

Bird Observer

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 6

DECEMBER 2010



HOT BIRDS



Suzanne Sullivan discovered and photographed a **Curlew Sandpiper** (left) on Plum Island on October 8. On October 9, Dave Larson took this photograph of an obliging bird.

On October 17, Brian Tucker discovered a **Bell's Vireo** (right) at the Nahant Stump Dump. He immediately called some folks, and Margo Goetschkes got some great photos.



The farm fields around the Route 2 rotary in Concord often attract large numbers of geese, and on October 20 David Sibley discovered a **Barnacle Goose** (left) mixed in with the Canadas. Bob Stymeist saw it on October 22 and took this photograph.

When Bob Stymeist heard there was a Nelson's Sparrow at Great Meadows NWR, he took along his camera and started shooting. Later he realized it was a much more interesting *Ammodramus*, a **LeConte's Sparrow** (right).



Looking for **Cave Swallows** (left) in coastal locations has become a rite of fall in New England. On October 31, Erik Nielsen took this photograph in Salisbury.

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COMMON REDPOLL BY SANDY SELESKY

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Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal — to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds
VOL. 38, NO. 6 DECEMBER 2010

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS and subscription inquiries should be sent to: Bird Observer Subscriptions, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003, or e-mail to John Marsh at <jmarsh@jocama.com>.

ADVERTISING: full page, \$100; half page, \$55; quarter page, \$35. Send camera-ready copy to Bird Observer Advertising, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003.

MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION: BIRD OBSERVER welcomes submissions of original articles, photographs, art work, field notes, and field studies. Scientific articles will be peer-reviewed. Please send submissions to the Editor by e-mail: Paul Fitzgerald <paulf-1@comcast.net>. Please DO NOT embed graphics in word processing documents. Include author's or artist's name, address, and telephone number and information from which a brief biography can be prepared.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BIRD OBSERVER, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003. PERIODICALS CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, MA.

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A Guide to Winter Birding on Cape Ann, Part 2

Christopher Leahy

[**Editor's note:** This is Part 2 of Chris Leahy's updated birding guide to Cape Ann, Massachusetts. Part 1 ran in the October issue.]

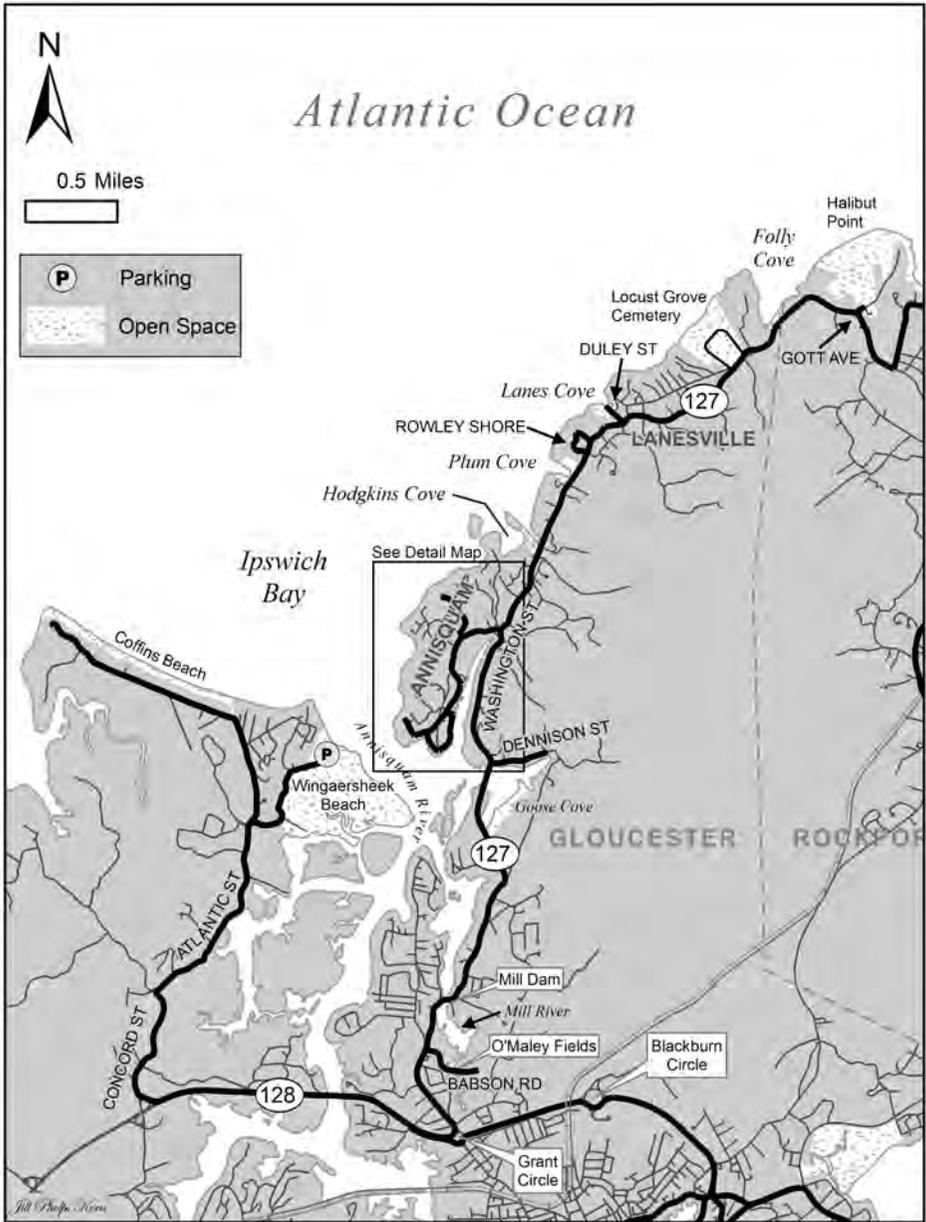


3. The Western Shore: Halibut Point to Coffin's Beach.

To search for avian treasure on the west side of the Cape Ann Peninsula, turn right on Route 127 from Gott Avenue as you exit Halibut Point. Your first stop is a mere 0.2 mile farther at **Folly Cove**. Several good vantage points for viewing the cove and the ocean beyond are available from the capacious parking lot in front of the big yellow defunct restaurant and from the road up to the row of condos that faces the sea, both of which are unoccupied during the winter. This condo road faces northwest, unlike the easterly orientation of Andrew's Point, so that in a nor'easter you get less rain in your face and lenses if you scope from here. The cove itself can be scanned from the wall to the left of the restaurant, and the usual array of sea ducks, including Harlequins, can be expected and often feed quite close to the seawall. Unfortunately the gate to the parking lot is often locked in winter, but there is ample space outside and off the road to park and walk in. The other option here is to keep driving another 0.2 mile to a pull-off on the right that overlooks the head of the cove; this sheltered end often has a flock of Brant through the winter.

Just 0.3 mile farther along, you'll come to the entrance to **Locust Grove/Seaside Cemetery**, which sometimes has an interesting woodpecker or other land birds, and you can usually call up a screech owl here if you arrive near dusk. If you follow the main entrance road to the back (seaward) side of the cemetery, it bends to the right, and you will see a white gate at the edge of the woods to your left. Here a trail leads down a few hundred feet through woodland to wave-washed rocks and a stretch of the coastline not visible from other accessible points. There is often a flock of eiders here, and if you haven't seen a King Eider yet, it's worth a look (and it's a nice short stroll in good weather). Proceeding through the cemetery, exiting through the back gate and turning right, you are immediately faced with a fork. The lower road (Washington Street) runs along a brushy stream/marsh/swamp that often contains a noisy batch of robins, Carolina Wrens, cardinals, White-throated Sparrows, maybe a wintering snipe, and sometimes something more interesting (Varied Thrush and Bohemian Waxwing at least once each!). It's a narrow stretch of road, so parking is tricky, but it's a short walk from the cemetery.

Continue down Washington Street 0.7 mile, and turn left onto Andrews Street and into the village of **Lanesville**. Turning right almost immediately on Duley Street, you'll come to the tiny manmade harbor with its giant seawall, which is worth a look for the sheer picturesqueness of it. If you keep going straight, you can drive up to the top of the wall and scan more of the rocky shoreline or continue around the little bay



and walk up on the rocks at the other end of the wall for a different view. Amazingly, this is also the site of the Commonwealth's third (of three!) Rock Wren records, the second from Cape Ann. This bird was present at least from March 30 to April 22, 1997, and may have been there all winter.

Less than 0.2 mile beyond the end of Lanesville (where the stores stop), you'll come to the *second* street sign for **Rowley Shore** (it's a loop) and a green sign for Plum Cove School, where you turn right. There's a tangle of little unmarked roads here, and you want to turn right at the first fork, then immediately left to the shore. Your objective here is to stop where you can see the sea between the houses and scan the broad sweep of Ipswich Bay that lies before you; often numbers of seabirds feed here, and at times it has been a reliable spot for King Eider. As with Andrew's Point, you are essentially birding in people's yards, so try to behave yourself.

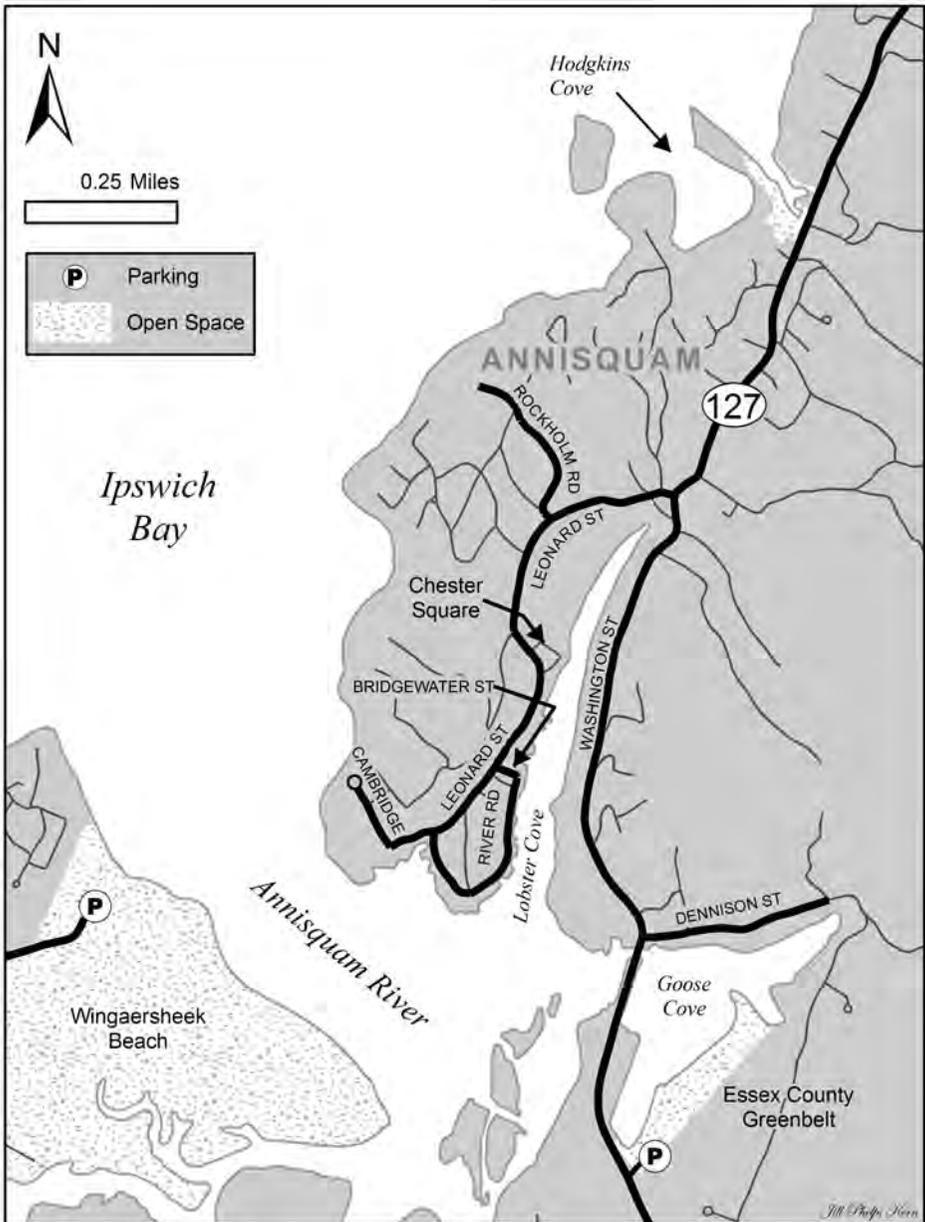


IMMATURE KING EIDER BY DAVID LARSON

Exit the Rowley Shore loop, and continue south on Route 127/Washington Street. Slow down at Plum Cove, 0.2 mile along, and check for Brant, then in another 0.4 mile pull over near the stone wall with the sign that says University of Massachusetts Marine Station. This leads to the wharf that was built in the 1870s to load the granite blocks that were transported from the quarries by a steam railway constructed for the purpose. The marine station is closed as of this writing (may reopen in 2011), and the gate locked, but there is a big gap in the fence to the right of the gate that the locals use for walking their dogs. I'm not suggesting that you ignore the No Trespassing signs and sneak through the fence, but there are often goodly numbers of birds visible from the jetty. The sheltered Hodgkins Cove to the south is another likely spot for Brant, and the adjacent Davis Neck has been known to sport a Snowy Owl.

In another half mile you'll see the handsome white Annisquam Village Church, which is where you turn right into the almost unbearably quaint village of **Annisquam**. Though packed with houses, there are also lots of little coves along streams that often remain open in winter, and many of the residents feed birds, so it's a great place to turn up a winter flicker or towhee or something rarer. Two of the best tangles are at the entrance to an area called **Rockholm** (sign on right) and just opposite **Chester Square**. Just beyond the square, turn left on Bridgewater Street and then right on River Road with views of Lobster Cove now to your left. If you stop in just the right places where River Road bends north, you can scan the ducks and gulls on the Annisquam River and across on Wingersheek Beach. Turn left on Leonard Street and immediately right on Cambridge Avenue, which drops down to a tiny circle overlooking a stretch of sea and sand and a stone shoal marker where sometimes there are Purple Sandpipers and winter Ruddy Turnstones. Annisquam is another place where a few inconsiderate birders could mess things up for the rest of us, so mind your manners.

Leaving Annisquam the way you entered, turn right, and in 0.8 mile you'll come to a bridge with **Goose Cove** on the left and the **Annisquam River** on the right. Both are tidal and alternately show broad sheets of open water or exposed mud flat—often



dotted, if not teeming, with birds. It is a frustrating spot, because there's no convenient place to park—or even stop—in order to survey the feathered throngs. About a third of a mile from the south end of the bridge there is a parking lot for Essex County Greenbelt's Goose Cove Reservation, but from here you have to walk back to the bridge (which has a nice walkway) carrying your telescope. Another solution for checking out the cove (but not the river) is to drive down Dennison

Street, on the left at the north end of the cove, 0.3 mile to the end of the cove, then turn around and head back. There is live parking at various points along the road where you have good views of the water or flats. The flats hold shorebirds into November, the cove sometimes has a Canvasback or other interesting ducks, and both the cove and the river often attract flocks of Bonaparte's and other gulls.

If you are a hard-core gull person, you can try two other stops before reaching Route 128. One is at the **Mill Dam** (about a mile beyond the Greenbelt lot) where Washington Street crosses the Mill River (the Richdale parking lot on the right is a good vantage point). There is often a gathering of gulls, mostly Ring-bills but sometimes a white-winged gull or two. The gulls are attracted to this spot partly because someone feeds the



IMMATURE ICELAND GULLS BY DAVID LARSON

neighborhood Mallards here in winter (sometimes a pintail or Gadwall among them) and partly because there are fish to be caught when the water is running through the dam. When the water is in on the pond side, look for late Great Blue Herons, kingfishers, and Hooded Mergansers. The other stop is three tenths of a mile past the dam, where there is a left turn onto Dr. Osman Babson Road that takes you past a number of *athletic fields*. Large flocks of gulls assemble here in bad weather and a few are always present. Drive as far as the O'Maley School parking lot, and you will have good views of all. Glaucous and Iceland gulls appear here from time to time, Lesser Black-backed rarely, and someday someone will find a Mew Gull among the battalions of Ring-bills. Scan the trees at the edge of the field for a Northern Shrike.

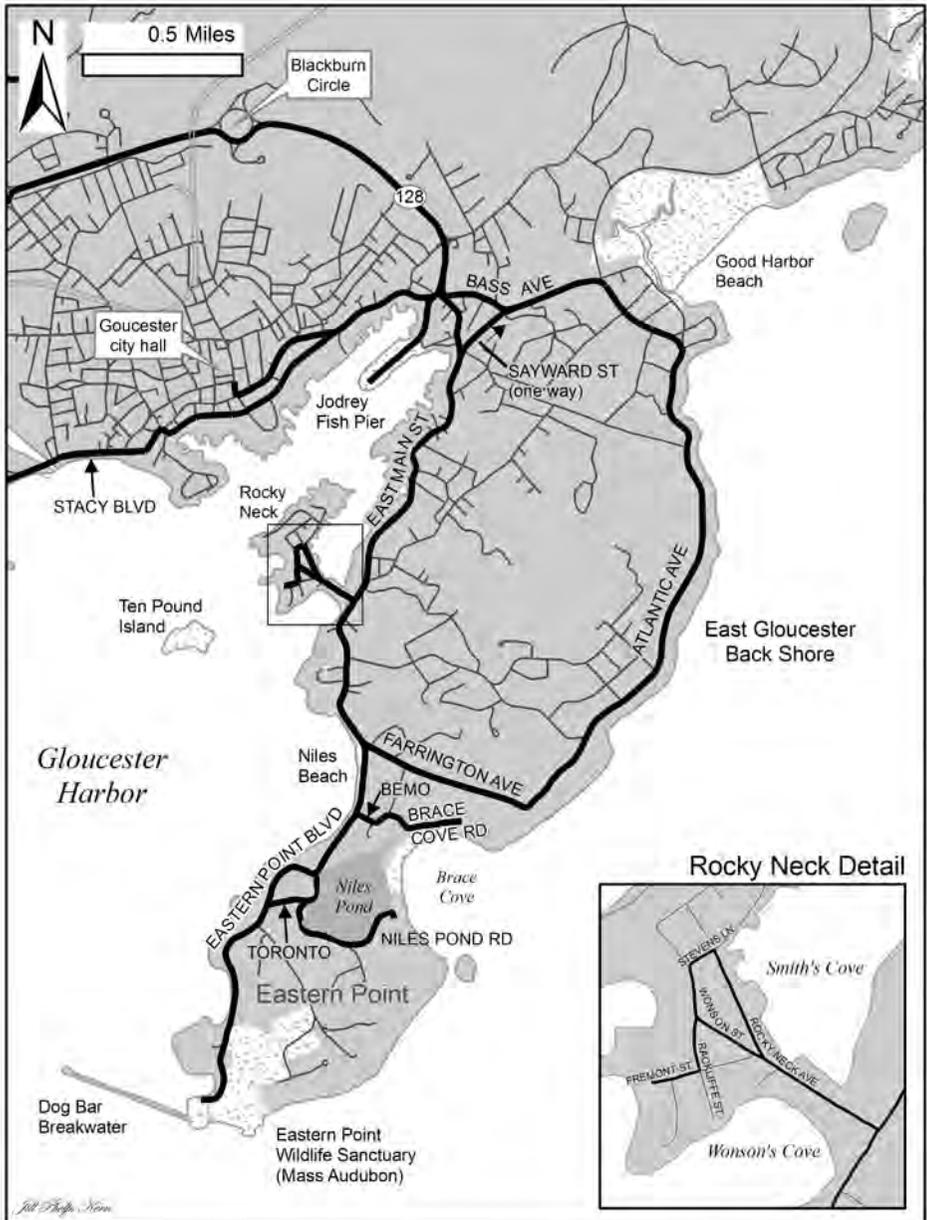
Back on Washington Street by the same route, take a left, arriving at Grant Circle in 0.5 mile. If you have the time and stamina for one more winter experience on Cape Ann before heading home on Route 128, take the first exit off the rotary and proceed up the highway 1.7 miles to Exit 13, **Concord St.** and **Wingaersheek Beach**, and drive 2.2 miles to the public beach parking lot (0.6 mile from 128 you will make a sharp right onto Atlantic Street, clearly signposted to Wingaersheek). The main parking lots here are gated off in the winter, but there is ample parking space outside the gates. Mobbed in summer, Wingaersheek has a pleasantly wild feel in winter and combines the open waters of Ipswich Bay and the Annisquam River with tidal flats, dunes, salt marsh, and scrubby poplar woodland growing on a berm of sand deposited when the Annisquam channel was dredged in 1958—all in a relatively small area that you can do birding justice to in an hour or so. Beach and dune habitat are in short supply on Cape Ann, so follow the upper edge of the beach where you can check these habitats, and then loop around to view the salt marsh and beat the bushes at the edge of the woods. Species to look for here include American Bittern (before freeze-up), Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl (and other raptors), Clapper Rail (rare in the salt marsh), Northern Shrike, Horned Lark, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped warblers, American Tree and Ipswich sparrows (sharp-tailed sparrows also occur, but rarely), Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting.

From the entrance to the Wingersheek parking lot, return 0.5 mile to a stone gate on the right with a small guard house (empty at this season). This is the entrance to **Coffins Beach** along a private road where visitors are “screened” in summer but not in winter. Access to the beach itself requires crossing private beachfront property, but there is lots of good scrub habitat on the landward side of the road, and the beach and ocean are visible at a few points. Watch for the same species listed for Wingersheek plus a Snowy Owl sitting on the roof of one of the houses.

4. East Gloucester. With the food-rich aquatic habitats of Gloucester Harbor on its western shore and the Atlantic Ocean to the east, the peninsula that forms East Gloucester is prime habitat for wintering seabirds, with a road system that allows almost continuous access to the coast and numerous viewpoints where you can park or at least stop without breaking the law or risking your life. As such it is well worth spending the better part of a morning or afternoon here, poking your telescope into as many merganser-filled nooks as your heart desires, as well as coaxing skulking land birds out of its many small copses and thickets. The following tour describes a counterclockwise route beginning at the traffic lights where Route 128, East Main Street, and Bass Avenue converge. From Route 128 go straight through the lights and up the hill into East Gloucester.

For the first mile, you can concentrate on the views of Gloucester Harbor glimpsed through the charming jumble of old houses and waterfront industries to your right. At 1.1 miles, however, make a right on Rocky Neck Avenue and almost immediately pull into the ample parking lot on the right side. Take a look at whatever might be paddling in **Smith’s Cove** on the parking lot side of the road, then carry your scope to the other (south) side overlooking **Wonson’s Cove**. Both of these coves are likely to hold an unpredictable assortment of waterfowl; up to 40 Mute Swans gather here in winter after the ponds freeze, and there are usually some American Black Ducks and Gadwalls dabbling with the feral Mallards. Especially when the flats are exposed at low tide, Wonson’s is a popular gull resort, with Glaucous or Iceland often in evidence, Lesser Black-backed on occasion—and, in January 2009, an adult Ivory Gull. Scan the rocks on the right (west) at the mouth of this cove for Purple Sandpipers.

The famous artist colony of **Rocky Neck** is well worth a look-around to see why so many famous artists have painted here for 200 years, but it offers few useful birding vistas with one exception. Leaving the parking lot, turn right on Rocky Neck Avenue past Sailor Stan’s restaurant, and turn left at the first and only cross street (Stevens Lane, though there’s no sign on the corner), then immediately go left at the stop sign onto Wonson Street (again, no sign). Bear right where Rackliffe forks from Wonson, then take your first right after Rockaway Landing on a narrow dead end called Fremont Street. At the end you have a fine view of Ten Pound Island (named for the sheep pounds that once dominated its acreage, not a sly deal made by English colonists) and the intervening expanse of water, which is a fair bet for finding a Barrow’s Goldeneye consorting with a flock of Commons. Also check the bare trees on the island for an eagle or Rough-legged Hawk (or at least a Red-tail) and the rocky armature and lighthouse tower for a Snowy Owl. Leaving this spot, you must go back



(left) on Rackliffe Street and then right onto Wonson, which gets you back to Rocky Neck Avenue and East Main Street, where you should proceed to the right.

After 0.3+ mile, pull over in the convenient (but narrow) parking lot overlooking **Niles Beach** and the outer harbor beyond. It is worth spending the time to do a thorough search with your scope from here since most of the winter bird specialties that you have come to see—loons, grebes, sea ducks, gulls, alcids—are noted here regularly, and it was a favorite redoubt of a remarkably reliable Eared Grebe that

visited East Gloucester for at least 15 winters. Just beyond the parking lot as you continue south you will come to a pair of stone gates marking the entrance to Eastern Point, each with the legend: “No Trespassing, Private Roads.” Contrary to the impression of exclusivity given, however, the breakwater on the point itself is public property accessible to all, and the adjacent parking lot and 53 acres of the Point are owned by Mass Audubon, which welcomes visitors. In much of this high-rent neighborhood the roads are narrow and parking correspondingly limited, so birders (especially in groups) should uphold the long tradition of good relations with the residents.

You are now on **Eastern Point Boulevard**. Two tenths of a mile after you pass through the gates, a row of spruces marks Bemo Avenue. If you turn left here, follow the bend that jogs left and then, almost immediately, turn right on Brace Cove Road, you will arrive at a small parking area marked with some boulders and signs telling you that only residents can park there. In winter the warning may be safely ignored. The road that continues on to the left is a dead end, but it is bordered by scrubby copses and wetlands out of which you can usually squeak a flock of birds, quite often including a chat or Fox Sparrow or other species of more than routine interest. Walking along this stretch, you will soon see **Brace Cove** to your right.

The cove is also accessible via a narrow trail beyond the boulders where you parked. A fine strategy here, weather permitting, is to grab your scope, lock your car, walk out to the beach, and turn right. In addition to being one of the prettiest coves on the eastern seaboard, **Brace Cove** often holds a nice variety of ducks and gulls, which can often be viewed at close range, especially at high tide. The mounds of seaweed that pile up here starting with the first fall storms pulsate with the larvae of various fly species—even when the temperature is barely above freezing—and these in turn attract shorebirds, gulls, pipits, Palm Warblers, and various sparrows, including Ipswich (late fall and early spring).

At the south end of the beach you will come to a stone revetment on the other side of which is **Niles Pond**. If there is still some open water here, it often attracts species like Pied-billed Grebe, late herons, and ducks such as Ring-necked, Lesser Scaup, Redhead, Ruddy, and dabblers that you are unlikely to find elsewhere on Cape Ann. This is also Gull Central even when the pond is completely frozen—indeed, diagnostic leg color is best seen when the birds are standing on the ice. Scoping the gull flock here can be extraordinarily rewarding; during January of 2008 it was possible to stand in one spot and tick off Lesser Black-backed, Slaty-backed, Thayer’s, and Common Black-headed Gulls, in addition to the more routine Glaucous, Iceland (Kumlien’s), Bonaparte’s, and the ever-present Herring, Great Black-backed, and Ring-billed. (For the record, Ross’s and Franklin’s gulls have also been seen here, and kittiwakes can often be spotted beyond the mouth of Brace Cove just to the east.)

From the berm at the cove end of the pond, there is a nice and often rewarding walk around the pond, which is bordered almost continuously with woods and copses. This will bring you back out onto Eastern Point Boulevard, and you can loop back to your car on Bemo; the circuit is about a mile. If you want less exercise, you can return to your car the way you came along the beach and return to Eastern Point Boulevard

via Bemo, turning left. It's a good idea to scan the harbor again before you reach the big apricot-colored house on the right since the avian scene changes frequently. Also keep an eye on the fruiting trees in the yards to your left, which sometimes hold flocks of waxwings or other frugivores.

Four tenths of a mile from the stone gates, the road forks with a mandatory turn to the right, and you will glimpse Niles Pond to the left. Very shortly you have the opportunity to loop around on this one-way stretch and pause next to the pond. However, it is probably a better strategy to continue straight through the second set of stone pillars (marked Yacht Club) and save the pond for the return trip. Soon you will have another fine view of the outer harbor to your right, and 0.7 mile after the second stone gates you will come to the end of the peninsula with its **Coast Guard Station** cum lighthouse and the **Dog Bar Breakwater**. From the parking lot here you will want to scope the breakwater, which is often crowded with gulls and adorned with a flock of Purple Sandpipers at the far end; in mild weather it's a great walk, with the ocean on one side and the harbor on the other. You'll also want to scan the little cove just north of the parking lot for close-ups of white-winged gulls, Gadwalls, and sea ducks. (In mid-January 2009, an adult Ivory Gull was discovered at this spot.)



BLACK GUILLEMOT BY DAVID LARSON

As you walk back to the entrance of the parking lot, the cobble beach and shore to your right, the small salt marsh ahead, and the woodland to your left are all part of **Mass Audubon's Eastern Point Wildlife Sanctuary**. The trail system enters the woods 0.2 mile from the parking lot, just opposite the driveway to the Eastern Point Yacht Club, but the whole area with its compact batch of habitats and bird-trapping geography is well worth exploring, and the birding is typically better from the road than inside the forest. Most of the winter specialties of Cape Ann, including King Eider, Barrow's Goldeneye, all of the alcids, most of the gulls, plus Snowy Owl, Northern Shrike, and Snow Bunting have been seen within a few yards of the parking lot, and the point has had its fair share of vagrants.

After you have poked around the Point thoroughly, drive back to the Yacht Club stone gates, and bear right (as you must) on Toronto Avenue. In 0.1 mile you will see yet another set of stone pillars to your right and signs reading Retreat House and Niles Pond Road. This takes you around the south end of **Niles Pond** and ends at the berm at Brace Cove described above. This is a very narrow road that dead-ends at the Gonzaga Retreat House. There is no designated public parking, but in winter you can pull over in several places beyond the retreat house driveway. *However, this is not a spot to bring your bird club.* At the seaward end of this road you have another view of Brace Cove, and the conifer-lined driveway often attracts kinglets, finches, and the like, but your main objective here is to scope the gulls that roost on the pond even

when it is frozen tight. If there is open water, there may also be some ducks of interest as noted above. You can also get a good view of the pond and its birds from Toronto Avenue along the west side of the pond as you return to Eastern Point Boulevard. However, the road is very narrow here, and thoughtless birders have generated an inordinate amount of road rage by blocking traffic while sorting larids, so please be sure to leave ample passing room if you pause here.

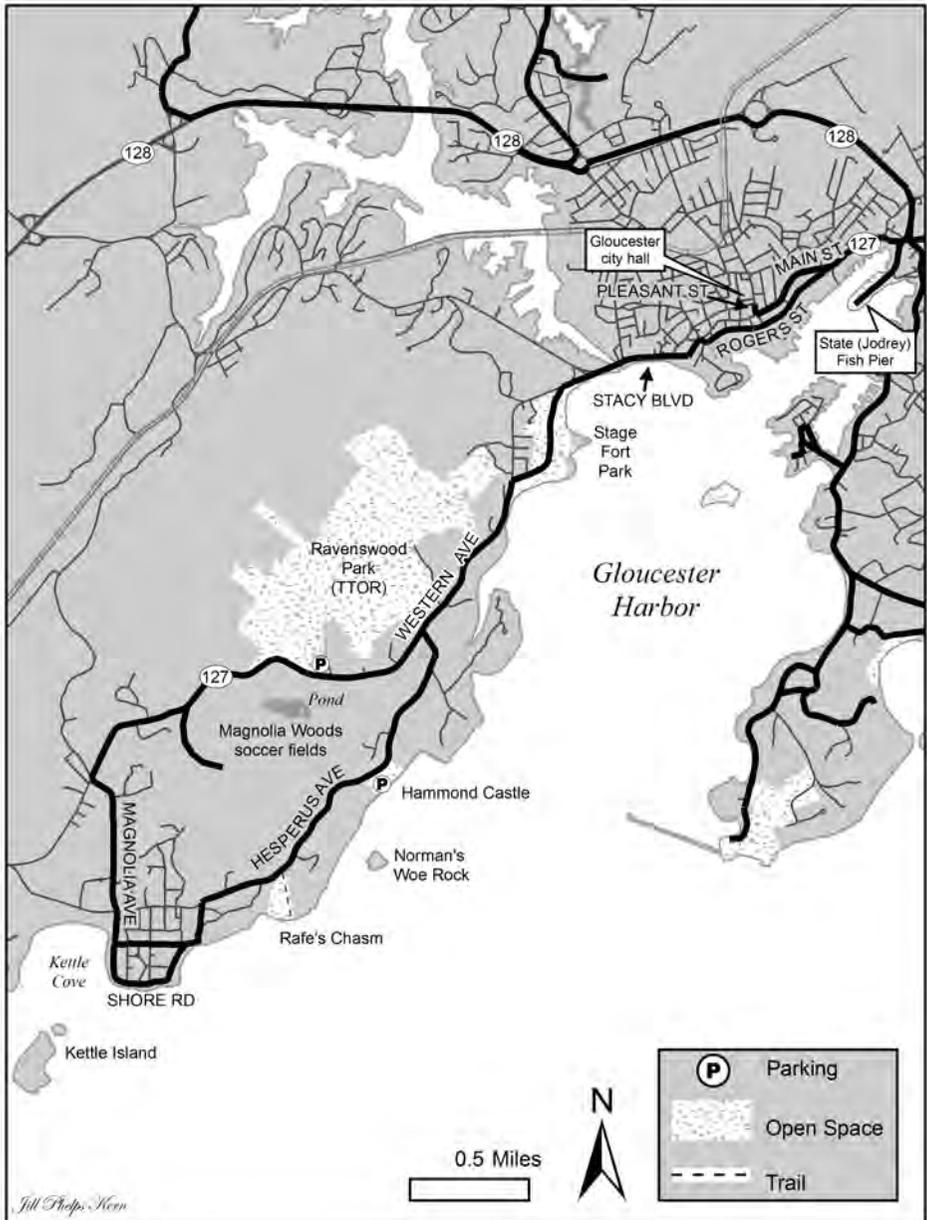


HORNED GREBE BY DAVID LARSON

Returning the way you came along Eastern Point Boulevard and exiting Eastern Point through the first stone gates near Niles Beach, turn right onto Farrington Avenue, which in a bit over half a mile swings left onto Atlantic Avenue. The next 1.7 miles are known locally as **the Back Shore** and offer an almost continuous view of the Atlantic Ocean to the east, graced at the horizon with the twin lights of Thacher Island.

This is a wide road with many reasonable places to pull over and scan the sea, but it is also a busy one both for car traffic and pedestrians on the sidewalk, so keep your wits about you and always do your best to pull well to the right when you stop. None of the winter bird specialties of Cape Ann can be guaranteed along this stretch of coast, of course, but all can be reasonably expected. Watch the many emergent rocks in the intertidal zone for flocks of Purple Sandpipers, sometimes mixed with Dunlin, turnstones, and/or Sanderlings, and also check the treetops of the wooded areas on the inland side for Northern Shrike. At the north end of Atlantic Avenue you are near the footbridge to **Good Harbor Beach** and can explore here as described in Part 1 of this article, if you haven't already done so.

5. Gloucester Fish Pier to Kettle Cove, Magnolia. Much of the territory we're about to enter is essentially South Gloucester, though nobody calls it that. We'll begin in the heart of the working waterfront on the **Jodrey Fish Pier**. To get there from the second set of lights at the end of Route 128, turn right (or go straight if you're coming from Bass Ave.) for just a short block on the continuation of East Main Street, turn left on Parker Street, and then in about a block bear right through the (unmarked) gates of the large industrial pier. You can investigate the strip of harbor along the left (east) side of the pier if you like (ducks and occasionally a stray alcid), but the main attraction occurs at the very end of the pier and especially the southwest (right-hand) corner. This is Gull City, and if your greatest delight is examining the plumage and soft parts of hundreds of *Lari* or simply enjoying good views of white-winged gulls in their various plumages, you have arrived in Paradise (albeit with a distinct fishy odor). No need for elaborate instructions here. Just cast your bins over the near-shore waters in view. To the right (shoreside) of the pier is where many boats unload their catch, and if this is happening there will be gulls everywhere, with great opportunities to watch and photograph Iceland, Glaucous, and sometimes rarer gulls (Kamchatka in 2006; Slaty-backed in 2007-08; Ivory in 2009) in flight, on the water, and fighting over the remnants of the catch. If there is no such activity, you will have to scan the



roosting gulls that usually crowd the nearby rooftops. You can also see the tower of **Gloucester City Hall** from here, and with your scope you might spot one of the Peregrines that often hang out here in winter picking off pigeons.

Leaving the fish pier the way you entered, turn left on East Main Street. If you decide you want a closer look at the Peregrine, bear right in 0.3 mile, where Main Street forks off right from Rogers Street, continue 0.3+ mile to the town center, and

turn right on Pleasant Street, which in a block brings you to the base of City Hall and lots of parking options. Otherwise stay on Rogers Street to the south end (residents call it the West End) of the city and on to **Stacy Boulevard**, which involves crossing another challenging intersection (go straight across), then bearing left onto Stacy. You'll know you've arrived when the whole harbor opens up on your left. Parking is abundant on both sides of the boulevard.

A perfectly good use of an hour is to grab your scope and simply walk the whole length of this splendid promenade, stopping to admire Leonard Craske's famous fisherman's statue, formally known as The Man at the Wheel, and on the other side of the Cut Bridge, the more recent memorial to Gloucester's long-suffering Fishermen's Wives, by Morgan Faulds Pike. Ducks are often legion in the calm waters of the harbor, and this is an especially promising hangout for Barrow's Goldeneye. In the corner of the harbor where the boulevard bends up to the left and into **Stage Fort Park**, look for a flock of scaup, likely to include both species and, especially after freeze-up, check over the Mallards and Gadwalls for something different.

You can continue walking along the waterfront right through the park via a network of trails that meander among the magnificent mounds of ancient, lichen-encrusted granite. The view of harbor and birds is especially fine out on the



HORNED LARK BY DAVID LARSON

battlements for which the park is named. This is also the site of the first (short-lived) settlement of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1623. The cove at the south end of the park often has a nice collection of ducks at close range, but if not, the fat harbor seals that like to lounge on the rocks just offshore here are good compensation. The adjacent ball fields sometimes attract Horned Larks or Snow Buntings if bare of people.

Obviously, this Stacy Boulevard/Stage Fort Park stroll can be done in reverse or by driving and making several stops along the way.

Driving out the south end of Stage Fort Park, turn left on Western Avenue (Route 127) and proceed 1.3 miles until you see The Trustees of Reservations sign and the small parking lot for **Ravenswood Park** on the right. This is a fine 600-acre forested park with a well-laid-out system of broad bridle paths and smaller trails—an ideal spot for a winter walk or cross-country ski. Bird-wise, it is normally pretty quiet in winter, though Golden-crowned Kinglets, Brown Creepers, and Hairy Woodpeckers are pretty reliable, and you could luck onto a Goshawk, Pileated Woodpecker, or flock of White-winged Crossbills feeding in the hemlocks. This is also the only known Massachusetts station for sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), from which the southern-most village of Gloucester takes its name. Don't expect to be alone in Ravenswood; the park is also a dog-walkers' mecca.

The next potential stop on our route is 0.3 mile after leaving Ravenswood to the right on Western Avenue/Route 127. You will see a red steel gate on the left, which is closed and locked for much of the winter. Behind it is another open space called (somewhat deceptively) **Magnolia Woods**. The soccer fields that now occupy much of the park are built on a capped landfill, which might have become a golf course had not wiser minds prevailed. Around the edges of the fields is a nice combination of mixed woodland, beaver-flooded red maple swamp, weedy fields, and a marsh-bordered pond. It's a reliable spot for winter bluebirds and ground birds (larks, pipits, sparrows, buntings, longspurs) and from time to time produces the likes of a Dickcissel or Blue Grosbeak. There is a near-360° view from the top of the former landfill, which makes for good raptor spotting, and Barred and Great Horned owls sound off after dark.

Eight tenths of a mile farther south on Western Avenue/Route 127, turn left on Magnolia Avenue and proceed for 0.6 mile to a five-way crossroads at Magnolia center. Drive directly across the intersection onto **Shore Road**, turn into a small parking lot (with basketball hoop), and look over the beach and waters of **Kettle Cove**. Western Grebe has been seen here, and in late fall there is often a large contingent of Bonaparte's Gulls worth checking for Common Black-headed and Little. From here the drill is simply to continue along Shore Road, which is as good as its name, stopping and scanning as often as you like. (Again, pay attention to your rear-view mirror when you stop to keep residents' blood pressure at safe levels.) Where the road makes a sharp bend to the left (0.2 mile from the parking lot), there is a sweeping view of bay and ocean and a view of **Kettle Island** to the southwest. Owned by Mass Audubon, this is the most important heronry in Massachusetts, with hundreds of Great and Snowy Egrets, Glossy Ibises, and a few Little Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons from late March until fall. In winter check it for a Peregrine or eagle. For the next three tenths of a mile scan the ocean and check the rocks for Purple Sandpipers. In particular, check the shallow bay and cobble beach to the right (east) where Shore Road intersects Hesperus Avenue. Look for a Barrow's Goldeneye here among the Commons.

If this is the end of your day, turn left here, head back on Hesperus to the intersection with Magnolia Avenue, thence to Route 127 and homeward. Otherwise, just ahead is a stone gate marking the impressively potholed and narrow continuation of Hesperus Ave. Turn right where this broadens into a main thoroughfare again and head back north toward Gloucester. In 0.3 mile you'll see a tiny parking lot on the right just past a tall reddish wooden fence. There's no sign, but this is the access point for **Rafe's Chasm**. A narrow path leads from here to the top of some rock cliffs and the eponymous chasm. You're unlikely to see anything here that you haven't already seen; on the other hand, it's another plausible shot at Barrow's Goldeneye, and the view across the bay to Eastern Point Light is first-class. (Be warned that the lot here is not routinely plowed and the trail is not heavily travelled, so this stop may be impractical after a heavy snowfall.)

Beyond the Rafe's Chasm lot in another 0.6 mile, you can't miss the large parking lot for the **Hammond Castle Museum** on your right. Part of this is usually

plowed and open for parking in winter, but if not, parking will be dicey. If it's open, you can walk down steps toward the impressive castle built by the noted inventor John Hays Hammond, Jr., in 1926–29 and scope Gloucester's outer harbor and the shores of the rocky island just offshore. This is Norman's Woe, made famous by Longfellow's tearjerker poem *The Wreck of the Hesperus*, and the adjacent waters were once the most reliable place to find Harlequin Ducks in Massachusetts. This has not been the case for decades, and you are sure to find Harlequins in Rockport, but it's a good spot, and you might find something of interest.

Six tenths of a mile north of Hammond Castle, Hesperus Avenue joins Western Avenue/Route 127. A right turn takes you back to Gloucester and more birding on Cape Ann or to Route 128 and home. 

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Birds and the Future of Refuges

The National Wildlife Refuge System's conservation mission puts wildlife first, but refuges are not exclusively for wildlife. More than 40 million people visit refuges each year, generating an estimated \$1.7 billion in annual sales and over 27,000 jobs. Wildlife observers (dominated by birders at all levels), photographers, and general outdoor enthusiasts find enjoyment on the system's 150 million acres, and more than half of the nation's NWRs are available to anglers and hunters.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge Association are currently leading a public engagement effort to share ideas and to shape a new vision for wildlife conservation, public appreciation, and the National Wildlife Refuge System. Strengthening the system, protecting these special places for the public, and defining a specific role for active bird conservation and for popular birding are all appropriate issues.

A vision document to be adopted in July 2011 at a large conference in Madison, Wisconsin, will guide the system into the next decade and beyond. In preparation for that new vision, and to participate in the discussion, see this site: <http://americaswildlife.org/>.

From: *The Birding Community E-bulletin* (December 2010) at <http://www.refugeassociation.org/birding/birding5.html>.

Post Office Square, Boston: Reflections from Urban Patch Birding

Matthew P. Garvey

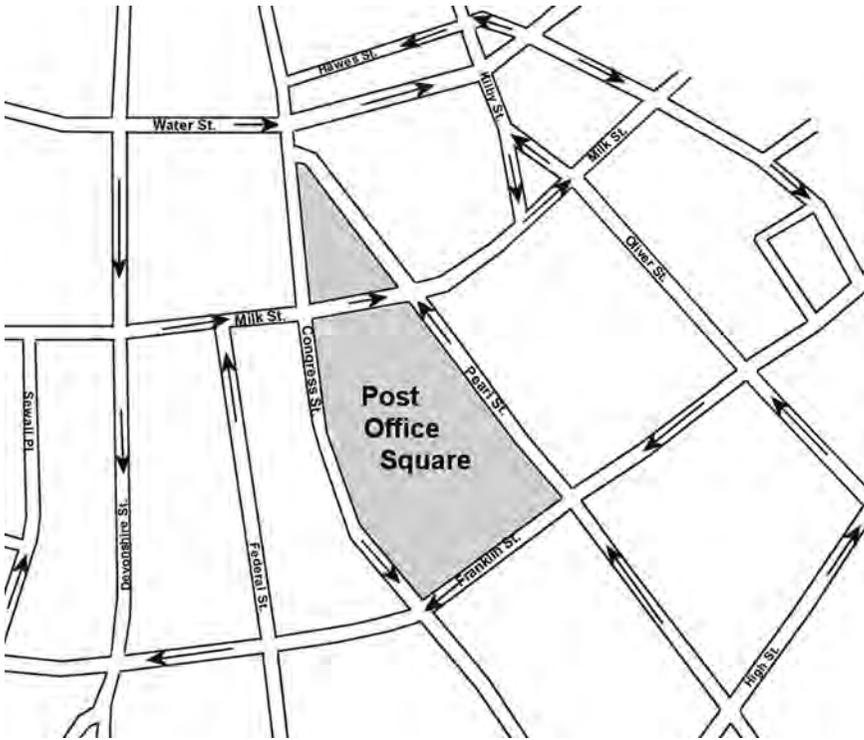
For years, my daily walk to work in Boston took me past Post Office Square, but I almost never took an extra five or ten minutes to bird it. It's not that I did not realize how good urban migrant traps could be; in fact, if work commitments allowed, I was probably coming from a productive morning at the nearby Boston Public Garden as I raced past Post Office Square en route to my office a block and a half away. However, Post Office Square, a mere 1.7-acre park atop an underground garage, ringed by busy roads, with its well-manicured grass lawn, seemed too tiny, too bustling, and too sterile to be any good for birds.

When Bob Stymeist, the dean of Boston birding, asked me to keep track of an Ovenbird that was hanging out in the park in mid-November of 2003, things started to change. Although the Ovenbird did not linger until the Christmas Count, I was impressed that it stayed into December, along with some White-throated Sparrows. I started periodically checking Post Office Square and the Bank of America gardens catty-corner across the street from the square, but my interest waned because spring birding there seemed lackluster when compared with birding at the Public Garden. A Connecticut Warbler that I found on September 19, 2004, lingered a few days and gave me killer views as it sauntered across the lawn and along a concrete garage ramp. This convinced me that more time checking the park would pay off. That following spring, great looks at a Bay-breasted Warbler in mid-May proved that the surprises at Post Office Square were not just a fall thing. A Connecticut Warbler returned almost exactly a year after my first sighting, quickly followed by a Mourning Warbler, which led Glen Tepke to dub the place "*Oporornis* alley."

However, I really started to appreciate how fascinating a place Post Office Square could be when Marshall Iliff convinced me to conduct near-daily checks of the square and use eBird <<http://www.ebird.org>> to make a permanent public record of every observation. By recording all species on every visit, even if the list often consisted of only pigeons and House Sparrows, I could use eBird to create bar charts revealing some interesting patterns, and I became a Post Office Square addict. I also was inspired by Henry T. Wiggin's 1974 classic, "Birding at the Prudential Center," which showed not only the fun and excitement of birding on concrete but also how many interesting questions years of data can spur. Now, with more than 570 eBird checklists (mostly from 2007 through 2009), the Post Office Square data certainly raise myriad questions. Answers? Like Henry, I would love to hear suggestions. Here are some reflections in the meantime.

The Small Package

Isolation is the key component of the best migrant traps, and certainly Post Office Square provides isolation. Situated in a small, man-made valley among the glass and



POST OFFICE SQUARE, BOSTON, BY DAVID LARSON

concrete canyons of downtown Boston, this tiny oasis is far from any large patches of greenery. The comparatively verdant Public Garden, host to a handful of breeders such as White-breasted Nuthatch and Warbling Vireo, may only be blocks to the west as the Peregrine flies, but those are busy urban blocks, stacked with tall buildings and devoid of trees. The only nearby patch of plantings is in the new Rose Kennedy Greenway, whose colorful flowerbeds are a nice magnet for migrants but do not support progenerating birds. Only a couple of fountains provide water in Post Office Square, and although Boston Harbor is also only a couple of blocks away, it is blocked by buildings. Thus, beyond a House Sparrow, Rock Pigeon, flyover Peregrine Falcon or Herring Gull, or summertime House Finch or American Robin (never seen by Wiggin at the Pru, but triple brooders in the park), you pretty much know that anything you encounter is a bird on the move.

However, what makes Post Office Square such an interesting patch is not only its isolation, but also the very thing that initially led me to walk right past it—how darned small it is. Even including the nearby Bank of America gardens, there are fewer than three acres of greenery. The small size means it I could bird the area thoroughly, even on a short lunch break or pop-in while commuting. Therefore, unlike many places, I could be confident about what birds are likely to be in Post Office Square at any time, which is important to determining patterns. Although some might despair in the lack of avian diversity, I came to relish it, since almost every bird I saw gave me a small thrill and added a new clue about distribution.

Although a tidy lawn and bench-lined brick paths comprise most of Post Office Square, making the spot extremely popular with picnickers on nice days, the park has many and diverse plantings maintained by the Friends of Post Office Square's hardworking and genial gardening staff. If you are not too embarrassed to unpack binoculars and maybe even *pish* a little, almost every tree, shrub, or patch of dirt is worth a gander. I typically start with the small trees, flowers, and grasses around the café and the pair of large fir trees by the entrance at Congress and Franklin streets, then work my way towards the Kousa dogwoods and arborvitae near Congress and Milk. Ground-loving birds often give great views along this stretch. The park's few firs, oaks, maples, and honey locusts all merit some scouring for warblers. The flowerbeds near the lawn may hold an unusual sparrow in fall, even when the park is crowded with lunch-goers.

Finally, it is worth a careful look (and maybe a *pish*) at the thicket of rhododendron, a spruce, and a Kousa dogwood by the elevator building. It can be surprisingly difficult to see birds in here, but a little patience can yield results. This spot has been reliable in late spring and early fall for thrushes (I have recorded all expected species save Bicknell's) and Brown Thrasher, and Yellow-breasted Chat in November. Finally, a trip across Congress Street to the Bank of America gardens may be worthwhile. The waterfall area here was a traditional hotspot but has markedly declined since the bank turned off the water in 2007—apparently one of the cuts spurred by the subprime-lending crisis. However, even in times of drought, the planters can hold sparrows and thrushes, and the trees by the dry waterfall can be good for warblers.

As I have noted, my list of the square's species stands at eighty-one (plus an undated American Woodcock sighting by a park worker), not a bad list for a place that has no standing water and is poorly situated for observing flyovers. Among the most unexpected observations were a stunned Belted Kingfisher (September 24, 2005), an out-of-place Marsh Wren that Ryan Merrill found foraging in the grass (one day before seeing the kingfisher), Northern Saw-whet and Barred owls (April 29, 2008 and December 2, 2009 respectively), and a Louisiana Waterthrush found by Paul Peterson on April 4, 2010. I also saw a drenched, orange-colored *Ammodramus* sparrow during a mid-August rainstorm, but the bird disappeared into an inches-high stand of ivy before I could pin it to species. However, in many ways, it's the more mundane observations that are most interesting.

Detecting Movements of “Resident” Birds

Post Office Square's island-like isolation makes it ideal for picking up movements of common resident birds. Birds do not just wander in from contiguous habitat; if they show up in Post Office Square, they are almost certainly searching for somewhere different from the place they were before. Records of Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and Northern Cardinal suggest mid-April and mid-October “migration” patterns consistent with the limited published data on such movements (Veit and Petersen 1993; Levine 1998). Interestingly, twice the chickadee preceded the titmouse by a day, each bird being a one-day wonder. A further bit of

intrigue is that each chickadee and titmouse showed up with another typically resident bird, either a Northern Cardinal or White-breasted Nuthatch. What is up with the chickadee and titmouse twice being exactly a day apart? In each case, did all these relatively resident birds take off together in a flock and then split up downtown? How far did these birds travel? Given how small Post Office Square is and how apparently unsuitable to these species (as judged by their short stays), did the chickadees, titmice, cardinals, and nuthatch represent only a smattering of more massive movements that were difficult to detect at places where such birds are resident?

Similarly intriguing are the mid-summer records of species not generally known to be migrating at that time of year or that have more obvious migratory movements later in fall. While the park is typically crowded and birdless from mid-June through July, there are enough exceptions to make my daily five-minute excursions worthwhile.

The only Red-winged Blackbird I ever recorded in the park was an apparent first-year male (streaky with rich peach suffusion to the face and tiny bright red epaulets on the wings) that appeared the afternoon of August 7, 2009. It apparently arrived with a group of European Starlings, a species whose numbers dramatically increased that day. The starlings appeared frequently and seemed to stay on through the fall, feasting on lunch scraps. One starling that had a curved, aberrantly long bill (I dubbed it “Kiwi-lite”) was present regularly for the rest of that summer and fall. However, the blackbird was gone the next morning. Was it trying to join a larger blackbird flock somewhere to seek more suitable food than workers’ lunch scraps? Was its movement part of a large-scale molt-migration for northern-breeding Red-winged Blackbirds? (Jaramillo and Burke 1999). Does that molt-migration theory explain the square’s sole Brown-headed Cowbird, a streaky juvenile that arrived July 5, 2007?

Carolina Wren is likely on at least one day between mid-July and mid-August, but I have recorded it at other times. Notably, this pattern of appearances matches that at Millennium Park, which has much more habitat but no breeding Carolina Wrens (Ilf 2009). Song Sparrows are regular from late September through early November, but I was surprised to discover one on August 27, 2009. What should I make of this string of Downy Woodpecker observations: July 17, 2008, September 27, 2007, September 30, 2009, and October 17, 2006? Do the mid-summer Song Sparrow and Downy drop-ins represent post-fledging dispersal of juveniles, wandering following some localized habitat destruction or modification, molt-migration, or perhaps a little of more than one theory? Obviously, aging of these summer visitors would provide some insight that might answer these questions, and that is something I wish I had paid more attention to all along.

One-day Wonders

Although some birds certainly linger in Post Office Square, most are one-day wonders on a species-by-species breakdown. Of the eighty-one species I have recorded, eleven were flyovers, and I never saw thirty-one of the seventy remaining species on two consecutive days. Most of Post Office Square’s avian visitors are nocturnal migrants, which presumably made a go of it in the park for one day and

then took off the first night they could. I have only once seen a species take off from the park, a fall Eastern Phoebe that took off from a locust tree at about 9:00 a.m. and flew pretty much straight into the air, gaining impressive altitude before going out of sight. I do not know what time birds typically arrive in the park, since I have unfortunately never had the drive to carry out a full morning census. However, I suspect that most birds arrive after dawn as they orient themselves to the first decent patch of green, perhaps hitting the square after flying around through the Boston skyline or coming from over Boston Harbor.

However, more than a few diurnal migrants have shown up. Well-known diurnal movers Blue Jays, Cedar Waxwings, and House Finches have all graced the park, apparently during migrations. Further, the Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Northern Cardinal, and Downy Woodpecker records noted above may also have been diurnal migrants, although some or all of these species may also move at night (Evans and O'Brien 2002). The arrival of birds at Post Office Square after having flown solely during the day (most records occurred around 9 a.m.) suggests a relatively short (under two-hour) period of movement before they stop to fuel up, only to take off again, generally by early the next morning. It would be interesting to learn how many hops each of these birds makes, and what factors cause them to start and stop the movement.

Is Post Office Square Literally a Migrant Trap?

When birders talk about migrant traps, they generally mean patches of habitat that have particular appeal to birds because of their isolation, such as a desert oasis or distant island, not a place that literally traps them by hindering their ability to leave. Given the high number of one-day wonders, I am skeptical of suggestions that birds are somehow “trapped” by the buildings surrounding Post Office Square. Nonetheless, how can I explain the most curious aspect of Post Office Square—the one that first drew me to bird there: its remarkable ability to harbor certain migrants well past their expected departure dates? This phenomenon is particularly noticeable in fall, although it also occurs to a lesser extent in spring.

Although Ovenbirds are hard to find in Massachusetts woodlands after late September, they are the quintessential bird of Post Office Square; at least a couple are regular each year in October and November, and occasionally into December. Other birds have appeared at unusual times. A Wood Thrush once lasted until late October, and multiple Lincoln's Sparrows have occurred in November. In the spring, White-throated Sparrows and Ovenbirds have lingered into early June. (A larger and more warbler-rich urban oasis in downtown Atlanta, Centennial Olympic Park, had a similar but much more mind-blowing experience with lingering birds in the fall of 2009, including Ovenbirds. [Blankenship and Southern 2010]). Is it possible these singing spring birds considered breeding in Post Office Square? It is possible, though; they always abruptly departed by the second week of June.

These records of lingering birds may simply reflect the fact that Post Office Square offers particularly good habitat for these few species, habitat that is also easy for birders to scour. All the late lingerers have seemed healthy. Indeed, seeing a plump

and spritely Ovenbird (or three!) gleaning insects day after day under park benches makes me think Post Office Square may be Ovenbird nirvana. For the fall birds, perhaps the park is warmer than comparably northern woodlots in October, caused by heat rising from the underground garage and the many warm underground pipes beneath the shallow soil that might allow a neotropical migrant to make it through the night. In addition, the added warmth might help invertebrates that Ovenbirds, thrushes, and sparrows can pick from the ground. If so, this might explain why Post Office Square is one of the first places to find obvious migration by White-throated Sparrows, Hermit Thrushes, and Common Yellowthroats each spring and fall. Of course, this warmth theory explains only the late-fall Ovenbirds, not the spring ones, but Post Office Square must provide prime habitat for Ovenbirds in spring.

I do not fully discount the idea that the tall buildings in this area make it less likely that some birds decide to fly out at night. Perhaps, as with favorable winds, the migratory calculus also factors in the ease of getting airborne. However, why does this lingering outside of normal migratory patterns apparently apply only to Ovenbirds, Lincoln's Sparrows, and a Wood Thrush? I wonder if the patterns of movement of those species may be more complex than is traditionally believed. Perhaps these birds are like some well-known "half-hardy" species such as Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, and Yellow-breasted Chat that remain in small numbers during some New England winters, and find sufficient warmth and food to encourage them to linger in Post Office Square.

Similarly, I do not know what to make of the records of Dark-eyed Junco from the summer of 2005, where one was present at least as early as mid-August. It is not clear whether this was an unseasonably early bird or a bird from spring that never left. Post Office Square does not seem particularly suited to Dark-eyed Juncos, and even in season they are unusual in the square, relative to other places in Boston such as the Public Garden. However, I do not think the park literally trapped this summer junco. Indeed, an unseasonably early junco was present in mid-September 2008 at the nearby but much more open Rose Kennedy Greenway. Urban juncos are interesting beasts. When I had a winter feeder on a nineteenth-floor apartment in New York City, juncos and House Finches were my only customers. Apparently, some juncos simply choose a more urban lifestyle than most of their brethren.

As additional evidence against the theory that birds are literally trapped here, I have found very few dead or stunned birds. This must mean that the buildings around the square do not pose great obstacles to migration. I initially feared that the apparent lack of building strikes might have been because the clean-up crew had arrived before I did. However, after getting to know these crews (and getting onto their speed-dials) and early arriving local birders, I rarely heard about a stricken bird. This suggests that the lighting or structural conditions of nearby buildings differed from the conditions Henry Wiggin found and documented at the Prudential Building in the early 1970s (Wiggin 1974; *see also* Evans et al. 2007). In fact, I suspect most of the few birds I did find dead (White-throated Sparrows, Ovenbirds, Blackpoll Warblers, and a White-breasted Nuthatch) had been hit by a vehicle on Congress Street while flying to or from the Bank of America gardens.

Cars seem to be the main threat to birds at Post Office Square. However, it is not uncommon to look up and see a Peregrine Falcon quickly zoom past. I once saw a pair harassing a Northern Flicker. The flicker clung for dear life to the wall of Bank of America's "Pregnant Building," eventually abandoning its twentieth-floor perch pursued by the Peregrines until all three vanished from sight—a cliffhanger indeed.

What to Make of Missing Birds?

Further evidence that the square does not trap birds is the absence of otherwise common species that do *not* appear. Instead, I believe that the habitat Post Office Square provides is an excellent example of the "Field of Dreams" theory: if you build it, birds will come. Heck, even eastern gray squirrels and cottontail rabbits have found the place.

I remain puzzled by the apparent absence of common Boston residents such as Northern Mockingbird and Mourning Dove and of migrants such as Yellow-rumped and Palm warblers, as well as Savannah Sparrow and American Goldfinch. There must be something missing here, food, shelter, or both, that is available in other nearby habitats. Given the diversity of species that I have recorded, it is difficult to imagine that these otherwise common species cannot find the place. Apparently, these birds have learned that this square is not for them. The habitat at Post Office Square is wonderful for Rock Pigeons year round and for Gray Catbirds and surprisingly good for Brown Thrashers in migration. Yet something must be missing for those species' respective kin, Mourning Dove and Northern Mockingbird. Maybe early morning walkers scare off the Mourning Doves. Maybe mockingbirds need more territory than Post Office provides. They must not be as attracted to the Kousa dogwood berries as catbirds, thrashers, and Baltimore Orioles seem to be.

Maybe the explanation is that these species, unlike Yellow-rumped and Palm warblers, Savannah Sparrows, and goldfinches, do not migrate in flocks, which can cooperate in finding good habitats. However, what about the next tier of most-expected migrants that are common in the area but that I have not recorded in Post Office Square? These include Warbling Vireo, Eastern Kingbird, American Tree Sparrow, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Pine Warbler, Great Crested Flycatcher, Orchard Oriole, Nashville Warbler, Bobolink, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Indigo Bunting, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-crowned Sparrow, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Blue-headed Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler and Purple Finch. (This list is based on eBird data.) Is the apparent absence of these species in Post Office Square during migration pure chance, or have these birds rejected the habitat here? This is surprising, given the habitat in Post Office Square and the relatively common appearance of Nashville Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, and Orange-crowned Warbler in other, apparently similar urban Boston habitats.

Interestingly, when birding the nearby Rose Kennedy Greenway just a block and a half away, I have seen American Goldfinches, White-crowned Sparrows, and Clay-colored Sparrows in or near the abundant brushy, flower-heavy habitat that Post Office Square lacks. It would be interesting if someone surveyed the Greenway and compared their results with those I have recorded for the Square. That survey would

certainly have a better chance of including one of the two Lesser Black-backed Gulls that have frequented Columbus Park for years. Over a similar period, it would be valuable to see what effect, if any, habitat development at the Greenways will have on Post Office Square's avifauna.

Conclusion

The Ovenbird first led me to bird the Post Office Square and is the primary species whose early-June songs and late-November ramblings have encouraged me to wonder what this tiny park might tell us about bird movements more generally. To Robert Frost, the "teacher" bird famously asked, "...what to make of a diminished thing?" (*The Oven Bird* 1916). A lot, according to the Ovenbirds of Post Office Square, at least as long as we continue to visit that small urban patch regularly and record our sightings. 🐦

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Population Trends in Two Contiguous Winter Bird Communities over Twenty-six Years: Stability, Local Extinctions, Colonizations, and Irruptions

William E. Davis, Jr.

Avian communities in fragmented patches of forest or woodland can change through time because of a variety of factors. Conversion of forest to other uses, such as housing developments, reduces the resource base available, at least during breeding season. Other changes, including the arrival or introduction of new predators, may radically affect some bird species. Gradual climate changes, including the effects of global warming or severe weather perturbations such as ice storms, also can have major impacts on bird populations. Feeding birds in winter also changes the resource base, often in a positive way. For example, the increase in winter bird feeding over the past few decades has been implicated in the range expansion in the northeast of several species, such the Tufted Titmouse (Kricher 1981), the Carolina Wren (Davis 1991), and winter accipiters (Davis 1992).

Below is an analysis of population changes in a winter bird community in a forest patch and in the surrounding suburbs in Foxboro, Massachusetts, part of the suburban landscape that surrounds Boston. For twenty-six winters, 1976–1977 through 2001–2002, I censused birds on a 29-acre plot of maple-oak-pine forest in town conservation land, a total of 338 census runs. During the final twenty-five years of the census I also censused the bird feeders and yards (henceforth feeders) of the homes on two sides of the forest plot immediately after completing the forest census run. Many of the forty-two species I recorded either in the forest or at the feeders were of such small sample size that any meaningful analysis would be problematic. However, I have adequate sample sizes for several species to analyze patterns of population stability or change over this time (Tables 1–3).

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapilla*, **Downy Woodpecker** *Picoides pubescens*, and **Brown Creeper** *Certhia americana*—Several species that were common in both the forest and at feeders did not appear to show any population shift during the twenty-six years of censusing. For example, I saw Black-capped Chickadee every year, both in the woods and at the feeders. Further, the number of sightings per census hour did not change, despite increases in Tufted Titmouse numbers (Table 3). The Black-capped Chickadee is always among the top ten birds seen in New England during the annual Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Project FeederWatch; it is often the most common species (e.g., Hochachka 2002). The Downy Woodpecker, another top-ten regular, showed little variation in sightings per hour in the forest (Table 3). It was present in the forest in all years but 1983–1984, had stable sightings per hour through the 26 years of censusing (Table 3), and was present at feeders in all years. The Brown Creeper was present in the forest in all but five years and had stable sightings per year (Table 3). It was not seen at feeders.

Table 1. Presence (x for woodland, o for feeders) or absence (blank) for each species by year

	Blue Jay	G-c. Kinglet	Amer. Robin	Carol. Wren	Purple Finch	House Finch	Even. Grosb.	Rock Pigeon	Amer. Crow	Red-br. Nuth.	Ruffed Grouse	Dark-e. Junco	Hairy Woodp.
77-78	x	o			x	o	x		x		x	x	o
78-79					o	o					x	x	o
79-80	o						o		x		x	x	x
80-81	x	o				o				o	x	x	x
81-82	x	o				o	o				x	x	x
82-83	x	o				o	o	o	x		x	x	o
83-84	o	x				o	o				x	x	x
84-85	x	x			x	o			x		x	x	x
85-86	x	x				o	o				x	o	x
86-87	x	x			x	o					x	o	o
87-88	o	x				o				x	x	x	x
88-89	o	x	x			o		o	x		x	x	x
89-90	x	o				o		o	x		x	x	o
90-91		x				o		o			x	o	o
91-92	o	x	x			o		o	x		x	x	o
92-93	o					o		o			x	o	o
93-94	x	o				o		o	x	o	x	x	o
94-95	x	o	x			o		o		o	x	x	o
95-96	x	o	x			o		o			x	x	o
96-97	x	o				o		o			x	x	o
97-98	o		x			o		o	x		x	o	o
98-99	o	x	x			o		o	x		x	o	o
99-00	x	o	x			o		o	x		x	o	o
00-01	x	o		x		o		o	x		x	o	o
01-02	x	x	x			o		o	x		x	o	o

Table 2. Number of individuals seen at feeders per 12 census runs

Winter	House Sparrow	House Finch	Tufted Titmouse	Blue Jay	D.-e. Junco	Even. Grosbeak
77-78	70	0	10	109	25	22
78-79	117	1	7	0	24	92
79-80	104	0	1	1	54	4
80-81	228	10	3	14	64	0
81-82	179	22	3	62	37	50
82-83	177	16	12	21	32	62
83-84	194	6	12	24	54	24
84-85	222	2	3	5	33	0
85-86	217	8	5	8	26	1
86-87	229	29	2	73	41	0
87-88	150	0	9	2	28	0
88-89	271	49	9	34	59	0
89-90	182	15	14	69	26	0
90-91	127	0	19	80	20	0
91-92	225	6	15	40	26	0
92-93	286	46	11	20	31	0
93-94	234	15	24	43	44	0
94-95	148	1	9	76	31	0
95-96	150	3	10	92	71	0
96-97	120	0	12	59	57	0
97-98	113	2	9	11	42	0
98-99	144	0	21	34	87	0
99-00	124	0	15	49	55	0
00-01	206	0	11	44	40	0
01-02	141	0	10	18	64	0

Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor* and **White-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis*—These two common species did show changes in abundance in the twenty-six years of censusing. Titmouse numbers at feeders (standardized to numbers per twelve census runs) increased dramatically (Table 2). During the first twelve years of the census, the total number recorded was seventy-six. During the subsequent twelve years, the numbers rose to 176, an increase of 137 percent. I found a similar pattern in the forest (Table 3), with increasing sightings per hour from 0.3 to 1.8. This is consistent with reports of titmice becoming increasingly common (Bonter 2005), a trend that dates back more than fifty years (Hill and Hagan 1991). I recorded the White-breasted Nuthatch, another top-ten bird, in the forest in twenty-four of twenty-six years, and at feeders in twenty-two of twenty-five years. The sightings per hour in the forest increased during the census years from 0.3 to 0.75 (Table 3), suggesting a mild increase in the local nuthatch population.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*—I recorded Juncos at feeders in all twenty-five years (Table 1) and in the forest in fourteen of the first nineteen years. However, in the forest the sightings per hour show a generally decreasing trend, and for the final six years, juncos were absent from forest counts, while remaining stable at feeders

(Table 2). During the twenty-six years of the census, an open field of about an acre inside the census area gradually reforested; most of the juncos sightings had been in or near that field. Grass seeds are an important winter food for juncos (Nolan et al. 2002), and I believe the birds found the grassy open area rewarding foraging. However, as the field reverted to trees and the grasses disappeared, the plot was no longer attractive.

Blue Jay *Cyanositta cristata*—Blue Jays are a partial migrant species, usually migrating in years when the mast crop (mostly acorns) fails. In my area, the abundance of Blue Jays fluctuated wildly from year to year. For example, in the 1977–1978 winter, I recorded the highest numbers recorded in the census period: 109 at feeders and twenty-nine in the forest (Table 2). The following year I recorded none at either the forest or feeders; the year after that I saw a single jay at the feeders. To see if the low years on my forest plot and feeders matched regional migration years for Blue Jays, I compared my data with fall banding data at Manomet Bird Observatory (now Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences). Large fall banding years are presumably migration years. There was a weak correlation at best. In six of Manomet’s highest fall banding years, my census recorded below-average numbers. However, in 1997 Manomet had the lowest banding year of the twenty-six year period, and I recorded a low total of eleven jays at the feeders and none in the forest. I did have low counts in years when Manomet had two of its highest but did not have low numbers during three other Manomet high years. It appears that the situation is more complicated than I assumed. During these winters with low Blue Jay counts, it is possible that my local birds may have moved and were not replaced by migrating birds from further north.

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa*—I recorded a total of seventeen Golden-crowned Kinglets on the first six forest census runs of the winter of 1976–1977. After the sixth run on January 12, 1977, an ice storm blanketed substantial areas of New England and apparently killed off the local population of kinglets. I recorded no more kinglets that year and did not record another in the forest until six years later, January 30, 1983 (Table 1). This suggests that the destruction was regional and that there was no nearby winter population to re-colonize the Foxboro town woods. I recorded no kinglets in four subsequent years (Table 1), but if this indicates the occasional extirpation of the local population, there were birds available to re-colonize the area within a year. The fluctuation in sightings per hour of kinglets

Table 3. Sightings per hour (five year averages) in woods, 1976-77 through 2000-01

	Bl.-c. Chick.	Tuft. Titm.	G.-c. Kingl.	D.-e. Junc.	Ruff. Grous.	Hairy Wood.	Down. Wood.	W.-br. Nut.	Brown Creep.	Amer. Crow	Amer. Robin
76-81	2.4	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.13	0.03	0
81-86	2.8	0.5	0.3	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.23	0.04	0
86-91	2.6	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.13	0.38	0.07
91-96	2.15	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.03	0.03	0.25	0.7	0.22	0.23	0.1
96-01	2.9	1.8	0.5	0	0	0	0.4	0.75	0.2	0.9	0.55

reflects the tenuous position of the local wintering population of these tiny birds (Table 3).

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*—During the first twelve years of the census I observed no robins either in the forest or at feeders. I first observed robins in the forest in the 1988–89 census, and numbers increased sporadically during the remainder of the census period (Table 1). Robins first appeared at feeders (yards) in 1996–1997. In the forest, robin sightings increased dramatically during a five-year period, from zero during the first two years to 0.07 in the third, rising to 0.55 for the most-recent period (Table 3). This increase in winter numbers is consistent with regional reports from project FeederWatch (e.g., Bonter 2007). The increases may be linked to the generally warmer winters of the past few decades and climate change in general. I saw no difference in the berry or red cedar crop during the census period that could explain the increase in robin abundance.

Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus*—During the first eleven years of the census, I recorded no Carolina Wrens in the forest or at the feeders. Thereafter they were present at feeders or in the woods in nine of the next fourteen years (Table 1). This example of colonization of a local area may be related to the presence of feeders in the area (Davis 1991), is consistent with regional reports from Project FeederWatch (e.g., Bonter 2005), and coincides with the rapid increase of these wrens all across southern New England.

Purple Finch *Carpodacus purpureus*—Records of Purple Finch declined over the census period, a pattern opposite that of the robin and Carolina Wren. Beginning with the 1977–1978 winter, I recorded Purple Finches in seven of the next ten years (Table 1). I recorded none for the remainder of the census. This demise is not as precipitous as that of the Evening Grosbeak (see below), but the reduction in numbers and regularity appears real.

Evening Grosbeak *Coccothraustes vespertinus*—During the period of the census, I observed Evening Grosbeaks only once in the woods. However, they were regulars at feeders, and I recorded them in seven of the first nine years of the two censuses (Table 1). Further, they were present in substantial numbers some years; I trapped and banded 25 in a single afternoon (Table 2). Their precipitous decline is consistent with Christmas Bird Count data for eastern Massachusetts. The causes for the decline remain a matter of speculation but may be related to the decreasing presence of spruce budworms (Bonter 2006).

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*—A single Rock Pigeon appeared at my feeders in the winter of 1982–1983, and Rock Pigeons became regular visitors to feeders for four years beginning in 1988–1989. I recorded none after that. There is a Rock Pigeon breeding colony on the underside of a bridge approximately a mile from my feeders, and this was the probable source of the feeder birds.

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—I observed American Crows flying overhead and heard them calling at the feeders and in the forest from the beginning of the census, but the census reports only birds that were perched or obviously foraging.

The pattern in the census data (Table 1) shows a definite increase in utilization of both feeders (yards) and forest during the last half of the census years. During the last thirteen years, I recorded American Crows nine times both at feeders and in the forest. They also appeared in the forest an additional two years. A neighbor had reared a crow and kept it in an outdoor wire cage for several years, where wild crows often visited it. The caged crow eventually escaped and joined other crows in the neighborhood. We could tell when it was around because it would call “golf ball,” words its previous owners had taught it. I suspect that the presence of this semi-tame crow influenced the number of crows in our yard but believe it had little influence on local population trends.

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta pusilla*—The Red-breasted Nuthatch is an irruptive species that, in winter, periodically moves south in substantial numbers, presumably when food crops in the north fail. I observed Red-breasted Nuthatches in only three of the twenty-six census years, 1979–80, 1987–98, and 1993–94. All three periods were during invasion years (Davis and Peterson 1995, Veit and Peterson 1993) The 1993–94 invasion was particularly noteworthy. During the 288 census runs in the forest before then, I had recorded only one Red-breasted Nuthatch. However, during the 1993–94 censuses I recorded a total of twelve birds during six of twelve census runs.

House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus*—The House Finch is an interesting case study in population changes. This species was first observed in Massachusetts in 1955, and the first recorded breeding was in 1958 (Veit and Peterson 1993). “The population increase and range extension since the early 1970s are probably unrivaled by any other avian species The expansion gained momentum in the early 1970s and exploded by the end of the decade” (Peterson and Meservey 2003). My census of bird feeders (I never recorded House Finches in the forest) apparently caught the beginning of the spread of the House Finch into my neighborhood. I observed none the first year and one individual the second, none again on the third. I then observed a gradual increase in subsequent years (Table 2). The numbers varied substantially from year to year, with none recorded for two of the middle census years. This variation may have resulted from the partial migratory behavior of the species (Veit and Peterson 1993); they simply went further south some years. Beginning in 1994–1995, the species experienced a decline, and I recorded none during the last four years of the censusing. In the winter of 1993–1994, reports of a debilitating eye disease in House Finches began to filter into Project FeederWatch at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. By October 1994, observers in six states reported affected birds. The eye disease, mycoplasmal conjunctivitis, is caused by a parasitic bacterium *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* (Dhondt 1995). During a three-year period, some populations crashed by 50% (Cooper et al. 2007). The disease probably caused the decline and disappearance of House Finches in my area.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*—House Sparrows were locally abundant during the census years, observed in substantial numbers at feeders every year (Table 2). Many studies suggest that competition between House Sparrows and House Finches has been responsible for declines in House Sparrow populations locally (e.g.,

Cooper, et al. 1997, Rosenberg 1997). I can see no support for this in the census data from winter feeders (Table 2).

Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus*—Hairy Woodpeckers were recorded during fifteen of the first nineteen census years but were not recorded during the final six years (Table 1). I suspect that the local pair died or emigrated and that no other pair had yet replaced them.

Ruffed Grouse *Bonasa umbellus*—Ruffed Grouse were present during the first twelve years of the forest census, and for three of the next five years. I recorded none during the final six years. Two factors probably contributed to the local extirpation of this species. In the early 1980s, a housing development removed hundreds of acres of forest across the road from the town conservation land. This forest was a breeding area for grouse, and its demise seriously reduced grouse habitat in the area. Coyotes began appearing in our neighborhood in the early 1990s, and I suspect they became nest predators of ground-nesting birds. However, they did effectively eliminate feral cats from the neighborhood, so the net affect of their arrival is problematic.

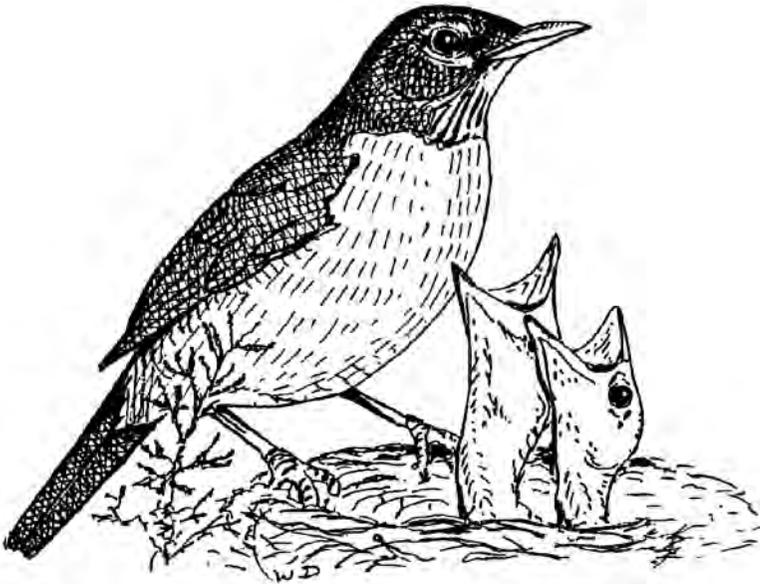
In conclusion, it appears that long-term monitoring of winter bird populations locally has several useful results. It can provide evidence of local extinctions and colonizations, show the stability or lack thereof of local populations of some species, provide data on the migration or partial migration of some species, and point out the effects of new predators, habitat alteration, and natural change. I am also impressed that local monitoring can detect changes at the regional or landscape scale, such as the spread of eye disease among House Finches, invasions of irruptive species, the regional decline of species such as the Evening Grosbeak and Ruffed Grouse, and the range expansion of southern species such as the Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren. 🐦

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AMERICAN ROBIN BY WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

ABOUT BOOKS

A Trio of Sisyphuses

Mark Lynch

Advanced Bird ID Guide: The Western Palearctic. Nils Van Duivendijk. 2010. New Holland Publishers. London, United Kingdom.

Identifying and Feeding Birds. Bill Thompson III. 2010. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Boston, Massachusetts.

The Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America. Donald and Lillian Stokes. 2010. Little, Brown and Company. New York, New York.

The gods had condemned Sisyphus to ceaselessly rolling a rock to the top of a mountain, whence the stone would fall back of its own weight. They had thought with some reason that there is no more dreadful punishment than futile and hopeless labor. *The Myth of Sisyphus* by Albert Camus

To attempt to write and compile a bird guide today justifies the description of a “Sisyphean labor.” With the detailed illustrations necessary and the countless writing and editing challenges, field guides are difficult and expensive to publish. It’s also tough to break new ground, to stand out, and the birding market is a particularly tough nut to crack. Most birders already have a favorite guide against which each new one is immediately judged, often harshly.

Penning a guide to all the birds of one country or continent is even more challenging; it bucks the popular current trend in specialty guides to one area or group of birds, like shorebirds or hawks. There seems to be just too much identification information now known to cram it all into one “field” guide, i.e., a book one could actually carry out into the field. What information should be included, and more important: what should be left out? There is no shortage of know-it-all geeks in birding who thrive on identification minutia, and they are ready to jump on every minor mistake and range map error in any new guide, pronouncing it dead in the water. Nothing sinks from sight faster than a bird guide most birders won’t use because the “hard cores” won’t touch it.

Finally, birders are increasingly using iPhones, Blackberrys, and other handheld devices while in the field to hear a species’ song or check its identification details. These elegantly portable electronic devices may soon send the printed field guide to the realm of the Dodo. Yet, despite all these obstacles, authors keep rolling that rock up the slope. Here are three new bird guides that attempt the impossible.

The Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America is a new effort to produce a concise single volume “field” guide to all the species that have been seen in North



America. This is truly a monumental task, and the final product clearly years of effort. There are many good points to this guide and some not so good as well.

On the positive side: this is a very up-to-date guide, including recent splits and new species names like the Pacific Wren and American Scoter. Eurasian or Common Teal is not split from the Green-winged Teal and is still considered a subspecies. A wealth of detailed identification information is included, as well as details on most known subspecies. A wonderful CD is included that contains 600 “bird sounds” of 150 fairly common species. The songs and calls of less widespread species like Saw-whet Owl and Blackburnian Warbler are not included. The guide is illustrated with color photographs, most of which—while small—are of good quality.

But the attempt to be so complete and inclusive is also a drawback; this is a heavy, thick guide. At 792 pages of quality 8 ½ X 5 ½ paper, this is hardly something to pop into the backpack, let alone a coat pocket. It’s a guide that, like many others, is more suited to being left back in the car. It is also a densely laid out book, with small type and small range maps. Though a few species, like Red-tailed Hawk, are given two or more pages, typically two species with range maps, lengthy descriptions, and photographs are laid out on a single page.

The value of covering so many rare vagrants to western Alaska or Texas and Arizona in a general field guide to North America is also questionable. The authors include complete descriptions for species like Middendorff’s Grasshopper Warbler, Dark-sided Flycatcher, Eurasian Bullfinch, Oriental Greenfinch, and Hawfinch, all casual Asian vagrants to western Alaska. (I can’t imagine too many serious birders carrying a heavy North American guide with them to the Aleutians when they could just pack a good Asian or European guide.) It is interesting to note that, while vagrants like Eurasian Kestrel and Eurasian Hobby are given the full treatment, Massachusetts’ famous Red-footed Falcon is left out. The *borealis* subspecies of Cory’s Shearwater is shown but not “Scopoli’s Shearwater,” though it is described under subspecies. So this guide is not truly “all” inclusive.

In the introduction, the Stokes make much about using the “cutting edge” “quantitative approach” to identifying species in this guide. This refers primarily to comparative measurements within the bird, which at first blush sounds a lot like what has long been referred to as “jizz” birding: identification based on the general impression of a bird’s combined, shape, posture, and movement.

Going further, the authors sometimes use a numerical proportion to describe the bird. Under gulls we find the following:

For each species we give a rough proportion (on a standing bird) of the distance from the front of the chest to the legs versus the distance from the legs to the tip of the folded wings. This ratio is fairly constant within a species but differs significantly between certain species. (p. 289)

Under Ross' Gull we find that the chest-to-leg versus leg-to-wing-tip ratio is 1:2 ½. If you are viewing a perfect side shot of the gull at home, then this may be practical, but under field conditions this kind of proportional measurement seems all too prone to misreading. These attempts at comparative measurements also mean that terms like "deep chested," "deep bellied," and "defined neck" are used throughout the guide. I find these descriptions very subjective in many cases. Depending on the stance or behavior of a bird in the field, our sense of a bird's inner proportions may change. Look at a Green Heron, for instance. This species can look quite compact and plump one moment. Then it can extend its neck amazingly and our sense of the proportions of the bird changes dramatically.

Over the years, I have been critical of the use of photographs as opposed to drawn and painted illustrations for a field guide. There are too many variations in light found in photographs, and these can seriously affect the color and tone of the bird. If background is also included in the shots, as they are here, that can also affect the apparent color of the bird. One of the very few guides to have successfully used photographs is O'Brien, Crossley, and Karlson's *The Shorebird Guide*. Its authors acknowledge that photographs are not idealized representations of birds and engage the reader in a sophisticated game of "what is that bird?" to try to pick out the one oddity in a flock of more common species, aided in the process by helpful captions. Full-page photographs and even simply aesthetic photographs are used throughout *The Shorebird Guide* to keep it visually interesting while teaching the key points of identifying shorebirds, often at a distance, under less than ideal visual circumstances.

This artistic and interactive approach to using photographs in a field guide is not practical for a guide to a much larger number of species. I will say that *The Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America* uses photography better than any such guide before, but there are still problems that have to do with not having access to that perfect shot in every case. The more you read the text, the more you wish other photographs had been included and others left out.

For instance, under White-faced Ibis, the text describes the juvenile as "brownish with little iridescence" (p. 137), but the one photograph of the juvenile looks a coppery iridescent green. Under Iceland Gull, it is admitted in the text that the classification is in flux, and while there is a description of the subspecies *glaucoides*, ten photographs of only the *kumlieni* subspecies are shown. Under Mew Gull, there are nine photographs of the subspecies *brachyrhynchus* but only one shot of a juvenile *canus* and none at all of the distinctive *kamtschatschensis*. This latter subspecies has shown up a few times in the northeast and may be a separate species.

Under alcids, Razorbills and Thick-billed Murres are shown in flight only in summer adult plumage, when here in the northeast, we more commonly see both species flying in winter. It would have been very helpful to see pictures of flying birds in basic plumage.

To make the most of what is shown and make the guide easier to use in the field, arrows or lines carefully inserted into some of the photographs indicating the location of key identification features would have been very helpful.

Finally, I have no idea why certain shots were included in a book where space is at such a premium. In the Dipper section there is a shot of a bird with its foreparts completely under water, great for a “what bird is this?” contest, but out of place in a guide that is so densely packed. The Ivory-billed Woodpecker is shown in a black-and-white photograph next to the same shot colorized. Why do this when space is so tight, especially for a species we are uncertain is still even extant?

The overall layout of the guide is unsatisfying. The typography is small and dense, and most of the photos are also small. But there are also large blank gaps in the layout on any number of the pages. Highlighted blocks titled “Identification Tips” have filled some of these blank spots, but overall, the layout of this guide could have used a more creative and thoughtful approach. Layout matters in a book that is to be actively used as a visual resource.

All of this may seem nitpicking, but I wonder if instead this points to the fact that the ultimate portable photographic guide to all the species and subspecies of birds seen in North America is really something that is now practically impossible to achieve. There are too many birds, far too many subspecies, and too much descriptive information that has to be included to fit into what is called a “field guide.” Why produce one book to all the species anyway? Why not a series of books on groups of species or more regional identification guides? Why not create better on-line resources? These are questions that will certainly need to be addressed in future conceptions of field guides. Still, despite all my carping, I have to say *The Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America* is a major effort in trying to achieve that impossible dream.

“And now for something completely different” – John Cleese on practically every episode of Monty Python



When I opened the package from the Natural History Book Service containing my copy of the *Advanced Bird ID Guide* by Nils van Duivendijk, I was more than a bit surprised. With a title like that, I expected an ox-stunning tome on the size of *The Handbook of Bird Identification*, which clocks in at a hefty 860 large-format pages. Instead, I unwrapped a small paperback about the size of a Penguin paperback of Dante’s *L’Inferno*. Actually, this field guide was even smaller. On opening the book I was further shocked to find no pictures, illustrations, or photos. Correction, there are two facing pages of black-and-white drawings of bird topology; that’s it. Yes, this is a field guide without pictures. Blasphemy you say! Insanity you scream! To a birder, the experience of opening the *Advanced Bird ID Guide* is like a museum-goer’s first viewing Frank Stella’s minimalist black and white line paintings from the 60s. But, like Frank Stella, Nils van Duivendijk has a method to his apparent madness.

Van Duivendijk is well known to European birders as a key contributor to the respected journal *Dutch Birding*. This new guide is published in association with another respected journal, *British Birds*. As he explains in his brief introduction:

This book presents the most important field marks of all bird species and distinguishable subspecies of the Western Palearctic. It is born from the idea that it would be handy to have a pocket-sized reference to check relevant features quickly and systematically when facing an ID problem in the field, when normally little or no information is available. In order to achieve this goal, the overall size of the book and the structure and format of the text have been designed so that it can be easily used in the field. In addition to its use as a field guide, it can also be consulted to make identifications from photographs or birds in the hand.

The only illustrations are those which clarify the “bird topology”. Therefore this guide is intended especially for birders who are already reasonably familiar with the main features of most species and forms likely to be encountered and it may be best used in addition to or in combination with, a good illustrated field guide. (p. 5)

So this guide is for not for beginning birders, but for those with a certain amount of field skills, who know the common birds of their patch but could use some help when confronted with the odd rare bird. The text is simplicity itself. Under a species or subspecies heading in red, down the left side runs a bar of abbreviations like “ad,” “all plum,” “juv,” “geog var,” and “note.” Opposite these are concise descriptions of the key features that identify this species in specific plumages.

This is particularly helpful when looking at subspecies of Cackling Geese or Common Eider. The key differences among all of these subspecies are succinctly and meticulously described. This is the go-to guide to tell an American Scoter from a Common Scoter or a Dark-bellied Brent (Brant) from a Pale Bellied Brent or a Black Brent. Here are the field marks to look for to separate Manx Shearwater from Balearic, Yelkouan, Barolo’s, and Boyd’s. In the case of very similar species, say like Zino’s, Desertas, and Fea’s Petrels, there is first a list of the features that all three species have in common, then under each species heading, those which distinguish each from the others. If you’ve ever wanted to know the difference between a Great Blue Heron and a Grey Heron or between a Eurasian Bittern and an American Bittern, then the *Advanced Bird ID Guide* has all the information you are looking for, clearly and precisely listed, but with no pictures.

This is a true field guide in that it is portable, but this unique minimalist approach is not for beginners or perhaps even intermediate birders. But if you are a serious birder who travels, takes a lot of pelagic trips, who ventures far and wide to tick North American species, or is just a careful observer of your local populations of gulls and waterfowl, then this guide is a good bet to keep in the car.

“You must not think, sir, to catch old birds with chaff” – Miquel de Cervantes Saavedra, Don Quixote Part 1; Chapter IV

No, I never have used chaff in my feeders. But I have just learned from Bill Thompson’s new guide to *Identifying and Feeding Birds*, that I should also not be avoiding milo like it was made of bedbugs.



Bill Thompson III, is the editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest* and the author of several birding books. His writing style is chatty, filled with good humor and often geared to either the beginning or middle-level birder. Bill tries to make everyone a better birder by being genuinely helpful and not posing as a know-it-all hotshot snob. His *The Young Birder's Guide to Birds of Eastern North America* remains a classic example of knowing how to write a useful field guide for a very specific and critical audience. In every sense of the word, Thompson's style is the antithesis of the standard field guide. Because of that, his guides are books you actually enjoy reading. Of course, whether *Identifying and Feeding Birds* is really a "field guide" is another question entirely. It is labeled as such.

Identifying and Feeding Birds is one of the *Backyard Bird Guides* and part of the *Peterson Field Guide* series. The guide's goals are modest: to discuss many of the ins and outs of bird feeding, how to create a yard landscape attractive to birds, and finally, how to identify some of the common birds that will come to your backyard once you have finally gotten it into shape. This is a guide for all of the lower forty-eight, not just eastern North America. Thompson starts at the absolute beginning, with a discussion on why we should feed birds at all. He then runs through all the basics: how to attract specific species to your yard; what plants attract birds; creating shelter for birds in winter; how to deal with predators and pests; it even includes a very interesting section on "Bird-feeding myths." The second half of the book is a basic identification guide, illustrated by large color photographs, of 125 common species of birds seen in backyards around America. Typically, each page is devoted to one species. For each there is an introductory paragraph, followed by a section on key field marks, a description of vocalizations, preferred habitat, what this species will be looking for in your backyard, and a small range map. The entire book is illustrated with color photographs.

This is one of the best guides to attracting birds currently being published and is the perfect gift to your friends who are just starting out in their fascination with birds. But even if you are a hardcore birder, more concerned with the ID challenges posed by first-cycle Thayer's Gulls, if you have one or more feeders in your backyard, you will find something of interest in this guide too.

There you have it. Three new bird guides, none all-encompassing, none totally perfect, none of them for all birders, but each one contributing in some way to our understanding, identification, and enjoyment of birds.

"The struggle itself towards the heights is enough to fill a man's heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy." – *The Myth of Sisyphus* by Albert Camus 

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TIME FOR THE
SUPERBOWL OF BIRDING VIII

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Saturday, January 29, 2011
Snow date: Sunday, January 30
5 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Winter birding in northeastern Massachusetts and southeastern New Hampshire is great! Superbowls I - VII were great successes with birders from as far away as Delaware and Pennsylvania participating. The challenge is renewed this year, with prizes awarded in ten categories, including the Seekers Award!

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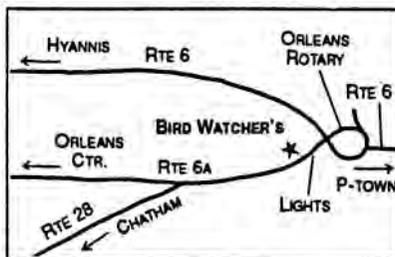
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BIRD SIGHTINGS

July/August 2010

Seth Kellogg, Marjorie W Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist

July 2010 was the third hottest July on record and the hottest since 1994. The mercury reached a high of 100° on July 6, the first 100° reading in Boston since August 14, 2002. The low was a pleasant 60° on July 2. The average temperature was 77.2°. A heat wave is typically defined as a period of at least three days of 90°, and we experienced two heat waves in July, a far cry from last July which was the fourth coldest on record. Rainfall during the month measured only 2.66 inches in Boston (and not much more anywhere in the state), compared with last year's total of nearly seven inches. A torrential downpour on July 10 in western Massachusetts caused some damaging winds as well as several lightning strikes. Tornadoes were also reported in areas of New England.

August continued to be hot, though not as extreme as July. The temperature averaged 73.5°, 1.2° above the norm for Boston. The high in Boston was 96° on the last day of the month, and temperatures reached 90° or better on seven days. A rare summertime nor'easter brought most of the month's rain on August 23–25, with 3.30 inches recorded in Boston. Winds reached over 40 mph out of the northeast that day.

R. Stymeist

WATERFOWL TO ALCIDS

Gadwall are uncommon breeders in the state, with historical breeding sites at Plum Island, Ipswich, and Monomoy. This year an observer in Fairhaven watched two pair of Gadwall over a number of weeks, watching as the vegetation increasingly obscured possible breeding sites. She was finally rewarded on July 28 by seeing (and photographing!) a female with two ducklings for a probable first Bristol County breeding record. Green-winged Teal have traditionally bred on Monomoy, and this year they were discovered breeding nearby on the mainland in Chatham. The Boston Harbor Coastal Breeding Project reported a highly successful year for Common Eider, tallying 313 chicks compared to only 36 in 2009. In the four years since the beginning of the Breeding Bird Atlas there have been only a handful of reports of Ruddy Duck during breeding season and no confirmations. Plum Island is one of the few historical breeding locations for this species, so a report of a single bird on July 24 was intriguing.

A Common Loon found nesting in October Mountain State Forest probably represents the first breeding record for Berkshire County. A Pied-billed Grebe in juvenile plumage was observed in Bedford, away from any known breeding areas. An August Red-necked Grebe, photographed at Turners Falls in the center of the state, was an unusual August sighting.

A visit to Oceanographer and Hydrographer canyons was extremely productive for one observer who tallied three **White-faced Storm-Petrels** and six **Band-rumped Storm-Petrels**. A **White-tailed Tropicbird** photographed at Welker Canyon on August 22 was only the second Massachusetts record for this species since 1986, the first being one discovered inland in Carlisle on August 23, 2009, in the wake of Hurricane Bill. On August 5 a **Brown Pelican** was seen flying south just northwest of the Woods Hole passage. The bird touched down for a few seconds, then flew off again toward Vineyard Sound. The observer had the presence of mind to photograph it before it took off again.

One or two **White-faced Ibis** were reported during May and June in coastal Essex County, following a trend that has persisted almost annually since 2003, but a report from Plum Island on July 6 was the first July report since 2003. It was a particularly intriguing report, since the bird was accompanied by two juvenile ibis of indeterminate species. The adult flew off and returned later, both times accompanied by the two juveniles. We have speculated on the possibility of this species breeding or hybridizing in Essex County, especially since its discovery in 2009 on Kettle Island in Manchester, the local stronghold of breeding Glossy Ibis in Essex County. Breeding has yet to be confirmed.

The only **King Rail** of the season was an individual calling from a marsh in Wilmington. There have been only a handful of reports of this reclusive marsh bird in the four years of the Breeding Bird Atlas. A Sandhill Crane was reported from Sandisfield, a short distance from the New Marlboro location where a pair was confirmed breeding in 2007; unfortunately, this year's nesting attempt failed. A second individual was reported from Southwick.

The summer's drought meant that water levels at inland locations were unusually low, in many cases exposing mudflats that proved to be magnets for shorebirds. One especially unusual report was of single Whimbrels seen by Breeding Bird Atlasers a month apart at an island covered with *Phragmites* at Quabbin Reservoir in Petersham. This species is very uncommon inland, with only a handful of records in central and western Massachusetts.

A **Bar-tailed Godwit** was reported from North Beach Island in Chatham (formerly North Beach) on August 9. On August 27 the same (or possibly different?) individual was found on nearby South Beach and was photographed the following day. This is the first occurrence of this species in the state since 2004. A **Red-necked Stint** initially discovered on June 27 on South Beach in Chatham continued through July 4.

Sabine's Gulls were reported in late August at two offshore locations; this is probably the best time of year to find this handsome gull. Other nice hooded gulls included Black-headed Gulls in the Newburyport/Plum Island area and a Little Gull on Plum Island. A **Gull-billed Tern** is a rare but regular visitor in the state, and an individual discovered at South Beach in Chatham was photographed. Although Caspian Terns are regular summer visitors to the state, an intriguing series of records included two Caspian Terns reported from north Quabbin from June 20 [see *Bird Observer* 38 (5)] through July 11, then a single bird on August 26. This species is known to breed in scattered locations around North America, with the closest known population on Lake Champlain in Vermont. It has never been recorded breeding in Massachusetts, but Quabbin would be an ideal nesting spot. It will be exciting to see if Caspian Terns show up there in future years.

The nor'easter on August 23–25 pushed some coastal species into inland locations; these included Common Terns, Black Terns, and Bonaparte's Gulls. A Laughing Gull on the Mystic Lakes in Medford was an especially unusual inland report. An experienced sea watcher in Provincetown reported a **skua** from Provincetown on August 24. He reports, "Every feature I saw was consistent with South Polar Skua, it being uniformly dark, almost blackish, overall, except for a paler nape, and lacking any noticeable pale mottling. . . Remarkably, though I have seen 15+ skuas from land in MA over the years, they've all been at First Encounter Beach—this was my long-overdue first in P'town!" The occurrence of **Long-tailed Jaegers** seen from land in Barnstable and Manomet on August 24 was also likely to have been storm related.

M. Rines

Brant thr	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes	8/27	Chappaquiddick	4	S. Whiting
Mute Swan				Black Scoter			
8/4	Everett	11	R. Stymeist	7/16	Chatham (S.B.)	12	J. Trimble
8/14	Ipswich	12	J. Berry	8/24	Manomet	1 m ad	I. Davies
8/23	Randolph	46	M. Iliff	8/24	Rockport (H.P.)	1 f	J. Berry
				8/29	P.I.	1 m	B. Harris#
Wood Duck				Long-tailed Duck			
7/1	Andover	14	J. Berry#	7/22	Chatham	4	I. Davies
7/10	Wakefield	43	P. + F. Vale	Hooded Merganser			
7/13	GMNWR	39	A. Bragg#	7/3	C. Quabbin	11	L. Therrien
7/31	Longmeadow	65	S. Kellogg	7/11	New Marlboro	2 fl	M. Lynch#
8/13	Wakefield	47	P. + F. Vale	7/11	Plainfield	5	S. Kellogg
8/21	Deerfield	22	S. Surner	8/17	Randolph	2	V. Zollo
8/24	Waltham	35	J. Forbes	8/25	Haverhill	2 imm	S. Mirick
8/25	Stoughton	36	V. Zollo	Common Merganser			
Gadwall				7/17	Deerfield	30	S. Kellogg
7/6	P.I.	30 ad, 74 yg	R. Heil	8/14	Petersham	62 imm	M. Lynch#
7/28	Fairhaven	f, 2 yg	C. Longworth	8/17	Quabbin (G35)	24	T. Pirro
7/30	Ipswich	3 f + 34 yg	J. Berry	8/25	W. Springfield	9	J. Zepko
8/21	S. Monomoy	20	B. Nikula	Red-breasted Merganser			
8/21	W. Roxbury (MP)	3	T. Factor	8/15	P'town	1	B. Nikula
American Wigeon				8/23	Rockport (A.P.)	1	T. Spahr
8/24-28	P.I.	1	N. Houlihan	8/29	P.I.	1	N. Landry#
American Black Duck				Ruddy Duck			
7/4	Winchendon	1	C. Caron	7/24	P.I.	8	S. Sullivan
7/18	C. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	Northern Bobwhite			
7/24	New Marlboro	6 ad, 1 yg	M. Lynch#	7/10	Wellfleet	2	R. Stymeist
7/27	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	7/17	Falmouth	3	M. Keleher
8/1	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	7/27	Chatham (MI)	1 f, 11 yg	K. Ryan#
8/14	P.I.	120	D. Bates	Ring-necked Pheasant			
Blue-winged Teal				7/4	Winchendon	1	C. Caron
7/5	P.I.	1 f, 9 juv	R. Heil	7/7	Newbypt	1	S. McGrath
8/2	Easton	1	K. Ryan	8/3	Falmouth	3	B. Sloane
8/7	WBWS	1	I. Davies	8/27	Newbury	1	S. McGrath#
8/21	S. Monomoy	25	B. Nikula	8/29	Saugus (Bear C.)	2	S. Zende#
8/23	Randolph	5	M. Iliff	Ruffed Grouse			
8/26	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell	7/11	New Marlboro	2 ad, 3 yg	M. Lynch#
8/27	Carlisle	6	A. Ankers	7/17	Savoy	2	M. Lynch#
Northern Shoveler				7/18	C. Quabbin	6	L. Therrien
8/21	S. Monomoy	6	B. Nikula	8/11	Leominster	7	J. Young
Northern Pintail				8/14	Petersham	1 ad, 3 yg	M. Lynch#
7/18	P.I.	6	S. Grinley#	Wild Turkey			
8/14	S. Monomoy	4	B. Nikula	7/11	Sandisfield	3ad, 21 yg	M. Lynch
Green-winged Teal				7/28	Lincoln	2 f, 17 yg	S. Perkins#
7/28	Chatham	4 + 5 yg	B. Nikula	8/14	Mashpee	11	M. Keleher
8/6	P.I.	57	D. Chickering	8/21	Leicester	28	M. Lynch#
8/7	P'town	3	B. Nikula	8/26	Wakefield	14	P. + F. Vale
8/11	Woburn (HP)	1	M. Rines	Red-throated Loon			
8/12	Wayland	1	B. Harris	7/9	Bourne	1	R. Sawyer#
8/13	Longmeadow	3	S. Kellogg	7/20	Truro	1	T. Green
8/21	S. Monomoy	15	B. Nikula	7/30	P.I.	1	T. Knittel
8/31	Cumb. Farms	4	J. Offermann	Common Loon			
Ring-necked Duck				7/7	Washington	1	E. Neumuth
7/27	Cambr. (F.P.)	1 m imm	S. Simpson	7/11	E. Quabbin	23	L. Therrien
8/25	Stoughton	1	V. Zollo	7/18	Petersham	15	M. Lynch#
Common Eider				8/7	P.I.	6	T. Spahr
7/7	Boston H.	313 chicks	R. Stymeist#	8/21	Chatham (S.B.)	8	E. Nielsen
7/24	Duxbury B.	30	R. Bowes	8/24	P'town	5	B. Nikula
8/13	Westport	57	M. Lynch#	Pied-billed Grebe			
8/24	Rockport (H.P.)	170	J. Berry	7/17	Bedford	1 juv	A. Ankers
8/27	P'town (R.P.)	50	P. Trull	8/18	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula#
Surf Scoter				8/19	Revere	1	T. Factor
7/16	Chatham (S.B.)	2	J. Trimble	8/25	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont
8/1	Fairhaven	1	A. + D. Morgan	8/30	Salisbury	3	S. McGrath
8/13-21	Westport	2 m imm	I. Davies#	8/31	P.I.	2	P. Peterson
8/24	Manomet	1 f ad	I. Davies	Red-necked Grebe			
8/24	Dennis	1	P. Flood	8/14	Turners Falls	1 ph	W. Howes
8/30	Gloucester H.	4	S. Hedman	Cory's Shearwater			
White-winged Scoter				7/2	Stellwagen	7	I. Davies#
7/3	P.I.	25	P. Ruvido	7/4	9 m ENE P.I.	9	S. + J. Mirick
7/16	Chatham (S.B.)	18	J. Trimble	7/5	Tuckernuck	3	S. Perkins#
8/22	Revere B.	50	G. d'Entremont#	7/6	Jeffries L.	140	J. Carroll
8/24	Dennis	4	P. Flood	7/11	P'town	6	B. Nikula

Cory's Shearwater (continued)			8/14	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#
8/21	Jeffries L.	2	MAS (D. Larson)	8/21	Leicester	1
8/23	Rockport (A.P.)	11	T. Spahr	Least Bittern		
8/24	P'town	20	B. Nikula	7/1-8/6	GMNWR	1
Greater Shearwater				7/6, 8/1	P.I.	1, 1
7/4	9 m ENE P.I.	40	S. + J. Mirick	Great Blue Heron		
7/6	Stellwagen	200	P. Peterson	7/18	P.I.	45+
7/11	P'town	67	B. Nikula	7/19	Longmeadow	16
7/25	Cape Ann	195	D. Larson	7/19	GMNWR	24
8/7	P'town	40	B. Nikula	8/7	Eastham	20
8/19	Gloucester	30+	J. Rose	8/27	WBWS	31
8/23	Rockport (A.P.)	23	T. Spahr	8/29	Saugus (Bear C.)	18
8/24	P'town	570	B. Nikula	8/thr	Sudbury	42 max
Sooty Shearwater				Great Egret		
7/4	9 m ENE P.I.	13	S. + J. Mirick	7/2	Manchester	89
7/6	Jeffries L.	75	J. Carroll	7/6	Duxbury B.	28
7/6	Stellwagen	30	P. Peterson	7/13	P.I.	35
7/11, 8/24	P'town	23, 7	B. Nikula	7/18, 8/22	E. Boston (B.I.)	26, 21
7/18	Stellwagen	29	D. Ely	8/4	Boxford	75
7/25	Cape Ann	73	D. Larson	8/14	S. Monomoy	40
8/24	Rockport (H.P.)	1	J. Berry#	8/18	Longmeadow	7
Manx Shearwater				8/21	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	31
7/1-8/10	Revere B.	11 max	v.o.	8/25	Carlisle	19
7/4	9 m ENE P.I.	5	S. + J. Mirick	8/29	Saugus (Bear C.)	36
7/6	Jeffries L.	2	J. Carroll	Snowy Egret		
7/18	Stellwagen	8	D. Ely	thr	E. Boston (B.I.)	46 max
7/18, 8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	1, 1	B. Nikula	thr	P.I.	135 max
7/23, 8/24	P'town	2, 60	B. Nikula	7/2	Manchester	250
8/13, 22	N. Truro	1, 9	B. Nikula	7/28, 8/18	Chatham	12, 62
8/23	Manomet	14	I. Davies	8/2	Rowley	71
8/23	Rockport (A.P.)	11	T. Spahr	8/5	Squantum	16
8/24	Barnstable	2	K. Ryan#	8/13	Westport	73
8/27	12 m NE P'town	15	P. Trull	8/14	S. Monomoy	30
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				8/21	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	77
7/2	Stellwagen	430	I. Davies#	8/30	Gloucester H.	220
7/6	Jeffries L.	45	J. Carroll	Little Blue Heron		
7/14	Gloucester (E.P.)	85+	P. + F. Vale	7/2	Manchester	18
7/20	Duxbury B.	114	I. Davies	7/8	Squantum	1 juv
7/25	Cape Ann	535	D. Larson	7/18	Gloucester	2 ad
8/7, 24	P'town	30, 80	B. Nikula	8/27	W. Tisbury	1 imm
8/21	Jeffries L.	94	MAS (D. Larson)	8/31	P.I.	2
8/27	12 m NE P'town	30	P. Trull	8/31	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1 ph
White-faced Storm-Petrel				Cattle Egret		
8/14-15	Oceanographer	3	V. Laux	7/18	Essex	1
Leach's Storm-Petrel				7/18	P.I.	2
7/10	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes	Green Heron		
8/24	P'town	12	B. Nikula	7/20	Ipswich	5
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel				7/24	WBWS	6
8/14-15	Hydrographer	6	V. Laux	7/25	Wayland	4
White-tailed Tropicbird				7/25	Wakefield	2 ad, 4 juv
8/22	Welker Canyon	1 ph	E. Svetsky	8/5	Lexington	5
Northern Gannet				8/9	Pittsfield	4
7/2	Orleans	11	B. Nikula	8/22	Hatfield	8
7/11	P.I.	27	R. Heil	8/25	W. Springfield	3
7/18	Stellwagen	43	D. Ely	Black-crowned Night-Heron		
8/7, 24	P'town	145, 58	B. Nikula	7/2	Manchester	30+
8/9	Jeffries L.	45	MAS (D. Larson)	7/9	P.I.	13
8/23	Manomet	85	I. Davies	7/30	GMNWR	13 imm
8/23	Rockport (A.P.)	500	T. Spahr	8/14	Ipswich	18
8/24	Dennis	30	P. Flood	8/15	Deerfield	3
Brown Pelican				8/21	S. Monomoy	8
8/5	Woods Hole	1 ph	R. Farrell	8/22	Eastham	18
Double-crested Cormorant				8/29	W. Springfield	3
8/13	Winthrop B.	120	P. Peterson	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron		
8/18	Chatham (S.B.)	1000	B. Nikula	7/18	Westport	1
8/31	P.I.	150	J. Romano	7/20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1 juv
Great Cormorant				8/7	Chatham (S.B.)	1 juv
7/2	Boston H.	4	R. Stymeist#	8/7	Eastham	5
8/24	Rockport (H.P.)	1 ad	J. Berry	8/11	P.I.	1 ad
American Bittern				8/22	Lexington	1
7/2-18	P.I.	1	v.o.	Glossy Ibis		
7/10	Winchendon	1	M. Lynch#	thr	P.I.	25 max
8/5	Hadley	2	P. Yeskie	7/2	Manchester	112
						J. Hines#
						v.o.
						J. Hoyer#
						R. Brownrigg
						S. Zende#
						I. Davies
						T. + D. Brownrigg
						S. Zende#
						R. Brownrigg
						S. Zende#
						J. Hoyer#
						R. Bowes
						T. Wetmore
						S. Zende#
						F. Vale
						B. Nikula
						S. Kellogg
						I. Davies
						T. + D. Brownrigg
						S. Zende#
						S. Zende#
						R. Schain#
						B. Nikula
						P. Brown
						P. Peterson
						M. Lynch#
						B. Nikula
						I. Davies
						S. Hedman
						J. Hoyer#
						P. Peterson
						R. Stymeist
						P. Gilmore#
						J. Romano
						I. Davies
						R. Stymeist
						S. Grinley#
						J. Berry
						M. Keleher
						G. Dysart
						Vale
						M. Rines
						M. Thorne
						S. Sumner
						J. Zepko
						R. Schain#
						S. Sullivan
						B. Cassie
						J. Berry
						S. Sumner
						B. Nikula
						S. Hedman#
						S. Kellogg
						P. Champlin
						M. Iliff#
						SSBC (GdE)
						B. Nikula
						MAS (D. Larson)
						J. Hines#
						v.o.
						J. Hoyer#

Glossy Ibis (continued)				8/1	Lexington	2	C. Cook
7/5	Randolph	1	V. Zollo	8/27	Ipswich	2	P. Devaney
7/22	Boston H. (Sheep)	2 ad, 4 juv	Stymeist	8/28	Concord	2 juvs	S. Perkins
7/31	Newbypt H.	7	P. + F. Vale	8/28	Medford	1 ad, 2 juv	P. Devaney
8/14	Petersham	1 ad	M. Lynch#		Broad-winged Hawk		
8/15-18	Sterling	1 ph	B. deGraaf	7/5	New Salem	3	J. Forbes#
8/16-18	GMNWR	1	A. Bragg#	7/10	Fitchburg-3	2	C. Caron
8/18-19	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	7/17	Savoy	3	M. Lynch#
8/31	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	6	I. Davies	7/31	Sandisfield	3	M. Lynch#
White-faced Ibis				7/31	Wompatuck SP	2	G. d'Entremont
7/6, 9	P.I.	1	R. Heil	8/7	S Hadley	3	L. Rogers
7/11	Squantum	1 ph	V. Zollo#	8/13	Phillipston	2	R. Stymeist#
Black Vulture				8/14	Petersham	2 imm	M. Lynch#
8/17	Randolph	1	V. Zollo	8/28	S. Quabbin	5	L. Therrien
8/21	Cheshire	2 ad+1 imm	Lynch	8/28	Concord	3 juvs	S. Perkins
8/21	Sandisfield	2	J. Zepko		American Kestrel		
8/29	Kingston	1	E. Dalton		thr		Reports of indiv. from 13 locations
Turkey Vulture				7/5	Wilmington	3	M. Rines
7/4	Newbury	nest/2 yg	J. Berry#	7/11	Hudson-9	2	C. Caron
7/5	Randolph	14	V. Zollo	7/11	Newbypt	1 ad, 3 yg	P. Brown
8/6	Taunton	24	K. Ryan	7/20	Melrose	2 ad, 2 yg	Jewell
8/13	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	7	I. Davies#	7/24	Duxbury B.	2	R. Bowes
8/21	Cheshire	24	M. Lynch#	7/25	Carlisle	3	A. Ankers
8/21	Barre	54	M. Lynch#	8/3	Hanscom	6	P. Peterson
8/30	Middleboro	18	I. Davies	8/21	Cheshire	1 ad + 3 yg	Lynch#
Osprey				8/21	Leicester	3	M. Lynch#
7/7	Essex	pr n	J. Berry	8/29	Saugus	2	S. Zende#
7/18	P.I.	12	R. Heil	8/30	Cumb. Farms	4	I. Davies
7/25	Squantum	pr, 3 juv	P. Peterson	8/31	Windsor Hill	4	B. Zajda
8/1	Fairhaven	7	A. + D. Morgan		Merlin		
8/13	Westport	42	M. Lynch#	7/22	P.I.	1	P. Roberts
8/21	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	12	I. Davies	8/7	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes
8/23	Northampton	9	T. Gagnon	8/19	Newbury	2 juv	L. Leka#
Bald Eagle				8/30	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist#
7/3	Ipswich	1 imm	J. Berry	8/30	Amherst	1	L. Therrien
7/11	Quabbin (G12)	2	J. Hoye#	8/30	Wayland	1	J. Malone
7/17	Deerfield	11	S. Kellogg	8/30	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	S. Hedman
7/25	Petersham	2 ad + 2 imm	M. Lynch#	8/31	Moran WMA	1	B. Zajda
8/16	Lunenburg	1 ph	D. Martin		Peregrine Falcon		
8/17	Quabbin (G35)	2 ad, 1 juv	T. Pirro	7/24	Cambridge	2	J. McCoy
8/18	Northboro	1	B. Volkle#	8/22	P.I.	4	B. Cassie
8/21	Concord	1 ad	C. Corey		King Rail		
8/26	Nantucket	1	R. Benchley	7/5	Wilmington	1	M. Rines
8/26	Waltham	1 ad	H. Yelle		Virginia Rail		
8/28	Natick	1 juv ph	G. Dysart	7/8	Topsfield	ad + 2 yg	J. Berry#
Northern Harrier				7/9	P.I.	1 ad, 4 yg	P. Ruvido
thr	Chatham (S.B.)	1-2	B. Nikula	7/15	Wilmington	2	M. Rines
8/1-28	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes	7/20	Ipswich	2	J. Berry
8/7	Tyringham	1 imm	M. Lynch#	8/2	Rowley	4	P. Brown
8/7	P.I.	2	F. Vale	8/29	N.E. Quabbin	2	M. Lynch#
8/9	GMNWR	1	A. Bragg#		Sora		
8/21	S. Monomoy	4	B. Nikula	7/18	P.I.	3	S. Grinley#
8/21	Leicester	2 imm	M. Lynch#	7/20	Ipswich	2	J. Berry
8/24	Rockport (H.P.)	1 juv	J. Berry	8/16-18	GMNWR	1	A. Bragg#
8/27	Cumb. Farms	2 juv	J. Berry#	8/19	E. Boston (B.I.)	1 juv	D. Hunneman#
8/27	Barre Falls	3	B. Kamp		Sandhill Crane		
8/29	Northampton	1 juv	B. Zajda	7/31	Sandisfield	1	M. Lynch#
8/29	Saugus	1	S. Zende#	8/28	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
8/31	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	R. Stymeist		Black-bellied Plover		
Sharp-shinned Hawk				thr	Chatham (S.B.)	1150 max	8/15 v.o.
7/10-8/31	Reports of indiv. from 15 locations			thr	P.I.	180 max	8/28 v.o.
7/26	C. Quabbin	3	L. Therrien	7/31, 8/28	Duxbury B.	90, 251	R. Bowes
8/29	N.E. Quabbin	4	M. Lynch#	8/8-25	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#
Cooper's Hawk				8/16	Longmeadow	1	S. Kellogg
thr	Reports of indiv. from 17 locations			8/26	Cumb. Farms	9	M. Iliff
7/14	Concord	2 juvs	S. Perkins#	8/28	Essex	208	D. Brown
8/19	P.I.	2 imm	T. Wetmore		American Golden-Plover		
8/20	W. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien	7/25-8/31	P.I.	1	v.o.
8/26	Northampton	2	T. Gagnon	8/21	S. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula
Red-shouldered Hawk				8/25	Edgartown	4	L. McDowell#
thr	E. Middleboro	3-4	K. Anderson	8/28	Chatham (S.B.)	1 juv	B. Zajda#
7/5	Randolph	2 ad	V. Zollo	8/30	Halifax	1	K. Ryan#
7/24	Stoughton	2	G. d'Entremont				

Semipalmated Plover				Upland Sandpiper			
thr	P.I.	750 max 8/27	v.o.	7/21	Hanscom	5	S. Perkins#
thr	Chatham (S.B.)	1700 max 8/15	B. Nikula	8/19	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	T. Factor#
7/24-8/31	Duxbury B.	1156 max 8/7	R. Bowes	8/21	Westport	1	I. Davies
7/29-8/31	Revere	395 max 8/20	v.o.	8/26	Cumb. Farms	3	M. Iliff
8/5	Lexington	12	M. Rines	Whimbrel			
8/6	Plymouth B.	1085	I. Davies	thr	Chatham (S.B.)	40 max 7/18	v.o.
8/17	Quabbin (G35)	12	T. Pirro	7/18-8/31	P.I.	7 max	v.o.
8/23	Nahant	640	L. Pivacek	7/20, 8/17	Westport	3, 15	P. Champlin
Piping Plover				7/20, 8/6	Plymouth B.	2, 4	I. Davies
thr	P.I.	31 max 7/18	v.o.	7/25, 8/25	Petersham	1, 1	M. Lynch#
thr	Chatham (S.B.)	42 max 7/16	v.o.	8/7	Eastham	49	B. Nikula
thr	Duxbury B.	12 max 7/6	R. Bowes	8/8	Truro	19	J. Young
thr	Plymouth B.	24 max 7/11	I. Davies	8/23	Manomet	4	I. Davies
7/15	Winthrop	17 juv	T. Bradford	8/24	Cumb. Farms	1	J. Sweeney
7/20	Westport	20+	P. Champlin	8/31	Nahant	9	L. Pivacek
7/27	Monomoy	46	K. Ryan#	Hudsonian Godwit			
8/5	Nantucket	16	W. Hutcheson	7thr	Chatham (S.B.)	68 max 8/7	v.o.
Killdeer				7/18-8/12	Newbypt H.	2-3	v.o.
7/17	Deerfield	26	S. Kellogg	7/27	Monomoy	29	K. Ryan#
7/17	Newbypt	42+	L. Leka	Bar-tailed Godwit			
8/10	P.I.	35	N. Backstrom	8/9, 27-28	N.B. S.B.	1	Harrington, Grenon
8/25	Belmont	56	B. Miller	Marbled Godwit			
8/31	Halifax	80+	P. + F. Vale	thr	Chatham (S.B.)	5 max	B. Nikula
American Oystercatcher				7/24	Duxbury B.	1 ph	R. Bowes
thr	Chatham (S.B.)	47 max 8/28	v.o.	7/27	Monomoy	3	K. Ryan#
7/7	Boston H.	14 ad, 7 imm	Stymeist	7/29	Ipswich (C.B.)	1	D. Jones#
7/27	Monomoy	30	K. Ryan#	8/1	P.I.	1	E. Labato#
8/3	Cataumet	3	D. Peebles	8/1	Essex	1	D. Brown
8/5	Nantucket	10	W. Hutcheson	8/15-23	Westport	1	P. Champlin
8/31	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	7	I. Davies	8/29	Katama	1 ph	F. + W. Spar
Spotted Sandpiper				Ruddy Turnstone			
7/6	P.I.	10 ad, 6 juv	P. Ruvido	thr	Chatham (S.B.)	220 max	v.o.
7/17	Deerfield	14	S. Kellogg	7/24-8/31	Duxbury B.	186 max	R. Bowes
7/24	Westport	10	B. Cassie	7/27	Monomoy	110	K. Ryan#
8/6	WBWS	10	M. Faherty	8/9	Newbypt H.	30	MAS (D. Larson)
8/14	Petersham	7	M. Lynch#	Red Knot			
8/15	Quabbin (G35)	6	B. Zajda	thr	Chatham (S.B.)	450 max	B. Nikula
8/20	Lexington	5	J. Forbes	7/22-8/31	P.I.	5 max	v.o.
8/29	W. Springfield	5	S. Kellogg	7/24	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	13	B. Cassie
Solitary Sandpiper				8/28	Duxbury B.	17	R. Bowes
7/6	Royalston	1	C. Caron	Sanderling			
8/2	SRV	11 max 8/2	B. Harris	thr	Chatham (S.B.)	950 max	B. Nikula
8/12	Sterling	14	T. Pirro	7/20, 8/6	Plymouth B.	500, 1300	I. Davies
8/17	WBWS	5	J. Ruggeri	7/31, 8/28	Duxbury B.	127, 786	R. Bowes
8/24	Nantucket	6	V. Laux	8/3	Revere B.	179	P. + F. Vale
8/31	Cumb. Farms	7	J. Offermann	8/9	Newbypt H.	200	MAS (D. Larson)
Greater Yellowlegs				8/15	Westport	400+	P. Champlin
thr	Chatham (S.B.)	175 max 8/12	v.o.	8/23	Nahant	476	L. Pivacek
7/11-8/31	P.I.	55 max	v.o.	8/28	P.I.	250	T. Spahr
7/24	Duxbury B.	29	R. Bowes	Semipalmated Sandpiper			
7/27	Monomoy	28	K. Ryan#	thr	Chatham (S.B.)	3000 max 7/18	B. Nikula
8/5	Squantum	50	P. Peterson	thr	P.I.	5000 max 8/6	v.o.
8/18	Minimoy	65	B. Haris	7/17-8/31	Duxbury B.	1625 max 8/21	R. Bowes
8/29	N.E. Quabbin	6	M. Lynch#	8/6	Plymouth B.	2300	I. Davies
8/31	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	18	I. Davies	8/9	Lynn B.	2500	L. Pivacek
Willet				8/22	N. Quabbin	12	L. Therrien
thr	Chatham (S.B.)	275 max 7/18	B. Nikula	Western Sandpiper			
thr	P.I.	42 max 7/6	v.o.	7/15-8/21	Chatham (S.B.)	3 max	v.o.
thr	Duxbury B.	66 max 7/31	R. Bowes	7/22-8/20	P.I.	1-2	v.o.
7/20	Westport	54	P. Champlin	7/26	Plymouth B.	2	I. Davies
7/27	Monomoy	60	K. Ryan#	8/5	Winthrop B.	1	T. Bradford
Western Willet				8/20	Scituate	2	T. O'Neil
7/2-8/12	Chatham (S.B.)	14 max 7/16	B. Nikula	8/21	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1 juv	I. Davies
Lesser Yellowlegs				Red-necked Stint			
thr	P.I.	170 max 8/14	v.o.	7/1-4	Chatham (S.B.)	1 ph	B. Nikula + v.o.
7/18	Chatham (S.B.)	12	P. Trull#	Least Sandpiper			
7/31	Newbypt H.	465+	P. + F. Vale	thr	Chatham (S.B.)	1000 max 7/18	B. Nikula
8/6	Plymouth B.	28	I. Davies	thr	P.I.	348 max 7/25	v.o.
8/19	Wakefield	6	P. + F. Vale	8/thr	Wayland	112 max 8/12	B. Harris
8/22	Hadley	4	S. Surner	8/12	Sterling	37	T. Pirro
8/24	WBWS	12	A. Burdo	8/18-24	Wakefield	40+	P. + F. Vale
8/27	Cumb. Farms	15	J. Berry#	8/21	Randolph	70	P. Peterson

Least Sandpiper (continued)				8/18	Sterling	1		T. Pirro
8/22	Hadley	48	S. Surner	8/20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1		A. Poole
White-rumped Sandpiper				8/27-31	Cumb. Farms	1		J. Berry
thr	Chatham (S.B.)	75 max	8/15 B. Nikula	Red-necked Phalarope				
7/11-8/31	P.I.	343 max	8/22 v.o.	7/11	Chatham (S.B.)	1		B. Nikula
8/14	Scituate	15	G. d'Entremont	8/21	Jeffries L.	4	MAS (D. Larson)	
8/23	Nahant	18	L. Pivacek	8/25	P.I.	2		Z. Cornell
Baird's Sandpiper				8/27	12 m NE P'town	80		P. Trull
8/20-23	W. Roxbury (MP)	1 juv	M. Iliff + v.o.	Black-legged Kittiwake				
8/21	P.I.	1	B. Zajda	8/24	Dennis	3 1W		P. Flood
8/21	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	8/24	P'town	1		B. Nikula
8/24	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray	Sabine's Gull				
8/28	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Zajda#	8/27	12 m NE P'town	1		P. Trull
8/30	Cumb. Farms	2 juv	I. Davies	8/28	Stellwagen	1 ad		T. O'Neil
8/31	Westport	2 ph	I. Davies	Bonaparte's Gull				
Pectoral Sandpiper				7/8	Plymouth B.	10		I. Davies
7/15	Chatham (S.B.)	1	N. Bonomo	7/25, 8/22	Petersham	3 ad, 1 juv	M. Lynch#	
7/23-8/31	P.I.	3-4	v.o.	8/7	Ipswich (C.B.)	110		D. Williams
8/5	Nantucket	2	W. Hutcheson	8/9	Lynn B.	700		L. Pivacek
8/13	Wakefield	3	P. + F. Vale	8/12	Newbypt H.	650+		P. + F. Vale
8/14	Petersham	6	M. Lynch#	8/23-27	Winchester	1 juv		M. Rines#
8/30	Cumb. Farms	6	I. Davies	8/24	Sharon	1		W. Sweet
Dunlin				8/24	Wachusett Res.	1		M. Iliff
thr	Chatham (S.B.)	6 max	B. Nikula	8/25-26	Haverhill	3 juv		S. Mirick
7/5-9	P.I.	2	P. Ruvido	8/30	Gloucester (E.P.)	42		S. Hedman
7/27	Monomoy	2	K. Ryan#	Black-headed Gull				
8/13	Westport	15	M. Lynch#	7/5-30	P.I.	2 1S		v.o.
White-rumped Sandpiper X Dunlin				8/14	Newbypt H.	1 (1S)		B. Zajda
7/2	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula	Little Gull				
Stilt Sandpiper				7/25	P.I.	1 1S		G. d'Entremont#
7/7	WBWS	1	M. Faherty	Laughing Gull				
7/11-8/14	P.I.	20 max	v.o.	7/16	Chatham (S.B.)	125		J. Trimble
7/29	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula	8/6	Plymouth B.	1300		I. Davies
8/13	Scituate	1	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	8/23	Nahant	390		L. Pivacek
8/14	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	8/23	Halifax	5 ad, 16 juv		I. Davies
8/20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	A. Poole	8/23	Rockport (A.P.)	110		T. Spahr
8/22	Revere B.	1	S. Zende#	8/24	Sharon	1		W. Sweet
8/24	Nantucket	3	V. Laux	8/24-27	Medford	1 imm		K. Hartel#
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				8/31	P'town	300		B. Nikula
8/21	P.I.	1	B. Zajda	Lesser Black-backed Gull				
8/26	Cumb. Farms	2 juv	M. Iliff	7/6	Westport	1		P. Champlin
8/28	Katama	5	L. McDowell	8/20	Chatham (N.B.)	8		B. Harris
8/29	N.E. Quabbin	1	M. Lynch#	8/25	Nantucket	2		E. Ray
8/30-31	Newbury	1 juv	F. Grenon	8/28	P.I.	1		T. Spahr
8/31	Halifax	2	J. Offermann	Least Tern				
Short-billed Dowitcher				thr	P.I.	60 max		v.o.
thr	Chatham (S.B.)	3500 max	718 B. Nikula	7/2	Lovell's I	35 nests		C. Trocki#
thr	P.I.	527 max	7/18 v.o.	7/8, 8/6	Plymouth B.350, 150	150		I. Davies
7/6-8/7	Duxbury B.	377 max	7/31 R. Bowes	7/18	Winthrop	26		R. Stymeist
7/13, 8/6	Plymouth B.129, 320		I. Davies	7/26	Scituate	60		P. Peterson
7/18	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	8/7	Ipswich (C.B.)	100		D. Williams
7/27	Monomoy	400	K. Ryan#	8/21	Chatham (S.B.)	80		A. Burdo#
8/21	W. Roxbury (MP)	1	R. Stymeist	Gull-billed Tern				
Long-billed Dowitcher				8/26	Chatham (S.B.)	1 ph		F. Grenon
7/10-8/24	P.I.	1-5	v.o.	Caspian Tern				
8/18	Minimoy	6	B. Harris	7/1-11, 8/26	Quabbin (G35)	2, 1		v.o., Lynch
8/21	S. Monomoy	3	B. Nikula	8/16	Marblehead	1		D. Noble
8/21-23	Randolph	1	P. Peterson	8/19	Randolph	1		P. Peterson
Wilson's Snipe				8/21	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1		M. Goetschkes#
8/1	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	8/27	Nantucket	1 ad		E. Ray#
8/2	GMNWR	1	A. Bragg#	8/30	P.I.	2		F. Grenon
8/13	Scituate	1	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	Black Tern				
8/21	P.I.	2	A. Buckhardt	thr	Chatham (S.B.)	7 max	8/7	v.o.
8/22	Hadley	1	S. Surner	8/1	Petersham	1		M. Lynch#
8/31	Cumb. Farms	8	J. Offermann	8/6	Plymouth B.	9		I. Davies
American Woodcock				8/18	Minimoy	6		B. Harris
7/11	E. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien	8/19	Gloucester	12		J. Rose
8/1	P.I.	2	R. Schain	8/21	Jeffries L.	6	MAS (D. Larson)	
8/8	Belchertown	2	L. Therrien	8/21	S. Monomoy	60		B. Nikula
Wilson's Phalarope				8/23	Manomet	11		I. Davies
thr	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	8/23-25	Winchester	2		M. Rines#
8/9-10	E. Boston (B.I.)	1 ph	P. Peterson	8/23-25	W. Roxbury (MP)	1 juv		M. Iliff + v.o.
8/17-19	Squantum	1	T. O'Neil	8/23	Randolph	2		I. Davies

Black Tern (continued)			8/20	Chatham (N.B.)	12	B. Harris		
8/23	Waltham	5	J. Forbes#	8/21	Randolph	6	G. d'Entremont#	
8/24	Barnstable	5	K. Ryan#	8/21	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	5	M. Goetschkes#	
8/24	P'town	5	B. Nikula	8/23	Brewster	3	B. Nikula	
8/24	Dennis	6	P. Flood	8/31	Westport	17	I. Davies	
8/25	Stoughton	1 ad	V. Zollo	Royal Tern				
8/27	12 m NE P'town	3	P. Trull	7/16	Chatham (S.B.)	1 ph	J. Trimble	
Roseate Tern				7/24, 8/22	P.I.	1, 1	Nielsen, Cassie	
7/6	Muskeget	30+	S. Perkins#	Black Skimmer				
8/5	Nantucket	65+	W. Hutcheson	7/13	P.I.	1 ad	R. Heil#	
8/6	Plymouth B.	541	I. Davies	7/16	S. Monomoy	1	J. Trimble	
8/8	P'town	200	B. Nikula	7/17	Chatham (S.B.)	3	T. Green#	
8/9	Salisbury	50	J. Berry#	8/8	Katama	3 pr	L. McDowell	
8/24	Dennis	22	P. Flood	8/18	Minimoy	6 ad, 2 juv	B. Harris	
8/28	Chatham	3000	C. Goodrich	Skua species				
Common Tern				8/24	P'town	1	B. Nikula	
thr	P.I.	228 max	7/31 v.o.	Pomarine Jaeger				
thr	Chatham (S.B.)	5000 max	8/18	B. Nikula	8/24	Rockport (H.P.)	2	C. Leahy#
7/8, 8/6	Plymouth B.	1600, 4500	I. Davies	Parasitic Jaeger				
7/20	Vineyard Haven	300	M. Pelikan	8/23	Rockport (A.P.)	3 ad lt	T. Spahr	
7/25, 8/14	Petersham	1, 1	M. Lynch#	8/24	Barnstable	3	K. Ryan#	
8/7, 31	P'town	500, 850	B. Nikula	8/24	Dennis	1	P. Flood	
8/23	Waltham	3	J. Hines	Long-tailed Jaeger				
8/23-26	Winchester/Arl.	1	M. Rines#	8/15	Stellwagen	1	J. Frontierro	
8/24	Sharon	1	W. Sweet	8/24	Barnstable	1	K. Ryan#	
8/25-26	Woburn (HP)	1	M. Rines	8/24	Manomet	1 juv	I. Davies	
8/25-26	Haverhill	1 juv	S. Mirick	Black Guillemot				
Arctic Tern				8/16-17	Centerville	1	N. Soulette#	
7/11	Plymouth B.	2	I. Davies	8/27	P.I.	1 juv dead	P. Roberts	
7/16	S. Monomoy	2	J. Trimble	Atlantic Puffin				
Forster's Tern				7/5	Nantucket	1 dead	E. Masterson	
8/6	Plymouth B.	2 juv ph	I. Davies	8/21	Jeffries L.	2	MAS (D. Larson)	

PARAKEETS THROUGH FINCHES

The two Monk Parakeets that built a nest on a utility pole at Breman Street Park in East Boston increased to three birds in July. The three birds appeared to be in adult plumage, so breeding is not yet confirmed. There are now three separate entrances to the giant nest, with each bird observed doing maintenance on its own section. If you look for the birds and can't find them, ask anyone. The birds continue to be a big hit with the neighborhood, and everyone seems to know all the places they frequent.

Common Nighthawks start migrating by mid August, though each year there seem to be fewer noted from the traditional sight locations monitored by the same individuals for many years. In August, the best migration numbers came on August 26–28, when over 1500 were noted from just six locations. A Chuck-will's-widow was still calling in early July from Pochet Island in Orleans and a Whip-poor-will as late as August 31 from Plum Island. An amazing account of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds from Deerfield shed some facts on distribution and population. On August 7 hummingbird bander Anthony Hill visited Bill Benner to trap and band hummers in his yard for the third year. From six in the morning until 10:30, just four and a half hours, he trapped and banded 47 individual hummingbirds and another previously banded bird for a total of 48!!

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** reported from Deerfield was the first for western Massachusetts in this period since 1993. The first fall Olive-sided Flycatcher migrants were noted in mid August, and about the same time Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen in non-breeding areas. The bird of the period was a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** discovered at Sandy Point on Plum Island. This bird, unlike others of this species that have arrived in our state, seemed to roam about eluding many observers, and multiple attempts to locate the bird were required. Luckily, it was present well into August. The August build-up of Tree Swallows never disappoints; 50,000 were estimated on Plum Island on August 14, half of the 100,000 estimated on Plum Island last year on August 28.

With all the attention given to shorebird migration during this period, the passerine migration is easily overlooked. Thirty-three warbler species plus one hybrid Lawrence's Warbler were noted, surpassing 29 species of warblers during the same period last year. Highlights included a **Golden-winged Warbler** from Dunback Meadow in Lexington, a **Kentucky Warbler** banded on Plum Island, and, most bizarre, a **Prothonotary Warbler** that landed on a boat well offshore.

Early indications of a possible good winter finch flight were noted in reports of Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks as well as many reports of Purple Finches, even from eastern Massachusetts.

R. Stymeist

Monk Parakeet				8/7	Lexington	8	J. Forbes
7/thr	E. Boston	3	v.o.	8/8	C. Quabbin	8	L. Therrien
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				8/13	New Salem	6	R. Stymeist#
thr	Reports of indiv. from 12 locations			8/13	Deerfield	47	B. Benner
7/6	Fall River	pr	L. Abbey	8/23	Florence	8	T. Gagnon
8/1	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#	8/26	Westfield	8	J. Hutchison
8/1	N. Quabbin	4	M. Lynch	8/26	Northampton	6	T. Gagnon
Black-billed Cuckoo				8/28	Quabbin (G45-49)	13	M. Lynch#
thr	Reports of indiv. from 12 locations			8/29	N.E. Quabbin	5	M. Lynch#
7/4	P.I.	3	S. Sullivan	Belted Kingfisher			
7/11	Pelham	2	L. Therrien	7/14	Ipswich	2 juvs	J. Berry
7/31	Sandisfield	5	M. Lynch#	8/15	Otis-Beckett line	4	M. Lynch#
8/14	S. Quabbin	4	L. Therrien	8/22	Lexington	5	M. Rines
Eastern Screech-Owl				Red-headed Woodpecker			
thr	Reports of indiv. from 22 locations			7/1-17	Deerfield	1	J. Smith
8/12	Natick	2	G. Dysart	Red-bellied Woodpecker			
8/14	Wakefield	1 ad, 1 juv	Vale	7/30	Shirley	2	T. Aversa
8/15	Wayland	2	B. Harris	8/7	Mashpee	4	M. Keleher
Great Horned Owl				8/28	DWWS	5	BBC (GdE)
7/5	Newbypt-2	1 ad, 1 juv	S. McGrath#	8/30	Medford	3	M. Rines
Barred Owl				Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
7/12	Manchester	2	S. Hedman	7/5	Petersham	9	M. Lynch#
7/17	Savoy	1	M. Lynch#	7/8	Royalston	6	C. Caron
8/8	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	7/17	Savoy	8	M. Lynch#
8/11	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	7/24	New Marlboro	12	M. Lynch#
Northern Saw-whet Owl				7/31	Sandisfield	15	M. Lynch#
8/28	Quabbin (G45-49)	1	M. Lynch#	8/29	N.E. Quabbin	18 imm	M. Lynch#
Common Nighthawk				Hairy Woodpecker			
8/6	Boston	3	R. Schain	7/27	Ipswich (WSF)	4	J. Berry
8/12	Sterling	4	T. Pirro	7/31	Wompatuck SP	5	G. d'Entremont
8/16, 26	Northampton	112, 193	T. Gagnon	8/7	Mashpee	6	M. Keleher
8/20	S. Quabbin	229	L. Therrien	8/8	Petersham	6	M. Lynch#
8/21	Leicester	417	M. Lynch#	8/28	Quabbin (G45-49)	14	M. Lynch#
8/26	Watertown	195+	C. Cook	8/29	N.E. Quabbin	7	M. Lynch#
8/27, 28	Northampton	305, 205	T. Gagnon	Pileated Woodpecker			
8/27	Natick	150	J. Normandin	7/4	Winchendon	1	C. Caron
8/27	Wellesley	300	G. Dysart	7/11	New Marlboro	2	M. Lynch#
8/27	Harvard	150+	J. Moosbrucker#	7/12	Manchester	1	S. Hedman
8/28	Pittsfield	209	J. Robinson	7/14	Ipswich	1	J. Berry
8/29	Wachusett Res.	325	K. Bourinot	7/30	Acton	3	T. + D. Brownrigg
8/29, 30	Northampton	297, 164	T. Gagnon	7/31	Sandisfield	6	M. Lynch#
8/29	Longmeadow	283	G. Kingston	8/8	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#
8/30	Mt.A.	102	R. Stymeist#	8/29	N.E. Quabbin	3	M. Lynch#
8/31	Westboro	436	S. Arena	Olive-sided Flycatcher			
Chuck-will's-widow				7/31	New Marlboro	1	M. Lynch#
7/2	Orleans	2	R. Schain#	8/7	W. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien
Whip-poor-will				8/14	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien
7/2	Orleans	1	R. Schain#	8/18	Longmeadow	1	S. Kellogg
7/5	W. Gloucester	1	J. Nelson	8/25	Amherst	1	D. Minear
8/31	P.I.	1	R. Heitzman	8/25	Truro	1	J. Taylor
Chimney Swift				8/26	Chesterfield	1	T. Gagnon
7/28	Wakefield	22	P. + F. Vale	8/29	W. Springfield	1	L. Richardson
8/10	P.I.	30	N. Backstrom	Eastern Wood-Pewee			
8/17	Jamaica Plain	45	A. Joslin	7/4	Petersham	11	M. Lynch#
8/26	Haverhill	100	S. Mirick	7/10	Fitchburg-3	9	C. Caron
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				7/11	New Marlboro	12	M. Lynch#
8/1	Natick	5	G. Dysart	7/11	Quabbin (G10)	6	BBC (GdE)
8/1-16	Brewster	20 b	S. Finnegan	7/24	New Marlboro	10	M. Lynch#

Tree Swallow (continued)			8/8	Belmont	9	J. Forbes
8/26-29	Wakefield	4000+	P. + F. Vale	8/16	Medford	10
8/28	Cumb. Farms	500	BBC (GdE)	8/21	Cheshire	6
8/28	Chatham	5000	C. Goodrich	8/27	Lexington	10
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				Winter Wren		
7/7	Newbury	3	S. McGrath	7/2	Winchendon	2
7/10	Andover	7	P. + F. Vale	7/3	C. Quabbin	5
7/24	Wakefield	10	P. + F. Vale	7/5	Petersham	2
7/31	Acton	35	S. Perkins#	7/10	Fitchburg-3	2
7/31	Agawam	4	S. Kellogg	7/11	New Marlboro	2
8/25	W. Springfield	22	J. Zepko	7/12	Beverly	2
8/29	Longmeadow	4	S. Kellogg	7/17	Savoy	3
Bank Swallow				7/27	Ipswich (WSF)	2
7/10	Winchendon	25	M. Lynch#	Sedge Wren		
7/13	P.I.	360	R. Heil	7/1-4	DWWS	1
8/6	Lincoln	60	M. Rines	Marsh Wren		
8/16	Agawam	150	S. Kellogg	7/2	P.I.	30
8/24	W. Roxbury (MP)	8	M. Iliff	7/20	Ipswich	5 m
8/24	Waltham	4	J. Forbes	7/26	GMNWR	10
8/24	Winchester	1	P. + F. Vale	8/7	Mashpee	6
8/25	Haverhill	1	S. Mirick	Golden-crowned Kinglet		
Cliff Swallow				7/11	C. Quabbin	3
7/1	Concord (NAC)	4	D. Swain	7/11	Hudson-9	1
7/11	Sandisfield	15+	M. Lynch#	7/17	Savoy	5
7/24	New Marlboro	3	M. Lynch#	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		
7/26	Haverhill	2 pr n	N. Landry	7/3	Ipswich	nest/4 yg
8/7	P.I.	6	B. Harris#	7/18	Petersham	3
8/7	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	T. Factor	7/26	GMNWR	5
8/7	Tyringham	5	M. Lynch#	7/31	Concord	5
8/13	Westport	2	M. Lynch#	8/14	S. Quabbin	6
8/21	Cheshire	11	M. Lynch#	8/27	Chatham	5
8/23	Wayland	1	B. Harris	8/28	Harwichport	2
8/30	GMNWR	1	J. McCoy	8/28	P.I.	2
Barn Swallow				Eastern Bluebird		
7/11	Sandisfield	50+	M. Lynch#	7/5	Haverhill	12
7/14	Hanscom	80	S. Perkins#	8/15	DFWS	29
7/24	New Marlboro	130+	M. Lynch#	8/27	Needham	12
8/5	Plymouth B.	500	G. Harriman	Veery		
8/7	Tyringham	223	M. Lynch#	7/2	Winchendon	6
8/21	Cheshire	50+	M. Lynch#	7/2	Middleton	7
8/24	W. Roxbury (MP)	45	R. Schain#	7/3	Quabbin (G8)	9
8/26	WBWS	120	M. Faherty	7/4	Petersham	24
Red-breasted Nuthatch				7/5	Boxboro	8
7/7	Winchendon-8	14	C. Caron	7/8	Royalston	10
7/11	Hudson-9	7	C. Caron	7/11	New Marlboro	17
8/1	Petersham	10	M. Lynch#	7/11	Quabbin (G10)	12
8/7	Mashpee	21	M. Keleher	7/11	Sandisfield	18
8/8	C. Quabbin	15	L. Therrien	8/29	N.E. Quabbin	14
8/18	Carlisle	10	T. + D. Brownrigg	Swainson's Thrush		
8/27	Waltham	4	J. Forbes	7/17	Savoy	4
8/27	Sudbury	5	J. Malone	8/30	Medford	1
8/29	N.E. Quabbin	64	M. Lynch#	Hermit Thrush		
8/31	Westport	13	I. Davies	7/7	Winchendon-8	9
Brown Creeper				7/8	Royalston	6
7/4	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#	7/11	Quabbin (G10)	9
7/7	Winchendon-8	5	C. Caron	7/12	Beverly	13
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	2	BBC (GdE)	7/17	Savoy	19
7/11	New Marlboro	9	M. Lynch#	7/24	New Marlboro	14
8/15	Otis-Beckett line	5	M. Lynch#	7/31	Sandisfield	11
Carolina Wren				8/11	Eastham	7 imm b
8/7	Mashpee	9	M. Keleher	Wood Thrush		
8/14	N. Scituate	6	G. d'Entremont	7/3	Quabbin (G8)	3
8/14	Woburn	8	M. Rines	7/4	Newbury	5 m
8/16	Medford	7	M. Rines	7/10	Harvard	3
8/21	Cheshire	10	M. Lynch#	7/11	New Marlboro	10
8/28	DWWS	6	BBC (GdE)	7/11	Quabbin (G10)	5
8/29	Lexington	7	M. Rines	7/15	Rowley	6
House Wren				7/23	E. Middleboro	3
7/10	Winchendon	6	M. Lynch#	8/13	Medford	1
7/23	Middleton	5	J. Berry	Gray Catbird		
7/27	Newton	8	H. Miller	7/7	Ipswich	26
7/31	Hamilton	9	J. Berry	8/7	Tyringham	31
8/3	Ipswich	7	J. Berry#	8/7	Brewster	53 b

Gray Catbird (continued)				Cape May Warbler			
8/14	P.I.	90	D. Bates	8/18	P.I.	1	D. Chickering
8/14	N. Scituate	41	G. d'Entremont	8/21	Jeffries L.	1 imm	MAS (Larson)
8/20	Lexington	26	P. + F. Vale	Black-throated Blue Warbler			
8/21	Cheshire	46	M. Lynch#	7/8	Royalston	18	C. Caron
8/21	Westport	39	I. Davies	7/11	Quabbin (G10)	21	BBC (GdE)
8/28	Quabbin (G45-49)	38	M. Lynch#	7/11	Sandisfield	9	M. Lynch#
8/31	Brewster	45 b	S. Finnegan	7/17	Savoy	9	M. Lynch#
Brown Thrasher				7/18	Petersham	8	M. Lynch#
7/5	Haverhill	pr	J. Berry#	8/20	W. Quabbin	9	L. Therrien
7/10	Andover	3	P. + F. Vale	8/27	Lexington	2	M. Rines
8/14	Woburn (HP)	3	M. Rines	8/28	P.I.	2	T. Spahr
8/17	P.I.	10	W. Tatro	Yellow-rumped Warbler			
8/30	Medford	3	M. Rines	7/4	Petersham	8	M. Lynch#
Cedar Waxwing				7/7	Winchendon-8	6	C. Caron
7/31	Sandisfield	34	M. Lynch#	7/8	Royalston	7	C. Caron
7/31	P.I.	75	B. Griffith#	7/11	New Marlboro	7	M. Lynch#
8/21	Cheshire	74	M. Lynch#	7/11	Quabbin (G10)	9	BBC (GdE)
8/31	Moran WMA	100	B. Zajda	7/13	Ashburnham-2	3	C. Caron
Blue-winged Warbler				7/17	Savoy	19	M. Lynch#
thr	Reports of indiv. from 14 locations			8/7	P.I.	1 juv	B. Harris#
Golden-winged Warbler				8/29	N.E. Quabbin	25	M. Lynch#
8/27	Lexington	1 m	M. Rines	Black-throated Green Warbler			
Lawrence's Warbler				7/2	Winchendon	5	C. Caron
8/6	N. Truro	1	J. Young	7/3	Otis	3	J. Forbes
Tennessee Warbler				7/8	Royalston	10	C. Caron
8/28	W. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	7/11	Quabbin (G10)	5	BBC (GdE)
8/31	MNWS	1	J. Hoye#	7/12	Beverly	10 m	J. Berry#
8/31	Moran WMA	1	B. Zajda	7/17	Savoy	16	M. Lynch#
Nashville Warbler				7/18	C. Quabbin	14	L. Therrien
7/5	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	7/21	Rowley	6 m	J. Berry
7/6	Royalston	1	C. Caron	7/24	New Marlboro	14	M. Lynch#
7/10	Fitchburg-3	2	C. Caron	8/8	Petersham	10	M. Lynch#
7/24	New Marlboro	1	M. Lynch#	8/31	Moran WMA	24	B. Zajda
7/31	Sandisfield	1	M. Lynch#	Blackburnian Warbler			
8/25	Springfield	2	A. + L. Richardson	7/4	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
8/27	Lexington	1	M. Rines	7/8	Royalston	3	C. Caron
8/28	Quabbin (G45-49)	1	M. Lynch#	7/9	S. Quabbin	8	L. Therrien
Northern Parula				7/17	Savoy	7	M. Lynch#
7/6	Mt Holyoke	1	I. Davies	7/31	Sandisfield	4	M. Lynch#
7/13	Ashburnham-2	1	C. Caron	8/28	P.I.	1	T. Spahr
8/1	Boston (BNC)	1	T. Aversa	Pine Warbler			
8/7	Mashpee	1 ad, 2 yg	M. Keleher	7/1	Falmouth	4	D. Ely
8/25	Springfield	1	A. + L. Richardson	7/1	Andover	6 m	J. Berry#
8/26	Woburn (HP)	1	M. Rines	7/1	Jamaica Plain	3	P. Peterson
8/26	Westfield	1	J. Hutchison	7/1	Brewster	3	D. Ely
8/27	Lexington	4	M. Rines	7/3	Quabbin (G8)	6	P. + F. Vale
8/31	Westport	1	I. Davies	7/9	N. Andover	3	J. Berry
Yellow Warbler				7/10	Wellfleet	8	R. Stymeist
7/23	P.I.	39	R. Schain	7/12	Beverly	7	J. Berry#
8/14	Boston (Fens)	15	R. Schain	8/22	Petersham	70	M. Lynch#
8/21	Westport	19	I. Davies	8/27	Carlisle	5	A. Ankers
Chestnut-sided Warbler				8/29	N.E. Quabbin	145	M. Lynch#
7/3	Savoy	39	M. Lynch#	Prairie Warbler			
7/4	Petersham	12	M. Lynch#	7/1	Falmouth	3	D. Ely
7/6	Royalston	7	C. Caron	7/2	Winchendon	4	C. Caron
7/10	Fitchburg-3	5	C. Caron	7/4	Newbury	4	J. Berry#
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	25	BBC (GdE)	7/9	S. Quabbin	5	L. Therrien
7/11	New Marlboro	12	M. Lynch#	7/10	Famouth	2	M. Keleher
7/11	Sandisfield	22	M. Lynch#	7/10	Wellfleet	6	R. Stymeist
8/20	W. Quabbin	7	L. Therrien	7/23	Middleton	2	J. Berry
8/21	Cheshire	6	M. Lynch#	8/29	N.E. Quabbin	6	M. Lynch#
8/31	Moran WMA	5	B. Zajda	8/31	Westport	1	I. Davies
Magnolia Warbler				Palm Warbler			
7/2	Winchendon	2	C. Caron	8/25	Springfield	1	A. + L. Richardson
7/11	C. Quabbin	7	L. Therrien	8/31	Amherst	1	L. Therrien
7/24	New Marlboro	4	M. Lynch#	8/31	Westport	3	I. Davies
7/31	Sandisfield	3	M. Lynch#	Blackpoll Warbler			
8/26	Woburn (HP)	1	M. Rines	8/28	P.I.	2	T. Spahr
8/27	Waltham	1	J. Forbes	8/31	Moran WMA	2	B. Zajda
8/28	Quabbin (G45-49)	4	M. Lynch#	8/31	Westport	1	I. Davies
8/29	N.E. Quabbin	8	M. Lynch#	Cerulean Warbler			
				7/11	Quabbin (G26)	1	J. Hoye#

Cerulean Warbler (continued)

8/28	Quabbin (G45-49)	1 imm	M. Lynch#
Black-and-white Warbler			
7/2	Winchendon	4	C. Caron
7/4	Petersham	6	M. Lynch#
7/6	Royalston	6	C. Caron
7/24	New Marlboro	3	M. Lynch#
7/31	Sandisfield	11	M. Lynch#
8/5	Woburn (HP)	3	M. Rines
8/7	Tyringham	10	M. Lynch#
8/15	Otis-Beckett line	8	M. Lynch#
8/20	W. Quabbin	10	L. Therrien
8/29	N.E. Quabbin	11	M. Lynch#
8/31	Medford	3	M. Rines

American Redstart

7/4	Petersham	9	M. Lynch#
7/11	Sandisfield	13	M. Lynch#
7/24	New Marlboro	7	M. Lynch#
8/1-26	P.I.	30 b	B. Flemer
8/4, 27	Lexington	3, 10	M. Rines
8/7	Tyringham	10	M. Lynch#
8/14	S. Quabbin	11	L. Therrien
8/19	Belmont	2	J. Forbes
8/26	Woburn (HP)	4	M. Rines
8/30	Medford	18	M. Rines
8/31	Westport	4	I. Davies

Prothonotary Warbler

8/18	Stellwagen Bank	1 ph	O. O'Brien
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Worm-eating Warbler

7/5	Sharon	1	E. Nielsen
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Ovenbird

7/1	Andover	6 m	J. Berry#
7/2	Winchendon	10	C. Caron
7/3	Quabbin (G8)	7	P. + F. Vale
7/5	Petersham	10	M. Lynch#
7/6	Royalston	15	C. Caron
7/12	Beverly	6 m	J. Berry#
7/17	Savoy	13	M. Lynch#
8/1-27	P.I.	7 b	B. Flemer
8/30	Westfield	2	J. Hutchison

Northern Waterthrush

7/3	Gill	2	C. Caron
7/24	New Marlboro	3	M. Lynch#
7/30	Shirley	2	T. Aversa
7/31	Wompatuck SP	3	G. d'Entremont
8/7	MNWS	3	J. Hoye#
8/14	Boston (Fens)	4	R. Schain
8/22	Nahant	2	G. d'Entremont#
8/24	W. Roxbury (MP)	3	M. Iliff
8/26	Woburn (HP)	2	M. Rines
8/27	WBWS	3	M. Faherty
8/28	P.I.	2	T. Spahr

Louisiana Waterthrush

7/3	Savoy	2	M. Lynch#
7/6	Royalston	1	C. Caron
7/10	Fitchburg-3	1	C. Caron
7/24	New Marlboro	2	M. Lynch#
7/28	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
7/30	Shirley	2	T. Aversa
8/8	C. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien
8/21	Cheshire	1	M. Lynch#

Kentucky Warbler

8/28	P.I.	1 b	B. Flemer
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Connecticut Warbler

8/29	Northampton	1	B. Zajda
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Mourning Warbler

7/3	Savoy	2 m	M. Lynch#
7/11	Greylock	1	T. Gagnon
8/8, 18	P.I.	1 b, 1 b	B. Flemer
8/8	Manomet	1 ph	I. Davies
8/14	N. Scituate	1 imm	G. d'Entremont
8/14	Brewster	1 imm b	S. Finnegan
8/29	Bradford	1	D. + S. Larson

Common Yellowthroat

7/3	Savoy	23	M. Lynch#
7/4	Winchendon	24	C. Caron
7/5	Petersham	24	M. Lynch#
7/6	P.I.	24 m	J. Berry
7/7	Ipswich	33	J. Berry
7/11	New Marlboro	32	M. Lynch#
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	26	BBC (GdE)
7/18	C. Quabbin	38	L. Therrien
8/7	Tyringham	34	M. Lynch#
8/7	Mashpee	25	M. Keleher
8/21	Westport	44	I. Davies
8/29	N.E. Quabbin	39	M. Lynch#

Hooded Warbler

8/26	Nantucket	1	V. Laux
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Wilson's Warbler

8/14	P.I.	1 f	T. Spahr
8/22	MNWS	1	G. d'Entremont#
8/27	Lexington	1	M. Rines
8/27	Boston (Fens)	1	R. Schain
8/27	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine
8/28	Duxbury B.	1 m ad ph	R. Bowes
8/29	Northampton	1	B. Zajda
8/31	Westport	2	I. Davies
8/31	Moran WMA	2	B. Zajda

Canada Warbler

7/10	Fitchburg-3	3	C. Caron
8/8	C. Quabbin	4	L. Therrien
8/18	Carlisle	2	T. + D. Brownrigg
8/20	P.I.	2 b	B. Flemer
8/22	MNWS	1	G. d'Entremont#
8/27	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine
8/27	Boston (Fens)	1	R. Schain
8/29	N.E. Quabbin	4	M. Lynch#

Yellow-breasted Chat

8/28-31	Brewster	1 m imm b	S. Finnegan
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Eastern Towhee

7/6	P.I.	29	J. Berry
7/7	Ipswich	46	J. Berry
7/10	Wellfleet	10	R. Stymeist
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	26	BBC (GdE)
7/17	W. Boxford	13	J. Berry#
7/18	C. Quabbin	47	L. Therrien
7/18	Petersham	20	M. Lynch#
7/31	Wompatuck SP	31	G. d'Entremont
7/31	Hamilton	20	J. Berry
8/28	Quabbin (G45-49)	32	M. Lynch#
8/29	N.E. Quabbin	28	M. Lynch#

Chipping Sparrow

7/1	Falmouth	30	D. Ely
7/16	Beverly	50+	J. Berry#
8/4	Easton	100	K. Ryan
8/12	Mt.A.	27	R. Stymeist
8/21	Sudbury	25	T. Spahr

Clay-colored Sparrow

7/5-19	S. Wellfleet	1	B. Nikula + v.o.
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Field Sparrow

7/1	Falmouth	6	D. Ely
7/3	Savoy	6	M. Lynch#
7/10	Wellfleet	5	R. Stymeist
7/17	Falmouth	8	M. Keleher
7/17	W. Boxford	7	J. Berry#
8/28	Southwick	5	S. Kellogg

Vesper Sparrow

8/31	Moran WMA	1	B. Zajda
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Lark Sparrow

8/26	Nantucket	1	S. Langer
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Savannah Sparrow

7/3	Ipswich	2 m	J. Berry#
7/14	Hanscom	70+	S. Perkins#
7/18	P.I.	3+	T. Wetmore
8/7	Tyringham	9	M. Lynch#

Grasshopper Sparrow			7/4	Newbury	7	J. Berry#
7/1 Falmouth	7	D. Ely	7/5	Haverhill	6 m	J. Berry#
7/2 Orleans	8	R. Schain#	7/17	Savoy	7	M. Lynch#
7/9 Montague	1	H. Allen	8/7	Tyringham	13	M. Lynch#
7/21 Hanscom	5	M. Rines#	8/14	Woburn (HP)	6	M. Rines
Saltmarsh Sparrow			8/15	DFWS	7	P. Sowizral
thr Chatham (S.B.)	14 max	v.o.	8/29	Northampton	25	B. Zajda
thr P.I.	13 max		Dickcissel			
thr E. Boston (B.I.)	9 max	v.o.	8/21	P.I.	1	J. Restivo
7/22 Orleans	1	J. Luscier	8/22	Wayland	1	B. Harris
7/25 Squantum	3	P. Peterson	8/28-29	Cumb. Farms	2	J. Sweeney + v.o.
7/25 S. Dart. (A.Pd)	5	A. + D. Morgan	Bobolink			
7/27 Monomoy	12	K. Ryan#	7/20	Ipswich	38	J. Berry
8/1 Fairhaven	5	A. + D. Morgan	8/6	P.I.	60+	T. Wetmore
8/5 Nantucket	3	W. Hutcheson	8/7	Tyringham	242	M. Lynch#
Seaside Sparrow			8/26	Northampton	448	T. Gagnon
7/19 P.I.	6	BBC (T. Young)	8/27	Cumb. Farms	100+	J. Berry#
7/20 S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	M. Iliff#	8/29	Southwick	188	S. Kellogg
Lincoln's Sparrow			8/31	Newbury	55	P. Peterson
8/29 P.I.	1	B. Harris#	Eastern Meadowlark			
8/31 Moran WMA	1	B. Zajda	7/6	Wrentham	3	E. LoPresti#
Swamp Sparrow			7/6	P.I.	1	J. Berry
7/5 Petersham	9	M. Lynch#	7/21	Hanscom	25+	S. Perkins#
7/10 Winchendon	16	M. Lynch#	7/23	Newbury	1	R. Stymeist
7/17 Wakefield	12	P. + F. Vale	8/29	Saugus (Bear C.)	3	S. Zende#
8/21 Cheshire	11	M. Lynch#	Orchard Oriole			
White-throated Sparrow			7/1	Falmouth	3 pr, 10 juv	D. Ely
7/3 Savoy	9	M. Lynch#	7/18	Belmont	3	J. Forbes
7/10 Winchendon	12	M. Lynch#	7/31	Concord	1	S. Perkins#
7/13 Ashburnham-2	2	C. Caron	8/8	Belmont	2	J. Forbes
7/18 Petersham	1 fl	M. Lynch#	8/18	P.I.	1 b	B. Flemer
7/24 Boston (Fens)	1 ph	R. Schain	Baltimore Oriole			
8/29 S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	7/19	C. Quabbin	14	L. Therrien
8/31 Moran WMA	1	B. Zajda	7/31	Concord	12	S. Perkins#
Dark-eyed Junco			8/14	S. Quabbin	13	L. Therrien
7/3 Savoy	12	M. Lynch#	8/21	Wayland	10	B. Harris
7/3 Otis	2	J. Forbes#	8/21	Sudbury	10	T. Spahr
7/7 Winchendon-8	1	C. Caron	8/31	Moran WMA	4	B. Zajda
7/11 New Marlboro	2	M. Lynch#	Purple Finch			
7/17 Savoy	16	M. Lynch#	7/3	Savoy	7	M. Lynch#
8/15 Otis-Beckett line	3	M. Lynch#	7/4	Carlisle	2	A. Ankers
Summer Tanager			7/7	Ipswich	4	J. Berry
7/1-6 Brewster	1 m	J. Talin + v.o.	7/24	New Marlboro	7 imm	M. Lynch#
Scarlet Tanager			8/10	P.I.	5	N. Backstrom
7/5 Haverhill	4 m	J. Berry#	8/14	S. Quabbin	6	L. Therrien
7/8 Royalston	12	C. Caron	8/21	Wayland	1	B. Harris
7/11 New Marlboro	11	M. Lynch#	8/21	Cheshire	11	M. Lynch#
7/11 Quabbin (G10)	9	BBC (GdE)	8/28	Chatham	5	C. Goodrich
7/12 Beverly	6 m	J. Berry#	Red Crossbill			
7/26 C. Quabbin	8	L. Therrien	7/3	C. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien
8/28 Quabbin (G45-49)	11	M. Lynch#	8/30	Amherst	1	L. Therrien
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			Pine Siskin			
7/31 Sandisfield	9	M. Lynch#	7/7	Amherst	1	J. Marcum
8/2 W. Roxbury (MP)	3	M. Kaufmann	7/11	Boxford	1	T. Martin
8/7 P.I.	6	T. Spahr	8/4	Hadley	1	P. Yeskie
8/21 Cheshire	6	M. Lynch#	Evening Grosbeak			
8/27 Lexington	4	M. Rines	7/3	Savoy	2	M. Lynch#
8/30 Westfield	6	J. Hutchison	7/4	New Salem	2	J. Forbes
8/31 Moran WMA	3	B. Zajda	7/11	Plainfield	1	J. Williams
Blue Grosbeak			7/19	Tolland	1	M. Conway
7/1-17 Falmouth	1 m subad	v.o.				
Indigo Bunting						
7/3 C. Quabbin	9	L. Therrien				



ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, 42nd through 51st Supplements, as published in *The Auk* 117: 847-58 (2000); 119: 897-906 (2002); 120: 923-32 (2003); 121: 985-95 (2004); 122: 1026-31 (2005); 123: 926-36 (2006); 124 (3): 1109-15 (2007); 125 (3): 758-68 (2008); 126 (3): 705-14 (2009); 127 (3): 726-44 (2010) (see <<http://www.aou.org/checklist/north>>).

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

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month, and may be submitted by postal mail or e-mail. Send written reports to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 36 Lewis Avenue, Arlington, MA 02474-3206. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). For instructions on e-mail submission, visit: <<http://massbird.org/birdobserver/sightings/>>.

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (indicated by an asterisk [*] in the Bird Reports), as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts, should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Matt Garvey, 137 Beaconsfield Rd. #5, Brookline, MA 02445, or by e-mail to <mattgarvey@gmail.com>.

ABOUT THE COVER

Golden-crowned Kinglet

The Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) is most commonly found in Massachusetts during migration and in winter in mixed-species foraging flocks. This tiny bird is gray-green above, fading to light gray below, with yellow on its tail, wings, and crown. The crown, which is yellow in the female and orange and yellow in the male, is ringed with black. It has black eye and malar stripes, a single white wing bar, and black at the base of the secondaries. The larger Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*R. calendula*) lacks the black markings on the head and sports a prominent white eye ring. The often-concealed “ruby crown” of this species is present only in males. The Golden-crowned Kinglet is polytypic, with four to six subspecies recognized by taxonomists. *R. s. satrapa* is found in New England. It forms a superspecies with the Goldcrest (*R. regulus*) of Europe and Asia.

Golden-crowned Kinglets breed from southern Alaska across most of southern Canada to Newfoundland and south to the Great Lakes, and in the Northeast south along the Appalachians to North Carolina and Tennessee. In the West they breed south through California and the Rocky Mountains almost to the Mexican border, and they have several small, disjunct populations in Mexico and Guatemala. Western and northeastern populations in the United States are largely resident. Canadian populations are mostly migratory and winter throughout much of the United States. In Massachusetts, the species is an uncommon and local breeder in the higher hills and mountains, primarily in Berkshire and Worcester counties. These birds can occasionally be very common during migration and in winter, although in some years they are notably uncommon. This variability may be the result of winter mortality in the south or winter food shortages in the north. The kinglets that remain in the north may survive the cold by roosting in squirrel nests or in groups, or by lowering nocturnal body temperature (nocturnal hypothermia).

Golden-crowned Kinglets are monogamous and usually produce two broods a year. They typically nest in boreal forests in dense stands of spruce and fir and sometimes also in mixed coniferous-deciduous forest or isolated stands of planted spruce. In winter they occupy a variety of habitats. Males mate-guard during the nest-building and incubation periods and may also courtship-feed the female. Their two-part song consists of a series of high notes, rising in pitch, followed by a lower pitched warbling, chickadee-like chatter. Males use song as a territorial advertisement and will chase small birds of many species in defense of territory.

The female chooses the nest site, but both parents build the nest. The nest is a deep cup of moss, spiderweb, lichen, and bark lined with plant fiber, deer hair, or feathers. They produce a huge clutch of eight or nine eggs, off-white in color and speckled with brown or lilac. The female alone incubates until hatching, approximately two weeks. The chicks are altricial, with eyes closed and naked except for patches of down on their heads. The female alone broods the chicks for the 16 to

19 days until fledging. Both parents feed the young and tend them for about 17 days after fledging, at which time they become independent.

The diet of Golden-crowned Kinglets consists of a broad spectrum of small insects, larvae, spiders, caterpillars, springtails, aphids, scale insects—about anything small and rich in protein. One quantitative study of winter feeding in Maine indicated a strong reliance on lepidopteran caterpillars, most of which were geometrids. Golden-crowned Kinglets forage by gleaning the deciduous foliage of trees and shrubs, bark, and conifer needles. They commonly hang-glean and also hover-glean and probe bark.

Severe winters in the north may regulate population numbers and cause local extinctions. Breeding Bird Survey data suggest population increases in some areas, declines in others. Hence it appears that even though winter storms can cause periodic local population crashes, continent-wide the species is secure. 

William E. Davis, Jr.



GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET BY DAVID LARSON

About the Cover Artist: Julie Zickefoose

Julie Zickefoose began as an illustrator of natural history subjects in 1976, when she was a college freshman. A six-year stint as a field biologist with The Nature Conservancy's Connecticut Chapter proved a strong motivator both to learn more about ecosystems and to go back to drawing as a career of sorts. (Drawing was easier, and the pay was better.) Along the way, Julie began to write essays about birds and animals, and writing slowly came to the forefront of her interests. Since 1986, *Bird Watcher's Digest* has been the major print venue for her writing as well as her illustrations, and her husband, Editor Bill Thompson III, maintains that it has nothing to do with favoritism. Julie has also contributed short commentaries, mostly critter stories, to National Public Radio's afternoon news program "All Things Considered."

Julie's first book of illustrated essays, *Letters from Eden*, was published in 2006. Her current book, a memoir about birds, is due out from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in 2010, but first she has to finish the paintings, so you never know.

Julie and her family live in Whipple, Ohio, in a ranch house topped by a forty-two-foot birdwatching tower (Bill's idea). 

AT A GLANCE

December 2010



WAYNE R. PETERSEN

This issue's *At a Glance* image is one in which context is useful for determining the identity of the mystery species. The bird in question is depicted very close to the water's surface, and there are subtle indications that the water might well be the ocean. More important, close examination of the image reveals a series of light splashes and tiny eddies behind the bird indicating that it is taking flight, but not by directly jumping off the water as a Mallard might do. Instead, the bird is obviously taxiing during its takeoff—a hallmark of many seabirds—much as an aircraft does before becoming airborne. While this may seem inconsequential, when coupled with other clues, it becomes more significant.

A close look at the structure of the bird is critical. The mystery species has long, narrow, and relatively pointed wings, a short rounded tail, and obviously *longish slender* legs. Although a cursory glance at the picture may suggest that the bird has extensive pale or whitish wing patches on the rear edge of the wing (i.e., secondaries), more careful examination reveals that this impression is actually created by the water beneath the bird, not the coloration of the wing feathers. The narrowness of the wings may also accentuate this impression, along with the fact that the bird is in obvious wing molt. The unevenness of the trailing edge of the wings is an indication of this wing molt, as is the heavy feather wear, indicated by the paleness on the primary and secondary coverts on the dorsal surface of the wings. With this in mind, the coloration

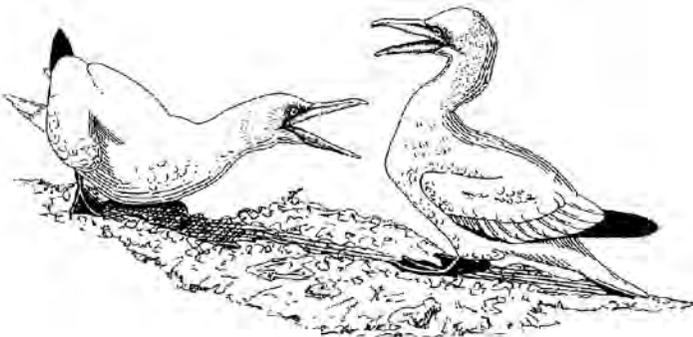
of the bird becomes dichromatic, dark above and white below. There is no hint of white or pale coloration anywhere on the upperparts of the bird, most importantly on the head, wings, or tail.

With these points in mind, there are few seabirds that present this combination of features, even though some are similar. First and foremost are some of the alcids (e.g., Razorbill, murre, Atlantic Puffin, etc.). These species are all typically countershaded, black above and white below; however, all the East Coast alcids similarly patterned have a white trailing edge to the wing except the Atlantic Puffin. Puffins, however, have shorter, broader, and more rounded wings and much *shorter and thicker* orange legs (lighter colored in a black-and-white photo). The mystery bird is not an alcid. So what's left?

Only two species of regularly occurring Massachusetts seabirds possess the features shown by the mystery species, Manx and Audubon's shearwater. Both of these species exhibit the slender legs shown by the mystery bird, and both are completely dark above with no suggestion of white on the upper tail coverts or hint of a pale collar on the neck. In life, Audubon's Shearwaters tend to be noticeably brownish above instead of black, and in shape they possess relatively shorter wings and a proportionately longer tail than the pictured bird. A close look at the white undertail coverts in the pictured bird also suggests that they reach the end of the tail; in Audubon's Shearwater the undertail coverts are not only dark instead of white, but the tail is longer, which would thus give a distinctly different appearance to the shape and length of the spread tail and the coloration of the feathers underneath. The mystery species is a Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*).

Manx Shearwaters are regular visitors to the offshore waters of Massachusetts and are usually most common in late summer and fall. Their numbers are highly variable from year to year, however, and indications in recent seasons suggest the possibility that the species may be trying to establish a nesting beachhead in Massachusetts. The species nested successfully off the Maine coast in 2009 and 2010, yet the only previous breeding record for the United States occurred at Penikese Island in Buzzards Bay in 1973. The author photographed the pictured Manx Shearwater at Stellwagen Bank, September 2010. 

Wayne R. Petersen



NORTHERN GANNETS BY WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

AT A GLANCE



WAYNE R. PETERSEN

Can you identify the bird in this photograph?
Identification will be discussed in next issue's AT A GLANCE.

**SAVE THE
DATE:
3/5/11**



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VOL. 38, NO. 6, DECEMBER 2010

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