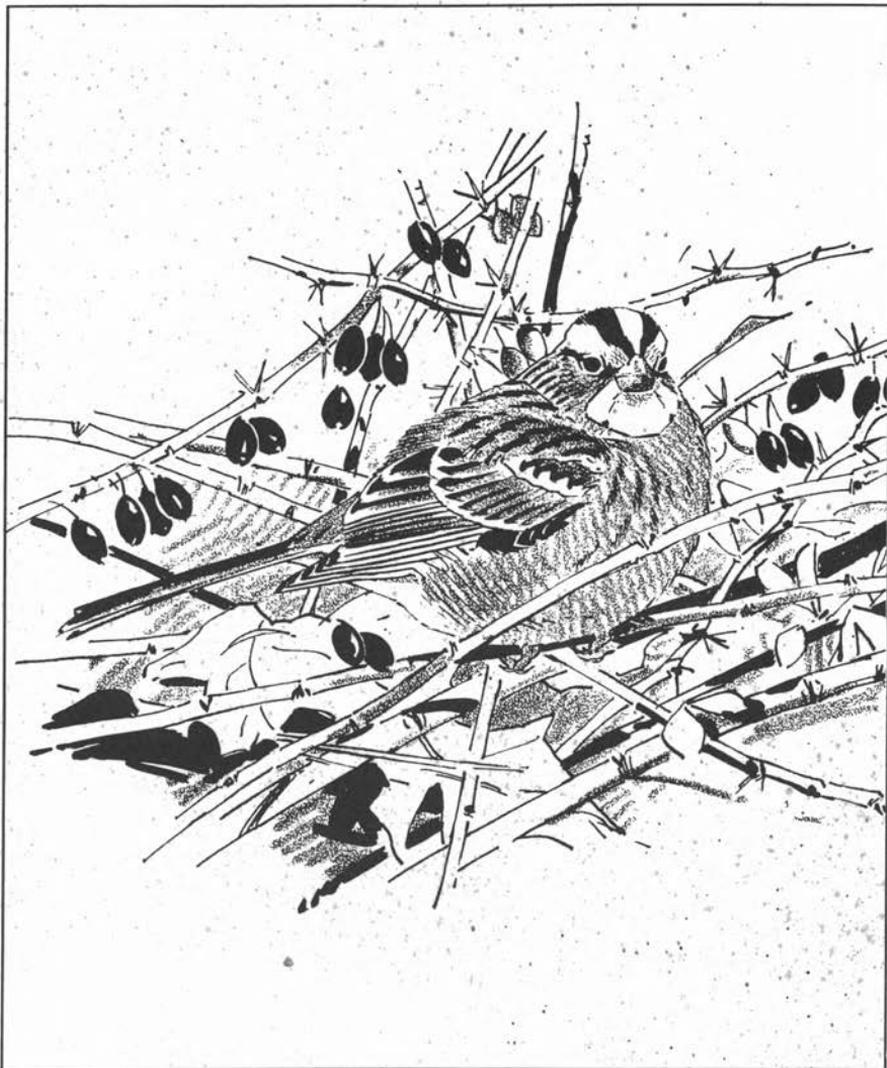


BIRD OBSERVER



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ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

Barry Van Dusen, based in Princeton, Massachusetts, has been a member of the Society of Wildlife Artists since 1994. Barry traveled to London last summer to attend the 1998 Member's Exhibition of that organization. He also found time for some field sketching in Scotland. Barry's work has appeared recently on the cover of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and he illustrated an article on Black-tailed Gulls that appeared in the December 1998 issue of *Birding* magazine. A selection of Barry's work can be seen at a one-man show scheduled for the Princeton Center on Boylston Avenue in Princeton, Massachusetts, February 19-21; call Barry at (978) 464-5307 for more information, or for "weather dates" if conditions warrant postponement.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE (MARC)

By Wayne R. Petersen, MARC Secretary

This summary is the Third Annual Report of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC). Previous summaries of the MARC's activities have appeared in the June 1992, October 1995, and August 1997 issues of *Bird Observer*. Readers wishing to obtain specific information about the history, objectives, MARC Bylaws, and activities of the MARC are advised to consult these reports.

The Second Annual Report of the MARC in 1997 indicated that the committee's actions subsequent to the publication of the 1995 report resulted in revising the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee State List to include 460 fully accepted species, plus an additional six species on the Supplemental List (i.e., species which the MARC believes may represent wild occurrences in the state, but for which captive origin cannot be discounted). Since publication of the 1997 report, further MARC actions have resulted in the addition of Ross's Goose, Northern Lapwing, Band-tailed Pigeon, and Violet-green Swallow to the state list, bringing the state list total to 464 fully accepted species as of December 1998. Six additional species currently on the Supplemental List are Barnacle Goose, Cinnamon Teal, Steller's Eider, Black-billed Magpie, Common Chaffinch, and Eurasian Siskin. Species reports currently being circulated by the committee that would affect the state list total if accepted are Arctic Loon, Pacific Loon, Black Swift, and Common Chaffinch. Arctic and Pacific loons would assume full species standing on the main list and would eliminate the current status of "Pacific/Arctic Loon"; Black Swift would be a first state record, and Common Chaffinch could potentially move from the Supplemental List to the main list. If all these reports are accepted, the state list would total 467.

In order to remain consistent with the publication in 1998 of the seventh edition of the *American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds*, the MARC state list has been revised to reflect two recent taxonomic splits: Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) as distinct from Marbled Murrelet (*B. marmoratus*) and Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) as distinct from Plumbeous Vireo (*V. plumbeus*) and Cassin's Vireo (*V. cassinii*). Also, the list has been revised to conform with the 1998 A.O.U. Check-list order.

Birders are reminded that the purpose of the MARC is to evaluate (1) any first state record; (2) any species recorded in Massachusetts fewer than ten times overall or fewer than five times in the last twenty years; (3) any rare or difficult-to-identify species as designated by the MARC on its Review List; or (4) any record of a species that is judged by the MARC to be geographically or temporally rare. With these criteria in mind, along with guidance provided by

the MARC's Review List accompanying this report, birders are encouraged to submit carefully written details or photographic evidence to the MARC whenever they observe an unusual bird species in Massachusetts. By doing this conscientiously, observers can maintain the strong ornithological tradition that has existed in the Bay State for over a century and a half.

Since publication of the last MARC report, five-year MARC committee member Robert Stymeist resigned and was replaced by Christopher Leahy. Additionally, after serving the maximum of two consecutive three-year terms allowed by the Bylaws, Kathleen Anderson, Mark Lynch, and Wayne Petersen rotated off the committee and were replaced by Peter Alden, Steven Arena, and Richard Veit. Marj Rines, who so ably served as MARC Secretary for the past five years, also stepped down and was replaced by outgoing MARC Chairman, Wayne Petersen. All of these dedicated committee members deserve thanks for their considerable contribution of time and expertise during the period of their respective tenures.

The MARC **accepted** the following reports. County names follow town or community names in parentheses.

Diomedea albatross species - #96-10: An albatross observed off North Beach from Morris Island, Chatham (Barnstable), 21 September 1996 (W. W. Harrington, W. Bailey) was reported as a Black-browed Albatross (*Diomedea melanophris*). Although there is precedent for the occurrence of this southern hemisphere "mollymawk" in the western North Atlantic Ocean, including Massachusetts waters, the MARC felt that the distance involved in making the identification was sufficiently great that the record should be conservatively treated as *Diomedea* species. Despite a number of Black-browed Albatross sight records off the North American East Coast, none have ever been photographically documented.

Puffinus shearwater species - #98-4: A carefully described all-dark shearwater observed following a storm at First Encounter Beach, Eastham (Barnstable), 17 January 1998 (B. Nikula) was probably a seasonally very rare Sooty Shearwater (*P. griseus*); however, a report of a Short-tailed Shearwater (*P. tenuirostris*) off Virginia the next day prompted the observer to conservatively report the bird as a "large, dark *Puffinus* shearwater."

Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) - #97-9: One, Stellwagen Bank, 12 July 1997 (R. Lockwood). Although apparently regular in the warm shelf waters south of Martha's Vineyard in summer, Audubon's Shearwater is very rare in the cooler surface waters away from the Gulf Stream, especially when unassisted by tropical storms.

American White Pelican (*Pelicanus erythrorhynchos*) - #97-4: One, North Scituate (Plymouth), 19 July 1997 (details provided by S. & L. Hennin) and later at Plum Island (Essex), 25 July 1997 (details provided by M. Pelikan) was

presumed to be a bird first observed in Kingston (Plymouth) 13 July (T. Lloyd-Evans).

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) - #97-16: Two, Sunderland (Franklin), 25-26 March 1997 (P. Champlin, v.o.). A long-awaited first state occurrence, since this species has apparently undergone a range shift and population increase commensurate with that shown by other Arctic-nesting white geese in recent years.

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) - #97-23: One male, Worcester (Worcester), 22-23 November 1997 (F. McMenemy, v.o.). A first for Worcester County, this is also one of very few inland occurrences for Massachusetts.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) - #97-14: One, Orleans (Barnstable), 28 May-4 June 1997 (M. Prue, v.o.). Virtually of annual occurrence in Massachusetts in recent years, this kite was photographed and enjoyed by many observers before it succumbed to unknown causes and was found dead on 5 June (contra *Bird Observer* 25:269). The specimen is at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) - #97-5: One light morph adult photographed, Provincetown (Barnstable), 25 June-11 October 1997 (K. Jones, v.o.). Despite the apparent increase of this species in the Northeast during migration, there is only one previous summer record for New England.

Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) - #96-25: One, Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard (Dukes), 26-30 December 1996 (A. Keith, v.o.). A first record for Massachusetts and only the third for New England of this spectacular Old World shorebird. The most recent New England occurrence was 1932, when one was found dead on Block Island, RI.

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) - #95-13: One, Middleboro (Plymouth), 17 November 1995 (E. Weinheimer). The latest occurrence in Massachusetts and the first record for November.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) - #97-30: One in basic plumage photographed, Plymouth (Plymouth), 29 December 1997- 12 February 1998 (J. Trimble, J. Sones, v.o.). This was the first winter record of Bar-tailed Godwit for New England and, like the majority of Massachusetts reports, was of the nominate *lapponica* race. It is thought that this individual was likely the same godwit that spent much of the autumn at Cape Sable, Nova Scotia.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) - #97-6: One photographed, Holden (Worcester), 10-13 August 1997 (R. Bradbury, M. Lynch). Although not on the MARC Review List, this species is rare inland in Massachusetts and the record was a first for Worcester County, therefore, this report was reviewed by the committee.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicauda*) - #96-18: One dead adult photographed, North Truro (Barnstable), 23 September 1996 (R. Spinale).

Although this report pertains to a dead individual, Long-tailed Jaeger is sufficiently rare in Massachusetts to warrant its consideration by the MARC.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) - #97-19: One, West Bridgewater (Plymouth), 26 October 1997 (S. Arena). Despite its somewhat regular occurrence in Massachusetts, the great majority of previous records are from the immediate coast.

Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*) - #97-8: One, Plum Island (Essex), 11 May 1997 (A. Magee). The timing of this report was consistent with other non-storm related reports in recent years. Since Gull-billed Terns now nest on Long Island, NY, it is reasonable to expect more spring reports in years to come.

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) - #97-21: One photographed in basic plumage, Worcester (Worcester), 2-3 November 1997 (S. Carroll, M. Lynch et al.). Despite this species' frequency on the coast, both the late date and the remarkable inland location make this record especially significant.

Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) - #98-1: One, Provincetown (Barnstable), 4 January 1998 (B. Nikula, J. Trimble). Impeccably described, this remarkable record represents the second for Massachusetts, the first having occurred at Rockport, 29 November 1992. As is the case with the Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*), there are quite a number of records of this northern Pacific alcid from places as far inland from the Pacific Ocean as Nebraska, the Great Lakes region, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Louisiana.

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) - #95-4: One photographed, Brookline (Norfolk), 29 May-4 June 1995 (M. Vose). That this bird appeared at a season consistent with the species' migratory period and was present at a feeder only for a few days suggests that it was a wild bird. Accordingly, the species was added to the state list as a first state record. There are at least six previous occurrences of this wide-ranging western columbid in New England, including New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Maine, as well as many casual records throughout nearly all parts of the United States. Although there is always the possibility that some of these reports pertain to escapes from captivity, a pattern of vagrancy exists nonetheless. Interestingly, another Band-tailed Pigeon was reported at Nantucket, 22-25 June 1996 (see *Bird Observer* 24: 274); however, this report has yet to be evaluated by the MARC.

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) - #96-20: One, Weston (Middlesex), 23 October 1996 (D. Morimoto et al.). This was the first of several Boreal Owls to appear in Massachusetts during the fall of 1996.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) - #96-3: One, Plum Island (Essex), 22 May 1996 (C. Ralph, L. Nachtrab). Despite a number of previous records in Massachusetts, this is the first spring occurrence of this widespread western flycatcher.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) - #97-24: One photographed, South Monomoy Island, Chatham (Barnstable), 14 September 1997 (B. Nikula, J. Trimble). An aberrant individual showing signs of leucism in the primaries of both wings, this report represents at least the tenth record for Massachusetts.

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) - #97-11: One, Provincetown (Barnstable), 12 May 1997 (M. Tuttle, J. Sones, et al.). A well observed and carefully described individual seen in comparison with a group of Tree Swallows made this a first Massachusetts record. Previous eastern sight records include Nova Scotia, New Hampshire, and New Jersey.

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) - #97-15: One, Rockport, 30 March-22 April 1997 (J. Berry, v.o.). A third occurrence for Massachusetts, it is probable that this individual actually spent the winter in Rockport but was not discovered until spring.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) - #97-10: One male, New Braintree (Worcester), 13 May 1997 (L. Merkel). A bird briefly present in a Worcester County backyard was carefully documented and perfectly described. This is only the fourth occurrence for Massachusetts.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) - #96-24: One (possibly two), Vineyard Haven, Martha's Vineyard (Dukes), 14-30 December 1996 (M. Sibert, v.o., details provided by G. Daniels).

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*) - #87-4, #97-7: #87-4, One photographed at feeder, Framingham (Middlesex), 16-30 December 1987 (J. Holmes); #97-7, One, Provincetown (Barnstable), 4-7 May 1997 (S. Miller, J. Sones). This record represents the second spring occurrence for Massachusetts and one of five fully documented records for the state.

Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*) - #97-29: One photographed (see *Field Notes* 52: 270), Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard (Dukes), 21 December 1997-3 March 1998 (M. Pelikan, v.o.). This bird represented the third record for Massachusetts.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) - #97-3: One, Nahant (Essex), 28 May 1997 (L. Pivacek). Although not a species on the MARC Review List, because the Connecticut Warbler's migration route takes it up the Mississippi Valley in spring, it is sufficiently rare in New England at that season that all such reports deserve documentation. There are only two previous well-documented spring occurrences for Massachusetts.

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) - #94-17: One, Rochester (Bristol), 28 October 1994 (M. Sylvia). This species, while now nearly annual in Massachusetts, is sufficiently difficult to identify that all occurrences require full documentation.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) - #97-31: One adult male, Northampton (Hampshire), 7 November 1997 (G. LeBaron). Occurrences of

Brewer's Blackbirds were practically annual from the early 1970s through the early 1980s; however, in more recent years, the species' appearance in Massachusetts has seemed to diminish somewhat.

The MARC **did not accept** the following reports based on "identification not established." Although in some cases the identification may have been correct, the documentation provided was not sufficient to allow acceptance.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) - #97-32: One photographed, Shutesbury [Quabbin Reservoir] (Franklin), 26 October 1997. Written documentation and photographs did not convincingly eliminate Common Loon as an alternative possibility.

Black-browed Albatross (*Diomedea melanophris*) - #96-10: See #96-10 under accepted species.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) - #95-10: One, Weymouth (Norfolk), 18 October 1995. Although an accurate sketch accompanied this sighting, there were extenuating details that suggested that confusion with some other species might have been possible.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) - #96-22: One, South Peabody (Essex), 5 October 1996. A bird seen in flight with a flock of migrating Snow Geese was not able to be sufficiently studied to definitively eliminate Snow Goose as a possibility. At the time that this observation was made, it would have been a first state occurrence for Ross's Goose.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) - #93-24: One, East Brookfield (Worcester), 14 May 1993. Although this species is becoming increasingly frequent in spring in Massachusetts, the details provided did not positively eliminate other raptor species.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) - #96-23: One immature, Katama, Martha's Vineyard (Dukes), 21-22 October 1996. Although this bird was photographed, the pictures could not positively eliminate Ring-billed Gull, and no written documentation accompanied the report.

Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*) - #97-33: One adult, Pittsfield (Berkshire), 9 November 1997. Details and evidence submitted failed to eliminate other large gull species.

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) - #96-12: One calling, Petersham (Worcester), 2 November 1996. Due to the rarity of this species in Massachusetts and the descriptions given of the calls heard, other owl species could not positively be eliminated as possibilities.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) - #95-3: One, Attleboro (Bristol), 21 May 1995. Despite the distinctive appearance of this species, the brief views obtained and the documentation provided could not conclusively eliminate other species as possibilities.

Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) - #97-20: One, Holbrook (Norfolk), 19 November 1997. Documentation insufficient to eliminate other possible species.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) - #96-16: One, Haverhill (Essex), 10 February 1996. Description failed to include enough detail to effectively remove other similar species (e.g., Northern Mockingbird) as possibilities.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*) - #97-17: One, Hadley (Hampshire), 19 September 1997. Details insufficient to eliminate other possible warbler species.

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) - #97-1: One, Natick (Norfolk), 6 February 1997. Details provided insufficient to eliminate other possible sparrow species.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*) - #93-25: One photographed, Salisbury (Essex), 31 December 1993. Rejected because no written description accompanied the report and the photos are inconclusive.

The current MARC members are Peter Alden, Steven Arena, Bradford Blodget, Richard Heil, Christopher Leahy, Trevor Lloyd-Evans (Chairman), Blair Nikula, Jan Ortiz, and Richard Veit. The Secretary of the MARC is Wayne Petersen.

Additional information on the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, including the entire Massachusetts state list, can be found on-line at:

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MASSACHUSETTS AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE
REVIEW LIST

Pacific/Arctic Loon	Bar-tailed Godwit
Eared Grebe	Rufous-necked Stint
Western Grebe	Little Stint
Black-browed Albatross	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Yellow-nosed Albatross	Curlew Sandpiper (nonalternate plumage)
Black-capped Petrel	Long-tailed Jaeger
Audubon's Shearwater	Great Skua
White-faced Storm-Petrel	South Polar Skua
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Franklin's Gull
White-tailed Tropicbird	Mew Gull
Red-billed Tropicbird	California Gull
Brown Booby	Thayer's Gull
American White Pelican	Ross' Gull
Brown Pelican	Ivory Gull
Anhinga	Gull-billed Tern
Magnificent Frigatebird	Bridled Tern
Little Egret	Sooty Tern
Western Reef-Heron	White-winged Tern
Reddish Egret	Brown Noddy
White-faced Ibis	Marbled Murrelet
Wood Stork	Ancient Murrelet
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Common Ground-Dove
Garganey	Common Cuckoo
Tufted Duck (female & imm.)	Northern Hawk Owl
Masked Duck	Burrowing Owl
White-tailed Kite	Great Gray Owl
Mississippi Kite	Boreal Owl
White-tailed Eagle	Black-chinned Hummingbird
Swainson's Hawk	Rufous Hummingbird
Eurasian Kestrel	Allen's Hummingbird
Yellow Rail	Lewis' Woodpecker
Black Rail	Three-toed Woodpecker
Snowy Plover	Western Wood-Pewee
Wilson's Plover	Hammond's Flycatcher
Common Ringed Plover	Gray Flycatcher
Mountain Plover	Say's Phoebe
Spotted Redshank	Vermilion Flycatcher
Wandering Tattler	Ash-throated Flycatcher
Terek Sandpiper	Sulphur-bellied/Streaked Flycatcher
Eskimo Curlew	Cassin's Kingbird
Eurasian Curlew	Gray Kingbird
Long-billed Curlew	
Black-tailed Godwit	

Fork-tailed Flycatcher
Brown-chested Martin
Gray Jay
Eurasian Jackdaw
Rock Wren
Bewick's Wren
Northern Wheatear
Mountain Bluebird
Townsend's Solitaire
Fieldfare
Sage Thrasher
Sprague's Pipit
Phainopepla
Lucy's Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Hermit Warbler
Swainson's Warbler
MacGillivray's Warbler
Painted Redstart

Western Tanager
Black-headed Grosbeak
Painted Bunting
Green-tailed Towhee
Spotted Towhee
Brewer's Sparrow
Lark Bunting
Henslow's Sparrow
Le Conte's Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Harris' Sparrow
McCown's Longspur
Smith's Longspur
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Western Meadowlark
Brewer's Blackbird
Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle
Bullock's Oriole
Brambling
Hoary Redpoll

Recognizable subspecies found out of range should be submitted to the MARC for possible future evaluation if they should reach full species status in the future. Reports of these species should be accompanied by details and sent to Wayne R. Petersen, MARC Secretary, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773.

A WINTERING HERMIT WARBLER ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD

by Matthew L. Pelikan

On December 21, 1997, my wife, Lori Shaller, and I took advantage of a sunny afternoon to go for a walk in the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest, near our home on Martha's Vineyard. Our intention was more to walk than to bird; however, being basically incorrigible, I steered us toward some conifers that I thought were worth checking for finches, and I brought along my binoculars.

The walking was pleasant but the birding slow (as it usually is in the State Forest in winter), and we had gone about a half-mile before we encountered any birds. As the trail dipped into a shallow valley and intersected a row of spruce trees, I heard the note of a Golden-crowned Kinglet. We paused; I "pished"; and almost instantly a warbler flew into the tree closest to us. As it flew, I could see yellow on the face with my unaided eye, and I guessed that it was a Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*), a common migrant on the Vineyard (though rare that late in the season). But as soon as I got my binoculars on this bird, I realized that it was a Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*).

I returned the following morning with Vineyard birding institution Vern Laux, and Susan Yurkus, another of the island's numerous skilled amateur naturalists. After about twenty minutes of searching, Vern located the warbler by its call note, and when the bird emerged from the foliage of a spruce tree, both Vern and Susan confirmed my identification. The word was put out, and during the ensuing weeks scores of birders (from as far away as Burlington, Vermont) were able to enjoy this intrepid little visitor.

The bird overall was small for a warbler, though noticeably larger than the kinglets it associated with. Its most striking characteristic was a surprisingly bright yellow face, with faint brownish smudging on the auriculars; the yellow coloration extended onto the forehead and down to the jaw, but the chin was white. Against the essentially unmarked yellow of the face, the black eye was conspicuous (the resulting "startled" or "wide-eyed" expression seems to be noted by virtually everyone who describes a Hermit Warbler). By the second half of February, there appeared to be a few black feather tips on the throat, though it was hard to get a good enough look at the bird to confirm this; otherwise, the underparts were white or whitish. Under some lighting conditions, faint smudging appeared to exist on the flanks, but the underparts were without streaking or strong markings of any kind (the absence of streaking on the sides of the breast, or of yellow on the breast or vent, is instrumental in ruling out Townsend's and Black-throated Green warblers). The back was gray with faint, darker streaking; when lit from certain angles, it appeared to have faint olive tones, but the ground color was unambiguously gray. The wings and tail were darker gray; there were two strong, white wing-bars. The legs and the

rather small, slightly decurved, and finely-pointed bill were black. The bird lacked any characteristics (black facial patch, streaking on the flanks, olive back, or yellow on the breast) that would indicate a Hermit x Townsend's Warbler intergrade. (See Marantz and Quilty 1997 and Dunn and Garret 1997 for succinct, up-to-date treatments of Hermit Warbler hybrids; Rohwer and Wood 1998, while primarily discussing the biological implications of Hermit x Townsend's hybridization, also outline the range of appearance presented by intergrades.) The facial coloration of the Vineyard bird appeared brighter, and the underparts less buffy, than most identification guides (e.g., Curson et al. 1994, Dunn and Garrett 1997) would lead one to expect for an immature female Hermit Warbler, but the absence of black on the throat and crown, and the faintness of the streaking on the back, led most observers to conclude that this was the plumage involved.

The behavior of the Vineyard Hermit Warbler was suggestive of the habits described (Bent 1953) for this species in its usual breeding habitat. Although it was observed (and even photographed) on the ground, the bird spent the vast majority of its time fairly high up in the spruce trees; as far as I know, it was observed only once outside the limits of the spruce stand in which it was discovered (Barbara Volkle, pers. comm.). Though it was observed at various points in the spruces, including both ends of the stand, the bird was found most often in an area about 100 meters long, just north of where it was first observed; it was almost invariably associated with a flock of about fifteen Golden-crowned Kinglets. The warbler foraged almost constantly, generally starting near the tip of a branch and working its way into the tree's canopy, displaying agility that rivaled that of the kinglets as it crawled along branches and twigs. I was unable to determine what it was eating; when I examined the few spruce branches I could reach, there was no sign of any insect life on them. But sometimes I could see the warbler pull a white particle out from between the spruce needles, and I suspect it was subsisting mainly on tiny cocoons. On a few occasions, I observed it hawking flying insects in the air (a behavior noted in Dunn and Garrett 1997).

The only vocalization the bird gave was a *chip* or *tchip* note, varying from faint to fairly loud. To my ear, the note sounded exactly like the usual note of a Black-throated Green Warbler. The bird called quite frequently, mostly but not always either just before or just after it flew from one tree to another. This call note proved to be a reliable way to locate the bird.

Hermit Warblers breed in montane forest from California north into Washington and normally winter from coastal California south through western Mexico and into Central America. This species is an infrequent visitor to the Northeast. Massachusetts has had two previous confirmed records: a singing male found in Mount Auburn Cemetery, May 23, 1964 (Veit and Petersen 1993) and a first-year female at Amherst, November 19-24, 1995 (Marantz and Quilty

1997). A male Hermit Warbler was noted in New Haven, Connecticut, May 1-2, 1997 (*American Birds* 31: 976); a "persuasive description of what may have been a [female] Hermit Warbler" came from Westchester County, New York, November 22, 1975 (*American Birds* 30: 45), but the identification was never confirmed. A total of ten records from the eastern Canadian provinces are listed in Jaramillo (1995).

The salient feature of the Vineyard Hermit Warbler occurrence was the duration of the bird's visit. Jaramillo (1995) lists five records involving only a single day and four records spanning from two to five days. The Amherst, Massachusetts, bird, which fed from a bird feeder, was present for about five days (Marantz and Quilty 1997), while the other reports from New York and New England involved birds present for only one or two days. The only other Hermit Warbler that lingered in our region for more than a few days was the one found in Green Bay, Nova Scotia (*American Birds* 49: 123; an incorrect date of discovery, December 7, appears in Jaramillo 1995, and is passed on by Marantz and Quilty 1997). This individual remained for about a month, being last seen on January 27 (*Birders Journal* 4: 19). But the Vineyard bird, discovered on December 21, 1997, was "in residence" for over ten weeks, observed for the last time on March 4, 1998 (*Bird Observer* 26: 209).

Several factors seem likely to have contributed to the persistence of this warbler:

1.) Habitat. The breeding habitat of the Hermit Warbler is coniferous — mainly Douglas Fir — forest in the northwestern United States (Dunn and Garrett 1997), and this warbler often shows a preference for the tallest trees available (Bent 1953). Assuming that it was indeed a first-year bird, the Vineyard Hermit Warbler had very likely spent much of its life in tall firs, and it was presumably best suited, by both evolution and experience, to living among tall, short-needled conifers. On Martha's Vineyard, the long-needled Pitch Pine (native) and Red and White pines (introduced), and the scaly-needled and modest-sized Red Cedar, are probably the dominant conifers. Firs of any kind are essentially nonexistent on the Vineyard (MVSRP 1997), but the widely planted White Spruce may offer a foraging substrate that is structurally similar to a Douglas Fir. As far as I know, the spruce stand the warbler turned up in is the largest patch of spruces on the Island, extending about a mile north to south and varying between about thirty and 100 yards in width. The trees were probably planted in the late 1940s or early 1950s, as part of one of several postwar efforts to establish a viable lumber industry on the Vineyard (John Varkonda, pers. comm.), and I estimate that the largest of them are at least seventy-five feet tall.

2.) Climate. Fir/spruce forest, of course, is easy to find farther north in New England, or at higher elevations. But those regions feature much harsher winters than we generally experience on Martha's Vineyard. Wind is unrelenting here

(and not just during the winter), and we get our share of nasty rain or snow storms — but generally our winter temperatures, moderated by the surrounding ocean, are considerably milder than those experienced by most of mainland New England. Our Hermit Warbler, in other words, was lucky enough to stumble over a familiar forest type — in a place a good deal more comfortable than is usually associated with such forests.

Interestingly, the Green Bay, Nova Scotia, bird also occupied a spot that combined proximity to the ocean with short-needled conifers: a grove of spruce trees on the edge of Green Bay (Ian McLaren, pers. comm.) This individual was apparently more likely than the Vineyard bird to stray from the spruces and forage in adjacent deciduous trees, where it frequently gleaned branches and trunks “like a creeper” (*Birders Journal* 4: 19).

Also no doubt instrumental in the survival of the Vineyard bird was the fact that the winter of 1997-1998 was an exceptionally mild one in the area. The Vineyard experienced virtually no snowfall, only a couple of minor ice storms, and very little in the way of sustained cold weather. On many days, temperatures rose above 40° F, and on a number of days during the winter, I encountered moths or flies flitting about. The fact that the Hermit Warbler foraged almost constantly suggests that it operated on a precarious energy budget while it was on the Vineyard, but the specific conditions of this winter surely both facilitated the bird's foraging and limited the energy it had to expend maintaining its body temperature.

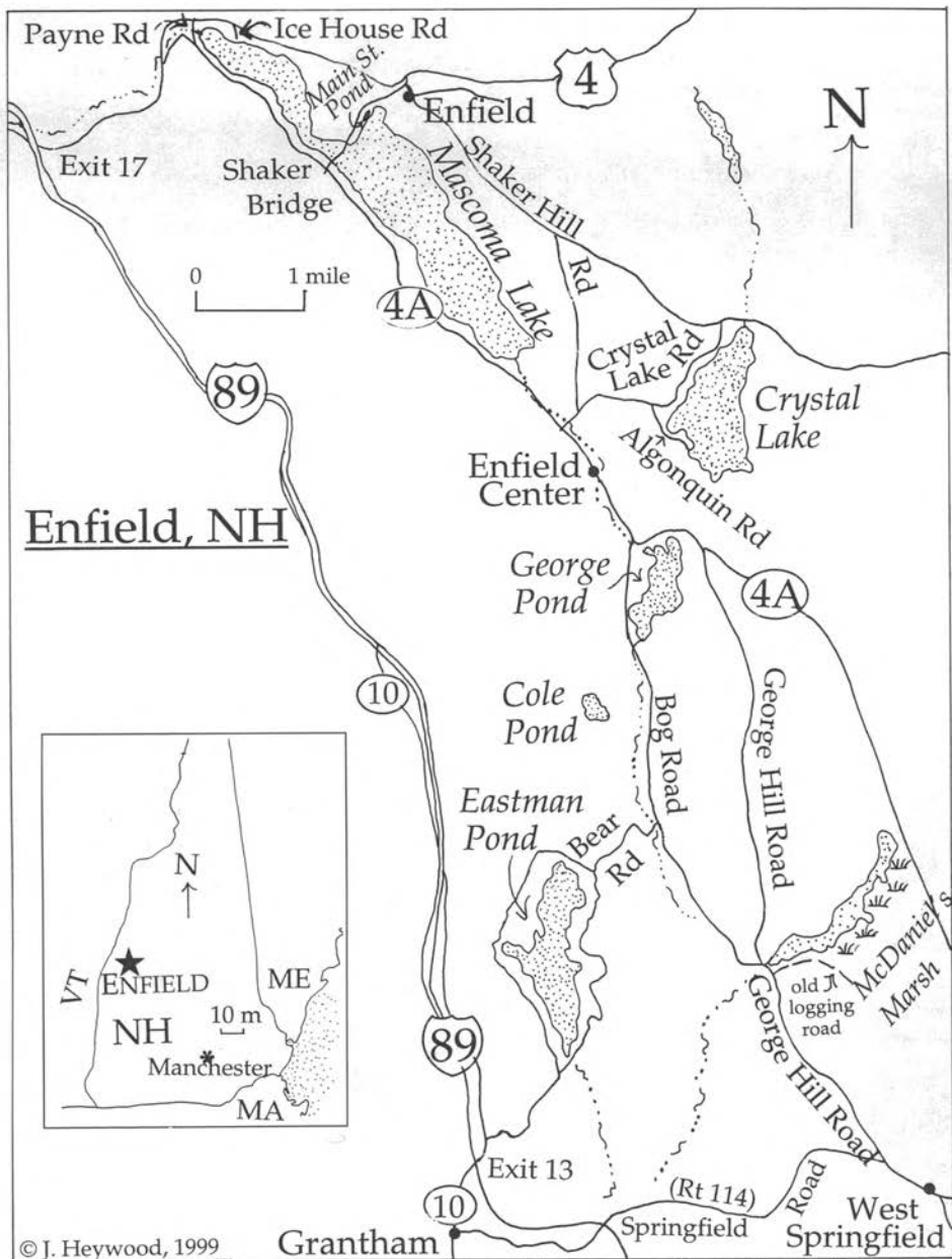
3.) Flocking. Though I don't know when the Hermit Warbler arrived in its winter home, a flock of Golden-crowned Kinglets had been present in that stand of spruces during each of several visits I had made starting in late October. If there were local variations in the density of food (and the preference of the kinglet flock for particular areas within the spruce stand suggests that this might have been the case), then the warbler may have benefited from the “local knowledge” of its flock-mates.

It is of course impossible to say what became of this warbler. It grew progressively harder to locate during February, though when found it continued to appear alert, active, and healthy. The last sightings of the bird occurred immediately after a period of unseasonably warm weather (I noted my first butterflies for the year on February 28); while it is possible that the Hermit Warbler succumbed after a season of gradual deterioration due to cold and insufficient food, it seems equally possible (and more pleasant to contemplate) that the mild conditions persuaded the bird that winter was over and prompted it to try to find its way back to its breeding grounds. In any event, this warbler was a delightful addition to the long list of notable avian records from this unique island.

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BIRDING AROUND ENFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

by Pam Hunt

Nestled near the Connecticut River, in the part of New Hampshire and Vermont known as the Upper Valley, lies the quiet town of Enfield, New Hampshire. Perhaps best known as a bedroom community of Lebanon and as the location of Mascoma Lake (the largest lake in the region), Enfield and adjacent parts of Lebanon and Springfield have some of the best birding in the state. Though perhaps best known for waterfowl migration and the northern component to its breeding avifauna, the area holds something for the visiting birder at almost any time of year. The route described below covers less than 20 miles, yet passes through habitats ranging from freshwater marsh and open lake through grassland and spruce/fir forest.

We will start this tour at the southern end of the route, McDaniel's Marsh in the town of Springfield. To reach this area, take Interstate 89 to Exit 13 and go south on Route 10 for 0.8 mile to the village of Grantham. Turn left (east) here on Route 114 (Springfield Road), and follow it for 4.9 miles to West Springfield, where George Hill Road enters on the left. If you reach a small store, you have gone too far. Turn left onto George Hill Road and follow it for 2.2 miles. At this point you will see a large wetland on the right, along with a sign and parking area. This is McDaniel's Marsh, an extensive wetland owned and managed by the NH Fish and Game Department. From the dam and boat launch you can see less than half of the wetland, but it is nonetheless well worth examining in some detail.

The part of the marsh that is visible from here is actually deeper and more open than the rest, and as such is generally a better area for waterfowl during migration. From April to September, Wood Ducks are quite common, although they can be hard to see during the summer months except very early in the morning. In September, McDaniel's Marsh has had some of the highest fall Wood Duck counts for the state (often over 70). Other ducks that are regular here include American Black Duck, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, and Common and Hooded mergansers. Canada Geese, scoters, and Common Loon have also been recorded, and there are even a couple of local rarities like American Wigeon on the list. Bald Eagle and Osprey sometimes stop by as well to look for a fish or two.

However, the waterfowl species that helped put McDaniel's Marsh on the map is the Pied-billed Grebe. Currently a rare nester in the state, pied-bills nested here as recently as 1995 and presumably did so previously, at least on an irregular basis. Unfortunately, surveys in the summer of 1998 failed to detect this species, so its current status here is uncertain. It does, however, remain a fairly common visitor during fall migration. Unfortunately for many birders,

looking for grebes in the breeding season is very difficult without a boat, since their preferred habitat is not the open water you can see from the dam, but the winding channels and emergent vegetation of the other two thirds of McDaniel's Marsh. If you have a boat, however, a trip around the corner is well worth the effort. Canoes and kayaks are probably best, since they are not only best for birding and they don't tangle their propellers in the abundant water lilies! Be prepared for the occasional stiff headwind, however.

Once you reach the prominent peninsula with several large pines (a former Great Blue Heron nesting site), you will turn the corner into a different world. For the next 1.3 miles, the main channel winds among alders, cattails, and dead trees, and is a rich wildlife area if you get there early in the morning. My experience in this part of the marsh is limited to the breeding season, so you're on your own if you want to try it in spring or fall (the whole thing is frozen in winter, and not really worth visiting). Regular species here include American Bittern, Virginia Rail, Common Snipe, Olive-sided and both Alder and Willow flycatchers, Marsh Wren, and Northern Parula, along with a host of other common forest passerines. If you're lucky, maybe there will even be a Pied-billed Grebe.

Without a boat, this part of the marsh is essentially unreachable without some serious bushwhacking, but this is not to say that there are no other things to do during your visit. On the other (south) side of the dam, an old logging road follows the south shore of the marsh for half a mile before veering away to the right. A walk along here in early spring can produce a good variety of migrants, and in summer there are the expected breeders, including Canada Warbler and Northern Waterthrush.

McDaniel's Marsh marks the southern terminus of one of the best birding areas in this part of New Hampshire, the increasingly famous Bog Road. Over the past three years, roughly 150 species have been recorded along the 4.6 miles between the marsh and Bog Road's northern terminus. The area is best between mid-April and August and is best known for its breeding species.

From the McDaniel's Marsh parking area, Bog Road takes off directly across George Hill Road. For the first 1.5 miles the road goes through unremarkable mixed forest, and even passes a small pond that always looks inviting but almost never has any birds. After 1.5 miles, however, you will come to the beginning of an extensive complex of sand and gravel pits. The first access point to these pits is actually a driveway, so continue on another 0.1 mile to an opening on the right where you can see an old excavator.

These gravel pits are home to one of the few remaining populations of Whip-poor-wills in the region, and birds can be heard almost anywhere in the next mile, usually between mid-May and mid-July. At night they can sometimes be seen in your headlights as they sit in the middle of the road. During the day, look and listen for Bank Swallows, a colony of which nests a little farther down

the gravel pit. In spring, several small temporary ponds form in sandy depressions and attract a few migrant shorebirds. Killdeer and Spotted and Solitary sandpipers are the most regular, but both Least Sandpiper and Greater Yellowlegs have also been recorded here.

Continuing north, you come to Bear Road, 0.2 mile after the abandoned excavator (1.8 miles from George Hill Road). This road leads to Eastman Pond and the planned community of Eastman that surrounds it. The pond itself can be good for migrant waterfowl in the fall, and hosts nesting loons in the summer, but access to the water is difficult, and the maze of roads can be confusing. If you have time and patience, however, you may be interested in the side trip. Eastman can also be reached more directly from the Interstate by going north on Route 10 and watching for signs.

Bear Road marks the southern edge of another extensive parcel of preserved land, again owned by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. This is the Enfield Wildlife Management Area, and it includes most of the wetland area on the west side of the road. This combination of wetland and a variety of forest types (hardwoods, white pine, and spruce/fir) is what attracts such a diversity of breeding birds to Bog Road.

It is worth parking at the junction with Bear Road and walking along the edge of both roads here, paying special attention to the narrow strip of alder swamp and its associated stream. In the summer of 1997, a pair of Rusty Blackbirds was present here between late April and early July, strongly suggesting that they were nesting. This is noteworthy because the main breeding population of Rusty Blackbirds in the state occurs at least 50 miles to the northeast, and is apparently declining. Other species with northern affinities that can be found along Bog Road include Olive-sided Flycatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Northern Parula. Both species of crossbills have been recorded during the summer, although neither should be expected.

This productive mix of wetland and forest continues for the next 2.5 miles, and the best approach is to simply drive slowly (or walk) and stop at interesting patches of habitat. I'll simply mention a couple of the more noteworthy areas. 0.65 mile beyond Bear Road, you will come to a wide area on the left, marked with a large brown Fish and Game sign. This sign marks the trailhead for Cole Pond, located roughly a mile up the gradually sloping trail. Birding along this trail is similar to that elsewhere along Bog Road, but without the wetland species, so the main draw is the abundant highbush blueberry crop around the pond itself. Throughout the month of August, you can pick blueberries for hours here without making an appreciable dent in their abundance. Also of note to frugivores is the northern end of the gravel pit complex, located 0.1 mile beyond the Cole Pond trailhead. Here there are equally amazing quantities of blackberries, also in August, and a bit of berry picking can make for a fine end to a morning of late-summer birding!

After Cole Pond, the road passes through forest for the next 0.7 mile and then opens out into a large clearing with the alder-lined stream separating the road from a prominent ridgeline to the west. The southern end of this opening is probably the most reliable spot for Olive-sided Flycatcher along Bog Road, and the east side of the road for the next half-mile is very good for Northern Waterthrush. About halfway down the ridge is a small area of exposed cliff, where ravens are known to nest.

If you've started birding Bog Road while it is still dark (to try for those elusive Whip-poor-wills!), a stop at this clearing is a must. Barred Owls are almost guaranteed along the ridgeline, woodcock line the road at dusk and dawn, and Northern Saw-whet Owls are occasionally heard tooting here in April (and also at scattered other areas along the road, especially near Bear Road and Cole Pond). This is also the place to be for the dawn chorus, which is supplemented by gobbling turkeys in early spring. Among the common forest birds are Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Veery, and White-throated Sparrow, with Alder Flycatcher and Swamp Sparrow dominating the wetlands.

After leaving this clearing, you re-enter the woods for another quarter-mile, only to re-emerge in an extensive alder wetland to the east (now 4.1 miles from McDaniel's Marsh). This is the south end of George Pond, and the vegetation you are seeing is what gives Bog Road its name. While not technically a bog, the area has numerous tamaracks, and if you venture forth by boat you will find other bog specialists like pitcher plants and cotton grass. Lincoln's Sparrows nested here in 1996, a species that, like the Rusty Blackbird, normally resides 50 miles or so to the northeast. Other noteworthy nesting records date from the early 1980s, when workers for New Hampshire's breeding bird atlas confirmed breeding for Ring-necked Duck and listed Northern Harrier as "probable." At dawn and dusk, this is an excellent spot for American Bittern and Common Snipe. A quarter mile farther north is the George Pond boat launch, another good spot for snipe and bittern, as well as Virginia Rail. While George Pond is small, and mostly visible from the road, a boat does allow one to explore the more distant corners, and who knows what you might turn up!

During waterfowl migration, George Pond attracts fewer ducks than McDaniel's Marsh, but it is certainly worth checking for them. Good vantage points include the height of land just south of the boat launch, the boat launch itself, and a quarter-mile down the road where Bog Road ends at Route 4A. You can scan the pond from its outlet, or turn right on Route 4A and look down the pond from the north. The species here are similar to those at McDaniel's Marsh.

If you are interested in waterfowl, there are two other areas in Enfield that are even more productive, both of which can be reached by turning left on to Route 4A. The road passes through the village of Enfield Center, then in 1.4 miles (from Bog Road) brings you to Shaker Hill Road. Turn right here, continue straight on Crystal Lake Road when Shaker Hill Road veers off to the

left, and watch for Algonquin Road on your right in another half mile. Take Algonquin Road to the boat launch (0.75 mile), and scan the end of the lake. A large flock of Mallards hangs out here in fall, and is sometimes accompanied by an oddball like a coot or pintail, and Ring-necked Ducks can number in the dozens. The most notable sighting here, however, was a flock of 14 Cattle Egrets in October 1995.

The main part of Crystal Lake can be observed by returning to Crystal Lake Road and turning right. The road hugs the lakeshore here and has very little traffic, making it easy to drive slowly and watch for ducks. Regular species here include Common Loon, Common Goldeneye, and a smattering of sea ducks. The same day that the Cattle Egrets were at the boat launch, there were roughly 200 Black Scoters on the lake, along with smaller numbers of White-winged and Surf scoters, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Oldsquaws! When Crystal Lake Road ends, the best plan is to turn around and return to Route 4A, but if you're here in summer you might want to listen for Pine Warblers near the intersection before heading back.

Once back to Route 4A, turn right and continue northwest 0.8 mile, at which point you will see the south end of Mascoma Lake on your right. There is a pull-off here from which you can scan for waterfowl. Unfortunately, most of the southern part of Mascoma Lake is bordered by private dwellings, making access essentially impossible, but viewing is substantially better in another two miles. Along the way you will encounter a large hayfield on the left (there is parking 1.5 miles from the end of the lake — watch for a stone building and another Fish and Game sign). This field is a new addition to the Enfield Wildlife Management Area and is home to numerous Bobolinks and Savannah Sparrows, as well as a very occasional meadowlark. It is also the site of the local Audubon chapter's bluebird trail, and a trail network through the nearby woods can provide good general birding.

But back to the lake. Just after passing the developed areas on both sides of the road, you will see a wide gravel pull-off on the right. This is another good spot to scan the lake. Pay close attention to the cluster of rocks almost straight out from you. This used to be the site of a large gull roost (including Lesser Black-backed Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake in November 1996), but gull hazing at the nearby landfill seems to have reduced the local gull population substantially. Even if few gulls are present, the rocks are still worth checking, as they have been home to the occasional Great Cormorant over the years, usually in April or October.

Half a mile beyond the pull-off is the Shaker Bridge. You can park at the boat launch here and scan south along the lake, or cross over and scan from the Shaker Bridge Motel. One of the most diverse areas for its size is just beyond the motel, reached by continuing along Main Street, going under the old railroad, and parking across from the Lutheran church in a quarter-mile. In doing

so you will have passed a marshy pond on the right, known to local birders as Main Street Pond. Over the last nine years, over 160 species have been recorded around this pond or on the adjacent lake — not bad for an area a quarter-mile long and a tenth of a mile wide!

The reason Main Street Pond is so productive is that it contains a diversity of habitats. There is the open water of the lake, shallow marshy areas of the pond, brushy areas, young forest, and the residential area along Main Street. Among the more noteworthy birds recorded here over the years are Black-crowned Night-Heron, Sora, Little Gull, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and a December Common Yellowthroat. In some winters, the crab apple trees in the horse pasture along Main Street can be very good for Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks. To bird the pond, climb the bank from the parking lot to an abandoned railroad bed and turn right. This takes you between the pond and the lake, after which you can return via Main Street.

To wrap up your tour of Mascoma Lake, cross back over the Shaker Bridge and turn right on Route 4A. The woods here have the usual assortment of breeding songbirds, and the lakeshore can actually concentrate flocks of migrants in the fall, but the only way to cover this area is on foot (parking back at the boat launch). When traffic is light, you may be able to drive slowly and watch the lake here, but there are relatively few places to pull off. The best is The Baited Hook, a restaurant 1.6 miles from the bridge. In particular, scan the far shore to the right of the last house. This is the deepest part of this end of the lake and can contain grebes and sea ducks.

From the restaurant, go another 0.4 mile to the end of the lake and turn right onto Payne Road. After crossing the Mascoma River, you can pull off and walk out to the dam. When most of the lake is frozen, this area remains open and can concentrate waterfowl. Also be sure to check the area downstream. Noteworthy records from the dam include Ring-necked Duck in January, Wood Duck in February, and, most remarkably, Red-necked Phalarope in October 1990.

If you have time and want to do some landbirding, a final productive area is the abandoned railroad bed along the north shore of the lake near the dam. You can reach it in two ways. From the dam, you can walk up Payne Road to a bridge over the old railroad bed and go down the bank on the right just before the bridge. Or you can drive up Payne Road, turn right on Route 4, and right again on Ice House Road just beyond the gas station. Ice House Road takes you to a wide area where you can park next to the rail bed.

Between Ice House Road and Payne Road is a stretch of rail bed (being converted to a recreational trail by a local group) that passes another marshy pond. Good birds in this general area have included some of the most noteworthy rarities for the Mascoma Lake area, including Cerulean and Yellow-throated warblers, and Boreal Chickadee and Carolina Wren on the same day!

The shallow pond is good for the occasional shorebird or Green Heron, and the brushy edges can contain migrant sparrows.

This concludes our tour of birding hot spots around Enfield, New Hampshire. The Mascoma Lake area is blessed by a diversity of habitats, and while it doesn't have as long a birding history as many other parts of the state, it ranks as one of the most productive. Over the last nine years, I have single-handedly recorded 211 species around Mascoma Lake alone, with a few others added by other birders or in the Bog Road area. It merely goes to show what can be accomplished with a little dedication to a local patch.

For those wishing to visit only Mascoma Lake or do this route in the opposite direction, it is easier to take Exit 17 off Interstate 89 and turn east on Route 4 toward Enfield. After 1.4 miles you will come to a flashing light at the intersection with Route 4A. Turn right here, and in half a mile you will come to Payne Road and the Mascoma Lake dam. From the east, take Route 4 through Enfield, and you will eventually come upon the lake on your left. Whichever way you come, you will find the area well worth the visit, even in the middle of winter (at least if there are finches or waxwings around!).

Birders interested in staying overnight in the Enfield area will find a profusion of hotels in nearby Lebanon and Hanover, in addition to the previously mentioned Shaker Bridge Motel. There is also a campground on Route 4A in Lebanon, which caters largely to semi-permanent motor homes.

Pam Hunt received a Ph.D. in biology from Dartmouth College in 1995, and hasn't been able to tear herself away from the region since. She is active in the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, including editing spring bird sightings for New Hampshire Bird Records. She also serves on the NH Rare Birds Committee and is the winter editor for New England for *Field Notes*. In her spare time, she is adjunct faculty at several colleges in western New Hampshire, writes for the local newspaper, and does ornithological research in Puerto Rico, among other places.

VIDEO REVIEW: The Large Gulls of North America

By Mark Lynch

The Large Gulls of North America, with Jon L. Dunn. The Advanced Birding Video Series. 1997.

There are groups of birds that make you feel that complete knowledge of their field identification will always be beyond your grasp. When I'm teaching a birding class and mention that we will be covering gulls that semester, there is inevitably a collective groan from the students. The reasons for this reaction are known to every birder who has ever searched through hundreds of Ring-bills for that one Mew: there are numerous gull species, many similarly-plumaged, and they go through a succession of plumage changes as they mature. If this weren't enough, the taxonomy of the gulls is in flux, and increasing attention is now being paid to subspecies whose separation in the field may depend on very subtle characteristics. Like with some Zen conundrum, we can never master gull identification, only hope to get better at it.

Field guides are woefully inadequate for the task of sorting through those thousands of gulls in their devilish variety of plumages that we see along our coast. More helpful are books like Peter Harrison's *Seabirds: An Identification Guide* and especially P.J. Grant's *Gulls: A Guide To Identification*. The only shortcoming of Grant's excellent volume is its way of presenting the material. Complete plumage descriptions for each species appear in a separate section from the black-and-white photographs. This requires a lot of flipping back and forth to see what is being described. Though Grant certainly describes most of the subspecies of *Larus argentatus*, one has always longed for good color comparison photos that would show all the essential characteristics that can distinguish the members of the Herring Gull complex in the field. This was actually accomplished last year in a series of articles in *British Birds* (see bibliography), which dealt with the separation of North American Herring Gulls (*L. a. smithsonianus*) from European Herring Gulls (*L. a. argentatus* and *L. a. argenteus*) and the recently split Yellow-Legged Gull (*L. cachinnans*). These articles included good black-and-white and numerous color photographs as well as very good color paintings. Reading these articles is a humbling experience because the authors' knowledge of very subtle field characteristics is nothing short of mind-boggling. Unfortunately, these articles are not widely available to the North American birder.

Which brings us to the video: *The Large Gulls of North America*, the first title in the proposed "Advanced Birding Video Series." According to John W. Vanderpoel, the series producer, "The *Large Gulls of North America* is the first in a series of videos planned [for] the next ten years, built around a conviction that video can provide a serious identification tool in an attractive format."

Thirteen species of the large gulls that have been sighted in North America are covered. This includes species with very restricted ranges in our area, such as Kelp, Slaty-Backed, Yellow-legged, and Yellow-footed, as well as the more expected species. Surprisingly, not included on this tape are Ring-Billed and Mew and Common Gulls. One concludes that those species will be included in subsequent video on the "smaller gulls" of North America. The *Large Gulls of North America* comes with a location card that indicates the running times of each segment. The flip side of this card is an illustration of gull topography.

The video is narrated by Jon L. Dunn. In the introduction segment, Mr. Dunn is seen checking out the gulls at some harbor and even suggests that if you need a closer look, just throw some old bread out to them and "just become their friends." This is followed by a nice overview of gull topography and plumage sequences, using the Herring Gull as the example. The species accounts are very well done. The camera work is good, and often the motion will freeze for a moment to let you see some plumage detail under discussion. Common hybrids are shown and discussed, as well as subspecies of the Herring Gull — *argenteus*, *argentatus* and *smithsonianus*, as well as the Yellow-legged Gull. All the critical field marks are discussed and shown for all species. Often a comparison shot of a "look-alike" species is shown in the same frame as the species being discussed (though sometimes these still shots are shown all too briefly and need to be freeze-framed on your VCR in order to be really studied). A minor quibble is that range maps are shown only when speaking of subspecies, and otherwise the ranges of most of these species are simply verbally described.

Be forewarned that this is a long videotape, clocking in at just under two hours. That amount of time dedicated to only descriptions of plumages is enough to cause the even most ardent larophile's eyes to glaze over. Students have complained to me that Jon Dunn's narration is too monotone and not exciting enough. In all fairness to Mr. Dunn, it is hard to say how speaking about primary windows and leg color for two hours can be made attention-grabbing. Just as you wouldn't read Grant's gull identification guide from cover to cover at one sitting, do not slip this tape into the VCR and watch it from beginning to end. There is just too much detailed information. By the time the tape gets to the separation of the Yellow-legged Gull from races of the Herring and Lesser Black-Backed Gulls, many viewers are going to feel as if they are listening to a lecture on quantum mechanics. If you are a beginning-to-intermediate birder, my recommendation is to watch the introduction and then fast forward to the three common species of our area. Watch these with a field guide and a notebook and pen handy. Perhaps pick out a few of the less common field marks of these species — say, the white tertial crescent of a resting Great Black-backed Gull — and then as soon as possible go out and look for that field mark. Every serious birder should know the plumage terminology and sequences

of these common species first before moving on to less common species like Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous Gulls. Save the sections of the tape devoted to species that have never occurred in our area, like Yellow-footed or Western, for another time. Birders who are more at home with our local larids will find tuning to the sequences on rarely-occurring species, like Thayer's or California gulls, helpful and enlightening. Fanatic gull-gazers will ardently study the sections of the tape concerning the Yellow-legged Gull and other "mega-field-problem" species. If you go searching for these species, which have indeed occurred in North America, do us all a favor and make sure you get good photographs!

The Large Gulls of North America, an auspicious start to the proposed "Advanced Birding Video Series," is an important learning tool for birders of all levels of experience.

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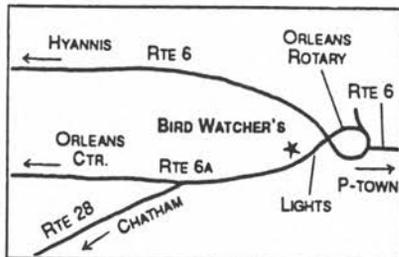
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EDITORIAL: BIRDERS AND RECORDS

Perhaps more than any other scientific field, ornithology has benefited from the contributions of amateurs; today as in the past, the border between "birder" and "field ornithologist" is a permeable one. Where species are normally found, where they might wander, and how numerous they are figure among the most basic information in the study of birds, and the thousands of active birders represent a data-collecting army of imposing proportion.

To be sure, data gathered by birders have limitations. Birders often focus on rarities at the expense of more common species, and they often notice just the presence of a species while missing opportunities to note numbers or behavior. Birding records are fraught with uncontrolled variables, and of course sight records are only as good as the knowledge and skill that goes into them. But as soon as birders start keeping records that go beyond the most basic, check-it-off-once-and-forget-about-it lists, they turn into amateur field ornithologists. Over time, records compiled by birders can yield profound insight into the status and distribution of birds.

Since its inception over a quarter-century ago, *Bird Observer* has compiled and published bird reports from eastern Massachusetts, and thousands of birders have used the journal to learn about the region's avifauna. As birding has grown, more and more birders have begun contributing records, making it possible for us to present increasingly detailed pictures of the bird life in the eastern portion of the Bay State.

In recent years, the advent of the Internet has further broadened our reporting base, while simultaneously creating new possibilities for collecting and sharing information. We're birders, not computer nerds — but we've done our best to exploit these possibilities. Our "records department" has added a volunteer to glean Internet reports for significant sightings. We post records-related material — reports of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC), the MARC review list, a state bird list, and photos of interesting birds found in the state — on our web site:

<http://people.ne.mediaone.net/marjrines/BirdObserver.htm>

The indefatigable Marj Rines has begun incorporating the records we receive into a computerized database, which we hope to make generally available (perhaps on our web site) to anyone who wants information about Massachusetts birds. Look for more changes like this, and let us know if you have additional ideas.

Another important change is scheduled for 1999: the records editors at *Bird Observer* are going to work with Seth Kellogg, the editor of *Bird News of Western Massachusetts*, to include records from western Massachusetts in *Bird Observer*. A reporting network already exists for western Massachusetts, associated with *Bird News*; by combining that network's efforts with the work of our own volunteers, *Bird Observer* will be able to present a unified picture of Bay State birds, from the Nantucket Shoals to the spine of the Berkshires. We feel that this broadened scope

will greatly enhance the value of the records that appear in the journal, and we hope it will encourage birders in both the eastern and western portions of the state to broaden their exploration. All of us at *Bird Observer* look forward eagerly to working with our colleagues west of Worcester County.

Beyond the Bay State

At the same time that these events are taking place in Massachusetts, there are important changes on the continental scene: the "publication of record" for bird sightings in the United States and Canada is undergoing a rapid and exciting evolution. *Field Notes*, and its predecessor *American Birds*, have long been published by the National Audubon Society. But in 1997, the American Birding Association, the continent's leading birding organization, arranged with National Audubon to assume publication of *Field Notes*. (NAS will continue to publish the annual Christmas Count summary.) This important journal retains its network of reporting observers and regional compilers, but is now produced by the same production team that is responsible for *Birding* magazine. Seasonal summaries of the birds from each of twenty-seven regions appear in every issue, along with analytical articles discussing important events and trends, color photos of some of the most interesting birds, and an essay summarizing the season on a continental scale. Each issue of *Field Notes* is a short course in North American bird distribution, providing a sweeping, coherent look at a picture that individual birders see only in fragments. Reading this publication is a powerful way to enhance your understanding of our continent's bird life.

Bird Observer, *Field Notes*, and other regional, state, and local publications that publish bird records exist in symbiosis with the birding public. These periodicals collect and distribute information that is important to birders; birders, in turn, provide that information and support the publications by subscribing to them. If a journal can't sustain a viable subscriber base, it perishes, and with it goes its network of volunteers and the information that it used to distribute.

For this reason, all of us at *Bird Observer* are grateful to our subscribers: your support makes it possible for us to continue performing a mission that we think is important, and your interest and loyalty inspire us to persevere in a job that is not always easy.

Many of you are already also supporting (and learning from) *Field Notes*. But if you're not, we urge you to give that journal a try. By subscribing, you will make yourself a better birder — and you will contribute to the revitalization of a publication that is a critical piece of the North American birding world. Subscriptions to *Field Notes* are \$20 per year (four seasonal issues); members of the American Birding Association receive a discounted rate of \$17.95. You can call ABA at (800) 850-2473, write PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO, 80934, or e-mail member@aba.org to subscribe.

— The Editors of *Bird Observer*

NEW TOYS FOR ENHANCED BIRDING

One important advantage birding has over some other outdoor pastimes is that it costs very little money to become a full-time participant. Decent binoculars are available for under \$50 (I usually recommend the Bushnell 10x50 Powerview model to my beginning students); add to that a Peterson field guide, and you have all you really need to become a full-fledged birder. After a year or two, you may want to add a spotting scope, upgraded binoculars, and more books. Although you can, if you wish, splurge on birding tours and top-of-the-line optics, birding is really quite an inexpensive activity.

Compulsive spenders, rejoice! Recently some new items have appeared on the market that, though not originally designed with the birder in mind, do add to the fun.

During the Cold War, the Soviet Union developed highly sophisticated night-vision equipment for military use. With the collapse of the Soviet empire, much of this equipment was sold off to other countries, including the United States, for both military and police use. A few years later, some entrepreneurs realized that there could be a civilian market for such things, and ads began appearing in magazines catering to hunters, fishermen, boaters, and militaria collectors.

I recently purchased a set of Moonlight brand, Russian-made night-vision binoculars (actually, two separately-focused monoculars fastened together). Powered by two AA batteries, they amplify starlight 30,000 times, giving a bright picture even in near-total darkness. The image appears in green and black and has a degree of clarity comparable to that of a copied videotape. Magnification is only 2x, but of course this is to keep the light intensity as high as possible. They originally appeared in catalogs with an \$800 price tag, but were \$325 when I bought mine. If you shop around, it may be possible to find even lower prices.

Owling with this device is a whole new experience. It is great fun actually to see the screech owls flitting toward you in response to your calls. I was even able to watch a saw-whet owl in my back yard on one memorable evening last summer, and these glasses are even useful for watching other suburban wildlife, such as skunks and raccoons.

Other night-vision products now available include monoculars, goggle headsets, and rifle scopes. New products are appearing that use established Russian technology reproduced in American-made versions. The industry has begun to target birders as a market, and we should be seeing more ads for night-vision equipment in our magazines. For current ads, check out shooting periodicals such as *Shotgun News*. Prices are still quite high, but as was the case in the past with transistor radios and VCRs (and maybe will be the case with

image-stabilizing binoculars?), we can expect prices to come down with competition and a wider market.

Some direct-mail marketers seem to think that I am a law-enforcement officer, and I am constantly getting catalogs for police equipment in my mailbox. One item that caught my eye last winter was the "Bionic Ear," a long-distance surveillance microphone with optional disk enhancer. (I bought one for \$150). With this neat little device, you put on the earphones and point the flashlight-sized microphone in the desired direction. The twelve-inch-diameter parabolic reflector pinpoints the direction and helps eliminate background noise. To avoid damage to your ears, the device shuts off automatically if the sound goes above 100 decibels.

I field-tested this gadget during spring migration, and it's great! You just sweep the treetops, pick out a sound that interests you, and head for it. My hearing is not what it used to be, and this thing helped me track down species that I would have missed entirely. The whole rig fits in a gym bag and weighs very little. Ads for this product, like those for the night-vision equipment, appear regularly in magazines for the shooting sports.

Do you need this stuff to become a first-class birder? Of course not! However, as my wife constantly reminds me, the only difference between big and little boys is the price of their toys. You might consider the items for your own use, or as gifts for birders you know. They are a lot of fun — like birding generally!

— Robert Campbell

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Among the types of material we'd like to see:

- Articles presenting original scientific research
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- Field notes describing interesting encounters with birds
- Biographies of ornithologists or birders with regional ties
- Results of surveys and censuses
- "Where to Go" articles describing good birding locales
- Articles on birding equipment or methods
- Notices and news items
- "Point of View" articles on birding-related issues

In addition, the magazine is always in need of book reviewers and qualified peer-reviewers for scientific and technical articles.

Bird Observer tries to provide a mix of lively, informative writing in each issue. Why not contribute your insights and experiences to help us achieve this goal? Send manuscripts or proposals to *Bird Observer* at P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003, or email the editor at mpeli74592@aol.com.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

JULY/AUGUST 1998

SUMMARY

By Marjorie W. Rines, Simon A. Perkins, and Robert H. Stymeist

July was on the warm side, though no records were broken; the temperature in Boston averaged out at 74.4°, the high was 93° on July 22, and the mercury reached into the nineties on seven days, one more than average. Rainfall totaled 2.47 inches, a little less than normal; thunderstorms were noted on three days, and no thick fog was reported (as is usually the case in July). August was remarkably near normal in most respects, though the first half of the month was very dry. Though the winds were not favorable for the start of fall migration, nonetheless the start of the passerine movement was well under way by mid-August. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Red-throated Loons are rare but regular summer visitors. This year, two sightings in Buzzard's Bay, reported within eleven days, may have involved the same individual. Most over-summering, non-breeding Common Loons spend the season in Buzzard's Bay. The high count this summer was 20. By mid-August, post-breeding Common Loons had appeared on schedule off South Monomoy. These days, evidence of breeding in the state for Pied-billed Grebe is hard to come by, so the discovery of a juvenile in Tyngsboro was welcome news.

Despite last year's extraordinary and unprecedented numbers of Cory's Shearwaters on Stellwagen Bank, this species is usually very scarce in the colder waters north of Cape Cod. This year it went unrecorded anywhere. Surprisingly high numbers of several species of seabirds were noted from Andrew's Point in Rockport under light northeast winds on August 12. Some of the more noteworthy counts during the flight involved Greater and Manx shearwaters. This may have been the highest tally of Manx Shearwaters ever recorded from the North Shore.

For the first time in many years, Least Bitterns were found breeding at the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Concord. This event may have been related to the recent draw-downs there that have been implemented by refuge staff as a management tool for the control of the invasive, exotic plant, water chestnut. A pronounced post-breeding dispersal of Great Egrets inland was underway by the third week of July, and at the end of August an especially high inland count came from Wayland, where an above-average number (for an inland site) of Black-crowned Night-Herons were also noted. Also unusual inland were two Glossy Ibises in Gardner. Arguably the avian event of the season was the fledging of a juvenile **Black Vulture** in the Blue Hills in Milton, August 2. This culminated the first confirmed nesting of Black Vulture anywhere in New England.

American Wigeon rarely nest in Massachusetts, so the occurrence of a bird in early August at South Monomoy Island in Chatham was noteworthy, though no signs of breeding were detected. The first migrant Greater Scaup were noted at the end of August. An out-of-season Harlequin Duck, either a female or eclipse male, was studied at close range in Bourne.

An above-average number of Sharp-shinned Hawks detected this summer included a family group near the New Hampshire border in Ashburnham. This is our least common nesting accipiter, so evidence of breeding is always noteworthy. The earliest migrant sharp-shinned were moving by mid-August. Four sightings of Merlin in August, including the earliest on the 12th, offered most recent evidence that this small falcon has recently (roughly, within last ten years) become more frequent during this month.

Because Ring-necked Pheasant and Northern Bobwhite are "stocked" by the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and private hunting clubs, it is impossible to know whether either of these two species maintains a viable, wild population in the Commonwealth. While wild birds may survive the winters in the southeastern portion of the state, it seems unlikely that they do north and west of Boston, and so the Northern Bobwhite reported from Concord was probably a released bird.

King Rail, a State Listed species that approaches the northern limit of its breeding range in Massachusetts, was reported from two localities. One involved a pair in suitable nesting habitat in West Bridgewater, though no evidence of breeding was found. At this same site, a healthy total of 24 Virginia Rails was tallied, and another State Listed species, **Common Moorhen** was noted. A **Purple Gallinule** was present from July 12 through at least August 7 in a small lily pond on Nantucket. An adult American Coot with two young at S.

Monomoy provided breeding confirmation for a species that is seldom found nesting in the state, and a coot with an injured foot was present in Concord for about a week.

An early American Golden-Plover was on Martha's Vineyard by the end of July, and **American Avocets** were present for much of the summer in Chatham and at two sites in Essex County. A report of a **Spotted Redshank** at South Beach in Chatham awaits review by the MARC. If accepted by the Committee, this sighting would represent only the third state record. Ten Willets of the western *inornatus* race were identified among 110 Willets on South Beach in Chatham. The **Bar-tailed Godwit** that spent the winter in Plymouth, then moved to the Cape in the spring, remained in Chatham at least through mid-July. Unusual among Hudsonian Godwit reports were those from Martha's Vineyard, and two different, equal-sized, southbound flocks, both observed at sea, roughly a week apart. This species is very uncommon on the Islands despite – or perhaps because of – those sites' proximity to the species' most important migratory stop-over area on the Atlantic Seaboard, South Beach/N. Monomoy. A Marbled Godwit made an early appearance in East Boston.

Without a doubt, the biggest crowd-pleaser of the season, and one of the most thoroughly scrutinized local vagrants in recent years, was a **Red-necked Stint** in alternate plumage in the Saquish section of Plymouth at the end of Duxbury Beach. This bird furnished only the third record for the species in the state. For reasons that remain obscure, White-rumped Sandpiper occasionally appears in some years in numbers much greater than in most other years. The last major flight year was 1986, when counts of over 800 were tallied. This year, such a flight was clearly under way by the end of August, as evidenced by a count of 400 at South Beach.

Amazingly, three out of the five Baird's Sandpiper reports came from sites inland, where they are rare. Those three reports included two records from Worcester County, and one (involving three individuals) at the Great Meadows NWR in Concord. These latter birds were among some of the first shorebirds of the season to be reported from this locality, and these individuals raised the curtain on a spectacular avian show at the Meadows that involved many species of waterbirds throughout the late summer and fall. These congregations were directly related to the aforementioned draw-down that created highly attractive mud flats.

Several Short-billed Dowitchers of the central Canadian *hendersoni* race were detected in the marshes inside Plum Island, but very few Long-billed Dowitchers were found there, despite this general area being this species' only regularly used stop-over point in New England.

Among several sightings of Red-necked Phalaropes were two reports from onshore sites, one involving nine individuals in Chatham. Most Little Gulls appear in the state following the breeding season some time in late summer. A freshly plumaged juvenile Little Gull at Martha's Vineyard in late July was seen in two different towns at least through August 10. Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found at traditional localities, and an early Black-legged Kittiwake was noted at Stellwagen Bank. Also early was a Caspian Tern in Chatham. A Forster's Tern in early July at Plum Island may have been an individual that was seen sporadically, in the spring. A count of 11 Black Skimmers in Chatham, that included four juvenile birds, represented an high local total for this species.

A Black Guillemot in Gloucester in early July furnished a rare summer record, and even more unusual were four fly-by **Atlantic Puffins** seen off Rockport, during the aforementioned seabird flight in mid August. Four days later, a single puffin was seen from the same spot. Perhaps an increase in the frequency of puffin sightings in our waters should be expected given the continued successes of efforts to reintroduce these charismatic seabirds to various islands in the Gulf of Maine.

Colonizing Monk Parakeets appear to be making inroads in the state. Reports of nest-building parakeets have been restricted to towns near the Rhode Island/Connecticut borders. However, during this past summer, a pair (?) was observed carrying sticks in Merrimac, near the New Hampshire line. Two Monks seen in the adjacent town of Amesbury were assumed to be the same individuals. Despite these inroads, this writer is unaware that Monk Parakeets have ever produced young in Massachusetts, even though the Connecticut and Rhode Island colonies have contained many breeding birds for over ten years. A pair of Great Horned Owls again spent the summer (and probably nested) on South Monomoy Island in Chatham. This is unusual only because this species is very reluctant to cross sizable bodies of water (e.g., they are rare on Martha's Vineyard, and have never been recorded at Nantucket). Yet they are known to make regular flights over to N. Monomoy (where, historically, they have caused complete abandonment of tern colonies) from where they could, and apparently do, continue on to the south island. Though no news was forthcoming regarding the nesting success among the 10+ pairs of Short-eared Owls that were reported in the spring on Tuckernuck Island, a family group of four Short-eareds was located nearby on Nantucket. This discovery provided a glimmer of hope for a State-Endangered population that has all but disappeared from Nantucket – a locality that, only 15-20 years ago, supported virtually all of the remaining Short-eareds in the Northeast.

A count of 500 Common Nighthawks August 21 in Maynard represented a rather high count for so early in migration. Singing Chuck-wills-widows that were noted in June continued through July in both Wellfleet and Bourne. Neither of the single Red-headed Woodpeckers reported from two different towns showed indications that they were breeding. S.A.P.

Addenda:

A loon seen at Plum Island in mid May, 1998, possessing a conspicuous white flank patch, was reported as an Arctic by two independent observers.

The remains of a juvenile Purple Gallinule was found during the Tuckernuck CBC, Jan 1, 1998.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
Red-throated Loon				8/2	Stellw. Bank	33	R. Heil
7/7	Mattapoisett	1	M. Sylvia	8/12	Rockport	71	R. Heil
7/18	Falmouth	1	R. Farrell	8/29	Rockport (A.P.)	55	R. Heil
Common Loon				Double-crested Cormorant			
thr	Falmouth	20 max	R. Farrell	8/15	N. Monomoy	2200	S. Perkins#
7/3	Rockport (A.P.)	2	P. + F. Vale	8/25	Lexington	24	M. Rines
7/19	Clinton	2	M. Lynch#	8/30	Haverhill	110	R. Heil
7/19	Quabbin (G37-36)	3	R. Lockwood	American Bittern			
7/28	Westminster	1	T. Pirro	7/26	DWWS	1	N. Weiss
7/31	P.I.	5	R. Heil	8/16	Gardner	1	T. Pirro
8/6	Duxbury B.	2	S. Perkins#	8/19	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	R. Cressman
8/15	S. Monomoy	14	S. Perkins#	8/22	DWWS	1	D. Clapp
8/20	Wachusett Mt.	1	T. Carrolan	Least Bittern			
8/22	Duxbury B.	3	S. Perkins#	7/4	W. Bridgewater	1m	S. Arena
Pied-billed Grebe				7/12	GMNWR	1	J. Forbes
7/7-8/30	P.I.	1	W. Drew#	7/19-8/31	GMNWR	ad + 2 yg	M. Lynch + v.o.
7/10-15	Edgartown	1	A. Ben-David#	Great Blue Heron			
7/18	Tyngsboro	2	R. Andrews	7/12-26	DWMA	46	S. + L. Hennin
8/4	Mashpee	1	S. Miller	8/29	GMNWR	16	S. Perkins
8/19-30	DWWS	1	D. Furbish	Great Egret			
8/23	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray	7/6	W. Bridgewater	1	K. Anderson
8/29	Wakefield	1 br pl	P. + F. Vale	7/19	GMNWR	5	P. + F. Vale
8/30	Halifax	1	J. Young	7/23	Westboro	1	A. Boover
8/31	Harwich	1	J. Young	7/25	Saugus	5	P. + F. Vale
Greater Shearwater				7/25	Wayland	3	E. Taylor
7/1	off Newbypt	60	MAS (D. Davis)	7/28	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	8	S. Perkins#
7/9	Stellw. Bank	30	T. Raymond	7/31	Athol	1	M. Polana
7/19	off Rockport	40	G. Wood	7/31	Lexington	1	M. Rines
8/2	Stellw. Bank	30	C. Floyd	8/4	S. Monomoy	10+	J. Sones
8/5	off M. V.	100+	V. Laux#	8/7	Northboro	1	S. Arena
8/12	Rockport (A.P.)	487	R. Heil	8/9	P.I.	24	J. Berry
8/15	5 m. e. of S. Monomoy	4	E. Nielsen#	8/15	Sterling	3	H. Fuller
8/31	Fippennies L.	50	BBC (S. Perkins)	8/15	Middleboro	3	R. Turner
8/31	Stellw. Bank	80	BBC (S. Perkins)	8/16	Fairhaven	22	M. Boucher
8/31	Cashes L.	150	BBC (S. Perkins)	8/30	Wayland	13	E. Taylor
Sooty Shearwater				8/30	Chatham (M.I.)	15	B. Nikula#
7/4	off Gloucester	120	M. Emmons	Snowy Egret			
7/9	Stellw. Bank	250	T. Raymond	7/13	Nantucket	17	fide E. Ray
7/11	off Gloucester	125	S. Moore#	7/15	Quincy	16	D. Larson
8/2	Stellw. Bank	85	C. Floyd#	7/28	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	15	S. Perkins#
8/12	Rockport (A.P.)	31	R. Heil	7/30	Falmouth	11	R. Farrell
8/31	Stellw. Bank	80	BBC (S. Perkins)	8/2	Hingham	30	K. Vespaziani
8/31	Cashes L.	3	BBC (S. Perkins)	8/2	Mattapoisett	8	M. Sylvia
8/31	Fippennies L.	1	BBC (S. Perkins)	8/9	P.I.	52	J. Berry
Manx Shearwater				8/19	E. Boston (B.I.)	68	R. Cressman
7/2	Stellw. Bank	3	M. Rines	8/27	N. Monomoy	100+	B. Nikula
7/19	off Rockport	15	G. Wood	8/29	Rowley	75	J. Berry
7/31	P.I.	1	R. Heil	Little Blue Heron			
8/8	Stellw. Bank	5	R. Lockwood#	7/19	W. Gloucester	8-10	P. + F. Vale
8/12	Rockport (A.P.)	64	R. Heil	7/30	DWWS	1	D. Furbish
8/23	Stellw. Bank	15	SSBC (D. Clapp)	8/2	Mattapoisett	1	Ma. Sylvia
8/31	Cashes L.	4	BBC (S. Perkins)	8/5	E. Boston (B.I.)	1 imm	R. Cressman
8/31	Fippennies L.	4	BBC (S. Perkins)	8/9	Essex	7	S. Perkins#
8/31	Stellw. Bank	20	BBC (S. Perkins)	8/15	Falmouth	2	R. Farrell
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				8/22	N. Monomoy	3 imm	J. Hill#
7/1	Rockport (A.P.)	30+	J. Brown#	8/23	P.I.	2 ad	R. Heil
7/1	off Newbypt	130	MAS (D. Davis)	8/23	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith#
7/4	off Gloucester	80	M. Emmons	8/30-31	Nantucket	3	E. Ray
7/9	Stellw. Bank	30	T. Raymond	Tricolored Heron			
7/19	off Rockport	30	G. Wood	7/11	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith#
8/2	Stellw. Bank	230	R. Heil	7/20	Hingham (WE)	1	S. Shapiro
8/5	off M. V.	75	V. Laux#	8/4	N. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula#
8/31	Cashes L.-Wildcat Knoll	2500	S. Perkins	8/4	S. Monomoy	1	J. Sones
Leach's Storm-Petrel				8/15	S. Monomoy	2	S. Perkins
8/31	Cashes L.	4	BBC (S. Perkins)	8/8	Newbury Marshes	1	S. Perkins#
Northern Gannet				Cattle Egret			
7/1	off Newbypt	2	MAS (D. Davis)	8/2	Mattapoisett	1	Ma. Sylvia
7/2	Stellw. Bank	15	M. Rines	8/2	Essex	3	E. Salmela#
7/31	P.I.	22	R. Heil				

Green Heron				8/29	GMNWR	4	S. Perkins
thr	Falmouth	7 max	R. Farrell		Northern Shoveler		
7/19	GMNWR	9	M. Lynch#	7/26	P.I.	1	S. Perkins
8/9	Wakefield	3	P. + F. Vale	7/29	E. Boston	1	G. Wood
8/9	Rowley	4	J. Berry	8/15	S. Monomoy	7	S. Perkins#
8/11	Pepperell	5	E. Stromsted	8/30	P.I.	1 f	J. Berry
8/16	Gardner	6	T. Pirro		Northern Pintail		
8/25	Lexington	4	M. Rines	8/15	S. Monomoy	35	S. Perkins#
Black-crowned Night-Heron				8/23	P.I.	7	R. Heil
7/13	Nantucket	23	fide E. Ray		Green-winged Teal		
7/25	Wayland	30	E. Taylor	7/19	Marston Mills	3	S. + E. Miller
8/8	P.I.	8	P. + F. Vale	7/26	P.I.	10	S. Perkins
8/15	S. Monomoy	25	S. Perkins#	8/15	S. Monomoy	45	S. Perkins#
8/29	Rowley	5	J. Berry	8/15	P.I.	250+	M. Lynch#
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				8/23	P.I.	620	R. Heil
7/4	Fairhaven	1	D. Larson#	8/28	Lexington	11	M. Rines
8/4-15	S. Monomoy	1 ad	J. Sones + v.o.	8/29	GMNWR	14	S. Perkins
8/11	Gloucester	1	J. Barber		Ring-necked Duck		
8/20	Plymouth	1	D. Clapp	8/19	Weston	1 f	G. Ferguson
8/31	Truro	1 imm	J. Young		Greater Scaup		
Glossy Ibis				8/29	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil
7/2	E. Boston (B.I.)	5	L. Pivacek		Common Eider		
7/5	S. Dartmouth	15	De. Oliver	7/26	Duxbury B.	30	D. Furbish#
7/9	Newbypt	18	S. Grinley	7/27	Nantucket	11	fide E. Ray
7/14	Hingham	2	B. Rapai	8/3	Duxbury B.	145	D. Furbish#
7/19	Squantum	1	R. Donovan	8/6	Duxbury B.	150	S. Perkins#
7/27	Gardner	2	T. Pirro	8/8	Gloucester	14	R. Lockwood#
7/28	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	S. Perkins#		Harlequin Duck		
8/4	Westport	17	M. Boucher	8/7	Bourne	1	J. Hallowell
8/4	S. Monomoy	8+	J. Sones		Surf Scoter		
8/4	P.I.	8	D. Peacock	7/3	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
8/15	Rowley	7	P. + F. Vale	7/10	Falmouth	1	R. Farrell
8/27	N. Monomoy	6+	B. Nikula	7/12	Chatham (S.B.)	1 m	R. Heil
Black Vulture				8/12	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil
7/1-8/15	Milton	pr n	N. Smith	8/15	S. Monomoy	1 ad m	S. Perkins#
8/2	Milton	young fledged	N. Smith		White-winged Scoter		
Turkey Vulture				7/2	Revere B.	12	D. Larson#
7/10	Nantucket	2	E. Ray	8/15	N. Monomoy	8	T. Raymond#
7/12	Lynnfield	2	P. + F. Vale	8/22	off Rockport	40	J. Berry#
7/25	Pepperell	2	E. Stromsted		Black Scoter		
8/1	Wachusett Mt.	25	T. Carrolan	8/6	Duxbury B.	1 f	S. Perkins#
8/20	Wachusett Mt.	7	T. Carrolan	8/12, 29	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 2	R. Heil
8/23	Wachusett Mt.	10	T. Carrolan		Hooded Merganser		
8/30	Haverhill	5	R. Heil	7/12-26	DWMA	2 yg	S. + L. Hennin
8/30	Waltham	2	D. Oliver	8/23	Yarmouthport	1	S. + E. Miller
Whooper Swan					Ruddy Duck		
7/4	P.I.	1	J. Brown#	7/21	P.I.	1	W. Drew#
Wood Duck					Osprey		
7/12-26	DWMA	47	S. + L. Hennin	thr	Falmouth	5 max	R. Farrell
7/19	GMNWR	63	M. Lynch#	7/15	Westport	2	D. Larson
7/21	Melrose	10	D. + I. Jewell	7/22	Westport	12	J. Gawienowski
7/25	Wayland	45	E. Taylor	7/29	DWWS	1	D. Furbish
7/25	Worcester	71	M. Lynch#	7/31	P.I.	pr + 2 yg	D. + I. Jewell
8/11	Woburn	14	D. + I. Jewell	8/3	Duxbury B.	1	D. Furbish#
8/15	S. Monomoy	2	S. Perkins#	8/14	Malden	1	F. Vale
8/29	Wakefield	21	P. + F. Vale	8/16	Nahant	1	M. Rines#
8/29	GMNWR	38	S. Perkins	8/18	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	R. Cressman
Gadwall				8/19	Scituate	1 juv	S. Perkins#
7/7, 21	P.I.	47, 35	W. Drew#	8/22	Newbypt.	2	P. + F. Vale
8/4, 19	P.I.	108, 44	W. Drew#	8/22	Saugus	1	P. + F. Vale
8/15	S. Monomoy	10	S. Perkins#	8/30	Haverhill	3	R. Heil
8/27	Lexington	1	R. Lockwood		Bald Eagle		
American Wigeon				7/8	Acton	1	J. Mitchell
8/4-15	S. Monomoy	1	J. Sones + v.o.	7/12	Chatham (S.B.)	1 imm	R. Heil
8/28	Worcester	2	M. Lynch#	7/19	Westport	1 imm	S. French
8/30	P.I.	60	R. Heil	7/26	DWWS	2 imm	D. Furbish
Blue-winged Teal				7/28	Plymouth	1 ad	fide MAS
7/3	E. Boston	2 m	D. + I. Jewell	8/1, 13	Wachusett	1 subad, 1 imm	T. Carrolan
8/15	S. Monomoy	15	S. Perkins#	8/7	Nantucket	1 imm	fide E. Ray
8/23	P.I.	34	R. Heil	8/10	Truro	1	J. Young
8/27	Lexington	3	R. Lockwood	8/17	Falmouth	2 imm	R. Vanderpyl#
8/30	Wayland	2	E. Taylor	8/20, 23	Wachusett Mt.	1 ad, 1	T. Carrolan

Bald Eagle (continued)			
8/20	Chilmark	1 imm	M. Stutz
8/23	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray
8/30	Wellfleet	1	A. Hind
Northern Harrier			
8/9	P.I.	2	D. Peacock
8/14	E. Boston (B.I.)	1 f	P. + F. Vale
8/15	N. Monomoy	3	S. Perkins#
8/15	S. Monomoy	6	S. Perkins#
8/22	Saugus	1	P. + F. Vale
8/28	P.I.	5 imm	R. Heil
8/29	Cuttyhunk	4	BBC (R. Stymeist)
8/30	Chelmsford	1	N. Braymiller
Sharp-shinned Hawk			
7/10	Wrentham	1	A. Bottomley
7/12	Quabbin (G37)	1	R. Lockwood
7/18	Dennis	1 ad	M. Lynch#
7/22	Burlington	1	P. + F. Vale
7/25	Quabbin (G40-43)	1	R. Lockwood
7/26	Bolton	1	R. Lockwood
8/1	Mt. Watic	pr + 1 juv	R. Heil, B. Nikula
8/13	Wachusett Mt.	4 imm	T. Carrolan
8/15	P.I.	1 imm	M. Lynch#
8/20	Wachusett Mt.	1 imm	T. Carrolan
8/22	Newbury	1	M. Lynch#
8/23	Wachusett Mt.	2	T. Carrolan
8/23	Newbypt	1	D. Oliver
8/30	P.I.	1	D. Chickering#
Cooper's Hawk			
8/2	Petersham	ad + 2 juv	J. Trimble#
thr Reports of indiv. from 23 loc.			
Northern Goshawk			
7/1-31	Lincoln	pr	S. Perkins
7/1	Maynard	1 ad	L. Nachtrab
7/10	Lancaster	1 imm.	R. Lockwood
7/12-26	DWMA	1 ad	S. + L. Hennin
8/21	Groveland	1	D. Chickering#
Red-shouldered Hawk			
thr	E. Middleboro	1-3	K. Anderson
7/7	E. Boxford	2	K. Disney
7/25	Bolton	1	S. Lockwood
8/1, 13	Wachusett Mt.	1, 1	T. Carrolan
8/3	Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab
8/6	Weymouth	1	K. Vespaziani
8/9	Swansea	1	M. Boucher
8/20	Hanson	2	J. Young
8/23	Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted
8/30	DWWS	2	G. d'Entremont#
Broad-winged Hawk			
7/1	Groveland	2	D. Chickering#
7/4	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale
7/10	Pepperell	2	E. Stromsted
7/11	Bolton	2	R. Lockwood
7/25	Quabbin (G40-43)	3	R. Lockwood
8/1	Wachusett Mt.	6 imm	T. Carrolan
8/13	Wachusett Mt.	26	T. Carrolan
8/15	Quabbin(G44)	2	R. Lockwood
8/20	Wachusett Mt.	15	T. Carrolan
8/23	Wachusett Mt.	13	T. Carrolan
American Kestrel			
7/3	Essex	1 pr	P. + F. Vale
7/22	Bedford	6	R. Lockwood
8/4	Lancaster	6	R. Lockwood#
8/20	Bedford	2	R. Lockwood
Merlin			
8/12	P.I.	1	C. Marsh
8/27	Rowley	1	B. Gette
8/28	Gardner	1	T. Pirro
8/30	Katama	1	L. McDowell
Peregrine Falcon			
7/12	Boston	2	G. d'Entremont#
7/13	Mattapoisett	1	B. Cassie
7/30	GMNWR	1	J. Kuivenhoven#
8/9	P.I.	2	R. Walton
8/21	Saugus	1	J. Berry
8/23	Salem	1 imm	L. Healey
Ruffed Grouse			
7/4	Concord	3	M. Rines#
7/19	Quabbin (G37-36)	2	R. Lockwood
7/23	Pepperell	6	G. Coffee
7/27	Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab
Wild Turkey			
7/4	Concord	1	M. Rines
7/12	Saugus	7	D. + I. Jewell
7/26	Leicester	6	M. Lynch#
7/26	Mt. Wachusett	3 ad, 8 yg	S. Moore#
7/31	N. Beverly	4	J. Paluzzi
8/12	Easton	5	G. d'Entremont
8/14	Worc. (BMB)	2	J. Liller
8/23	Newbypt	8	R. Heil
8/24	Ipswich	f w. 6-7 yng	J. Berry
Northern Bobwhite			
7/3	WBWS	1	G. d'Entremont#
7/9	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood
7/13	Nantucket	3	fide E. Ray
7/12	W. Bridgewater	1	K. Anderson
Clapper Rail			
8/6, 8	Mashpee	1	R. Vanderpyl#
8/23	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#
King Rail			
7/4	W. Bridgewater	2	S. Arena
7/19	DWMA	1	M. Lynch#
Virginia Rail			
7/4	W. Bridgewater	24	S. Arena
7/4	E. Sandwich	2 juv.	S. + E. Miller
7/6	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
7/12-26	DWMA	14	S. + L. Hennin
7/19	GMNWR	2	M. Lynch#
7/22	Middleboro	1	S. Clark
7/25	Worcester	6	M. Lynch#
8/16	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood
8/30	Nantucket	3	E. Ray
Sora			
7/5	W. Bridgewater	4	S. Arena
7/30	GMNWR	2	J. Kuivenhoven#
8/15	S. Monomoy	1	S. Perkins#
8/20	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood
8/23	P.I.	4	R. Heil
8/30	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
Purple Gallinule			
7/12-8/7	Nantucket	1 ad	fide E. Ray
Common Moorhen			
7/5	W. Bridgewater	1	S. Arena
American Coot			
7/4-12	GMNWR	1	M. Rines#
8/15	S. Monomoy	ad + 2 yg	E. Nielsen#
Black-bellied Plover			
7/4	S.B./N. Monomoy	80	S. Perkins#
8/7	Winthrop H.	70	G. Wood
8/8	Newbury Marshes	80	S. Perkins#
8/10, 31	Plymouth	500, 200	E. Neumuth
8/11, 15	Katama	400, 600	V. Laux#
8/15	P.I.	250	SSBC (M. Emmons)
8/16	Duxbury B.	398	D. Furbish#
8/29	Ipswich	182	G. d'Entremont
8/29	Chatham (S.B.)	1500	B. Nikula#
American Golden-Plover			
7/30, 8/27	Edgartown	1 ad, 3	V. Laux#
8/11, 29	Katama	3, 6	V. Laux#
8/21	Chatham (S.B.)	1	L. Master#
8/23	P.I.	2	R. Heil
8/30	Halifax	1	J. Young
8/30	Nantucket	8	J. Smith
8/31	Falmouth	1	R. Farrell

Semipalmated Plover			
7/4	Chatham (S.B.)	1	S. Perkins#
7/8, 26	Plymouth	2, 135	E. Neumuth
7/11, 8/8	Revere B.	12, 850	P. + F. Vale
7/19	Scituate	120	S. Perkins#
7/31, 8/13	P.I.	300, 1125	R. Heil
8/7	Winthrop H.	200	G. Wood
8/9	Ipswich (C.B.)	1200	S. Perkins#
8/10, 31	Plymouth	850, 400	E. Neumuth
8/10	N. Monomoy	800	B. Nikula
8/12-14	Gardner	1	T. Pirro
8/15	Katama	800+	V. Laux#
8/28	Lexington	14	M. Rines
8/29	Chatham (S.B.)	800	B. Nikula#
8/29	GMNWR	20	S. Perkins
Piping Plover			
7/4	Dartmouth	pr + 3 yg	D. Larson#
7/8, 26	Plymouth	9, 9	E. Neumuth
7/19	Scituate	5	S. Perkins#
7/22	Westport	4 ad, 1 yg	J. Gawienowski
7/23	Nantucket	17 pr + 37 yg	V. Todd
7/24	Plymouth B.	12	S. Smolen-Morton#
8/2	Chatham (S.B.)	29	R. Lockwood
8/4	P.I.	41	W. Drew#
Killdeer			
8/5	Haverhill	65	R. Heil
8/15	Katama	45	V. Laux#
8/23	Ipswich	75+	J. Berry
8/25	Lexington	39	M. Rines
8/29	GMNWR	15	S. Perkins
American Oystercatcher			
7/19	S.B./N. Monomoy	50	H. Ferguson
7/22	Falmouth	2	R. Farrell
7/26	Fairhaven	8	R. Stymeist#
7/26	Boston H.	3	D. Oliver#
7/26	Chappaquiddick	40	G. Daniels#
8/7	Winthrop H.	2 ad	G. Wood
8/27	Edgartown	65	V. Laux
8/29	Cuttyhunk	4BBC	(R. Stymeist)
8/29	Chatham (S.B.)	110	B. Nikula#
American Avocet			
7/15-8/29	N. Mon./S.B.	2	J. Ehrat + v.o.
7/31	Rockport	1	J. Soucy
8/9-16	P.I. Sound	1	R. Heil + v.o.
Greater Yellowlegs			
7/3	E. Boston (B.I.)	15	F. Bouchard
7/4	S.B./N. Monomoy	16	S. Perkins#
7/7, 8/10	P.I.	17, 51	W. Drew#
7/15	Quincy	16	D. Larson
7/27, 8/27	N. Monomoy	250, 350	B. Nikula
7/28	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	20	S. Perkins#
8/7	Winthrop H.	40	G. Wood
8/10, 31	Plymouth	75, 6	E. Neumuth
8/22	Saugus	19	P. + F. Vale
Lesser Yellowlegs			
7/5	E. Boston (B.I.)	8	P. + F. Vale
7/6	Nantucket	6	E. Ray
7/7, 8/19	P.I.	12, 30	W. Drew#
7/10	W. Bridgewater	11	K. Anderson
7/19	S.B./N. Monomoy	100	H. Ferguson
7/26	Newbury	60	S. Perkins
7/28	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	12	S. Perkins#
8/5	Haverhill	22	R. Heil
8/8	Newbypt H.	200+	S. Perkins#
8/28	Lexington	11	M. Rines
8/29	Squantum	60	J. Young
8/29	Rowley	50	J. Berry
8/29	GMNWR	28	S. Perkins
Spotted Redshank (details submitted)*			
8/16	Chatham (S.B.)	1D.	Furbish, S. Katz
Solitary Sandpiper			
7/11	W. Bridgewater	4	M. Lynch#
7/25	HRWMA	9	T. Pirro
7/31	E. Sandwich	4	S. + E. Miller
8/16	Gardner	3	T. Pirro
8/20	Cumb. Farms	2	K. Anderson
8/28	Lexington	10	M. Rines
8/28	Wakefield	3	F. Vale
8/31	Melrose	4	D. + I. Jewell
8/29	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins
Willet			
7/2, 8/10	N. Monomoy	80, 50	B. Nikula
7/4	Fairhaven	3	D. Larson#
7/12	Chatham (S.B.)	110	R. Heil
7/18	Rowley	5	J. Berry
7/19	Scituate	2	S. Perkins#
7/26	Newbury	20	S. Perkins
7/26	Duxbury B.	14	D. Furbish#
7/26	Fairhaven	14	R. Stymeist#
8/29	Lynn B.	1	G. Wood
Willet (<i>inornatus</i>)			
7/12	Chatham (S.B.)	10	R. Heil
7/31	P.I.	2	R. Heil
Spotted Sandpiper			
7/12-26	DWMA	4 ad, 5 yg	S. + L. Hennin
7/25	Worcester	4	M. Lynch#
7/26	P.I.	5	S. Perkins
7/27	Nantucket	5	fide E. Ray
7/29	GMNWR	7	R. Lockwood
8/5	Haverhill	18	R. Heil
8/9	Wakefield	6	P. + F. Vale
8/9	Melrose	5	D. + I. Jewell
8/15	P.I.	8	M. Lynch#
8/15	S. Monomoy	4	S. Perkins#
8/16	Lakeville	4	M. Boucher
8/28	Lexington	6	M. Rines
Upland Sandpiper			
thr	Lancaster	1-2	R. Lockwood
thr	Bedford	17 max	R. Lockwood
8/9	W. Bridgewater	1	S. Arena
8/15	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#
8/15	Newbypt.	1 imm	P. + F. Vale
8/15	Katama	18	V. Laux#
8/23	DWWS	1	G. d'Entremont#
8/27	Nantucket	5	fide E. Ray
Whimbrel			
7/18	Chappaquiddick	3	A. Keith#
7/19	S.B./N. Monomoy	6	H. Ferguson
7/23	Nantucket	15	fide E. Ray
7/24	Plymouth B.	8	S. Smolen-Morton#
7/27	Nantucket	21	fide E. Ray
7/28	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	6	S. Perkins#
8/8	P.I.	12	P. + F. Vale
8/16	Chatham (S.B.)	60	D. Furbish#
8/17	Nantucket	32	E. Ray
8/19	Scituate	6	S. Perkins#
8/22	Duxbury B.	3	S. Perkins#
8/23	Plymouth	4	SSBC (D. Clapp)
8/30	Nantucket	12	E. Ray
Hudsonian Godwit			
7/12	Chatham (S.B.)	31	R. Heil
7/26	Newbypt	8	M. Lynch#
8/7	Winthrop H.	2	G. Wood
8/8	Newbury Marshes	4	S. Perkins#
8/15	N. Monomoy	15	S. Perkins#
8/15-18E	Boston (B.I.)	1-2	M. Gonsalo
8/25	Stellw. Bank	30	J. Cameron
8/26	Newbypt.	13	N. Soulette#
8/27	Edgartown	27	V. Laux
8/27	Chappaquiddick	27	A. Keith#
8/29	Chatham (S.B.)	40	B. Nikula#
8/29	Barnstable (F.E.)	9	B. Nikula#
8/30	Revere B.	1	P. + F. Vale
8/31	Fippennies L.	30	BBC (S. Perkins)

Bar-tailed Godwit			
7/4	N. Monomoy	1	S. Perkins#
7/12	Chatham (S.B.)	1	R. Heil
Marbled Godwit			
7/1-5	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	R. Cressman + vo
7/12	Chatham (S.B.)	1	ad R. Heil
8/25	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	P. Trimble
8/27	N. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula
Ruddy Turnstone			
7/19	S.B./N. Monomoy	60	H. Ferguson
7/27	N. Monomoy	200	B. Nikula
8/1	P.I.	57	D. Chickering#
8/2	E. Boston (B.I.)	10+	R. Cressman
8/7	Winthrop H.	30	G. Wood
8/9	Ipswich (C.B.)	12	S. Perkins#
8/10, 31	Plymouth	80, 15	E. Neumuth
8/16	Duxbury B.	169	D. Furbish#
8/19	Scituate	12	S. Perkins#
8/23	Quincy	6	F. Bouchard
8/30-31	Nantucket	27	E. Ray
Red Knot			
7/12	Chatham (S.B.)	285	R. Heil
7/20, 8/10	Plymouth	26, 200	E. Neumuth
7/23	Nantucket	4	fide E. Ray
8/6	Duxbury B.	40	S. Perkins#
8/8	Chatham (S.B.)	1300	G. d'Entremont
8/9	Ipswich (C.B.)	2	S. Perkins#
8/10	W. Tisbury	40	V. Laux#
8/19	Scituate	3 juv	S. Perkins#
8/22	Revere B.	5	P. + F. Vale
8/29	P.I.	3	P. + F. Vale
8/29	Chatham (S.B.)	500	B. Nikula#
Sanderling			
7/20, 8/10	Plymouth	250, 1200	E. Neumuth
7/25, 8/8	Revere B.	275, 750	P. + F. Vale
7/27	N. Monomoy	900	B. Nikula
8/9	P.I.	200+	K. Hartel
8/9	Ipswich (C.B.)	1100	S. Perkins#
8/29	Chatham (S.B.)	2000	B. Nikula#
Semipalmated Sandpiper			
7/4	N. Monomoy	2	S. Perkins#
7/8, 8/10	Plymouth	35, 500	E. Neumuth
7/11, 8/8	Revere B.	20, 1100	P. + F. Vale
7/19, 8/19	Scituate	650, 350	S. Perkins#
7/26	Newbypt	2100+	M. Lynch#
7/27, 8/10	N. Monomoy	2800, 1400	B. Nikula
8/8	Newbury Marshes	1200	S. Perkins#
8/9	Ipswich (C.B.)	1700	S. Perkins#
8/13	P.I.	3400	R. Heil
8/29	Chatham (S.B.)	1200	B. Nikula#
8/29	GMNWR	60	S. Perkins
Western Sandpiper			
8/4	Hingham	1	D. Larson#
8/4	P.I.	3	S. Grinley
8/8	Squantum	1	G. d'Entremont
8/8	Revere B.	1	P. + F. Vale
8/28	Cumb. Farms	3	K. Anderson
8/28	Eastham	1	M. Lynch#
8/29	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale
8/29	Chatham (S.B.)	1	J. Sones#
8/30	Duxbury B.	2	L. Ferrarasso#
8/31	Falmouth	2	R. Farrell
Red-necked Stint (details submitted) *			
8/21-31	Plymouth	1	br pl D. Ludlow + v.o.
Least Sandpiper			
7/4	Chatham (S.B.)	70	S. Perkins#
7/4	Concord	6	M. Rines#
7/10	W. Bridgewater	11	K. Anderson
7/12	Chatham (S.B.)	530	R. Heil
7/12, 8/18	Cumb. Farms	37, 100	K. Anderson
7/19	S.B./N. Monomoy	200	H. Ferguson
7/26	Newbury	30	S. Perkins
7/27	Gardner	10	T. Pirro
8/5	Haverhill	40 juv	R. Heil
8/9	Rowley	100	J. Berry
8/15	P.I.	500+	M. Lynch#
8/16	Gardner	6	T. Pirro
8/16	Duxbury B.	42	D. Furbish#
8/28	Lexington	55	M. Rines
8/29	GMNWR	80	S. Perkins
White-rumped Sandpiper			
7/19	Scituate	1	S. Perkins#
7/21, 8/19	P.I.	29, 210	W. Drew#
7/26	Newbury	1	S. Perkins
7/27	Edgartown	4	M. Pelikan#
8/4	S. Monomoy	4+	J. Sones
8/8	Newbury Marshes	25	S. Perkins#
8/8, 8/22	Revere B.	3, 15	P. + F. Vale
8/16	E. Boston (B.I.)	4	P. + F. Vale
8/19	Scituate	5	S. Perkins#
8/27	Edgartown	42	V. Laux
8/27	N. Monomoy	45	B. Nikula
8/29	Rowley	8	J. Berry
8/29	Chatham (S.B.)	400	B. Nikula#
8/29	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins
Baird's Sandpiper			
8/13	P.I.	1 juv	R. Heil
8/22, 24	W. Boylston	1	F. McMenemy
8/24	Oakdale	1 juv	M. Lynch#
8/27	P.I.	1	J. Brown#
8/29-31	GMNWR	3 max	R. Walton#
Pectoral Sandpiper			
7/2, 8/27	N. Monomoy	2, 8	B. Nikula
7/17	Topsfield	2	D. Chickering#
7/31	P.I.	7	R. Heil
8/1	Squantum	2	G. d'Entremont
8/7	Pepperell	7	E. Stromsted
8/16	E. Boston (B.I.)	2	M. Rines#
8/22	S. Monomoy	4	H. Ferguson
8/22	Duxbury B.	3	S. Perkins#
8/23	Nantucket	4	fide E. Ray
8/23	Lexington	2	M. Rines
8/29	GMNWR	10	S. Perkins
Dunlin			
7/19	S.B./N. Monomoy	1	H. Ferguson
7/26	Newbury	3	S. Perkins
8/8	Chatham (S.B.)	3	adBBC (G. d'Entremont)
Stilt Sandpiper			
7/14, 18	P.I.	4, 6	D. Chickering#
7/19	Squantum	2	R. Donovan
7/20	Chatham (S.B.)	1	S. + E. Miller
7/21, 8/19	P.I.	38, 3	W. Drew#
7/26	Newbury	1	S. Perkins
8/18	E. Boston (B.I.)	1 juv	C. Floyd
8/22-23	Squantum	1	G. d'Entremont
8/29	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins
8/30	Lexington	1	C. Cook
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			
8/19-30	P.I.	1-2	W. Drew + v.o.
8/22	S. Monomoy	1	H. Ferguson
8/23	Plymouth	1	M. Lynch#
8/23-27	Katama	2	V. Laux
Short-billed Dowitcher			
7/4	N. Monomoy	275	S. Perkins#
7/7, 8/10	P.I.	42, 215	W. Drew#
7/8, 26	Plymouth	14, 30	E. Neumuth
7/19	Squantum	8	R. Donovan
7/19	S.B./N. Monomoy	1800	H. Ferguson
7/20	W. Bridgewater	3	K. Anderson
7/25, 8/22	Revere B.	95, 63	P. + F. Vale
7/26	Newbury	110	S. Perkins
7/27	N. Monomoy	1200	B. Nikula
7/28	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	25	S. Perkins#
8/8	Newbury Marshes	120	S. Perkins#

Short-billed Dowitcher (continued)			
8/10	N. Monomoy	400	B. Nikula
8/16	Duxbury B.	111	D. Furbish#
Short-billed Dowitcher (<i>hendersonii</i>)			
7/26	Newbury	3	S. Perkins
8/8	Newbury Marshes	1	E. Nielsen#
Long-billed Dowitcher			
8/7	Winthrop H.	1	G. Wood
8/8	Newbury Marshes	1	S. Perkins#
8/9, 13	P.I.	1, 2	R. Heil
Common Snipe			
8/29	Katama	2	V. Laux#
8/29	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins
8/30	Halifax	1	J. Young
American Woodcock			
8/16	P.I.	1	D. Chickering#
8/30	ONWR	1	E. Salmela#
Wilson's Phalarope			
7/2-8/21	P.I.	1-3	v.o.
8/23	E. Boston (B.I.)	1-2	A. Young#
Red-necked Phalarope			
8/2	Stellw. Bank	4	R. Heil
8/15-18E.	Boston (B.I.)	1	M. Gonsalo + v.o.
8/22	Stellw. Bank	15	J. Berry#
8/24	off Truro	4	J. Young
8/27	off P'town	6	J. Young
8/29	Chatham (S.B.)	9+	B. Nikula#
8/31	Stellw. Bank	4	BBC (S. Perkins)
8/31	Cashes L.	1	BBC (S. Perkins)
Pomarine Jaeger			
8/5	off M. V.	2	V. Laux#
8/12	Rockport (A.P.)	1	sub ad R. Heil
Parasitic Jaeger			
8/2	Stellw. Bank	2	R. Heil
8/12	Rockport (A.P.)	5	R. Heil
8/25	Stellw. Bank	6	J. Cameron
8/29	Chatham (S.B.)	4	J. Sones#
8/31	Cashes L.	1	BBC (S. Perkins)
Laughing Gull			
7/2	P.I.	10	R. Heil
7/19	Scituate	20	S. Perkins#
7/22	Stellw. Bank	35	M. Gooley#
8/2	E. Boston (B.I.)	8	R. Cressman
8/6	Boston (Deer I.)	200	R. Cressman
8/29	Rockport	1	juv J. Berry
Little Gull			
7/28	Edgartown	1	V. Laux#
8/10	W. Tisbury	1	V. Laux
8/11	Scituate	1	J. Higgins
8/15	Newbypt	1	juv M. Lynch#
8/16	Nahant B.	1	ad W pl L. Pivacek
Black-headed Gull			
8/9	P.I.	1	ad D. Abbott#
8/22	Chatham (S.B.)	1	ad D. Larson#
8/23	P.I.	1	ad R. Heil
Bonaparte's Gull			
7/2	P.I.	105	R. Heil
7/25	Revere B.	135	P. + F. Vale
8/9	Ipswich (C.B.)	25	S. Perkins#
8/15	Newbypt	465	M. Lynch#
8/16	Nahant B.	200	L. Pivacek
Lesser Black-backed Gull			
8/27	N. Monomoy	1	(2S) B. Nikula
8/30	Nantucket	1	ad fide E. Ray
Black-legged Kittiwake			
8/31	Stellw. Bank	1	juv BBC (S. Perkins)
Caspian Tern			
8/4	Chatham	1	B. Prescott
8/29	Eastham	2	M. Lynch#
Royal Tern			
8/29	Mashpee	1	R. Vanderpyl#
Roseate Tern			
	thr Falmouth	40	max 7/24 R. Farrell
	7/5 S. Dartmouth	3	De. Oliver
	7/27 Nantucket	8	fide E. Ray
	8/4 S. Monomoy	20+	J. Sones
	8/31 Stellw. Bank	40	BBC (S. Perkins)
Common Tern			
	thr Falmouth	200	max 8/17 R. Farrell
	7/4 S. Monomoy	1500+	S. Perkins#
	7/17 E. Boston	72	G. Wood
	7/19 Scituate	60	S. Perkins#
	7/23 Nantucket	100	E. Ray
	7/28 S. Dart. (A.Pd)	12	S. Perkins#
	8/2 Stellw. Bank	200	R. Heil
	8/12 Rockport (A.P.)	136	R. Heil
	8/15 P.I.	60+	M. Lynch#
	8/16 Duxbury B.	84	D. Furbish#
Common/Roseate Tern			
	9/29 Chatham (S.B.)	800	B. Nikula
Arctic Tern			
	7/18 Eastham	2-3	M. Lynch#
Forster's Tern			
	7/4 P.I.	1	J. Brown#
	7/26 P.I.	1	D. Peacock
	8/15 Falmouth	2	R. Farrell
	8/15 S. Monomoy	1	S. Perkins#
	8/23 Katama	2	A. Keith#
	8/25 Stellw. Bank	5	J. Cameron
	8/25 Barnstable (S.N.)	3	P. Trimble
	8/29 Cutyhunk	3	BBC (R. Stymeist)
	8/31 Onset	1	J. Young
Least Tern			
	7/19 Scituate	40	S. Perkins#
	7/23 Nantucket	1000+	E. Ray
	7/26 P.I.	10	D. Peacock
	7/28 S. Dart. (A.Pd)	18	S. Perkins#
	8/1 Squantum	3	G. d'Entremont
	8/3 Duxbury B.	24	D. Furbish#
	8/7 Winthrop H.	2	ad, 1 juv G. Wood
	8/15 S. Monomoy	40	S. Perkins#
Black Tern			
	7/5 Edgartown	1	J. Bowler
	7/27, 8/30 Nantucket	1, 17	fide E. Ray
	8/4 S. Monomoy	8+	J. Sones
	8/12 Rockport (A.P.)	2	ad R. Heil
	8/24, 8/31 Falmouth	2, 1	R. Farrell
	8/25 Stellw. Bank	1	J. Cameron
	8/25 Barnstable (S.N.)	20	P. Trimble
	8/27 N. Monomoy	4	B. Nikula
	8/30 Duxbury B.	1	T. Roberts#
	8/31 Fippennies L.	1	BBC (S. Perkins)
	8/31 Cashes L.	1	BBC (S. Perkins)
Black Skimmer			
	7/12 Chatham (S.B.)	4	R. Heil
	7/22 Plymouth B.	2	T. Kraska (fide S. A. Keith#)
	7/26 Edgartown	1	A. Keith#
	8/22 S.B.	7	ad + 4 juv R. Lockwood#
Black Guillemot			
	7/3 Gloucester (B.R.)	1	P. + F. Vale
Atlantic Puffin			
	8/12 Rockport (A.P.)	4	R. Heil
	8/16 Rockport (A.P.)	1	S. Perkins
large acid species			
	8/29 Rockport	1	J. Berry
Monk Parakeet			
	7/12 Amesbury	2	K. Fortier
	8/2 Merrimac	2	B. Weaver
	8/7 Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
Black-billed Cuckoo			
	7/5 S. Dartmouth	1	De. Oliver
	7/19 Truro	1	S. + L. Hennin
	7/19 Quabbin (G37-36)	1	R. Lockwood
	8/8, 15 P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale

Black-billed Cuckoo (continued)				7/12 Wellfleet	1	C. Floyd
8/26 Pepperell	1	M. Resch		7/13 Newbury	1	J. Paluzzi
8/7-8 Nantucket	2	fide E. Ray		7/14 W. Gloucester	1+	J. Soucy#
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				Chimney Swift		
7/10 Wrentham	1	M. Martinek		7/30 Randolph	20	G. d'Entremont
7/12 Barre F.D.	1	M. Lynch#		8/21 W. Newbury	200	R. Heil
8/15 Quabbin(G44)	1	R. Lockwood		8/28 Lynn	8	J. Berry
8/16 Cotuit	1	S. + E. Miller		8/28 P.I.	8	R. Heil
Eastern Screech-Owl				8/29 GMNWR	45	S. Perkins
thr Melrose	1 red	D. + I. Jewell		Ruby-throated Hummingbird		
7/12 Wakefield	1	F. Vale		thr Falmouth	3 max	R. Farrell
8/26 Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist		thr E. Boxford	3-5	J. Brown#
8/27 Medford	1	M. Rines		8/30 Lexington	5	M. Rines
8/28 E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson		8/31 Medford	2	M. Rines
8/31 Arlington	1	M. Rines		Belted Kingfisher		
Great Horned Owl				7/27 Nantucket	4	fide E. Ray
7/12 Wellfleet	1	C. Floyd		8/15 Quabbin(G44)	3	R. Lockwood
7/28 S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	S. Perkins#		8/23 Lexington	3	M. Rines
8/11 Worc. (BMB)	2	J. Liller		8/29 ONWR	3	R. Lockwood
8/15 Ipswich	1	R. Cressman		Red-headed Woodpecker		
8/15 S. Monomoy	1	S. Perkins#		thr Malden	1	D. + I. Jewell
8/16 Gardner	1	T. Pirro		7/29 Groton	1 ad	A. Woodle
8/30 Concord	1	R. Lockwood		Red-bellied Woodpecker		
Barred Owl				7/1-31 Wrentham	2	A. Bottomley
7/23-26Bolton	1	R. Lockwood		7/1-31 Lincoln	1 pr	S. Perkins#
Short-eared Owl				7/1-31 Medford	3 pr + yg	M. Rines
7/20 Nantucket	4	fide E. Ray		7/26 Bolton	3	R. Lockwood
Common Nighthawk				7/30 Worc. (BMB)	1 ad, 1 imm	J. Liller
8/15, 21 Maynard	2, 500+	L. Nachtrab		8/30 Concord	8 + 2 juv	R. Lockwood
8/20, 26 Mt.A.	9, 142	R. Stymeist		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		
8/21 Northboro	52	S. Moore#		7/4 HRWMA	1	W. Lafley
8/21 W. Newbury	40	R. Heil		7/26 Mt. Wachusett	1 juv	S. Moore#
8/22, 27 Maynard	357, 652	L. Nachtrab		Hairy Woodpecker		
8/22 Bellingham	150+	B. Bradley		7/26 Bolton	2	R. Lockwood
8/23 Needham	53	S. Davidson#		8/15 Milton	4	A. Joslin
8/30 Topsfield	60	fide J. Berry		Pileated Woodpecker		
8/31 Maynard	347	L. Nachtrab		7/6 Milton	2	A. Joslin
8/31 Melrose	52	D. + I. Jewell		7/12 Barre F.D.	2	M. Lynch#
8/31 Norfolk	174	M. Hurder		7/19 Quabbin (G37-36)	2	R. Lockwood
Chuck-will's-widow				7/25 HRWNA	1	T. Pirro
7/19 Wellfleet	1	R. Stymeist#		8/15 Carlisle	2 BBC	(T. + D. Brownrigg)
7/thr Bourne	2 heard	B. Reid		8/16 Bolton	1	R. Lockwood
Whip-poor-will				8/19 Weston	1	G. Ferguson
7/7 Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab		8/28 Pepperell	4	E. Stomsted

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

It was a nice summer for flycatchers. Migrant Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported in good numbers, beginning in mid-August. All "common" empidonax flycatchers were reported during the period, although the only non-breeder, Yellow-bellied, was only reported from one location, which is lower than is typical for the end of August. Western Kingbirds are uncommon fall migrants, and generally do not show up until September, so an individual reported from the Daniel Webster sanctuary in Marshfield was surprising, and gave a great deal of pleasure to the many birders who were able to see it. **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** are rare visitors to Massachusetts, but the individual reported from Gay Head on Martha's Vineyard was the second reported in 1998. The biggest crowd-pleaser, however, was a juvenile **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** which dallied at Hellcat Marsh on Plum Island from August 8 to the end of the month. There are only roughly a dozen previous records of this South American vagrant in the state, none identified as juveniles.

Swallows start congregating in huge numbers in August, with young Tree Swallows comprising by far the bulk of these impressive flocks. Plum Island is a favorite staging area for these swallows, where they swirl in the sky, and land on the roads and vegetation in a dizzying display. A report of an immature Violet-green Swallow seen among these flocks in mid-August is pending review by the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee.

A **Northern Wheatear** on August 30 on Nantucket was an exceptional find. Wheatears are vagrants to Massachusetts, and typically occur on the coast, but generally later in the fall. The "winged" warblers are early migrants, and it was unfortunate that there were no report of Golden-wings breeding in July or migrating in August. The closest thing was a July 10 report of the recessive hybrid, "Lawrence's" Warbler, in Wrentham. Among other warblers, there was a good showing of migrants beginning around mid-August. A **Cerulean Warbler** at Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary on August 16 was a nice find, but a review of records for the past four years shows that the only Ceruleans reported in August were at this same location

and time of the month. Something to keep in mind! A **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen by many on Plum Island at the end of August. Worm-eating Warblers are uncommon enough in spring migration, but even scarcer in the fall, so an individual in Chatham was a good find.

Clay-colored Sparrow has become regular in both spring and fall in Massachusetts, but the report of a bird on Plum Island on July 1 was intriguing to say the least. Because this area is heavily birded, it seems virtually impossible to imagine a nesting pair escaping notice here, so it is to be assumed it was an unpaired wanderer. Vesper and Grasshopper sparrows were reported from known nesting locations.

Among the "winter finches," a pair of Pine Grosbeaks at Plum Island came as a complete surprise. This species is rarely seen in summer, and this carefully-studied pair may have represented the first record of this species for August in Massachusetts. Red Crossbills, on the other hand, have a history of unpredictable behavior. They are known to nest during almost every month of the year, and they are highly nomadic in their movements. The July report from Martha's Vineyard, while surprising, is not unprecedented. White-winged Crossbills made welcome incursions into the state last winter, and continued to appear though the summer in the boreal forests of northern and Downeast Maine. The White-winged Crossbill reported from Mount Watatic in Ashburnham on August 1 could have been a leftover from last year's flight. In the past five years, Evening Grosbeaks have been reported regularly during the summer months, and probably include breeding birds. The five juvenile birds in Maynard on August 17 almost surely were from a local breeding pair.

M.W.R.

Olive-sided Flycatcher	8/16 Duxbury	1	fide T. Raymond	8/31 Pepperell	10	E. Stromsted
	8/18 HRWMA	2	T. Pirro	Great Crested Flycatcher		
	8/24 MNWS	1	J. Hoye#	7/3 Nantucket	4	E. Ray
	8/29 Templeton	1	T. Pirro	7/12 Barre F.D.	7	M. Lynch#
	8/30 Petersham	1	J. Baird	7/12 Quabbin (G37)	5	R. Lockwood
	8/30 Lexington	1	M. Rines	7/19 Quabbin (G37-36)	5	R. Lockwood
	8/30 Barre F.D.	1	M. Lynch#	7/26 Bolton	4	R. Lockwood
Eastern Wood-Pewee	7/12-26DWMA	5	S. + L. Hennin	8/30 DWWS	2	G. d'Entremont#
	7/12 Barre F.D.	16	M. Lynch#	8/30 MNWS	2	P. + F. Vale
	7/19 Quabbin (G37-36)	15	R. Lockwood	8/31 Medford	2	M. Rines
	8/2 Freetown	7	G. d'Entremont	Western Kingbird		
	8/15 Quabbin(G44)	25	R. Lockwood	8/22-31DWWS	1	S. Hedman + v.o.
	8/30 Barre F.D.	12	M. Lynch#	Eastern Kingbird		
	8/30 Concord	9	R. Lockwood	7/25 Worcester	38	M. Lynch#
	8/31 Medford	6	M. Rines	8/23, 30 P.I.	47, 26	R. Heil
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	8/15 P.I.	1	M. Lynch#	8/31 Pepperell	12	E. Stromsted
Acadian Flycatcher	7/11 Barre	1	M. Lynch#	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher		
	7/12 Barre F.D.	1	M. Lynch#	8/4 Gay Head	1	A. Fischer
	7/21 Chilmark	2 pr	V. Laux#	Fork-tailed Flycatcher		
Alder Flycatcher	7/4 HRWMA	1	W. Lafley	8/8-31 P.I.	1 juv	S. Perkins, E. Nielsen
	7/12 Barre F.D.	4	M. Lynch#	White-eyed Vireo		
	7/25 Quabbin (G40-43)	6	R. Lockwood	7/26 Fairhaven	5	R. Stymeist#
	8/25 Lexington	2	M. Rines	7/28 S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1 m	S. Perkins#
Willow Flycatcher	7/4 Wakefield	7	P. + F. Vale	8/15 MNWS	1	J. Smith
	7/25 P.I.	3	G. d'Entremont#	Blue-headed Vireo		
	7/28 Lancaster	4	R. Lockwood	7/12 Barre F.D.	7	M. Lynch#
	7/30 GMNWR	3	J. Kuivenhoven#	7/19 Quabbin (G37-36)	3	R. Lockwood
	8/8 P.I.	3	S. Perkins#	Yellow-throated Vireo		
Trail's Flycatcher	8/16 MNWS	1	M. Rines	7/11 Middleton	2	R. Heil
	8/23 P.I.	1	R. Heil	7/12 Barre F.D.	3	M. Lynch#
Least Flycatcher	7/4 Lincoln	2	M. Rines	7/18 Lancaster	3	R. Lockwood
	7/12 HRWMA	3	D. Oliver#	7/19 Quabbin (G37-36)	3	R. Lockwood
	7/12 Barre F.D.	11	M. Lynch#	Warbling Vireo		
	7/19 Quabbin (G37-36)	2	R. Lockwood	7/4 Wakefield	13	P. + F. Vale
	8/13 Wellfleet	1	S. + E. Miller	7/12-26DWMA	5	S. + L. Hennin
	8/20 Chatham	1	W. Bailey	7/25 Worcester	10	M. Lynch#
	8/21 Nahant	1	J. Hoye#	8/14 Woburn	5	M. Rines
	8/23 P.I.	1	R. Heil	8/28 P.I.	2	R. Heil
	8/31 Medford	2	M. Rines	8/31 Medford	3	M. Rines
Eastern Phoebe	8/30 Barre F.D.	26	M. Lynch#	Philadelphia Vireo		
				8/23 P.I.	2	D. Chickering#
				8/28-30Petersham	1	J. Baird
				8/30 ONWR	1	E. Salmela#
				8/30 Nantucket	4	J. Smith
				Red-eyed Vireo		
				7/12 HRWMA	13	D. Oliver#
				7/12 Barre F.D.	135	M. Lynch#
				7/19 Quabbin (G37-36)	47	R. Lockwood
				8/15 Quabbin(G44)	17	R. Lockwood

Red-eyed Vireo (continued)

8/29	Cuttyhunk	6BBC (R. Stymeist)	
8/29	ONWR	4	R. Lockwood
8/30	Barre F.D.	43	M. Lynch#

Fish Crow

7/9	Randolph	1	G. d'Entremont
7/26	Duxbury B.	2	D. Furbish#
8/22	E. Middleboro	15	K. Anderson

Common Raven

7/26	Mt. Wachusett	5	S. Moore#
8/1, 20	Wachusett Mt.	2, 3	T. Carrolan
8/1	Mt. Watatic	2+	R. Heil#
8/15	Quabbin(G44)	1	R. Lockwood
8/30	Barre F.D.	2	M. Lynch#

Horned Lark

8/8	Chatham (S.B.)	4	BBC (G. d'Entremont)
8/15	S. Monomoy	1	T. Raymond#
8/16	Gardner	1 imm	T. Pirro

Purple Martin

7/3	DWWS	100+	D. Clapp
7/5	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	P. + F. Vale
7/26	P.I.	46	M. Lynch#
8/29	Rowley	1-2	J. Berry
8/29	Gay Head	1	R. Shriber
8/31	Falmouth	2	R. Farrell

Tree Swallow

7/19	GMNWR	400	M. Lynch#
8/3	S. Dartmouth	950+	M. Boucher
8/15	S. Monomoy	1000	S. Perkins#
08/15	Quabbin(G44)	32	R. Lockwood
8/23	P.I.	35,000	R. Heil
8/29	Rowley	1000s	J. Berry
8/30	P.I.	150,000	R. Heil
8/29	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins

Violet-green Swallow (details submitted)*

8/11	P.I.	1 imm	D. Duxbury, R. Fox
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Northern Rough-winged Swallow

7/12	Wakefield	7	P. + F. Vale
8/8	Ipswich	7	J. Berry
8/9	Haverhill	5	R. Heil
8/31	Harwich	12	J. Young

Bank Swallow

7/4	Groveland	225 pr	R. Heil
7/10	Lancaster	56	R. Lockwood
7/12	N.Truro	20+	B. Nikula#
7/15	Bedford	124	R. Lockwood
7/19	Scituate	15	S. Perkins#
7/23	Nantucket	12	fide E. Ray
7/28	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	12	S. Perkins#
8/15	N. Monomoy	15	S. Perkins#
8/29	GMNWR	35	S. Perkins
8/30	P.I.	75	R. Heil

Barn Swallow

7/12-26DWMA	39	S. + L. Hennin	
7/22	Bedford	88	R. Lockwood
8/4	Groton	30	T. Pirro
8/12	Rockport (A.P.)	75	R. Heil
8/17	Falmouth	50	R. Farrell
8/20	Wakefield	150	P. + F. Vale
8/30	P.I.	400	R. Heil
8/30	Methuen	300+	J. Hogan#

Cliff Swallow

7/8	Bedford	1	R. Lockwood
7/25	HRWNA	1	T. Pirro
7/26	P.I.	pr + 2 yg	S. Perkins
8/4	Groton	3	T. Pirro

Red-breasted Nuthatch

7/6, 8/10	E. Middleboro	2	K. Anderson
7/12, 8/30	Barre F.D.	7, 40	M. Lynch#
7/25	Quabbin (G40-43)	11	R. Lockwood
8/2	Freetown	2	G. d'Entremont
8/11	Medford	1	M. Rines

Brown Creeper

7/12-26DWMA	3	S. + L. Hennin	
7/12, 8/30	Barre F.D.	5, 12	M. Lynch#
7/14	Cotuit	1	S. + E. Miller
7/25	Quabbin (G40-43)	3	R. Lockwood
8/17	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray
8/26	Pepperell	1	M. Resch
8/30	Concord	2	R. Lockwood

Carolina Wren

7/15	Hingham	pr	B. Rapai
7/7, 24	Worcester	1-2	M. Lynch#
7/thr	Ipswich	family	J. Berry
7/thr	Natick	2	E. Taylor
8/12	Winchester	2	M. Rines
8/29	Cuttyhunk	14BBC (R. Stymeist)	
8/30	Lexington	2	M. Rines
8/thr	Worcester	2	M. Lynch#

House Wren

8/1-31	N. Dartmouth	15	M. Boucher
8/30	Lexington	12	M. Rines
8/30	Barre F.D.	5	M. Lynch#

Winter Wren

7/2	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil
7/1-26	Bolton	1	R. Lockwood
7/11	Middleton	1	R. Heil
7/12-26DWMA	1	S. + L. Hennin	
7/12	Barre F.D.	4	M. Lynch#
7/12	HRWMA	1	D. Oliver#

Marsh Wren

7/4	W. Bridgewater	18	S. Arena
7/4	Wakefield	10	P. + F. Vale
7/26	P.I.	20	D. Peacock
7/26	Newbury	2	S. Perkins
8/2	GMNWR	15	D. Oliver#

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

7/10	Lancaster	2	R. Lockwood
7/19	MBWMA	2	D. Chickering#
7/19	Quabbin (G37-36)	9	R. Lockwood
7/25	Worcester	2	M. Lynch#
8/9	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale
8/24	P.I.	2	M. Rines
8/27	Mashpee	2	R. Vanderpyl
8/31	Melrose	2	D. + I. Jewell

Golden-crowned Kinglet

7/12, 8/1	Barre F.D.	5	M. Lynch#
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Northern Wheatear

8/30	Nantucket	1	J. Smith
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Eastern Bluebird

7/4	Concord	5	M. Rines#
7/23	Westboro	2	A. Boover
8/30	Concord	7	R. Lockwood

Veery

7/6	Milton	6+	A. Joslin
7/7	Worc. (BMB)	3	J. Liller
7/7	Lancaster	3	R. Lockwood
7/11	Bolton	4	R. Lockwood
7/12-26DWMA	4	S. + L. Hennin	
7/12	HRWMA	4	D. Oliver#
7/12	Barre F.D.	31	M. Lynch#
7/12	Quabbin (G37)	8	R. Lockwood
8/13	Wellfleet	1	S. + E. Miller
8/26	Medford	1	M. Rines
8/29	Lincoln	5 migr	S. Perkins#
8/30	ONWR	1	E. Salmela#
8/30	Barre F.D.	2	M. Lynch#
8/31	Medford	1	M. Rines

Hermit Thrush

7/8	E. Middleboro	2 m	K. Anderson
7/12-26DWMA	2	S. + L. Hennin	
7/12, 8/30	Barre F.D.	50, 8	M. Lynch#
7/25	Pepperell	2	E. Stromsted
7/25	Quabbin (G40-43)	19	R. Lockwood

Hermit Thrush (continued)								
7/26 Bolton	2	R. Lockwood		7/19 HRWMA	1	D. Larson#		
8/2 Freetown	16	G. d'Entremont		7/19 Quabbin (G37-36)	9	R. Lockwood		
8/6 Groton	4	E. Stromsted		8/16 Gardner	1	T. Pirro		
Wood Thrush				8/23 MNWS	1 f	P. + F. Vale		
7/4 Concord	6	M. Rines#		8/26 Medford	2	M. Rines		
7/6 Milton	5	A. Joslin		Yellow-rumped Warbler				
7/7 Worc. (BMB)	9	J. Liller		7/5 Andover	1 m	R. Heil		
7/12 Barre F.D.	3	M. Lynch#		7/12, 8/30 Barre F.D.	49, 13	M. Lynch#		
7/12 HRWMA	5	D. Oliver#		7/12 HRWMA	1	D. Oliver#		
Gray Catbird				7/18 Lancaster	1	R. Lockwood		
7/12 Barre F.D.	41	M. Lynch#		7/25 Quabbin (G40-43)	11	R. Lockwood		
8/15 P.I.	75+	M. Lynch#		8/2 Freetown	2	G. d'Entremont		
8/30 Barre F.D.	37	M. Lynch#		8/15 S. Monomoy	2	S. Perkins#		
8/30 DWWS	26	G. d'Entremont#		8/17 Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray		
Brown Thrasher				Black-throated Green Warbler				
7/4 Groveland	17	R. Heil		7/11 Bolton	2	R. Lockwood		
7/12 Barre F.D.	4	M. Lynch#		7/12-26DWMA	2	S. + L. Hennin		
8/22 P.I.	10	P. + F. Vale		7/12, 8/30 Barre F.D.	24, 8	M. Lynch#		
8/31 Medford	3	M. Rines		7/12 Quabbin (G37)	11	R. Lockwood		
Cedar Waxwing				8/31 Medford	5	M. Rines		
7/12 Barre F.D.	24	M. Lynch#		Blackburnian Warbler				
7/25 Quabbin (G40-43)	20	R. Lockwood		7/12 Barre F.D.	9	M. Lynch#		
8/04 P.I.	30	S. Grinley		7/19 Quabbin (G37-36)	4	R. Lockwood		
8/13 Wakefield	22	P. + F. Vale		8/26 Medford	1	M. Rines		
8/29 GMNWR	10	S. Perkins		8/27-30Petersham	3	J. Baird		
Blue-winged Warbler				8/27 Milton	2 imm	A. Joslin		
7/23 Westboro	3	A. Boover		Pine Warbler				
8/14 Worc. (BMB)	3	J. Liller		7/12, 8/30 Barre F.D.	19, 19	M. Lynch#		
8/16 Nahant	4	M. Rines#		7/12 Quabbin (G37)	11	R. Lockwood		
8/29 ONWR	2	R. Lockwood		8/2 Freetown	2	G. d'Entremont		
8/30 P.I.	2	J. Berry		8/30 Concord	3	R. Lockwood		
8/30 Barre F.D.	10	M. Lynch#		Prairie Warbler				
Lawrence's Warbler				7/4 Groveland	8 m	R. Heil		
7/10 Wrentham	1 m	M. Martinek		7/7 Worc. (BMB)	6	J. Liller		
Tennessee Warbler				7/12, 8/30 Barre F.D.	4, 5	M. Lynch#		
8/30 Petersham	1	J. Baird		8/16 MNWS	2	M. Rines#		
Nashville Warbler				Bay-breasted Warbler				
8/23 MNWS	2	P. + F. Vale		8/15, 30 P.I.	1, 1	J. Hoye#		
8/26 Medford	3	M. Rines		Blackpoll Warbler				
8/30 Barre F.D.	2	M. Lynch#		8/15 P.I.	1	M. Lynch#		
8/30 Lexington	2	M. Rines		8/30 Barre F.D.	3	M. Lynch#		
Northern Parula				Cerulean Warbler				
8/30 Lexington	1	M. Rines		7/19 Quabbin (G37-36)	1	R. Lockwood		
8/31 Medford	2	M. Rines		8/16 MNWS	1	J. Smith		
Yellow Warbler				Black-and-white Warbler				
7/4 Wakefield	27	P. + F. Vale		7/12 Barre F.D.	8	M. Lynch#		
8/14 Woburn	11	M. Rines		8/13 P.I.	5	M. Rines		
8/15 P.I.	16	M. Lynch#		8/14 MNWS	15	R. Heil		
8/15 S. Monomoy	8	S. Perkins#		8/23 Nantucket	8	fide E. Ray		
8/30 Lexington	6	M. Rines		8/30 ONWR	4	E. Salmela#		
Chestnut-sided Warbler				8/31 Medford	13	M. Rines		
7/12 Barre F.D.	49	M. Lynch#		American Redstart				
7/21 Lancaster	2	R. Lockwood		7/12, 8/12 Barre F.D.	9, 7	M. Lynch#		
7/25 Quabbin (G40-43)	4	R. Lockwood		8/14 MNWS	18	R. Heil		
8/16 Gardner	3 imm	T. Pirro		8/16 Nahant	7	M. Rines#		
8/23 MNWS	2	P. + F. Vale		8/24 P.I.	15	M. Rines		
8/30 Barre F.D.	12	M. Lynch#		8/29 ONWR	13	R. Lockwood		
8/30 Concord	2	R. Lockwood		8/30 Lexington	11	M. Rines		
8/31 Medford	5	M. Rines		8/31 Medford	29	M. Rines		
Magnolia Warbler				Prothonotary Warbler				
7/12 Barre F.D.	8	M. Lynch#		8/22-30P.I.	1	v.o.		
8/13 P.I.	1	M. Rines		Worm-eating Warbler				
8/26, 31 Medford	1, 2	M. Rines		8/20 Chatham	1	W. Bailey		
8/29 ONWR	2	R. Lockwood		Ovenbird				
8/30 P.I.	1 f	J. Berry		7/6 Milton	2	A. Joslin		
8/30 Concord	1	R. Lockwood		7/12, 8/30 Barre F.D.	20, 4	M. Lynch#		
Cape May Warbler				7/12 Quabbin (G37)	1	R. Lockwood		
8/28 Petersham	2	J. Baird		7/19 HRWMA	1	D. Larson#		
8/30 P.I.	3	J. Hoye#		8/2 Freetown	2	G. d'Entremont		
Black-throated Blue Warbler				8/14 Worc. (BMB)	2	J. Liller		
7/12 Barre F.D.	2	M. Lynch#		8/16 Nahant	3	M. Rines#		
				8/26 Medford	2	M. Rines		

Northern Waterthrush			
7/4	HRWMA	2	W. Lafley
7/12-26	DWMA	1	S. + L. Hennin
7/19	Quabbin (G37-36)	1	R. Lockwood
7/21	Eastham	1	J. Sones
7/27	WBWS	1	J. Sones
7/27	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews
8/7	Arlington	4	M. Rines
8/14	Medford	2	M. Rines
8/14	MNWS	8	R. Heil
8/15	P.I.	4	M. Lynch#
8/16	Nahant	3	M. Rines#
8/23	Nantucket	3	fide E. Ray
8/29	Cuttyhunk	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)
Mourning Warbler			
8/23	P.I.	1	R. Heil
8/26	Medford	1	M. Rines
8/27	Milton	2	A. Joslin
8/29	Cuttyhunk	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
8/30	ONWR	1	E. Salmela#
8/30	Lexington	1	M. Rines
Common Yellowthroat			
7/4	Wakefield	21	P. + F. Vale
7/12, 8/30	Barre F.D.	101, 44	M. Lynch#
7/19	Quabbin (G37-36)	31	R. Lockwood
8/29	Cuttyhunk	56	BBC (R. Stymeist)
Hooded Warbler			
8/30	P.I.	1	A. McCarthy
Wilson's Warbler			
8/24	P.I.	3	M. Rines
8/25	Lexington	1	M. Rines
8/27	Medford	1	M. Rines
8/30	Barre F.D.	1	M. Lynch#
8/30	ONWR	1	E. Salmela#
Canada Warbler			
7/12	Barre F.D.	2	M. Lynch#
8/14	P.I.	1	S. Haydock
8/16	MNWS	4	M. Rines#
8/29	ONWR	1	R. Lockwood
8/30	Concord	1	R. Lockwood
8/31	Medford	3	M. Rines
Yellow-breasted Chat			
7/23	Pepperell	1	G. Coffee
8/23	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray
Scarlet Tanager			
7/7	Worc. (BMB)	5	J. Liller
7/11	Bolton	4	R. Lockwood
7/12	HRWMA	3	D. Oliver#
7/12, 8/30	Barre F.D.	15, 4	M. Lynch#
7/18	Lancaster	7	R. Lockwood
7/19	Quabbin (G37-36)	20	R. Lockwood
8/4	Lancaster	3	R. Lockwood
8/6	Groton	5	E. Stromsted
8/15	Quabbin(G44)	4	R. Lockwood
Eastern Towhee			
7/7	Worc. (BMB)	34	J. Liller
7/12, 8/30	Barre F.D.	36, 11	M. Lynch#
8/2	Freetown	23	G. d'Entremont
8/31	Medford	22	M. Rines
Clay-colored Sparrow			
7/1	P.I.	1	L. Nachtrab, C. Ralph
8/24	W. Boylston	1	F. McMenemy
Field Sparrow			
7/4	Groveland	7	R. Heil
7/10	Lancaster	15	R. Lockwood
7/12	Barre F.D.	10	M. Lynch#
7/12	Saugus	6+	D. + I. Jewell
7/19	Quabbin (G37-36)	3	R. Lockwood
Vesper Sparrow			
7/7	Lancaster	6 + 3 juv	R. Lockwood
7/19	Wellfleet	8	R. Stymeist#
8/12	Lancaster	2	R. Lockwood#
Savannah Sparrow			
7/15	Bedford	95	R. Lockwood
7/7, 10	Lancaster	37	R. Lockwood
8/15	S. Monomoy	10	S. Perkins#
Grasshopper Sparrow			
7/12-26	DWMA	1	S. + L. Hennin
7/15	Falmouth	4+	B. Good
7/15	Bedford	9 + 1 juv	R. Lockwood
7/17, 21	Lancaster	52 + 9 juv	R. Lockwood
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow			
7/4	P.I.	8	J. Brown#
7/13	Nantucket	2	fide E. Ray
7/26	Newbury	20+	S. Perkins
8/1	E. Boston (B.I.)	10+	R. Cressman
8/2	Chatham (S.B.)	2	R. Lockwood
8/5	Falmouth	6	R. Farrell
8/9	Rowley	5-6	J. Berry
8/15	N. Monomoy	2	S. Perkins#
Seaside Sparrow			
8/6	Mashpee	1	S. + E. Miller
8/30	P.I.	2	D. Chickering#
Swamp Sparrow			
7/4	Wakefield	17	P. + F. Vale
7/4	W. Bridgewater	14	S. Arena
7/12, 8/30	Barre F.D.	22, 13	M. Lynch#
White-throated Sparrow			
7/12, 8/30	Barre F.D.	4	M. Lynch#
7/12	HRWMA	2	D. Oliver#
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
7/4	Concord	6	M. Rines#
7/10	Wrentham	6	A. Bottomley
7/12, 8/30	Barre F.D.	5, 3	M. Lynch#
8/11	Worc. (BMB)	3	J. Liller
8/15	Quabbin(G44)	3	R. Lockwood
8/25	Lexington	4	M. Rines
Indigo Bunting			
7/12-26	DWMA	3	S. + L. Hennin
7/12	Barre F.D.	5	M. Lynch#
7/26	Concord	3	M. Rines
7/26	Wachusett Mt.	4 pr	S. Moore#
7/28	Lancaster	3	R. Lockwood
8/4	Groton	3	T. Pirro
8/25	Lexington	3	M. Rines
8/28	Pepperell	3	E. Stromsted
Dickcissel			
8/16	Marstons Mills	1 f imm	S. Miller
8/30	Truro	1	J. Trimble#
Bobolink			
7/7, 10	Lancaster	45	R. Lockwood
7/12, 8/30	Barre F.D.	17, 6	M. Lynch#
7/12	HRWMA	13	D. Oliver#
7/15	Bedford	28	R. Lockwood
7/17, 21	Lancaster	52	R. Lockwood
7/26	Newbury	14	S. Perkins
7/26	Pepperell	10	E. Stromsted
7/29	Bedford	44	R. Lockwood
8/13	P.I.	380	R. Heil
8/27	Nantucket	100+	M. Green
Red-winged Blackbird			
8/17	Nantucket	300	fide E. Ray
Eastern Meadowlark			
7/8	Bedford	16 + 6 juv	R. Lockwood
7/17, 21	Lancaster	14	R. Lockwood
7/23	Pepperell	12	E. Stromsted
8/23	Ipswich	4	J. Berry
Common Grackle			
7/31	Framingham	1500+	E. Taylor
8/1-31	Framingham	6000+	E. Taylor
8/29	Wakefield	2077	P. + F. Vale
8/30	Methuen	8000+	J. Hogan#
8/30	Concord	250	R. Lockwood
8/31	Wakefield	450	P. + F. Vale

Brown-headed Cowbird				7/12	Barre F.D.	2	M. Lynch#
8/21 Methuen	225	J. Hogan		7/25	HRWNA	2	T. Pirro
Orchard Oriole				8/23	P.I.	15	R. Heil
7/1 Concord	pr	M. Rines		8/31	S. Dartmouth	3	M. Boucher
7/4 Groveland	1 imm m	R. Heil		Red Crossbill			
Baltimore Oriole				7/6	Edgartown	1 f	V. Laux
8/14 Worc. (BMB)	8	J. Liller		White-winged Crossbill			
8/14 Medford	8	M. Rines		8/1	Mt. Watatic	1	R. Heil, B. Nikula#
8/26 Mt.A.	11	R. Stymeist		Evening Grosbeak			
Pine Grosbeak				7/12	Barre F.D.	2	M. Lynch#
8/30 P.I.	2	D. Lange		8/17	Maynard	5 juv	D. Burke
Purple Finch							

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO BIRD OBSERVER

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

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

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (Bird Observer Vol. 25, #4, page 195), 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 Wayne Petersen, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773. Include, in addition to the above information, time of day and light available, weather conditions, the optics used and approximate distance from the bird, length of observation, observer's prior experience with the species, and field guide or other references used. Provide a description of the bird based solely on personal observation. Comment on the distinguishing field marks (observed and unobserved), vocalizations, activity, general behavior, habitat, and other birds present. Include with your report copies of any field notes and sketches.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

* Indicates a species on the review list of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC). Because these sightings are generally published before the MARC votes, they normally have not been approved by the MARC. The editors publish records which are supported by details, multiple observers, or both.

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

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At a Glance

Wayne R. Petersen

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55th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference

The challenges of managing wildlife in the next century will be on the agenda as the 55th annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference convenes April 11-14 in Manchester, New Hampshire. Wildlife managers, students, and the general public are invited. Speakers will address the social, technical, and political aspects of managing fish and wildlife populations; U.S. Senator Judd Gregg of New Hampshire will be among the speakers.

Call the New Hampshire Fish and Game department at (603) 271-3211 for more information.

Lake Champlain Birding Festival in Addison, VT

May 28-31 marks the fledgling flight of the first event of its kind in northern New England: the Lake Champlain Birding Festival, in Addison County, Vermont. Self-guided field trips (Bicknell's Thrush!), vendors, programs; Bill Thompson III and Julie Zickefoose are among the scheduled speakers.

Call the Addison Chamber of Commerce, (800) 733-8376, for details. For an account of the birding possibilities offered by the Addison area, see Terry Hall's article in the June 1997 *Bird Observer*.

ABOUT THE COVER: WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

The White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) is a bird for all seasons, a welcome visitor at the winter bird feeder, and a distinctive songster of the northern forests in summer. On migrations it responds well to "spishing," often hopping up to an exposed perch. It is a relatively large, chunky, long-tailed sparrow, with a distinctive yellow "supraloral" spot punctuating the superciliary strip of white or tan between the eye and bill. The sharply defined white throat gives the species its name. A buffy back streaked with black is highlighted by russet wings and scapulars. The sexes are similar, but first-winter birds are duller with streaked breasts, and juveniles are heavily streaked.

White-throated sparrows are monotypic, with no subspecies described. They have been documented hybridizing with Golden-crowned Sparrows and juncos, although this is apparently rare. The species is polymorphic, with some birds having white superciliary stripes and some tan. Tan-striped birds generally have some breast streaking, while white-striped birds have uniform gray breasts. This genetically controlled dimorphism makes the White-throat one of the world's most distinctive and interesting birds, because the dimorphism is not only in plumage color but also in behavior. White-striped males tend to sing more, are more aggressive than their tan-striped counterparts, and provide less care for their young. White-striped females sing and help in territorial defense while tan-striped females do not, but the latter provide more care for their young. In general white-striped birds are brighter in plumage, more aggressive, and "masculinized." The dimorphism persists in White-throated Sparrows because of "negative assortative mating," meaning that nearly all breeding pairs consist of either white-striped males with tan-striped females, or tan-striped males with white-striped females. The mating system of the White-throated Sparrow is complex, and although several explanatory hypotheses have been advanced, the causal factors remain obscure.

The breeding range of White-throated Sparrows extends from the Yukon Territory across much of Canada, south across the Great Lakes to the East Coast, and southward in the Appalachians to West Virginia. In Massachusetts they are common nesters from Worcester County west, particularly at higher elevations. They winter from the southeastern Maritime Provinces and southern Great Lakes throughout most of the U.S. east of the Rocky Mountains.

In winter, White-throated Sparrows form flocks and establish stable dominance hierarchies, and often join mixed-species flocks. They are birds of brushpiles, thickets, and woodland edge. In Massachusetts they are considered uncommon winter residents, more numerous near the coast, where over a hundred are sometimes reported on a single Christmas Count. Migrants arrive in Massachusetts in April and early May, when they may be abundant, with

October the major time of fall migration. They are nocturnal migrants, uttering *seep* contact calls within their loose flocks.

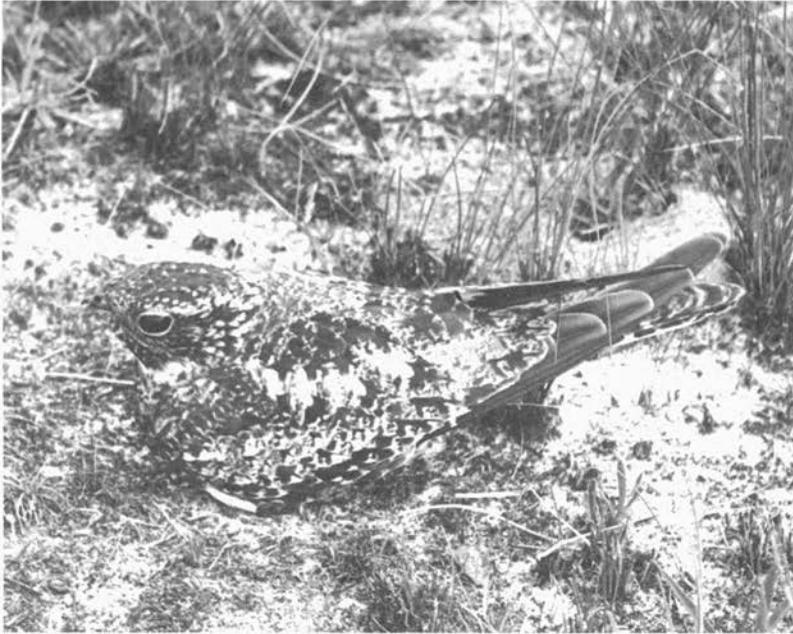
White-throated Sparrows are seasonally monogamous, usually producing a single brood. Their preferred nesting habitat is semi-open mixed woodlands of fir, aspen, white cedar, and tamarack swamps and bogs. They are highly territorial, often returning to the same territories year after year. They frequently sing their beautiful song from high perches. This song has been transliterated as *Old Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody*, or *Oh, sweet Canada, Canada, Canada* — one or two whistled notes followed by three or four wavering notes on a higher pitch. They also have various *chink* or *tip* alarm calls. Displays include wing-fluttering and trills.

White-throated Sparrows nest from May to early June, mostly on the ground, with the nest cup of grass, twigs, and pine needles, lined with fine grass or deer hair, well concealed beneath shrubs. The female builds the nest, and alone incubates the 4-5 bluish-green, ruddy-spotted eggs. The eggs hatch in twelve days or so, and the chicks commonly fledge eight or nine days later. The adults will perform distraction displays, running with wings drooping or wings up if the nest is approached. Brooding is mostly by the female, but both parents feed the young.

White-throated Sparrows are mostly ground foragers, often rhythmically scratching with both feet to uncover food and sending leaf-litter flying. They may flip leaves, hawk or pounce on insects from a perch, and glean twigs and foliage. Their diet consists of insects, seeds, and berries, with pronounced seasonal dietary shifts.

This species was hunted for food in the nineteenth century, but has remained very common or abundant from colonial times to the present. They are not commonly parasitized by cowbirds, but as ground nesters they are subject to predation by mammals. They have been affected by habitat alteration in the southern part of their range, and as nocturnal migrants they are subject to collision with towers — more than 400 have been reported killed at the Prudential tower in Boston in a single night. Yet their populations thrive, their sweet song continues to haunt northern bogs, and they continue to add a cheery presence to our back yards during winter.

— William E. Davis, Jr.



This month's mystery bird is in some ways even more mysterious than the photo suggests. But before proceeding down that road, let's try to figure out what we are looking at. From the appearance of the surrounding grasses and lichens in the photograph, it would appear that the bird is about eight or ten inches in length and that it is probably a species that either feels comfortable sitting on the ground, or else has extra-short legs! Furthermore, without too much imagination, it looks like the bird has marvelous protective coloration. Indeed, if we were to be fifteen feet away from the bird in life, would we notice it at all?

Concentrating more closely on the bird itself, it seems to have a curiously short bill — so short it can hardly be seen. In addition, it has very large eyes for a bird of its apparent size. The combination of cryptic plumage pattern, very short bill, large eyes, apparently short legs, and ground-resting behavior all suggest that the bird is a member of one of the most frequently misunderstood (and arguably least-known) groups of birds in the world: the nightjars, Order Caprimulgiformes.

Assuming that the bird is a nightjar of some sort, we have three possibilities to choose from here in Massachusetts: Common Nighthawk, Chuck-will's-

widow, and Whip-poor-will. Perhaps the most important plumage feature to note on the bird in the photograph is the presence of distinct pale (white or pale gray) feathers on the upper wing coverts. These features show up in marked contrast to the darker feathers of the scapulars and the more mottled appearance of the median wing coverts. This feather contrast happens to be a feature more typical of nighthawks than of the other two Bay State nightjars. Unfortunately, it is not possible to see in the photograph whether the primaries possess the signature white band of the Common Nighthawk.

Returning to the bill — tiny structure that it is! — we can observe that there are no prominent “whiskers” (i.e., rictal bristles) near the sides of the upper mandible around the mouth opening. This absence of rictal bristles is an important anatomical difference between nighthawks and the other two Massachusetts “goatsuckers.” Furthermore, the mystery bird seems to have a rather small-headed appearance, and does not exhibit the flat-headed, no-necked appearance so characteristic of Chuck-will’s-widows and Whip-poor-wills.

By this process of elimination, the mystery nightjar turns out to be a Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*). As suggested at the outset, nightjars are perhaps the most mysterious birds on the planet for a variety of reasons: their nocturnal behavior, their vibrant calls, the similarity and cryptic quality of their plumage, their tiny feet that are incapable of perching on tree branches the way many other birds do, and the fact that many species’ nesting habits are unusual or are hardly known at all. As examples of the last point, in Massachusetts the Common Nighthawk nests almost exclusively on gravel roofs in urban areas, and the Chuck-will’s-widow has almost certainly been nesting in the Commonwealth since at least the 1970s — yet no one has ever located a Bay State nest.

The Common Nighthawk is an uncommon and declining summer resident in urban areas in Massachusetts where flat gravel roofs are available for nesting sites. Nighthawks are most conspicuous during late August when their twilight migration can be observed from favored vantage points, especially in the Connecticut River Valley.

AT A GLANCE

Photo by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr.



Can you identify this bird?

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

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