m., 1		J.Berry, C.Goodrich
21,27	Boxford, Ipswich	1, 1		E.Nielsen, J.MacDougall
Marsh Wren:				
26	Plum Island	1		BBC (W.Van Cor)
Golden-crowned Kinglet:				
5,6	Petersham, Boxford	12, 9		E.Nielsen, J.Berry#
14,29	Plum Island, Mt. Auburn	5, 4		J.Grugan, BBC (L.Taylor)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:				
2,14	P'town, Plum Island	15, 25		P.Trull, J.Grugan
10-30,26	Mount Auburn, Boxford	25 max. (4/27),	8	v.o., BBC (W.Van Cor)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:				
20,24	Eastham, Wayland	1, 1		C.Goodrich, G.Gove
27	Petersham	10		E.Nielsen

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1986
Eastern Bluebird:				
thr., 2	E.Middleboro, Lakeville	pr., 4	K.Anderson, E.Naves	
13,20	Ipswich, Princeton	pr., 2 pr.	J.Berry, P.Roberts	
22	Sudbury, Lincoln	1, 2	R.Forster, C.Leahy	
Hermit Thrush:				
4,12	Nahant, Weston	2, 1	L.Pivacek, R.Stymeist	
13-30,27	Mount Auburn, Petersham	25 max., (4/24), 9	v.o., E.Nielsen	
Fieldfare:				
6-14	Concord	1	R.Richards et mult. al.	
Brown Thrasher:				
25,28	Wayland, Stoneham	2, 1	G.Gove, M.Martinek	
Water Pipit:				
24	Ipswich	2	R.Forster	
Cedar Waxwing:				
thr., 6	Mount Auburn, Ipswich	90 max. (4/30), 70	v.o., J.Berry	
Loggerhead Shrike:				
5-7	Marshfield	1	R.Abrams#	
White-eyed Vireo:				
27-30	Mount Auburn	1	v.o.	
Solitary Vireo:				
20-30,26	Mount Auburn, Boxford	3 max. (4/24), 2	v.o., BBC (W.Van Cor)	
27,29	Petersham, Duxbury	6,2	E.Nielsen, D.Clapp	
Warbling Vireo:				
29	Cambridge	1	P.Lavin	
Orange-crowned Warbler:				
29	Brookline	1 (details)	B.Hallett#	
Yellow Warbler:				
30	Cambridge	3	J.Barton	
Yellow-rumped Warbler:				
3,20-30	Medford, Mount Auburn	1 f., 20 max. (4/27)	E.Nickerson, v.o.	
21,25	Boxford, Brookline	12, 16	E.Nielsen, H.Wiggin	
Pine Warbler:				
thr., 3	E.Middleboro, Newburyport	pr., 1	K.Anderson, J.Grugan	
13,18-30	Petersham, 5 locations	24, 12 total	E.Nielsen, v.o.	
Palm Warbler:				
3,12	Medford, Boxford	1, 2	E.Nickerson, BBC (G.Gove)	
15-30,29	Mt. Auburn, Cambridge (F.P.)	8 max. (4/27), 5	v.o., BBC (J.Barton)	
Black-and-white Warbler:				
22,29	Ipswich, Halifax	1, 2	J.MacDougall, K.Holmes	
30	Saugus, Brookline	1, 1 m.	F.Bouchard, H.Wiggin	
Prothonotary Warbler:				
26	S.Dartmouth (LCES)	1 m.	R.Maker	
Louisiana Waterthrush:				
12-30	Boxford	6 max. (4/21)	v.o.	
Scarlet Tanager:				
30	Martha's Vineyard	1 m.	V.Laux	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak:				
4,25	Nahant, Cohasset	1, 1	L.Pivacek, E.Woolf	
Blue Grosbeak:				
23,28	Chatham, Hanover	1, 1	W.Bailey, W.Kemp#	
Indigo Bunting:				
23	Chatham	2	W.Bailey	
Rufous-sided Towhee:				
1,4	Brookline, Nahant	1 m., 2	B.Rielly#, L.Pivacek	
20,21-30	Belmont, Mount Auburn	1 m., 3 total	L.Taylor, v.o.	
American Tree Sparrow:				
6,20	Plum Island, Ipswich	5, 1	BBC (J.Nove), J.Berry	
Chipping Sparrow:				
9,12	Concord, Hopkinton	2, 2	R.Forster, J.Gordon	
15-30,27	Mt. Auburn, Petersham	8 max. (4/27), 30	v.o., E.Nielsen	
Field Sparrow:				
13,26	Lexington, W.Newbury	1, 1 m.	BBC (S.Sanders), J.Berry	
Vesper Sparrow:				
11,24	S.Natick, Essex	1, 1	P.Hallowell, J.MacDougall	
Savannah Sparrow:				
20-30,27	Plum Island, Ipswich	10 max., 10	v.o., J.Berry	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:				
30	S.Dartmouth	2	LCES (R.Marshall)	
Seaside Sparrow:				
30	S.Dartmouth	1	LCES (R.Marshall)	
Fox Sparrow:				
7,12	Quincy, Hopkinton	3, 1	K.Ryan, J.Gordon	

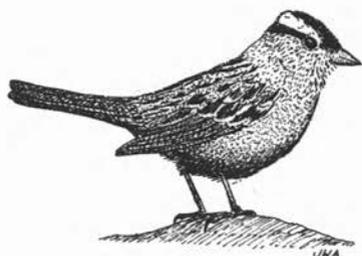
<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>APRIL 1986</u>
Swamp Sparrow: 4,21	Nahant, Lakeville	1, 50+	L.Pivacek, K.Holmes	
White-crowned Sparrow: 6-30	Ipswich	1 m.	J.Berry	
Dark-eyed Junco: 27,30	Petersham, Ipswich	18, 2	E.Nielsen, J.Berry	
Snow Bunting: 5	Halifax	100+	K.Holmes	
Red-winged Blackbird: 5	W.Bridgewater	1200+	K.Griffis#	
Rusty Blackbird: 5	W.Bridgewater, Hamilton	10+, 60	F.Bouchard#, J.Berry	
14	Wayland, E.Middleboro	8, 20	G.Gove, K.Anderson	
15,21	Provincetown, Wayland	5, 40	B.Nikula, R.Forster	
Boat-tailed Grackle: 24	Newbury (Plumbush)	2 f.	R.Forster#	
Purple Finch: 6-27,6-21	Boxford, Plum Island	2 max., 3 max.	v.o.	
13,27	Westport, Petersham	2, 4	H.C.Floyd, E.Nielsen	
Common Redpoll: 2	Millis	1	B.Cassie	
Pine Siskin: thr.	E.Middleboro, Middleboro	3 pr., 15max. (4/28)	K.Anderson, D.Briggs	
27	Brookline	3	H.Wiggin	
Evening Grosbeak: thr.	Middleboro	15-25	D.Briggs	
27	Petersham, Boxford	23, 2	E.Nielsen, L.Robinson	

CORRIGENDUM - JANUARY 1986 Field Records

Yellow-throated Warbler: from Dec-2	Harwich	1	R.Comeau#
should read			
thr.20 (from Dec.)	Harwich	1	R.Comeau#

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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



# Field Records

## May 1986

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

May 1986 was dry and cloudy with near normal temperatures. The average was 58.4°F; the first half of the month was cool, averaging about six degrees below normal, and birders twitched, waiting for warmer weather and the first "wave." The second half of the month was warmer than usual. The first 90° day came on May 19, twenty-two days earlier than average; the heat also tied the record for that day set in 1949. Rain totaled 1.21 inches, 2.31 inches less than the average for May. Sunshine totaled 51 percent of possible, a big improvement over May of 1985. Southwest winds were recorded on eight days - six of these days occurred after May 16, causing the rather late migration waves noted this year from many areas.

R.H.S.

### LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

A Red-necked Grebe coming into breeding plumage was noted from Plum Island on May 13, whereas reports of Pied-billed Grebes in spring continued to be poor with only two individuals noted. In Nantucket Sound, the usual small numbers of tubenoses were observed with Sooty Shearwaters showing up in good numbers by the end of the month. Three Great Cormorants were found all month in North Scituate, and Double-crested Cormorants continued to show increased populations, especially in Boston Harbor. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MAY 1986</u>
Red-throated Loon:				
11,13	P'town, Eastham (F.E.)	8+, 8+	B.Nikula# + v.o.	
18,20	Wellfleet, Duxbury	2, 2	D.Morimoto#, R.Forster	
25,26	Plum Island, Nahant	2, 2	L.Taylor#, R.Forster	
29	S.Monomoy	3	J.Russell	
Common Loon:				
10,10-11	E.Middleboro, E.Boston	1 mig., 2	W.Petersen, S.Zendeh	
10,14	Acoaxet, Braintree	3, 2	G.d'Entremont#	
17,18	Clinton, Quincy-P'town	1, 30	M.Lynch#, D.Morimoto#	
23-25,24	M.V., P.I.	3, 3	BBC(J.Barton), BBC(F.Bouchard)	
Pied-billed Grebe:				
4,29	Boston(Muddy R.), S.Monomoy	1, 1	P.Thayer, B.Nikula#	
Horned Grebe:				
24	Plum Island	3	BBC(F.Bouchard)	
Red-necked Grebe (details):				
13	Plum Island	1	T.Collins + A.Sanborn	
Northern Fulmar:				
15,17	E of Chatham: 10 mi., 2 mi.	6, 10	R.Humphrey#	
26	Nantucket Sound	1	S.Perkins	
Sooty Shearwater:				
25	Stellwagen Bank	2	C.Leahy	
29,30;31	Nant. Sound; N.Monomoy	20, 100; 3	R.Humphrey#, W.Petersen#	
Manx Shearwater:				
12	Nantucket	2	S.Perkins	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel:				
15;25	10 mi. E. of Chatham; P.I., Stellw.	100+; 6+; 125	R.Humphrey#;R.Stymeist#,C.Leahy	
26,28;29	Nant.Sound, Nant.; P'town	200, 75; 2	S.Perkins; B.Nikula	
Northern Gannet:				
12,13	Dennis, Eastham(F.E.)	50, 300	B.Nikula	
17,18	Nant., Wellfleet	475, 1	M.Litchfield, D.Morimoto#	
Great Cormorant:				
thr.,29	N.Scituate, S.Monomoy	3+, 2	G.d'Entremont+v.o.,B.Nikula#	
Double-crested Cormorant:				
thr.	S.Dartmouth	max.35 (5/10)	LCES	
thr.	Saugus-Boston (train)	max.60 (5/27+29)	J.Berry	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1986
Double-crested Cormorant (continued):				
10,11,25	E.Boston (Belle Isle)	66, 156, 15	S.Zendeh	
11,14	Gloucester, Halifax	30, 52	BBC(J.Nove), K.Anderson	
15,17	Mt.A., Newburyport	40, 60	R.Stymeist#,BBC(B.Drummond)	
25	Nahant (Egg Rock)	1000s	R.Stymeist + G.Gove	

#### HERONS

Sixteen American Bittern were reported this May, compared with only eight last year, but Least Bittern was reported from only one location, compared with five reports in May 1985. On Monomoy, 57 active Snowy Egret nests were found along with one active nest of Glossy Ibis, the first confirmed nesting for this species on Cape Cod. Black-crowned Night-Heron nests on South Monomoy totaled 176, a big jump from 70 nests in May 1982. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were noted from five locations. R.H.S.

#### American Bittern:

4,16	Wayland	1, 2	R.Forster
6	Peabody, Bolton Flats	1, 1	R.Heil, E.Salmela
8,10	P.I., E.Boston(Belle Isle)	1, 1	J.Grugan, S.Zendeh
10,10 on	Newbypt, Lynnfield	1, max.3(5/17)	R.Heil, v.o.
17	Bolton Flats, Middleton	2, 1	BBC(M.Lynch), J.Berry
18,26	Milton(F.M.), Newbypt Harbor	1, 1	G.Gove#, G.d'Entremont#

#### Least Bittern:

17 on	P.I.	1+	S.Surner#+v.o.
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#### Great Blue Heron:

1,3	Whitman, Lakeville	2, 1	K.Holmes
8	Salem-Saugus(train)	11	J.Berry
13,17	Watertown, Bolton	6 mig., 5	R.Stymeist, BBC(M.Lynch)
22,26	E.Orleans, Westport	4, 5	A.Williams,BBC(T.Athearn)

#### Great Egret:

1	Fall River, Quincy	1, 1	K.Holmes, K.Ryan
3,11,26	Ipswich	1, 3, 1	J.Berry
7,21	E.Orleans, Newbypt	3, 1	D.+E.Williams,BBC(A.Blaisdell)
25	Essex(Island Rd.), Lakeville	4, 1	R.Stymeist#, W.Petersen#

#### Snowy Egret:

thr.	Saugus-Revere(train)	max.11(5/16)	J.Berry
10,11	W.Newbury, Squantum	8, 9	BBC(S.Bolton), SSBC(A.Leggett)
31	S.Monomoy	57 nests	R.Humphrey + v.o.

#### Little Blue Heron:

15,17	Manchester, Monomoy	1, 1	BBC(G.Hotz), BBC(J.Barton)
25,29	M.V., Chatham	2, 1 ad.	BBC(J.Barton), B.Nikula#

#### Tricolored Heron:

6,10	S.Dartmouth, N.Monomoy	1, 1	R.Marshall, B.Nikula#
12,12-17	Gloucester, Hingham	1, 1	C.Leahy, D.Morimoto# + v.o.
17,24	S.Monomoy, Essex	1, 1	B.Nikula#, R.Heil
25 on,31	P.I., Chatham	1, 1	M.Lynch#+v.o., B.Nikula#

#### Cattle Egret:

thr.	Ipswich(Appleton Farm)	max.10(5/12)	J.Berry + v.o.
8,10	Concord, Essex	1, 3	R.Forster, R.Heil
25	Wenham	2	M.Lynch, S.Carroll

#### Green-backed Heron:

2,7	Swampscott, Brookline	2, 1	L.Sager, H.Wiggin
10	Lakeville, P.I.	1, 2	K.Holmes, BBC(S.Bolton)
13	Watertown, Lynnfield	1, 1	R.Stymeist, W.VanCor#
17	Bolton-Oxbow NWR	5	M.Lynch + S.Carroll
17,18	P.I., Mt.A.	6, 3	S.Surner#, S.Carroll#

#### Black-crowned Night-Heron:

thr.	Watertown(Charles R.)	max.40(5/20)	R.Stymeist#
31	S.Monomoy	176 active nests	R.Humphrey + v.o.

#### Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:

6,14	Peabody, Marshfield	1 ad., 1	R.Heil, D.Clapp
16,20	Eastham, Jamaica Plain	1 ad., 1 ad.	M.O'Connor, C.Jackson#
25	Martha's Vineyard	1 ad.	J.Barton#

#### Glossy Ibis:

thr.	Essex-Ipswich	max.40(5/4)	W.Petersen# + v.o.
1,6,8	Revere	3, 3, 4	J.Berry
6	Bolton Flats, Chatham	2, 30	E.Salmela, R.Humphrey
15,26	Manchester, S.Harwich	2, 4	BBC(G.Hotz), B.Nikula
31	S.Monomoy	1 active nest	R.Humphrey + v.o.

WATERFOWL

Two Snow Geese were noted during May, one in Newburyport on May 10, and another in the Quabbin area on May 17; both reports are unusual for May and perhaps represent ailing birds. Brant lingered into the last week of the month in Newburyport Harbor, despite the increased numbers of wind surfers who were using the harbor on a regular basis. Oldsquaw also lingered throughout the month but in numbers much reduced from previous years, a result perhaps of the presence of the wind surfers. A Eurasian Wigeon was found on South Monomoy at the end of the month. Three King Eiders were noted during the month, and two first-year male Harlequin Ducks could be found from May 16 to the end of the month in Nahant. Nahant was also a good vantage point for observing all three scoters, White-winged being the most common. The only Ruddy Ducks reported during the month were found on South Monomoy.

R.H.S.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1986
Mute Swan:				
thr.	Manchester	6	G.Hotz# + v.o.	
25,31	Plymouth, Wareham	13, 19	BBC(R.Timberlake),L.Robinson	
Snow Goose:				
10,17	Newbypt, Quabbin(Gate 40)	1, 1	R.Heil, K.Ryan#	
Brant:				
thr.	Newbypt Harbor	max.525(5/17)	H.Wiggin# + v.o.	
7,22	E.Orleans	100, 40	D.+E.Williams	
11,12	Squantum, Nahant	118, 150	SSBC(A.Leggett), D.Lazzaro	
31	N.Monomoy	1	W.Petersen	
Wood Duck:				
thr.	P'town	max.9	B.Nikula + v.o.	
10	Milford, Topsfield	3, 3 ad.+8 yg.	R.Hildreth, J.Berry	
17,18	Bolton-Oxbow, Marshfield	15, 4	M.Lynch#, BBC(R.Timberlake)	
Green-winged Teal:				
3,11	Newbypt, Ipswich	50, 7	BBC(G.d'Entremont), J.Berry	
14,17,29	S.Monomoy	35, 6, 8	B.Nikula#	
17,18	Oxbow NWR, P'town	15, 1	BBC(M.Lynch), D.Morimoto	
American Black Duck:				
17,29	S.Monomoy	20, 60	B.Nikula#	
17	Bolton Flats	10	M.Lynch#	
Northern Pintail:				
14,17,29	S.Monomoy	10, 6, 6	B.Nikula#	
Blue-winged Teal:				
14,17,29	S.Monomoy	6, 10, 6	B.Nikula#	
25	P.I.	20	M.Lynch, S.Carroll	
Northern Shoveler:				
14,17	S.Monomoy	5, 2	B.Nikula#	
Gadwall:				
3,17,25	P.I.	10, 8, 25+	G.d'Entremont#,D.Morimoto#,M.Lynch#	
14,17,29	S.Monomoy	25, 20, 20	B.Nikula#	
31	N.Monomoy	1	W.Petersen#	
Eurasian Wigeon:				
29	S.Monomoy	1 m.	B.Nikula#	
American Wigeon:				
14,17,29	S.Monomoy	2, 4, 3	B.Nikula#	
Ring-necked Duck:				
14,25	Peabody, Lakeville	1 m., 1 m.	R.Heil, W.Petersen#	
Greater Scaup:				
4,26	Newbypt, Salem	2, 1	W.Petersen#, R.Forster	
Common Eider:				
11, 18	Gloucester, Manomet-Chatham	12, 15	BBC(J.Nove), D.Morimoto#	
King Eider:				
17	N.Scituate, S.Monomoy	1 f., 1 imm. m.	P.Donahue#, B.Nikula	
28-31	Nahant	1 m.	L.Pivacek	
Harlequin Duck:				
16-31	Nahant	2 imm. m.	L.Pivacek + v.o.	
Oldsquaw:				
thr.	Newbypt Harbor	max.145 (5/17)	v.o.	
31	Monomoy	2	W.Petersen#	
Black Scoter:				
11,17	Gloucester, S.Monomoy	10, 400	BBC(J.Nove), B.Nikula#	
17,25;17	Nahant; Swampscott	6, 4; 2	C.Floyd#; R.Forster	
Surf Scoter:				
17,25	Nahant	6, 1	C.Floyd#	
18,25	Wellfleet, Marblehead	1, 2	D.Morimoto#, R.Stymeist#	
White-winged Scoter:				
4,11	Scituate, Gloucester	100, 27	G.d'Entremont, BBC(J.Nove)	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MAY 1986</u>
White-winged Scoter (continued):				
17,29	S.Monomoy	2000, 400	B.Nikula	
17,25	Nahant	250, 75	R.Stymeist#	
Common Goldeneye:				
17	Newbypt, P.I.	1, 4	G.Gove#, S.Surner	
28	Boston Harbor	1 m.	D.Morimoto	
Bufflehead:				
6,8	Salem	12, 30+	J.Berry	
14,17	S.Monomoy	25, 10	B.Nikula#	
15,22	Manchester, E.Orleans	7, 3	BBC(G.Hotz),D.,E.+A.Williams	
Red-breasted Merganser:				
6,13,20,27	S.Dartmouth (Allens Pond)	42, 50, 8, 9	LCES(R.Marshall)	
10,11	S.Dartmouth, Gloucester	56, 17	LCES(R.Maker),BBC(J.Nove)	
14	Chatham (Nant. Sound)	750	B.Nikula	
19,31	N.Monomoy	250, 70	B.Nikula, W.Petersen	
Ruddy Duck:				
14,17,29	S.Monomoy	9, 6, 6	B.Nikula#	

#### RAPTORS

An American Swallow-tailed Kite was reported flying over Chatham on May 19, the twelfth spring record in the state. Also of special note from the cape was an adult Mississippi Kite flying over Truro (and photographed) on May 6. This is the eighth record for this species in Massachusetts, and a full report can be found elsewhere in this issue.

We had reports of three immature Bald Eagles, one or more of which were hanging around Chatham off and on this spring. Osprey reports were lacking from their strongholds - Westport and Martha's Vineyard. Other interesting bird-of-prey reports during the month including nesting Northern Goshawks and Red-shouldered Hawks, both of which were successful. A Broad-winged Hawk on Nantucket was unusual for the island. A light-phase Rough-legged Hawk was carefully studied in Saugus on May 1 and 6, and there were two reports of Golden Eagle from Plum Island. Merlins were noted from nine locations and Peregrines from ten. A Peregrine pair was seen off and on in Boston, although no hacking was being done downtown this year. R.H.S.

#### Turkey Vulture:

3,9	S.Dartmouth	2, 6	LCES (R.Maker)
3,5	Newbypt, E.Middleboro	1, 1	BBC(G.d'Entremont),P.Anderson
6,10;10	Sharon; Essex	2, 1; 3	K.Ryan; R.Heil
15,26	Westport	3, 3	R.Forster, BBC(T.Athearn)
24,26	Boxford, E.Middleboro	1, 1	R.Heil, K.Anderson
29,31	P'town, Petersham	3, 6	B.Nikula#, M.Lynch#

#### Osprey:

thr.	S.Dartmouth (2 loc.)	max. 5	LCES(R.Maker, R.Marshall)
10,16	E.Boston, Lakeville	3, 4	S.Zendeh, K.Holmes
17	Nantucket	2 pr.	M.Litchfield
31	Wareham	pr. feeding yg. on nest	L.Robinson

No reports from Westport and Martha's Vineyard

#### American Swallow-tailed Kite:

19	Chatham	1	R.Hardy
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#### Mississippi Kite (full details):

6	Truro	1 ad. (ph.)	B.Nikula + R.Humphrey
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#### Bald Eagle:

9,14	Chatham, Marshfield	1 imm., 1 imm.	R.Humphrey#, D.Clapp
29,31	S.Monomoy, N.Monomoy	1 imm.	J.Russell# + v.o.

#### Northern Harrier:

thr.	S.Monomoy	1 m., 2+ f.+ nest w/ 5 yg.	R.Humphrey#
3	Newbypt, Ipswich	7, 3	BBC(d'Entremont), J.Berry
4,5	Plymouth, Wayland	2, 1 m.	R.Abrams, G.Gove
17	Newbypt, P.I., Essex	pr., 2, 2	C.Floyd#,R.Stymeist#,R.Forster

Other reports of single individuals from seven locations.

#### Sharp-shinned Hawk:

2,10	Truro, P.I.	104, 18	R.Humphrey#, BBC(S.Bolton)
10,11	E.Boston (Belle Isle)	50, 7	S.Zendeh
24,29	Milton, P'town	1, 1 (both mig.)	R.Forster#, P.Trimble#

Other reports early in the month of 1 or 2 individuals from many locations.

#### Cooper's Hawk:

2	MNWS	1 ad.	L.Sager
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#### Northern Goshawk:

thr., 18	E.Middleboro	pr. at nest, 3 yg. at nest	K.Anderson
4	Holliston, Mt.A.	1, 1 m.	R.Hildreth, F.Bouchard
11,28	Lakeville, Ipswich	1, 1 imm.	K.Holmes, J.Berry

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MAY 1986</u>
Red-shouldered Hawk:				
thr., 25	E.Middleboro	2-3 ad.+nest, 1 yg. at nest	K.Anderson	
thr.	Boxford State Forest	pr.nesting	v.o.	
4,11	Holliston, Quabbin (G-40)	1, 2	R.Hildreth, G.Gove#	
25,31	Lakeville, Petersham	5, 1	W.Petersen#, M.Lynch#	
Broad-winged Hawk:				
1,10	E.Middleboro, E.Boston	2, 1	K.Anderson, S.Zendeh	
18,27	Harwich, Nantucket	1, 1 ad.	D.Morimoto#, S.Perkins	
29	Wellfleet, P'town	9, 15+	B.Nikula, P.Trimble	
31	Wareham	2	L.Robinson	
Red-tailed Hawk:				
thr.	Lexington, Newbypt	pr.nesting, pr.nesting	R.Stymeist#	
17	Newbury	ad.at nest w/ yg.	D.Morimoto#	
<u>Rough-legged Hawk:</u>				
1,6	Saugus	1 lt.	J.Berry	
Golden Eagle:				
3,21	P.I.	1 ad.	J.Barton, BBC(A.Blaisdell)	
American Kestrel:				
3;10,11	Newbypt; E.Boston	7; 6, 1	BBC(G.d'Entremont); S.Zendeh	
Merlin:				
1,10,11,21	Mt.A.	1+	v.o.	
2,6	P'town, Marshfield	2, 3	R.Humphrey#, D.Clapp	
5,6	W.Bridgewater, Bolton Flats	1, 1	K.Ryan, E.Salmela	
8,9;8	Marshfield (DWWS), N.Scituate	1, 1; 1	D.Clapp; M.+B.Litchfield	
17	P.I., Ipswich	1, 1	R.Stymeist#, R.Forster#	
Peregrine Falcon:				
2,5	Truro, W.Bridgewater	1, 1	R.Humphrey#, K.Ryan	
6	Squantum, Eastham	1, 1	K.Ryan, L.MacIvor#	
8,30;8	Boston; P.I.	1, 1-2; 1	J.Berry; J.Grugan	
9,11	S.Dartmouth, N.Monomoy	1, 1	A.Hankin, R.Humphrey	
17,21	N.Scituate, Sharon	1, 1	SSBC(K.Anderson), K.Ryan	

#### RUFFED GROUSE THROUGH AMERICAN COOT

Two Clapper Rails were found in South Dartmouth, and King Rails were reported from Lynnfield Marsh, Plum Island (Hellcat Swamp), and South Dartmouth. Soras and Virginia Rails were noted in far fewer numbers than in previous years, an observation made by observers in the Lynnfield area. Only two American Coot were reported all month.

R.H.S.

Ruffed Grouse:				
24	Uxbridge	3	M.Lynch#	
Wild Turkey:				
29	Petersham	1 ad. m.	E.Nielsen	
Northern Bobwhite:				
thr.	Belmont, Waltham	1-2+, 1-2+	L.Taylor	
4,11	Halifax, Holliston	3, 1	K.Holmes, R.Hildreth	
Clapper Rail:				
27	S.Dartmouth	2	R.Marshall	
King Rail:				
17,24-25	Lynnfield, P.I.	1, 1	H.Wiggin#, L.Crofoot + v.o.	
26	S.Dartmouth	1	T.Raymond	
Virginia Rail:				
thr.	W.Harwich, P.I.	max.2, max.3+	fide B.Nikula, v.o.	
thr.	Marshfield, Lynnfield	max.4, max.8	W.Petersen#+v.o., R.Stymeist#+v.o.	
18,26	Milton(FM), Marshfield	1, pr. w/downy yg.	L.Taylor#, W.Petersen	
Sora:				
thr.	Lynnfield	max.4 (5/13)	J.Berry + v.o.	
10	Marshfield, Randolph	2, 1	W.Petersen#, G.d'Entremont#	
17,28	Oxbow NWR, P.I.	1, 1	BBC(M.Lynch), D.Morimoto#	
Common Moorhen:				
thr.	P.I.	max.4+ (5/31)	R.Heil + v.o.	
16,17	Wayland, Milford	1, 3	R.Forster#, R.Hildreth	
17,19;17,24	S.Monomoy; W.Newbury	1; 1, 2	R.Humphrey#; D.Morimoto#, R.Heil	
25	Westboro(Suasco)	1	C.Quinlan	
American Coot:				
17,29;17	S.Monomoy; Lynnfield	1; 1	B.Nikula#; R.Forster#	

#### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

Lesser Golden-Plovers, not numerous as a spring migrant here, were seen in three locations. Piping Plovers were reported from seven locations that they possibly use as breeding territory. Ten pairs of American Oystercatcher were counted at North Monomoy, and

eight pairs were on South Monomoy. There were also sixteen Willet nests found on North Monomoy. Greater and Lesser yellowlegs arrived in good numbers, and twenty Solitary Sandpipers were noted in the Topsfield area. A Black-necked Stilt was reported from Belle Isle Marsh, East Boston, with details submitted. However, there were no accompanying details with the report of a "Eurasian" Whimbrel on Nantucket. This European subspecies has whitish wing linings and a white V up the rump, similar to a dowitcher. Normally high counts of the following species were reported, mostly at North Monomoy: Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Dunlin. The only Pectoral Sandpipers reported were a flock of twenty in Lakeville. A Curlew Sandpiper in breeding plumage was seen for two days at Newburyport Harbor, where a Ruff and a Reeve were seen earlier in the month on separate occasions.

A Pomarine Jaeger was noted at Nantucket, and several Parasitic Jaegers were reported from three locations on Cape Cod. Iceland and Glaucous gulls were present to the month's end. Caspian Terns continued migrating at the beginning of the month with reports from four locations, and a Royal Tern appeared at North Monomoy where an adult Sandwich Tern was also seen. Reported numbers and occurrences of Roseate Terns were very low, perhaps indicating that observers were not present in the areas where this tern species was - and not necessarily indicating a decline of this species. Four Arctic Terns were seen at Plymouth Beach and ten were reported from Monomoy. Black Skimmers were present in the Chatham-Orleans area, possibly as breeders, and two were reported from Martha's Vineyard. A Razorbill was seen in Nantucket Sound on May 23.

G.W.G.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1986
<u>Black-bellied Plover:</u>				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max.900 (5/10)	fide B.Nikula	
23,25	M.V., E.Boston	100, 770	BBC(J.Barton), S.Zendeh	
31	Newburyport	500	J.Berry	
<u>Lesser Golden-Plover:</u>				
10,16,19;23	N.Monomoy; M.V.	1; 1	B.Nikula#; BBC(J.Barton)	
26	Newbypt	1	G.d'Entremont#	
<u>Semipalmated Plover:</u>				
11,17	E.Boston, Scituate	6, 150	S.Zendeh, SSBC(K.Anderson)	
19,21	N.Monomoy, Newbypt	50, 30	B.Nikula, BBC(A.Blaisdell)	
<u>Piping Plover:</u>				
thr.	Nantucket, S.Dartmouth	max.4, max.6	M.Litchfield, R.Marshall	
10,20	N.Monomoy, Duxbury	9, 11	R.Humphrey, R.Forster#	
One or two others from three locations.				
<u>Killdeer:</u>				
3,7	Newbypt, Halifax	10, 1 ad.+ 4 yg.	BBC(G.d'Entremont), K.Anderson	
25	P.I., Plymouth	15, 6	M.Lynch#, BBC(R.Timberlake)	
<u>American Oystercatcher:</u>				
thr.	N.Monomoy, S.Monomoy	10 pr., 8 pr.	R.Humphrey#	
thr.	Orleans	max. 6	v.o.	
27,31	S.Dartmouth, M.V.	2, 4	R.Marshall, D.Davis#	
<u>Black-necked Stilt:</u>				
25	E.Boston	1	C.Foley (fide S.Zendeh)	
<u>Greater Yellowlegs:</u>				
3,11	Newbypt, Squantum	50, 85	J.Berry, SSBC(A.Leggett)	
10	W.Newbury, Newbypt	70, 430	BBC(S.Bolton), R.Forster	
10,26	E.Boston, Newbypt	30, 35	S.Zendeh, M.Lynch#	
<u>Lesser Yellowlegs:</u>				
10,18	Newbypt, Squantum	20, 40	R.Forster, D.Morimoto#	
21,25	Newbypt, P.I.	3, 1	BBC(A.Blaisdell), M.Lynch#	
<u>Solitary Sandpiper:</u>				
4,11	Bridgewater, Petersham	1, 2	K.Holmes, G.Gove#	
17	ONWR, Middleton-Topsfield	3,20	M.Lynch#, J.Berry	
26	Belmont	2	L.Taylor	
6-25	7 locations	1-2 ind.	v.o.	
<u>Willet:</u>				
thr.	N.Monomoy	40±(16 nests)	B.Nikula# + L.MacIvor	
thr.	Newburyport	max.8 (5/17)	v.o.	
<u>Spotted Sandpiper:</u>				
3,11	Waltham, Petersham	1, 2	L.Taylor, G.Gove#	
18,25	P'town, Wareham	1, 2	D.Morimoto#, L.Robinson	
<u>Upland Sandpiper:</u>				
3	Newbypt, Middleboro	4, 2	BBC(G.d'Entremont),K.Holmes	
6,17	Bolton, E.Middleboro	1, 1	E.Salmela, K.Anderson	
18,25	N.Monomoy, Halifax	1, pr. displaying	R.Humphrey, W.Petersen	
<u>Whimbrel:</u>				
29,31	N.Monomoy	1	J.Russell#, W.Petersen#	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MAY 1986</u>
"Eurasian" Whimbrel (no details): 27	Nantucket	1	S.Perkins	
Ruddy Turnstone: thr.	N.Monomoy	max.300 (5/31)	B.Nikula# + v.o.	
23-25,25	M.V., E.Boston	24, 15	BBC(J.Barton), S.Zendeh	
Red Knot: thr.	N.Monomoy	max.150 (5/27)	B.Nikula# + v.o.	
Sanderling: thr.	N.Monomoy	max.2500 (5/31)	B.Nikula# + W.Petersen#	
23,25	M.V., Nahant	300, 120	BBC(J.Barton), R.Stymeist#	
Semipalmated Sandpiper: thr.	N.Monomoy	max.3000 (5/31)	B.Nikula# + W.Petersen#	
21	Newburyport	200	BBC(A.Blaisdell)	
Least Sandpiper: thr.	N.Monomoy	max.150 (5/19)	B.Nikula#	
thr.	S.Dartmouth	max.213 (5/13)	R.Marshall	
10,17	Newbypt, Halifax	300, 46	R.Forster,SSBC(K.Anderson)	
25,26	P.I., Ipswich	50, 7	M.Lynch#, J.Berry	
White-rumped Sandpiper: 6,10-31	Scituate, N.Monomoy	1, max.50 (5/31)	D.Clapp,B.Nikula#+W.Petersen	
25,31	Newbypt, P.I.	10, 20	G.Gove#, R.Heil	
Pectoral Sandpiper: 16	Lakeville	20	K.Holmes	
Purple Sandpiper: 17,26	Lynn	250, 35	R.Forster	
Dunlin: thr.	N.Monomoy	max.1000 (5/10)	B.Nikula#	
10,23	Newbypt, M.V.	200, 50	R.Forster, BBC(J.Barton)	
Curlew Sandpiper: 25,26	Newbypt	1 ad. br.pl.	G.Gove#, C.Floyd#	
Stilt Sandpiper: 6,21	Eastham, Newbypt	1, 1	MacIvor#,BBC(A.Blaisdell)	
26,31	P.I.	1, 1 br.pl.	M.Lynch#, R.Heil	
Ruff: 3,10	Newburyport	1 f., 1 m.	J.Berry, R.Forster	
Short-billed Dowitcher: 16-31	N.Monomoy	max.10 (5/27)	B.Nikula#	
25	E.Boston, Plymouth	60, 50	S.Zendeh, BBC(R.Timberlake)	
31	Newburyport	40	J.Berry	
Common Snipe: 10	W.Newbury, Whitman	3, 1	BBC(S.Bolton), W.Petersen#	
17	ONWR	2	BBC(M.Lynch)	
American Woodcock: 17,21	P.I., S.Wellfleet	6, 6	R.Stymeist#, A.Williams#	
Wilson's Phalarope: 10-17	P.I.	max. 5	v.o.	
25,31	E.Boston, N.Monomoy	2, 1 m.	S.Zendeh, V.Rosenberg#	
Red-necked Phalarope: 14	S.Monomoy, N.Monomoy	25, 11	B.Nikula#	
15	10 mi. E of Chatham	250	R.Humphrey#	
12	Nantucket	84	S.Perkins	
25	Stellwagen Bank	1	C.Leahy	
Red Phalarope: 12,30	Nant., N.Monomoy	126, 1 m.	S.Perkins, B.Nikula	
phalarope sp.: 12	Dennis	6	B.Nikula	
Pomarine Jaeger: 17	Nantucket	1	M.Litchfield#	
Parasitic Jaeger: 14,16,27	N.Monomoy	4, 1, 1	R.Humphrey#	
15,29	Chatham, P'town	5, 3	R.Humphrey#, B.Nikula#	
Laughing Gull: 17,23	N.Monomoy, M.V.	50, 4	BBC(J.Barton)	
Little Gull: thr.	Newbypt	max. 2	v.o.	
17	S.Monomoy	1 (1S)	B.Nikula#	
Common Black-headed Gull: 4,10,26	Newburyport	2(1S), 1 imm., 1 ad.	W.Petersen#,R.Heil,D.Brown#	
17,27-31	Nahant, N.Monomoy	1 ad., 1 ad.	G.Gove#, B.Nikula#	
Iceland Gull: 4,19	P.I., Nantucket	3, 5	W.Petersen#, M.Litchfield	
29	P'town	1	B.Nikula#	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MAY 1986</u>
Lesser Black-backed Gull:				
12	Nantucket	3	S.Perkins	
Glaucous Gull:				
24	N.Monomoy	1	L.MacIvor#	
Black-legged Kittiwake:				
20,29	Orleans, P'town	12, 4	B.Nikula, P.Trimble#	
Caspian Tern:				
2,10	N.Scituate, Dartmouth	2, 1	D.Clapp, G.d'Entremont#	
11,13	Newbypt, P.I.	2, 1	J.Grugan, T.Collins#	
Royal Tern:				
20	N.Monomoy	1	B.Nickerson, R.Humphrey	
<u>Sandwich Tern:</u>				
30	S.Monomoy	1 ad.	R.Humphrey#	
Roseate Tern:				
23,25	M.V., Plymouth	4, 3	BBC(J.Barton), BBC(R.Timberlake)	
Common Tern:				
17,23	N.Monomoy, M.V.	2000, 1000	BBC(J.Barton)	
25	Plymouth, E.Boston	500, 4	BBC(R.Timberlake), S.Zendeh	
Arctic Tern:				
25,31	Plymouth, N.Monomoy	4, 10	BBC(R.Timberlake), W.Petersen#	
Least Tern:				
6,13,20,27	S.Dartmouth	1, 2, 11, 75	R.Marshall	
14,17	Scituate, N.Monomoy	20+, 12	D.Clapp, BBC(J.Barton)	
24,25	M.V., Plymouth	24, 30	BBC(J.Barton), BBC(R.Timberlake)	
25	E.Boston(Belle Isle)	2	S.Zendeh	
Black Tern:				
8,14	P.I., S.Monomoy	1, 1	M.Baird#, B.Nikula#	
24,25	Newbypt, Edgartown	2, 1	R.Heil, P.Hallowell	
Black Skimmer:				
16-31,24-31	Orleans, N.Monomoy	2, max.5 (5/30)	v.o., R.Humphrey#	
24,30	M.V., S.Monomoy	2, 1	BBC(J.Barton), R.Humphrey#	
Razorbill:				
23	Nantucket Sound	1	M.Litchfield	

#### CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Reports of both species of cuckoos were very scant with only fifteen Black-billeds and just four Yellow-billeds noted all month.

Nesting owl reports included the usual Common Barn-Owl at the Nip and Tuck Farm on Martha's Vineyard. In Concord, young Barred Owls hatched on May 12, and Long-eared Owls successfully raised young on Plum Island. Short-eared Owls nested on both North and South Monomoy, and young were flying by May 14.

Nighthawks were not reported in any significant numbers and were conspicuously absent from traditional haunts in some parts of Cambridge and Brookline. A Chuck-will's-widow was heard calling in Brewster, where Whip-poor-wills were also heard.

Hummingbird reports were very few, and this observer, for the first time in twenty-five years missed seeing one in Mt. Auburn Cemetery. Interesting woodpecker reports included six Red-headed, four Red-bellied, and six Pileated. A late sapsucker was found in Newburyport on May 10, the only report in May. R.H.S.

#### Black-billed Cuckoo:

7,17	Brookline, Hingham	1, 1	H.Wiggin, S.Smith
18,19	Mt.A.	4, 1	R.Stymeist# + v.o.
18,24	Bridgewater, Belmont	1, 1	K.Holmes, L.Taylor
24	Milton, Uxbridge	3, 1	R.Forster#, M.Lynch#
26	Acoaxet	2	BBC(T.Athearn)

#### Yellow-billed Cuckoo:

17,21	Uxbridge	1, 1	R.Hildreth, M.Lynch#
24,25	Milton, Plymouth	1, 1	R.Forster,BBC(R.Timberlake)

#### Common Barn-Owl:

17,24	Middleboro, W.Tisbury	1, 2	K.Anderson#, BBC(J.Barton)
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#### Eastern Screech-Owl:

thr.	Mt.A.	1	H.Hoffman + v.o.
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#### Great Horned Owl:

early May	Manchester	2 ad.+ 2 yg.	G.Hotz#
8,27	Concord	2 ad.+ 1 yg. fledged, 1 pr.	N.Clayton#, J.Berry

#### Barred Owl:

12	Concord	pr.nesting-eggs hatched	B.Rosato
17,25	E.Middleboro, Boxford	2, 1	K.Anderson, R.Stymeist#

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1986
Long-eared Owl:				
thr.	P.I.	pr. w/yg.	D.Abbott	
Short-eared Owl:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	2+ nests + 5 eggs (5/3)	R.Humphrey# + v.o.	
14	S.Monomoy	6 including 2 fledged yg.	R.Humphrey#	
Northern Saw-whet Owl:				
16	Hamilton	1	G.d'Entremont + D.Brown	
Common Nighthawk:				
17	Bolton Flats, Milford	1, 2	M.Lynch#, R.Hildreth	
17,18;18	Marshfield; Milton	1, 1; 13	D.Clapp; L.Taylor#	
20,28	Worcester, Whitman	1, 1	S.Carroll#, W.Petersen#	
28,30	Ipswich, Watertown	1, 2	J.Berry, R.Stymeist	
Chuck-will's-widow:				
19,22	Brewster	1, 1	R.Finch, D.,E.,+A.Williams	
Whip-poor-will:				
7,8	Mt.A., P.I.	1, 1	M.Hall, J.Grugan	
17	Clinton, P.I.	2, 1	M.Lynch#, R.Stymeist#	
17	E.Middleboro	1	K.Anderson	
19	Hopkinton, S.Dartmouth	3, 4	S.Stapleton, LCES(R.Maker)	
21,22	S.Wellfleet, Brewster	5, 2	D.,E.,+A.Williams	
26,31	Rowley, Medway	2, 1	R.Forster, S.Stapleton	
Chimney Swift:				
thr.,7	Mt.A., Ipswich	max.15 (5/6), 20	v.o., J.Berry	
13	Watertown	40 (flock)	R.Stymeist	
Other reports of one to six birds only.				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird:				
6,11	Middleboro, Mt.A.	1, 1	K.Holmes, S.Koffman	
11;17	Salem; P.I., Boxford	3; 1, 1	C.Blasczak; D.Morimoto#	
25	Plymouth, P.I.	1, 6	BBC(R.Timberlake), M.Lynch#	
26,30	Westport, Mt.A.	1, 1	BBC(T.Athearn), v.o.	
Belted Kingfisher:				
thr.	Mt.A.	pr. nesting	R.Stymeist#	
Red-headed Woodpecker:				
4,5	Dover, Hyde Park	3, 1	P.Hallowell, K.Kilduff	
24	Uxbridge, Millis	1, 1	M.Lynch#, BBC(B.Cassie)	
Red-bellied Woodpecker:				
thr.	Randolph	1	R.Langley + v.o.	
12,19	Chelmsford, Milton	1, 1	S.Musgrave, W.+O.Kerr	
24	M.V.	1	BBC(J.Barton)	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:				
10	Newburyport	1	BBC(S.Bolton)	
Pileated Woodpecker:				
3,20	Boxford, Littleton	1, 1	M.Hall, W.Vales	
26	Royalston, Quabbin(G-43)	1, 3	M.Lynch#, M.Hall	

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

A walk along the Gate 40 road to Dana Center at Quabbin on May 11 produced the remarkable count of thirty-nine calling Least Flycatchers. In Harwich on the previous day (and only then), a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen. Interesting corvid reports from the southeastern part of the state included a Blue Jay on South Monomoy. This species is decidedly uncommon at that location. The Nantucket jackdaw continued and again this spring was looking rather poorly as a result of molt. Last year it was a crooked bill; this year a limp! Worth noting also was the successful nesting of a pair of Carolina Wrens in Winchester (in a newly-opened bag of peat moss) with the fledging of three young on May 23 - a first breeding record for Middlesex County of a species rarely, if ever, recorded nesting this far north in the state. Most of the more-watched-for migrant species were observed in typical numbers compared to the May records for the last ten years. Included in this category were Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at forty-five individuals total, Gray-cheeked Thrush at eleven, White-eyed Vireo at thirteen, and Philadelphia Vireo at four. L.E.T.

Olive-sided Flycatcher:				
18,25	Dover, Marblehead	1, 1	P.Hallowell, G.Gove#	
25,30	Newbypt, Annisquam	1, 1	v.o., H.Wiggin	
Eastern Wood-Pewee:				
13,15-31	Lynnfield, Mt.A.	1, 1-2 daily	BBC(W.VanCor), v.o.	
25,31	Boxford, Petersham	12, 6	R.Stymeist#, S.Carroll#	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:				
23-30,25	Mt.A., MNWS	3+, 1	v.o., R.Stymeist#	
25,31	P.I., Annisquam	1, 1	M.Lynch#, H.Wiggin	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MAY 1986</u>
<u>Acadian Flycatcher:</u>				
24,26	MNWS, Royalston Falls	1, 2	R.Heil, S.Carroll#	
29,31	Mt.A.	2, 2	E.Nielsen#, v.o.	
31	Nahant, Hamilton	1, 1	R.Stymeist, J.Berry	
<u>Alder Flycatcher:</u>				
17,18-30	ONWR, 6 loc.	1, 6 ind.	BBC(M.Lynch), v.o.	
25-29	Lynnfield	1	v.o.	
<u>Willow Flycatcher:</u>				
6,17	Cambridge, Lancaster	1, 3	J.Barton, S.Carroll#	
17-31	Lynnfield	max. 4 (5/25)	v.o.	
<u>Least Flycatcher:</u>				
6,7	Boxford, Brookline	2, 1	W.Drummond#, H.Wiggin	
11,14-31	Quabbin(G-40), 9 loc.	39, 18 total	L.Taylor#, v.o.	
18,31	Provincetown, Mt.A.	4, 2	B.Nikula, v.o.	
<u>Eastern Phoebe:</u>				
thr.,24	6 loc., Uxbridge	14 total, 8	v.o., M.Lynch#	
<u>Great Crested Flycatcher:</u>				
thr.,15	Mt.A., Manchester	max. 6 (5/10), 6	v.o., BBC(G.Hotz)	
17,23	Topsfield, M.V.	20, 6	J.Berry, BBC(J.Barton)	
<u>Eastern Kingbird:</u>				
1,4	Bridgewater, Marshfield	1, 1	K.Holmes, D.Clapp	
10-31,17	Mt.A., ONWR	max. 6 (5/21), 12	v.o., BBC(M.Lynch)	
21,24	Newbypt, Uxbridge	15, 10	BBC(A.Blaisdell), S.Carroll#	
<u>Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:</u>				
10	Harwich	1	P.Gove	
<u>Horned Lark:</u>				
17	P.I., N.Monomoy	1, 20	G.d'Entremont, BBC(J.Barton)	
23,26	M.V., Gardner	2, 2	BBC(J.Barton), M.Lynch#	
<u>Purple Martin:</u>				
thr.,29	P.I., P'town	max. 40 (5/17), 1	v.o., P.Trimble#	
<u>Northern Rough-winged Swallow:</u>				
1,6	Fall River, Peabody	4, 11	K.Holmes, R.Heil	
24,25	Uxbridge, Plymouth	9, 5	S.Carroll#,BBC(R.Timberlake)	
<u>Bank Swallow:</u>				
17	ONWR, Lakeville	2, 15	BBC(M.Lynch), K.Holmes	
18,23	Manomet, M.V.	50, 12	D.Morimoto#, BBC(J.Barton)	
<u>Cliff Swallow:</u>				
3,7	Topsfield, Concord	1, 1	H.Wiggin#, T.Carrollan	
17-19,25	Rowley, P'town	max. 18, 1	v.o., L.MacIvor#	
<u>Blue Jay:</u>				
29	S.Monomoy	1	J.Russell#	
<u>Eurasian Jackdaw:</u>				
thr.	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews#	
<u>American Crow:</u>				
11	Gloucester	55	BBC(J.Nove)	
<u>Fish Crow:</u>				
thr.	Mt.A., E.Middleboro	2 pr., 2	v.o., K.Anderson	
2-18	8 loc.	8 ind.	v.o.	
<u>Common Raven:</u>				
11	Quabbin(G-40)	2	G.Gove#	
<u>Red-breasted Nuthatch:</u>				
1-19,thr.	Mt.A., E.Middleboro	max. 3 (5/7), pr.	v.o., K.Anderson	
10-26,23	Boxford, M.V.	max. 4 (5/10), 2	v.o., BBC(J.Barton)	
31	Plymouth, Hamilton	1 m., 2	G.d'Entremont, J.Berry	
<u>Brown Creeper:</u>				
1,6	Mt.A., Bridgewater	1, 2	v.o., K.Holmes	
10	Boxford, Wareham	3, pr. nesting	J.Berry, L.Robinson	
<u>Carolina Wren:</u>				
thr.	S.Dartmouth	max. 5 (5/26)	R.Maker	
17;24,25	Nant.; Whitman, Scituate	1; 1, 1	M.Litchfield; W.Petersen	
3-23	Winchester	nesting pr. w/ 3 yg. fledged	L.Abers-Nunno + T.Nunno	
<u>House Wren:</u>				
1,1	Lakeville, Mt.A.	1, 1	K.Holmes, v.o.	
thr., 3	S.Dartmouth, Waltham	max. 6 (5/10), 2	LCES, L.Taylor	
<u>Marsh Wren:</u>				
6,10	S.Dartmouth, Marshfield	1, 3	R.Maker, W.Petersen#	
13-31,25	Lynnfield, P.I.	max. 15 (5/17), 8	v.o., S.Carroll#	
<u>Golden-crowned Kinglet:</u>				
23	M.V.	4	BBC(J.Barton)	
<u>Ruby-crowned Kinglet:</u>				
1-13,3	Mt.A., Manchester	max. 6 (5/6), 3	v.o., BBC(G.Hotz)	
10,11	Boxford, Gloucester	4, 4	J.Berry, BBC(J.Nove)	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1986
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:				
thr.	P'town, Boxford	max. 3, 3 pr.	B.Nikula#, v.o.	
thr., 1-10	Petersham, Mt.A.	max. 6, 1-2	v.o.	
1-20, 4-17	10 loc., Waltham	18 total, max.2	v.o., L.Taylor	
17,31	Topsfield, Lincoln	7, 1	J.Berry, M.Baird#	
Eastern Bluebird:				
thr., 2	E.Middleboro, Millis	pr.nesting, pr.	K.Anderson, B.Cassie	
3, 4-31	Milton, Plymouth	pr., max. 8 (5/14)	R.Stymeist#, v.o.	
11, 11-18	Quabbin(G-40), Milford	3 pr., 2	L.Taylor#, R.Hildreth	
18, 23	E.Dartmouth, M.V.	1 m., 3	J.Swenson, BBC(J.Barton)	
25	Lincoln	3	P.Swift	
Veery:				
1-27, 3	Mt.A., Milton	max. 4 (5/10), 1	v.o., R.Stymeist#	
18, 24	MNWS, Uxbridge	6, 7	C.Blasczak, M.Lynch#	
Gray-cheeked Thrush:				
17	Newbypt, Milford	1, 1	BBC(W.Drummond,) R.Hildreth	
17, 18-30	Nahant, Mt.A.	2, 3 total	H.Coolidge#, v.o.	
18-25	4 loc.	4 total	v.o.	
Swainson's Thrush:				
13, 15	Nantucket, Manchester	1, 1	E.Andrews, BBC(G.Hotz)	
17	Nahant, MNWS	20, 15	R.Stymeist#	
18-30, 23	Mt.A., M.V.	max. 10 (5/19), 4	v.o., BBC(J.Barton)	
Hermit Thrush:				
1-11, 17	Mt.A., Boxford	16 total, 1	v.o.	
18	Provincetown	1	D.Morimoto#	
Wood Thrush:				
3-24, 6	Waltham, Boxford	max. 3 (5/24), 2	L.Taylor, W.Drummond#	
6-23, 23	Mt.A., M.V.	max. 5 (5/18), 12	v.o., BBC(J.Barton)	
Gray Catbird:				
3, 4-31	Belmont, Mt.A.	1, max. 13 (5/25)	L.Taylor, v.o.	
23, 25	M.V., P.I.	50, 20	BBC(J.Barton), S.Carroll#	
Northern Mockingbird:				
thr.	Mt.A.	5 pr.	v.o.	
Brown Thrasher:				
2, 4	Waltham, Marshfield	2, 1	L.Taylor, D.Clapp	
4, 11	Wareham, Ipswich	1, 5	L.Robinson, J.Berry	
25	P.I.	6	R.Stymeist#	
Water Pipit:				
10, 17	Mt.A., P.I.	1, 2	R.Stymeist, S.Surner	
Cedar Waxwing:				
thr., 1	Mt.A., E.Middleboro	max. 150 (5/11), 13	D.Arvidson+v.o., K.Anderson	
3, 17	Newbypt, Belmont	40, 15	BBC(G.d'Entremont), L.Taylor#	
30, 31	Annisquam, Ipswich	8, 7	H.Wiggin, J.Berry	
White-eyed Vireo:				
1, 6, 9-13	Mt.A.	1, 1, 1-2	v.o.	
9-18, 17-31	7 loc., Nahant	7 total, max. 2 (5/31)	v.o.	
Solitary Vireo:				
1-18, 6	Mt.A., Peabody	max. 4, 18	v.o., R.Heil	
10, 25	Waltham, P.I.	6, 1	L.Taylor, M.Lynch#	
26	Royalston	2	S.Carroll#	
Yellow-throated Vireo:				
6, 17	Peabody, Westport	1, 1	R.Heil, K.Holmes	
17, 18	ONWR, Mt.A.	4, 1	BBC(M.Lynch), S.Carroll#	
22-31, 24	Topsfield, Uxbridge	pr.+ nest, 1	v.o., M.Lynch#	
Warbling Vireo:				
thr.	Mt.A., Cambridge(F.P.)	5 total, max. 12(5/20)	v.o., J.Barton	
17, 18-19	ONWR, Nantucket	12, 1	BBC(M.Lynch), E.Andrews	
19, 25	Wayland, Lynnfield	10, 6 pr.	L.Robinson, R.Stymeist#	
Philadelphia Vireo:				
17, 18	Fall River, P'town	1, 2	K.Holmes#, D.Morimoto#	
23-24	M.V.	1	BBC(J.Barton)	
Red-eyed Vireo:				
11-31, 17	Mt.A., ONWR	max. 15 (5/18), 8	v.o., S.Carroll#	
17, 23	P.I., M.V.	8, 12	D.Morimoto#, BBC(J.Barton)	
24, 30	Uxbridge, Annisquam	15, 5	M.Lynch#, H.Wiggin	

#### WARBLERS

The total of thirty-six warbler species, including reports of both "winged" warbler hybrids, was typical for May. Of the thirty-six, twenty-nine species made their first appearances for the year in the month of May, an unusually high number caused by the lack of proper migrating weather in late April. The two biggest days for warbler first

arrivals were May 1 and May 6, with four species each; weather was a definite factor on the sixth, with warm, southwesterly flow prevailing the night before. Days showing first arrivals for three warbler species each were May 4, 10, 11, and 14, consisting mostly of weekends. The latest first arrival for a species which might regularly be expected was May 17 for Mourning Warbler, which staged a generally unremarkable flight this year. Nashville Warblers, both in total count for the month and in the highest single-day count, were reported in comparatively good numbers. There was also a spectacular single-day count of over one hundred Black-and-white Warblers in Peabody on May 6. The expected "southern" warbler species were all represented this May, and in typical numbers. This is the fourth year in a row for the male Kentucky Warbler at Fowl Meadow in Milton.

L.E.T.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1986
<b>Blue-winged Warbler:</b>				
6	Boxford, Lexington	2, 1	W.Drummond#, M.Baird	
6-15,15	Mt.A., Scituate	max. 4 (5/11), 3	v.o., M.Litchfield#	
17,17-31	ONWR, W.Newbury	3, max. 3	BBC(M.Lynch), v.o.	
24	Uxbridge	5	S.Carroll#	
<b>Golden-winged Warbler:</b>				
14,21	Wayland, Lincoln	1, 1	J.Huntington, M.Baird	
21,22-31	W.Newbury, Topsfield	1, 1	BBC(A.Blaisdell), v.o.	
26-31	Ipswich	max. 3(5/26)	G.d'Entremont+D.Brown+v.o.	
<b>"Brewster's" Warbler:</b>				
25	Ipswich	2	M.Lynch#	
<b>"Lawrence's" Warbler:</b>				
6,17-31	WBWS, W.Newbury	1.ph. b., 1	D.Reynolds#, v.o.	
<b>Tennessee Warbler:</b>				
11-30,17	Mt.A., P.I.	max. 20(5/18), 6	v.o., BBC(W.Drummond)	
<b>Orange-crowned Warbler:</b>				
7,17	Brookline, MNWS	2, 1	B.Hallett, C.Floyd#	
<b>Nashville Warbler:</b>				
1-23,3	Mt.A., Newbypt	max.20 (5/7), 2	v.o., BBC(G.d'Entremont)	
6,10	Peabody, Middleboro	17, 4	R.Heil, K.Holmes	
17,26	P.I., Royalston	4, 3	BBC(W.Drummond), S.Carroll#	
<b>Northern Parula:</b>				
1-30,6	Mt.A., Peabody	max.20 (5/7), 40	v.o., R.Heil	
17,25	P.I., Middleboro	12, 1 m.	S.Surner, W.Petersen#	
30	Annisquam	2 m.	H.Wiggin	
<b>Yellow Warbler:</b>				
1,thr.	Wayland, Cambridge (F.P.)	2, max.21(5/15)	G.Gove, J.Barton	
6-31,11	Mt.A., Gloucester	max.7(5/10), 26	v.o., BBC(J.Nove)	
17	ONWR, Topsfield	20, 42	BBC(M.Lynch), J.Berry	
<b>Chestnut-sided Warbler:</b>				
6-18,17	Mt.A., ONWR	max.5(5/11), 8	v.o., BBC(M.Lynch)	
26,27	Royalston, Mt.A.	9, 1	S.Carroll#, R.Stymeist#	
<b>Magnolia Warbler:</b>				
4,6-27	Holliston, Mt.A.	1, max.10 (5/18)	R.Hildreth, v.o.	
17,31	P.I., Marshfield	12, 1	BBC(W.Drummond), D.Morimoto	
<b>Cape May Warbler:</b>				
6-13,17	Mt.A., Newbypt	max.6 (5/16), 1	v.o., BBC(W.Drummond)	
<b>Black-throated Blue Warbler:</b>				
6-29,17	Mt.A., P.I.	max.3, 3	v.o., D.Morimoto#	
18	Nantucket	2	J.Andrews#	
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler:</b>				
1-25,6	Mt.A., Peabody	max.100 (5/6), 200	v.o.; R.Heil	
6,26	P'town, Wareham	200, 1 m.	B.Nikula#, L.Robinson	
<b>Black-throated Green Warbler:</b>				
2-27,4-17	Mt.A., Boxford	max.12(5/10), max.11(5/10)	v.o.	
7,30	Ipswich, Annisquam	10, 1 m.	J.Berry, H.Wiggin	
<b>Blackburnian Warbler:</b>				
3-17,7-27	Boxford, Mt.A.	max.2, max.9(5/18)	v.o.	
17	Waltham, P.I.	6, 6	L.Taylor, BBC(W.Drummond)	
18,30	Marshfield, Annisquam	5, 2	BBC(R.Timberlake), H.Wiggin	
<b>Yellow-throated Warbler:</b>				
2	Norfolk	1 m.	B.Cassie#	
<b>Pine Warbler:</b>				
thr.,7	E.Middleboro, Ipswich	2 m., 6 m.	K.Anderson, J.Berry	
17,23	ONWR, M.V.	2, 6	BBC(M.Lynch), BBC(J.Barton)	
25	Plymouth, Boxford	3, 3 pr.	BBC(R.Timberlake), R.Stymeist#	
<b>Prairie Warbler:</b>				
4-18,11	Holliston, Mt.A.	max.17 (5/18), 2	R.Hildreth, v.o.	
17,23	W.Newbury, M.V.	2, 12	D.Morimoto#, BBC(J.Barton)	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MAY 1986</u>
Palm Warbler:				
1-11,3	Mt.A., Boxford	max.6 (5/4), 2	v.o., BBC(G.d'Entremont)	
3,10	Manchester, Newton	4,2	BBC(G.Hotz), BBC(D.+A.Bandes)	
Bay-breasted Warbler:				
11-23,17	Mt.A., P.I.	max.10 (5/18), 6	v.o., BBC(W.Drummond)	
17,18	MNWS, Newbypt	6, 8	R.Forster	
18	Cambridge(F.P.), P'town	18, 4	J.Barton, D.Morimoto#	
Blackpoll Warbler:				
11-31,23	Mt.A., M.V.	max.40 (5/20), 6	v.o., BBC(J.Barton)	
24	Marshfield, MNWS	20, 40	D.Morimoto#, R.Heil	
29,30	Nant., Annisquam	1, 3	E.Andrews, H.Wiggin	
Cerulean Warbler:				
4,14	Cambridge(F.P.), Worcester 1 m., 1 m.		J.Barton, S.Carroll#	
17,25	Mashpee, Newbypt	1, 1	B.Nikula, B.Drummond#	
Black-and-white Warbler:				
1-25,6	Mt.A., Peabody	max.27 (5/6), 100+	v.o., R.Heil	
17,23	P.I., M.V.	16, 6	S.Surner, BBC(J.Barton)	
American Redstart:				
10,11-31	Bridgewater, Mt.A.	1, max.20 (5/21)	K.Holmes, v.o.	
14-31	Cambridge(F.P.)	max.17 (5/18)	J.Barton	
18	Marshfield	16	BBC(R.Timberlake)	
Prothonotary Warbler:				
10,12	WBWS, Nantucket	1, 1	S.Clifton#, S.Perkins	
Worm-eating Warbler:				
7;10,19	Brookline; MNWS	1; 1, 1	H.Wiggin; R.Heil	
10,17	Westport, ONWR	1, 1	D.Brown#, M.Lynch#	
18,18-31	Bridgewater, Dover	1, 1	K.Holmes, P. Hallowell	
19,22	Mt.A.	1, 2	v.o.	
Ovenbird:				
3,6-20	Manchester, Mt.A.	1, max.6 (5/11)	BBC(G.Hotz), v.o.	
10,11	Boxford, Wareham	20 m., 25	J.Berry, L.Robinson	
18,24	MNWS, Uxbridge	11, 14	C.Blasczak, S.Carroll#	
Northern Waterthrush:				
thr.	Mt.A., Brookline	1-2, pr.	v.o., R.Stymeist#	
17,18	P.I., P'town	3, 3	D.Morimoto#	
Louisiana Waterthrush:				
thr.,10	Boxford, Bridgewater	3 pr., 1	v.o., K.Holmes	
21,31	Uxbridge, Petersham	2, 3	S.Carroll#	
Kentucky Warbler:				
8,11	Millis, Salem	1 m., 1	B.Cassie, C.Blasczak	
11,13-31	Whitman, Milton(F.M.)	1, 1 m.	K.Holmes, v.o.	
17,22	Boston, MNWS	1 m., 1	P.Thayer, R.Heil	
23,28;25	Mt.A.; Milford	1, 1; 1	v.o.; C.Quinlan	
Mourning Warbler:				
17,17-31	FallRiver, Nahant	1, max.4 (5/20)	K.Holmes#, v.o.	
18-31,23-30	9 loc., Mt.A.	9 ind., 4 total	v.o.	
24,30	MNWS, Annisquam	3, 2 m.	R.Heil, H.Wiggin	
Common Yellowthroat:				
thr., 3	Mt.A., Bridgewater	max.5 (5/18), 1	v.o., K.Holmes	
17,18	Topsfield, MNWS	52, 27	J.Berry, C.Blasczak	
Hooded Warbler:				
14-20,19	Mt.A., MNWS	1, 1 f.	v.o., R.Heil	
20,24	Chatham, Newbury	1, 1 m.	R.Clem, R.Heil	
Wilson's Warbler:				
14,15	Mt.A., Manchester	2, 2	v.o., BBC(G.Hotz)	
18	Marshfield, P'town	3, 2	BBC(R.Timberlake),D.Morimoto#	
28,29	P.I., Mt.A.	2, 2	D.Morimoto, v.o.	
Canada Warbler:				
10,15	Halifax, Manchester	1, 1	K.Holmes, BBC(G.Hotz)	
16-30,18	Mt.A., Marshfield	max.12 (5/18), 5	v.o., BBC(R.Timberlake)	
27,30	Cambridge(F.P.), Annisquam	6, 2	J.Barton, H.Wiggin	
Yellow-breasted Chat:				
23	M.V.	1	BBC(J.Barton)	

#### SUMMER Tanager THROUGH EVENING GROSBEEK

A total of six Summer Tanagers on Nantucket was excellent for a single locale, though the regional total of thirteen individuals for the month of May was about average. Most of the Nantucket birds were at feeders and were verified as being different individuals. Blue Grosbeak numbers remained on the low side, as in April. Uncommon sparrow species reported included a Clay-colored at Peabody on May 5 and two male Lark Buntings, one in Sandwich, May 16-21, and one at Plum Island on May 20. The White-crowned

Sparrow flight was the best in ten years - a total of over eighty individuals, many at feeders, at widely dispersed locations. Dark-eyed Juncos departed early and thoroughly this year with only a single individual reported during the first week of the month. Contrarily, a lone Snow Bunting carried over a month beyond departure norms on Monomoy. There are recent precedents for late spring reports of this species on Monomoy.

Maximum daily counts of Bobolinks were low compared to recent years. The report of 190 Rusty Blackbirds at Millis was very high for so late in the season. Several winter finch species lingered well into May. It was unusual to record both crossbill species in May, with Reds apparently breeding successfully on Cape Cod. The Middleboro White-winged Crossbills were observed in three separate flocks, and tape recordings were made. Origins are unknown for the European Goldfinch observed for two days at a feeder in Sudbury. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MAY 1986</u>
Summer Tanager:				
1-17,7	Nantucket, Brewster	5 m. + 1 f., 1	E.Andrews#, P.Trull	
11,14	Dennis, Newbypt	1, 1 f.	fide W.Bailey, J.Grigan	
16,17	Mt.A., P.I.	1 m., 1 m.	v.o., BBC(W.Drummond)	
19,25	Chatham, Newbypt	1, 1 m.	R.Clem, T.Martin	
Scarlet Tanager:				
10,11	Newton, Nantucket	2, 1 m.	BBC(D.+A.Bandes), F.Reed#	
12-15,18-31	Bridgewater, Mt.A.	max.2, max.4 (5/22)	K.Holmes#, v.o.	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak:				
6-31,8	Mt.A., Millis	max. 6, 14	v.o., B.Cassie	
17	Middleton, Waltham	15, 30	J.Berry, L.Taylor	
Blue Grosbeak:				
10,17	Mt.A., Nantucket	1, 1 m.	J.Barton, R.Tate#	
21-22	Mt.A.	1 f.	R.Stymeist#	
Indigo Bunting:				
4,5-6	Dedham, Marion	1, 1	Mrs.Hobbs, A.Hegyí	
5-7,18-31	Norwood, Mt.A.	2, max.3 (5/18)	C.Polito, v.o.	
Rufous-sided Towhee:				
thr.,1	Mt.A., E.Middleboro	max.5 (5/10), 1	v.o., K.Anderson	
10,23-25	W.Newbury, M.V.	20, 100	BBC(S.Bolton),BBC(J.Barton)	
Chipping Sparrow:				
thr.	Mt.A.	max.18 (5/10)	v.o.	
Clay-colored Sparrow:				
5	Peabody	1	R.Heil	
Vesper Sparrow:				
4,26	Plymouth, Gardner	6, 1	R.Abrams, S.Carroll#	
Lark Sparrow:				
9	Chatham	1 m.	P.Trull	
Lark Bunting (details):				
16-21+, 20	Sandwich, P.I.	1 ad. m., 1 ad. m.	R.Pease + v.o., H.Parker	
Savannah Sparrow:				
1,6	Mt.A., Peabody	5, 112	R.Stymeist, R.Heil	
Grasshopper Sparrow:				
13-20,19	S.Dartmouth, Nant.	max. 3, 1	R.Marshall, L.Jodrey#	
25	M.V.	2	R.Culbert#	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:				
6,27;23	S.Dartmouth; M.V.	2, 34; 4	R.Marshall; BBC(J.Barton)	
25,26	E.Boston, P.I.	3, 3	S.Zende, M.Lynch#	
Seaside Sparrow:				
6-31,26	S.Dartmouth, Westport	max. 5, 1	R.Marshall, BBC(T.Athearn)	
Lincoln's Sparrow:				
6,10	Brookline, Mt.A.	1, 1	D.Arvidson#, v.o.	
17-19,24	3 loc., Belmont	4 total, 1	v.o., L.Taylor	
Swamp Sparrow:				
13,17	Lynnfield, ONWR	20+ m., 18	J.Berry, BBC(M.Lynch)	
White-throated Sparrow:				
1-14,6	Mt.A., Peabody	max. 150 (5/8), 810	v.o., R.Heil	
16,18	Boston, Quincy	2, 2	J.Berry, D.Morimoto#	
White-crowned Sparrow:				
1(from April),3-13	Ipswich, Mt.A.	1, max.4 (5/10)	J.Berry, v.o.	
3-15	26 loc. (1-5 each)	totaling 58	v.o.	
6,11	Peabody, Wayland	6, 9	R.Heil, R.Forster	
Dark-eyed Junco:				
7	Holliston	1	R.Hildreth	
Snow Bunting:				
10	N.Monomoy	1	R.Humphrey	
Bobolink:				
7,15,17	Easton, Cambridge(F.P.), Harwich	6, 36, 40	K.Ryan, J.Barton, B.Nikula	
17.18	ONWR, Marshfield	30, 40	BBC(M.Lynch), BBC(R.Timberlake)	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MAY 1986</u>
Eastern Meadowlark:				
2,3	Waltham, Newbypt	1, 5	L.Taylor, J.Berry	
<u>Yellow-headed Blackbird:</u>				
15	Marblehead	1 ad. m. singing	R.Heil	
Rusty Blackbird:				
4,6	Wayland, Millis	5, <u>190</u>	R.Forster, B.Cassie#	
Orchard Oriole:				
1;3,18	Millis; Mt.A.	1 m.; 1, 1	B.Cassie; v.o.	
6-31,14	19 loc., Peabody	36 total, 7	v.o., R.Heil	
Northern Oriole:				
2,6-31	S.Middleboro; Mt.A.	1 m., max.20 (5/13)	K.Anderson, v.o.	
10,17	Nant., Topsfield	15 b., 50 m.	E.Andrews, J.Berry	
Purple Finch:				
thr.;3,9	S.Middleboro, Mt.A.	1 pr.; 1, 1	K.Anderson; v.o.	
4,10	Waltham, Boxford	3, 5	L.Taylor, J.Berry	
Red Crossbill:				
28	Harwich	1 pr. + 2 yg.	K.Hamilton	
White-winged Crossbill:				
7-12,19	Watertown, E.Middleboro	1 f., 27	F.Epstein, P.Donahue	
Pine Siskin:				
thr.	P'town, Hopkinton	max.4 (5/11), 1	B.Nikula, J.Gordon	
6,19-23	Boxford, Mt.A.	10, max.6 (5/19)	B.Drummond#, R.Stymeist#	
<u>European Goldfinch:</u>				
9-10	Sudbury	1 at feeder	E.Bennett	
Evening Grosbeak:				
1-16,4	Mt.A., Wayland	61 total, 35	v.o., R.Forster	
7,13	Townsend, Billerica	40, 20	Mrs. Edfors, K.Griffis	

#### UPDATE ON THE COMMON LOON (*Gavia immer*)

The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC), a self-funded project of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, published in June of 1986 a summary of its findings over the past decade. In 1976, the LPC's first survey of 250 New Hampshire lakes and ponds produced the grim result that only 214 adults and 51 chicks survived that year and that chicks had hatched on less than two dozen of the bodies of water surveyed. The current (1986) report reveals that the total New Hampshire Common Loon population in 1985 rose to 435. "Nesting success is increasing along with the number of nesting pairs and the number of lakes on which they nest. The number of fledging chicks peaked in 1983 at 83 (compared to 36 in 1978) and has remained well above the range of the first five years." However, the LPC workers had discovered by 1977 that "at least half of the lakes which formerly sustained nesting loons no longer did. In 1979 this evidence helped justify... the Common Loon's classification as a threatened species."

The 1986 report states that egg predation by raccoons is the chief cause of nest loss but that egg predation by gulls also has increased recently. Both raccoon and gull populations benefit from human refuse, and hence, man is responsible for the increase in these predators as well as for the other major threats to the loon-habitat loss and direct disturbance. Another factor in the decline of loons cited in the report is the fluctuating water level in lakes and ponds - an increase of six inches or a decrease of one foot will cause nest loss to the shore-nesting loons. The LPC confronted this problem by regulating water level where possible and by providing anchored artificial islands of cedar logs notched together and floored with wire mesh supporting sodded shoreline vegetation and duff to provide nesting material. As many as one-fifth to one-third of the fledged loons have come from raft nests. However, these are useful only where shoreline nesters have tried and failed; they do not seem to attract new nesters.

Other discoveries of the LPC studies are that loon eggs failed despite the absence of DDT and the presence of organochlorine residues at levels believed too low to affect reproduction. However, it seems certain that two heavy metals (mercury and lead) are playing havoc with the Common Loon. Mercury poisoning "played a major role in the death of over 2,500 loons in their wintering area in 1983." Also, of the adult loon carcasses examined by the LPC, "nearly one-fourth... died due to lead poisoning... invariably a small fishing sinker picked up with gravel... Another one-fourth of the loons killed were found tangled in monofilament or with ingested fishing lures." Thus, in contrast to the early days when hunters and egg collectors caused loon deaths by the hundreds, more loons today succumb to fishermen!

Despite the relative success of New Hampshire's LPC, an article in the 9/86 issue of *Natural History* by Canadian researcher Robert Alvo ("Lost Loons of the Northern Lakes" 95: 58) adds a very sad note to the loon story. He found that 62 percent of loon broods on acidic lakes dies compared to 14 percent on healthy lakes. Thus, acid rain is one more factor of an increasingly hostile environment that may still forever the lovely tremolo of the Common Loon.

D.R.A.

SIGHTING OF BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE  
(*Quiscalus major*) IN MASSACHUSETTS

by Richard Forster, Massachusetts Audubon Society

Date: April 24, 1986 (10:35 A.M.)  
Location: Newbury (Plumbush), Essex County, Massachusetts  
Observers: Richard A. Forster and Carol E. Seeckts  
Weather: Overcast, light NE winds, temperature about 50°F;  
showers threatened but no rain until afternoon.  
Optics: 10 x 40 Zeiss (RAF); 8 x 40 Leitz (CES)

It was a cloudy, cool but not raw, typical mid-April day. Although rain threatened at any time, fortunately it held off until the afternoon. There was a full moon on April 24 with high tide at 11 A.M. Consequently, the marsh appeared more like a mini-ocean than the typical grassland interspersed with tidal creeks. It was an excellent tide for seeking shorebirds which would concentrate in isolated pools in the marsh. At the time, I was methodically checking all such likely pools along the road leading from Newburyport to Plum Island.

We pulled out of the area known as Plumbush and had proceeded east toward Plum Island only a short distance before I stopped along the roadside to look at a pool behind the houses on the opposite side of the road. Immediately after stepping out of the car, I spotted two large blackbirds (grackles) along the edge of the pool. Their blackish wings, back, and tail and bright buffy head, breast, and remaining underparts immediately indicated they were Boat-tailed Grackles. They were viewed only briefly (two or three seconds) on the ground before they took flight in an easterly direction paralleling the road and passing the observers at a distance of about 60 feet. They next perched in a small tree near the top of the bridge leading to Plum Island.

Since the two grackles were now perched "back to" and at some distance, we opted to drive in the car to reach them as quickly as possible. We approached the perched birds, and as we drew abreast of them, they flew. We then raced to the bottom of the bridge where a safe pull-off was available. We watched them as they approached and flew by, again in an easterly direction, at a distance of 50-60 feet, and the intense buffy coloration of the head and underparts was equally obvious. As they flew away, they gradually gained height (about 100 feet) and continued heading toward the east until they approached Plum Island when the birds turned and continued in a northerly direction. After a short period, they dropped as if putting down in the vicinity of "the basin" (the church was visible in their line of descent). We proceeded to the basin, but it was wall-to-wall water, and no grackles were in sight.

As is obvious from the preceding account, the views were less than satisfactory, but certain points were noted. The wings,

back, and tail were distinctly *blackish*, with no evidence of gloss. Although the head was buff in coloration, it was clearly muted on the crown and ear coverts, thereby accentuating the prominent buff supercilium. The underparts were bright buff (brightest on the chest) with a pale throat. The intensity of color faded toward the belly. The bill was dark, but the eye color was not discerned. No vocalizations were heard.

The identity of the two female Boat-tailed Grackles is presumptive based on circumstances and logic. Distinguishing between extralimital Boat-tailed and Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) is extremely difficult even under the most ideal field conditions. Facts which suggest Boat-tailed Grackle are these: 1) it was spring; 2) the birds were in a salt marsh; and 3) the species was recorded for the first time in both Connecticut and Rhode Island the fall of 1985. It has been the writer's opinion that the first Boat-tails in Massachusetts would occur in spring as overshoots from the breeding area as nearby as Long Island, New York, whereas an extralimital Great-tail would most likely be a fall immature and appear in an agricultural area or open field situation.

The author has had extensive field experience with both species including brown-eyed male Boat-tails in coastal Texas. His most recent encounter occurred in February 1985 when literally tens of thousands were observed at Miami airport, flying to roost in *Casuarina* trees.



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SIGHT RECORD OF A MISSISSIPPI KITE  
(*Ictinia mississippiensis*) IN MASSACHUSETTS

by Blair Nikula, Chatham

Date: May 6, 1986  
Location: North Truro, Massachusetts  
Observers: Blair Nikula and Robert C. Humphrey

At approximately 8:30 A.M. on May 6, 1986, Bob Humphrey and I were driving south on Route 6 in North Truro near the entrance to the Pilgrim Heights parking lot when I spotted a medium-sized raptor circling off the east side of the road at an altitude of approximately 150 feet. I was immediately struck by the bird's kite-like appearance (i.e., smooth dark coloration, long narrow tail, and pointed wings) and quickly pulled off the road. By the time we had stopped, the bird had passed us, but I quickly located it again, circling about 200 yards to the north. The bird continued off in a northwest direction (toward Provincetown), circling lazily with occasional flaps.

After watching it for perhaps thirty seconds, we drove into the Pilgrim Heights parking lot and were able to find the bird again, some 400 yards to the northwest. As the bird continued steadily in a northwest direction, we decided to drive to Provincetown in the hopes of relocating it. However, despite seeing over thirty hawks in an hour or more of searching, we were unable to find the kite.

The bird's circling flight afforded us good, though for the most part rather distant, looks at its silhouette and dorsal surface. The bird was about the size of a small Peregrine Falcon or a Broad-winged Hawk, though much slimmer than the latter species. The tail was long, narrow, and blackish with no apparent markings. The wings were long and pointed at the tips. The upperwings were pale gray, particularly on the inner part (secondaries), darkening to very dark gray or blackish on the primaries. There were prominent, white, rectangular patches on the trailing edge of the secondaries that were visible at a great distance. The back, upper body, and head were pale gray, the same color as the upperwings and had no apparent markings. The underparts appeared smooth and dark but were in shadow throughout the observation and were not seen well. The flight was very buoyant with short, quick downstrokes.

The weather was clear with a 10-15 mph SE wind. The bird was initially almost directly into the sun, but as it passed by, the lighting on it improved rapidly, and for most of the observation, the sun was at our backs. Viewing was done through 8X and 10X binoculars. The writer has seen Mississippi Kites on two previous occasions on Cape Cod and several times in Texas, often in small flocks. Bob Humphrey has had no previous experience with the species.

In the April issue, Dorothy Arvidson, in her analysis of the photograph of a Common Raven, properly reminded readers of the potential pitfalls associated with identifying birds on the basis of single field marks. With this caution in mind, June's "At a Glance" bird needs to be carefully scrutinized. Clearly a raptor, and equipped with the knowledge that the species occurs in Massachusetts, the photograph can be objectively examined, and the possibilities quickly narrowed. The impression of large size and heavy bulk, coupled with relatively long wings and a massive bill, point to the bird being an eagle, of which three species are known to have occurred in Massachusetts - Bald, White-tailed, and Golden. Of these, only the Bald and Golden eagles occur regularly in the state.

Identification of a photographic silhouette requires us to assess the shape and profile of the eagle, particularly since these features are often among the most useful criteria when identifying any raptor species in flight. However, we cannot ignore two helpful plumage clues that can be detected in the photo. The most apparent is the bicolored tail. Clearly, *the terminal area is dark and has what appears to be a diffuse, pale (gray/white) basal portion.* Additionally, careful examination reveals a *faint suggestion of pale axillaries ("wing-pits").* Keeping these in mind, we now can focus on the proportions of the silhouette.

The tail of our eagle appears rather long in proportion to the bird, but, more importantly, it imparts a *decidedly wedge-shaped aspect*, not the full, rounded, Buteo-like tail typical of the familiar Red-tailed Hawk. Furthermore, *the bird's massive bill and head give the eagle a long-necked appearance so that the projection in front of the wings appears to be at least as great as half the length of the bird's tail.* A final feature, and one not terribly obvious in the photograph, is *the somewhat parallel appearance of the bird's trailing and leading wing margins.* Collectively, the features described above suggest that the pictured eagle is a subadult Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), probably slightly older than a first-year immature on the basis of the extensiveness of the whitish basal area of the tail.

Eliminating the other possible eagle species can be accomplished by noting that Golden Eagles usually display a more rounded, if not longer, tail than Bald Eagles do. Also, the white basal area on an immature Golden Eagle's tail is more sharply defined, and the white extends all the way to the outer edge of the tail, whereas in subadult Bald Eagles, the pale area on the tail is always bordered by (at least) a narrow dark outer edge. Most importantly, however, the projection of the neck, head, and bill in front of a Golden Eagle's wings is generally less than half the length of the tail. This head-to-tail ratio is a most useful field mark. Finally, soaring Golden Eagles often present a

noticeable bulge on the trailing edge of the wings, at just about the point where the secondaries and the primaries come together. This impression is somewhat exaggerated by the greater constriction of the wings at their base than that found in the wings of Bald Eagles. The net effect on wing shape is to give the Golden Eagle's wings a less parallel aspect to the leading and trailing edges.

The accidental White-tailed Eagle can be distinguished at once from the Bald Eagle by its stubby, wedge-shaped tail, its very broad, nearly rectangular-winged silhouette, and its proportionally longer neck and head. The immature Bald Eagle pictured was photographed in Chatham, Massachusetts in July of 1985.

Wayne R. Petersen



*Immature Bald Eagle*

Photo by Roger Everett

#### BEST RESPONSE FROM A READER

As for the eagle photo (June), it's a tossup in some respects. (Wings are too big for anything but an eagle.) Length of head versus length of tail has me leaning toward Bald, but it's close. Shape of wings suggests Golden, but I'm not sure — they don't seem *that* pinched. White areas are evident in the *middle* of the tail and armpits, and that's what makes me choose Bald Eagle. (The raven was easy. . . .)

Jim Berry, Ipswich

# At a Glance . . .

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



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



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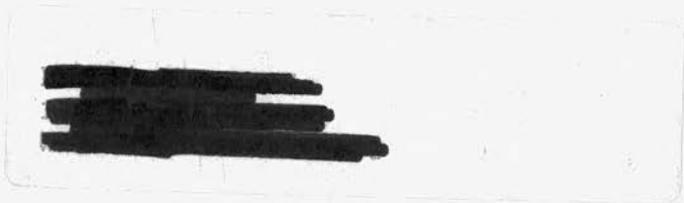
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