

BIRD OBSERVER



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BIRD OBSERVER

• a bimonthly journal •

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and enjoyment of birds.

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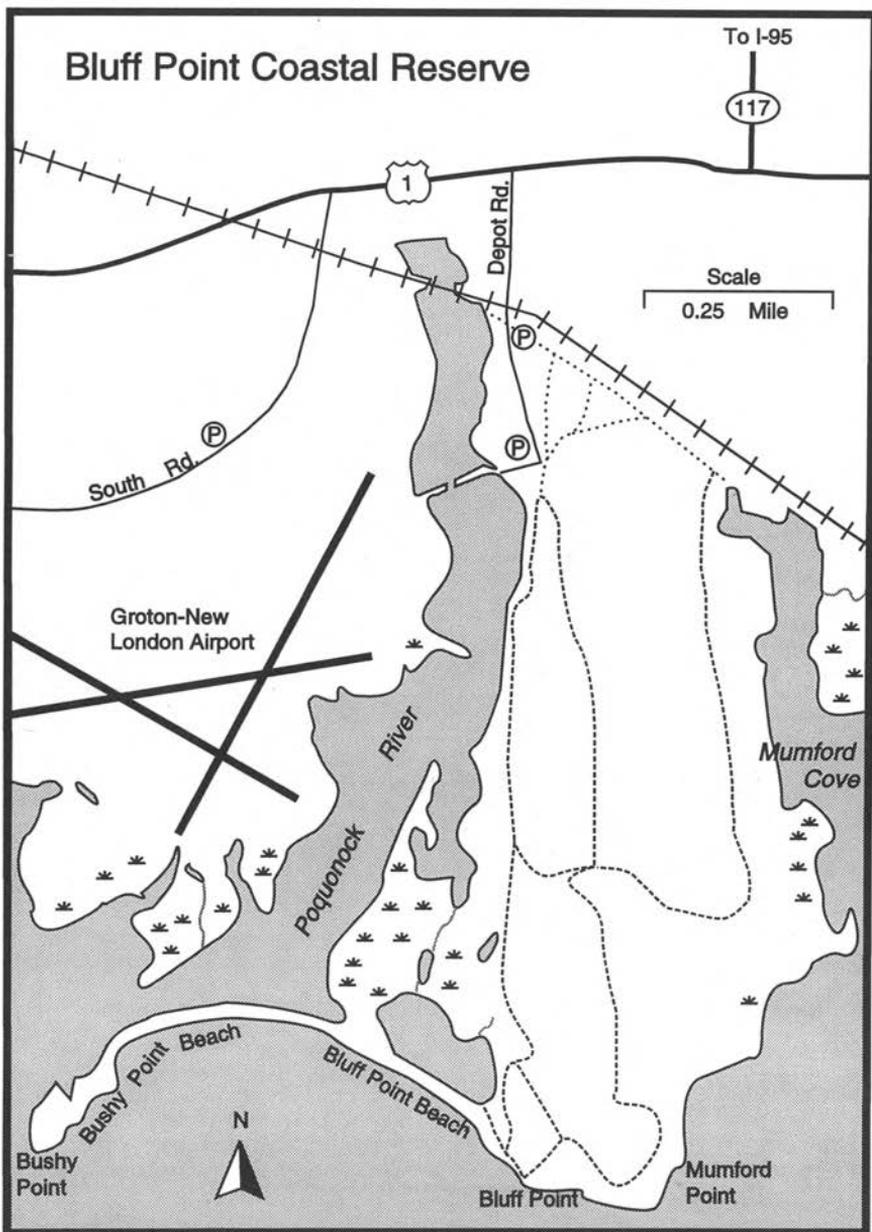
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Volunteer Hawkwatchers Sought

The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch (EMHW) seeks volunteers of every level of skill and experience to cover hawkwatch sites this fall, from well known sites such as Mount Watatic, Bolton Flats, and Wachusett Mountain, to your own backyard. We especially seek observers for Wachusett Mountain and Mount Watatic on weekdays during September and October. Experience is not required, and you do not have to "be sure" you can identify all the hawks. Reporting the volume of hawks, including those that may not be easily identified, is most important. For more information, contact Paul M. Roberts, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155; telephone 617-483-4263 after 7 PM.



BLUFF POINT COASTAL RESERVE

by Arnold Devine and Dwight G. Smith

Editor's Note. All of the birding sites in this article and some eighty-two other sites are featured in the authors' forthcoming book, *Connecticut Birding Guide*. Please contact Dwight Smith, 241 Shepard Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut 06514, to obtain a copy of the book.

Located in Groton, Connecticut, this 806-acre coastal reserve is best known for impressive fall migrations of warblers and other songbirds, but its varied coastal habitats can attract an assortment of birds throughout much of the year. Bluff Point was first established as a state park and later designated as a coastal reserve by the Connecticut legislature in 1975. Its status as a coastal reserve preserves the unique wildlife, geological features, and scenic qualities of the area.

Bluff Point is a peninsula that juts southward into Fisher's Island Sound. The peninsula is bordered on the east by Mumford Cove, on the west by the Poquonock River, and to the south by Fisher's Island Sound. The northern boundary of the coastal reserve is formed by the Amtrak railroad line. Some unique geological features of the reserve include the rocky promontory known as Bluff Point at the reserve's southern terminus, and a narrow, mile-long sand spit that extends westward from the peninsula out into the confluence of the Poquonock River and Fisher's Island Sound.

Bluff Point Coastal Reserve offers an interesting mix of coastal habitats including open water, a 100-acre tidal marsh, beach, mudflats, river, fields, thickets, and coastal woodland. A well-maintained network of trails provides access to all of the major habitats within the coastal reserve. A 3.5-mile loop trail to the point and back offers varied birding opportunities in most of the park's habitats. A straight walk to the point and return by the same route is about two miles. A spur trail that begins near the headland provides access to the sandy spit and good views of the salt marsh. Several trails access the coastal reserve. A few trails are dead ends but most cut back to the main loop trail.

Bluff Point Coastal Reserve is open to birders and others throughout the year. There is no fee for birding. Picnic benches and pit toilets are located adjacent to the parking area. Additional pit toilets are near the headland just before the spur trail to the sand spit. Bluff Point also offers saltwater fishing, shellfishing, hiking, and mountain biking opportunities throughout much of the year. In winter cross-country skiing is a popular pastime, along with hiking.

To reach the reserve, take Exit 88 (Route 117) of Interstate 95, and follow Route 117 south for 1.0 mile. Turn right onto Route 1, go 0.3 mile, and turn left at the first traffic light onto Depot Road (adjacent to the Groton Town Hall).

Continue for 0.3 mile on Depot Road, and go under the railroad overpass. Just beyond the trestle, the road becomes dirt. Continue on the dirt road for another 0.3 mile to the gravel parking area. To bird the northwest corner of Bluff Point Coastal Reserve, park on the left just beyond the railroad overpass, but do not block the barrier gate.

BIRDING

Birding at the Bluff Point Coastal Reserve can be superb or very slow depending on time of year, tides, and weather. Late summer and fall usually provide the best birding, especially following the passage of a cold front, which often creates a burst of migrant songbirds and other upland species.

Northwest Corner. From August through September the northwest corner of Bluff Point is undoubtedly the best spot to view migrants. Often after a cold front passes, hundreds of migrants funnel down to the headland of Bluff Point Coastal Reserve, then retreat through the northwest corner of the reserve before resuming their southward migration. After a cool, clear night the influx of migrants can produce fast and furious birding activity during the first hours of daybreak. For example, in September 1994 a big-day birding team, virtually standing in one spot, counted seventy species, including nineteen species of warblers, in this part of the reserve.

To bird the northwest corner, walk around the bar-way and explore the grassy patches, small stands of trees, and scrubby growth in the area just to the south of the railroad tracks. On a good morning the area can be teeming with flycatchers, vireos, warblers, tanagers, and other species. On some peak days in September and October, you may spot twenty or more warbler species, including Golden-winged, Tennessee, Cape May, Orange-crowned (rare), Bay-breasted, Mourning (rare), and Wilson's, as well as the more common species. Philadelphia Vireo, an uncommon to rare migrant in the state, is annual in mid-September along with the more numerous Red-eyed and Solitary vireos. Sparrow migration peaks from mid-to-late October, when good numbers of White-throated, Song, Swamp, and Savannah sparrows pass through. Uncommon or rare species that may also occur at this time include Dickcissel, Blue Grosbeak, and White-crowned, Lincoln's, Fox, and Clay-colored sparrows.

Loop Trail. To bird the rest of Bluff Point Coastal Reserve, hike the dirt road that begins just beyond, or south of, the bulletin board by the barrier gate at the southeast corner of the main parking lot. This dirt road parallels the Poquonock River on the right. Check the river, mudflats, and salt marsh for shorebirds, waders, and waterfowl.

In spring, summer, and early fall, some shorebirds to look for include Killdeer; Semipalmated and Black-bellied plovers; Ruddy Turnstone; Greater and Lesser yellowlegs; Spotted, Least, and Semipalmated sandpipers; and occasionally other species. Waders such as Snowy and Great egrets, Great Blue

and Green herons, and Black-crowned Night-Heron are often present in the shallows along the river. The nocturnal night-heron is more often seen in the twilight hours of dawn and dusk. Clapper Rail is a locally uncommon breeder in the salt marsh but is normally heard rather than observed in early morning hours. Osprey nest in the area from April through September and can usually be spotted as they forage along the river.

In the nesting season the thickets and tangles of bittersweet, cat-brier, rose, and poison ivy that border the trail to the point can harbor many elusive species. Check these trailside habitats for Carolina Wren, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Common Yellowthroat, White-eyed Vireo, Northern Cardinal, Rufous-sided Towhee, and other skulkers. During fall migration Mourning Warblers (September) and Orange-crowned Warblers (most records from late September and October) are rare, but regular. The Yellow-breasted Chat is an annual visitor and is most often recorded in September.

In late spring and summer the fields and wetter areas farther along the trail should produce Eastern Kingbird, Willow Flycatcher, Northern Mockingbird, and Chipping and Field sparrows. Northern Bobwhite is a resident that can be quite vocal from April through July.

The upland woods of oak and aspen just beyond the trailside tangles host the usual variety of deciduous woodland birds. Breeding species often spotted are Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Tufted Titmouse, Wood Thrush, Veery, Red-eyed Vireo, various warblers (Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided, Black-and-white, and Ovenbird), Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Northern Oriole. Both cuckoos (Yellow-billed and Black-billed) occur, but populations are irregular and closely associated with gypsy moth infestation, and during many years the birds are scarce or absent.

Fall migration can fill the woodland and thickets with an assortment of flycatchers (Great Crested, *Empidonaxes*, and the rarer Olive-sided), vireos (Yellow-throated, Solitary, Warbling, and the rarer Philadelphia), and warblers (Northern Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll, American Redstart, and Canada, among others).

Sand Spit. Just before the headland, a trail diverges on the right to the sand spit. The sand spit offers a pebble beach to explore on the seaward side and also provides a good view of the marsh and mudflats along the bayside. **NOTE:** Please refrain from walking on the dune grass and associated vegetation when exploring the sand spit, as this vegetation is fragile and easily destroyed. Crosswalks have been spaced along the spit to facilitate the passage of visitors from the seaward side to the bay side of the spit (or vice versa). The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has initiated a Dune Grass Restoration Project along the spit and requests that visitors adhere to the posted "keep off" policy.

During August and September the mussel beds and mudflats that are

exposed at mid- and low tides attract shorebirds. Species to search for include all shorebirds identified previously and Sanderling (along beach), Dunlin, and Short-billed Dowitcher, as well as the rarer American Golden-Plover, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Hudsonian Godwit. Recently the postbreeding dispersal of American Oystercatcher has resulted in the sighting of impressive numbers foraging on the mussel beds. A total of forty-two oystercatchers was observed on September 6, 1992! The endangered Piping Plover has nested on the spit in the past, but not since 1986. With luck, the species will return to nest in the future. Terns (Common, Least, which formerly nested, and the rarer Roseate) are casual throughout the summer and are joined by Forster's in early fall. Small flocks of American Pipits are generally spotted during early October. In winter the Ipswich race of the Savannah Sparrow is sometimes observed scurrying through the dune vegetation. A Snowy Owl perched on a post or sand dune is always a winter possibility as well.

Check the promontory for an unobstructed view of Fisher's Island Sound and the waterbirds that are associated with this ecosystem. From October through April various species of grebes (Horned and the uncommon Red-necked), cormorants (Double-crested are common most of the year but displaced in abundance by Great during winter), waterfowl (American Black Duck, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, White-winged and Surf scoters, and Red-breasted Merganser), and gulls (Ring-billed, Herring, Great Black-backed, Bonaparte's, and the occasional Glaucous or Iceland) may be found. Strong northeast or easterly winds in November and December have blown in rare pelagic visitors such as Northern Gannet and Black-legged Kittiwake.

Continue along the loop trail from the headland back to the parking lot. Again, the woodlands, fields, and shrub thickets host many of the passerines previously listed. At the first Y intersection, a left takes you back to the main trail (about halfway between the headland and the parking lot). If you bear right, you will shortly come to a second Y. The left trail returns to a point near the parking lot, and the right path will bring you along the eastern part of the peninsula to Mumford's Cove and eventually the former railroad bed at the north end of the park. During August and September a variety of wild fruit trees and shrubs are available to attract birds and hungry birders. Be on the lookout for wild grape, wild black and choke cherries, black raspberry, and apple. If the birding is slow, at least you can have an inexpensive lunch.

Groton - New London Airport. A birding trip to the nearby Groton-New London Airport can also be worthwhile when visiting Bluff Point Coastal Reserve. Located on the west side of the Poquonock River, the habitats around the airport frequently yield open grassland species. To get to the airport from the Coastal Reserve, return to Route 1, turn left, and drive 0.3 mile to South Road. Turn left (sign posted for Groton-New London Airport), and follow South Road

0.6 mile. When you see the airport runway and surrounding grassland, park at the pulloff on the right.

The lawns and grassy fields around the airport often produce a variety of grassland shorebirds, especially during the fall migration from August through October. Killdeer and Black-bellied Plover are usually common, while Upland and Buff-breasted sandpipers and American Golden-Plover are rarer, but sometimes occur. A flock of twelve or more Buff-breasted Sandpipers was present at the airport in September 1995. In winter the airport environs often hosts flocks of Horned Lark and Snow Bunting (more regular in November and early December, sporadic thereafter). Check the flocks carefully for the occasional Lapland Longspur, Snowy Owl and Rough-legged Hawk irregularly overwinter in the area.

Nearby Birding Sites. Several important birding sites are located within ten miles of Bluff Point Coastal Reserve. Just a few miles to the east is the Mystic River, which can be good from October through April for waterbirds. Nearby is the Denison-Pequopos Nature Center, a small preserve with a nice mix of woodland, field, and wetland habitats good for nesting birds. Barn Island Wildlife Management Area is slightly farther to the east. Barn Island WMA is an important complex of extensive salt marsh bordered landward by coastal deciduous woodlands. A few miles to the west of Bluff Point Coastal Reserve is the Connecticut College Arboretum in New London, which provides varied habitat for spring and summer nesting species. Impressive winter concentrations of waterfowl can often be observed along the Thames River and at Smith Cove.

Other Area Attractions. The area within ten miles of Bluff Point Coastal Reserve hosts many important and varied tourist attractions. Mystic Seaport Museum and Mystic Marinelife Aquarium are just a few miles to the east at Exit 90 on Interstate 95. To the west is the equally historic Groton-New London area. Groton is home to the Electric Boat Division, responsible for the Seawolf class of submarines, and a major U.S. Naval submarine base. The world's first nuclear-powered submarine, the Nautilus, was also built by Electric Boat in the early 1950s. Today, the Nautilus is on permanent display and may be visited at the USS Nautilus Memorial in Groton. Along with many other attractions, New London features the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, which lies just north of the bridge over the Thames River. The tall ship Eagle, the training ship for cadets, is often berthed at the Coast Guard Academy dock and can sometimes be visited.

LODGING

This eastern Connecticut area is a popular tourist spot in summer, and there is abundant lodging in the immediate area, with easy access from Interstate 95. Fairly large complexes of motels and historic bed-and-breakfast inns are located at Mystic (Exit 90), New London, and Waterford. Stonington and Old Lyme are especially noted for their historic bed-and-breakfast inns.

ARNOLD DEVINE is an environmental analyst with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. He is a member of the Connecticut Ornithological Association (COA) board of directors and the Connecticut Rare Records Committee. **DWIGHT SMITH** is a professor of biology at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. Dwight is also a member of the COA board of directors and editor of the *COA Bulletin*.

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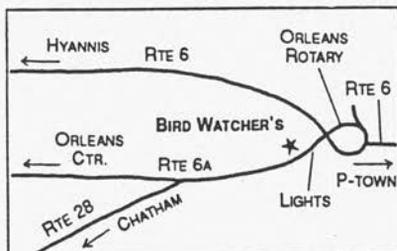
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BREEDING BIRDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MILITARY RESERVATION

by Paul M. Cavanagh, Karen A. Wilson, and Peter B. Trimble

Articles in *Bird Observer* generally focus on places where interested readers can go birding. This article is unusual in that we report on the birdlife of a place inaccessible to birders. The Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR) has been off-limits to the general public since its establishment in 1935. Because of this and an historic lack of systematic surveys, little information is available on its birdlife. This lack of information is exemplified by the absence of MMR data from *Birds of Massachusetts* (Veit and Petersen 1993). In 1994 the Massachusetts Army National Guard began conducting systematic bird surveys as part of a comprehensive program to inventory and monitor natural resources (Tazik et al. 1992). Results of these and related surveys provide the first information on the MMR's birdlife. Here, we report on the Reservation's breeding birds.

The MMR is a 22,000-acre reservation located in the towns of Bourne, Sandwich, and Mashpee on Cape Cod. Often mistakenly called Otis Air Force Base, the Reservation comprises Camp Edwards; Otis Air National Guard Base; Veterans Administration, Massachusetts National Cemetery; and U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Air Force facilities. The Reservation is bordered on the north by the Sandwich moraine and on the west by the Buzzards Bay moraine. To the south and east of the moraines is a large, relatively flat glacial outwash plain. Most of the Reservation comprises forested uplands dominated by pitch pine and a mixture of white, black, and scarlet oaks. Large burn areas dominated by live scrub oak and numerous pine and oak snags provide habitat for cavity nesting birds. Wetlands and deep water habitats are rare on the Reservation, comprising less than one-half of one percent of the total land area. Dirt roads and power lines pass through forested and burn areas providing edge habitat. Surrounding the runways at Otis are grasslands, dominated by little bluestem in various stages of succession. Bird surveys were conducted in all of these habitats.

We used a variety of techniques to survey birds. Land Condition-Trend analysis (LCTA) surveys (Tazik et al. 1992), a combination of two fifty-meter radius point counts and a 100 x 100 meter transect, were used in 1994 and 1995 to survey permanent study plots located in forest, grassland, and burn habitats. Secretive waterbird surveys (Gibbs and Melvin 1993) were used in 1995 to detect the presence of rails, herons, and associated species in eighteen wetlands (Wilson and Cavanagh 1996). Grasslands were spot-mapped (White and Melvin 1985) in 1995 to determine the numbers and species of nesting birds present. Limited Whip-poor-will and owl surveys were conducted over two evenings in

July 1995. We drove roads (nine kilometers) between sundown and two hours after sundown, stopping every 500 meters to listen for singing birds. At each stop we spent three minutes listening for Whip-poor-wills and owls, then played two minutes of taped owl calls (either Eastern Screech or Northern Saw-whet). Following broadcast of the calls we spent another three minutes listening for vocalizing birds. Finally, a study of the effects of military activities on the presence and abundance of scrubland birds resulted in 132, twenty-five-meter fixed radius point counts being conducted in 1995. Data from this study have been incorporated into this article. Species identified from incidental observations have also been included.

The breeding status of species identified on the MMR are listed as either confirmed, probable, or possible, in accordance with Veit and Petersen (1993). These terms were defined by the Massachusetts Audubon Society (1974) for use in the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas (results from the atlas have not yet been published). We introduce a fourth category, nonbreeder, for those species that occur on or over the MMR and whose nesting habitat does not occur on the reservation (e.g., Common Tern).

We have also provided information on the relative abundance of each species. We considered a species to be common if it was likely to be encountered in suitable habitat. Uncommon species were those that were unlikely to be encountered in suitable habitat or those for which suitable habitat was lacking.

Eighty-nine species of birds were identified on or flying over the MMR during our surveys (Table 1). Of these birds eight species were nonbreeders, seventeen were considered possible breeders, twenty-three were probable breeders, and forty-one were confirmed as breeding on the Reservation. Our ability to accurately determine a species' breeding status differed among categories. Those birds considered to be nonbreeders were coastal nesters or wetland species and could not breed on the MMR due to a lack of suitable habitat. We believe that all species in this category have been accurately identified. Similarly, accurate determinations of breeding status were made for those species listed as confirmed breeders. Inclusion in this category required observation of a species' nest, eggs, or young, observation of adults carrying food for young or fecal sacs, or adults exhibiting distraction displays, injury feigning, or coition (MAS 1974). In contrast, the status of possible and probable breeders is less definite. These species may have bred on the MMR but were simply not observed in enough detail to be either confirmed or ruled out as breeders. It is also possible that some of these species may not breed on the MMR, but may have bred near the Reservation or have been late migrants. It is likely that the breeding status of species identified as either possible or probable will change over time as more information becomes available.

Table 1. Species, breeding status, and relative abundances of birds identified on the Massachusetts Military Reservation during the 1994 and 1995 breeding seasons.

Species	Breeding Status ¹	Relative Abundance ²	Species	Relative Abundance ²
Common Loon	Non-breeder	U	Barn Swallow	Possible U
Great Blue Heron	Non-breeder	U	Blue Jay	Probable C
Green Heron	Possible	U	American Crow	Possible C
Mute Swan	Non-breeder	U	Fish Crow	Possible U
Canada Goose	Non-breeder	U	Black-capped Chickadee	Confirmed C
Wood Duck	Confirmed	U	Tufted Titmouse	Probable C
Mallard	Possible	U	White-breasted Nuthatch	Probable U
Red-b'ed Merganser	Non-breeder	U	Brown Creeper	Possible U
Turkey Vulture	Possible	C	House Wren	Probable C
Osprey	Confirmed	U	Eastern Bluebird	Confirmed C
Northern Harrier	Confirmed	U	Hermit Thrush	Confirmed C
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Possible	U	American Robin	Confirmed C
Cooper's Hawk	Possible	U	Gray Catbird	Confirmed C
Broad-winged Hawk	Probable	U	Northern Mockingbird	Probable C
Red-tailed Hawk	Confirmed	C	Brown Thrasher	Confirmed U
American Kestrel	Confirmed	U	Cedar Waxwing	Probable C
Ring-necked Pheasant	Possible	U	European Starling	Confirmed C
Ruffed Grouse	Confirmed	C	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Probable U
Wild Turkey	Probable	U	Pine Warbler	Confirmed C
Northern Bobwhite	Confirmed	C	Prairie Warbler	Confirmed C
Killdeer	Confirmed	C	Black & White Warbler	Probable C
Spotted Sandpiper	Possible	U	American Redstart	Probable U
Upland Sandpiper	Confirmed	U	Ovenbird	Confirmed C
American Woodcock	Confirmed	U	Northern Waterthrush	Possible U
Herring Gull	Non-breeder	C	Common Yellowthroat	Confirmed C
Great Black-b'd Gull	Non-breeder	U	Scarlet Tanager	Probable U
Common Tern	Non-breeder	U	Northern Cardinal	Probable C
Rock Dove	Possible	U	Rufous-sided Towhee	Confirmed C
Mourning Dove	Confirmed	C	Chipping Sparrow	Confirmed C
Black-billed Cuckoo	Possible	U	Field Sparrow	Confirmed U
Great Horned Owl	Confirmed	U	Vesper Sparrow	Probable U
Whip-poor-will	Probable	C	Savannah Sparrow	Confirmed C
Chimney Swift	Confirmed	U	Grasshopper Sparrow	Confirmed U
Ruby-t'd Hummingbird	Possible	U	Song Sparrow	Probable C
Belted Kingfisher	Possible	U	Swamp Sparrow	Probable U
Downy Woodpecker	Confirmed	C	Red-winged Blackbird	Probable C
Hairy Woodpecker	Probable	C	Eastern Meadowlark	Probable C
Northern Flicker	Confirmed	C	Common Grackle	Confirmed C
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Probable	C	Orchard Oriole	Possible U
Eastern Phoebe	Confirmed	C	Baltimore Oriole	Confirmed C
Great Crested Flycatcher	Probable	C	Purple Finch	Confirmed U
Eastern Kingbird	Probable	C	House Finch	Confirmed C
Horned Lark	Confirmed	C	American Goldfinch	Probable C
Tree Swallow	Confirmed	C	House Sparrow	Confirmed C
N. Rough-w'd Swallow	Confirmed	C		

1. Status of breeding birds as defined by Massachusetts Audubon Society (1974).

2. Common (C) birds are likely to be encountered in suitable habitat, while uncommon (U) birds are not.

Some of the species observed were not residents of the MMR but either flew over on their way to another destination or stopped to forage on the Reservation. Common Loons and Red-breasted Mergansers were periodically observed flying over shortly after sunrise during 1995 surveys. Because the MMR lies between Cape Cod and Buzzards bays, these movements may represent birds traveling between these two bodies of water. Common Terns, which were chiefly observed on foggy days, may also have been passing between the bays. Flocks of Herring Gulls were frequently observed passing over the MMR, occasionally with Great Black-backed Gulls. Flight directions suggest the gulls were traveling to and from the Bourne landfill, which abuts the western edge of the Reservation. Gulls were also observed foraging on fields and in dumpsters. Great Blue Herons were periodically observed foraging in wetlands, as were Mute Swans and Canada Geese. Flocks of Canada Geese are common on fields during late summer and early fall, but these birds represent a movement onto the MMR from off-Reservation nesting areas.

It is likely that two of the species listed as possible breeders, the Belted Kingfisher and Ring-necked Pheasant, were actually nonbreeders. Only one kingfisher was observed during the two years of surveys, and it occurred over a small scrub-shrub wetland on the eastern side of the Reservation, near Snake Pond in Sandwich. It is unlikely that this small vegetated wetland, surrounded by closed canopy forest, could support a kingfisher. We believe it more likely that the bird nested off the Reservation in the vicinity of Snake Pond. Only one male Ring-necked Pheasant was observed during our surveys. The absence of females and young suggests that pheasants did not nest on the MMR.

Several species identified as possible or probable breeding birds are considered rare or uncommon in Massachusetts or on Cape Cod. A singing male Orchard Oriole was recorded in 1995. Considered a local and uncommon breeder in Massachusetts (Veit and Petersen 1993), they have been recorded in the towns of Bourne and Falmouth, areas adjacent to the MMR. A Northern Waterthrush, a species described as "absent on the Cape and Islands" (Veit and Petersen 1993), was observed in an emergent wetland (Cowardin et al. 1979) on the northern portion of the MMR on May 25, 1995. Veit and Petersen (1993) reported egg dates of May 21 to June 15 for this species in Massachusetts. Although the bird observed on the MMR could have been an extremely late migrant, the timing and location of the observation suggest that it may have been nesting. Three species of forest hawks, the Broad-winged, Cooper's, and Sharp-shinned hawks, likely bred on the MMR. Broad-winged Hawks are considered rare breeders on Cape Cod, Cooper's Hawks rare and local breeders in Massachusetts, and Sharp-shinned Hawks very rare and local in the Commonwealth (Veit and Petersen 1993). Finally, although Wild Turkey is a "fairly common resident" in Massachusetts (Veit and Petersen 1993), it is uncommon on Cape Cod. Wild Turkeys were released on the MMR in 1989 by

the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (see Cardoza (1993) for an overview of state restoration efforts). Although the birds were not closely monitored following release, our periodic sightings of males with harems suggest that breeding occurs.

Most birds confirmed as breeders on the MMR are common on the Reservation. The abundance of these species increased the likelihood of finding nests or observing breeding behaviors while conducting surveys. Many of these species' nests were identified because they were associated with human structures. A nesting platform used by Osprey in 1994 was used by a Great Horned Owl in 1995. Nest boxes were used by Wood Ducks, American Kestrels, and Tree Swallows. Light poles and building ledges were used by European Starlings, House Sparrows, and House Finches. Intensive grassland bird surveys, conducted in 1995, permitted us to locate the nests and young of Upland Sandpipers, Northern Bobwhite, Chipping Sparrows, Field Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, and Eastern Meadowlarks. All other nests, young, or nesting behaviors were incidentally observed. Of particular note was a pair of Northern Rough-winged Swallows, an uncommon and local species in Massachusetts (Veit and Petersen 1993), observed nesting in a sandpit in 1995.

We recorded similar numbers of uncommon (forty-four) and common (forty-five) species on the MMR. Causes of rarity on the MMR varied among taxa. Many of the uncommon species require habitats that are absent or poorly represented. For example, the number and sizes of the Reservation's wetlands and deep water habitats may not be suitable for nesting by birds such as Belted Kingfishers and waterfowl. Similarly, it is likely that some species of grassland birds were uncommon because of variable habitat quality and interspecific differences in tolerance to disturbance. For example, Upland Sandpipers require extensive open tracts of short grasslands for nesting (Carter 1992), while Killdeer nest in a variety of open habitats, including gravel rooftops (Veit and Petersen 1993). Coast species, such as Common Tern, are uncommon on the Reservation because of a complete lack of suitable habitat. Some species (e.g., Broad-winged and Cooper's hawks) are uncommon because they naturally occur at low densities. Finally, others are uncommon on the MMR because they are uncommon in the state (e.g., Orchard Oriole), and their regional abundances are reflected in our surveys.

Despite extensive surveys, we may have underestimated the relative abundances of some species and may have entirely overlooked others. With the exception of Whip-poor-will surveys, our methods focused on diurnal birds. As a result, crepuscular or nocturnal birds may not have been adequately surveyed. Although observed in small numbers, the presence of large areas of suitable habitat suggests that Woodcock and Great Horned Owls may be more abundant than indicated by our surveys. Two other owls, the Eastern Screech Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl, may potentially breed on the MMR. Although

uncommon on Cape Cod (Hill 1965, Veit and Petersen 1993), Eastern Screech Owls have been confirmed as breeding immediately north of the MMR and probably also occur to the east (Veit and Petersen 1993). Northern Saw-whet Owls are uncommon Massachusetts residents but have been recorded in pitch pine barrens and on Cape Cod (Veit and Petersen 1993), suggesting that breeding is possible within the MMR's thousands of acres of pitch pine. Further surveys, focused specifically on singing owls, are necessary to determine if these species occur on the MMR.

The size and relatively undeveloped condition of the MMR make it an important area for many of Cape Cod's birds. The Camp Edwards Training site, which occupies almost three-quarters of the MMR's land area, may represent the largest tract of undeveloped forest lands on Cape Cod (Jenkins 1995). This area, along with other forested sections of the MMR, provides breeding habitat for several species that appear to be in decline (e.g., Rufous-sided Towhee [Hagan 1993]). Additionally, large burn areas that have resulted from a series of prescription burns and wildfires contain an abundance of snags that provide nesting habitat for cavity-nesting species such as Eastern Bluebirds, Great Crested Flycatchers, and Eastern Kingbirds. Finally, the Reservation's grasslands provide valuable nesting habitat for some of the state's rarest birds (e.g., Upland Sandpiper and Grasshopper Sparrow). Although the value of these grasslands has decreased over the years due to plant succession (Melvin 1994), they remain important for maintaining local and regional avian diversity. The ecological importance of the Massachusetts Military Reservation is likely to increase over time as the quantity and quality of breeding bird habitat off the Reservation continues to decline due to development and the associated habitat fragmentation.

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CAPE TIP BIRDING BY BIKE

by John C. Young

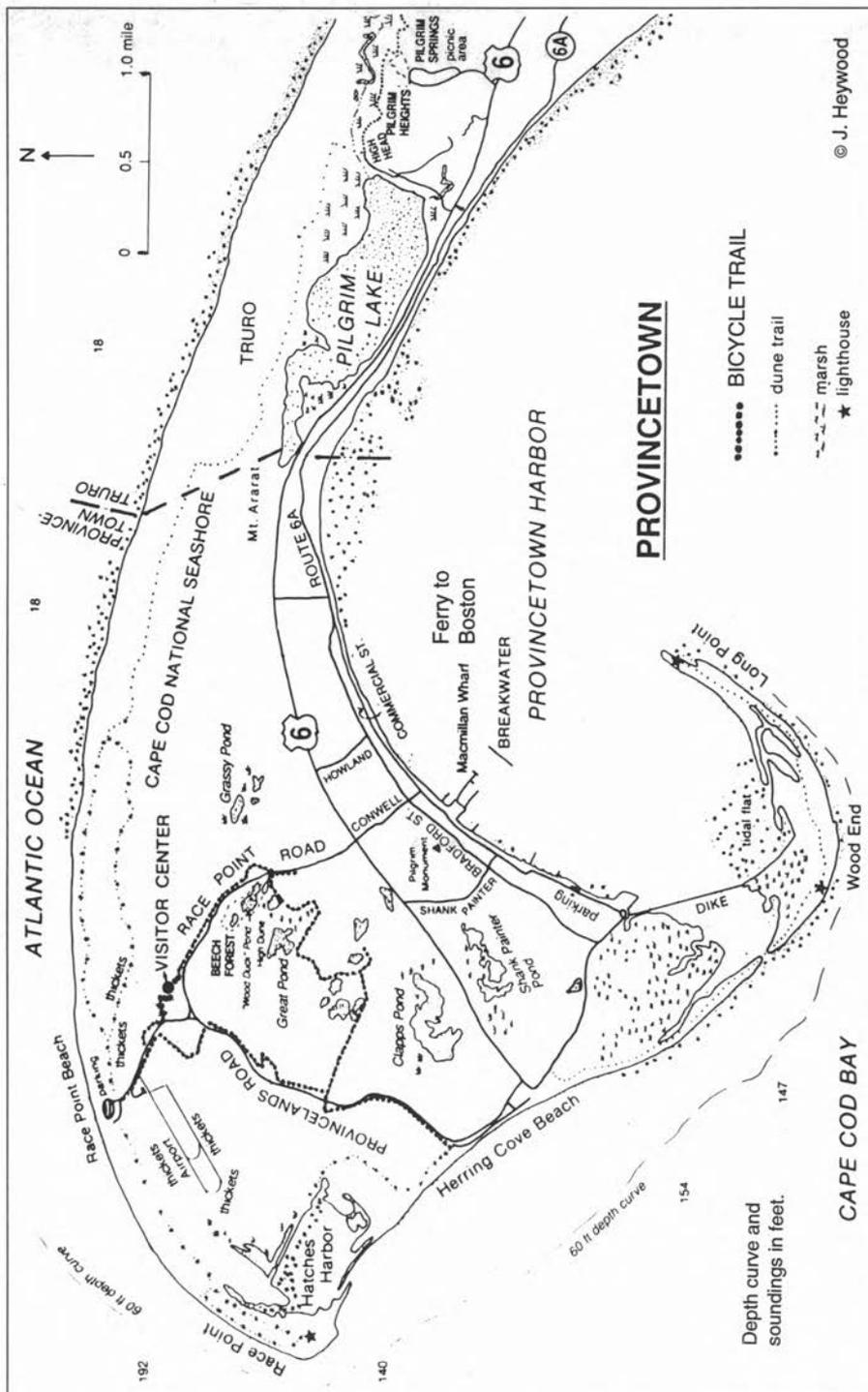
Bicycles have many advantages over automobiles when it is time to go birding. One benefit is the lower environmental impact. Driving way out to Truro counters this benefit; you will have to judge for yourself whether or not to venture out for this lovely ride.

The route described here is about twenty-five miles long including five miles on bike paths and several miles on roads with narrow shoulders. The route may challenge inexperienced cyclists because it is quite exposed to wind. A helmet is advisable, of course. On a good day, bicycling in Truro and Provincetown can be a great pleasure. The best times are late April to mid-June and September through November, and an early morning start is best.

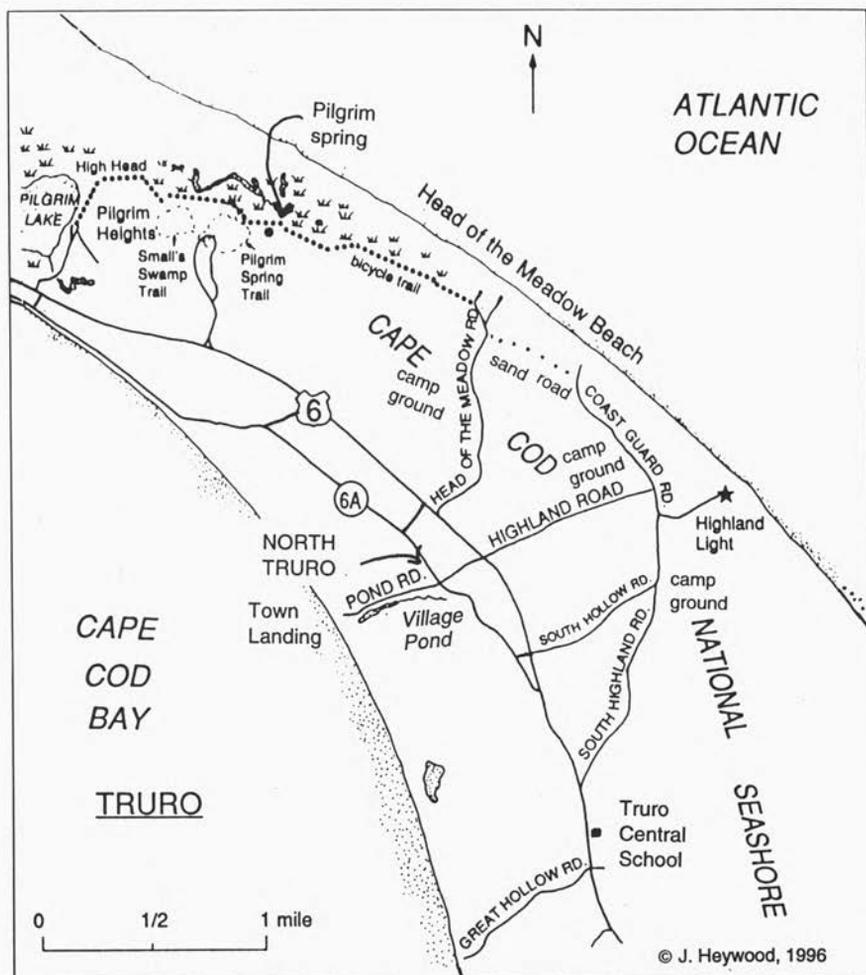
If arriving by car, follow Route 6 toward Provincetown. Just north of the Truro Central School, turn right on Highland Road. Assemble your bicycling gear at Highland Light (Cape Cod Light) where there is some parking. The lighthouse was moved back in summer 1996 to accommodate the loss to the sea of up to thirty feet of land each decade along the high bluffs. Bank Swallows nest out of sight along the top of the bluffs. Horned Larks and migrants such as Lesser Golden Plover can sometimes be seen before golfers tee up at the adjacent Highland Links.

Coast down the road past the golf course. Turn right onto Highland Road, and follow its bend to the left, passing through pitch pine woods with Pine Warblers, migrant kinglets, and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Instead of passing under Route 6, turn left up the ramp, and follow Route 6 north for a short stretch. The first right, at the information booth, will take you through continuous pitch pine forest to Head-of-the-Meadow Beach. At the end of the road, the right fork offers a handy low-level view of the ocean. Look for loons and scoters. At low tide the wreck of the Bark Francis is visible just to the north.

Just a short way down the other fork is the south end of the Pilgrim Springs bike trail. For two miles this trail follows a water-level route with short steep upward slopes on the left and swamp to the right. The waves of the Atlantic Ocean once crashed against land where you are now pedaling. Later, a barrier beach formed, dividing what became known as East Harbor (and later, Pilgrim Lake) from the ocean. The trail continues from the head of the former salt meadow to Pilgrim Lake, through highbush blueberries, shadbush, beach plum, and the like. This is an excellent place to see day-flying migrants, such as Tree Swallows, flickers, and accipiters. Close views of warblers are possible if they can be coaxed out of the dense thickets. The spring where the Pilgrims were so pleased to find fresh water is a good place to stop along the way and pish.



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At the end of the bike trail, turn left on the hard-packed road that leads out to Route 6. Keep checking for migrants. The hill to the left is known as High Head. It is the end of land deposited directly by glacial action. The land beyond was raised by wave and wind action alone. Carefully cross the highway, and take the adjacent crossroad (just to the left) to Route 6A. A right turn on Route 6A takes you to Provincetown, visible beyond the row of beach cottages. The best stop along this stretch is at the Holiday Inn in Provincetown. In August and September the commoner shorebirds often congregate here at midtide. Sea ducks are offshore in December and January.

For a change of pace, take the left fork (Commercial Street) into Provincetown. Here, the curious observer will find the human residents and visitors of greater interest than the motley urban birds. In the very midst of foot-

long hot dogs shacks and tee-shirt emporiums, go left out onto McMillan Wharf where fish, humans, gulls, sea ducks, and loafing alcids all meet. Catch a bite to eat as well in preparation for pedaling in the Provincelands.

Continuing out on Commercial Street, you will find that pedestrians have never given up the right of way to vehicles. Beware too, for the street is one-way for cars but not your bicycling brethren. If no other spots look enticing to birders, the breakwater at the rotary at the end of Commercial Street surely will. Extensive sand flats are visible at low tide with the breakwater offering access to their midst. But let us continue.

The road to Herring Cove cuts through a very attractive mix of sand dunes vegetated with grass, pines, and hardwoods contiguous to salt marsh. A short bike path diverges left to the beach. Continue along the beach, past the Winnebago habitat. Northern Gannets and Roseate Terns sometimes fish offshore here.

The great Provincelands network of bike trails can be accessed at the north end of the Herring Cove Beach parking lot. The bike trail rolls over dormant dunes, then skirts a natural cranberry bog. A dirt road, scarcely passable by bicycle, runs northwest from this point to the Hatches Harbor dike, through habitat favored by Vesper Sparrows. The cyclist selecting a shorter route will continue on the bike trail through an underpass and take the right fork toward the Beech Forest rather than turning left toward Race Point. At the peak of each hill, scan for hawks. Rarely, in May or September, hawks funneled to the tip of the Cape ascend in kettles, until they head off toward the distant Manomet hills.

Suddenly the trail dips from sun-baked and windswept sand dunes into cool shadowy woods. The trail winds from pond to pond through this refreshing greenery. Small bands of warblers and other night-flying migrants may be encountered all along this trail in May or September. If the warblers are promising, a walk around the Beech Forest trail may be a worthwhile digression.

Leaving the Beech Forest, turn right on Race Point Road, and return to the center of Provincetown. Go left on Route 6A (Bradford Street), and continue for several miles to the flashing light marking the village of North Truro. Through the Beach Point cottage colonies, you will be retracing your route from earlier in the day. At North Truro, a right turn can be rewarding. Check the thickets along Village Pond, and look out over the Cape Cod Bay from the former railroad embankment. A small group of Common Eider may be present at any season.

Returning to the light at North Truro, turn right again. Look for Orchard Orioles in the elms beyond the Christian Union Church. Turn left just beyond the South Hollow vineyards onto South Hollow Road (currently unmarked). This road crosses Route 6 and ends at Highland Road. Turn left. The small woods at the top of the hill might shelter one last species before you turn right back to the parking lot at Highland.

The circuit passes three campgrounds in North Truro, motels, and

innumerable cottages for those choosing to stay in the area. One may begin the circuit at any point and add or skip detours, but the fine view at Highland Light over the route traveled should not be missed.

JOHN YOUNG previously wrote an article for *Bird Observer* about his birding experiences on the South Dakota plains. Recently he started to use an MBTA bicycle pass to extend his range of car-free birding from his home base in Boston. Other resources available for the birder who bikes on Cape Cod include maps of bike trails available at the National Seashore Headquarters in Eastham and Provincetown; a booklet titled *The Cape Cod Bike Book: A Guide to the Bike Trails of Cape Cod* (by William E. Peace and published by The Nantucket Book); *Birding Cape Cod* (1990, published by the Cape Cod Bird Club and the Massachusetts Audubon Society); and the chapters about Cape Cod in *A Birder's Guide to Eastern Massachusetts* (1994, published by the American Birding Association).

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THE IDENTIFICATION GUIDE SERIES: AN OVERVIEW (PART TWO)

by Mark Lynch

This is the second article in a series of three in which I review the books generally referred to as the "Identification Guides." In the first article I gave an overview and history of the series as well as a review of the first three releases in the series on seabirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl. In this article I review later releases in the series given in the order of their publication, many of which are not well known to the average birder in North America. In the third installment I will review the Pica Press series of "Identification Guides."

Swallows and Martins: An Identification Guide and Handbook by Angela Turner, illustrated by Chris Rose. 1989. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. *Swallows and Martins* seems like an odd choice for the next volume in the Helm Identification Guide Series. As a group, swallows do not present the identification challenges that pelagics or shorebirds do. Indeed, there are only seventy-four species of swallows in the world. With the publishing of this book, I believe the Helm Identification Guide Series more clearly defined its goals—namely, to not just produce world level field guides, but to create a series of monographs of birds that have rarely been dealt with completely. Although the identification details in both the plates and text are still top notch, each book in the series from this title on contains more written information on behavior, taxonomy, and others.

Because U.S. birders do not consider swallows as glamorous as, for example, raptors, many birders are not familiar with this book. This is a shame because this is one of the most thorough and beautiful books in the entire series. From the cover art through the plates, the illustrations are elegant, detailed, and alive. Because there are so few species to be dealt with, the plates are uncrowded, with lots of bits of background included. Maybe it is the natural "jizz" of swallows, but many of the birds pictured seem ready to flit off the page.

The written part of *Swallows and Martins* is likewise superb. The introductory chapters on morphology, plumage, classification, and behavior are longer and more informative than in other books in the series. Species writeups are more detailed and subheadings include the following: field characters, habitat, distribution and population, migration, foraging and food, social organization, sociosexual behavior, breeding, description, measurements, and races. To give you an idea of the completeness of the text, four densely printed pages are devoted to just the Tree Swallow.

Although *Swallows and Martins* will never be commonly used as an identification guide, it is an important reference work that contains much

information on even familiar species that will be new to the reader. Travelers to Africa, Asia, South America, and Australia will of course find it an important source for pretrip research. Mostly, this is a book that by its well-written text and sheer beauty of its plates makes us look again at a group of birds that we often ignore.

Kingfishers, Bee-Eaters, and Rollers by C. Hilary Fry and Kathy Fry, illustrated by Alan Harris. 1992. Princeton University Press. Of all the books in the Helm Identification Guide Series, this title is probably of the least interest and use to birders who have not traveled outside North America. There are only three species of kingfishers in North America, and only one is widespread. Needless to say, there are no bee-eaters or rollers in the ABA area. The 123 species covered by this book are portrayed in forty color plates. The illustrations are excellent, almost as good as the plates in *Swallows and Martins*. Of all the books in the series up to this point, the species shown in *Kingfishers, Bee-Eaters, and Rollers* are certainly the most exotic looking, with their colorful plumage and unique jizz. There is a high degree of island endemism in the kingfishers, especially in the southeast Asian and South Pacific areas. This makes *Kingfishers, Bee-Eaters, and Rollers* a pleasure for "armchair" birders who like to dream of exotic birds in faraway places.

The choice of only dealing with kingfishers, bee-eaters, and rollers as the subject for this book is a bit strange. The order, Coraciiformes, also contains the todies, motmots, ground rollers, and the monotypic family of the cuckoo-roller. Coraciiformes is divided into two suborders of Alcedini and Corachii. Families were included and excluded from this book from both of the suborders. The species excluded do not number that many (eighteen), and I wish they had been included for completeness sake.

The format of the book follows that of previous titles, although the introductory chapters are more detailed. These include a concise but thorough explanation of the characters and relationships of the Coraciiformes, and good general notes on food, foraging and nesting, and social and breeding behavior. As can be imagined, birds this unique in plumage and distribution do not require the detailed plumage accounts of other groups of birds with many easily confused species. The written information is excellent, although sometimes spare, and includes full accounts of many poorly known and underdescribed species. Particularly well done is the complete illustrating and description of the huge Mangrove Kingfisher complex.

There is no doubt that *Kingfishers, Bee-Eaters, and Rollers* is an important contribution to ornithological literature but will be of very limited interest to the birder who does not stray from North America. This book also contains many wonderful illustrations of some of the most interesting, elegant, and beautiful birds of the world.

Crows and Jays: A Guide to the Crows, Jay, and Magpies of the World by Steve Madge, illustrated by Hilary Burn. 1994. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. Madge and Burn are the same team that wrote *Waterfowl*. This slim volume is an interesting addition to the series. The forty color plates illustrate the 120 species for consideration. The artwork is very good but lacks the drama and beauty of *Swallows and Martins* and even *Kingfishers, Bee-Eaters, and Rollers*. The plates are well designed and are not overcrowded. Actually, Hilary Burn does a good job with an unenviable task—illustrating the world's crows.

The taxonomy of *Crows and Jays* generally follows the then new work of Sibley, Ahlquist, and Monroe. The species for consideration were formerly included in the family Corvidae and are now relegated to the tribe Corvini within the subfamily Corvinae of the family Corvidae. Other tribes in this subfamily include the Paradisaeni (birds of paradise); Artamini (butcherbirds, currawongs, and woodswallows), and Oriolini (Old World orioles, minivets, and cuckoo shrikes).

The format of *Crows and Jays* remains true to the format of the series by starting with some short introductory chapters including conservation, relationships, and origins. This section is less informative than in the last two books in the series, which I found disappointing.

The species accounts are excellent and thorough. The Banggai Crow from a small island in the Sulawesi and previously known from only two specimens is fully described here for the first time. It is not known whether this bird still exists. Of more local interest, I found the discussion on the problems of the taxonomy and identification of American Crows to be very enlightening. It is interesting that the Northwestern Crow is labeled "one of North America's most controversial bird species" (and I thought it was the Cox's Sandpiper).

Crows and Jays is a fine addition to the Identification Guide Series. Although many birders will find it not as critical to own as *Shorebirds* or *Seabirds*, it does contain much information of interest to birders of the Americas.

Finches and Sparrows: An Identification Guide by Peter Clement, illustrated by Alan Harris and John Davis. 1993. Princeton University Press. This book focuses on the bird families Fringillidae, Estrildidae, and Passeridae. It does not cover what we in North America call "sparrows." A whopping 290 species are illustrated in 73 color plates, including four full plates of Australian finches and nineteen plates for just the "African finches." Although the plates are somewhat crowded, they are well laid out, and the artwork is of the usual high standard of the series.

The introductory chapters are minimal but do include a full page map of mountain ranges and principal lakes of the eastern Palearctic, where a number of the more interesting and little known species treated in this book are found. The species accounts are very complete. The written section ranks as one of the best

and most detailed in the series. Particularly outstanding are the accounts and illustrations of little known species such as the snow finches or real rarities such as the Sao Tome Grosbeak.

Of course, all the species we in North America refer to as finches are included in this book. Clement still lists four species of crossbills: White-winged or Two-barred (*Loxia leucoptera*), Red or Common (*L. curvirostra*), Scottish (*L. scotia*), and Parrot (*L. pytyopsittacus*). He admits that the latter three may be a cline of forms. There is an excellent discussion of the problems of separating these three "un-barred" species of crossbill in the field. The Hoary Redpoll maintains its species level status, but the problems of separating this species in the field from pale forms of Common Redpoll are very completely presented. As of the writing of *Finches and Sparrows*, the rosy finch complex had not been resplit, and so *Leucosticte tephrocotis*, *L. atrata*, and *L. australis* are treated as recognizable subspecies, but Clement mentions that some authors treat them as three separate species.

I admit to a real interest in the family Passeridae (House Sparrow and relatives). The information in this volume on this often overlooked family is very complete, although it owes a lot to the research of J. Denis Summers-Smith. His *The Sparrows* (1988) still remains the single best source of information on this group. (Summers-Smith also wrote an amusing accounting of his travels while researching the Passeridae called *In Search of Sparrows*, which makes a good winter's night read.) When I read species accounts, I am always looking for tidbits of information that I did not previously know. In *Finches and Sparrows*, it is stated that one of the largest concentrations of House Sparrows was in London in August 1949, when 19,000 came to a single roost. But this is dwarfed by the report from Egypt in 1931 when 100,000 were reported in a single roost. And you thought there were a lot at your feeder.

Finches and Sparrows is an important reference book for any birder traveling to Asia, Africa, or Australia, although it is too heavy to consider carrying along. To a lesser extent, birders in North America will find its accounts of local species interesting and enlightening.

Warblers of the Americas: An Identification Guide by Jon Curson, illustrated by David Quinn and David Beadle. 1994. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. With this title I believe the series regained a lot of its North American audience, for obvious reasons. Indeed, this is the most geographically limited volume in the Helm Identification Guide Series. All of the 116 species of the subfamily Parulinae are illustrated in thirty-six color plates. Curson does not omit the Olive Warbler, but he does admit to its uniqueness and mentions Sibley and Monroe's moving this species to its own subfamily, Peucedraminae, within the Fringillidae family.

The illustrations are among the better in the series. The plates are uncrowded and usually show a good variety of plumages of each species.

Although the pictures of familiar North American species may not seem to break too much new ground, they are still a big improvement over the illustrations in all the popular field guides. Where this book really stands out is in the plates and accounts of Central and South American species and the Caribbean endemics. I found the plates of the *Myioborus*, *Basileuterus*, and *Geothlypis* species particularly good and useful. To bring home this point, compare plates 8 and 9 from *The Birds of South America Volume 1: The Oscine Passerines* by Robert Ridgely and Guy Tudor with the comparable plates in *The Warblers of the Americas*. The latter book's illustrations are larger, more lively, more fully realized, better colored, and show you more plumages. As for the Caribbean endemics, this was the first time I had seen decent illustrations of many of them. I even like the choice of using the Golden-winged Warbler for the cover.

The text is well written, yet concise. The book is one of the trimmest in the series, making it attractive to bring out into the field.

The American wood warblers are the favorites of many birders. The *Warblers of the Americas* belongs on the shelf of anyone who has spent an enjoyable May morning observing a wave of these feathered jewels.

Tits, Nuthatches, and Treecreepers by Simon Harrap, illustrated by David Quinn. 1996. Christopher Helm/A & C Black, London. Published in the United States by Princeton University Press. I have to admit that this volume took me by surprise. This was not one of the titles that I was eagerly awaiting. After all, just how many chickadees are there anyway? Well, *Tits, Nuthatches, and Treecreepers* ends up being one of the best volumes in the series, rivaling *Swallows and Martins* in the quality of the plates and text.

This book covers the Paridae (true tits), the Remizidae (the penduline tits), and the Aegithalidae (the long-tailed tits), which totals seventy-eight species. Also included are the twenty-four species of nuthatches and the eight species of treecreepers. The thirty-six plates by David Quinn are nothing short of superb. The colors are well reproduced, the plates often include some bits of background, and the birds (especially the nuthatches) are shown in a variety of poses. Some of the artwork, particularly the nuthatches, is of such quality as to take on the look of good photographs. A few of the plates may seem a bit crowded with too many look-alike species (e.g., Plate 9 of the treecreepers). In these cases the birds are shown in similar poses to enable the reader to better differentiate the subtle plumage characteristics. Numerous black-and-white drawings are found throughout the text, including amazingly detailed closeups of the upper wing patterns of the treecreepers.

The text more than matches the high quality of the plates. The species accounts are a neat synthesis of much of the current knowledge of these species. The writing is clear and concise, but includes an amazing amount of information. For instance, you may think there is not much you could learn

about the ubiquitous Black-capped Chickadee. In the eleven pages of dense text dedicated to this species, you are sure to find out an amazing variety of facts that you did not know about this common backyard species. First, there is a complete summary of the fascinating and unique dominance hierarchies of winter chickadee flocks, a must-read for anyone interested in the social life of birds. Even the "chick-a-dee" call is revealed to be exceedingly complex with an unlimited number of variations: "...Chick-adee can be used to convey much information and is the only known system of combinatorial animal communication, apart from human language" (page 267). The writing about Black-capped Chickadee geographical variation and hybrids is likewise thorough, although the average birder may find those sections heavy going.

We also learn that because the Red-breasted Nuthatch is one of the few nuthatches to undertake regular migrations, it is the only nuthatch to have crossed the Atlantic. This occurred on October 13, 1989, when two birders found a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Holkham Means, Norfolk, in Great Britain (see *British Birds*, volume 88, number 3, March 1995, for details).

The introductory section provides a good discussion of the trends of splitting and lumping and clarifies (as best as is possible) the concepts of superspecies, subspecies, and clines. Generally, Harrap uses the classification of Sibley and Monroe, although "purely for convenience." This chapter may be a bit technical for some birders but is further proof of the current dynamic (some may say confused) state of taxonomy and its importance to birders. After all, the concept of a "species" is the hook on which birding hangs its hat.

Tits, Nuthatches, and Treecreepers, although clearly the standard reference on these species, may not be that useful as an in-the-field guide. Certainly, no areas of the world have enough species of tits and nuthatches to require you to bring this book along. However, this book is essential for any pretrip research, whether you are off to the Petite Kabylie for the Algerian Nuthatch or simply traveling down the Delmarva Peninsula for your first Carolina Chickadee.

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MAJOR BROAD-WINGED HAWK FLIGHTS REPORTED BY THE EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS HAWK WATCH

The August 1995 issue of Bird Observer contains an article titled, "The Fall Hawk Migration—The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch: Twenty Years and Counting." Through an inadvertent error, the table for the largest flights of Broad-winged Hawks reported by the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch was omitted. The text below is reprinted from the article—only the first table (top ten flights) is new.

Broad-winged Hawks are clearly the stars of the migration season, with at times several hundred hawk watchers appearing at Wachusett Mountain in hopes of seeing one of those "monster" flights. Research by the NorthEast Hawk Watch (NEHW) suggests that broadwings may migrate on a fairly broad front, perhaps fifty miles wide at times, with denser currents in the stream, so good numbers can be seen virtually anywhere north or west of southeastern Massachusetts. The single most spectacular Broadwing flight in Massachusetts occurred on September 13, 1983, when more than 16,000 hawks were tallied in little more than thirty minutes. At the time, this was again the largest hawk flight ever reported in New England. Subsequently, significantly larger single-day flights have been reported at several sites in southwestern Connecticut and eastern New York. An overwhelming majority of all the migrant Broad-winged Hawks seen in any one season may pass through southern New England in a single day or, as on September 13, 1983, pass a single site within an hour.

Originally, many observers questioned the accuracy of the large counts. Having been there for all the major Broadwing flights at Wachusett, I am confident that the numbers reported below are conservative and reliable. Recent research in California and on a much larger scale in Veracruz, Mexico, clearly indicates that even highly experienced observers significantly undercount huge kettles of hawks.

The preponderance of migrant Broadwings passes through New England between September 12 and 19. Broad-winged Hawk counts vary considerably from year to year. Below-average counts were reported throughout the NEHW region during the early 1990s, but a record Broad-winged Hawk flight was seen in the western half of the region in 1993, followed by an average flight in 1994.

Table 1. Top Ten Broad-winged Hawk Flights, EMHW

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Number</u>
9/13/83	Wachusett Mountain	19,912
9/17/84	Wachusett Mountain	17,415
9/13/89	Wachusett Mountain	15,916
9/17/87	Wachusett Mountain	10,095

9/13/78	Wachusett Mountain	10,086
9/12/92	Wachusett Mountain	9692
9/15/94	Mount Watatic	9094
9/12/88	Wachusett Mountain	7554
9/16/87	Wachusett Mountain	5368
9/14/88	Wachusett Mountain	5326

Although the largest single counts of Broad-winged Hawks have been seen at Wachusett Mountain, very large flights, and often the largest Broadwing flights of the year, have been reported from many other sites throughout eastern Massachusetts.

Table 2. Large Broad-winged Hawk Flights at Locations Other than Wachusett Mountain

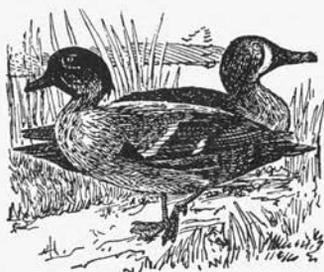
<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Number</u>
9/15/88	Page School, West Newbury	4527
9/17/87	Lancaster	4524
9/13/92	Mount Watatic	3990
9/15/89	Mount Watatic	3828
9/13/89	Mount Watatic	3776
9/12/92	Mount Watatic	3242
9/14/86	Page School, West Newbury	2440
9/19/93	Mount Watatic	2195
9/14/86	Bolton Flats	2070
9/14/88	Worcester Airport	1993
9/15/85	Bolton Flats	1725
9/12/88	Worcester Airport	1708
9/15/87	Bolton Flats	1633
9/19/93	Fales School, Westborough	1512
9/13/86	Middle School, Littleton	1479
9/16/84	Page School, West Newbury	1159

For more information, contact Paul M. Roberts, EMHW, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, Massachusetts 02155.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

MARCH 1996

SUMMARY



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

LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

March is often a cruel month. Warmer weather and southwesterly winds offer birders hope that migration will begin in earnest, but the results rarely meet expectations. Nevertheless, by the end of the month, the early spring migration had dispelled the memory of the long winter.

Reports of both loon species increased at midmonth, but Red-necked Grebe reports seemed low for the season. Double-crested Cormorant reports began to dominate toward the end of the month. As is typical, both Great and Snowy egrets began appearing at month's end, but the scattering of Glossy Ibis reports on outer Cape Cod were early. Waterfowl appearance is a typical feature of the month. Species reported in good numbers included Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, and Green-winged Teal. Less common duck species that were reported in lesser numbers from scattered locations included Northern Shoveler, Eurasian Wigeon, and Lesser Scaup. Among the more unusual winter mainstays, Harlequin Duck was reported only from traditional wintering areas. A sub-adult King Eider was unique at Squantum, and Barrow's Goldeneye was reported from only two locations.

Although no pronounced raptor movement was noted, the tally by the end of the month indicated that some early migrants were arriving. Turkey Vultures were everywhere, and Ospreys were well established in Westport. Both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were widely reported late in the month, although mainly as single individuals. An exceedingly early report of Broad-winged Hawk was undetailed. Rough-legged Hawk reports reflected their scarcity this past winter. A few Merlins and Peregrine Falcons appeared late in the month, and one Merlin was observed taking and carrying off a Killdeer.

The shorebird movement was normal, and featured the seasonal arrival of residents such as American Oystercatcher, Piping Plover, and American Woodcock. Both Killdeer and Common Snipe were widespread and occasionally in good numbers. Among the arriving Greater Yellowlegs were the usual scattering of Lesser Yellowlegs. The only reports that might be termed mildly surprising were Upland and Pectoral sandpipers.

Gulls were noteworthy this month, particularly in Newburyport Harbor and a nearby field on Little's Lane in Newbury. An astute observer commented on the fact that they were attracted to copious amounts of bone meal spread on the fields. This event coincided with the migration period for several species and produced some impressive tallies. Present among the assembled gulls were adults of both Lesser Black-backed and Mew gulls. Another adult Mew Gull was present for a brief period early in the month in South Boston. A few Common Black-headed Gulls were reported in small numbers away from the Newbury gull assemblage. Notable among alcids was a Common Murre well observed close to shore in East Gloucester. An Atlantic Puffin in East Orleans appeared to be sick or partially oiled. A careful count of Razorbills passing the outer beach in Wellfleet during a two-and-a-half-hour period totaled an impressive 2,810.

A handful of reports of Short-eared Owls and only a single report of Snowy Owl reflect the scarcity of both species this winter. The Great Gray Owl in Rowley, originally discovered in February, continued to bring delight to many birders throughout March. Reports of Barred Owls reflected their strong showing last fall and winter. A Red-headed Woodpecker in Medfield was interesting both by date and location, and a Black-backed Woodpecker in Sharon, originally located in February, continued to be seen through midmonth.

R. A. F.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
Red-throated Loon				27	Essex	1	G. Soucy#
1	Newburyport H.	1	T. Aversa	28	Wareham	1	M. LaBossiere
9	Wellfleet	30	S. Arena#	29	P.I.	2	C. Leahy
10	P'town, Orleans	15, 12G.	d'Entremont#	30	W. Harwich	1	J. Trimble #
17	Boston H.	8	TASL (M. Hall)	Snowy Egret			
29	Nantucket	300+	S. Perkins	28	Gloucester	2	G. Soucy#
Common Loon				29	Rochester	1	M. LaBossiere
9	Wellfleet	10	S. Arena#	Glossy Ibis			
10	Truro, P'town	5, 7G.	d'Entremont#	23	Orleans	1	E. Winslow
10	Plymouth	10	M. Lynch#	24	Chatham	1	B. Nikula
17	Boston H.	9	TASL (M. Hall)	Whooper Swan			
23	Westport	8	M. Lynch#	thr	Ipswich	2	G. Soucy#
29	Nantucket	30	S. Perkins	1	P.I.	1	J. Brown#
31	P.I.	3	G. d'Entremont#	Mute Swan			
Pied-billed Grebe				17	Westport	108	M. Lynch#
3	Lakeville	3	W. Petersen	Snow Goose			
10	Plymouth	1	M. Lynch#	10	Newyport	1	BBC (D. + D. Oliver)
25	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood	15	Saugus	1	S. Hatch
26	P.I.	1	D. + I. Jewell	18	Wenham	2	J. Berry#
27	Lynnfield	1	C. Leahy	Brant			
30	Arlington	1	K. Hartel	1	Newburyport	24	R. Heil
30	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins#	10	Plymouth	460+	M. Lynch#
31	IRWS	3	R. Heil	17	Boston H.	2368	TASL (M. Hall)
Horned Grebe				17	Salisbury	120	R. Heil
1	P.I.	51	R. Heil	30	Nantucket	11	S. Perkins#
10	Plymouth	18	M. Lynch#	Canada Goose			
17	Boston H.	142	TASL (M. Hall)	3	Salisbury, P.I.	700, 500	M. Lynch#
17	Cape Ann	6	J. Hoyer#	23	W. Bridgewater	2200	S. Arena#
23	Winthrop	32	G. Long	24	Bolton Flats	720	M. Lynch#
24	Lakeville	1	W. Petersen	Wood Duck			
24	Scusset B.	15	M. Sylvia	10	Lakeville	20	R. Shore
29	Nantucket	6	S. Perkins	16	Acushnet	2	M. LaBossiere
Red-necked Grebe				23	GMNWR	18	S. Perkins#
10	Manomet	5	M. Lynch#	24	Bolton Flats	10	M. Lynch#
12	Cape Ann	3	J. Brown#	25	Westboro	6	J. Coyne
17	Rockport	4	J. Hoyer#	31	Sherborn	12	E. Taylor
17	Boston H.	21	TASL (M. Hall)	31	IRWS	25	R. Heil
23	Lakeville	2	H. Ferguson	Green-winged Teal			
24	Truro	12	J. Hoyer#	9	Cambridge	9	J. Campbell
24	Winthrop	36	M. Pelikan	10	Acoaxet	10	S. Hennin
24, 30	Lakeville	3, 2	W. Petersen	15	W. Roxbury	14	T. Aversa
29	Nantucket	6	S. Perkins	16-31	Arlington Res.	12 max	M. Pelikan
Northern Gannet				17	W. Bridgewater	15	R. Finch
9	Wellfleet	300	S. Arena#	17, 30	W. Harwich	7, 25	B. Nikula #
10	P'town, Orleans	75, 25G.	d'Entremont#	19	Concord (NAC)	20	R. Walton
17	Boston H.	2	TASL (M. Hall)	25	GMNWR	20	R. Lockwood
30	Nantucket	25	S. Perkins#	25	Dorchester	15	R. Donovan
Great Cormorant				27	Arlington Res.	8	M. Rines
10	Plymouth	35	M. Lynch#	29	P.I.	400	C. Leahy
13	S. Carver	4	J. Shaw	3, 30	W. Bridgewater	6, 60+	W. Petersen
16, 23	Lakeville	11, 10	S. Arena#	30	Newbury	13	T. Young
17	Newburyport	60+	J. Berry	31	Bolton Flats	12	R. Bradbury
Double-crested Cormorant				American Black Duck			
17	Boston H.	14	TASL (M. Hall)	1	Newburyport	910	R. Heil
24	Squantum	25	G. d'Entremont#	10	Plymouth	1400	M. Lynch#
25	Dorchester	15	R. Donovan	10	Orleans	500	G. d'Entremont#
28	Wareham	1	M. LaBossiere	17	Boston H.	1057	TASL (M. Hall)
30	Nantucket	4	S. Perkins	17	Westport	1720	M. Lynch#
American Bittern				30	Salisbury	1100	M. Lynch#
19	Squantum	1	D. Brown	Northern Pintail			
Great Blue Heron				1	Newburyport	9	R. Heil
13	Acton	8	B. Colburn	3	P.I.	9	M. Pelikan
16	Yarmouth	14	M. Lynch#	10	Westport	130	S. Hennin
23	Chatham	11	J. Hoyer#	17	W. Bridgewater	2	R. Finch
24	Westboro	7 nests	M. Lynch#	19, 31	Wayland	1, 2	N. Patterson
Great Egret				20-24	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins#
23	Chilmark	1	W. Keith	29	P.I.	35	C. Leahy
24	Truro	2	K. Jones #	3, 30	W. Bridgewater	5, 8	W. Petersen
25	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan				

Blue-Winged Teal			
24, 30	W. Harwich	2, 4	B. Nikula #
25	Dorchester	12	R. Donovan
26	Chatham	2	R. Hall
26	P.I.	2	L. Healey
31	Bolton	1	S. Hennin
Northern Shoveler			
23, 30	Sudbury	2, 3	R. Forster#
27	Lynnfield	2	C. Leahy
28	Arlington Res.	1 m	M. Rines
28	Wayland	2	N. Patterson
30	Wakefield	1	D. + I. Jewell
Gadwall			
18	Gloucester	8	G. Soucy#
22	GMNWR	2	R. Lockwood
29	Ipswich	77	C. Leahy
Eurasian Wigeon			
24	Quincy	1 f	D. Brown#
26	Arlington Res.	1 m	M. Pelikan
30	Chatham	2	E. Banks
American Wigeon			
3	W. Bridgewater	2	W. Petersen#
15	Newburyport H.	2	R. Heil
16	Arlington Res.	6	M. Pelikan
17	Marlboro	4	S. Hennin
23	GMNWR	6	S. Perkins#
24	Wakefield	4	P. + F. Vale
29	Nantucket	8	S. Perkins
30	Newbury	6	J. Berry#
Canvasback			
3	Nantucket	66	E. Andrews#
10	Westport	4	S. Hennin
16	Falmouth	40	J. Hoye#
16	Lakeville	2	S. Arena#
17	Newburyport	1 m	J. Berry
17, 23	Westport	53, 55	M. Lynch#
20	Wareham	17	M. Sylvia
25	GMNWR	1m	J. McLaughlin
26-31	Arlington Res.	1	M. Pelikan
30	Nantucket	14	S. Perkins#
Redhead			
23	Yarmouth	pr	J. Hoye#
29	Nantucket	43	S. Perkins
30	Arlington	1	K. Hartel
Ring-necked Duck			
10	Wayland	100	S. Hennin
17	Waltham	30	E. Taylor
17	Halifax	25	R. Finch
19	Concord (NAC)	35	R. Walton
23	GMNWR	48	S. Perkins#
24, 30	Halifax	125, 90	W. Petersen
27	Arlington Res.	98	M. Rines
27	Westboro	50	J. Coyne#
29	Nantucket	15	S. Perkins
31	Brockton	28	S. Arena#
31	IRWS	17	R. Heil
Greater Scaup			
16	Lakeville	240	S. Arena#
16	Falmouth	70	J. Hoye#
17	Boston H.	666	TASL (M. Hall)
17	Newburyport	4	J. Berry
23	New Bedford	72	M. Sylvia
30	Nantucket	290	S. Perkins
Lesser Scaup			
16	Lakeville	36	S. Arena#
16	Falmouth	60	J. Hoye#
23	Waltham	3	R. Forster
24	Halifax	2	W. Petersen
27	W. Newbury	1	R. Forster
30	Arlington Res.	1 f	M. Pelikan
30	Pembroke	30	W. Petersen
30	Nantucket	40	S. Perkins#
Common Eider			
1	P.I.		
10	Plymouth	3800+	M. Lynch#
17	Boston H.	9110	TASL (M. Hall)
King Eider			
19	Squantum		1 imm m D. Brown
Harlequin Duck			
2	Rockport	18	BBC (J. Nove)
10	Manomet	9	M. Lynch#
23	N. Scituate	9	SSBC (D. Clapp)
Oldsquaw			
3	Newburyport	300+	M. Lynch#
17	Woods Hole	400	N. Komar
30	Nantucket	200,000	S. Perkins#
Black Scoter			
10	Orleans	50	G. d'Entremont#
10	Plymouth	80+	M. Lynch#
16	Sandwich	30+	M. Lynch#
17	Boston H.	1	TASL (M. Hall)
Surf Scoter			
10	Plymouth	50+	M. Lynch#
10	Nahant	20	R. Lockwood
16	Sandwich	70+	M. Lynch#
17	Boston H.	78	TASL (M. Hall)
28	Nant Sound	720	S. Perkins
31	P.I.	6	D. Brown#
White-winged Scoter			
16	Sandwich	130+	M. Lynch#
17	Boston H.	179	TASL (M. Hall)
Common Goldeneye			
1, 17	Newburyport	260, 360	R. Heil
10	Plymouth	135+	M. Lynch#
17	Boston H.	817	TASL (M. Hall)
29	Nantucket	150	S. Perkins
Barrow's Goldeneye			
17	Newburyport	1 m	R. Forster
17, 30	Newburyport H.	1 f	J. Berry#
19, 30	Squantum	7, 1	D. Brown
23	M.V.	1	A. Keith#
Bufflehead			
17	Boston H.	1929	TASL (M. Hall)
20-24	GMNWR	5	S. Perkins#
Hooded Merganser			
1	Melrose	15	D. + I. Jewell
2, 24	Wakefield	11, 4	P. + F. Vale
3	Lakeville	25	W. Petersen#
9	W. Brookfield	22	M. Lynch#
16	Arlington	31	K. Hartel
16	Yarmouth	27	M. Lynch#
17	Wash Brook	2	S. Perkins#
25	GMNWR	4	J. McLaughlin
29	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins
Common Merganser			
thr	Wayland	19 max	N. Patterson
1	Boston	26	C. Hepburn
3	Hanson	17	W. Petersen#
1, 30	Pepperell	62, 6	E. Stromsted
10	S. Carver	71	J. Shaw
10	Lakeville	42	R. Shore
2, 30	Arlington	62, 2	K. Hartel
24	Randolph	30	G. d'Entremont
24	GMNWR	17	S. Perkins#
25	Dorchester	75	R. Donovan
26	Westboro	40	J. Coyne#
30	W. Newbury	80	J. Berry#
Red-breasted Merganser			
10	Plymouth	490+	M. Lynch#
17	Boston H.	1285	TASL (M. Hall)
23	Westport	470+	M. Lynch#
23	Dorchester	600	R. Donovan

Ruddy Duck				17	Newbypt area	9	J. Berry
26	P.I.	1	K. Disney	23	Bridgewater	9	S. Arena#
30	Pembroke	12	W. Petersen	31	Wayland	8	G. Long
Turkey Vulture					Rough-legged Hawk		
14	Milton	19	N. Smith	9, 24	Middleboro	1, 4	W. Petersen#
16	Taunton	3	M. Lynch#	10, 31	Cumb. Farms	2, 1	C. Ralph
16	Lynnfield	7	S. Hepburn#	16	W. Bridgewater	1	S. Arena#
17	GMNWR	3	M. Pelikan	17	P.I.	1 dk	D. + I. Jewell
17	Westport	4	M. Lynch#	22	P.I.	1 lt	M. Pelikan
17, 24	Newbury	1, 4	R. Heil		American Kestrel		
22	Concord	5	A. Hirschkop	1	Newburyport	1	J. Brown#
23	Bridgewater	3	S. Arena#	9	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale
25	Randolph	26	N. Smith	10	S. Boston	1	R. Lockwood
29	Rochester	4	M. Sylvia	10	Salisbury	1	P. + F. Vale
30	Fall River	3	P. O'Neill	27	Wayland	1	N. Patterson
31	Bolton	3	S. Hennin		Merlin		
thr	Reports of 1-2 individuals from 18 loc.			2	Melrose	1	P. + F. Vale
				20	Salisbury	1	C. Ralph
Osprey				27	Newbury	1	R. Forster
14	Chilmark	1	R. Conway	29	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins
17	Malden	2	J. Burns		Peregrine Falcon		
17, 23	Westport	2, 33	M. Lynch#	1	Newton	1	C. Hepburn#
21	Wareham	1	M. LaBossiere	10	Provincetown H.	1	J. Trimble #
23	Lakeville	2	S. Arena#	14, 24	Boston	2 pr	K. Hudson
28	Wareham	2	M. Sylvia	22	P.I.	1	M. Pelikan
30	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins#	23	Orleans	1	J. Hoyer#
				23	W. Bridgewater	1	S. Arena#
Bald Eagle				30	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins#
13	Wareham	1 ad	R. Turner		Ruffed Grouse		
15	Athol	1	C. Paine	16	Canton	1	G. d'Entremont
17	Newburyport	3	J. Berry	23	Sharon	1	G. d'Entremont
17	M.V.	1	T. Lubin	24	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller
22	GMNWR	1 2yr	S. Perkins#	28	Westford	1	C. Paine
23	Lakeville	1 ad	S. Arena#	31	IRWS	1	R. Heil
25	Sudbury	1	R. Walton		Wild Turkey		
30	W. Newbury	1 ad	J. Berry	thr	Middleboro	61 max	R. Shore
				1-13	Braintree	1	R. Campbell#
Northern Harrier				21	Holliston	1	J. Hoyer#
17	Westport	2	M. Lynch#	22	Wayland	1	M. Fraser
23	W. Bridgewater	2	S. Arena#		Northern Bobwhite		
27	P.I.	4	R. Forster	10	Plympton	2	W. Petersen
29	W. Newbury	1 m	R. Heil		Virginia Rail		
30	Lexington	1	M. Pelikan	27	P.I.	1	G. Leet
30	Nantucket	5	R. Clem#		American Coot		
				5	Boston	12	T. Aversa
Sharp-shinned Hawk				15	Lynn	1	C. Packard
31	Arlington	2	K. Hartel	22	Arlington	22	M. Rines
thr	Reports of individuals from 16 loc.				Black-bellied Plover		
				16	Sandwich	1	S. Hennin
Cooper's Hawk					Piping Plover		
19-31	Lincoln	2	A. Jones	1	M.V.	1	R. Culbert
thr	Reports of individuals from 17 loc.			20	Centerville	1	fide S. Hecker
				24	Provincetown	1	J. Hoyer#
Northern Goshawk				24	Scusset B.	1	M. Sylvia
16	Cumb. Farms	1 ad	S. Arena#	27	P.I.	1	G. Soucy#
25	Maynard	1 imm	L. Nachtrab		Killdeer		
30	Boxford	1	J. Brown#	2	Rowley	2	F. Garretson
31	Wayland	1	G. Long	15	W. Roxbury	7	T. Aversa
				17	W. Bridgewater	17	R. Finch
Red-shouldered Hawk				17	Cumb. Farms	15	G. d'Entremont#
thr	E. Middleboro	pr	K. Anderson	17	Boston H.	7	TASL (M. Hall)
1	Acushnet	1	M. Sylvia	20	Bedford	4	M. Rines
3	Lakeville	1	W. Petersen#	21	M.V.	4	fide S. Hecker
10	Halifax	1	W. Petersen	26	Concord	10	R. Forster
10	Harwich	1	B. Zusavich	27	Newbypt area	35	R. Forster
17	Newbury	1	R. Heil	30	W. Harwich	11	B. Nikula #
17-26	Taunton	2	R. Dillon	31	Wayland	12	A. Hirschkop
22	Sudbury	1	A. Hirschkop	31	Newburyport	25	G. d'Entremont#
22	Hanover	2	W. Petersen		American Oystercatcher		
23	Sharon	1 imm	G. d'Entremont#	14	M.V.	1	J. Cressey
27	Northboro	1	C. Paine	22	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	2	fide S. Hecker
30	Wareham	1	M. Sylvia				
30	Newton	1	S. Hepburn#				
31	Petersham	2	E. Nielsen				
Broad-winged Hawk							
17	W. Newbury	1	BBC (S. Grinley)				
Red-tailed Hawk							
16	Cumb. Farms	8	S. Arena#				

American Oystercatcher (continued)							
30 Nantucket	14	S. Perkins#		17 Newby/Newbypt	1400		R. Heil
31 Chatham	2	J. Sones #		Herring Gull			
Greater Yellowlegs				17 Newby/Newbypt	7500		R. Heil
24 Newburyport	3	R. Heil		20 GMNWR	300		S. Perkins#
25 Fairhaven	1	M. LaBossiere		Iceland Gull			
26, 30 W. Harwich	5, 8	J. Sones #		1 Newburyport	23		R. Heil
29 W. Bridgewater	3	S. Arena		17 Winthrop	3	TASL (M. Hall)	
31 P.I.	2	G. d'Entremont#		17 Newby/Newbypt	15		R. Heil
Lesser Yellowlegs				24 Provincetown	5		J. Hoye#
23 Newbury	2	P. + F. Vale		30 Nantucket	42		S. Perkins#
27 P.I.	1	R. Forster		Lesser Black-backed Gull			
29 W. Bridgewater	4	S. Arena		10 Harwich	1	B. Zusavich	
Upland Sandpiper				12, 30 Newburyport H.	1 ad	R. Heil	
28 Wayland	1	N. Patterson		16 Yarmouth	1 ad	M. Lynch#	
Ruddy Turnstone				17 Sandwich	1 ad	S. Arena#	
16 Sandwich	5	M. Lynch#		17-30 Newbury	1 ad	R. Heil#	
Sanderling				26 Gloucester	1 3W	G. Soucy	
10 Westport	60	S. Hennin		Glaucous Gull			
Pectoral Sandpiper				11 Scusset B.	1	M. LaBossiere	
26-31 W. Harwich	1	J. Sones #		12 Sandwich	1	T. Aversa	
29 P.I.	1	C. Leahy		16 Provincetown	1	A. Hirschkop	
Purple Sandpiper				17 Quincy	1	TASL (M. Hall)	
3 Salisbury	4	M. Lynch#		17 Newby/Newbypt	2 1W	R. Heil	
10 Manomet	6	M. Lynch#		24, 31 Newburyport	2 1W, 1 1WR	R. Heil	
10 Westport	1	S. Hennin		Great Black-backed Gull			
17 Nahant	7	TASL (M. Hall)		15 Newby/Newbypt	850		R. Heil
28 Nantucket	20	S. Perkins		Black-legged Kittiwake			
Dunlin				3 Rockport (A.P.)	2	M. Pelikan	
10 Westport	50	S. Hennin		9 Wellfleet	3	S. Arena#	
Common Snipe				Common Murre			
17 Cumb. Farms	2	G. d'Entremont#		21-22 Gloucester	1	G. Soucy + v.o.	
26 Rowley	4	K. Disney		Razorbill			
26 Concord (NAC)	2	R. Forster		9 Wellfleet	2810	S. Arena#	
29 W. Bridgewater	63	S. Arena		23 M.V.	32	A. Keith	
29 Wayland	1	N. Patterson		29 Nantucket	320	S. Perkins	
30 Wakefield	3	D. + I. Jewell		Black Guillemot			
31 Bolton Flats	3	R. Bradbury		9 Wellfleet	2	S. Arena#	
31 W. Harwich	8	J. Sones #		9 Rockport	2	R. Lockwood	
31 Cumb. Farms	20	C. Ralph		17 Boston H.	2	TASL (M. Hall)	
American Woodcock				22 Rockport (A.P.)	1	M. Pelikan	
1 Concord	1	D. + I. Jewell		Monk Parakeet			
7 W. Peabody	1	R. Heil		30 Taunton	3	SSBC	
9 Wellfleet	1	S. Arena#		Atlantic Puffin			
15 Belmont	8	R. Martel		13 E. Orleans	1 oiled	K. Von den Deale	
16 Arlington Res.	3	M. Pelikan		24 Gay Head	1	A. Keith	
17 Wayland	3	N. Patterson		Eastern Screech-Owl			
17 W. Newbury	3	R. Heil		thr Mt. A.	pr	R. Stymeist	
20 DWWS	18	D. Clapp		1 Newburyport	1	J. Brown#	
24 Boxboro	3	R. Lockwood		11 Arlington	1	G. Benson	
25 Belmont	8	R. Hartel		23 Westport	1	M. Lynch#	
30 Newton	3	C. Hepburn#		28 Ipswich	1	D. + I. Jewell	
20-31 Reports of 1-2 individuals from 8 loc.				Great Horned Owl			
Laughing Gull				thr Mt. A.	1 or 2	v.o.	
31 Chatham	8	J. Sones #		4 Boxboro	1	C. Paine	
Common Black-headed Gull				19 Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell	
thr Newburyport	1 ad	R. Heil		24 Westboro	1 n	M. Lynch#	
9 S. Boston	1	R. Donovan		29 Ipswich	3-4	J. Berry	
10 Plymouth	2 ad	M. Lynch#		Snowy Owl			
13 New Bedford	1	M. Sylvia		9 Nantucket	1	V. McNay	
13, 25 E. Boston	1, 3	J. Quigley		Great Gray Owl			
17 Winthrop	2	TASL (M. Hall)		thr Rowley	1	N. Sullivan + v.o.	
Bonaparte's Gull				Barred Owl			
17 Newburyport	5	J. Berry		3 Sharon	1	J. Hoye#	
26 Newburyport	15	J. Brown#		10 W. Newbury	1	R. Heil	
Mew Gull				10 Rowley	1	C. Ralph	
12, 17 Newbypt, Newby	1 ad	R. Heil		12-14 Bedford	1	A. Maier	
27 Newbury	1 ad	R. Forster		15 W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa	
5-9 S. Boston	1	R. Donovan		16 Arlington	1	R. Penkala	
Ring-billed Gull				17 Boston	1	T. Aversa	
1, 15 Newburyport	610, 660	R. Heil		17 W. Bridgewater	1	G. d'Entremont#	
				17 Reading	1	C. Wing	

Barred Owl (continued)			Red-bellied Woodpecker		
18-31 Lincoln	1	C. Leahy	thr Maynard	pr	L. Nachtrab
18, 25 Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell	thr Pepperell	pr	E. Stromsted
21 IRWS	1	D. + I. Jewell	thr Mt. A.	1 or 2	v.o.
23 Middleboro	1	S. Arena#	thr Boxford	2	J. Brown#
24 Acushnet	1	M. LaBossiere	3 Ipswich	1 m	J. Berry
24 Reading	1	V. Stasiak	10 Westport	1	S. Hennin
31 Ipswich	1	J. Berry	28 Hingham	1	J. Norton
Short-eared Owl			30 Taunton	1	P. O'Neill
thr Katama	5	v.o.	30 Westwood	1	E. Nielsen
10 N. Scituate	1	R. Renaud	Hairy Woodpecker		
22 P.I.	1	M. Pelikan	thr Boxford	3	J. Brown#
24 Scusset B.	1	M. Sylvia	3 Pepperell	2	E. Stromsted
31 Middleboro	2	C. Ralph	Black-backed Woodpecker		
31 Cumb. Farms	2	C. Ralph	3-16 Sharon	1 f	D. Lahaise
Northern Saw-whet Owl			Northern Flicker		
2 P.I.	1	J. Berry#	30 Nantucket	18	S. Perkins#
20 Needham	1 dead	W. Petersen	Pileated Woodpecker		
27 Braintree	1 dead	W. Petersen	thr Pepperell	2	E. Stromsted
30 Lexington	1	C. Paine#	1 Wayland	1	N. Patterson
Belted Kingfisher			1 Newburyport	1	R. Heil
30 Wayland	2	R. Forster	14 Lincoln	1	A. Jones
Red-headed Woodpecker			31 IRWS	1	R. Heil
24 Medfield	1	W. Nightingale			

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

The severe winter weather had its toll on several normal hardy winterers, most notably Carolina Wrens, which have been decimated over the years in bad winters. A concerted search for Carolina Wrens on March 30 in Westport yielded just three individuals, surprising for a location where casual birding typically results in far more wrens. Equally poorly represented were Hermit Thrushes, Gray Catbirds and Eastern Towhees.

On the plus side, spring does return and the first Eastern Phoebes were noted on March 22, and the first Tree Swallows after March 17. Large flocks of blackbirds were everywhere.

Boreal Chickadees continued at feeders in Groveland and Wakefield, and Northern Shrikes continued in large numbers throughout our area. The **Bohemian Waxwings** seen in January and February just disappeared with no reports for the month. Likewise, there were fewer reports of redpolls, siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks.

An adult **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in Danvers, and an early Northern Parula on Martha's Vineyard on March 28 were unusual. Fox Sparrows were noted from a wide area from midmonth on. R. H. S.

Eastern Phoebe			25 Sudbury	2	R. Walton
22 Marshfield	1	D. Clapp	25 GNMWR	6	J. McLaughlin
22 Sudbury	1	J. Hoye#	27 Maynard	6	L. Nachtrab
24 Lakeville	1	W. Petersen	27 Easton	30	K. Ryan
25 E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	28 Rochester	10	M. LaBossiere
25 Boxford	1	J. Brown#	28 Wayland	250+	R. Forster
26 P.I.	4	K. Disney	30 Lakeville	75	M. Sylvia
26 Lexington	1	M. Rines	30 W. Bridgewater	100	W. Petersen
26 Gloucester	1	J. Soucy	Barn Swallow		
28, 31 Wayland	1, 2	N. Patterson	23 Chatham	1	J. Hoye#
30 SRV	5	R. Forster#	American Crow		
30 Arlington Res.	1	M. Pelikan	1-18 Framingham	7200	E. Taylor
30 Lakeville	2	M. Sylvia	21-31 Framingham	15	E. Taylor
30 W. Bridgewater	2	W. Petersen	Fish Crow		
31 Topsfield	5	R. Heil	16 Braintree	1	G. d'Entremont
31 Bolton	1	S. Hennin	21 Wareham	2	M. Sylvia
Horned Lark			24 Milton	5+	G. d'Entremont#
3 Ipswich	40	M. Pelikan	30 Needham	1	G. d'Entremont
3 Salisbury, P.I.	50, 10	M. Lynch#	Black-capped Chickadee		
3 Newbury	20	M. Pelikan	1 Newburyport	76	R. Heil
5 Cumb. Farms	100	K. Anderson	Boreal Chickadee		
30 Nantucket	5	S. Perkins#	1 Wakefield	1	C. Neeley
31 Newburyport	50	G. d'Entremont#	Red-breasted Nuthatch		
Tree Swallow			1 Brookline	2	H. Wiggin#
17 Middleboro	1	R. Finch	22 E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
17 Wash Brook	10	S. Perkins#	30 Needham	1	G. d'Entremont
18-31 Wayland	300 max	3/31 N. Patterson	Brown Creeper		
24 Harvard	3	S. Hennin	thr Boxford	2	J. Brown#

Brown Creeper (continued)				3 Ipswich	20	J. Berry
22 E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson		Chipping Sparrow		
22 Halifax	1	K. Anderson		27 Falmouth	3	J. Smith
24 Milton	5	G. d'Entremont#		Field Sparrow		
30 Needham	1	G. d'Entremont		27 Lynnfield	1	C. Leahy
Carolina Wren				Savannah Sparrow		
17 Lexington	1	M. Pelikan		31 IRWS	1	R. Heil
24 Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller		Fox Sparrow		
30 Westport	3	M. Rines#		15 Medford	2	D. Wilkerson
31 Sherborn	1	E. Taylor		15 Lincoln	2	K. Calmer
Golden-crowned Kinglet				16 WBWS	12	J. Hoye#
11 Marshfield	1	D. Furbish		16 P.I.	4	BBC (W. Drummond)
20 Rochester	6	M. Sylvia		22 Rockport (H.P.)	3	D. + I. Jewell
Eastern Bluebird				25 S. Boston	3	R. Donovan
14 Milton	9	N. Smith		25 Bedford	3	M. Rines
17 E. Middleboro	pr	K. Anderson		26 P.I.	3	D. + I. Jewell
21 Rochester	3	M. Sylvia		26 Boxboro	6	C. Paine
22 Concord	1	J. Hoye#		26-31 W. Newbury	7 max	R. Heil
24 Wayland	3	M. Pelikan		27 Easton	3	K. Ryan
24 Lincoln	3	M. Pelikan		28 Harvard	12	E. Salmela
30 Maynard	5	L. Nachtrab		29 Bolton	4	S. Hennin
Hermit Thrush				30 Westwood	7	E. Nielsen
9 Wellfleet	1	S. Arena#		31 IRWS	4	R. Heil
29 Nantucket	4	fide E. Ray		31 Concord	6	M. Pelikan
American Robin				31 Wayland	5	G. Long
23 Westport	80	M. Lynch#		15-31 Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 24 loc.		
31 Cumb. Farms	500	C. Ralph		Song Sparrow		
31 Middleboro	500	C. Ralph		21 Lincoln	1	S. Perkins#
Gray Catbird				Lincoln's Sparrow		
30 Nantucket	2	S. Perkins#		19 Norfolk	1	J. Fuller
Brown Thrasher				Dark-eyed Junco		
8 Brookline	1	H. Wiggin#		28 Brookline	21	H. Wiggin#
American Pipit				"Oregon" Junco		
17 Cumb. Farms	1	G. d'Entremont#		1 Uxbridge	1	J. Huntington
29 W. Bridgewater	3	S. Arena		Lapland Longspur		
31 Cumb. Farms	6	C. Ralph		3 Salisbury	2	M. Lynch#
Cedar Waxwing				17, 27 Cumb. Farms	2	G. d'Entremont#
26 Taunton	25+	G. d'Entremont		31 Newbury	2, 6	R. Forster
29 W. Acton	60	C. Paine		31 Newburyport	5	G. d'Entremont#
30 Nantucket	17	S. Perkins#		Snow Bunting		
Northern Shrike				1 P.I.	34	R. Heil
2 Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale		3 Lakeville	20	W. Petersen#
3-17 P.I.	1-3	v.o.		15 W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa
3 Mt. A.	1	R. Stymeist		20 P.I.	200	C. Ralph
5, 26 Wayland	1	N. Patterson		22 Gay Head	1	A. Fischer
6 Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab		Red-winged Blackbird		
10 Lincoln	1	M. Pelikan		2 Lancaster	200	M. Lynch#
16 Cumb. Farms	2	S. Arena#		3 Harvard	200	C. Kopkowski
16 GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood		24 Bolton Flats	2390	M. Lynch#
16 Taunton	1	M. Lynch#		Eastern Meadowlark		
17 Salisbury	1	R. Forster		10 Cumb. Farms	5	R. Shore
17 Ipswich	1	D. + I. Jewell		18 Wayland	3	N. Patterson
18 Rochester	2	M. Sylvia		31 Sherborn	2	E. Taylor
19, 31 Middleboro (2 loc.)	1, 2	R. Shore		Yellow-headed Blackbird		
21 IRWS	1	D. + I. Jewell		20 Danvers	1ad m	J. Fox
24 Chilmark	1	A. Keith		Rusty Blackbird		
25 Dorchester	1	R. Donovan		15 W. Roxbury	2	T. Aversa
25 Swampscott	1	L. Healey		22 GMNWR	6	R. Lockwood
29 Peabody	1	R. Heil		22 Lexington	1	M. Pelikan
30 Wellesley	1	R. Forster		22 E. Middleboro	1 m	K. Anderson
30 Nantucket	1	S. Perkins#		24 Provincetown	1	A. Hirschkop
31 Bolton	1	R. Bradbury		27 Lynnfield	10	C. Leahy
Northern Parula				30 Wayland	12	S. Hennin
28 Edgartown	1m	E. Silbert#		31 Ipswich	30	J. Berry
Yellow-rumped Warbler				Brown-headed Cowbird		
28 Wayland	3	R. Forster		2 Lancaster	60	M. Lynch#
30 Nantucket	100	S. Perkins#		23 Westport	52	M. Lynch#
31 Bolton	1	S. Hennin		25 Dorchester	10	R. Donovan
Indigo Bunting				31 Wayland	4	G. Long
3/30 M.V.	1	J. Bayley#		Purple Finch		
American Tree Sparrow				16 Salem	1	L. Healey

Purple Finch (continued)				5	Lincoln	20	N. Sullet + v.o.
17	E. Middleboro	1 m	K. Anderson	6	Sudbury	16	B. McHugh
30	Wayland	1 m	R. Forster	14	Milton	12	N. Smith
30	Ipswich	1 m	J. Berry#	16	Pepperell	10	E. Stromsted
31	Sherborn	2	E. Taylor	28	Framingham	1	K. Hamilton
Red Crossbill				Pine Siskin			
27	P.I.	8	G. Leet	thr	Duxbury	2	E. Cleveland
29	Harwich	3	T. Noonan	25	Royalston	27	D. Clapp
31	Quabbin (G40)	3	E. Nielsen	Evening Grosbeak			
Common Redpoll				5	E. Middleboro	pr	K. Anderson
1	Uxbridge	30	J. Huntington	31	Quabbin (G41)	2	E. Nielsen

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO BIRD OBSERVER

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

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

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

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BIRD SIGHTINGS

APRIL 1996

SUMMARY



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

The first half of April was snowy, wet, and dreary, not conducive to good birding. A warm wave took over the rest of the month, when temperatures averaged 5° above normal. The month's average was 47.9°, just 0.2° below normal. The high mark reached 83° in Boston on April 23, and the low was 32° on April 4. Snow was the big story of the month, with 7.3 inches, 6.4 inches above average. Six inches fell on April 9 and 10, making the history books as the second greatest snowfall so late in the season. These April snows were wet and heavy, causing considerable damage to trees and power lines as the storm included strong northeasterly winds. All this snow set a new record for the season with 107.6 inches, eclipsing the previous high of 99.3 inches set just two years ago. Rainfall was also frequent, with measurable amounts falling on 13 days and totaling 4.37 inches, 0.77 inches above average. Winds were out of the southwest on just two days, April 19 and April 23, and many migrants were found after these dates.

R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A major movement of Red-throated Loons occurred at midmonth on Martha's Vineyard, but Common Loons were scarce. There were scattered reports of Pied-billed Grebes. Red-necked Grebes were rather sparsely reported but did include three inland sightings. Northern Gannets were well reported off Wellfleet at midmonth. American Bitterns were scarce, and the balance of the heron group seemed to filter in slowly with few appreciable numbers. Notable exceptions were an excellent count of Great Blue Herons at Plum Island on the 12th and Glossy Ibis in general. Tricolored Herons were reported from three locations, and Cattle Egrets were confined to the general Ipswich area in limited numbers. Snow Geese were widely reported and were present in Newburyport the better part of the month. Green-winged Teal numbers were down from the previous month but included two reports of the Eurasian subspecies. Otherwise ducks were rather generally reported. After a season of scarcity, the nine Barrow's Goldeneyes at Newburyport harbor were obviously migrants, as was a single female in Acton, carefully studied and in direct comparison with female Common Goldeneyes. Judging from the reports, the hawk migration was average or slightly below par, but hawkwatch observations are unavailable. Counts of weather-grounded American Kestrels at Hanscom Field and Logan Airport on the 28th were clearly indicative of significant movement.

Numbers in the rail family were scarce. Shorebirds receive careful scrutiny in April, as observers scan through the typical migrants for unusual species. As a result, early arriving shorebirds are often discovered. Examples of early arrivals, none unprecedented, were American Golden-Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Whimbrel, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Wilson's Phalarope. Apparently only one Ruff graced our shores this month, that one in the Newburyport/Plum Island area for five days. The only other unusual shorebird was a Stilt Sandpiper, which is almost annual in occurrence in spring with most reports in May. The bulk of the gull reports were carryovers from March in the Newburyport/Newbury area, with continued reports of Mew, Lesser Black-backed, Glaucous, and Iceland gulls. Otherwise, gull reports were thin and highlighted by a single Little Gull in Newburyport and three Black-headed Gulls in Plymouth. A few terns moved in late in the month, highlighted by several Caspian Terns, all but one of which were at surprising inland locations. A small tern observed at the Arlington Reservoir, although not conclusively identified, was thought to be a Forster's Tern. A strong flight of Razorbills accompanied the Red-throated Loon movement on Martha's Vineyard, and a few Black Guillemots lingered at traditional wintering areas. A late Snowy Owl at Logan Airport was especially surprising due to their scarcity this past winter. Other owl reports likely represent lingering winterers, although some reports were suggestive of migrants. There was a scattering of reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers throughout the month, with no clearly defined peak as happened with Northern Flicker at midmonth.

R. A. F.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
Red-throated Loon				27	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith#
14	Katama	1000+	V. Laux	27	P.I.	1	v.o.
28	Cape Ann	1	J. Berry	28	Scituate	1 ad	D. Brown
Common Loon				Cattle Egret			
6	Quabbin (G35)	3	M. Lynch#	19	Ipswich	1	J. Soucy
14	Lakeville	2	M. Boucher	20	Beverly	4	M. Lynch#
21	P.I.	19	G. d'Entremont#	28	Ipswich	2	M. Rines
28	N. Scituate	3	G. d'Entremont#	Green Heron			
28	Cape Ann	3	J. Berry	22	P.I.	1	D. + I. Jewell
Pied-billed Grebe				23	Wareham	1	M. LaBossiere
4	GMNWR	3	J. Hoye#	23-30	Mt. A.	1-3	v.o.
7	Lincoln	3	S. Perkins	26	Cambridge	1	J. Campbell
thr	Reports of individuals from 11 locations			27	Bolton	1	M. Lynch#
Horned Grebe				27	P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale
6	Lakeville	1	W. Petersen	28	Newburyport	2	C. Paine
11	Manchester	26	M. Rines	Black-crowned Night-Heron			
13	Newburyport	5	M. Argue#	12	Wellesley	1	R. Forster
13	P.I.	19	M. Lynch#	13	P.I.	4	M. Pelikan
14	Danvers	1	J. Berry	17	Harwich	22	R. Turner
28	N. Scituate	5	G. d'Entremont#	28	Hingham	38	G. d'Entremont#
28	Cape Ann	1	J. Berry	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron			
Red-necked Grebe				19	Quincy	1 ad	J. Paluzzi
6	Quabbin (G35)	1 br pl	M. Lynch#	Glossy Ibis			
13	Acton	1	R. Lockwood	8	Danvers	1	C. Leahy
13	Middleboro	2	R. Shore	13	Ipswich	5	M. Lynch#
14	Lakeville	2	M. Boucher	19	Essex	25	J. Soucy
21	Nahant	4	P. + F. Vale	20	Rowley	17	M. Lynch#
28	Squibnocket	2	A. Keith#	22	P.I.	48	D. + I. Jewell
28	N. Scituate	15	G. d'Entremont#	24	W. Bridgewater	78	G. d'Entremont#
Northern Gannet				25	Hingham	28	S. Birch
11	Rockport	14	M. Rines	Whooper Swan			
16	Boston Harbor	12	R. Donovan	thr	Ipswich	2	fide J. Berry
17	Wellfleet	1000	DRA	Mute Swan			
21	Nahant	3	P. + F. Vale	28	Westport	119	M. Lynch#
Great Cormorant				Snow Goose			
28	N. Scituate	6	G. d'Entremont#	3	W. Bridgewater	75	G. d'Entremont
Double-Crested Cormorant				5	Marshfield	4	D. Ludlow
7	Melrose	11	P. + F. Vale	6	Concord (NAC)	4	R. Walton
20	Wellesley	131	R. Forster	12	Worc. (BMB)	90	F. McMenemy
20	Newburyport	250+	S. Perkins#	12	Acton	35	J. Horowitz
28	Cape Ann	500+	J. Berry	12	Duxbury	28	S. Hecker
American Bittern				13	Newburyport	120	R. Forster#
6	Nantucket	1	C. Jackson	13	Salisbury	150	M. Pelikan
9	GMNWR	1	S. Hennin	14	Concord	42	M. Pelikan
22	P.I.	3	D. + I. Jewell	26	Bolton	4	S. Hennin
27	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan	28	DWWS	1	G. d'Entremont#
Great Blue Heron				28	Newburyport	58	M. Rines
12	P.I.	94	D. + I. Jewell	Brant			
14	Westboro	17 nests	M. Lynch#	27	Newburyport	250	M. Lynch#
Great Egret				Canada Goose			
6	DWWS	1	W. Petersen#	13	Ipswich	1200	M. Lynch#
13	P.I.	3	R. Forster	Wood Duck			
13	Essex	1	M. Lynch#	thr	Wayland	14 max	N. Patterson
20	Newburyport	7	S. Perkins#	5	Worcester	23	M. Lynch#
21	Fairhaven	7	M. Boucher	7	E. Middleboro	24	K. Anderson
Snowy Egret				Green-Winged Teal			
4	Hingham	1	R. Richmond	5	Wayland	55	G. Long
8	Gloucester	2	C. Leahy	6, 13	W. Bridgewater	50, 100	W. Petersen
12	Squantum	1	M. Rines	7	Wakefield	19	P. + F. Vale
13	Essex	3	M. Lynch#	7, 26	Concord (NAC)	40, 40	S. Perkins
13	Rowley	12	J. Berry	7	W. Harwich	80	B. Nikula
13	P.I.	2	M. Rines	13	Rowley	50	J. Berry
13	Pocasset	1	L. Cocca	13	P.I.	180+	M. Lynch#
Little Blue Heron				13	GMNWR	12	S. Perkins
5	Marshfield	1 ad	D. Ludlow	14	Middleboro	6	M. Boucher
6	Nantucket	1	C. Jackson	20	Newburyport	40	S. Perkins#
19	Essex	2	J. Soucy	"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal			
23	Yarmouthport	1	S. + E. Miller	13	Newbury	1 m	R. Forster#
Tricolored Heron				13	W. Bridgewater	1	W. Petersen#

"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal (continued)				Barrow's Goldeneye			
20	Newburyport	1 m	S. Perkins#	6	Acton	1f	J. Kenneally
American Black Duck				13	Newburyport	9	M. Lynch#
13	P.I.	400+	M. Lynch#	Bufflehead			
Northern Pintail				7	Wakefield	37	P. + F. Vale
3	Boston	1	J. Young	13	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins
4	Concord (NAC)	2	J. Hoye#	28	Westport	118	M. Lynch#
13, 27	P.I.	20+, 3	M. Lynch#	29	Waltham	5	R. Forster
Blue-winged Teal				Hooded Merganser			
13	Concord (NAC)	4	C. Paine	14	Westboro	23	M. Lynch#
14	Middleboro	2	M. Boucher	14	Cambridge (F.P.)	4	M. Rines
17	W. Bridgewater	6	G. d'Entremont	15	Sudbury	3	S. Perkins#
20	Newbury	3	P. + F. Vale	19	Attleboro	5 f	T. Aversa
23	Yarmouthport	4	S. + E. Miller	Common Merganser			
28	Natick	2	G. Long	5	Worcester	98	M. Lynch#
28	P.I.	10	R. Lockwood	14	Southboro	65	M. Lynch#
Northern Shoveler				14	Milton	72	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
7	Wayland	5	G. Long	16	Dorchester	90	R. Donovan
20	P.I.	2	J. Brown#	20	Wayland	30	E. Taylor
Gadwall				3, 23	Andover	26, 6	E. Stromsted
1	Woburn	2	D. + I. Jewell	7	Acton	20	R. Lockwood
1	GMNWR	2	R. Lockwood	Red-breasted Merganser			
13, 27	P.I.	6, 4	M. Lynch#	13	Rowley	32	J. Berry
28	DWWS	2	D. Brown#	27	P.I.	45	M. Lynch#
American Wigeon				28	Cape Ann	50	J. Berry
5	Newbury	3	P. + F. Vale	28	Westport	112	M. Lynch#
6	Sudbury	4	E. Taylor	Ruddy Duck			
7	Wakefield	3	P. + F. Vale	6, 15	Pembroke	8, 3	W. Petersen
9	Wayland	2	C. Paine	18	Arlington Res.	1	M. Rines
13	Newburyport	3	H. Wiggin#	Turkey Vulture			
21	Concord (NAC)	2	S. Perkins	3	Wayland	4	J. Hoye#
Canvasback				4	Bolton	2	C. Paine
1-14	Arlington Res.	1	M. Pelikan	4	Boxboro	4	C. Paine
6	Arl. Res.	1	C. Seggelin	6	Holliston	4	J. Hoye#
Ring-necked Duck				6	Quabbin (G35)	21	M. Lynch#
1-23	Arlington Res.	80 max 4	M. Pelikan	13	Peabody	5	D. + I. Jewell
5	Wayland	8	G. Long	15	Concord (NAC)	3	S. Perkins#
6	Halifax	48	W. Petersen	17, 27	Arlington	6, 5	M. Pelikan
7	Wakefield	17	P. + F. Vale	20	Maynard	6	L. Nachtrab
7, 15	Concord (NAC)	16, 16	S. Perkins	20	E. Middleboro	3	K. Anderson
10	GMNWR	75	M. Rines	Osprey			
13	Lakeville	30	R. Shore#	1	Westport	81	G. Fernandez
14	Sudbury	57	M. Lynch#	15	Sudbury	1	S. Perkins#
14	Westboro	23	M. Lynch#	28	Rowley	pr n	J. Berry
20	Southboro	20	E. Taylor	Bald Eagle			
Greater Scaup				6	Quabbin (G35)	2 ad + 3 imm	M. Lynch#
thr	Randolph	16 max 4/6	G. d'Entremont	11	Rockport	1 imm	M. Rines
13	Lakeville	60+	R. Shore#	Northern Harrier			
13, 27	Newburyport	65, 33	M. Lynch#	5	Wayland	2	G. Long
Lesser Scaup				6	Cumb. Farms	2	W. Petersen
1-21	Arlington Res.	2-4	M. Pelikan	7	Wayland	2	G. Long
5	Worcester	3	M. Lynch#	13	P.I., Newbypt	5, 4	M. Lynch#
13	Lakeville	18	R. Shore	16	Dorchester	2	R. Donovan
13	P.I.	1 m	M. Argue	27	P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale
15	Pembroke	37	W. Petersen	Sharp-shinned Hawk			
24	W. Newbury	1 m	R. Forster	28	N. Truro	8 (1 hr)	B. Nikula#
29	Marstons Mills	1	S. + E. Miller	6-28	Reports of individuals from 10 locations		
Common Eider				Cooper's Hawk			
27	Cape Ann	500+	J. Brown#	13	E. Bridgewater	1	W. Petersen
Harlequin Duck				14	Weston	1	M. Pelikan
15	N. Scituate	6	W. Petersen	14	N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher
21, 28	Squibnocket	16, 4	A. Keith	15	Wayland	1	N. Patterson
Oldsquaw				15	Concord (NAC)	1	D. Diggins
13	P.I.	470	M. Lynch#	19	Woburn	1	M. Pelikan
27	Newburyport	1580	M. Lynch#	20	Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab#
Surf Scoter				20	Harvard	1	M. Pelikan
28	Cape Ann	1 m	J. Berry	27	Newburyport	1	M. Lynch#
Common Goldeneye				28	Mt. A.	1 ad	v.o.
9	Sherborn	2	E. Taylor	28	N. Truro	3	B. Nikula #
13, 27	Newburyport	220, 25	M. Lynch#	Northern Goshawk			
19	Attleboro	2	T. Aversa	5	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson

Northern Goshawk (continued)			
15	Boxford	2	D. + I. Jewell
20	Sherborn	1	E. Taylor
20	ONWR	1	C. Paine
27	Cape Ann	8	J. Brown#
27	Provincetown	1imm.	B. Nikula
29	Lincoln	2	G. McGean
Red-shouldered Hawk			
thr	Sherborn	4	E. Taylor
thr	E. Middleboro	pr n	K. Anderson
6	DWWS	1	W. Petersen#
13	Danvers	1	M. Pelikan
14	Lakeville	1	M. Boucher
21	Hanover	2 pr	W. Petersen
27	Taunton	1	J. Young
28	Natick	1	G. Long
28	Wenham	1-2	J. Berry
28	N. Truro	1 imm.	B. Nikula #
Broad-winged Hawk			
5-28	Reports of individuals from 10 locations		
26	Harvard	2	M. Lynch#
28	N. Truro	18 1 hr.	B. Nikula #
Rough-legged Hawk			
13	Cumb. Farms	1	R. Shore#
14	Middleboro	1 dk	M. Boucher
American Kestrel			
14	Cumb. Farms	4	J. Hoye#
14, 29	Bedford (Hanscom)	4, 33	M. Rines
21	P.I.	7	M. Pelikan
28	Middleboro	6	R. Shore#
29	Boston (Logan)	50	N. Smith
Merlin			
7	Danvers	1	J. Hoye#
11	Rockport	1	M. Rines
12	Concord (NAC)	1	D. Diggins
13	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale
20	Newburyport	1	P. + F. Vale
23	Mt. A.	1	v.o.
27	Arlington Res.	1 f	M. Pelikan
27	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
27	Newburyport	1	P. + F. Vale
28	Petersham	1	S. Hennin
29	Boston (Logan)	2	N. Smith
Peregrine Falcon			
20	P.I.	2	A. McCarthy#
21	Chilmark	1	A. Keith
28	Newburyport	2	M. Pelikan
28	Mt. A.	1	v.o.
28	N. Truro	1	J. Sones #
Ruffed Grouse			
4	Boxboro	1	C. Paine
13	Wayland	1	R. Lockwood
13	Randolph	3	G. d'Entremont
15	W. Newbury	1	J. Hoye#
18	Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted
20	Quabbin (G40)	2	S. Hennin
21	Hardwick	1	M. Lynch#
27	Sharon	1	D. Furbish
28	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
Wild Turkey			
thr	Middleboro	50+ max	R. Shore#
5	Athol	23	W. Petersen
19	Worc. (BMB)	5	B. Estabrooke
20	West Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale
22	P.I.	8	fide A. Clayton
23-26	Mt. A.	1 m	v.o.
25	W. Brookfield	1	M. Lynch#
26	Easton	1 mG.	d'Entremont#
27	ONWR	1	M. Lynch#
Northern Bobwhite			
14	Cumb. Farms	6	J. Hoye#
27	WBWS	5	B. Parker
Clapper Rail			
15-30	S. Yarmouth	1	S. + E. Miller
Virginia Rail			
21	GMNWR	1	J. Hoye#
Sora			
5	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale
Common Moorhen			
27	W. Newbury	1	J. Hoye#
American Coot			
10	GMNWR	1	M. Rines
14	Westboro	1	M. Lynch#
Black-bellied Plover			
13	Salisbury	2	M. Pelikan
13	P.I.	3	M. Pelikan
American Golden-Plover			
28	Newburyport	2	M. Pelikan#
Semipalmated Plover			
27	Newburyport	1	H. Wigginn#
28	P.I.	1	C. Paine
28	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
28	M.V.	1	V. Laux
Piping Plover			
5	P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale
28	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
28	Ipswich (CB)	28	E. House
Killdeer			
5	West Newbury	12	P. + F. Vale
13	Newbypt/P.I.	14	M. Lynch#
15	Ipswich	33	J. Hoye#
American Oystercatcher			
2	Orleans	3	S. + E. Miller
16	Boston Harbor	1	R. Donovan
21	Fairhaven	2	M. Boucher
23	Yarmouthport	1	S. + E. Miller
28	Westport	4	M. Lynch#
29	Logan	2	N. Smith
Greater Yellowlegs			
13, 27	Newburyport	11, 240+	M. Lynch#
22	W. Bridgewater	11	K. Anderson
28	Rowley	22	J. Berry
28	Concord (NAC)	30	L. Harvey
Lesser Yellowlegs			
20	Newburyport	9	P. + F. Vale
28	Rowley	1	J. Berry
6, 18	W. Bridgewater	4, 6	W. Petersen
Solitary Sandpiper			
19	Newbury	2	J. Soucy
20	W. Newbury	2	M. Lynch#
20	Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale
27	Chilmark	1	A. Keith
Willet			
24	Newburyport	1	R. Forster
27	P.I.	2	M. Lynch#
27	Fairhaven	1	M. LaBossiere
Spotted Sandpiper			
26	Concord	1	S. Hennin
28	Newburyport	1	E. Crowley#
30	Arlington Res.	3	M. Pelikan
Upland Sandpiper			
27	Newburyport	2	M. Lynch#
28	Cumb. Farms	5	R. Shore#
29	Bedford (Hanscom)	1	M. Rines
Whimbrel			
27	P.I.	1	D. + I. Jewell
Least Sandpiper			
27	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins
28	Newburyport	28	C. Paine
28	W. Harwich	7+	B. Nikula
White-rumped Sandpiper			
27	Newburyport	1	M. Lynch#

Pectoral Sandpiper				24	Quincy	1	B. Zusavich
19	Newburyport	3	J. Soucy	25	Wayland	1	K. Hamilton
Purple Sandpiper				Roseate Tern			
15	N. Scituate	200	W. Petersen	28	M.V.	4	V. Laux
26	Sandwich	15	S. + E. Miller	Common Tern			
28	Westport	21	M. Lynch#	24	Newburyport	1	R. Forster
Dunlin				28	M.V.	1	V. Laux
24	Newburyport	100	R. Forster	Least Tern			
Stilt Sandpiper				27	Katama	3	A. Keith#
24	Newburyport	1	R. Forster	Sterna species			
Ruff				23	Arlington Res.	1	M. Pelikan
17-22	Newburyport	1	J. Soucy + vo	Razorbill			
18	P.I.	1	D. + I. Jewell	14	Katama	300 (1 hr)	V. Laux
Common Snipe				Black Guillemot			
3, 15	Cumb. Farms	100, 13	K. Anderson	11	Magnolia	1	M. Rines
5	West Newbury	12	P. + F. Vale	28	N. Scituate	2	D. Brown#
9	Wayland	2	C. Paine	28	Rockport	1	J. Berry
13	Westboro	4	E. Taylor	Eastern Screech-Owl			
13	P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale	thr	Mt.A.	pr	v.o.
14	Middleboro	27	M. Boucher	21	Marlboro	1	B. Parker
15	Ipswich	34	J. Hoye#	Great Horned Owl			
15	Concord (NAC)	38	S. Perkins#	1, 13	Bolton	1, 2	S. Hennin
15	Wayland	15	S. Perkins#	thr	Mt.A.	1 or 2	v.o.
19	GMNWR	3	S. Hennin	6	Holliston	1 n	J. Hoye#
20	W. Newbury	15	M. Lynch#	Snowy Owl			
22	Plympton	25+	R. Turner	29	Boston (Logan)	1	N. Smith
American Woodcock				Great Gray Owl			
4	Reading	2	P. + F. Vale	7	Rowley	1	fide S. Grinley
14	Westboro	6	M. Lynch#	Barred Owl			
17	Concord (NAC)	3	L. Nachtrab	thr	Lincoln	2	G. Bertrand
28	Wayland	4	G. Ferguson	1-11	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell
5-30	Concord	3	D. Lange	5	Allston	1	B. Keaveny
Wilson's Phalarope				6	Camb. (F.P.)	1	B. Constance
21	P.I.	1 f	M. Pelikan	13	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa
24	Newburyport	2	R. Forster	13	Lexington	1	fide MAS
Laughing Gull				21	Milbury	1	C. Phillips
28	Westport	1	M. Lynch#	21	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#
Little Gull				Long-eared Owl			
24	Newburyport	1 ad	R. Forster	18	Revere	1	L. Vargus
Common Black-headed Gull				Short-eared Owl			
13	Plymouth	3 ad	W. Petersen#	1-8	Katama	5	v.o.
Bonaparte's Gull				7	Halibut Pt	1	J. Nove
21	Newburyport	52	J. Berry	12	Duxbury	1	S. Hecker
Mew Gull				13	Ipswich	2	C. Leahy
6, 13	Newburyport	1 ad	v.o.	27	M.V.	1	V. Laux
Ring-billed Gull				Northern Saw-whet Owl			
5	Worcester	308	M. Lynch#	3-7	Lexington	1	v.o.
13	Westboro	350+	M. Lynch#	9	Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller
26	Bolton Flats	350+	M. Lynch#	20	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell
Herring Gull				21	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
14	Ipswich	2500	J. Berry	Chimney Swift			
Iceland Gull				23	Westwood	2	E. Nielsen
13	Newburyport	10	M. Lynch#	27	Newburyport	1	M. Lynch#
16	New Bedford	1	J. Horowitz	27	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins
28	Oak Bluffs	1	A. Keith	28	M.V.	15	V. Laux
Lesser Black-backed Gull				Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
2-13	Acton	1 ad	R. Forster + v.o.	26	Mt.A.	1	v.o.
13	Newbury	1 ad	R. Forster	Belted Kingfisher			
14	W. Concord	1 ad	M. Pelikan	15	Sudbury	2	S. Perkins#
18	Newburyport	1 ad	J. Soucy + vo	Red-bellied Woodpecker			
Glaucous Gull				thr	Pepperell	pr	E. Stromsted
12	Taunton	1 imm	D. Cabral	thr	Mt.A.	1 or 2	v.o.
13	Newburyport	1	R. Forster#	14	Westboro	1 m	M. Lynch#
16	Boston Harbor	1	R. Donovan	26-30	Provincetown	2+	v.o.
27	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith#	27	Medford	1	M. Rines
28	P.I.	1	C. Paine	28	Westport	2	M. Lynch#
Great Black-backed Gull				Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
14	Ipswich	1500	J. Berry	4	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher
Caspian Tern				10	Acton	1 m	M. Rines
21-25	Concord (NAC)	1	D. Lange + vo	12	Gloucester	1	C. Leahy
22	W. Bridgewater	2	W. Petersen	15	Boxford	1	D. + I. Jewell

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (continued)			6	IRWS	2	P. + F. Vale
17 Framingham	1	K. Hamilton		Northern Flicker		
19 S. Boston	1	R. Donovan		19 Wellesley	12 migr	R. Forster
20 E. Gloucester	1	C. Leahy		20 P.I.	20 migr	J. Hoye#
22 Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab		Pileated Woodpecker		
22 Boston (F.Pk)	1 f	T. Aversa		thr Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted
25 Hingham	2	S. Birch		20 Acton	1	M. Pelikan
Hairy Woodpecker				21 Hardwick	1	M. Lynch#
1 Woburn	3	D. + I. Jewell		28 Boxford (C.P.)	1	M. Rines
1 Melrose	2	D. + I. Jewell				

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

A good wave of migrants followed southwest winds on April 19 and April 23 and continued to be seen through the end of the month. Early migrants, such as Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Eastern Towhee, and Chipping Sparrow had been seen in limited numbers earlier in the month, but were noted in much greater numbers after April 19. Unlike April 1995, no unusual passerines were noted, although there were some interesting location and date observations. A Purple Martin on Martha's Vineyard was a rarity in spring, and Pine Siskins were observed exhibiting nest building behavior at the same location. A Yellow-throated Vireo on Nantucket was reported on the extremely early date of April 6, nearly a month before the normal arrival date. Other early arrivals included Worm-eating Warblers from Provincetown and Oak Bluffs. April sightings of Summer Tanager and Blue Grosbeak are standard for the islands and were noted again this year.

Northern Shrikes were reported from 8 locations, holdovers and returning migrants from this past winter's invasion. A variety of hardier migrants often overwinter, such as Carolina Wren, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, and Eastern Towhee, but these were extremely sparse before the first "wave" after April 19th. This seems a likely result of this year's rugged winter conditions.

R. H. S.

Least Flycatcher			25	N. Braintree	4	M. Lynch#
27 Newburyport	1	M. Lynch#		Cliff Swallow		
30 ONWR	1	B. Parker		20 M.V.	1	V. Laux
Great Crested Flycatcher				27 Newburyport	1	M. Lynch#
29 Boston (F.Pk)	1	T. Aversa		Barn Swallow		
Eastern Kingbird				15 Wayland	1	S. Sweet#
23 Westwood	1	E. Nielsen		19 Rochester	1	M. LaBossiere
26 Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#		19 GMNWR	4	S. Hennin
28 Chilmark	1	A. Keith		28 Westport	27	M. Lynch#
29 Sudbury	1	R. Forster		Fish Crow		
29 M.V.	1	V. Laux		thr Mt.A.	5 pr n	v.o.
Horned Lark				6 DWWS	4	W. Petersen#
13 Middleboro	50	R. Shore#		11 Hanson	3	W. Petersen
Purple Martin				11 Brookline	1	H. Wiggin
17 S. Carver	1	H. Davidson		24 Chatham	1	R. Clem
17 Rochester	2	M. LaBossiere		27 WBWS	2	B. Parker
21 P.I.	1	M. Pelikan		Common Raven		
21 Newburyport	6	S. Perkins#		6 Quabbin (G35)	2	M. Lynch#
21 Quincy	1	R. Donovan		Red-breasted Nuthatch		
27 P.I.	15	M. Lynch#		15 W. Newbury	1	J. Hoye#
28 Oak Bluffs	1	V. Laux		18 E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
Tree Swallow				21 Boxford (C.P.)	4	J. Berry
5 Worcester	55+	M. Lynch#		White-Breasted Nuthatch		
5 Wayland	300	M. Pelikan		28 N. Truro	2 migr	B. Nikula #
5 Arlington Res.	80	M. Pelikan		Brown Creeper		
9 Wareham	75	M. LaBossiere		7 Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale
13 GMNWR	300	S. Perkins		13 Wayland	3	J. Hoye#
14 Westboro	460+	M. Lynch#		20 E. Gloucester	4	C. Leahy
N. Rough-winged Swallow				21 Boxford (C.P.)	9	J. Berry
17-30 Arlington Res.	6 max	M. Pelikan		Carolina Wren		
18, 21 Mt.A.	1, 10	v.o.		6 Boxboro	1	C. Paine
19 Rochester	7	M. LaBossiere		6 Newbury	1	M. Rines
19 GMNWR	2	S. Hennin		20 Concord	2	M. Pelikan
20 E. Gloucester	2	C. Leahy		27 MNWS	1	P. + F. Vale
27 Boston	2	R. Styemeist		28 Westport	6	M. Lynch#
28 Maynard	4	L. Nachtrab		30 Bedford	1	M. Rines
28 Gloucester	3+	J. Berry		House Wren		
Bank Swallow				21 Auburn	1	C. Phillips
20 P.I.	2	E. Nielsen#		23 Concord	1	R. Forster#
25 Mt.A.	3	v.o.		24 Worc. (BMB)	2	M. Lynch#

House Wren (continued)				26-30 Boston (F.Pk)	4 max	T. Aversa
25 Natick	2	E. Taylor		Brown Thrasher		
26 Bolton Flats	2	M. Lynch#		20 ONWR	2	M. Pelikan
28 Westport	2	M. Lynch#		21 P.I.	2	M. Pelikan
30 Concord	2	M. Rines		22 Boston (F.Pk)	3	T. Aversa
Winter Wren				24 Worc. (BMB)	4	M. Lynch#
16 S. Boston	1	R. Donovan		24, 30 Mt. A.	1, 1	v.o.
20 P.I.	1	J. Brown		27 P.I.	4	P. + F. Vale
22 Boxford	1	K. Disney		27 Medford	4	M. Rines
Marsh Wren				28 Natick	2	G. Long
22 Dorchester	1	R. Donovan		29 S. Yarmouth	1	S. + E. Miller
28 Rowley	1 m	J. Berry		American Pipit		
Golden-crowned Kinglet				3 Cumb. Farms	3	K. Anderson
5 Boxboro	1	C. Paine		10 GMNWR	1	M. Rines
6 Quabbin (G35)	1	M. Lynch#		26 Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#
7 Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale		Cedar Waxwing		
15 N. Scituate	1	W. Petersen		7 Wakefield	47	P. + F. Vale
20 Boxford (C.P.)	9	J. Hoye#		13 Middleboro	30	R. Shore
20 E. Gloucester	4	C. Leahy		Northern Shrike		
21 Wellesley	3	R. Forster		1 Wayland	1	N. Patterson
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				6 Nantucket	1	C. Jackson
19, 22 Boxboro	1, 6	C. Paine		13 P.I.	1	R. Forster#
20 Boxford (C.P.)	7	J. Hoye#		14 Essex	1 ad	L. Healy
20 ONWR	5	M. Pelikan		14 Chilmark	1	T. Rivers
20 Stow	3	J. Hoye#		18 W. Bridgewater	1	W. Petersen
20 Boxford (C.P.)	7	P. + F. Vale		21 Quincy	1	R. Donovan
20 E. Gloucester	25	C. Leahy		27 Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
20 W. Newbury	11	E. Nielsen#		White-eyed Vireo		
21 P.I.	5	M. Pelikan		28 S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher
21 Nahant	4	P. + F. Vale		28 Westport	1	M. Lynch#
22 Boston (F.Pk)	13	T. Aversa		Solitary Vireo		
25 Hingham	10	S. Birch		19 Boston (F.Pk)	1	T. Aversa
27 Woburn	5	M. Rines		20 Boxford (C.P.)	5	J. Hoye#
28 MNWS	6	M. Rines		20 Quabbin (G36)	2	T. Aversa
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				20 ONWR	1	M. Pelikan
23 Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab#		20 E. Gloucester	1	C. Leahy
24 Melrose		D. + I. Jewell		22 S. Boston	1	R. Donovan
25 Hingham	1	S. Birch		25 Hingham	5	S. Birch
26 Bolton Flats	4	M. Lynch#		Yellow-throated Vireo		
26 ONWR	1	M. Lynch#		6 Nantucket	1	C. Jackson
27 Wayland	3	M. Pelikan		Warbling Vireo		
27 West Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale		27 Woburn	1	M. Rines
27 Woburn	1	M. Rines		Nashville Warbler		
28 MNWS	2	M. Rines		30 Brookline	1	R. Stymeist#
28 Boxford (C.P.)	3	M. Rines		Northern Parula		
Eastern Bluebird				26 M.V.	1	fide V. Laux
4 Boxboro	1	C. Paine		27-30 Mt. A.	1-3	v.o.
6 IRWS	2	P. + F. Vale		Yellow Warbler		
13 Newburyport	1	M. Lynch#		21 Hardwick	1	M. Lynch#
19 Bolton	2	S. Hennin		26 Bolton Flats	4	M. Lynch#
19 Lincoln	2	S. Perkins		27 Woburn	2	M. Rines
25 Marlboro	1	B. Parker		29 Wayland	3	R. Forster
25 Hingham	12	S. Birch		29 M.V.	2	V. Laux
27 P.I.	1	M. Lynch#		Yellow-rumped Warbler		
Hermit Thrush				19 Wayland	4	R. Walton
5 Brookline	1	H. Wiggin#		20 E. Gloucester	16	C. Leahy
9 Westwood	1	H. Coolidge		21 Hardwick	20	M. Lynch#
18, 25 E. Middleboro	1, 3	K. Anderson		21 Wayland	4	J. Hoye#
19-30 Boston (F.Pk)	4 max	T. Aversa		26 Bolton Flats	22	M. Lynch#
19-30 Mt. A.	9 max	23 v.o.		Black-throated Green Warbler		
19 S. Boston	5	R. Donovan		24 Boxford	4	L. Nachtrab#
20 Wellesley	4	R. Forster		27 W. Newbury	1	H. Wiggin#
20, 21 Boxboro	1, 3	C. Paine		28 Ipswich	2	J. Berry
20 E. Gloucester	4	C. Leahy		28 Petersham	1	S. Hennin
21 Petersham	20	M. Lynch#		30 Mt. A.	1	v.o.
Wood Thrush				Pine Warbler		
29 Mashpee	2	S. + E. Miller		5, 17 Boxboro	1, 2	C. Paine
American Robin				13 Lincoln	1	S. Perkins
5, 13 Wayland	100, 100	M. Pelikan		14 Westboro	1	M. Lynch#
13 Newbypt, P.I.	120, 50	M. Lynch#		15-30 E. Middleboro	5 max	K. Anderson
Gray Catbird				20 Boxford	5	BBC (J. Berry)

Pine Warbler (continued)				26-30 Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller
21 Hardwick	15	M. Lynch#		Eastern Towhee		
21 Melrose	2	P. + F. Vale		20 Quabbin (G40)	3	S. Hennin
21 Quabbin (G40)	34	E. Nielsen#		20 ONWR	1	M. Pelikan
20 Maynard	3	L. Nachtrab		20, 28 Boxboro	1, 2	C. Paine
Prairie Warbler				20-30 Mt. A.	1-3	v.o.
28 M.V.	3	V. Laux		24 Worc. (BMB)	6	M. Lynch#
30 Yarmouthport	1	S. + E. Miller		27 P.I.	6	P. + F. Vale
Palm Warbler				27 Medford	8	M. Rines
15 Wayland	2	R. Walton		28 Westport	11	M. Lynch#
18 P.I.	1	D. + I. Jewell		American Tree Sparrow		
18, 20 Boxboro	1, 20	C. Paine		3 Wakefield	4	P. + F. Vale
18, 27 Medford	1, 6	M. Rines		6 E. Sandwich	1	S. + E. Miller
18 Arlington Res.	1	M. Rines		6, 15 Marshfield	12, 2	W. Petersen#
19-30 Boston (F.Pk)	18 max	22 T. Aversa		12 Wellesley	4 migr	R. Forster
19 Wayland	7	R. Walton		13 Boxboro	1	C. Paine
20 Wellesley	8	R. Forster		13, 20 Lincoln	8, 3	S. Perkins
20 Wayland	20	E. Taylor		14 Wayland	1	M. Pelikan
20 ONWR	10	M. Pelikan		Chipping Sparrow		
20 W. Newbury	16	S. Perkins#		15 Maynard	3	L. Nachtrab
21 Wayland	10	J. Hoye#		18 Mt. A.	1	R. Kelly#
26 Bolton Flats	21	M. Lynch#		19 E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
Black-and-white Warbler				19 Boxboro	2	C. Paine
20 ONWR	1	M. Pelikan		19 ONWR	2	S. Hennin
22 Pepperell	1	M. Resch		20 Ipswich	2	M. Lynch#
23 Yarmouthport	2	S. + E. Miller		21 Rochester	3	M. Boucher
26 Bolton Flats	3	M. Lynch#		22 Wellesley	7	R. Forster
27 West Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale		26 Bolton Flats	10	M. Lynch#
29 Boston (F.Pk)	2	T. Aversa		Field Sparrow		
American Redstart				20 ONWR	2	M. Pelikan
28 Wayland (HP)	1	L. Harvey		20 P.I.	2	J. Hoye#
Worm-eating Warbler				20, 21 Brookline	5, 8	H. Wiggins#
20 Oak Bluffs	2	A. Keith#		20 E. Gloucester	1	C. Leahy
28 Provincetown	1	S. Thompson		21 Boxford	1	J. Berry
Ovenbird				21 Boxboro	1	C. Paine
27 Mt. A.	1	T. Aversa		28 Nahant	1	M. Rines
27 S. Boston	1	R. Donovan		Savannah Sparrow		
Northern Waterthrush				13 Wayland	2	M. Pelikan
22 E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson		13 Newburyport	1	M. Rines
22 Pepperell	1	M. Resch		20 Newbury	20	P. + F. Vale
28-30 Mt. A.	1	v.o.		23 Reading	12	P. Duffy
Louisiana Waterthrush				27 P.I.	7	M. Lynch#
13-30 Boxford (C.P.)	1-2	P. + F. Vale + v.o.		30 Marshfield	27	D. Furbish
14-15 W. Newbury	1	E. Salmela		30 Lexington	10	M. Rines
20 Petersham	1	S. Hennin		Fox Sparrow		
20-30 Worc. (BMB)	1	K. Mills + v.o.		1 Princeton	2	B. Van Dusen
22 Boxboro	1	C. Paine		3, 17 Wakefield	2, 1	P. + F. Vale
27 W. Bridgewater	5	J. Young		3 Attleboro	12	fide S. Sweet
28 Ipswich	1 m	J. Berry		4 Boxboro	6	C. Paine
Common Yellowthroat				5 Boxford	1	D. + I. Jewell
24-30 Boston (F.Pk)	1	T. Aversa		6 DWWS	1	W. Petersen#
29 Worcester	2	J. Liller		7 Wayland	2	J. Hoye#
30 Bedford	1	M. Rines		8 Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell
Hooded Warbler				8 Athol	1	D. Small
24-27 Brookline	1 f	P. Perry + v.o.		9 Lexington	3	M. Rines
Summer Tanager				11 Rockport	1	M. Rines
28 Oak Bluffs	1 m	V. Laux#		12 Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale
Scarlet Tanager				12, 18 Mt. A.	1, 1	M. Rines
24 Mt. A.	2 m	v.o.		12 Medford	2	M. Rines
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				13 Bolton	4	S. Hennin
10 Chappaquiddick	1 m	R. + E. Potter		13 Worcester	2	M. Lynch#
25 Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller		15 Boxford	2	B. Parker
28 Dartmouth	1	T. Raymond		16 S. Boston	3	R. Donovan
Blue Grosbeak				18 Attleboro	6	fide S. Sweet
10 Chappaquiddick	1	R. + E. Potter		Swamp Sparrow		
17 M.V.	1	fide V. Laux		13 Lynnfield	1	M. Rines
27 Mt. A.	1	M. Noland + v.o.		15 Wayland	1	R. Walton
Indigo Bunting				15 GMNWR	1	M. Rines
10 Chappaquiddick	1	R. + E. Potter		26 Bolton Flats	20	M. Lynch#
17 M.V.	10+	fide V. Laux		White-Throated Sparrow		
24 Beverly	1	J. Paluzzi		27 MNWS	30	P. + F. Vale

Dark-Eyed Junco				5	West Newbury	4	P. + F. Vale
6	IRWS	15	P. + F. Vale	18	Brookline	6	B. Reilly#
17	Brookline	21	H. Wiggin#	27	P.I.	26	M. Lynch#
27	Mt.A.	1	R. Lockwood	Baltimore Oriole			
27	N. Dartmouth	4	M. Boucher	23	Wellesley	1	R. Forster
"Pink-sided" Dark-eyed Junco				Purple Finch			
10	Hanson	1	W. Petersen	4, 22	E. Middleboro	1, 2	K. Anderson
Red-winged Blackbird				15	Boxford	3	J. Hoye#
5	Worcester	130	M. Lynch#	20	Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab
Eastern Meadowlark				21	Acushnet	2	M. LaBossiere
8, 14	Bedford (Hanscom)	1, 6	M. Rines	21, 28	P.I.	1, 7	M. Pelikan
12	Bolton	1	S. Hennin	21	Quabbin (G41)	5	E. Nielsen#
13	Concord	1	M. Pelikan	22	Boxboro	1	C. Paine
13	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa	22	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
15	P.I.	2	J. Hoye#	25	Hingham	3	S. Birch
17	Wayland	1	N. Patterson	27	W. Bridgewater	1	J. Young
20	Harvard	1	C. Paine	28	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
26	ONWR	2	M. Lynch#	28	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher
27	Newburyport	7	M. Lynch#	28	Weston	3	G. Ferguson
28	Middleboro	12	R. Shore	Red Crossbill			
Rusty Blackbird				21	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#
5	Wayland	13	G. Long	28	P.I.	20	P. Roberts
10	GMNWR	13	M. Rines	Pine Siskin			
13	P.I.	3	H. Wiggin#	2-7	Weston	5	G. Ferguson
14	Westwood	28	E. Nielsen	13-21	Oak Bluffs	10-12	V. Laux
20, 21	Wellesley	2, 3	R. Forster	24	Marstons Mills	3	S. + E. Miller
23	Yarmouthport	2	S. + E. Miller	27	Belmont	1	R. Meyer
23	Westwood	58	E. Nielsen	28	Boston	2	R. Stymeist
27	Newton	49	C. Hepburn#	28	Weston	3	G. Ferguson
Common Grackle				Evening Grosbeak			
thr Framingham	3500 max	E. Taylor		20	Petersham	50	T. Aversa#
Brown-Headed Cowbird				25	Hingham	1	S. Birch
4	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale	30	Worc. (BMB)	1	B. Estabrook

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

ABOUT THE COVER: NORTHERN GOSHAWK

The largest North American representative of the genus *Accipiter*, the Northern Goshawk (*A. gentilis*) is a fearsome predator. No one who has wandered near the nest of this species will forget the *ca-ca-ca-ca* scream as the female streaks menacingly toward your head, red eyes glistening. Highly aggressive in defense of their territory, goshawks have attacked and injured humans on many occasions. Adult birds are unmistakable, large and blue-gray above with broad rounded wings and a wedge-shaped tail tip. The black cap and white eye stripe are distinctive, and white fluffy undertail coverts are prominent. Immature birds, like the one featured on this issue's cover, are brown above with brown streaking or spotting below. A large female Cooper's Hawk and a small male goshawk are similar enough in size that they may be confused. A wavy barring pattern in the tail feathers and a more pronounced white eye stripe help identify the immature goshawk. In flight the goshawk's wings are proportionally longer and more pointed and the tail shorter than a Cooper's Hawk. As in other accipiters, males are smaller than females. Northern Goshawks are circumpolar in distribution, with up to nine subspecies recognized worldwide, including two (and possibly three) in North America.

Northern Goshawks breed in stands of mature forest from Alaska across Canada to the maritime provinces, and south to Pennsylvania in the east and in the mountains to Mexico in the west. They are permanent residents throughout most of their range when their food supply is adequate, but become nomadic or migratory when the food supply fails. Some winter in the Midwest, and in Massachusetts migrants typically begin to arrive in late October. The eight to eleven year population cycle of the snowshoe hare affects northern populations. One study reported that when hares were most abundant, goshawks fledged an average of 2.8 young per nest, but after the hare population crashed, goshawks raised no young. When the winter food supply fails over wide areas of the north, goshawks may become irruptive into our area. In Massachusetts they are considered an uncommon migrant and resident, with nesting pairs more common in the western part of the state. At least thirty-three nests were recorded during the 1974-1979 breeding bird atlas project, but they are undoubtedly more common today. Goshawks migrate late in the season and hence are frequently overlooked at many hawk migration observation points.

Northern Goshawks are monogamous, and many mate for life. They produce a single brood and may nest at age one year, although most do not breed until their third year. They prefer mature stands of mixed conifer and deciduous trees with a closed canopy, and construct a large nest platform of sticks 20-75 feet from the ground, often where major branches join the trunk. They usually build their own nest, although they may use the nest of another hawk species as a platform, but rarely use the same nest in consecutive years.

Nests are often located near water, frequently in remote areas far from human habitations and roads. The female is the dominant bird of the pair, and she usually chooses the nesting site. Their nests are lined with bark strips and decorated with evergreen sprigs. In Massachusetts they nest in April or early May, and the usual clutch is 3-4 pale blue or off-white eggs.

Goshawks remain solitary for most of the year, but in spring the female calls *kee-a-ah* and assorted high pitch screams to call her mate back into their territory. Females are active in courtship, and one or both birds perform aerial displays involving slow flapping or undulating flight, often with tails fanned and with white undertail coverts conspicuously displayed. The female does most of the incubation and brooding, feeding the chicks prey brought in by the male who does most of the hunting. Incubation lasts for five to six weeks, and another five to six weeks is required for the chicks to reach independence.

The Northern Goshawk is an efficient predator, described as "bold and intrepid," and its attack as "swift, furious, and deadly." It is certainly a ferocious predator flying low along a forest edge, killing prey by grasping with its talons. Goshawks are enormously persistent in their pursuit of prey—one followed a hen into a farmer's kitchen! They often will pursue rabbits on foot through brambles too thick to fly through. Goshawks use their long tail as a rudder when negotiating a branch-filled forest. They eat chipmunks, rabbits, hares, squirrels, and birds up to the size of grouse, crows, and ducks. In the higher latitudes their main staple may be lemmings or ptarmigan.

Because of their fondness for poultry and game birds, they have been historically persecuted by farmers and sportsmen. For example, at one time there was a \$5 bounty on goshawks in Pennsylvania. Some populations showed eggshell thinning in the early 1970s but have recovered following the banning of DDT in the United States. Forest fragmentation and loss of old-growth forest may have a negative effect locally, and recent evidence suggests a decline in goshawk numbers, especially in western states. However, they have been increasing in numbers in Massachusetts since the mid-1950s, and their range has been expanding to the south and east. In the last three years the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been twice petitioned to list the Northern Goshawk as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, and an analogy between this species and the Spotted Owl has been made due to the goshawk's preference of mature forest. A recent symposium volume published by the Cooper Ornithological Society has focused attention on this magnificent predator, and we can hope that enlightened forest management practices will reverse the population declines in many of our western states.

W. E. Davis, Jr.

ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

This month's cover features the work of an artist who has contributed artwork to *Bird Observer* for the first time. Wildlife art is a relatively new field for Richard Salvucci of Brighton, Massachusetts. His earlier work included a children's book, two fully illustrated books for adults, and many book covers. A visit five years ago to an exhibit coordinated by the Society of Animal Artists and held at Boston's Museum of Science opened a door to a new world. Since then, Richard has really only wanted to paint or draw animals, particularly birds. His greatest satisfaction comes in attempting to capture the individual personality of any animal in a painting or drawing.

Richard's work has appeared in the *Sanctuary* magazine of the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) and in the Manomet Observatory newsletter. He has exhibited at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, the Prestige Gallery (Canada), the Norman Rockwell Museum, Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, and the MAS Broadmoor and Marshfield sanctuaries. The National Alliance for Animal Legislation commissioned him to create a drawing of two chimpanzees, which was presented to Dr. Jane Goodall as an award for her life's work. In 1995 he won third place in a "remarque" (drawing) contest sponsored by Wildlife Art magazine. This year the American Birding Association invited Richard to exhibit at their national convention in Park City, Utah. His work is also represented by the following galleries: The Aves Del Sol Gallery in Kerville, Texas, and The Nature Gallery in West Boylston, Massachusetts.

M. Steele

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

In keeping with the nesting season, June's mystery photo once again shows a bird at a nest. In the last issue, the nest characteristics of an Acadian Flycatcher were useful in identifying the bird. This month, however, the nest is somewhat less useful as an identification aid.

What the picture shows us is a small, heavily streaked bird with a thin pointed bill, prominent wing bars, a dark face patch, and a pale streak on the crown. Actually, the shape and pointedness of the bill and the delicate form alone are enough to reveal that the bird is a wood-warbler of some sort. But which one?

As a starting point when looking at wood-warblers, and sparrows as well,

try concentrating on the head and face pattern. Pretty nearly all species in these groups can be identified by head and face pattern alone. Using this approach, there are four notable features on the head of the mystery bird: an unstreaked white (?) throat, a black face patch, light crescents above and below the eyes, and a light patch on the crown.

Among the regularly occurring wood-warblers in Massachusetts, several exhibit a prominent dark face patch, but most of these can easily be eliminated on the strength of other obvious features that do not fit the mystery bird. Such warblers include Golden-winged, Cape May, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, and Common Yellowthroat. Check your field guide to see why. This only leaves Magnolia and Yellow-rumped warblers to choose from because no other New England wood-warblers have distinctive dark faces like the individual in the photograph.

Having narrowed the choice down to the Magnolia or Yellow-rumped warbler, the identification is simple. Only the Yellow-rumped Warbler has a light (yellow) crown patch, the feature from which it derives its Latin name, *Dendroica coronata*. As further backup to this identification, notice the white wing bars and heavy streaks on the back, breast, and flanks.

The Yellow-rumped Warbler in the photo is a male, which is not surprising given that most wood-warbler males participate in the feeding of their young. In Massachusetts Yellow-rumped Warblers are fairly common breeders in the higher hills of the western part of the state, are abundant spring and fall migrants, and are variously common in winter on the Cape and Islands.



Yellow-rumped Warbler

Photo by Hal H. Harrison. Courtesy of MAS.

AT A GLANCE

Photo by Hal H. Harrison. Courtesy of M.A.S.



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