

Bird Observer

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 6

DECEMBER 2000





Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal — to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds
VOL. 28, NO. 6 DECEMBER 2000

Managing Editor
Production Editor

Brooke Stevens
David M. Larson

Department Heads

Cover Art William E. Davis, Jr.
Where to Go Birding Jim Berry
Feature Articles Marta Hersek
Book Reviews Alden G. Clayton
Bird Sightings Robert H. Stymeist
Marjorie W. Rines
At a Glance Wayne R. Petersen

Managers

Subscriptions Carolyn B. Marsh
Advertisements Robert H. Stymeist

Corporate Officers

President Marjorie W. Rines
Treasurer Sandon C. Shepard
Clerk Patricia A. O'Neill
Assistant Clerk John A. Shetterly

Board of Directors

Dorothy R. Arvidson
Susan L. Carlson
Alden G. Clayton
William E. Davis, Jr.
Glenn d'Entremont
H. Christian Floyd
Janet L. Heywood
Harriet E. Hoffman
David M. Larson
Carolyn B. Marsh
Wayne R. Petersen
Robert H. Stymeist

Associate Staff

Theodore Atkinson
Seth Kellogg
David E. Lange
René Laubach
Barbara Lawless
Matthew L. Pelikan
Simon Perkins
Pamela A. Perry
Fay Vale

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$21 for 6 issues, \$40 for two years for U.S. addresses. Inquire about foreign subscriptions. Single copies \$4.00 (see <http://massbird.org/birdobserver/subform.htm>)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS and subscription inquiries should be sent to: Bird Observer Subscriptions, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003.

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

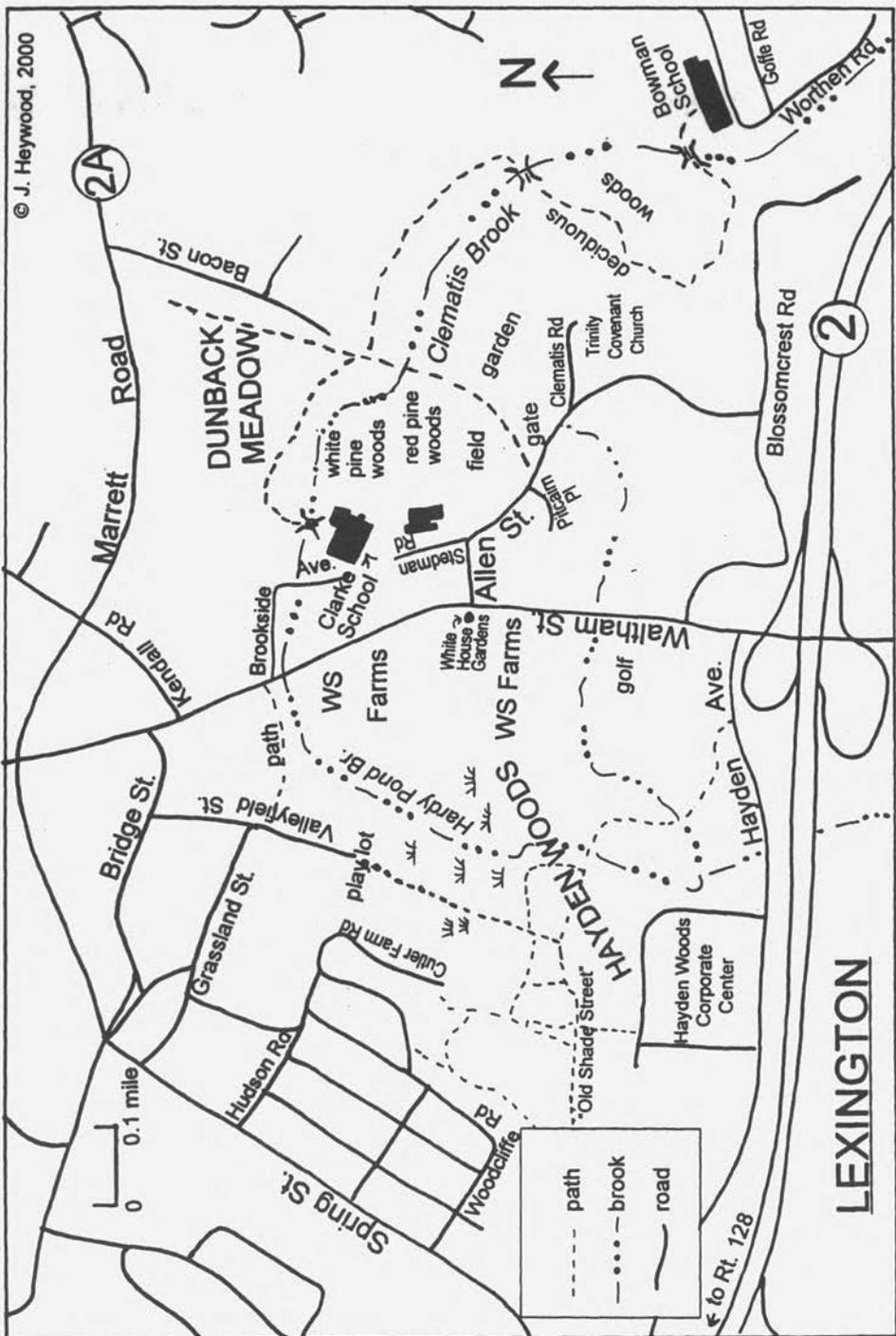
MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION: BIRD OBSERVER welcomes submissions of original articles, photographs, art work, field notes, and field studies. Please send submissions to the Managing Editor: Brooke Stevens, 5 Hemlock Road, Cambridge, MA 02138; E-mail: Brookestev@aol.com. If possible, please include a computer disk (Microsoft Word, txt, or rtf formats), or e-mail to the editor as an attached file. Include author's or artist's name, address, telephone number, and information from which a brief biography can be prepared.

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

BIRD OBSERVER (USPS 369-850) is published bimonthly, COPYRIGHT © 2000 by Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc., 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02478, a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts to Bird Observer will be greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. ISSN: 0893-463

CONTENTS

DUNBACK MEADOW AND ADJACENT AREAS, LEXINGTON, MA	
	<i>Marjorie Rines</i> 365
SIGNIFICANT RECENT NESTING RECORDS FROM ESSEX COUNTY, PART 1	
	<i>Jim Berry</i> 371
THE WIRED BIRDER	
Bird Alerts	<i>David M. Larson</i> 378
TRICOLORED HERONS AND GREAT EGRETS USE DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS AS BEATERS WHILE FORAGING	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i> 383
YARD BIRDS	386
YOUNG BIRDERS	
Close Encounters of an Avian Kind	<i>Andrew P. Brissette</i> 387
The Benefits of Bird Banding	<i>Yelena Samsonenko</i> 389
FIELD NOTES	
Ring-billed Gull Piracy of Bufflehead	<i>Mark Lynch</i> 391
101ST CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	393
HOT BIRDS	395
POCKET PLACES	
Bennett Meadows Wildlife Management Area, Northfield	
	<i>Vince Yurkunas</i> 396
WALLACE BAILEY: THE PASSING OF A GIANT	<i>Wayne R. Petersen</i> 400
WETLANDS, MIGRATORY BIRDS, AND ECOTOURISM WORKSHOP	
	<i>David M. Larson</i> 402
ABOUT BOOKS:	
Three Contenders: <i>Field Guide to the Birds of North America</i> (Third Edition) by National Geographic Soc., <i>Birds of North America</i> by Kenn Kaufman, <i>The Sibley Guide to Birds</i> by David Sibley	
	<i>Mark Lynch</i> 404
BIRD SIGHTINGS: July/August 2000 Summary	410
INDEX TO VOLUMES 27 AND 28, 1999 AND 2000	426
ABOUT THE COVER: Western Grebe	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i> 431
ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Paul Donahue	432
AT A GLANCE	<i>Wayne R. Petersen</i> 433
BIRD OBSERVER <i>Vol. 28, No. 6, 2000</i>	363



Dunback Meadow and Adjacent Areas, Lexington, MA

Marjorie Rines

In November 1977 birders from all over the state converged on Dunback Meadow in Lexington to see the first confirmed record of MacGillivray's Warbler in Massachusetts. Local birders, of course, had known about this year-round birding treasure for ages. It boasts a wide variety of habitats — woods, edge, meadow, marsh, and field — and if you add visits to a couple of other nearby locations, you can chalk up an impressive list of species.

Directions

Dunback is most easily approached from Route 2. Driving west on Route 2, take the Waltham Street exit, and turn right at the end of the exit ramp. Take your second right onto Allen Street, and turn right at the top of the short rise (this is a continuation of Allen Street). A very short distance after the turn, you will see the metal gate and sign indicating the entrance to Dunback Meadow. From Route 2 east, you exit at Spring Street, executing the 180° exit ramp, and turn right on Spring over the highway. Take your first right on Hayden Avenue, which parallels Route 2, and turn left at the end on Waltham Street. From there turn right on Allen Street as described above.

A Walking Tour

Take the **entrance path** beside the metal gate. On the right you will see a small cattail marsh (rapidly becoming overgrown with other vegetation); on the left, another marsh with bushes and pine trees beginning to take over. A short distance down the entrance path is a **community garden** on the right. Immediately after the garden, the path becomes shaded by conifers. Just as the path dips downhill, take the path on the left up a slight incline into a playing field, and walk right around the edge of the playing field until you see a three-foot-high post marking the entrance to a **red pine woods**.

The paths through the pine woods are not well marked, but there is little understory, so it is easy to meander down the hill until you reach a well-marked path at the bottom. Turn left, and follow the trail through a small stand of **white pine woods**, and then through an open area, ending up at the outdoor basketball court of the Clark Middle School. Work your way over the lawn toward the right, and go over the little stone bridge that crosses Clematis Brook, which runs throughout the entire area. Turn right, walk the edge of the playing field until it jogs left, and look for the path on your right.

This is the **main path** for Dunback Meadow, and leads you between the wet meadow on the left and an edge of birches, wild cherry, and bushes on the right. Continue along this path until you come to a **four-way intersection**, and turn left. This path simply leads you out into the meadow, and eventually runs parallel to Bacon Street. Toward the end of the path, you can cross Bacon Street to view the marsh

across the street, which is also part of Dunback. Once you reach the end, just double back the way you came. Back at the four-way intersection, turn left onto the **main path** again.

This path leads you through a gradually changing habitat, with meadow on the left and bushes and trees on the right, then bushes on the left (in winter you can see through to the meadow beyond), and woodland on the right. Eventually the path bears right over a bridge into a **deciduous woods**. If you follow it to the end, you go over another bridge, and eventually as the woods thin out you arrive at the playing field for the Bowen School. Return the same way you came, and then turn left at the four-way intersection back up the entrance path. A very short distance up, the path crosses the brook again, then returns to the entrance at Allen Street.

Autumn birding

Fall migration is probably the most exciting season at Dunback Meadow, from the first waterthrush at the end of July to the last Fox Sparrow that lingers into December. After checking the edges of the entrance path, be sure to stop at the community gardens. Like most gardens, its weeds and unharvested fruits and vegetables provide a bounty of food for migrating sparrows, and it also has a wonderful edge in back, well-lit in the morning light, for other songbirds. I can recall one morning watching a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and a Philadelphia Vireo in a



Fox Sparrow. All photographs were taken at Dunback Meadows by the author.

single binocular field in this edge, with a Clay-colored Sparrow being discovered shortly thereafter.

As you continue your tour of Dunback, listen carefully for rustling leaves on the ground, and look for sparrows and thrushes. Fox Sparrows are a particular Dunback specialty, with ten or more possible at peak season. There are a number of cherry trees in the area, particularly near the four-way intersection, and these are also big draws for thrushes and Fox Sparrows.

Scan the many snags in the meadows for an Olive-sided Flycatcher. While they are not quite annual, I have found them on several occasions. *Empidonax* flycatchers also like the meadows. Other songbirds can be anywhere, but pay particular attention at the places where the path crosses the brook. These offer a break in the foliage so birds are easier to see, and the water provides a draw for birds.

Dunback is an excellent place to see hummingbirds in the fall, perhaps because of the ample jewelweed in the area. Another fall feature attraction is the appearance of accipiters zipping through. Whether there is some topographic reason for it, or just that there is plenty of sky to see them, it is a rare fall day when I do not see a handful

of Sharp-shinned or Cooper's hawks.

Winter birding

In December of 1980 a small roost of Long-eared Owls was discovered in the red pine woods at Dunback, and by January 10, 1981, it had built to a total of 22 birds. In recent years we have not been so lucky, but Dunback is still a fine place to find owls. Just wander through the pine woods looking for whitewash and pellets. Long-eared is almost



Great Horned Owl

annual in the red pine woods, and Northern Saw-Whet Owl has occurred a number of times in the white pines. I have had Barred Owls on several occasions in both pine woods, and Great Horned Owls in both the pine and deciduous woods. Eastern Screech-Owls are in both woods also, but more difficult to find, since they customarily roost in holes. While you are in the red pine woods, look and listen for Hairy Woodpeckers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Brown Creepers.

Along the main path, search the numerous birches for redpolls or siskins. Although they are normally present only during invasion years, I have found them here when they have been scarce elsewhere. American Tree Sparrows are abundant in the fields. Also keep your eyes open for hawks. Red-tail is, of course, the default hawk here, and you can often see several in the air at once. In the winter of 2000 a Rough-legged Hawk spent the season here, and I have seen Northern Harriers on several occasions in winter, small accipiters often, and Northern Goshawks twice.

This is also a fine place to find Northern Shrikes, so be sure to search the tops of the trees in the meadow. In the winter of 2000 a shrike spent a long time here, and I had the thrill of watching a Blue Jay attempting to rob its cache, but it was quickly foiled by the vigilant shrike (see *Bird Observer* Volume 28, No. 2, page 100).

Be sure to take the walk through the deciduous woods to the second bridge. At this time of year large flocks of robins often congregate here, along with the occasional Hermit Thrush or Fox Sparrow, gorging on the fruit trees.

Spring birding

Spring birding at Dunback is not as exciting as in the fall, but still well worth a stop. Spring strategy is pretty much the same as fall, except that the community gardens are not as likely to be good. Early spring is a wonderful time, with the arrival of the first blackbirds, which can show up in impressive numbers.

One spring specialty is the dance of the American Woodcock, which can take place almost anywhere in the meadow, but a good place to start is the four-way intersection. Listen for the nasal *peent* of the calling male, and then follow the sound.

Their exhilarating sky dance can last for an hour at dawn or dusk, from March through May. I can recall one incredible April evening during a lunar eclipse when I watched a Saw-whet Owl waking up, while I could hear the twittering and peenting of the dancing woodcocks.

Summer birding

The breeding birds of Dunback Meadow are pretty much those you would expect in this type of habitat. Look for Willow Flycatchers, Warbling Vireos, Carolina and House wrens, Wood Thrushes (in the deciduous woods), Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Baltimore Orioles, and, of course, Red-winged Blackbirds. In 2000 a pair of Chestnut-sided Warblers was in evidence near the four-way intersection well into the breeding season. Ring-necked Pheasants are relatively common here, although more often heard than seen.

Waltham Street Farms (WSF) Conservation Lands

This chunk of Lexington conservation land is split into two sections, and leased to Lexington's Busa family for farming; for as long as I can remember, they have been planting corn here. The lease of conservation lands normally endows the lessee with rights to control access to the land, but the Busa family are exceptional in that they not only allow, but welcome birders on their lands. (Quick commercial plug: visit the Busa's farm stand on Lowell Street in Lexington beside Arlington Reservoir—their corn is terrific.) Fall is the time of year to visit these fields.



Cooper's Hawk

Directions: From Dunback Meadow, take Allen Street to Waltham Street, and turn left, pulling over to the right immediately beyond the building with the sign for White House Gardens. Look for the inconspicuous dirt road just beyond the building. Be sure not to block the road or use White House Gardens' parking area. To reach the other entrance to WSF from Dunback, turn right on Waltham Street (from Allen Street); the entrance is a dirt road immediately opposite Brookside

Avenue. You can park safely on Brookside and walk across the street. When walking through these fields, please be sure to stay to the edges of the fields unless it is clear that the corn has been completely harvested.

A few years ago I was birding in this area when I heard a Cooper's Hawk shrieking from the corn fields, then it stopped abruptly. Intrigued, I walked toward the sound, but could see no movement at all. I had given up looking, when it called again, apparently from the middle of the field. I walked gingerly up a row toward the sound, but still no movement. Suddenly I heard it again, immediately behind me. I whipped

around and saw the source. The Busas had erected a small speaker on a pole, and were using a recorded Cooper's Hawk call to try to drive off the blackbirds. Last year they had switched to distress calls of Ring-billed Gulls, so if you hear unexpected sounds, you may be hearing the latest line of defense against the birds.

Unfortunately for the Busas, these scare tactics only work in the immediate area of the distress calls, and these fields are spectacular for their blackbirds, including good flocks of Bobolinks and Rusty Blackbirds.

The edges of the fields provide superb fall birding. I have seen Orange-crowned Warblers there on several occasions, and in one year I had three different Dickcissels and a Lark Sparrow. White-crowned Sparrows are strangely only occasional visitors, but Lincoln's Sparrows are routine. Indigo Buntings love these fields, and it is not unusual to tally ten or more on a visit. The potential for any seed-loving bird is exceptional here.

Looking for rarities is always fun, but the most thrilling part of birding these fields is simply the sheer quantity of birds. Blackbirds swoosh out of the corn to perch on nearby trees and wires, only to dive back into the corn moments later. Savannah Sparrows are so plentiful that at nearly every step small flocks scatter in every direction. Palm and Yellow-rumped warblers forage in the corn, and the air is electric with their calls. Like Dunback, these fields are excellent for accipiter sightings.



Northern Saw-whet Owl

At the second entrance (opposite Brookfield), look for the tree-covered path to the right of the fields. This is part of the conservation area, going all the way through to Valleyfield Street, and provides a good view of the back side of the field edges. If there is any warbler activity in this edge, it is worth walking along the path to investigate further activity.

Hayden Woods

Hayden Woods comprises nearly 80 acres, with trails running through a maple swamp and old pastureland now overgrown in hardwood and pine new-growth forest.

Directions: There are a number of entrances, including from the end of Cutler Farm Road, and in back of the commercial buildings on Hayden Avenue, but I prefer to enter from the end of Valleyfield Street. From Allen Street, turn right on Waltham Street, drive past the traffic light at Brookside, and take your next left on Bridge Street. Take your first left on Valleyfield, and follow it to where it dead-ends at a playground. Walk through the playground, and enter the path that leads into the woods.

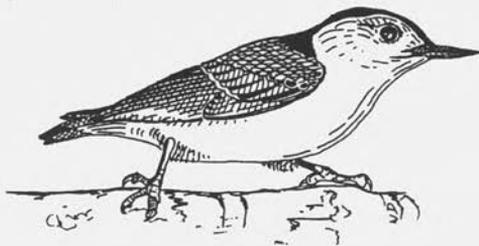
There is a maze of trails going through the area, and none of the maps I have located are 100% accurate; the accompanying map is a combination of public-domain maps and personal experience. My normal route goes past the red maple swamp, taking the first trail on the left for a loop through thin deciduous forest, and turning left when the loop returns to the main path. Eventually the main path bears right, and a boardwalk takes you over a wooded swamp and eventually brings you to a sign for Old Shade Street, a cart road laid out in 1660. Beyond this, there are trails leading off to the right that meander back to the Valleyfield path, but it is easy to get lost, and I generally go back the way I came.

This is a good place to find the first blackbirds of the year, and Rusty Blackbirds are quite reliable in both spring and fall. I have had fine luck with warblers in both spring and fall migration. It is a good place for Northern Waterthrush in particular. In many places (particularly where it is wettest) there is good visibility through the understory, making it wonderful for searching for elusive, low-foraging species such as *Oporornis* and Hooded warblers.

Breeding species are very much what one would expect in the woods: Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Red-eyed Vireo, and Scarlet Tanager. One probable breeder is somewhat of a surprise: I have consistently heard a singing Winter Wren here during breeding season, certainly confirming a willing male if not a breeding pair.

Lexington has 1300 acres of conservation land, an impressive 12 percent of the entire town. The three areas described above comprise nearly 300 acres of protected space easily accessible to the public. Dunback Meadow itself came perilously close to being lost to development in 1965, but through the efforts of the Lexington Conservation Commission the town was able to purchase the property and preserve this site. You can purchase a guide to all Lexington conservation areas at town hall. ♀

Marj Rines, a department head on the Bird Observer staff, lives in Arlington and works part-time for Massachusetts Audubon Society, answering questions from the public about natural history. She is an avid local birder, and maintains a web site featuring many of her local experiences at MRines.com.



Significant Recent Nesting Records from Essex County, Part 1

Jim Berry

Essex County, in the northeastern corner of Massachusetts, has a rich ornithological history. Many have come here to observe rare birds, the most renowned being the pioneer Ross's Gull that wintered in Newburyport harbor in 1975. Many have also written about the county's birds. The most significant work to date is Charles Wendell Townsend's *The Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts*, published in 1905. He also published a supplement to that work in 1920. These two works provide a good picture of the county's bird life at the beginning of the twentieth century.

That picture has changed dramatically over the past eighty years. Many species have become either less or more common since Townsend's time, and quite a few species unknown to him as local birds have established themselves as breeders or even year-round residents. Other species, regular then but near the edge of their ranges, have withdrawn to the north or south. The causes of these changes are beyond the scope of this article, but clearly include things like the drastic alteration of the landscape by humans, the greater amount of forested land relative to farmland, the effects of chemicals on the environment (for better or for worse), the loss of wetlands, and the gradual warming of the winters over the past hundred years.

One of my primary interests is the nesting birds of the county, fueled by my work on breeding bird atlas projects in several states and my twenty-six years of filling out nest-record cards for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. In the spring and early summer of 2000, I was lucky enough to find the nests, or other nesting evidence, of several species that either do not often nest in the county, or whose nests are rarely found. I also learned of additional nesting confirmations from several colleagues who regularly bird in the county. What follows is a summary of these observations, plus a few more from recent years, with background for each species on previous nest records. Threads will be evident in the various summaries; one of the most obvious is that quite a few Canadian-zone species that nest fairly commonly in the next county to the north (Rockingham County, NH) and the next county or two to the west (adjacent Middlesex County, and beyond that Worcester County) are uncommon to rare nesters in this coastal county. The bulk of the species discussed fall into this category.

The primary source I have relied on, in addition to Townsend, is *Birds of Massachusetts*, by Richard Veit and Wayne Petersen. This definitive work on the state's birds, which includes many of the species maps that were intended for the unpublished Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas, was published in 1993 by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Another important source is the sixth (1988) edition of the *Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts: A Field List*, published jointly by the Essex County Ornithological Club, the Essex County Greenbelt Association, and the Peabody Museum of Salem (now the Peabody-Essex Museum). This county checklist

has been extensively revised over the last few years, and the seventh edition is due out in the near future. I have also consulted Edward Howe Forbush's *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States* (three volumes: 1925, 1927, and 1929), Arthur Cleveland Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds* (many dates), and Griscom and Snyder's *The Birds of Massachusetts* (1955). Finally, I have drawn on *Bird Observer* records as well as personal communications from birding companions, who have provided valuable information on some of the species discussed.

In Part 1 of this article, I cover five species in the first half of the AOU checklist order. Part 2, to be published in a future issue, will treat nine passerine species.

Common Eider, *Somateria mollissima*. Historically, Common Eiders nested south only to about the mid-coast of Maine (Bent 1925, Forbush 1925). In the 1970s, however, some eider chicks were introduced from Maine to Penikese Island in Buzzards Bay, and eventually these birds started to breed on this and others of the Elizabeth Islands (Veit and Petersen 1993). Since then there have been occasional nesting records from Buzzards Bay and Boston Harbor. Just this year (2000), Veit found a pair with three chicks at Muskeget Island off Nantucket (*Bird Observer*). Interestingly, however, nest records are hard to come by in Essex County, despite the presence of likely habitat on the several islands offshore from Rockport. I have heard first- and second-hand reports of eider chicks being seen in that area, and these are no doubt valid reports, but eiders often swim some distance with their young after hatching, so unless the young are very tiny or a nest is found, nesting confirmation is tricky.

On July 28, 2000, I observed at least three young Common Eiders swimming and diving with adults off Straitsmouth Island in Rockport. Although these young were about two-thirds grown, this observation adds to the evidence of nesting in the county. Meanwhile, Steve Mirick (pers. comm.) is not aware of eiders nesting anywhere on the New Hampshire coast except at the Isles of Shoals, though he has seen small young along the mainland coast in Rye. It is probably only a matter of time until tiny young are reported in Rockport, or a nest is located on one of the islands.

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*. Historically, there has existed a large gap in the nesting range of the Osprey between Cape Cod and the southern Maine coast. Veit and Petersen (1993) speculated that this was "...perhaps due to a lack of suitable nesting sites or appropriate feeding areas." Townsend (1905) stated that "Many years ago, this Hawk bred at Ipswich and Georgetown, but it is now seen in Essex County during the spring and autumn migrations only." Thus until recently there were apparently no nesting records on the North Shore for perhaps 150 years, and it is not clear whether the species was ever a common nester here like it is farther north and south along the Atlantic coast. Forbush (1927) does not mention this gap in the nesting range, but says only that the Osprey was a "casual summer resident" in Massachusetts outside the southeastern counties and a "rare local summer resident" in New Hampshire and Vermont.

The first nesting attempt in the county in modern times was in 1989 when Bob Brophy of Essex erected a nest platform in the Essex salt marshes, and a pair of

Ospreys built a nest on it. They or their successors have tried every year since then, but have apparently never been able to bring off young (Bob Brophy, pers. comm.). Great Horned Owls are the primary suspects, since they nest commonly in the area, as close as Choate (formerly Hog) Island, within half a mile of the platform. It is also possible that some nestings have failed for reasons other than predation.

Whatever the reasons, Ospreys did not succeed in fledging young in the county until 1997, when, after a failed nesting attempt on Nelson Island in Rowley in 1996, the same or another pair carried off all the sticks from that platform and built a new nest on the platform at the marshward edge of Cross Farm Hill on Plum Island, a few miles to the south. (Both sites are on the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge; Cross Farm Hill is technically in Ipswich.) To my knowledge, this pair has succeeded in fledging young that year and every year since.

In 2000 I was able to watch the reproductive attempts on both platforms. While the established pair continued to add weight to their huge nest, which may eventually topple the leaning tower it occupies, a new pair set up housekeeping on the Nelson Island platform. The Plum Island pair got the earlier start, and by June 9 I could see at least two small young in the nest; these young looked large enough to fledge by July 20. The Nelson Island pair, in contrast, started later and built a pitifully small nest, with a layer of sticks only a few inches high, giving me the impression that they were first-time nesters. They seemed to incubate forever, and I was concluding that they had failed when I finally saw a single small chick on July 8. That chick looked large enough to fledge by August 6. (The young do not fly until they are 51-59 days old, per Baicich and Harrison 1997.) On August 30, I watched the fledged juvenile at Nelson Island both on the platform and flying in circles, at all times clutching a fish. I'd like to think she caught that fish herself (a significant darkish band on the upper breast indicated that the bird was a female), but her mother was in the area too, so the young one may have had help.



A footnote to this saga involves concomitant nesting attempts in the Great Bay watershed in Rockingham County. Dick Hughes (pers. comm.) has been monitoring the Ospreys around that huge saltwater estuary for a decade, and informed me that 1989 was also the first nesting year for Ospreys in coastal New Hampshire in modern times. At least five sites have been active, the most successful of which, in Durham, produced 20 fledglings in the eleven years from 1989 through 1999. Another site, in Stratham, fledged 16 young in seven nesting seasons through 1999.

A second footnote involves the nest platform in the Rumney Marsh in Revere, only yards outside Essex County on its southern border with Suffolk County. Birds nesting on this platform have also produced fledglings in the late 1990s (Geoff Wood, pers. comm.). In addition, I learned of two other 2000 nestings of Ospreys in

Gloucester (Jerry Soucy, pers. comm.). Collectively, these data show that the historical gap for nesting Ospreys between Cape Cod and southern Maine is filling in, and all indications are that the species will continue breeding in the area.

Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*. On March 24, 2000, Linda Cook and I visited Choate Island in Essex in hopes of finding a winter roost of Long-eared Owls. Linda had experience with this species, and we thought that the forest of mature Norway spruce on that island, planted around the 1930s by the Crane family, might be a good place to find such a roost. We didn't find any Long-eared Owls, but we did find Great Horned Owls and Red-tailed Hawks nesting within a hundred feet of each other! In view of the owls' propensity to eat everything within range, including baby raptors, this was remarkable. It appeared that the owls had taken over the hawks' nest from previous years, and the hawk pair had chosen not to move far to make their next attempt. In any case, we knew we wanted to monitor those nests.

With the encouragement and support of the Trustees of Reservations (TTOR), the land trust that owns Choate and two adjacent islands and manages them as a wildlife refuge, we made several return visits to the island. The next was on May 12, by which time both nests had visible young. More significantly, we found a pair of adult Sharp-shinned Hawks that day, which seemed to be holding a hunting territory some distance away from the horned owls (logically enough). This was exciting, since I knew that there were no modern nest records for this species in Essex County, and I was hopeful that they would stay to nest (although their lack of alarm at our presence made me wonder about this). So we made additional visits on May 19, June 8 and 28, July 7, 12, 18, and 26, and August 3, each time via one of the TTOR launches.

Finding the Sharpshin nest proved to be very difficult. During each visit in May and June, we saw the birds hunting in the same small area. Our intensive searches revealed two candidate nests, but we never saw the birds visit these sites, making us suspect that those nests could have been Sharpshin nests from previous years. It wasn't until July 7 that we found the active nest, when the female went to it with food, despite my standing only about 20 yards away. It was well concealed about 70 feet up in the canopy of a mature Norway spruce, which is on the high side for a Sharpshin nest (Bent 1937, Forbush 1927). We then found a good place from which to view the nest, and on the next couple of visits I took a scope so we could set up on the three young. Remarkably, the adults continued to be unalarmed by our presence: neither bird ever gave alarm calls, which I had heard in no uncertain terms from both adults on three other occasions in Ohio and New Hampshire when I had been near Sharpshin nests. This pair continued to engage in food exchanges and feeding visits in our presence. The male seemed to do all the hunting, which is typical (Ehrlich et al. 1988); he would hand the luckless bird off in midair to the female, who made all the food deliveries. This also is typical behavior (Baicich and Harrison 1997.)

The young were branching on July 18, and by July 26 they had fledged. We were entertained watching the young chasing the adults around for food on that date and on August 3, and it seemed, though they were hard to count, that all three had fledged. This chronology would have put the hatching dates in the latter half of June, since the

young fledge at about 23-28 days (Bent 1937, Baicich and Harrison, 1997, Forbush 1927). One can infer from the two older sources that this was a rather late nesting for the species.

Late or not, it was a rare nesting for Essex County. Forbush (1927) and Bent (1937), as well as Townsend (1905), all suggest that Sharpshins were not uncommon as nesters in Massachusetts, including Essex County, in the nineteenth century and earlier. However, I have not found evidence of any other county nest records in the twentieth century (this one just made it); the last I am aware of was the collection of two nests in Peabody in 1896, one with four eggs and one with five, by one E. B. Meade (Tom French, pers. comm.). And if it were not for the planted spruce forest on Choate Island, this nest would be much less likely, since the birds prefer dense conifers, especially spruces (Bent 1937, Baicich and Harrison 1997). This is also my own experience for three of the four nest locations I have found, the fourth having been in a dense white pine grove.

Forster's Tern, *Sterna forsteri*. David Rimmer and Russ Hopping first found Forster's Terns nesting in a salt-marsh colony of Common Terns near the mouth of the Parker River on the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on June 10, 1991. The nest contained two eggs but could not be revisited, so the outcome is unknown. This was the northernmost nesting record for the species on the Atlantic coast, and apparently the first nest ever found in New England (Rimmer and Hopping 1991, Veit and Petersen 1993). Rick Heil (pers. comm.) informed me that he and Simon Perkins had seen three territorial adult Forster's Terns in the same location a year earlier on June 23, 1990, including one in courtship flight with a Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*. He also found and photographed a Forster's Tern nest with three eggs in the same place on July 11, 1992. An adult aggressively defended the nest and later returned to it to incubate.

Since then, although one or two birds have been seen in spring in the refuge area in several different years (*Bird Observer* records), only one other nest has been discovered. This was on May 26, 1997, when Jim MacDougall and I were kayaking along Pine Island Creek in Newbury, a bit north of the Parker River. As we were passing a colony of nesting Common Terns in the salt marsh, a single Forster's Tern came off a nest within our sight and attacked us until we left the area. The mate was not in evidence in the few minutes we observed the nest; we could not determine whether it contained eggs, and we did not wish to land and disturb the bird any further. This nest was not revisited. In combination with the early-90s nestings, however, this observation provides evidence that Forster's Terns may have nested on the refuge all during the 1990s,



although it remains to be seen whether the species will consolidate its nesting toehold in the region.

Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Melanerpes carolinus*. The Red-bellied Woodpecker, unknown in Townsend's time and still a rare vagrant from the south in the mid-1950s (Griscom and Snyder 1955), has invaded northern Massachusetts over the last 10 to 15 years. My opinion is that this northward range expansion is probably connected with climatic changes, namely warmer winters. The species has established itself as a nonmigratory, nesting member of the county's avifauna, and it will likely stay with us as long as the winters continue to be mild. It has also begun to colonize the northern New England states: Red-bellieds have nested as far north as Plymouth, New Hampshire (Susan Fogleman, pers. comm.).



Despite the birds' increasing presence in the area, however, Red-bellied nests in Essex County have mostly evaded discovery. The first nests in Massachusetts were found in Natick and Attleboro in 1977 (Veit and Petersen 1993), but it was not until 1993 that Rick Heil found a pair nesting in West Newbury, and I observed a pair at an active nesting cavity in a friend's yard in Ipswich. These records finally established the

species as nesting in the county. I fully expected reports of nests to become more frequent since then, but no nests were reported in the county in the *Bird Observer* records through 1999. The closest was a report from Jim Brown of an adult with a juvenile in Boxford in August 1996.

Then, on June 27, 2000, Linda Cook and I observed a male working on an apparent nest cavity beside the Ipswich River in Ipswich — apparent because the pair later copulated on the top of the snag containing the cavity. I watched subsequent activity, such as the birds entering or leaving the hole, several times over the next four weeks. I did not see any activity on July 28 or August 2. Since I never saw the adults carrying food, or heard young calling from within the nest (and baby woodpeckers can be very loud), it is likely that the nesting attempt failed. Nevertheless, there is no question that Red-bellieds have become well established as a resident species; in my opinion, they are now almost as common as Hairy Woodpeckers, *Picoides villosus*.

A delightful footnote has been provided by Marjorie Rines (pers. comm. and *Bird Observer* records), who has found them to be double-brooded in the Middlesex Fells Reservation in Medford, in adjacent Middlesex County, through most of the 1990s. This was apparently the first documented instance of this phenomenon in New England, and has surprised some observers in view of the literature (e.g., Ehrlich et al. 1988), who posit that the birds raise one brood in the north, although they raise as many as two or even three in the south. However, Baicich and Harrison (1997) simply

assert that the species is “double-brooded, rarely treble-brooded,” without regard to geography. Although the nest I observed this year seemed to be of brand-new construction, the late dates indicate that it might have been a second nesting, or a second attempt after a failed first nesting. 

References

- Baicich, P.J. and C.J.O. Harrison. 1997. *A Guide to the Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds*, 2nd ed. San Diego, CA: Academic Press.
- Bent, A.C. 1919-1968. *Life Histories of North American Birds*, 25 volumes. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, United States National Museum Bulletins.
- Bird Observer*, 1973-2000, “Bird Sightings.”
- Ehrlich, P.R., D.S. Dobkin, and D. Wheye. 1988. *The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds*. New York: Simon and Schuster.
- Essex County Ornithological Club. 1988. *Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts: A Field List*, 6th ed. Salem, MA: Essex County Ornithological Club.
- Forbush, E. H. 1925, 1927, 1929. *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, 3 volumes. Norwood, MA: Massachusetts Department of Agriculture.
- Griscom, L. and D.L. Snyder. 1955. *The Birds of Massachusetts: An Annotated and Revised Check List*. Salem, Massachusetts: Peabody Museum.
- Massbird List Serve.
- Rimmer, D. and R. Hopping. 1991. “Forster's Tern Nesting in Plum Island Marshes.” *Bird Observer* 19: 308-309.
- Townsend, C.W. 1905. *The Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Nuttall Ornithological Club.
- Townsend, C.W. 1920. *Supplement to The Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Nuttall Ornithological Club.
- Veit, R.R., and W.R. Petersen. 1993. *Birds of Massachusetts*. Lincoln, MA: Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Jim Berry, who lives in Ipswich, is a member of the Bird Observer staff. He is currently working on a new book on the birds of Essex County to update and replace Townsend's seminal work of a century ago, now long out of print. He would like to thank Marta Hersek and Rick Heil for reviewing a draft of this article, and Wayne Castonguay, Don Paquin, and David Babson of The Trustees of Reservations for being so generous with their time in facilitating the many visits to Choate Island to monitor the nesting Sharp-shinned Hawks. Finally, he is grateful to the many birding companions who graciously shared their observations of nesting birds in Essex County.



THE WIRED BIRDER

Editor's note: Do you know the difference between CB and FRS radios? Should you buy a GPS unit? How do rare bird alerts vary from place to place? What options exist for maintaining sightings records on a computer? How do birders get those pictures on the computer? This new series on the use of electronics in birding and bird-related activities will address these sorts of questions in short tutorials, each with a list of relevant websites and other resources at the end of the article.

Bird Alerts

David M. Larson

Not all that long ago, the well-equipped birder carried a shotgun and a game bag. Later, the weapons were replaced by binoculars, presumably to the relief of the birds. The evolutionary transformation from the armed birder to the optical birder has now been extended to the latest species, the wired birder. No, not the hyper-caffeinated and oversugared lister/ticker/twitcher; rather, the birder with the outrageous annual expenditure on batteries. With the proliferation of small portable electronics, and advances in communications, birders are more wired and connected than ever before. This new series of articles is intended to sort out some of the electronic gizmos available to birders, and their utility in various situations.

Uses for electronic devices in birding fall into various categories: communications, group coordination, bird finding, identification, documentation, and research. This first article on the wired birder addresses certain issues of communication, particularly rare bird alerts and rarity reporting.

Rare Bird Alerts for Twitchers and the Rest of Us

A standard feature in many locations around the United States has been the rare bird alert (RBA) telephone recording. In Massachusetts we can call one telephone number (888-224-6444) to hear recordings of the Eastern, Western, or Cape Cod RBAs. Different compilers assemble and arrange their recordings in different ways: for example, the Florida Statewide RBA lists only rarities, but provides detailed locations; the Voice of Audubon recordings in Massachusetts list rarities and many other species, but usually give only general locations; and Armas Hill produces long narratives with bird sightings, stories, and essays on the Philadelphia (and Delaware) Birdline. With the advances in Internet technologies and access (and work by dedicated volunteers), these recordings are now available from email listserves (e.g., BirdEast) or on the internet (see table).

Rare bird alert compilers rely on bird-sighting reports that arrive by mail, telephone, or email. For all their utility, even semiweekly RBAs lack the immediacy of first-hand reports. So how can you get the word out faster if you spot a great bird? What do you hope your fellow birders are doing?

Several communication avenues have been employed in efforts to spread the word about rare or unusual sightings. The old days of racing off to find a pay telephone to call friends, or a central authority, have given way in part to the ubiquity of cellular telephones. For example, a couple of years ago my wife Susan called me from the dike at Great Meadows NWR in Concord, by cell phone, to say that she was enjoying a Reeve that had been reported. I was at work in Boston and emailed the news to the Massbird mail list before heading off to Concord — a fine confluence of technologies. Birders in the Newburyport area commonly telephone Bird Watcher's Supply and Gift (978-462-0775) to report hot birds, and the staff there posts alerts on Massbird. Since more birders carry cellular telephones in their cars, or even into the field, we can expect more reports to be generated via this medium.

Telephone calling trees are in use in many locations: for instance, the Brookline Bird Club operates a telephone alert system in Eastern Massachusetts. In these systems each participant receiving an alert is obliged to call several specific persons on the list to pass along the message. If there are no breaks in the chain, the word gets out quickly. However, according to some participants, these systems have suffered in recent years with the growing popularity of email lists. For those on email lists, like Massbird, notification of hundreds or thousands of subscribers can occur nearly simultaneously, as long as someone can get the word out, and as long as subscribers are paying attention to their mailboxes.

Email lists are a growing phenomenon in the United States. Nearly every state has one or more lists, and there are many national and international lists. Email messages are sent to a central address and then automatically routed to all subscribers. Some of these lists are primarily for alerts or RBAs (e.g., the BirdEast, BirdWest, and BirdCtr lists from the National Bird Hotline Cooperative, NBHC) and so have restrictions on who can post messages; some are for chatting or discussing fine points of identification or some such topic (e.g., BirdChat, IDFrontiers, or BirdBand) and are open to all subscribers. In Massachusetts, Massbird serves as a chat and alert list. Sightings, notices, comments, and data are all distributed over the Massbird list. For links to the email listserves of other states, see the Real Birds section of the Virtual Birder online magazine, a tremendous resource. Most of these mail lists provide the option of digests, meaning that all of the traffic from one day is mailed as one message. This option is useful if you have restrictions on the number of messages you can receive. During spring migration, Massbird can generate fifty messages per day.

Many geographic localities have central clearinghouses for sighting information. In central Massachusetts, Rick Quimby has set up a website called the Central Mass Bird Update to post sightings, counts, and surveys, mostly from Worcester County. This localized resource is a boon to the region, and certainly worth a look for visiting birders.

In several European countries, pagers constitute a common means of receiving bird alerts. There is the *Bombevarsler 'n* in Norway, and the *piepergroep 2000* in the Netherlands, but possibly the most elaborate is the commercial Birdnet Rare Bird Paging Service in the United Kingdom. For under £200 per year, you can rent an

alphanumeric, graphic pager, and receive of all the bird news and alerts. According to the Birdnet website, the service delivered 53 messages on January 19, 2000, including one *mega* alert (Sora Rail in Devon). A typical message might run: "(76) (10:02) *W YORKS LITTLE BUNTING SHEPLEY IN HAWTHORN BY JOSS LN PARKING AREA 8.45-9.15AM.BN."

Of course, the twitchers of the United Kingdom are famously in a different league from most ardent birders elsewhere. The closest thing to a national alert system now available in the United States is probably the subscription bird alert system NARBA (North American Rare Bird Alert, a nonprofit service sponsored by the Houston Audubon Society). For a fee, subscribers to NARBA can call for a tape recording of recent rare bird sightings and directions, or access the same information over the Internet. NARBA also has three "We Call You" services: North American First Records, Occasional Birds, or Accidental Birds. For the latter two services, subscribers designate wanted species, and NARBA staffers call to tell them when and where the birds are reported (oh yes, NARBA does take pager numbers). These "We Call You" services are available at additional cost.

At present, email lists provide the most widely available and lowest cost bird alert system. Of course, the sender needs to get to a computer to get the word out, and everyone else needs to be sitting at a computer in order to get the news. At least, that is how it used to be. Right now, it is possible, albeit expensive, to send and receive email from the field or nearly anywhere else using wireless technology. Wireless modem service is widely available in New England and in other heavily urbanized areas in the United States. So just drag along your laptop computer on your next hike out to Race Point in Provincetown, MA; maybe you will find an Ancient Murrelet.

If a laptop sounds too cumbersome, there are other options for wireless email. Handheld computers (running the Palm operating system, e.g., Palm VII; or the Windows CE/Pocket PC system, e.g., Hewlett-Packard Jornada) are capable of sending and receiving email, and even of limited web surfing, via wireless modem service (or via a modem connected to a wireless telephone). These instruments are pocket-sized, reducing the weight and bulk considerably from the laptop class, although they have much more limited screen displays.

Finally, why not combine wireless email service (and limited web browsing) with cellular telephony and use one of the digital cellular phone services that include these advanced features? The combination of a telephone, email server, and web browser in one handheld device is the wave of the future. Right now, the upshot of these new technologies is that we can send and receive alerts while in the field, using equipment less bulky and lighter than a good field guide. Drawbacks? Well, digital wireless coverage is spotty, and you may not always be able to connect, even in areas supposedly covered. If you are out in the boondocks, you are probably out of luck. In addition, all of the wireless data services are much slower than modern landline modem connections, and a lot more expensive. As is always the case with useful technologies, prices will drop, and speeds will rise with time.

Location, location, location

Okay, you found a great bird, and you can get the word out, but how do you describe the spot? Well, you could give a street address, if applicable, or you could give directions in terms of distance from a well-recognized or describable location (e.g., 100 yards past the guardhouse on Christopher Clark Road in Mount Tom State Reservation, Easthampton, MA). Or you could report the map coordinates from a widely used map (Florida RBAs list coordinates from the state DeLorme atlas). Really though, these are old school alternatives, and you are a wired birder. So you whip out your trusty GPS (Global Positioning System) receiver and report the coordinates. Theoretically, any other GPS-equipped birder could find the same location with relative ease and accuracy.

Portable GPS units have become smaller (pocket-sized), less expensive (quite functional units for less than \$200), and with the easing of government restrictions this year, more accurate. One of the earlier drawbacks to commercial GPS was the deliberate coding errors (SA or Selective Accuracy) introduced by the Federal Government for security reasons. The degradation of the system ended this year. Tests by the United States National Geodetic Survey indicate that removal of SA increased precision by tenfold (with SA, 95 percent of plotted data fell within 44.2 meters of the correct location; after SA was eliminated, 95 percent fell within 4.1 meters), and now a properly initialized and calibrated GPS unit is capable of accuracy within a few meters. GPS receivers work by triangulating on satellites (up to 12) to determine latitude, longitude, and elevation. Many models provide tracking displays, showing bearings to known locations, headings for routes, storage of positions, distances traveled, and time/distance calculations. Some models have computer interfaces that allow display of routes using mapping software. These features make them particularly useful for Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, and other field studies, as well as for locating rarities.

At present some handheld and vehicle-mounted GPS units have moving map displays, allowing for continuous monitoring of location (and upcoming side streets and turns and gas stations, etc.), but detailed maps are available only for some cities and interstate highways. Zoomable topographic maps are available from certain manufacturers, but the quality and functionality of the maps on the relatively tiny screens on GPS units do not match USGS topographic paper maps or the scanned computer versions.

Some caveats worth noting are that GPS units are not compasses, nor are they particularly useful as altimeters in mountainous terrain. GPS signals are degraded by heavy cover (in deep woods) and by atmospheric (wind, rain, and snow). Never rely on only one navigation aid. Everything you ever wanted to know about GPS, and much more, is available on line at *Joe Mehaffey and Jack Yeazel's GPS Information Website*. Stephen Ingraham recently published an excellent article on the use of GPS for birding (*Birding* 32 (1): 77-79, 2000).

No matter whether you chase rarities, are a twitcher's twitcher, or just monitor the latest bird report in the newspaper, the notion of rare birds and their pursuit is strangely compelling. Good luck. 

Links to web sites mentioned in this article

Rare Bird Alerts for North America	http://listserv.arizona.edu/lsv/www.index.html http://www.virtualbirder.com/vbirder/realbirds/index.html
RBA telephone list	http://americanbirding.org/publications/wgrbaadd.htm
Brookline Bird Club	http://massbird.org/BBC/
Massbird mail list	Archive at: http://www.virtualbirder.com/bmail/massbird/latest.html Subscribe at: http://massbird.org/massbird.htm Also see: http://www-stat.wharton.upenn.edu/~siler/birdmail.html
Bird East, West, Ctr BirdChat, IDFrontiers, BirdBand	http://listserv.arizona.edu/lsv/www.index.html
The Virtual Birder	http://www.virtualbirder.com/
Birding listserves	http://americanbirding.org/resources/reschat.htm
Central Mass Bird Update	http://www.wpi.edu/~rsquimby/birds/
Birdnet Ltd.	http://www.birdnet.ltd.uk/pagers.html
NARBA	http://www.narba.org
Palm Computing	http://www.palm.com
Windows CE Pocket PC	http://www.microsoft.com/mobile/
Joe Mehaffey and Jack Yeazel's GPS Information Website	http://joe.mehaffey.com/

David M. Larson is the Production Editor for Bird Observer. In the remainder of his time he builds web sites (<http://larsonweb.org>) and plays with his digital camera. He has been rumored to be a professor at Boston University School of Medicine.

Tricolored Herons and Great Egrets Use Double-crested Cormorants as Beaters While Foraging

William E. Davis, Jr.

Many animals follow other animals described as beaters, and capture prey disturbed by them. Various species of herons have been observed using beaters, including Eastern Reef Herons using predatory fish (Recher and Recher 1969), Snowy Egrets using grebes (Leck 1971), Snowy and Great egrets using mergansers and cormorants (Christman 1957), White-faced Herons using Australian White Ibises (Davis 1985), and, of course, Cattle Egrets using cattle, tractors, elephants, hippopotamuses, and rhinoceroses (Telfair 1994). The only reference to Tricolored Herons using beaters was Parks and Bressler (1963), who reported Snowy Egrets and a Tricolored Heron using Hooded Mergansers as beaters. Furthermore, the definitive account of Tricolored Herons (Frederick 1997) states "...not reported to benefit greatly from piracy, beating, or other social interactions." Hence, my observations of Tricolored Herons using Double-crested Cormorants as beaters may be of some interest.

On March 11, 1999, I was watching a Tricolored Heron walking along the edge of a ten-meter-wide water impoundment along Cross Dike Trail at J.N. 'Ding' Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island, Florida. The bird suddenly stopped and flew to the other side of the impoundment to the shoreline of dense mangroves. It landed at the water's edge, near an actively foraging Double-crested Cormorant. The cormorant was swimming along the shoreline, partially submerged, and as it moved along the shore, the heron followed it by walking rapidly. When the heron fell behind, it made short flights to catch up. The heron occasionally attacked prey, presumably stirred up by the foraging cormorant. My impression was that the heron was using the cormorant as a "beater" for scaring up prey. This idea became more plausible when the cormorant reversed its direction, and the heron immediately followed. After swimming about three meters, the cormorant again reversed its direction, and again the heron followed. This zigzag pattern was repeated a second time during the approximately 1.5 minutes that the heron followed the cormorant. During this time the heron had made three flights of up to three meters to keep up with the cormorant, and made at least seven prey capture attempts. The heron was typically no more than a meter from the cormorant, which stayed close to the mangrove shoreline. The session ended when the cormorant left the water and perched on a mangrove root. The heron then moved away, still foraging.

Approximately twenty minutes later, on the water impoundment on the other side of the dike, two cormorants foraged in shallow water. A Tricolored Heron (perhaps the same bird) and a Great Egret attempted to follow the two rapidly moving cormorants. The heron apparently gave up the chase, but the Great Egret was more persistent, and made at least three short flights, including one across the approximately ten-meter-wide water body, to keep up with the cormorants. The Great

Egret stopped foraging when the cormorants moved into the deeper water away from the mangroves, but it again became very active, making several strikes at prey, when the cormorants came within a meter. This behavior pattern suggests that the Great Egret was also using the cormorants as beaters.

A year later, on March 3, 2000, I was on the same trail, and at 10:08 I encountered a Tricolored Heron (possibly the same individual) using a foraging Double-crested Cormorant as a beater. The location was identical to the previous year's encounter, with the cormorant in shallow water and the Tricolored Heron within three feet of it. The cormorant was swimming and diving, causing the water to



Figure 1. Photographs by the author

swirl around it, and was constantly reversing directions. The heron shuffled back and forth, following the cormorant's movements. The cormorant then proceeded to swim along the dike toward the road, and the heron followed. After about seven meters the cormorant swam across to the near shore, and the heron flew across the eight-meter-wide channel to join it. The cormorant then swam rapidly along the shore, and the heron followed, making long strides to

keep up with the cormorant. The cormorant reached a bend in the channel and began coursing back and forth in approximately eight-foot lines. The heron followed, and each time the cormorant turned, the heron followed (Figure 1). This activity went on for about thirty seconds before the cormorant again swam rapidly along the bank toward the road, the heron following, until they encountered a two-meter-diameter island of mangroves. The cormorant went on one side of the mangroves, the heron the other. The heron waited and looked in the direction of the cormorant, which had reversed its direction and reappeared heading back up the channel. The heron followed (Figure 2). The cormorant again reversed direction and disappeared behind the mangrove while the heron again went to the opposite side of the mangrove, and the peekaboo was repeated, except that the cormorant reappeared this time swimming toward the road. The heron at this point had been following the cormorant for a distance of 140 meters from the area of my initial observation. The heron followed the cormorant for another eighty meters to the place where the channel went under the road through a large culvert. The cormorant swam to the far side of the fifteen-meter channel, and the heron followed it, and then came back across the channel when the cormorant swam back to



the near shore. At 10:19 the heron flew off and landed beside another foraging cormorant.

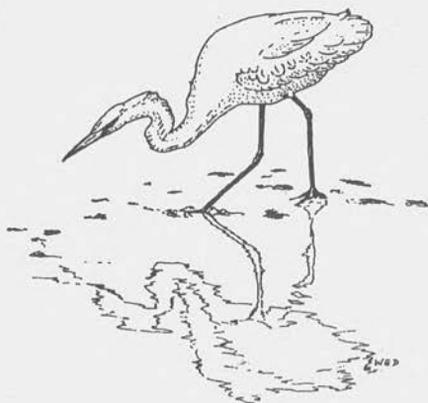
At this point I ended my observations. During the sequence the heron made at least six prey capture attempts, one of which was within 0.3 meters of the cormorant. My view was partially obscured by mangroves on several occasions as I followed the birds along the shore, and I was occupied taking photographs (Figures 1 and 2) for about a minute. Hence I do not have a complete account of the number of prey strikes the heron made, or the number of successful prey captures.

Using beaters is a rare foraging behavior for Tricolored Herons. This suggests to me that either the observations I made of this behavior in successive years were of the same bird, or that herons learn the foraging technique from the occasional heron that practices it. 

References

- Christman, G.M. 1957. Some Interspecific Relations in the Feeding of Estuarine Birds, *Condor* 59: 343.
- Davis, W.E., Jr. 1985. Foraging White-faced Herons Follow Australian White Ibises, *Colonial Waterbirds* 8: 129-134.
- Frederick, P.C. 1997. Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*), *The Birds of North America*, No. 306 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.
- Leck, C.F. 1971. Cooperative Feeding in *Leucophoyx thula* and *Podilymbus podiceps* (Aves), *American Midland Naturalist* 86: 241-242.
- Parks, J.M., and S.L. Bressler. 1963. Observations of Joint Feeding Activities of Certain Fish-eating Birds, *Auk* 80: 198-199.
- Recher, H.F., and J.A. Recher. 1969. The Reef Heron, *Australian Natural History* 7: 151-155.
- Telfair, R.C. II. 1994. Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), *The Birds of North America*, No. 113 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

William E. Davis, Jr., is a member of the Bird Observer editorial board and a professor at Boston University.



YARD BIRDS

Coming to New England from the farmlands of Pennsylvania, I knew that my new home had one serious requirement — a view. In January 1989 we moved to a hilltop home in Maynard. From the front doorstep the view extends 180 degrees over the towns of Stow, Maynard, and Sudbury. The backyard is small and ends with a beautiful rock wall and woodland now owned by the wildlife service, recently acquired from the government. My yard list encompasses anything I can see or hear from my property.

Arriving in winter, I promptly set up a feeder and suet log. The usual winter crowd of chickadees, titmice, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Downy Woodpeckers appeared and, to my delight, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Hairy Woodpeckers, and Red-breasted Nuthatches. New places always bring surprises. Gazing from my kitchen window one April morning, I was astounded to see a pair of Wood Ducks nestled next to each other on the branch of a huge white pine tree.

My main birding experience had been hawk watching, and I looked forward to autumn with anticipation. Hours spent searching the sky brought its rewards. On September 18, 1999, I counted 484 Broadwing Hawks (best day ever), 3 Merlins, 1 Peregrine, and 1 Bald Eagle along with 135 Monarch Butterflies. My favorite species seen yearly are goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, and Bald Eagle. Even nonbirding neighbors can see eagles — they're BIG — but have trouble with those high-flying Broadwings. I'm sure it does look strange to see me staring up at a clear blue sky at nothing, and counting out loud. While playing basketball with my son in the driveway that first fall, we looked up just as an immature Golden Eagle soared directly over our heads slightly above rooftop level. How was I to know it would be ten long years before I saw another one from my yard? My Golden Eagle count still stands at two. The extensive woodland edging the backyard yields special species like bobwhite, turkeys, singing Wood Thrushes, and a calling Whip-poor-will. The Great Horned Owl that landed on the rooftop, talons clicking on the shingles, and hooting loudly, will never be forgotten.

Each season brings its own share of wonderful birds. During spring migration I have seen a male Mourning Warbler (once), Indigo Buntings, Orchard Orioles, and Olive-sided Flycatchers. Last summer, after six years of waiting for them, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds found my sugar-water feeders and stayed all summer. Common Nighthawks migrate in late August, and 1998 was a banner year — 2,026 were counted from August 15–31. A male "Oregon" Junco spent the winter of 1997–1998 among my crowd of feeder birds. Redpolls, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks visit the feeding station in winter, and occasionally a Northern Shrike, too. In January 1994, 31 Bohemian Waxwings descended on a fruited tree, feeding and calling musically. Over 130 species of birds have visited or been seen from my yard. I am keeping a close watch; who knows what will appear next?

Linda Nachtrab
Maynard, MA 

YOUNG BIRDERS

Close Encounters of an Avian Kind

Andrew P. Brissette

I have been birding off and on since the age of ten. Over the years my grandmother, Kathleen Anderson, has edged me toward changing birding from a hobby to a passion, and just recently she completed the task. What really has gotten me interested in birding is the raptors. I don't know if it is just their size, or their amazing eyes, or their hunting instinct. It just astonishes me. My fascination with raptors began when I was five; since then there are four raptors in particular that I have come to know.

In 1992 I took a trip to Montana with my grandmother and grandfather. We were driving, and we saw an eagle flying by. It perched on a nearby ledge. We put the window scope on it, and I swear that Golden Eagle looked right into the scope directly into my eyes, or so I thought at the time.

Then came the Bald Eagle I got to know when my grandmother took me to see the release of an injured eagle that had been returned to good health. Next, during 1998 and 1999, a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks nested in my backyard. I observed these birds day in and day out from my bedroom window.

And last was the Northern Goshawk. For several years my grandmother has had a pair of goshawks nesting in her woods. Just this May she took me out there to see them. After that I went back into the woods to see them on numerous occasions. I learned their loud *kek, kek, kek* call. People had told me they were big, but you can't really appreciate that until you have an experience with them as I did.

One day my grandmother told me that Bob Clem, whom I had met at the Daniel Webster Audubon Sanctuary, was coming to videotape the Goshawks. After he had put up the blind, he stayed there from 12:00 p.m. to 2 p.m. documenting the Goshawks' activities. Then he brought the tape back to my grandmother's house for us to see. As I watched the tape, I saw the Goshawks bring prey to their young, and the young bobbing up and down. I had never had such looks at goshawks before.

That same day, after Bob left, I asked, "Nana, can I go out to the blind?" But she said, "Oh no, you mustn't disturb them again today. Maybe in a few days." Well, those few days passed, and I asked again. She nodded and said, "Go ahead." I had to be back at my house at 5 p.m. for dinner. I ran out to the blind full of excitement. As I made my way through the woods, I realized the goshawks hadn't made any noise. What I didn't know was that they were off hunting. I got into the blind, and I watched. For about ten minutes they didn't show up. I was just taking my last look when in they came. I watched as they brought food for the young. I observed for about an hour and saw it was ten minutes before five o'clock, so I packed up to start home. The goshawks weren't too happy about that.

As soon as I opened the blind, I heard *kek! kek! kek!*, and down they came, both taking turns swooping at me. I started to run with a stick over my head. After about twenty yards one of the goshawks took the stick right out of my hands. I plastered myself against a tree where they couldn't see me. There was a moment of silence. I looked to the left, and there in the tree behind me about ten yards away was the female perched. I then looked to the right, and there in the tree behind me about the same distance away was the male. There was a mosquito biting my leg, and I moved to swat it. Down came the goshawks swooping in front of me, coming so close to hitting me with those tremendous talons. I went to grab another stick, and down they came again, once more being within inches of me. I was trapped.

I waited for about half an hour, trying not to move but sometimes having to, causing them to dive again. Every once in a while I would slowly poke my head out from behind the tree and watch these birds. They were truly spectacular. Then I looked at my watch, and it was 5:20. I knew I was in trouble. At last I heard my grandmother calling "Andrew. Andrew, Andrew. It's after five." I said, "Nana, I'm out here. The goshawks won't let me leave." She said, "Pick up a stick." I replied, "They took my stick." Then she came through the trees to get me. We made our way back, and all the birds did was scream. I guess one boy looked easier to pick off than two people, one an adult.

That surely was the best and most awesome look at a bird in the wild that I have ever experienced. It was really a special thing for me, but at the same time I couldn't have been more scared. 



This photograph of Andrew and his grandmother was taken at the Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge in Middletown, Rhode Island, on a South Shore Bird Club trip.

Andrew P. Brissette, thirteen, is in the eighth grade at the John T. Nichols Middle School in Middleborough. He plays defense for the Bay State Clippers in the Massachusetts Premier Soccer League and is a member of the South Shore Bird Club. Between school and soccer practice, he finds time for birding in the woods around his home and with the South Shore Bird Club.

Editor's note: The February issue of Bird Observer will feature an article by Andrew's grandmother, Kathleen Anderson, on the past fifty years of observing birds and other wildlife in her very special backyard at Wolf Trap Hill.

The Benefits of Bird Banding

Yelena Samsonenko

To many birders, spring and fall migration mean many hours spent in the field, rare bird alerts, and much more. But for some birders and researchers, the main focus of seasonal migration is bird banding. Banding is a way to study birds that involves placing an aluminum ring on a bird's leg; the ring, or band, bears an address and serial number that allows the bird to be easily identified if it is found again.

In order for a bird to be banded, it first has to be caught. The most common and effective (and virtually harmless) method of capturing birds is with mist nets, very thin and fine nets. "Mist nets are often used near foliage, where the netting is nearly invisible against the backdrop of leaves. Birds moving through the foliage can not see the mist netting until it is too late to avoid hitting it" (Lynch and Proctor 1993, p. 288). The entangled bird is then carefully removed by a bander, placed into a cloth bag to keep the bird safe, and taken to a nearby banding station where it will be studied and banded. "Before releasing the bird, the bander enters in a notebook: the species of bird, serial number of its band, place and date of banding, the bird's age, sex, whether a bird of the year or an adult, and perhaps other information like eye color, general health condition, or stage and condition of its molt" (Terres 1996, p. 56). It is then released unharmed.

The reason why bird banding is so beneficial and important for research is because birds can be studied as individuals. For example, a Yellow-rumped Warbler flitting in the trees is not just another "Myrtle" Warbler. It is a unique individual, with its own behaviors and life style. Bird banding is effective because it picks out individual birds and focuses on studying their lives more intensely. This opens a great variety of opportunities for birders and researchers to learn more about the lives of all birds.



Yellow-rumped Warbler, by the author

One of the most important aspects of birds' lives, studied in great detail through banding, is migration. Through banding, the routes taken by birds during migration and the specific times of these movements can be determined. The movements of an individual bird can be traced if it is captured and reported to a banding laboratory repeatedly. It was learned through banding, for instance, that the Arctic Tern makes an annual round trip of about 22,000 miles — the longest migration of any bird species in the world. Recaptures, too, help to locate wintering and breeding grounds for some species.

Banding also helps researchers study birds' life spans and survival rates. Banders can often estimate the age of a bird quite accurately based on its plumage, especially

if it is a bird in its first year of life. If a bird is banded today, and it is recaptured three years from now, researchers know that it is at least three years old. Banding has found that some songbirds can live ten years or longer and that Laysan Albatrosses can survive forty to fifty years. The survival rates of certain species can also be determined. For example, birds banded in their ideal environment and birds banded in an environment affected by pollution, oil spills, and other alterations can be compared and their survival rates determined. This information can be very valuable, since it brings awareness to people about the importance of protecting our environment and the wildlife in it.

The numerous behaviors that birds exhibit can be studied with the help of banding. By banding a bird on its breeding grounds with distinctive colored bands, in addition to the aluminum band, researchers can recognize individual birds and study them without handling them again and again. Territorial and reproductive behaviors, such as the ability to protect a territory, interaction with other birds, displays, attraction of mates, nest building, and the rearing of young are a few among the many important behaviors that can be studied and recorded. Such behaviors are essential to the survival of a species, and the study of these behaviors, with the help of banding, provides information that helps people learn how to better protect certain species. Migration, longevity, survival rates, and behaviors are only a few of the many important things that can be learned about the lives of birds through banding.

The wealth of data gathered through banding is also useful in studying the changing populations and productivity of birds. Various diseases and ailments that birds contract and spread can be identified and prevented. The ecosystems that birds inhabit and how they interact with these surroundings can be studied intensely with the help of banding. Hopefully, the great amount of information that is gained through the practice of banding will lead people to a greater awareness of the natural world and the need to protect the birds that inhabit our one and only Earth. 🐦

References

- Lynch, P.J. and N.S. Proctor. 1993. *Manual of Ornithology*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press.
- Terres, J.K. 1996. *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds*. Avenel, New Jersey: Random House Value Publishing, Inc.

Yelena Samsonenko, fifteen, birds, writes, and draws in Stafford Springs, CT. Besides birds, she is fascinated with everything in nature and plans to major in ecology. It is her dream to someday study and help protect the many creatures, especially birds, that share the Earth with us. "The Benefits of Bird Banding" was published in the American Birding Association's youth newsletter, A Bird's-Eye View, Volume 8, Number 2 (April 2000).



Photograph by Gennadiy Samsonenko

FIELD NOTES

Ring-billed Gull Piracy of Bufflehead

Mark Lynch

While leading a field trip to some of the coastal ponds of South Falmouth on November 21, 1999, one of the participants directed our attention to a singular sight. An adult winter Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) was harassing a drake Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*). There was a small flock of Bufflehead actively feeding in a brackish coastal pond. When one drake surfaced, the gull began pecking at it, and eventually the Bufflehead took wing. As the duck flew rapidly over the pond, it was closely pursued by the Ring-billed Gull. No matter which way the duck flew, the gull followed relentlessly. The pair zipped back and forth, and eventually the duck dropped something, and the gull wheeled quickly to the surface to get the morsel. As the duck was flying, we could not see anything in its mouth, so we are not sure whether the gull simply caused the duck to drop something or regurgitate.

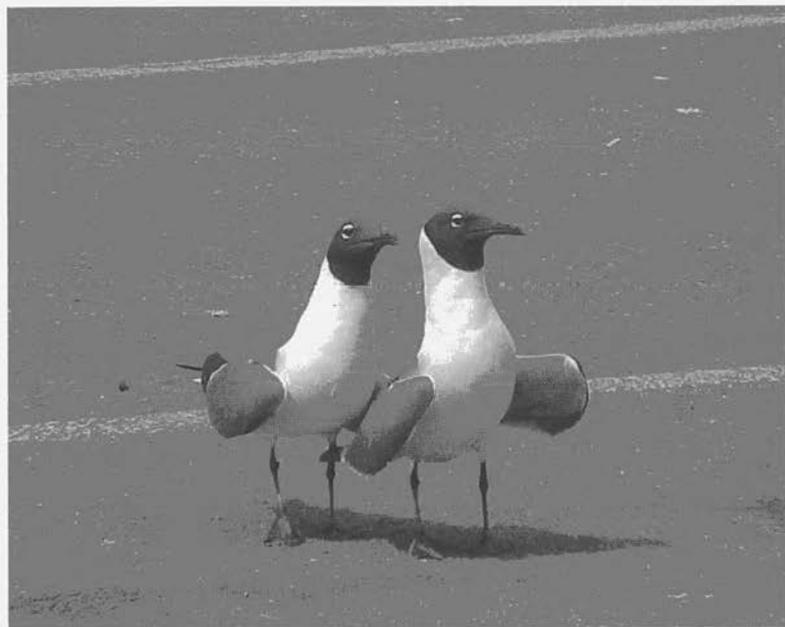
After this incident, we began to notice that in four different ponds, we saw Ring-billed Gulls harassing Buffleheads for food. Most often the gulls would swim among feeding flocks of Bufflehead, and when a duck surfaced, a gull would either attempt to grab something from the duck or peck at the duck's head, it was difficult to determine which. This behavior was common and just between these two species. We witnessed it only on the coastal tidal ponds of Southern Falmouth, although we did observe flocks of Bufflehead on other ponds farther inland. The behavior was so common that the trip participants commented on its frequency. Other species of ducks were present in these same ponds including scaup, Common Goldeneyes (in small numbers), Hooded Mergansers, and large numbers of feeding Red-Breasted Mergansers. Other gull species present nearby included Herring and Great Black-backed gulls. Small flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls were also seen feeding on the ponds. We witnessed this piracy only between Buffleheads and Ring-billed Gulls.

Kleptoparasitism, also called "piracy, robbing or food parasitism, is the deliberate stealing by one animal of food which has already been captured by another" (Furness 1987, p. 160). Although many of us in the northeast know that the larger gulls (Glaucous, Great Black-backed, and Herring) are accomplished pirates, I cannot remember seeing kleptoparasitism being performed so consistently between two species in several areas on the same day. My guess is that whatever specific food the Buffleheads were diving for was also of great interest to the Ring-billed Gulls. Buffleheads and goldeneyes consume a good deal of animal prey: "As much as eighty percent of their diet consists of animal prey which includes aquatic insects and their larvae, spiders, earthworms, leeches, crustaceans, echinoderms, mollusks, tadpoles, amphibians, small fish and even water shrews" (Todd 1996, p. 410). The fact that we witnessed this behavior in coastal tidal brackish ponds narrows the above-mentioned list of possible food items that the Buffleheads were taking. Ring-billed Gulls have been reported to take a number of food items including fish, fiddler crabs, and

specifically ragworms from Maine tidal flats. Kleptoparasitism has been reported in Ring-billed Gulls (del Hoyo et al., p. 604), but so far I have come across no references to such consistent piracy of Buffleheads. 

References

- del Hoyo, J, A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, eds. 1996. *Handbook of Birds of the World*, Vol. 3. Barcelona: Lynx Edicions.
- Furness, R.W. 1987. *The Skuas*. Staffordshire, England: T. & A.D. Poyser.
- Todd, F.S. 1996. *Natural History of Waterfowl*. Vista, CA: Ibis Publishing.



101st Christmas Bird Count

Birders of all skill levels are encouraged to participate in the 101st CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Thirty-three count circles are located entirely or partly within Massachusetts. Dates for some counts were not available for inclusion in this list. If you want to participate in a count, please make contact with the compilers at least one week before it takes place.

Andover (Sat. 12/16/2000)

Compiler, Lou Wagner
781-259-9506 ext. 7263 (Lincoln)
lwagner@massaudubon.org

Athol (Sat. 12/16/2000)

Compiler, David Small
978-249-2094 (Athol)
dhsmall@gis.net

Buzzards Bay (Sat. 12/16/2000)

Compiler, Richard Harlow
508-748-1297 (Marion)
raharlow@mediaone.net

Cape Ann (Sun. 12/17/2000)

Compiler, Barbara Volkle
508-393-9251 (Northboro)
barb620@world.std.com

Cape Cod (Sun. 12/17/2000)

Compiler, Blair Nikula
508-432-6348 (Harwich)
odenews@capecod.net

Central Berkshire (Sun. 12/17/2000)

Compiler, Dr. Edwin Neumuth
413-623-5447 (Washington)
ejneumuth@juno.com

Cobble Mountain (Westfield) (Sat. 12/23/2000)

Compiler, Seth Kellogg
413-569-3335 (Southwick)
skhawk@mediaone.net

Concord (Sat. 12/30/2000)

Compiler, Henry Norwood
508-358-7524 (Wayland)
HankN583@aol.com

Greater Boston (Sun. 12/17/2000)

Compiler, Robert Stymeist
617-926-3603 (Watertown)
rstymeist@juno.com

Greenfield (Sun. 12/31/2000)

Compiler, Mark Fairbrother
413-367 2695 (Montague Center)
mfairbro@k12.nsm.umass.edu

Marshfield (So. Scituate, Marshfield, Duxbury, Gurnet) (Sat. 12/23/2000)

Compilers, Warren Harrington
781-834-3216 (Marshfield)
wharrington@townofmarshfield.org
David Clapp
781-837-9400 (Marshfield)

Martha's Vineyard (Thur. 12/28/2000)

Compiler, Robert Culbert
508-693-4908 (Vineyard Haven)
wrculbert@islanderis.net

Mid-Cape Cod (Tue. 12/26/2000)

Compiler, Peter Trimble
508-477-3847 (Mashpee)
merlin@capecod.net

Millis (Sat. 12/16/2000)

Compiler, Elissa Landre
508-655-2296 (Natick)
elandre@massaudubon.org

Nantucket (Sun. 12/31/2000)

Compiler, Edith Andrews
508-228-9529 (Nantucket)
efa@nantucket.net

New Bedford (Sat. 12/30/2000)

Compiler, Michael Boucher
508-990-3910 (Dartmouth)
britmm@juno.com

Newburyport (Tues. 12/26/2000)

Compiler, Tom Young
603-424-4512 (Merrimack, NH)
tomyoung44@aol.com

**Newport County, RI - Westport, MA
(Sat. 12/16/2000)**

Compiler, David Emerson
508-822-7430 (Taunton)

Northampton (Sun. 12/17/2000)

Compilers, Jan Ortiz
413-549-1768 (Amherst)
jtortiz@aol.com
Mary Alice Wilson
413-548-9078 (Amherst)
mwilson@k12s.phast.umass.edu

Northern Berkshire (Sat. 12/16/2000)

Compiler, Pamela Weatherbee
413-458-3538
pamweath@bcn.net

Plymouth (N.A.)

Compiler, Trevor Lloyd-Evans
508-224-6521 (Manomet)
tlloyd-evans@manomet.org

Quabbin (Sat. 12/30/2000)

Compiler, Scott Sumner
413-253-7486 (Belchertown)
ssurner@aol.com

Quincy (Sat. 12/16/2000)

Compilers, Glenn d'Entremont
781-344-5857 (Stoughton)
gdentremont@juno.com
Patricia O'Neill
617-696-0831 (Milton)
poneill@cpcs1.cpc.state.ma.us

Southern Berkshire (Mon. 1/1/2001)

Compiler, René Laubach
413-637-0320 (Lenox)
berkshires@massaudubon.org

Springfield (Sat. 12/16/2000)

Compiler, Bruce Kindseth
860-745-9593
kindsebr@aol.com

Stellwagen Bank (Sat. 12/16/2000)

Compiler, Simon Perkins
781-259-9506 ext. 7403 (Lincoln)

Sturbridge (Thurs. 12/14/2000)

Compiler, Mark Lynch
508-799-9343 (Worcester)
moalynch@aol.com

Taunton-Middleboro (Sat. 12/30/2000)

Compiler, Russ Titus
508-265-7050 (Stoughton)
rct6@cornell.edu

Truro (Tue. 12/26/2000)

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

Tuckernuck (Fri. 12/29/2000)

Compilers, Simon Perkins
781-259-9506 ext. 7403 (Lincoln)
Richard Veit
718-982-3862 (Staten Isl., NY)

Uxbridge (Sun. 12/31/2000)

Compiler, Richard Hildreth
508-429-5085 (Holliston)

Westminster (Sat. 12/23/2000)

Compiler, John Williams
978-249-7831 (Phillipston)
cwstudio@yahoo.com

Worcester (Sat. 12/16/2000)

Compiler, Francis McMenemy
508-755-3828 (Worcester)

HOT BIRDS

This eclipse male **Garganey** (right) was found by Rick Heil at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Photograph taken through a telescope by David Larson on 8/8/2000.



Twenty-four **Turkey Vultures** (below) was a high total at the Plum Island airport on 9/4/2000. They were squabbling over the remains of one very dead skunk. Photograph taken by David Larson.



This year, **Yellow-nosed Albatrosses** (below) have been sighted at several locations on the east coast, from Virginia to Massachusetts (2 sightings). It is unclear how many of these Pacific birds were present. This incredible photograph was taken by Tonya Toole at Reed's Beach, NJ, on 5/23/2000, using a pocket camera with a 110mm zoom lens.

A summer immature **Great Cormorant** (above) was an unusual sight on Bullough's Pond in Newton in late August, 2000. Photograph by Diana Muir.

For over a week a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** (below) delighted many at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge and Watertown. David Larson shot this image on a foggy morning on 10/2/2000.



POCKET PLACES

Bennett Meadows Wildlife Management Area, Northfield

Vince Yurkunas

The weather was quite mild for New Year's Day in Massachusetts. Bare, brown earth and wizened, dead vegetation surrounded me as I started the millennium birding at Bennett Meadows Wildlife Management Area in Northfield. This spot has quickly become one of my favorite places because of the variety of habitats it offers: swampy wetlands, open cornfields, brushy edges, deciduous woodlands, and open river. A few hours observing here could turn up almost anything!

Proceeding through the northern edge of the cornfield toward the wetlands, I encountered several winter residents. It already was a good winter for Common Redpolls, and several of these finches helped to brighten a dark and overcast morning. Dark-eyed Junco, Cedar Waxwing, American Goldfinch, American Tree Sparrow, and Song Sparrow all were foraging, trying to survive until the spring. Even the Red-tailed Hawk overhead was on the hunt for its daily meal.

Hearing a large flock of blackbirds chattering in the swampy area, I made my way around a wooded peninsula so I might have a clearer look. Before I had a chance to start scanning the blackbirds, a large raptor came barreling out of the woods *directly at me*. I no sooner got my binoculars focused on it when the Peregrine Falcon swung to the left, up and over the cornfield and disappeared beyond the trees at the south end. Wow! What a way to start the year!

Letting the rush of adrenaline die down, I continued walking toward the blackbirds when another hawk came out of the woods from the same direction as the falcon. This bird, though, turned to the right and moved off in a more leisurely fashion over the swamp and adjacent trees. I have never had a better look at a Northern Goshawk as this magnificent forest hawk showed off his blue-gray back and white eye stripe. I could not help but think: What were these two powerful predators doing in the same spot at the same time, and were they aware of each other's presence?

Really pumped up now, I could barely manage to look at the swamp full of blackbirds below me. The redwings I knew were there from their well-known song, but the twenty or so Rusty Blackbirds were an added bonus. This species had always been difficult to locate even during migration, so finding some in winter was quite rewarding.

Leaving this spectacular corner of the cornfield, I turned south along the woods, spotting more familiar birds such as Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, and Pileated Woodpecker. At the southern edge a small area of brush sometimes harbors

Bird Watcher's General Store

Featuring: The Amazing AVIARIUM In-House Window Birdfeeder. One-way mirrored plexiglass allows you to watch the birds for hours but they can't see you!

Come see this exceptional birdfeeder in action.



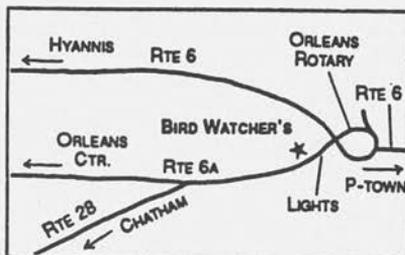
OTHER BIRD-LOVER ITEMS INCLUDE:

- Bird Mugs
- Bird Note Cards
- Bird Carvings
- Bird Field Guides
- Bird Books
- Bird Key Chains
- Bird Jewelry
- Bird Door Knockers
- Bird Telephone
- Bird Houses
- Bird Baths
- Bird Gift Wrap
- Bird T-Shirts
- Bird Photos
- Bird Prints
- Bird Calls
- Bird Recordings
- Bird Potholders
- Bird Towels
- Bird Carving Kits
- Bird Welcome Mats
- Bird Thermometers
- Bird Sun Catchers
- Bird Calendars
- Bird Pillows
- Bird Place Mats
- Bird Mobiles
- Bird Fountains
- Bird Bath Heaters
- Bird Switch Plates
- Bird Puzzles
- Bird Bookmarks

- A complete line of Binoculars, Spotting Scopes and Tripods
- A children's section with birdhouse kits, beginner books, and other fun and educational items

PLUS over 100 different types of bird feeders including Bluejay and Squirrel-proof feeders that work, GUARANTEED, plus ten different types of Bird Seed

GIFT CERTIFICATES & U.P.S. SHIPPING • OPEN YEAR ROUND



Bird Watcher's General Store

36 Route 6A • Orleans, MA 02653

(508) 255-6974

or

1-800-562-1512

"Wet their whistles"™ with animal water products



Look over our environmentally sound selection of baths, founts, drinkers, tanks, drippers, misters, faucets, waterers, water nipples, canteens.

Free Puddles Water Shop catalog.

Free Puddles Water Newsletter.

Web site at <http://petsforum.com/happybird/>

SOLAR SIPPERS cover water; insulated for cool summer water, solar heated against winter ice.

HAPPY BIRD, P.O. 86, Weston, MA 02193 . 781-899-7804

Buying a used VW?
**Complete Pre-purchase
Evaluation
Golf - Jetta - Quantum
\$50.**

**GT Shop
Inc.**

(617) 923-0941

Formerly Coop Garage

We service Nissan, Honda,
Saab, Toyota, VW, Volvo

106 Pleasant Street
Watertown Square

<http://www.stickerU.com>

4.5" x 3" oval screen printed vinyl stickers



shown smaller than actual size

Tell the world what
you love to do.

Let fellow birders
know you're in
the field.

Show your concern for
the natural world.

ONLY \$3 EACH

(ask about volume discounts)

Send check or money order to:

Kave Design
PMB 129

1127-A Washington St.
Weymouth MA 02189

4.5" x 3" oval screen printed vinyl stickers

<http://www.stickerU.com>

Wallace Bailey: The Passing of a Giant

Wayne R. Petersen

I first met Wallace Bailey in 1958 when, as a youth of 14 years, I participated in my first Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) Cape Cod Campout. We were on a boat trip out of Hyannis and Wallace was one of the leaders. I can still remember his imposing size, his oversized 10X60 German binoculars, and his prominence at the bow as the boat plowed through flocks of milling shearwaters off Monomoy. Not only was it my first pelagic trip, it was the first time I'd ever been thrown together with a large group of adult birders, most of whom knew far more about birds than I thought was possible. Wallace's distinctive, high-pitched voice was reeling off the names of distant birds, most of which to me were only dim images in a field guide at the time. "*Cory's Shearwater, settin on the wata!*," announced Wallace in his distinctive Maine accent, the initial proclamation soon followed by a string of field marks that somehow distinguished the subtly-plumaged seabird from all the other shearwaters seen that day. Spellbound, I tried to stick as close as possible to this birding giant with the oversized binoculars in order to glean every nugget possible about seabird field identification during the trip. Fortunately for me, there were plenty of shearwaters that day, as well as jaegers, terns, and tiny phalaropes — all new and unfamiliar to a wide-eyed youth on his first pelagic trip.

On the day that followed, the Campout group headed for Morris Island and Monomoy. I recall seeing my first Cape May Warbler while standing in Wallace's shadow, and later, watching in awe as he deftly picked out the many shorebird species assembled on the vast Monomoy flats that morning. He was like a birding Pied Piper as he strode across the sand, an eager band of followers trailing dutifully behind. During periodic stops, Wallace would graciously point out some distant treasure — a flock of rare Hudsonian Godwits extracting small clams from the sand, a line of drilling dowitchers, and a dancing Wilson's Phalarope — all lifers for a boy whose previous birding experiences had primarily focused on the birds of woodlands and fields near his home. For me, this was the first of a long association and friendship with Wallace Bailey — a friendship punctuated by respect, admiration, and numerous laughs through the years.

Wallace Bailey was born in Bangor, Maine, in 1924, although most of his adolescence was spent in Stoneham, Massachusetts. It was in Stoneham that Wallace discovered birds, and soon his passion for things feathered was exceeded only by his life-long interest in a willowy, out-going brunette named Priscilla Hale — the love of his life who remained his partner until his untimely passing on September 20, 2000. As a young man Wallace worked as a trouble-shooter for Westinghouse Electric — a job for which he was ideally suited given his exceptional creativity and mechanical ability. It was during the Westinghouse years that Wallace began carrying a "little black bird book" — a book that was to be the genesis of his first publication.

Ever creative, it was during the post-World War II years that Wallace decided to purchase a "duck" — an amphibious military surplus vehicle. What better way to reach prime birding areas, such as Crane Beach in Ipswich or Monomoy Island on Cape Cod? With his little black bird book for keeping records and his amphibious

duck to help him reach prime, yet inaccessible birding areas, Wallace began systematically gathering information and records about the status of birds in the Commonwealth. The years following the war were critical in galvanizing Wallace's understanding and appreciation of Massachusetts bird life, and with Priscilla's literary skill as a backup, in 1955 he completed his first publication, *Birds in Massachusetts — When and Where to Find Them*. This modest volume for the first time in the venerable history of Massachusetts ornithology provided Bay State birders with precisely the information they needed in order to put their field observations into an historical context, and guided them in their pursuit of birds throughout the Commonwealth. This book, subsequent publications notwithstanding, is practically as valuable in the year 2000 as it was the day it was published.

Ruth Emery, the original Voice of Audubon at the MAS, described young Wallace Bailey as "always appearing somewhat uneasy and looking too big for his clothes," hardly surprising considering his gangly, 6'6" stature and his sometimes retiring personality. Despite his occasional reticence, Wallace had a marvelous sense of humor and was a gifted field ornithologist whose contributions to Massachusetts ornithology were considerable. In addition to adding Wandering Tattler and Cassin's Kingbird to an already impressive Massachusetts state bird list, Wallace's many discoveries of rare and unusual birds, especially on Cape Cod and at his beloved Monomoy, filled the record books for more than half a century. Besides his birding accomplishments, two additional publications appeared during his tenure at MAS — *Birds of the Cape Cod National Seashore* (1968) and *Monomoy Wilderness* (1972). For many birders active today, however, his discovery that Cape Cod Bay can provide a treasure trove for rare and unusual seabirds following severe northeasterly storms will possibly stand as one of his most enduring legacies.

In 1959 Allen H. Morgan, MAS Executive Vice President, invited Wallace Bailey to assume directorship of the Society's recently acquired Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Wallace's mechanical ability, combined with his passion for coastal birds, made him a natural for the job. Among his most important contributions during those early years on Cape Cod was the establishment of beach buggy wildlife tours (an activity no longer sanctioned by MAS, but perfectly appropriate in their day) on Nauset Beach and Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge. With the development of the beach buggy wildlife tours, many hundreds of people were introduced to Wallace's birding skill, along with the knowledge that he had garnered from years of watching shorebirds on Cape Cod.

Almost as significant as the beach buggy wildlife tours was Wallace's institution of hiring summer interns to run these popular coastal birding trips. Through the years this corps of youthful summer naturalists spawned some of the keenest field ornithologists in New England during the last half century. Familiar names such as Brad Blodget, Richard Forster, Brian Harrington, Rick Heil, Blair Nikula, Kimberly Smith, and Vernon Laux are but a few of Wallace Bailey's alumni. All of these luminaries, including the author, have an immense sense of gratitude to Wallace Bailey for giving them the opportunity to experience Cape Cod during the Golden Years of the 1960s and 1970s, as well as to having been privileged to benefit from his knowledge, guidance, and good humor. Wallace, the birding community salutes you! 🐦

Wetlands, Migratory Birds, and Ecotourism Workshop

David M. Larson

On October 24–25, 2000, a most extraordinary conference was held in Essex County, MA. Approximately eighty representatives from state and federal governments, conservation and environmental organizations, and resorts and reserves met in a concerted effort to advance wetland and migratory bird conservation by engaging academic and regulatory agencies with commercial and local governmental concerns.

The Wetlands, Migratory Birds, & Ecotourism Workshop was organized by the Institute for Wetland Science and Public Policy of the Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM). This workshop was the continuation of a series of meetings that began in 1989 in the Yucatan. The most remarkable aspect of this workshop was its scope – a more ambitious agenda is hard to imagine.

While the ranks of birders, wetland managers, and ecotourism experts increase, loss of wetlands and migratory bird habitats continues at an alarming rate. This conference was designed to connect these groups, fostering mutual support. The goals of the meeting were to help protect and restore migratory birds and wetland habitat, to build networks, to exchange how-to information, to facilitate on-the-ground projects, and to provide a context for follow-up on pressing items, such as the Gulf of Maine initiative.

On Tuesday in Newburyport the conference featured an impassioned and persuasive lecture by Ted Eubanks, President of Fermata, Inc. (www.fermatainc.com). Fermata has been at the forefront of efforts to develop rational, economically-viable conservation initiatives, such as The Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail. Of critical importance, according to Ted, is the development of local initiative and support for an ecotourism/conservation effort. Absent such an agreement, projects are doomed to failure. With agreement, and careful planning and development, both nature and the local economy can prosper.

Bill Gette, from the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Joppa Flats Education Center, continued the program with a discussion of ecotourists, using an encompassing big-tent approach. Like Ted, he emphasized the economic benefits of ecotourism. In contrast, Lisa Mead, Mayor of Newburyport, MA, focused on the costs of conservation and ecotourism, in terms of increased traffic, infrastructure demands, loss of tax base, and friction with local residents. Her lack of data on economic benefits points to a need for better cost-benefit analyses and better outreach from conservation organizations. Indeed, the need to engage the local populace, and the necessity for popular support for conservation initiatives was echoed by many speakers during the workshop.

One of the more engaging speakers of the first day was Anne Galli from the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission. She addressed techniques for

engaging students, teachers, and the community in wetlands conservation using the example of the highly successful Meadowlands restoration project in northern New Jersey, as well as The Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor.

Jim Corven from Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences described the importance and scope of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN). WHSRN is an organization that facilitates and coordinates the designation of critical sites used by shorebirds, collaborative and cooperative interactions between sites, and outreach and informational efforts.

The first day of the workshop finished with a continuation of the address by Ted Eubanks, detailing the benefits of ecotourism to the local economy.

Day two was convened at Castle Hill in Ipswich, MA, and started with a presentation on the nuts-and-bolts of wetland site design by Jon Kusler from ASWM. Jon, one of the organizers of the meeting, spoke about the design of the visitor/wetland interface, including the layout of boardwalks, the location of parking lots, and the importance of toilet facilities.

Following Jon's address, two concurrent sessions addressed "Building Community Partnerships" and "Building International Birding, Wetlands, & Shorebird Networks." In the latter session, Wayne Petersen described the Important Bird Areas Program (IBA) as it relates to Massachusetts, and its importance for bird conservation. Other speakers discussed ecotourism in Cuba, the importance of respect for indigenous peoples in Mexico, and the LakeNet/Monitor International coordination of lake conservation initiatives.

The next session included presentations on a private, for-profit, ecotourism reserve in the Yucatan; on the West Indian Whistling-Duck/Wetlands Conservation project in the Caribbean; and on a variety of case histories of wetland/ecotourism paradigms. Finally, the workshop concluded with an open discussion about how to develop a wetland, migratory bird, and ecotourism plan.

So, were the ambitious goals of this workshop met? Perhaps they were, in part. Undoubtedly all of the participants came away from this meeting with a more comprehensive understanding of the blessings and curses, and the economic benefits and costs of ecotourism as a means to engage local communities and tourists in the preservation of wetlands and migratory birds. The question-and-answer breaks after presentations were arguably more significant than the lectures, with participants commenting on sources of information, websites, paradigms, and pitfalls. On the other hand, the lack of involvement of the business community and citizenry of Newburyport is indicative perhaps of the tension between ecotourism, conservation, and community values and priorities. The fact that the mayor of Newburyport, a city that is highly dependent on tourist income, could not enumerate the benefits of ecotourism says quite a bit about the current state of ecotourism awareness in Massachusetts. 

David M. Larson is the Production Editor for Bird Observer, a veteran meeting attendee, and a rookie journalist. He attended the meeting as a guest of the ASWM.

ABOUT BOOKS

Three Contenders

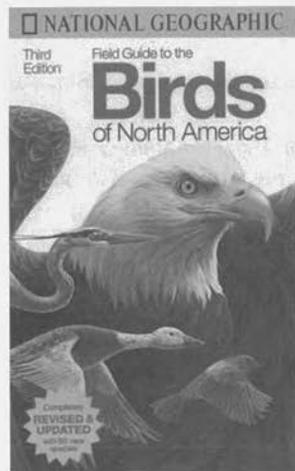
Mark Lynch

Field Guide to the Birds of North America (third edition), written and published by the National Geographic Society. 1999. 480 pages.

Birds of North America. Kenn Kaufman. 2000. Houghton Mifflin. 384 pages.

The Sibley Guide to Birds. David Allen Sibley. 2000. Alfred A. Knopf. 544 pages.

Last year saw the publication of the third edition of the *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* by the National Geographic Society. This was the first field guide in the last two decades that genuinely gave the Peterson "Eastern" a run for its money. It rapidly became very popular with birders soon after it was published in 1983. This is amazing because originally you could not buy this book in any bookstore but had to order it directly from the National Geographic Society. Long-time birders may also remember that for the price of the guide you also received a coffee table book (*The Wonder of Birds*), a wall poster, and a series of good recordings of bird calls on strange floppy records. The guide remains large (5 x 8 x 1.25), meaning you really cannot fit it in your pocket, and making it inconvenient to carry. Shortly after this guide caught on, there was a small cottage industry that produced special pouches that you could attach to your belt just to carry this guide. This guide was written and illustrated by a large staff, often a formula for disaster. So why does this guide remain so popular?



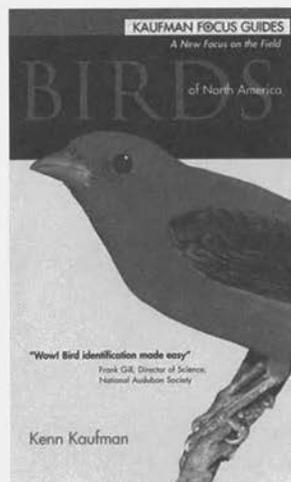
The short answer is that the "National Geo" is a good guide. It is concise, contains most of the birds of North America, and it is organized well, generally along taxonomic lines. It has always tried to stay current and was the first guide that illustrated many of the recognizable subspecies that would later become full species. It is also a very focused guide, its goal only to help the person in the field identify a bird. So there are no long essays on ecology or behavior, just to-the-point descriptions of plumages and similar species. Because of this, it hangs together as a guide despite having been created by a large staff. This is a guide for the serious birder but also good for the beginner.

The illustrations, opposite the text, are clean and well laid out. Because a staff painted these birds, especially in the earlier versions of the guide, some sections were better than others. In the first printing for example, the illustrations of the loons were decidedly off. In

this third edition, many of the plates have been reworked, reorganized, or completely redone. Eighty new species have been added, which I think speaks volumes about the current state of taxonomy and the popularity of birding. Many of the plates look darker and richer in color. I have heard birders comment on the colors being off on some plates, but by and large, the illustrations remain useful and very good. As can be expected with any field guide, some of the plates may seem crowded, but I find none to be confusing, and most look very well organized. An example can be found in the plate on the larger *Pluvialis* plovers (p. 153), which shows them one under the other in the same plumages with a row of the birds in flight above. Even the colors on the range maps have been changed to make them easier to read.

The *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* is a success story in a very difficult field and remains one of the guides you most often see people using while birding.

Kenn Kaufman has really attempted something different in his *Birds of North America*. To begin with, Kaufman wanted to write a guide predominantly for beginners or people with a casual interest in birds, because they are the audience that most uses field guides. He also decided to keep the guide small (4.5 x 7.5 x .75) so that it would be easy to carry on field trips. The book is organized somewhat on taxonomic lines, although he does group ocean and waterbirds like ducks, cormorants, and gulls at the beginning. His species descriptions are to the point but still contain a very personal and evocative tone. About the Great Egret, Kaufman writes: "This elegant wader is our most widespread white egret, often seen standing like a statue along the edges of lakes and marshes" (p. 146).



Throughout this guide are wonderful short introductory essays on the various bird groups that help get the beginner off on the right foot. There is also reassuring advice from a master when needed:

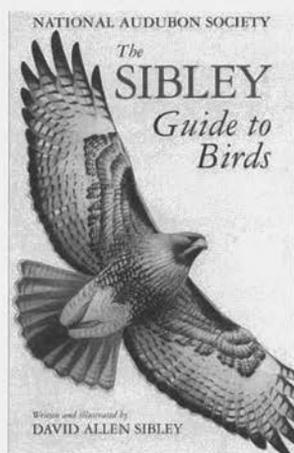
"Don't be discouraged if you can't name all the shorebirds right away. It may take many field trips to learn them all, but even without knowing their names you can enjoy the grace and energy of these subtle birds" (p. 157).

The plates are something different. Kaufman has used photographs, but has completely trimmed them from their backgrounds and has digitally enhanced and altered them to various extents to more clearly show off colors and field marks. This is very much a field guide for the new millennium. The effect takes a little getting used to, because at first glance the birds may appear mounted. The more that I looked at this guide, though, the more I realized that the scheme works. This is the way birds often appear to us *in situ*. Kaufman has also added small dots and lines that clearly point out the cogent field marks. Some of the colors may seem a bit off, but by and large, this is a successful experiment. Because Kaufman has not used the entire

rectangular photo, he can fit more species to a page, allowing this field guide to remain trim. The illustrations are opposite the text, and good, small range maps are included.

Kenn Kaufman has created a fine new field guide for the novice. In his written sections, his personal touches harken back to the earlier field guides of Peterson and Pough, but his illustrations make the most of the latest technology. It's a nice combination. I do not know how to phrase this any other way, but this is a beginner's guide I am not embarrassed to be seen with.

David Allen Sibley has created what will be *the* most talked about birding book of this year. His mammoth *The Sibley Guide to Birds* will make us rethink the future



design and uses of a field guide. For starters, this is a large book: 6.5 x 9.75 x 1.25. It dwarfs the National Geo guide. The pages are organized so that one or two species with text appear per page. The look of every page is spacious and easy on the eyes, even though the number of illustrations can conservatively be called generous. This is because it has been laid out by a visual artist, not just a birder who also does illustrations. The aesthetic look of every page was a concern for David Sibley. Sometimes this generous use of space borders on the profligate, as when he gives an entire huge page to just the Pileated Woodpecker. The Sibley Guide devotes 39 pages to gulls and terns compared with 28 pages in the latest National Geo. A whopping 35 pages are used to show warblers in the Sibley Guide compared with 26

pages in the National Geo guide. The illustrations, all gouaches, are excellent, clear and concise, and well laid out. Nearly all species are shown in flight. Sibley's admiration for artists like Lars Jonsson shows in the richness of his colors and the "jizz" of his birds. I have never seen this quality of illustration in a North American guide before.

The text lives up to the promise of the illustrations. Having the text on the same page as the paintings is brilliant. Although this idea has been used before in guides with photographs and in the Bird Conservancy Guide, here it is used much more effectively. The writing is clear, concise, and covers all the identification bases with up-to-date information on separating similar species. Many more subspecies are shown than in previous guides, although the full scientific names of subspecies is not given. This book is so up to the minute that Gunnison Sage Grouse is given the full treatment. Throughout the text there are short sections on behavioral clues to identification containing much information that will be new to most birders. There is a lot to read and learn here.

Some may argue that because of this book's large size, it cannot be considered a true field guide. This is a good point, and I admit I am not entirely comfortable calling this book a field guide. But the reality is that many birders will already be carrying a copy of this book in the car by the time this review is published, and even

occasionally packing it in backpacks. I groan in anticipation of the latter, but this is just too useful a book to leave at home.

This guide was six years in execution, but many, many years before that in preparation. In my radio interview with David Sibley, he talked about wanting to produce a state-of-the art guide to the birds that the experienced and novice birder would find useful, a book to grow with no matter what your skills. Mission accomplished. 

Mark Lynch is the Book Review Editor of Bird Observer and a teacher and field trip leader for Massachusetts Audubon at Broad Meadow Brook. He is also a teacher and docent at the Worcester Art Museum. The February issue of Bird Observer will contain an informative and entertaining overview of the history of the field guide genre.

A Million Raptors

From Charles Duncan (cduncan@tnc.org) of the Wings of the Americas program of The Nature Conservancy:

Benson Venegas, executive director of ANAI in Costa Rica, has just reported that the hawkwatchers in Talamanca (Jenfer McNicoll & Pablo Porras-Peñaranda) have counted their one-millionth migrating raptor this season!

In the long history of hawkwatching worldwide, there are only two hawk counts that have ever achieved this level. (These are the famous sites at the Veracruz, Mexico [River of Raptors] and at Eilat, Israel.)

This location is in the SE corner of Costa Rica, near the Panama border on the Caribbean coast. Its geographic makeup is similar to that of the now-famous Cardel region of Veracruz — a narrow coastal plain and nearby mountains which squeeze migrating raptors into a tight corridor.

The Talamanca team's accomplishment is all the more stunning for several reasons: this is the first year of counts at Talamanca, they have a tiny and overworked staff, and the season isn't even over yet. Their effort and success are truly Herculean.

Jennifer, Pablo, and their volunteers can be reached at <anaital@sol.racsa.co.cr> or <anaicr@sol.racsa.co.cr>.

News from MassWildlife

Poor Nesting Season for Common Loons

MassWildlife State Ornithologist Brad Blodget reports that common loons experienced another poor nesting season due to a lack of natural nest sites, a lack of nesting rafts, and heavy rains in June. The 22 territorial loon pairs identified on 7 water bodies represented a 3-pair increase over 1999, but nesting success was dismal with only 9 chicks presumed to have fledged.

Quabbin Reservoir, where loons were first discovered nesting in 1975, had a record 13 territorial pairs present during the summer months. Four chicks were produced on the 25 thousand acre man-made reservoir. Blodget believes high water levels, resulting in fewer natural nesting islands, and the effects of June thunderstorms were likely limiting factors for loon reproduction but adds that field checks of Quabbin's loons were sporadic at best, and the exact status of several of the pairs is unknown.

Wachusett Reservoir was home to 4 territorial pairs of loons, 2 of which nested successfully, producing 1 chick each. Persistence was the key to success for one Wachusett pair, which calls the Reservoir's South Bay in Boylston home. According to volunteer observer Fran McMenemy of Worcester, this pair produced a single chick on June 27, only to lose it during a torrential thunderstorm later that day. The pair renested in July, which is very unusual after having already produced a chick from their original attempt, and hatched another chick during the second week of August. Blodget notes that loons often lay a second clutch of eggs if the first eggs are lost during incubation, but the behavior displayed by this pair to lay eggs, hatch a chick, renest, relay and hatch another chick is extremely rare.

Single pairs of loons were present at Bickford Pond in Hubbardston (1 chick), Upper Naukeag Lake in Ashburnham, Wampanoag Lake in Gardner (1 chick), Fitchburg Reservoir in Ashby, and Hycrest Reservoir in Sterling. Blodget also received reports of loons from Haynes Reservoir in Leominster but could not rule out the possibility of these birds being the same ones that attempted to nest at Hycrest Reservoir but dispersed after failing.

Statewide totals revealed 22 territories, 11 confirmed nesting pairs with eggs, 7 pairs that successfully fledged chicks, 9 chicks fledged, and 0.82 chicks fledged per nesting pair.

Peregrine Falcons

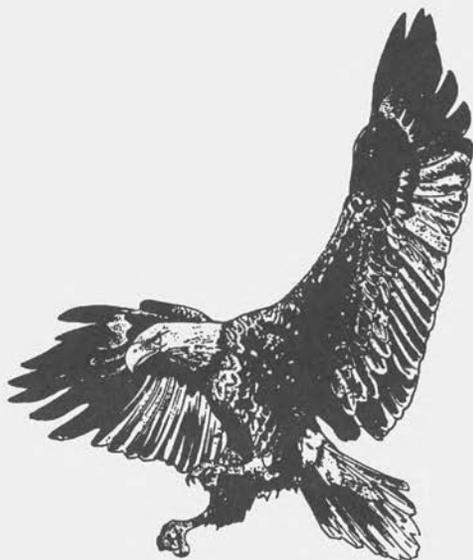
Dr. Tom French, Assistant Director for MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, reports the Commonwealth's 4 nesting pairs of peregrine falcons produced a total of 10 chicks in 2000. The Customs House pair in downtown Boston had 4 chicks while the peregrines nesting on the Christian Science building had 3. The Springfield birds had a single chick while the Fall River pair nesting under the Braga Bridge had 2 young. Worcester hosted a

territorial pair of peregrines late into the season, but actual nesting was never documented.

Two Young Bald Eagles Released

Two young Bald Eagles, hatched and reared by permanently injured adult eagles maintained at the Western Massachusetts Bird of Prey Facility in Conway, were released to the wild in September by their human caregiver, Tom Ricardi. Ricardi has been successfully producing Bald Eagle chicks by pairing up adult eagles that are unable to fly or otherwise survive in the wild. These full-grown offspring were released near the mouth of the Merrimack River in an area rich with fish, waterfowl and waterbirds, all of which figure prominently in an eagle's diet. MassWildlife owns two wildlife sanctuaries, Carr and Ram Islands, as well as Eagle Island, immediately downstream from the release site. DEM's 484 acre Maudslay State Park, with abundant undeveloped river frontage, is located just upstream. MassWildlife biologists believe the young eagles may linger near the release site briefly before moving upriver or north along the coast in search of prey. The birds will wander throughout the northeast for the first four years of their life, staying in areas with seasonally abundant food sources. It is hoped that they will survive and reach maturity at about five years of age, at which time they should return to southern New England to nest, further bolstering the growing resident eagle population that was reestablished by MassWildlife in the 1980s.

Bill Davis, MassWildlife Information Coordinator: bill.davis@state.ma.us



BIRD SIGHTINGS

JULY/AUGUST 2000

Jim Berry, Seth Kellogg, Marjorie Rines, and Robert Stymeist

The weather for July and August was much like that of June, both cooler and wetter than normal. In fact, this was the seventh coolest summer in 65 years in Boston. In July the temperature averaged 70 degrees, 3.5 degrees below normal. On July 8 the low temperature of 55 degrees tied the all-time low for July in Boston set in 1905. August averaged only 70.5 degrees, 1.4 degrees below the average for Boston. This was the first time since 1967 that no temperatures in the 90s were recorded in July or August. Rainfall totaled 5.20 inches in July, which tied 1901 for the 13th-wettest July in 130 years for Boston. The month ended with a full week of daily rain continuing into the first four days of August. Severe thunderstorms on July 18 caused damage in a number of communities west of Boston, and large hailstones of up to 1 ¼ inches were reported from Newton Centre.

R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH ALCIDS

As usual, far fewer Red-throated than Common Loons were seen during the two primary summer months. Two Pied-billed Grebes in Ware on the early date of July 2 suggest breeding; there have been only seven July reports of the species from all of western Massachusetts since 1983. Another surprise was a Red-necked Grebe in breeding plumage in Gloucester in mid-August, far ahead of the species' normal migration time.

The ocean was apparently too cold this summer for Cory's Shearwaters. In contrast to last year's minor incursion, only one was reported from north of Cape Cod. No such problem with the regular shearwater species: the high counts for Greater and Sooties on Stellwagen Bank were, typically, in the thousands, while most of the higher Manx counts were made from shore, in Rockport and Chatham. As many as six **Brown Pelicans** were reported from the islands, but although the species is on the review list of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC), no reports were accompanied by details. Great Cormorants are often seen in small numbers at the end of August, but nine seen on rocky islands off Rockport, both adults and young, were more than usual. Readers are cautioned to examine immature cormorants carefully for size comparisons and throat color, since a few of the immature Double-crested seen on the same islands were white all the way down the front to below the legs, having neither dusky breasts nor dark bellies.

Reports of both bitterns were typically few statewide. A Great Blue Heron colony in West Boxford continued to grow, with 72 active nests in 2000 compared with 61 in 1999, 58 in 1998, and 43 in 1997. Many of these nests have been consistently fledging three or four young. Maximum counts at the evening heron assemblages at Plum Island were 97 Great Egrets and 250 Snowy Egrets, in the latter case a fraction of the historical highs of a decade or two ago. These lower roost counts may be due to the fact that most of the birds are no longer roosting at easily viewable sites. In recent years, there has been a sizeable roost in late summer far out in the salt marsh where the birds are much harder to count. Inland, a Snowy in Longmeadow was one of few reported in recent summers. Westfield hosted its first Little Blue Heron, while a juvenile Tricolored Heron in Rowley at the end of August could have come from the nest found earlier on Kettle Island off Manchester. Cattle Egrets continue their disappearing act, with only two reported from the entire period. Not surprisingly, all Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported from Boston south.

A **Black Vulture** in Haverhill would normally be considered extralimital, but its appearance is less surprising after the species' minor incursion into the northern counties this spring. Four Black Vultures reported in the southwestern corner of the state gave continued hope that they might be nesting in that area. Gadwalls continue their increase as breeders on Plum Island, and there seemed to be more Gadwall broods there this year than Mallard broods – a not unwelcome development. An eclipse-plumaged male **Garganey** on Plum Island (see page 395), arguably the bird of the season, was found, described, photographed, and submitted to the MARC. Present from August 4-11, it presented the usual dilemma of determining its origin. Rick Heil, who found the Garganey, also monitored the doings on the refuge of Green-winged Teal. There were 28 on July 14, with no evidence of nesting; the teal were found only in single digits in the first half of August, after which they increased to 33 on the 17th and 125 on the 18th. This kind of regular checking of the same spots is valuable for determining arrival and departure dates.

Isolated summer records of normally nonbreeding waterfowl are often reported, frequently raising the question of breeding. This summer's odd ducks, all reported without evidence of nesting, included three American Wigeon in Longmeadow (the first in August in western Massachusetts since 1976), a Northern Shoveler at Plum Island, Northern Pintails in three locations, a Common Goldeneye in Turners Falls (only the second summer record for western Massachusetts), a Ring-necked Duck at Delaney WMA, and a Ruddy Duck in Melrose. As for the sea ducks, the usual numbers of scoters (more than usual in the case of White-wings) were reported, plus a single Long-tailed Duck off Plum Island. One species that did give evidence of nesting was the Common Eider: at least three ducklings, about two-thirds grown, were diving with full-grown eiders off Rockport on July 28.

At least six pairs of Ospreys nested on the North Shore, more than ever before. These birds are doing so well filling in the historical gap in their breeding range between southeastern Massachusetts and southern Maine that some of their nesting attempts are not even being reported. A pair of Northern Harriers spent all of July at the Daniel Webster sanctuary in Marshfield, giving hope of nesting there. Meanwhile, a harrier in Hatfield was only the seventh in August in western Massachusetts since 1980. Nesting accipiters are usually Cooper's Hawks, but this summer only single Cooper's were reported, while a nesting pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks fledged three young on a spruce-covered island in the Essex salt marsh. A preliminary check shows this to be the first confirmed nesting of the species in Essex County since 1896. Merlins were clearly moving south through the state in August, which was not true a decade ago. This may be due to their increasing nesting presence in northern New England.

The amazing spread of Wild Turkeys has even reached Plum Island, where a female was seen with two young July 11. As many as ten Northern Bobwhites in West Newbury, including young, were certainly released birds that nested: these families rarely last through the winter. A bobwhite at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge was more of a question mark, showing up at the northern edge of the species' range. The rail event of the summer was an adult **King Rail** with a **downy young** in Orleans July 20 and 23. There are few nesting records for the state over the last century. Virginia Rail nests are more common, but finding them is another story; Stauffer Miller found a nest with eggs in Sandwich in July.

It was a poor shorebird season in western Massachusetts due to high water in the Connecticut River. The only notable report from out west was of two Black-bellied Plovers, which are not regular there. The only rare shorebirds in the east were singles of **Black-necked Stilt**, **Avocet**, and **Ruff**; the latter, seen on Plum Island July 3, was almost certainly the same male seen there at the end of June. Piping Plovers had a poor nesting season everywhere, with a statewide fledge rate of less than one per pair. The situation was especially bad at Crane Beach in

Ipswich, often the most productive colony, where 89 nests produced only 34 young and 12 fledglings. Predation, abandonment, human disturbance, and weather were all thought to have had an impact.

American Oystercatchers put in a rare appearance on Plum Island in early July, while a pair with one large young on Snake Island in Winthrop could have nested there or on one of the nearby Boston Harbor islands. Several shorebirds showed up in larger-than-normal numbers this summer, at least on the North Shore. Willets continue to increase in the Plum Island area, with a count of 114 being the highest yet for the location. Curiously, all were adults, though the species definitely breeds there, probably in the dozens of pairs. Two separate counts of 170 were made in the Chatham area. Low water levels in Grafton enabled 321 Least Sandpipers to find food there, one of the best inland counts in a decade. Two hundred sixty adult White-rumped Sandpipers on Plum Island August 30 were one of the highest counts on record, as were 73 adult Stilt Sandpipers there on August 2. Another 45 Stilt Sandpipers were found on Monomoy. On the other hand, summer counts of Long-billed Dowitchers and Hudsonian Godwits in the Plum Island/Newburyport harbor complex have decreased in recent years.

The other candidate for bird of the season was a **South Polar Skua** photographed on Stellwagen Bank July 17 by Peter Trull. Many records exist for this Antarctic species from waters well offshore from the Massachusetts coast, including a few specimens, but a bird as far inshore as Stellwagen is rare indeed. This bird rather overshadowed another hard-to-find *stercorariid*: two juvenile **Long-tailed Jaegers**, seen and photographed at Atlantis Canyon south of Cape Cod August 27. A third was seen on the same boat trip in Rhode Island waters.

Laughing Gulls can be found by the thousands on Cape Cod, but a count of 600 in Nahant was apparently the second-highest on record for Essex County. A **California Gull**, either a third-summer bird or a worn adult, was documented at South Beach in Chatham July 23 and will be considered by the MARC. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** put on their best show ever in Massachusetts, with a minimum of 80 birds counted in the Chatham area from the end of July through August. The birds were of all ages, but mainly immatures. Only the *graellsii* race could be identified. Larger reports have come from the mid-Atlantic states, but only in winter. Such numbers in summer raise the question of whether the birds have started to nest in North America. The breeding population in Iceland has roughly tripled over the last 30 years, from 10,000 pairs in 1970 to 25-30,000 pairs in 1999, and lately they have started to nest farther west in Greenland.

Two **Gull-billed Terns** were reported from the islands, but the only two Caspian Terns seen were north of Boston. Other rare terns were a **Sandwich Tern** at South Beach, Chatham, and a **Bridled Tern** at Muskeget Island. Most of the Arctic Terns reported from Chatham were first-summer *portlandica* birds. Twice in July, as in June, Black Guillemots in breeding plumage flew by Andrews Point in Rockport, fueling the dream that they might be breeding in Massachusetts. Heil also observed two **Atlantic Puffins** flying by Andrews Point July 26. These were his first there in July, but he has seen puffins there once before in June and twice in August. The hope is that the long-term reintroductions of the birds along the Maine coast are paying dividends. J.B.

Red-throated Loon			8/26	Stellwagen	3	M. Lynch#
7/2-31 Falmouth	2	R. Farrell	8/28	Duxbury B.	2	R. Ferren#
8/2 P.I.	1	MAS (N. Soulette)		Pied-billed Grebe		
Common Loon			7/2	Ware	2 imm	E. Labato
7/2 Falmouth	37	R. Farrell	7/15	Sterling Peat	2	M. Lynch#
7/5 Ashburnham	2	T. Pirro	7/15, 8/5	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale
7/7 P.I.	3	R. Heil	7/31	Hingham	1	M. Taylor#
7/19 Chatham (S.B.)	14	R. Heil	8/15	Longmeadow	1	S. Kellogg
7/22 Quabbin (G33)	2	M. Lynch#		Red-necked Grebe		
7/23 Eastham (Nauset)	24	R. Heil	8/13	Gloucester	1 br pl	R. Heil

Cory's Shearwater				7/29	P.I.	18	P. + F. Vale
8/5 Chatham (S.B.)	3	R. Heil		8/6	Rowley	13	J. Berry#
8/26 Stellwagen	1	M. Lynch#			Great Egret		
8/27 Atlantis Canyon	15+	R. Heil#		7/21	Agawam	1	J. LaPointe
Greater Shearwater				7/22	Longmeadow	2	J. LaPointe
7/5 E. Stellwagen	230	P. Trull		7/23, 8/26	N. Monomoy	4, 22	B. Nikula#
7/8 Gloucester-P'town	670	R. Heil		7/25	E. Boston (B.I.)	9	B. Mayer
7/19 Stellwagen	10,900	P. Trull		7/28	GMNWR	8	S. Perkins
7/24 Chatham (S.B.)	400	B. Nikula		7/28	Squantum	7	R. Donovan
7/26 Gloucester (E.P.)	275	R. Heil		7/28, 8/3	Sheffield	6	D. Reid
7/27 Rockport (A.P.)	110	R. Heil		8/6, 30	Rowley	31, 11	J. Berry#
8/5 Stellwagen	1600	E. Nielsen		8/9	Amherst	2	H. Allen
8/21 Cashes Ledge	28	BBC (S. Perkins)		8/13	Gloucester	11	R. Heil
Sooty Shearwater				8/29	Mattapoisset	6	F. Smith
7/3, 19 Stellwagen	5300, 4790	P. Trull		8/30	P.I.	97	D. Chickering#
7/8 Gloucester-P'town	510	R. Heil			Snowy Egret		
7/24 Chatham (S.B.)	600	B. Nikula		7/4	Newbury	100	J. Berry#
7/26 Gloucester (E.P.)	200	R. Heil		7/9	Squantum	42	G. d'Entremont
7/27 Rockport (A.P.)	24	R. Heil		7/9	E. Boston (B.I.)	60+	S. Zende#
8/5 Chatham (S.B.)	300+	R. Heil		7/11, 8/9	P.I.	85, 250	R. Heil
8/5 Stellwagen	600	E. Nielsen		7/22	Revere B.	10	P. + F. Vale
8/31 Stellwagen	50+	B. Nikula		7/24	Worcester	2 imm	M. Lynch#
Manx Shearwater				8/2	Sterling	1	T. Pirro
7/1 S. Stellwagen	5	G. d'Entremont#		8/6	Rowley	40	J. Berry#
7/8 Gloucester-P'town	22	R. Heil		8/25	Eastham	24	M. Lynch#
7/16 Rockport (A.P.)	23	J. Soucy		8/27	Longmeadow	1	B. Bieda
7/24 Chatham (S.B.)	25+	B. Nikula		8/27	Hingham	33	K. Vespaziani
7/26 Cape Ann	27	R. Heil		8/27	Chatham	20+	M. Lynch#
8/5 Stellwagen	25	E. Nielsen		8/29	Essex	57	D. Brown#
8/5 Chatham (S.B.)	5	R. Heil			Little Blue Heron		
8/21 Cashes Ledge	2	BBC (S. Perkins)		7/28	Sheffield	2	D. Reid
8/31 Stellwagen	3	B. Nikula		7/29	P.I.	1 ad	P. + F. Vale
Large shearwater species				8/5	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	2	R. Lockwood
7/16 P'town	550	B. Nikula		8/7	Essex	1 ad	J. Soucy#
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				8/12	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
7/8 Gloucester-P'town	1700	R. Heil		8/13	Gloucester	7	R. Heil
7/16 P'town	40	B. Nikula		8/18	P.I.	2 ad	R. Heil
7/19 Stellwagen	1600	P. Trull		8/19	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#
7/19 Chatham (S.B.)	1000	R. Heil		8/19-27	Westfield	1	S. Kellogg
7/26 Gloucester (E.P.)	175	R. Heil		8/26	Nauset	1	W. Petersen
7/27 Rockport (A.P.)	140	R. Heil		8/30	Rowley	1 ad	J. Berry
7/28 Chatham (S.B.)	1000	B. Nikula			Tricolored Heron		
7/29 Stellwagen	880	J. Berry#		7/11	P.I.	2	J. Berry
8/21 Cashes Ledge	1200	BBC (S. Perkins)		8/19	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#
8/26 Stellwagen	900+	M. Lynch#		8/20	Essex	1	D. Brown#
Leach's Storm-Petrel				8/30	Rowley	1 juv	J. Berry
7/8 Stellwagen	1	R. Heil		8/2, 4, 9, 30	P.I.	1	R. Heil
8/21 Cashes Ledge	6	BBC (S. Perkins)			Cattle Egret		
Northern Gannet				7/29	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
7/8 Gloucester-P'town	47	R. Heil		8/20	Essex	1	D. Brown#
7/19 Chatham (S.B.)	25	R. Heil			Green Heron		
7/19 Stellwagen	100+	S. Yanco		7/3	W. Bridgewater	3	S. Arena
7/27 Rockport (A.P.)	18	R. Heil		7/14	WBWS	6	D. + S. Larson
8/26 Stellwagen	18	M. Lynch#		7/21	Wayland	11	R. Lockwood
Brown Pelican *				7/23	Longmeadow	12	M. Lynch#
7/18 Vineyard Sound	2	R. Leeson		7/28	GMNWR	4	S. Perkins
7/20 Nantucket	1	H. McGuinness		7/29	P.I.	3	P. + F. Vale
7/22 off Gay Head	3	M. Renehan		7/30	Sterling Peat	5	M. Lynch#
Great Cormorant				8/1-31	Falmouth	3 max	R. Farrell
8/29 Nahant	2 imm	R. Heil		8/15	Craigville B.	6	B. Kunkel
8/31 Cape Ann	9	J. Berry#		8/20, 27	Jamaica Plain (A.A.)	5	A. Joslin
Double-crested Cormorant					Black-crowned Night-Heron		
7/6 S. Hadley	18	H. Allen		7/10	Waltham	4	J. Forbes
7/26 Turners Falls	1	R. Packard		7/11	GMNWR	10	D. Diggins
7/28, 8/31 Cape Ann	500, 3000	J. Berry#		7/22	Gloucester	7	J. Barber
8/1 DWWS	550	D. Furbish		7/24	Worcester	7	M. Lynch#
8/5 Chatham (S.B.)	3500+	R. Heil		7/31	Wayland	15	E. Taylor
American Bittern				8/3	Sheffield	1	D. Reid
7/12 Brookfield	2	T. Rawinski#		8/12	E. Boston	3	P. Vale
7/31 HRWMA	1	T. Pirro		8/16-21	Amherst	1 juv	E. Labato
8/12 Gardner	3	T. Pirro		8/26	Stellwagen	2	M. Lynch#
8/20 Essex	1	D. Brown#		8/29	Longmeadow	2	S. Kellogg
Least Bittern					Yellow-crowned Night-Heron		
7/3 W. Bridgewater	4	S. Arena		7/9	E. Boston	1	D. + I. Jewell
7/24 P.I.	1	M. Lynch#		7/10	Tisbury	1 ad	G. Levandoski
Great Blue Heron				7/14	Eastham	2	D. + S. Larson
7/3 W. Boxford	300+	J. Berry#		7/7, 24	Chappaquiddick	2 ad, 1 ad	A. Keith#
7/28 GMNWR	31	S. Perkins		8/10	Nantucket	2	fide E. Ray

Glossy Ibis				8/19	Rockport (H.P.)	5		M. Lynch#
7/2	Hingham	1	G. d'Entremont	8/28	Duxbury B.	8		R. Ferren#
7/12	Norfolk	8	M. Grzenda	Long-tailed Duck				
7/23	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood	7/7	P.I.	1		R. Heil
7/29	Essex	40	J. Berry	Common Goldeneye				
7/30, 8/26	N. Monomoy	10+, 8	B. Nikula	7/6	Westport	1		R. Bowen
8/5	S. Monomoy	3	B. Nikula#	7/26	Turners Falls	1 f		R. Packard
8/6	E. Boston (B.I.)	6	P. + F. Vale#	Hooded Merganser				
8/15-16	Gardner	1	T. Pirro	7/5	HRWMA	1 m		T. Pirro
8/20	Nahant	1	J. Zanichkowsky#	7/8	Plainfield	1		S. Kellogg
8/29	P.I.	2	S. Hedman	7/15, 8/20	DWWS	1 f		D. Furbish
Black Vulture				7/17	Hawley	1		R. Packard
7/1	Sheffield	4	M. Lynch#	7/28	Pittsfield	1		R. Laubach
7/28	Haverhill	1	J. Hogan#	8/5	P.I.	1		M. Resch
Turkey Vulture				8/12	Sterling Peat	4 imm.		M. Lynch#
7/1	Sheffield	121	M. Lynch#	8/13	Malden	1		P. + F. Vale
7/8	Hawley	7	M. Lynch#	8/25	Northampton	3		R. Packard
7/25	Haverhill	15	J. Hogan#	Red-breasted Merganser				
7/26	Turners Falls	26	R. Packard	7/1-31	Falmouth	1 m		R. Farrell
8/16	Milford	7	D. Moffett	7/4	P.I.	2		R. Heil
8/17	Northampton	27	T. Gagnon	7/10	Duxbury B.	1 f		D. Furbish
8/30	Newbury	24	R. Heil	8/5	S. Monomoy	4		R. Heil
Brant				Common Merganser				
8/26	Stellwagen	8	M. Lynch#	7/13, 8/26	Northampton	7, 10		T. Gagnon
Wood Duck				7/13	Florence	7 imm		T. Gagnon
7/24	Worcester	50	M. Lynch#	7/22	Quabbin (G33)	1 f + 16 yg		M. Lynch#
7/28	GMNWR	60	S. Perkins	8/9	Sunderland	1 f, 5 imm		M. Williams
8/26	Wayland	170	E. Taylor	8/11	Huntington	22		R. Packard
8/26	Longmeadow	98	T. Gagnon	Ruddy Duck				
Gadwall				7/17	Melrose	1		D. + I. Jewell
7/thr	P.I.	84 max	R. Heil	Osprey				
8/5	S. Monomoy	10	R. Heil	7/1	Westboro	pr + 2 yg n		E. Taylor
American Wigeon				7/8	Rowley	pr w 1 yg		J. Berry
8/17	P.I.	1	R. Heil	7/9	Falmouth	4 ad, 4 yg		R. Farrell
8/26	Longmeadow	3	T. Gagnon	7/13, 19	DWWS	2 ad, 3 juv		D. Furbish
Blue-winged Teal				7/28	Squantum	2		R. Donovan
7/7, 8/18	P.I.	2, 47	R. Heil	7/30	Grafton	pr building n		M. Lynch#
8/13	Becket	2	R. Laubach	7/30	Revere	2 ad		P. + F. Vale
8/19	S. Monomoy	30	B. Nikula	8/29	Mt. Wachusett	3		T. Carrollan
8/22	GMNWR	6	S. Perkins	Bald Eagle				
8/28	Duxbury B.	3	R. Ferren#	7/1	Chappaquiddick	2 ad		fide A. Keith
8/29	Longmeadow	3	S. Kellogg	7/5	GMNWR	1 imm		K. Reiner
Northern Shoveler				7/8	Nantucket	1 imm		fide E. Ray
8/18	P.I.	1	R. Heil	7/14	W. Newbury	1 imm.		R. Heil
Northern Pintail				8/5	N. Monomoy	1 imm		B. Nikula#
7/6	Westport	1	R. Bowen	8/5	Chatham	1 imm		R. Heil
8/2, 18	P.I.	1, 3	R. Heil	8/6	Duxbury B.	1 imm		S. Carey
8/19	S. Monomoy	20	B. Nikula	8/6	Turners Falls	1 ad, 1 imm		M. Williams
Garganey (details submitted) *				8/12	Duxbury	1 2yr		D. Furbish
8/4-11	P.I.	1 eclipse m ph	R. Heil + v.o.	8/29	Longmeadow	1		H. Allen
Green-winged Teal				8/17, 20	P.I.	1 imm		R. Heil
7/3	W. Boxford	1	J. Berry#	Northern Harrier				
7/9	GMNWR	9	S. Perkins	7/16	WBWS	3		J. Young
7/14, 8/18	P.I.	28, 125	R. Heil	7/thr	DWWS	pr		D. Furbish
8/6	Northbridge	1	M. Lynch#	8/1	Hatfield	1		M. Williams
8/12	Gardner	4	T. Pirro	8/8	E. Boston (B.I.)	1		A. Joslin
8/19	S. Monomoy	6	B. Nikula	8/16	Duxbury	1		D. Furbish
8/26	HRWMA	5	T. Pirro	8/17	P.I.	7		R. Heil
Ring-necked Duck				8/20	DWWS	4		D. Furbish
7/29	DWMA	1 m 1W	M. Lynch#	8/25	Eastham	1		M. Lynch#
Common Eider				8/26	Cuttyhunk	3 BBC		(R. Stymeist)
7/8	Gloucester	85	R. Heil	8/26	HRWMA	1		T. Pirro
7/8	Provincetown	75	R. Heil	8/27	Chatham	1m		M. Lynch#
7/10	Duxbury B.	28	D. Furbish	Sharp-shinned Hawk				
8/31	P'town Harbor	35	B. Nikula	7/2	S. Quabbin	1 imm		E. Labato
8/31	Cape Ann	280	J. Berry#	7/7-8/4	Essex	pr w 3 yg		J. Berry#
Surf Scoter				7/8	Plainfield	1		S. Kellogg
7/15-30	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula#	7/8	Middlefield	1		B. Nikula
8/31	Cape Ann	5	J. Berry#	7/10	Northampton	1		T. Gagnon
White-winged Scoter				7/25	Savoy	2		R. Rancatti
7/15-30	Chatham (S.B.)	2	v.o.	8/5	Colrain	1		S. Kellogg
8/19	Rockport (H.P.)	4	M. Lynch#	8/8	DWWS	1		D. Furbish
8/20	Lynn B.	100+	J. Zanichkowsky#	8/19	Rockport	1		M. Lynch#
8/28	Duxbury B.	15	R. Ferren#	8/21	P.I.	2 imm		D. + S. Larson
8/31	Cape Ann	19	J. Berry#	8/26	HRWMA	1		T. Pirro
Black Scoter				8/27	Chatham	1		M. Lynch#
7/15-30	Chatham (S.B.)	7	B. Nikula	8/30	Maynard	1		L. Nachtrab
7/27	Rockport (A.P.)	1 m	R. Heil					

Cooper's Hawk				7/14	Eastham (F.H.)	5	D. + S. Larson
7/2	Holden	1 imm.	M. Lynch#	8/17, 20	Mt.A.	1, 1	R. Stymeist
7/4	Rowley	1	J. Berry#	8/26	WBWS	13	M. Lynch#
7/7	Billerica	1	R. Lockwood	8/thr	W. Newbury	10+	R. Heil
7/10	Harvard	1	R. Lockwood	Clapper Rail			
7/13	Florence	1	T. Gagnon	7/7	P.I.	1	R. Heil
7/17	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	7/17	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith#
7/21	GMNWR (Wayland)	1	R. Lockwood	8/8	P.I.	2	D. Larson
7/26	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	8/25-26	Chilmark	1	S. Wakeman
7/thr	Tuckernuck	1 sub ad	R. Veit#	King Rail			
7/thr	DWWS	1	D. Furbish	7/3	W. Bridgewater	2	S. Arena
8/7	Essex	1	J. Soucy#	7/20,23	Orleans	1 ad + 1 yg	R. Heil
8/10	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	Virginia Rail			
8/13	Somerset	1	M. Williams	7/1	Northampton	2	R. Packard
8/13	Duxbury	1 imm	D. Larson	7/1	S. Egremont	5	M. Lynch#
8/20	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	7/3	W. Bridgewater	17	S. Arena
8/28	P.I.	1 imm	C. Buelow	7/9	Worcester	2	M. Lynch#
8/29	Longmeadow	1	H. Allen	7/17	Hawley	2	R. Packard
8/31	Falmouth	1 imm	R. Farrell	7/20	E. Sandwich	pr n	S. Miller
Northern Goshawk				7/29	DWMA	12	M. Lynch#
7/9	Concord	2 + 1 juv	R. Lockwood	7/30	Ipswich	4-5	R. Heil
7/10	E. Middleboro	1 ad	A. Brisette	7/30	Sterling Peat	2	M. Lynch#
7/15	Stow	1	R. Lockwood	8/9	Hadley	2	R. Packard
7/23	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood	8/18	P.I.	1 juv	R. Heil
Red-shouldered Hawk				Sora			
7/1	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	7/3	W. Bridgewater	2	S. Arena
7/24	Weymouth	1	K. Vespaziani	7/11	Worc. (BMB)	2	J. Liller
7/thr	E. Middleboro	pr+2-3 yg	K. Anderson	8/6	Rowley	1	J. Berry#
8/2	Groton	1 imm	T. Pirro	8/18	P.I.	1 ad	R. Heil
8/4	Maynard	1 imm	L. Nachtrab	Black-bellied Plover			
8/8, 16	DWWS	1 imm	D. Furbish	7/30, 8/27	Chatham (S.B.)	450, 2600	B. Nikula
Broad-winged Hawk				7/30	Revere	20	S. Zende#
7/thr	Lincoln	pr n+2 yg	M. Rines#	8/3	Sheffield	2	D. Reid
7/1	S. Berkshires	1	M. Lynch#	8/6	E. Boston (B.I.)	14	P. + F. Vale#
7/3	Quabbin (G10)	2	G. d'Entremont#	8/6	Newbypt. H.	90	E. Nielsen
7/6	Mendon	5	D. Moffett	8/11, 28	Duxbury B.	160, 100	D. Furbish
7/15	Stow	1	R. Lockwood	8/12	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins#
7/23	Maynard	1 ad	L. Nachtrab	8/26	Nauset	600	W. Petersen
8/11	Nahant	1 imm	R. Heil	8/28	Ipswich (C.B.)	25	C. Buelow
8/12	Westport	1	M. Williams	American Golden-Plover			
8/29	Mt. Wachusett	12 ad, 2 imm	T. Carrolan	7/9	Chatham (S.B.)	1	W. Petersen
American Kestrel				7/16	P.I.	2	S. Leonard
8/4	Bedford	15	R. Lockwood	8/8	Newbypt. H.	1	T. Seiter
8/9	Hadley	5	R. Packard	8/25	Westport	2	R. Bowen
Merlin				8/30	P.I.	1 ad	R. Heil
7/1	Southwick	1	J. Weeks#	Semipalmated Plover			
8/3	Marblehead Neck	1	R. Heil	7/15	Sterling Peat	2	M. Lynch#
8/13	Malden	1	F. Vale	7/19, 8/5	Chatham (S.B.)	325, 2100	R. Heil
8/17	P.I.	2	B. Gette#	7/23	Eastham (Nauset)	150	R. Heil
8/20	Essex	2	D. Brown#	7/26	Turners Falls	1	R. Packard
8/25	HRWMA	1	T. Pirro	7/30	Newbypt./P.I.	550	R. Heil
8/25	Melrose	2	D. Lounsbury#	7/30	N. Monomoy	400	B. Nikula
8/27	Watertown	1	E. Nelson-Melby	8/3	Nahant	360	R. Heil
Peregrine Falcon				8/8	Chatham (S.B.)	3100	B. Nikula
7/27	Boston	1 ad	B. Guenther	8/8	E. Boston (B.I.)	600+	A. Joslin
7/31	Springfield	1	M. Williams	8/10, 17	P.I.	545, 215	W. Drew#
8/15	P.I.	1	R. Heil	8/11	Duxbury B.	220	D. Furbish
8/19	Ipswich (C.B.)	1	C. Buelow	8/13	Gloucester	395	R. Heil
8/21	E. Boston (B.I.)	1 imm	D. + S. Larson	8/19	Ipswich (C.B.)	1200	C. Buelow
8/29	Nahant	1	R. Heil	8/26	Nauset	800	W. Petersen
8/30	DWWS	1	D. Furbish#	8/29	Longmeadow	3	S. Kellogg
Ruffed Grouse				Piping Plover			
7/2	S. Quabbin	1 f	E. Labato	7/22	Gloucester	8	J. Barber
7/15	Stow	1	R. Lockwood	7/23	Eastham (Nauset)	24	R. Heil
7/22	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	7/30	P.I.	10	R. Heil
8/20	Quabbin (G5)	1	B. Kane	7/30	Chatham (S.B.)	35	B. Nikula
Wild Turkey				8/3	Nahant	1 ad	R. Heil
7/5	Lancaster	3 + 16 yg	R. Lockwood	8/6	Revere B.	1	P. + F. Vale
7/6	Worc. (BMB)	3	J. Liller	8/11	Duxbury B.	4	D. Furbish
7/6	Concord	1 + 3 yg	R. Lockwood	8/26	Chatham (S.B.)	46	R. Lockwood
7/11	P.I.	1 f + 2 yg	R. Heil	8/26	Ipswich (C.B.)	10	C. Buelow
7/21	Franklin	1 ad + 10 yg	V. Yurkanas	Killdeer			
7/28	Westford	1 f + 2 yg	S. Selesky	7/31	Hadley	126	H. Allen
8/2	Marshfield	3 f	D. Furbish	8/12	GMNWR	105	S. Perkins#
8/15	Leverett	18	H. Allen	8/27	Northampton	147	T. Gagnon
8/15	Whately	3	M. Williams	American Oystercatcher			
Northern Bobwhite				7/3	P.I.	4	J. Hoye#
7/2-15	Falmouth	1 m, 1 f	R. Farrell	7/9	Boston (Peddocks I.)	2	BBC (P. Stevens)

American Oystercatcher (continued)			
7/14	Orleans	1	D. + S. Larson
7/19	Chatham (S.B.)	35	R. Heil
7/30	Winthrop	2 ad, 1 yg	S. Zende#
7/thr	Tuckernuck	8 pr	R. Veit#
7/thr	Muskeget	6 pr	R. Veit#
8/5	N. Monomoy	85	R. Heil
8/6	Squantum	4	H. Raymond
8/13	Swansea	3 ad	M. Williams
8/14	Duxbury B.	1	C. Dalton
8/24	Chatham (S.B.)	125	B. Nikula
8/26	Cuttyhunk	2 BBC	(R. Stymeist)
Black-necked Stilt			
7/1	S. Monomoy	1	P. Kyle#
American Avocet			
8/13-19	P.I.	1	G. Wood + v.o.
Greater Yellowlegs			
7/10	Duxbury B.	23	D. Furbish
7/11, 30	Newbypt./P.I.	41, 130	R. Heil
7/30	Revere	112	S. Zende#
7/30, 8/26	N. Monomoy	200, 325	B. Nikula
8/10, 17	P.I.	30, 62	W. Drew#
8/13	Hadley	1	H. Allen
8/19	Wakefield	3	P. + F. Vale
8/25	Eastham	400+	M. Lynch#
8/28	Duxbury B.	60	R. Ferren#
8/29	Longmeadow	1	H. Allen
Lesser Yellowlegs			
7/2, 30	Newbypt./P.I.	97, 800	R. Heil
7/9, 28	GMNWR	5, 68	S. Perkins
7/9	Chatham (S.B.)	28	W. Petersen
7/22	Rowley	70	J. Berry
7/26	Turners Falls	1	R. Packard
7/30, 8/6	N. Monomoy	220, 120	B. Nikula
8/2	P.I.	225	R. Heil
8/13	Hadley	1	H. Allen
8/26	WBWS	30+	M. Lynch#
Solitary Sandpiper			
7/6	HRWMA	1	T. Pirro
7/15	Rowley	1	P. + F. Vale
7/22	Grafton	9	M. Lynch#
7/25	Cumb. Farms	4	K. Anderson
7/28	GMNWR	6	S. Perkins
8/6	Northbridge	20	M. Lynch#
8/20	Rowe	6	V. Yurkunas
8/27	Shirley	22	R. Lockwood
Willet			
7/5	N. Monomoy	170	B. Nikula
7/8	Nantucket	38	fide E. Ray
7/8	Rowley	14 ad	J. Berry
7/10	Duxbury B.	22	D. Furbish
7/11, 30	Newbypt./P.I.	114, 56	R. Heil
7/19	Chatham (S.B.)	170 ad	R. Heil
7/30	Winthrop	1	S. Zende#
8/17	P.I.	18	R. Heil
8/26	WBWS	11	M. Lynch#
Willet (inortatus)			
7/4	Newbypt.	1	R. Heil
7/7	P.I.	2	R. Heil
Spotted Sandpiper			
7/22	Grafton	13	M. Lynch#
7/25-30	Cumb. Farms	6+	K. Anderson
7/28	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins
7/29	DWMA	6	M. Lynch#
8/6	Northbridge	15	M. Lynch#
8/19	P.I.	4	BBC (D. Oliver)
8/27	Longmeadow	3	B. Bieda
8/31	Cape Ann	5	J. Berry#
Upland Sandpiper			
7/3	Lancaster	3 + 1 juv	R. Lockwood
7/8	Rowley	1	J. Berry
7/18, 8/4	Bedford	8, 14	R. Lockwood#
7/29	Katama	1	G. Daniels
8/7	Edgartown	2	W. Lee
8/17	P.I.	2 juv	R. Heil
Whimbrel			
7/10	Duxbury B.	9	D. Furbish
7/18, 8/3	Newbypt.	5, 20	R. Heil
7/23, 8/6	N. Monomoy	360, 240	B. Nikula#
7/28	DWWS	1	C. Dalton#
7/28	M.V.	1	G. Levandoski
7/28	Squantum	3	R. Donovan
8/6	Dartmouth	2	K. Preston#
8/10	Nantucket	50	fide E. Ray
8/25	Eastham	39	M. Lynch#
8/29	Ipswich (C.B.)	1	C. Buelow
Hudsonian Godwit			
7/2, 30	Newbypt.	2, 10	R. Heil
7/23	N. Monomoy/S.B.	82	R. Heil
7/30	Winthrop	2	S. Zende#
8/8	Chatham (S.B.)	109	B. Nikula
Marbled Godwit			
7/20, 8/26	N. Monomoy	1, 3	B. Nikula
8/25	Eastham	1	M. Lynch#
8/26	WBWS	1	M. Lynch#
Ruddy Turnstone			
7/22	Rowley	1 ad	J. Berry
7/28, 8/31	Cape Ann	6, 90	J. Berry#
7/30	Winthrop	6	S. Zende#
7/30	P.I.	15	R. Heil
8/5	Chatham (S.B.)	350	R. Heil
8/9	Newbypt.	12	MAS (B. Gette)
8/12	Westport	10	M. Williams
8/25	Eastham	180+	M. Lynch#
8/25	Marblehead	12	K. Haley
8/28	Duxbury B.	100	R. Ferren#
8/29	Nahant	56	R. Heil
Red Knot			
7/30, 8/8	Chatham (S.B.)	1200, 1600	B. Nikula
8/6	Newbypt. H.	2	E. Nielsen
8/11	Duxbury B.	500+	D. Furbish
8/19	Ipswich (C.B.)	25	C. Buelow
8/28	GMNWR	1 imm	R. Lockwood
8/29	Nahant	23 juv	R. Heil
8/31	Cape Ann	3	J. Berry#
Sanderling			
7/19, 23	Chatham (S.B.)	850, 3200	R. Heil
7/27	Longmeadow	4	S. Kellogg
7/28	GMNWR	1 ad	S. Perkins
7/30	P.I.	350	R. Heil
8/3, 29	Nahant	900, 2800	R. Heil
8/6	Revere B.	350	P. + F. Vale
8/8, 27	Chatham (S.B.)	2600, 2600	B. Nikula
8/12	Westport	250	M. Williams
8/25	Eastham	600+	M. Lynch#
8/26	Ipswich (C.B.)	1050	C. Buelow
Semipalmated Sandpiper			
7/22	Grafton	19	M. Lynch#
7/23, 8/5	Chatham (S.B.)	1800, 5500	R. Heil
7/23	Eastham (Nauset)	400	R. Heil
7/28	GMNWR	12	S. Perkins
7/30	N. Monomoy	2600	B. Nikula
7/30	Newbypt./P.I.	6300	R. Heil
8/2	Hadley	12	H. Allen
8/3	Nahant	4200+	R. Heil
8/6	Newbypt. H.	5500	E. Nielsen
8/13	Duxbury B.	2000	D. Larson
8/19	S. Monomoy	600	B. Nikula
8/19	Chatham (S.B.)	2800	B. Nikula
8/25	Eastham	2500+	M. Lynch#
8/28	Ipswich (C.B.)	1650	C. Buelow
Western Sandpiper			
7/15	E. Boston	1	R. Heil
7/19, 8/5	Chatham(S.B)	2, 2	R. Heil
7/23	Eastham (Nauset)	2	R. Heil
7/28	Squantum	1	R. Donovan
8/8	Edgartown	2	A. Keith
8/19	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
8/26	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
8/26	Cuttyhunk	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
Least Sandpiper			
7/5, 11	P.I.	60, 230	R. Heil
7/9, 7/28	GMNWR	35, 250	S. Perkins
7/19	Chatham (S.B.)	800	R. Heil
7/20	N. Monomoy	400	B. Nikula
7/22, 8/12	Grafton	321, 149	M. Lynch#

Least Sandpiper (continued)						
7/23	Eastham (Nauset)	200+	R. Heil	American Woodcock	7/6	HRWMA 3 T. Pirro
7/25-30	Cumb. Farms	75	K. Anderson	Wilson's Phalarope	7/5	P.I. 3 R. Heil
8/2	Hadley	44	H. Allen		7/7	Newbury 1 R. Heil
8/19	Ipswich (C.B.)	75	C. Buelow		8/19	S. Monomoy 1 B. Nikula
8/27	Shirley	45	R. Lockwood	Red-necked Phalarope	8/9	Jeffrey's L. 3 MAS (B. Gette)
8/27	Longmeadow	26	B. Bieda		8/20	P.I. 1 G. Colborn
8/29	P.I.	230	W. Drew#		8/21	Cashes Ledge 26 BBC (S. Perkins)
White-rumped Sandpiper					8/24	Eastham 2 S. Hedman
7/7, 30	P.I.	1, 3	R. Heil	Red Phalarope	8/21	Cashes Ledge 6 BBC (S. Perkins)
7/22	Grafton	1	M. Lynch#	South Polar Skua *	7/17	Stellwagen 1 ph P. Trull
7/30, 8/19	Chatham (S.B.)	4, 120	B. Nikula	Pomarine Jaeger	7/1	Nantucket 1 E. Ray
8/6	Newbypt. H.	20	E. Nielsen		7/19	Stellwagen 1 P. Trull
8/6	Rowley	4	J. Berry#		8/17	Gay Head 1 G. Daniels#
8/9	E. Boston (B.I.)	3	G. Wood		8/21	Cashes Ledge 1 BBC (S. Perkins)
8/9	Rockport	4	J. Soucy#		8/31	Stellwagen 2 B. Nikula
8/15, 30	P.I.	36, 260	R. Heil	Parasitic Jaeger	7/19	Stellwagen 1 P. Trull
8/19	S. Monomoy	35	B. Nikula		7/19	Chatham (S.B.) 13 R. Heil
8/23	Nahant	35	R. Heil		7/27	Rockport (A.P.) 2 3S R. Heil
8/26	Nauset	45	W. Petersen		7/28	Chilmark 1 G. Levandoski
8/28	Duxbury B.	25	R. Ferren#		8/6	Gay Head 2 G. Daniels#
Baird's Sandpiper					8/9	Jeffrey's L. 1 MAS (B. Gette)
8/22	GMNWR	1 juv	S. Perkins		8/26	Nauset 1 W. Petersen
8/27	P.I.	2	J. Hoye#		8/26	Stellwagen 4 M. Lynch#
8/28	Rockport	1	M. Flor	Long-tailed Jaeger *	8/27	Atlantis C. 2 juv ph Heil, Petersen, Abbott
Pectoral Sandpiper					Jaeger species	
7/28, 8/12	GMNWR	5, 13	S. Perkins		7/19	Chatham (S.B.) 8+ R. Heil
7/28	Squantum	5	R. Donovan		7/26	Rockport (A.P.) 4 R. Heil
8/7	Chilmark	8	G. Levandoski		8/5	Provincetown(R.P.) 2 R. Heil
8/9	Hadley	2	R. Packard		8/31	Stellwagen 4+ B. Nikula
8/27	Chatham (S.B.)	7	B. Nikula	Laughing Gull	7/16	Rockport (A.P.) 3 J. Soucy
Dunlin					7/19, 8/5	Chatham (S.B.) 2000, 1500 R. Heil
7/5	P.I.	1 br pl	R. Heil		7/23	Eastham 210 R. Heil
7/30, 8/19	Chatham (S.B.)	2, 2	B. Nikula		8/18	Revere B. 4 BBC (P. Vale)
8/5	P.I.	1 br pl	P. + F. Vale		8/22	Lynn 200 J. Quigley
8/6	Newbypt. H.	2	E. Nielsen		8/26	Stellwagen 80+ M. Lynch#
8/26	WBWS	4	M. Lynch#		8/27	P.I. 13 M. Resch
Stilt Sandpiper					8/29	Nahant 600 R. Heil
7/4, 7/30, 8/2	P.I.	1, 7, 73	R. Heil	Little Gull	7/1-29	Chatham (S.B.) 1 1SB. Nikula + v.o.
7/9	Chatham (S.B.)	1	J. Hoye#		7/12	Nantucket 1 1S E. Ray
7/23	Eastham (Nauset)	1	R. Heil	Black-headed Gull	8/10-31	Chatham (S.B.) 2 ad max B. Nikula + v.o.
7/28	Squantum	7	R. Donovan	Bonaparte's Gull	thr	Chatham (S.B.) 30 max B. Nikula#
8/5	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	1	R. Lockwood		7/18	P.I. 115 W. Drew#
8/5	Rowley	4	P. + F. Vale		7/29	Gloucester 24 J. Berry#
8/5, 19	S. Monomoy	45, 18	B. Nikula		7/30	Newbypt. 290 R. Heil
8/7	Chilmark	10	G. Levandoski		8/6	Revere B. 250+ P. + F. Vale
8/9	E. Boston (B.I.)	8	G. Wood		8/12	N. Monomoy 3 J. Barton#
Buff-breasted Sandpiper					8/16	Lynn 1000 J. Quigley
8/8	P.I.	1	D. Larson		8/23	Nahant 900 R. Heil
8/27-31	P.I.	1-4	v.o.		8/31	Cape Ann 100 J. Berry#
Ruff					California Gull (details submitted) *	
7/3	P.I.	1	J. Hoye#		7/23	S.B. 1 3S or worn ad B. Nikula, R. Heil
Short-billed Dowitcher					Lesser Black-backed Gull	
7/7	Newbypt./P.I.	430	R. Heil		7/6	Chatham (S.B.) 3 B. Nikula
7/10, 8/11	Duxbury B.	80, 70	D. Furbish		7/7	P.I. 1 1S R. Heil
7/19, 8/5	Chatham (S.B.)	1800, 1900	R. Heil		7/8	Stellwagen 1 SSBC (D. Clapp)
7/20	N. Monomoy	1800	B. Nikula		7/8	Plymouth 1 1S W. Petersen
7/23	Eastham (Nauset)	1100	R. Heil		7/19	S.B./N. Monomoy 41 R. Heil#
7/30	Revere	380	S. Zende#		7/23	Eastham (Nauset) 1 3S R. Heil
8/8	E. Boston (B.I.)	495	A. Joslin		7/29	S.B./Monomoy 60+ B. Nikula#
8/25	Eastham	280+	M. Lynch#		8/1-31	S.B./N. Mony. 80 max 8/5 B. Nikula, R. Heil
Short-billed Dowitcher (<i>hendersonii</i>)					8/26	Nauset 2 W. Petersen
7/5, 7	P.I.	2, 4	R. Heil	Black-legged Kittiwake	8/13	P'town 1 B. Nikula#
7/10	Duxbury B.	1	D. Furbish		8/21	Cashes Ledge 1 BBC (S. Perkins)
7/19	Chatham (S.B.)	2	R. Heil		8/28	Chatham (S.B.) 1 MAS (J. Nelson)
7/30	Revere	3	S. Zende#			
Long-billed Dowitcher						
7/14, 8/2	P.I.	2, 12 ad	R. Heil			
7/23	Eastham (Nauset)	3 ad	R. Heil			
8/5	S. Monomoy	4 ad	R. Heil			
8/10	P.I.	13	W. Drew#			
8/19	S. Monomoy	3	B. Nikula			
Common Snipe						
7/1	Lenox	1	R. Laubach			
7/28, 8/22	GMNWR	1, 11	S. Perkins			
8/6	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	S. Zende#			
8/6	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale			

Gull-billed Tern *				7/18	Lynn	1	J. Quigley
7/1	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	7/23	Nantucket	1	H. McGuinness
7/8	Edgartown	1	G. Levandoski	8/10-31	Chatham (S.B.)	3 max	v.o.
Caspian Tern				8/22	Chappaquiddick	1	G. Daniels
7/2	Revere B.	1	F. Vale	8/25	Eastham	2	M. Lynch#
8/22	Lynn	1	J. Quigley	8/26	Nauset	1	W. Petersen
Royal Tern				8/28	Duxbury B.	1	R. Ferren#
7/11	Westport	1	R. Bowen	Least Tern			
7/17	Edgartown	1	A. Keith	7/7	P.I.	38	R. Heil
7/19, 23	Chatham (S.B.)	4 ad, 1 ad	R. Heil	7/23	Eastham (Nauset)	250+	R. Heil
7/24, 28, 8/19	Chatham (S.B.)	1, 1, 1	B. Nikula	8/12	Westport	10	M. Williams
Sandwich Tern				8/28	Duxbury B.	15	R. Ferren#
7/6	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula	Bridled Tern (details submitted) *			
Roseate Tern				7/17	Muskeget	1 ad	R. Veit#
7/2	Newbypt.	9 ads	R. Heil	Black Tern			
7/19, 8/5	Chatham (S.B.)	500, 400	R. Heil	7/9	Chatham (S.B.)	2 br pl	J. Hoye#
7/27	Rockport (A.P.)	6	R. Heil	8/5	S. Monomoy	20	R. Heil
8/6	Dartmouth	1	K. Preston#	8/6	Dartmouth	2	K. Preston#
8/8	Chatham (S.B.)	400+	B. Nikula	8/8	Oak Bluffs	2	A. Keith
8/26	Nauset	250	W. Petersen	8/14	Duxbury B.	1	C. Dalton
8/28	Duxbury B.	1	R. Ferren#	8/14	Fairhaven	1	M. LaBossiere
Common Tern				8/14	P.I.	1	R. Heil
7/1	Plymouth B.	50	J. Hoye#	8/19	S. Monomoy	3	B. Nikula
7/5	Newbypt	150	J. Berry	8/21	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
7/23	Chatham	20,000	R. Heil	8/25	Eastham	1	M. Lynch#
7/29	Falmouth	59	R. Farrell	8/26	Ipswich (C.B.)	2	C. Buelow
8/5	Chatham	25,000	R. Heil	Black Skimmer			
8/26	Stellwagen	400+	M. Lynch#	7/1	Plymouth B.	2	J. Hoye#
8/29	Nahant	230	R. Heil	7/6, 24	Chatham (S.B.)	2	B. Nikula
Arctic Tern				7/23	Eastham (Nauset)	1 ad	R. Heil
7/1	Plymouth B.	2	J. Hoye#	7/24	Edgartown	3	A. Keith
7/6, 30	Chatham (S.B.)	40 1S, 60	B. Nikula	Black Guillemot			
7/12	Nantucket	1 ad, 1 juv	E. Ray	7/15	Rockport (A.P.)	1 br pl	J. Soucy
7/17	Stellwagen	2 ad	P. Trull	7/26	Rockport (A.P.)	2 br pl	R. Heil
7/23	Eastham (Nauset)	2 1S	R. Heil	Atlantic Puffin			
8/1-31	Chatham (S.B.)	15 imm max	B. Nikula#	7/1	Nantucket Sound	1	E. Ray#
Forster's Tern				7/26	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil
7/5, 8/17	P.I.	1, 1	R. Heil	Large alcid species			
7/6, 8/27	Westport	1, 40	R. Bowen	7/8	Stellwagen	1	R. Heil

CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

On Tuckernuck Island two pairs of Short-eared Owls were present throughout the period, and two individuals were seen on Nantucket. Although no young birds were noted, there is the hope that these birds succeeded in breeding, and that the species continues as a breeder, albeit rare, in the state. Martha's Vineyard added two new species to its growing list of breeding birds. On July 10, two fledgling Tufted Titmouse were found in West Tisbury, confirming the first breeding record for the island. Another pair of titmice was reported in nearby Chilmark. A pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found on a nest in Chilmark, surprisingly a first breeding record for the Vineyard. Other breeding success is noted among grassland species, indicated by the numbers gathered by Ron Lockwood and friends on two critical properties: Hanscom Field in Bedford and the old Fort Devens property in Lancaster. Notice the positive numbers for Savannah and Grasshopper sparrows and Bobolinks; the numbers of meadowlarks, however, seem to be on the decline.

There is a sharp decrease in reports for both species of cuckoos for the second year in a row. A Lincoln's Sparrow in Windsor in early July indicated possible breeding; the first and only confirmed breeding of this species was in nearby Florida in 1981. In the Middlesex Fells, a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers had reared two broods for the seventh year running. The literature tells us that this species does not double clutch in the northern edge of their range. The Medford birds first fledged on June 6 and again on July 23.

Migration gets underway by mid-August, and one of the more visible indications is the movement of Common Nighthawks. The numbers were down significantly from last year, and veteran nighthawk watcher Tom Gagnon, who has been gathering data from Northampton for

the past 23 years, reported the lowest total this year: 62 percent below average! In Worcester, the folks watching from Notre Dame Cemetery had a significant flight of about 1500 birds on the evening of August 24, but again numbers were down from last year. Generally the trend has been for better numbers to be tallied from the Connecticut River Valley, with decreasing numbers as you get closer to the coast. This year the highest daily total from Northampton was 270, while watchers from Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge reported an all-time daily high of 463 on August 22.

An exciting phenomenon of fall migration is the gathering of Tree Swallows along the coast and especially Plum Island. This year, the numbers were significantly down, with many observers commenting that the sunset swallow shows were lackluster. This past year there was massive spraying for salt marsh mosquitoes; Jim Berry wondered whether the spraying was so effective that the swallows' food supply was drastically reduced and they were forced to go elsewhere. The numbers did improve later in the month, but not approaching the hundreds of thousands in past years.

Purple Martins are regular along the coast, particularly at known breeding areas such as Plum Island and Daniel Webster WS in Marshfield, but they are rare inland, so the report of two in Sheffield on July 1 was significant. Marsh Wrens are also rare in western Massachusetts, due largely to a lack of suitable habitat, so the fact that two were seen in Pittsfield on July 9 was of interest.

Land-bird migration is under way by mid-August, and the keen birder has to divide the time between shore and field to catch those pesky warblers that often try to return south unnoticed. Olive-sided Flycatchers generally move south early and in a short period of time; the report from Orange in late July is interesting — perhaps breeding was not far away. There were as many Golden-winged Warbler reports during this period as in spring, but no reports of possible breeding. A rare visitor was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** which spent four days in Rockport. Only one Worm-eating Warbler was detected and was probably a breeding bird. Other interesting reports include Kentucky Warbler from Marblehead, at least seven migrant Mourning Warblers, and five Yellow-breasted Chats.

Among unusual occurrences was the appearance of a **Blue Grosbeak** in Southwick, which was first noted on June 23, and lingered through July 14. While Blue Grosbeaks are regularly reported during migration, summer records are rare, the only other report being of a singing male summering in Worcester in 1991. There was a scattering of reports of Evening Grosbeaks, a single Pine Siskin, and White-winged Crossbills from around the state. R.H.S.

Black-billed Cuckoo			7/23	Sterling	2	R. Speding
7/13 Windsor	1	H. Allen	7/28	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
7/14 Pittsfield	1	N. Mole	7/29	Wayland	3 juv	F. Cutitta
7/20 Sheffield	1	R. Laubach	8/12	Gardner	2	T. Pirro
7/22 Quabbin (G33)	1	M. Lynch#	8/16	Uxbridge	1	J. Barthel
7/30 E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	Short-eared Owl			
8/8 Leverett	1	H. Allen	7/thr	Tuckermuck	2 prs	R. Veit#
8/9 Becket	1	R. Laubach	7/2	Nantucket	2	S. Langer
8/20 Northampton	1	T. Gagnon	8/19	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
8/21 P.I.	1	D. + S. Larson	8/21	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			Northern Saw-whet Owl			
7/1 Quabbin (G43)	1	B. Kane	7/22	Quabbin (G33)	1	M. Lynch#
7/5 Plymouth (MSSF)	1	K. Anderson	Common Nighthawk			
7/6 Ipswich	1	J. Berry	8/16	Lexington	1	C. Floyd
8/26 Cuttyhunk	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	8/16	Weston	1	G. Ferguson
Eastern Screech-Owl			8/16	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale
thr	Reports of indiv. from 13 locations		8/17, 19	Watertown	12, 40	R. Stymeist
Great Horned Owl			8/20-31	Northampton	1338	T. Gagnon
thr	Reports of indiv. from 7 locations		8/22, 24	Mt.A	463, 174	R. Stymeist#
Barred Owl			8/22, 24	Worcester	205, 1500	M. Lynch#
7/17 Harvard	2	S. Hardy	8/22	Lexington	64	S. Perkins

Common Nighthawk (continued)				7/8	Windsor	4	M. Lynch#
8/24, 30	Maynard	54, 66	L. Nachtrab	7/21	GMNWR (Wayland)	11	R. Lockwood
8/26	Medford	75	A. Joslin	7/24	P.I.	11	M. Lynch#
8/26	Tyngsboro	50	M. Amrich	7/29	Lexington	4	J. Forbes
8/31	Southwick	450	S. Kellogg	7/30	Sterling Peat	6	M. Lynch#
8/31	Beverly	61	G. Leet	8/8	Southwick	2	S. Kellogg
8/31	Pittsfield	355	T. Collins	Least Flycatcher			
Whip-poor-will				7/1	Sheffield	3	M. Lynch#
7/5	Templeton	1	T. Pirro	7/3	Lancaster	2	R. Lockwood
8/27	Ipswich (C.B.)	1	C. Buelow	7/8	Savoy	5	M. Lynch#
8/31	Erving	1	V. Yurkunas	7/22	Quabbin (G33)	5	M. Lynch#
Chuck-will's-widow				8/11	Huntington	4	R. Packard
7/1	Wellfleet	1	R. Stymeist#	8/21	Nahant	2	R. Heil
Chimney Swift				8/26	Lexington	3	M. Rines#
8/11	Nahant	75+	R. Heil	<i>Empidonax</i> species			
8/17	Wakefield	200+	P. + F. Vale	8/29	Nahant	4	R. Heil
8/19	Mendon	20+	D. Moffett	Eastern Phoebe			
8/20	Northbridge	60+	M. Lynch#	8/13	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	16	M. Lynch#
8/24	Worcester	300+	M. Lynch#	8/25	HRWMA	25	T. Pirro
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				Great Crested Flycatcher			
7/8	Savoy	3	M. Lynch#	7/2	Holden	4	M. Lynch#
8/11	Huntington	8	R. Packard	7/2	Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab
8/20	Northampton	9	T. Gagnon	7/2	Hingham	10	G. d'Entremont
thr	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 22 locations			7/6	Ipswich	3	J. Berry
Belted Kingfisher				8/11	Wakefield	4	F. Vale
7/4	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale	8/13	Gloucester	3	R. Heil
7/8	Boxboro	4	J. Michaels	8/26	WBWS	2	M. Lynch#
8/20	Rowe	2	V. Yurkunas	Eastern Kingbird			
8/25	Grafton	4	M. Lynch#	8/2, 18	P.I.	43, 32	R. Heil
Red-bellied Woodpecker				8/19	Rockport (H.P.)	13	M. Lynch#
7/4	Monson	3	M. Lynch#	8/20	Mt. A.	13	R. Stymeist
7/14	Medford	pr n 2nd brood	M. Rines	8/26	Cuttlyhunk	14	BBC (R. Stymeist)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				White-eyed Vireo			
7/1	Gt. Barrington	4	M. Lynch#	7/22	Westport	3	J. Young
7/3	Quabbin (G10)	2	G. d'Entremont#	Blue-headed Vireo			
7/8	HRWMA	1 m ad	T. Pirro	7/4	Monson	3	M. Lynch#
7/21	Erving	1 ad + 2 yg	V. Yurkunas	7/6	Ipswich	2 m	J. Berry
8/11	Huntington	2 imm	R. Packard	7/8	Savoy	6	M. Lynch#
Hairy Woodpecker				7/9	Boxford	2 m	J. Berry
7/6	Ipswich	3	J. Berry	7/22	Quabbin (G33)	9	M. Lynch#
7/29	DWMA	4	M. Lynch#	7/22	Petersham	6	M. Lynch#
8/11	Huntington	3 ad, 3 yg	R. Packard	8/19	Windsor	3	B. Kane
Pileated Woodpecker				8/27	P.I.	1	C. Buelow
7/2	Amesbury	1	L. McDougall	Yellow-throated Vireo			
7/8	Windsor	2	M. Lynch#	7/1	Gt. Barrington	1	M. Lynch#
7/23	Bourne	1	J. Harris	7/1	Ipwich	1	P. + F. Vale
8/3	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	7/4	Monson	3	M. Lynch#
8/11	Huntington	1	R. Packard	7/7	Billerica	1	R. Lockwood
8/30	Petersham	1	B. Lafley	7/9	Boxford	4	J. Berry
Olive-sided Flycatcher				7/10	ONWR	1	R. Lockwood
7/24	Orange	1	R. Coyle	7/29	DWMA	1	M. Lynch#
8/20	HRWMA	1	D. Larson	8/26	Lenox	1	S. Kellogg
8/21	Lexington	1	J. Forbes	8/27	Shirley	1	R. Lockwood
8/26	Cuttlyhunk	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	Warbling Vireo			
8/30	Amherst	1	H. Allen	7/23	Longmeadow	12	M. Lynch#
Eastern Wood-Pewee				8/27	Woburn	8	M. Rines
7/2	Hingham	12	G. d'Entremont	Philadelphia Vireo			
7/2	Holden	12	M. Lynch#	8/15	Leverett	2	H. Allen
7/9	Concord	7	R. Lockwood	Red-eyed Vireo			
7/9	Boxford	5	J. Berry	7/1	S. Berkshires	40	M. Lynch#
7/22	Quabbin (G33)	5	M. Lynch#	7/2	Hingham	13	G. d'Entremont
7/29	DWMA	6	M. Lynch#	7/2	Holden	35	M. Lynch#
8/11	Huntington	9	R. Packard	7/8	Savoy	26	M. Lynch#
8/13	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	19	M. Lynch#	7/8	HRWMA	16	T. Pirro
8/27	Shirley	6	R. Lockwood	7/22	Quabbin (G33)	17	M. Lynch#
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				8/13	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	16	M. Lynch#
8/21	MNWS	1	R. Heil	8/22	Medford	6	M. Rines#
Acadian Flycatcher				Fish Crow			
7/3	W. Quabbin	1	T. Gagnon	7/13	Northampton	3	H. Allen
7/11	Monroe	1	R. Rancatti	7/23	Canton	1	G. d'Entremont
Alder Flycatcher				8/1	DWWS	4	D. Furbish
7/8	Windsor	1	M. Lynch#	8/2	Ipswich	1	J. Berry
8/2	Northampton	2	R. Packard	8/28	Hadley	1	H. Allen
8/11	Huntington	1	R. Packard	Common Raven			
Willow Flycatcher				7/1	Sheffield	3	M. Lynch#
7/2	DWWS	4	D. Furbish	7/4	Southwick	1	M. Lynch#
7/3	Lancaster	3	R. Lockwood	7/4	Monson	1	M. Lynch#
7/4	Wakefield	7	P. + F. Vale	7/8	Hawley Bog	1	M. Lynch#

Common Raven (continued)				8/20	Mt. A.	4	R. Stymeist
8/8	Sunderland	2	M. Williams	8/26	Cuttyhunk	28	BBC (R. Stymeist)
8/28	Groton	2	T. Pirro	8/26	Lexington	8	M. Rines#
Horned Lark				8/27	Woburn	6	M. Rines
8/25	Chatham (S.B.)	8	D. + S. Larson	8/29	Longmeadow	1	H. Allen
Purple Martin				House Wren			
7/1	Sheffield	2	D. Reid	7/2	DWWS	6	D. Furbish
7/22	Westport	1	J. Young	7/2	Hingham	9	D. + S. Larson
7/22	DWWS	30+	E. Taylor	7/2	Holden	7	M. Lynch#
7/24	P.I.	33	M. Lynch#	8/11	Nahant	7	R. Heil
8/25	Chilmark	2	A. Keith	8/26	HRWMA	10+	T. Pirro
Tree Swallow				8/31	Lexington	10	M. Rines
7/30	P.I.	3000	R. Heil	Winter Wren			
8/9, 17	P.I.	7000, 30,000	R. Heil	7/9	Boxford	2	m J. Berry
8/17	Wakefield	200+	P. + F. Vale	7/10	Mt Greylock	4	R. Rancatti
8/26	Shelburne	900	V. Yurkunas	7/13	Lexington	2	m M. Rines
8/26	Stellwagen	2500	M. Lynch#	7/23	Sterling	2	R. Speding
8/26	S. Monomoy	300+	B. Nikula	Marsh Wren			
8/27	Northampton	10000	T. Gagnon	7/3	W. Bridgewater	13	S. Arena
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				7/4	DWWS	3	D. Furbish
7/1	S. Egremont	15	M. Lynch#	7/4	Wakefield	7	P. + F. Vale
7/15	Holden	9	M. Lynch#	7/9	Pittsfield	2	T. Gagnon
7/15	E. Boston	6	R. Heil	7/24	P.I.	23	M. Lynch#
7/23	Eastham	4	R. Heil	7/29	DWMA	6	M. Lynch#
8/27	Wakefield	30	P. + F. Vale	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
Bank Swallow				8/11	Huntington	1	R. Packard
7/3	Southwick	100	G. d'Entremont#	8/11	Burlington	1	R. LaFontaine
7/4	Ipswich	20+	J. Berry#	8/20	Mt. A.	1	R. Stymeist
7/5	Lancaster	26	R. Lockwood	8/20	Nahant	1	F. Vale
7/9	GMNWR	150	S. Perkins	8/20	Woburn	4	M. Rines
7/11	P.I.	125+	R. Heil	8/21	MNWS	2	R. Heil
7/23	Eastham	35	R. Heil	8/22	Medford	1	M. Rines#
8/28	Northampton	1000	H. Allen	8/30	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
Barn Swallow				8/31	P.I.	1	B. Kane
7/30, 8/9	P.I.	200, 400	R. Heil	8/31	Concord	1	M. Rines
8/11	Nahant	90+	R. Heil	Golden-crowned Kinglet			
8/19	Wakefield	250+	P. + F. Vale	7/8	Savoy	7	M. Lynch#
8/20	Northbridge	70+	M. Lynch#	7/26	Essex	4	J. Berry#
8/24	Worcester	150+	M. Lynch#	8/19	Windsor	6	B. Kane
8/27	Chatham	100+	M. Lynch#	Veery			
Cliff Swallow				7/1	Sheffield	12	M. Lynch#
7/1	Essex	1	P. + F. Vale	7/2	Holden	19	M. Lynch#
7/1	Lenox	5	S. Kellogg	7/2	Hingham	27	G. d'Entremont
7/4	Newbury	3-4	J. Berry#	7/3	W. Boxford	5	J. Berry#
7/24	P.I.	2	M. Lynch#	7/4	Monson	6	M. Lynch#
7/26	Colrain	3	H. Allen	7/6	Ipswich	6	J. Berry
8/8	Northfield	6	R. Coyle	7/8	Windsor	8	M. Lynch#
8/8	Whateley	4	M. Williams	7/10	ONWR	5	R. Lockwood
8/22	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith	7/22	Quabbin (G33)	4	M. Lynch#
8/28	Northampton	2	H. Allen	7/25, 8/15	Whately	5, 1	M. Williams
Tufted Titmouse				Swainson's Thrush			
7/10	W. Tisbury	ad + 2 yg	K. Bramball	7/5	Savoy	4	R. Rancatti
7/20	Chilmark	pr	R. Cavanagh	7/11	Monroe	18	R. Rancatti
Red-breasted Nuthatch				Hermit Thrush			
7/2	Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab	7/2	Holden	7	M. Lynch#
7/2	Hingham	2	G. d'Entremont	7/2	Hingham	7	G. d'Entremont
7/4	Monson	6	M. Lynch#	7/6	Ipswich	3	m J. Berry
7/9	Concord	1	R. Lockwood	7/9	Concord	4	R. Lockwood
7/13	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	7/15	Stow	6	R. Lockwood
7/15	Stow	2	R. Lockwood	7/22	Quabbin (G33)	17	M. Lynch#
7/16	Whateley	1	M. Williams	8/13	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	16	M. Lynch#
7/29	DWMA	3	M. Lynch#	Wood Thrush			
8/13	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	10	M. Lynch#	7/1	Milton	15	A. Joslin
8/19	Windsor	5	B. Kane	7/2	Hingham	6	G. d'Entremont
Brown Creeper				7/4	Monson	6	M. Lynch#
7/2	Holden	5	M. Lynch#	7/9	Concord	7	R. Lockwood
7/8	Savoy	3	M. Lynch#	7/11	Worc. (BMB)	9	J. Liller
7/8	Milton	2	G. d'Entremont	7/15	Holden	6	M. Lynch#
7/15	Stow	3	R. Lockwood	8/26	Lexington	2	M. Rines#
7/22	Quabbin (G33)	3	M. Lynch#	Gray Catbird			
8/13	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	3	M. Lynch#	7/1	Sheffield	30	M. Lynch#
Carolina Wren				7/4	Wakefield	29	P. + F. Vale
7/5-8/13	Amherst	1	H. Allen	7/15	Holden	38	M. Lynch#
7/15	Stow	2	R. Lockwood	8/3	P.I.	85	R. Heil
7/19	Worc. (BMB)	5	J. Liller	8/11	Nahant	45	R. Heil
8/3	MNWS	8	R. Heil	8/13	Cape Ann	69	R. Heil
8/9	Sunderland	1	M. Williams	8/13	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	39	M. Lynch#
8/11	Nahant	10	R. Heil	8/26	Cuttyhunk	42	BBC (R. Stymeist)

Brown Thrasher				8/20	HRWMA	1	D. Larson
7/3 Lancaster	2	R. Lockwood			Black-throated Green Warbler		
8/7 Wakefield	7	F. Vale		7/1	S. Berkshires	17	M. Lynch#
8/17 P.I.	18	R. Heil		7/8	Savoy	11	M. Lynch#
8/19 Medford	2	M. Rines		7/9	Boxford	7	J. Berry
8/19 Rockport (H.P.)	2	M. Lynch#		7/18	Hawley	10	R. Rancatti
Cedar Waxwing				7/22	Petersham	10	M. Lynch#
7/8 Savoy	40	M. Lynch#		8/22	MNWS	2	S. Hedman
7/25 Whately	30+	M. Williams		8/23	Medford	2	M. Rines#
8/11 Lenox	100	S. Kellogg		8/26	HRWMA	5+	T. Pirro
8/11 Huntington	61	R. Packard			Blackburnian Warbler		
8/13 Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	56	M. Lynch#		7/8	Windsor	5	M. Lynch#
8/26 Cuttyhunk	45	BBC (R. Stymeist)		7/11	Monroe	11	R. Rancatti
Blue-winged Warbler				7/18	Hawley	11	R. Rancatti
7/4 Monson	4	M. Lynch#		7/19	Savoy	10	R. Rancatti
7/7 Concord	3	M. Rines		8/6	Sunderland	2	M. Williams
8/13 Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	3	M. Lynch#		8/11	Huntington	2	R. Packard
8/17 P.I.	2	R. Heil		8/13	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	4	M. Lynch#
8/18 Medford	2	R. LaFontaine		8/15	Whateley	2+	M. Williams
8/20 MNWS	6	P. + F. Vale		8/19	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale
8/21 Nahant	3	R. Heil		8/20	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist
8/26 Cuttyhunk	3	BBC (R. Stymeist)		8/21	Lexington	1	J. Forbes
Golden-winged Warbler				8/29	MNWS	1	K. Haley
7/2 Erving	1	T. Gagnon			Yellow-throated Warbler		
8/19 P.I.	1	D. Peacock		8/13-16	Rockport	1	R. Heil + v.o.
8/21 Nahant	1 m	R.F. Donovan			Pine Warbler		
8/22 Medford	1 f	M. Rines		7/2	Hingham	22	G. d'Entremont
Nashville Warbler				7/15	Stow	20	R. Lockwood
7/10 Mt Greylock	1	R. Rancatti		8/13	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	50	M. Lynch#
8/19 Windsor	2	B. Kane			Prairie Warbler		
8/22, 27 Medford	1	M. Rines#		7/3	Lancaster	9	R. Lockwood
8/26 Lexington	1	M. Rines#		7/23	Southwick	3	M. Lynch#
8/27 Hingham	1	K. Vespaziani		8/3	MNWS	3	R. Heil
Northern Parula				8/20	Woburn	1	M. Rines
8/19 Windsor	1	B. Kane		8/26	Cuttyhunk	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
8/26 HRWMA	1	T. Pirro		8/29	Nahant	1	R. Heil
8/27 P.I.	1	C. Buelow			Blackpoll Warbler		
8/27 Medford	6	M. Rines#		7/7-12	Mt Greylock	4	R. Rancatti
Yellow Warbler				8/26	Cuttyhunk	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
7/4 Wakefield	17	P. + F. Vale		8/27	Medford	2	M. Rines#
7/24 P.I.	78	M. Lynch#		8/29	Nahant	1	R. Heil
8/11 Nahant	15	R. Heil			Black-and-white Warbler		
8/17 P.I.	32	R. Heil		7/7	Concord	3	M. Rines
Chestnut-sided Warbler				8/13	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	12	M. Lynch#
7/1 S. Berkshires	4	M. Lynch#		8/19	Medford	4	M. Rines
7/2 Holden	24	M. Lynch#		8/19	Rockport	3	M. Lynch#
7/8 Windsor	12	M. Lynch#		8/20	Woburn	3	M. Rines
7/25 Whately	6	M. Williams		8/20	ONWR	5	R. Lockwood
8/13 Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	21	M. Lynch#		8/21	MNWS	19	R. Heil
8/20 Quabbin (G5)	3	B. Kane		8/26	Cuttyhunk	3	BBC (R. Stymeist)
8/20 MNWS	15	P. + F. Vale			American Redstart		
8/22 Medford	6	M. Rines#		7/1	S. Berkshires	16	M. Lynch#
8/26 Lexington	3	P. + F. Vale		7/1	Sheffield	10	M. Lynch#
Magnolia Warbler				7/8	Savoy	6	M. Lynch#
7/8 Windsor	9 ad +3 yg	M. Lynch#		8/9, 20	Woburn	3, 7	M. Rines
8/3, 21 MNWS	1, 5	R. Heil		8/11	Huntington	5	R. Packard
8/13 Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	9	M. Lynch#		8/13	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	13	M. Lynch#
8/18 P.I.	3	R. Heil		8/19	P.I.	7	P. + F. Vale
8/19, 22 Medford	1, 2	M. Rines		8/20	MNWS	18	P. + F. Vale
8/25, 26 HRWMA	1, 2	T. Pirro		8/20	Winchester	7	M. Rines
8/26 Cuttyhunk	5	BBC (R. Stymeist)		8/22	Medford	17	M. Rines#
8/26 Lexington	1	M. Rines#		8/26	Lexington	9	M. Rines#
8/28 Duxbury B.	1	R. Ferren#			Worm-eating Warbler		
Black-throated Blue Warbler				7/1	S. Berkshires	1	M. Lynch#
7/1 S. Berkshires	3	M. Lynch#			Ovenbird		
7/2 Holden	2	M. Lynch#		7/2	Hingham	41	G. d'Entremont
7/25 Savoy	9	R. Rancatti		7/2	Holden	12	M. Lynch#
8/11 Huntington	1	R. Packard		7/4	Monson	11	M. Lynch#
8/13 Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	3	M. Lynch#		7/8	Milton	10	G. d'Entremont
8/26 HRWMA	2	T. Pirro		8/6	Sunderland	2	M. Williams
Yellow-rumped Warbler				8/13	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	2	M. Lynch#
7/1 Gt. Barrington	1	M. Lynch#		8/26	Lexington	1	F. Vale#
7/3 Wakefield	1	F. Vale			Northern Waterthrush		
7/4 Monson	4	M. Lynch#		7/9	Concord	2	R. Lockwood
7/8 Savoy	9	M. Lynch#		8/3, 15	MNWS	2, 8	R. Heil
7/15 Stow	1	R. Lockwood		8/5	P.I.	3	M. Rines#
7/15 Holden	11	M. Lynch#		8/11	Huntington	2	R. Packard
8/13 Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	26	M. Lynch#		8/12	Arlington	2	M. Rines

Northern Waterthrush (continued)				7/15	Stow	1	R. Lockwood
8/20	Woburn	2	M. Rines	7/23	Southwick	5	M. Lynch#
8/29	Nahant	8	R. Heil	7/29	DWMA	2	M. Lynch#
Louisiana Waterthrush				8/6	Turners Falls	3	M. Williams
7/2	S. Quabbin	1	E. Labato	Grasshopper x Song Sparrow			
7/8	Windsor	1	M. Lynch#	7/29	DWMA	1	M. Lynch#
7/20	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow			
Kentucky Warbler				7/2, 8/6	E. Boston (B.I.)	4, 3	P. + F. Vale
8/15	MNWS	1 f	G. Wood	7/4	Newbury	40	J. Berry#
8/21	MNWS	1 f	R. Heil	7/9	Squantum	1	G. d'Entremont
Mourning Warbler				7/20	Nantucket	1 n w/egg	fide E. Ray
7/1	Washington	1	S. Kellogg	7/20	P.I.	15	J. Berry#
7/4	Adams	1	R. Rancatti	7/30	Revere	5	S. Zende#
7/8	Savoy	1	M. Lynch#	8/1	Essex	6	D. Brown#
8/11, 21	Nahant	1, 1	R. Heil	8/5	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	31	R. Lockwood
8/23	N. Truro	1	S. Hedman	8/11	Duxbury B.	2	D. Furbish
8/26	MNWS	2	D. + S. Larson	8/26	WBWS	2	M. Lynch#
8/26	Nahant	2	S. Hedman	8/30	Rowley	2	J. Berry
Common Yellowthroat				Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow			
7/4	Wakefield	27	P. + F. Vale	8/29	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith
7/15	Holden	19	M. Lynch#	Seaside Sparrow			
7/19	Worc. (BMB)	19	J. Liller	7/10	Duxbury B.	7	D. Furbish
7/21	GMNWR (Wayland)	17	R. Lockwood	8/5	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	3	R. Lockwood
8/11	Huntington	18	R. Packard	8/6	Newbypt.	1	R. Lockwood
8/13	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	26	M. Lynch#	8/8	P.I.	1 imm	D. Larson
8/17	P.I.	21	R. Heil	Lincoln's Sparrow			
8/26	Cuttyhunk	30 BBC (R. Stymeist)		7/8	Windsor	1	M. Lynch#
Wilson's Warbler				Swamp Sparrow			
8/8	P.I.	1	W. Scott	7/4	Wakefield	20	P. + F. Vale
8/11, 29	Nahant	1, 3	R. Heil	7/21	GMNWR (Wayland)	15	R. Lockwood
8/11	Huntington	1	R. Packard	7/29	DWMA	19	M. Lynch#
8/20	Woburn	1	M. Rines	White-throated Sparrow			
8/20	MNWS	1	P. + F. Vale	7/1	Brookline	1 ad + 2 yg	H. Wiggin
8/22	Medford	3	M. Rines#	7/8	Savoy	8	M. Lynch#
Canada Warbler				7/8	Windsor	15	M. Lynch#
7/2	S. Quabbin	1	E. Labato	7/22	Quabbin (G33)	6	M. Lynch#
7/8	Savoy	1	M. Lynch#	8/13	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	9	M. Lynch#
8/3, 21	MNWS	1, 6	R. Heil	8/15	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
8/8	Nahant	3	R. Heil	8/30	Petersham	2 imm	B. Lafley
8/13	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	6	M. Lynch#	Dark-eyed Junco			
8/20	ONWR	4	R. Lockwood	7/8	Savoy	4	M. Lynch#
8/26	Lexington	3	P. + F. Vale	7/8	Windsor	1	M. Lynch#
Yellow-breasted Chat				Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
8/17	P.I.	1	R. Heil	7/2	Holden	8	M. Lynch#
8/23	MNWS	1	B. + J. Chiasson	7/4	Monson	6	M. Lynch#
8/28	Rockport	1	S. Hedman	7/11	Worc. (BMB)	5	J. Liller
8/29	Nahant	2	R. Heil	7/19	GMNWR (Wayland)	5	R. Lockwood
Scarlet Tanager				7/23	Longmeadow	5	M. Lynch#
7/1	S. Berkshires	6	M. Lynch#	7/23	ONWR	7	R. Lockwood
7/2	Hingham	6	G. d'Entremont	7/thr	Chilmark	pr n	C. Finnity
7/3	Lancaster	6	R. Lockwood	8/20	Grafton	5	M. Lynch#
7/4	Monson	7	M. Lynch#	8/26	Lexington	5	M. Rines#
7/8	HRWMA	5	T. Pirro	Blue Grosbeak			
7/9	Concord	6	R. Lockwood	7/1-14	Southwick	1 m imm	S. Kellogg + v.o.
7/15	Holden	5	M. Lynch#	Indigo Bunting			
8/19	P.I.	3	P. + F. Vale	7/2	Hingham	3	D. + S. Larson
Eastern Towhee				7/3	Lancaster	5	R. Lockwood
7/2	Hingham	36	G. d'Entremont	7/23	Southwick	4	M. Lynch#
7/15	Stow	22	R. Lockwood	8/2, 28	Groton	7, 14	T. Pirro
7/19	Worc. (BMB)	24	J. Liller	8/12	Carlisle	5 BBC (T. + D. Brownrigg)	
8/26	Cuttyhunk	55 BBC (R. Stymeist)		8/20	Northbridge	13	M. Lynch#
Field Sparrow				8/31	Lexington	6	M. Rines
7/3	Lancaster	10	R. Lockwood	Dickcissel			
7/6, 19	Worc. (BMB)	9, 12	J. Liller	8/25	N. Weymouth	1	T. O'Neil
7/23	Southwick	6	M. Lynch#	Bobolink			
8/15	P.I.	6	R. Heil	7/2, 8/8	DWWS	76, 52	D. Furbish
Vesper Sparrow				7/7	Bedford	25	R. Lockwood#
7/3	Lancaster	4 + 2 juv	R. Lockwood	7/12	Lancaster	86	R. Lockwood
7/4	Monroe	1	R. Rancatti	8/15	P.I.	320+	R. Heil
7/9	Southwick	3	S. Kellogg	8/20	Southwick	65	S. Kellogg
Savannah Sparrow				8/25	Groton	52	T. Pirro
7/9	Worcester	37	M. Lynch#	8/25	HRWMA	22	T. Pirro
7/11	Bedford	99	R. Lockwood#	Eastern Meadowlark			
7/12	Lancaster	12	R. Lockwood	7/3	Lancaster	6	R. Lockwood
Grasshopper Sparrow				7/7	Bedford	8	R. Lockwood#
7/7, 8/4	Bedford	5, 3	R. Lockwood#	Common Grackle			
7/9	Worcester	4	M. Lynch#	8/17	Wakefield	1170+	P. + F. Vale
7/12	Lancaster	43 + 9 juv	R. Lockwood				

Orchard Oriole			7/8	Windsor	5	M. Lynch#
7/1 Medford	1	M. Rines	7/9	Boxford	1 m	J. Berry
7/2 Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	7/16	Whately	1 m	M. Williams
7/4 Weymouth	4	E. Taylor	8/20	P.I.	5	R. Heil
7/4 Newbury	1 m	J. Berry#	8/26	HRWMA	10	T. Pirro
7/5 Woburn	1	M. Rines#		White-winged Crossbill		
7/8 Rowley	1 m, 1 f	R. Lockwood	7/20-8/1	Colrain	12 max	M. Wilson + v.o.
7/11 Arlington	1 m	M. Rines	8/4	Pepperell	2	M. Resch
7/19 Chatham	2	R. Heil	8/17-28	Windsor	20 max	G. LeBaron + v.o.
Baltimore Oriole			8/20	P.I.	1	R. Heil
7/2 Hingham	11	G. d'Entremont	8/21	Ashburnham	2	T. Pirro
7/19 Worc. (BMB)	10	J. Liller	8/26	Tyringham	1	R. Laubach
8/19 P.I.	12	P. + F. Vale	8/28	Becket	1	R. Laubach
8/20 Mt. A.	14	R. Stymeist		Pine Siskin		
8/26 Lexington	11	M. Rines#	7/20	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
Purple Finch				Evening Grosbeak		
7/2 Holden	6	M. Lynch#	7/8	Plainfield	3	S. Kellogg
7/4 Hanson	2	W. Petersen	7/15	Holden	1	M. Lynch#
7/4 Rowley	2	J. Berry#	7/17	Hawley	3	R. Packard
7/6 E. Middleboro	2	K. Anderson	7/18	Savoy	2	R. Rancatti
7/7 Essex	1 m	J. Berry#	8/13	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	1	M. Lynch#

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO BIRD OBSERVER

This publication prints monthly compilations of reports of birds seen in Massachusetts 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, as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Marjorie Rines, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773.

Corrigendum

Blue-headed Vireo			
6/26 Ipswich	pr	J. Berry	
Should read:			
Blue-headed Vireo			
6/26 Ipswich	pr n	J. Berry	

Addenda

Ruddy Turnstone			
6/27 P.I.	1	J. Berry#	
Bonaparte's Gull			
6/30 P.I.	77	J. Berry	
Red-bellied Woodpecker			
6/27 Ipswich	pr n	J. Berry#	
Willow Flycatcher			
6/30 P.I.	11 m	J. Berry	
Yellow-throated Vireo			
6/26 Boxford	2 pr n	J. Berry	
Golden-crowned Kinglet			
6/28 Essex	3-5	J. Berry	

INDEX TO VOLUMES 27 AND 28, 1999 AND 2000

ABOUT THE COVER AND COVER ARTIST

William E. Davis, Jr.

Black-capped Chickadee	27:55
Barry Van Dusen	27:3
Yellow-throated Warbler	27:115
Julie Zickefoose	27:116
Ovenbird	27:167
Barry Van Dusen	27:168
American Avocet	27:221
Paul Donahue	27:223
Merlin	27:291
Barry Van Dusen	27:292
Pine Grosbeak	27:351
Barry Van Dusen	27:352
Mongolian Plover	28:59
Dan Lane	28:60
Wood Duck	28:138
Barry Van Dusen	28:140
Piping Plover	28:215
Rob Gough	28:216
Great Blue Heron	28:275
Barry Van Dusen	28:276
Ruddy Turnstone	28:355
David Sibley	28:356
Western Grebe	28:431
Paul Donohue	28:432

WHERE TO GO BIRDING

BIRDING THE DELANEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Simon and Lisa Hennin 27:21

WORLD'S END RESERVATION, HINGHAM

Kevin Godfrey 27:65

EXPLORING ESTABROOK WOODS

Ron Lockwood 27:125

BIRDING THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY: UXBRIDGE-NORTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Richard W. Hildreth and Strickland Wheelock 27:177

BIRDING THE LOWER EMERALD NECKLACE: JAMAICA POND TO

THE BACK BAY

Robert G. Mayer 27:251

CANOE MEADOWS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

René Laubach 27:325

BLOCK ISLAND, RI

Robert Fox 28:23

BIRDING SPOTS IN CARLISLE, MASSACHUSETTS: GREAT BROOK

FARM STATE PARK AND CRANBERRY BOG CONSERVATION

LANDS

J. Thomas and D'Ann W. Brownrigg 28:83

BIRDING THE MYLES STANDISH STATE FOREST IN PLYMOUTH

Glenn d'Entremont 28:171

BIRDING THE LAKES AND MARSHES OF WAKEFIELD AND LYNNFIELD	<i>David Williams</i>	28:311
DUNBACK MEADOWS AND ADJACENT AREAS, LEXINGTON, MA	<i>Marjorie Rines</i>	28:365

FEATURE ARTICLES

THEY SANG IT THEIR WAY: THE DEVIANT CHICKADEES OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD	<i>Bruce E. Byers and Donald E. Kroodsma</i>	27:4
HE SPANNED TWO ERAS: CHARLES FOSTER BATCHELDER, LAST OF THE "SHOTGUN" ORNITHOLOGISTS	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i>	27:12
A HERMIT THRUSH FORAGING FOR NORTHERN RED-BACKED SALAMANDERS	<i>Frederick Thurber</i>	27:78
MEMORIES OF MERGANSERS	<i>Tudor Richards</i>	27:133
THE CASE OF THE PURLOINED HAWK EGGS	<i>David A. Talman</i>	27:137
SHARING THE EAGLE	<i>Marjorie W. Rines</i>	27:139
NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB: 1999 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: CHARLES BLAKE FUND GRANTS		27:147
<i>BIRD OBSERVER</i> : ON BECOMING A TRULY STATEWIDE JOURNAL		27:150
BIRD BANDING STATION AT THE PARKER RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	<i>Bill Gette</i>	27:189
RED-EYED VIREOS ATTACK THEIR IMAGES	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i>	27:194
SILVICULTURAL OPTIONS FOR MANAGING BIRDS IN NORTHERN HARDWOOD FORESTS IN EXTENSIVELY FORESTED LANDSCAPES	<i>David I. King and Richard M. DeGraaf</i>	27:232
SELFISH GENEROSITY: COOPERATIVE BREEDING IN BIRDS	<i>Marta Hersek</i>	27:241
INTERSPECIFIC HELPING BEHAVIOR: HOUSE SPARROWS AT BALTIMORE ORIOLE AND EASTERN KINGBIRD NESTS	<i>Kenneth Hudson</i>	27:247
IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT J. GOODRICH, 1926-1999		27:300
RESISTING THE NORTH POLE'S PULL, OR, YES, THERE IS (AVIAN) LIFE WEST OF WORCESTER	<i>René Laubach</i>	27:301
BOREAL BIRDS IN NORTHERN BERKSHIRE COUNTY AND WESTERN FRANKLIN COUNTY	<i>Ronald E. Rancatti</i>	27:304
WETLAND SPECIALTIES IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY	<i>David St. James</i>	27:313
CANADIAN ZONE BREEDERS OF CENTRAL BERKSHIRE	<i>Edwin J. Neumuth</i>	27:317
SOUTHERN BIRDS IN SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE COUNTY	<i>Don Reid</i>	27:321
HABITAT RESTORATION AT JOPPA FLATS	<i>Bill Gette</i>	28:5
THE FIRST ANNUAL BIG SIT BY THE RIVER: FOGGY FLATS AND A SEABIRD SURPRISE	<i>Rob Gough</i>	28:8
FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE	<i>Marjorie W. Rines, MARC Secretary</i>	28:11

MONGOLIAN MADNESS: MONGOLIAN PLOVER AT CHARLESTOWN, RHODE ISLAND, JULY 24 - 26, 1999	<i>Linda Ferraresso</i>	28:19
CULTURE AND SEABIRD CONSERVATION WORK TOGETHER ALONG THE NORTH SHORE OF THE GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE	<i>Kathleen A. Blanchard</i>	28:68
STUDYING THE DESIGN OF BIRD REFUGES ALONG THE CONNECTICUT RIVER	<i>Robert J. Craig</i>	28:73
BIRDS AND DIVORCE	<i>William Moskoff</i>	28:76
STATUS OF COMMON LOONS ON SQUAM LAKE IN 1999	<i>Amy Wright and Kate Taylor</i>	28:148
WINTER POPULATION TRENDS OF SIX SPECIES OF SPARROWS	<i>Thomas R. Hamilton</i>	28:154
THE CHANGE IN THE NUMBERS OF WINTERING HOODED MERGANSERS (<i>LOPHODYTES CUCULLATUS</i>) IN NEW ENGLAND	<i>Steve Davis</i>	28:164
BIRDS AND BUILDING A BACKYARD POND	<i>Alan E. Strauss</i>	28:177
MODELING THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGES ON THE SUMMER DISTRIBUTIONS OF MASSACHUSETTS PASSERINES	<i>Jeff Price</i>	28:224
SUNBATHING BY BLACK AND TURKEY VULTURES AND A GREAT WHITE HERON	<i>William E. Davis, Jr. and Jerome A. Jackson</i>	28:231
SEARCHING FOR SEABIRDS IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES: THE JOY OF FINDING PELAGICS INLAND	<i>Mark Lynch</i>	28:237
THE UNCOMMON COMMON THING	<i>Matthew L. Pelikan</i>	28:284
THE OXBOW PHILADELPHIA VIREO	<i>Ron Lockwood</i>	28:291
A SEASON OF PLOVER MONITORING ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD	<i>Greg Levandoski</i>	28:303
SIGNIFICANT RECENT NESTING RECORDS FROM ESSEX COUNTY, PART 1	<i>Jim Berry</i>	28:371
THE WIRED BIRDER: BIRD ALERTS	<i>David M. Larson</i>	28:378
TRICOLORED HERONS AND GREAT EGRET USE DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS AS BEATERS WHILE FORAGING	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i>	28:383
WALLACE BAILEY: THE PASSING OF A GIANT	<i>Wayne R. Petersen</i>	28:400
WETLANDS, MIGRATORY BIRDS, AND ECOTOURISM WORKSHOP	<i>David M. Larson</i>	28:402

REVIEWS AND ABOUT BOOKS: Looking Back

<i>The Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinctions</i> , by David Quammen	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i>	27:30
<i>Check-list of North American Birds: The Species of Birds of North America from the Arctic through Panama, Including</i>		

<i>the West Indies and Hawaiian Islands</i> by The Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union		
	John Kricher	27:82
ABOUT BOOKS: Looking Back		
The Books that Made Me a Birder	Mark Lynch	27:142
My Favorite Bird Books	Brian Cassie	27:198
Books That Made Me a Birder	John Kricher	27:261
Books That Influenced My Life	William E. Davis, Jr.	28:30
E.H. Forbush and Other Treasures	Dorothy R. Arvidson	28:101
Looking Back	Paul M. Roberts	28:195
Looking Back	Wayne R. Petersen	28:252
A Memorial and A Meditation: <i>The Great Auk</i> by Errol Fuller and <i>Hope is the Thing with Feathers: A Personal Chronicle of Vanishing Birds</i> by Christopher Cokinos		
	Mark Lynch	28:329
Three Contenders: <i>Field Guide to the Birds of North America (Third Edition)</i> by National Geographic Soc., <i>Birds of North America</i> by Kenn Kaufman, <i>The Sibley Guide to Birds</i> by David Sibley		
	Mark Lynch	28:404
FIELD NOTES		
Starlings and Tent Caterpillars	Richard W. Hildreth	27:145
On the Farm	Oakes Plimpton	27:146
A Murder of Crows	Marjorie W. Rines	27:200
Red-tailed Hawk Chased Off by Common Nighthawks		
	Aaron Roth	27:264
Observations on a Chukar in Boston	Kenneth Hudson	27:265
Inland Sighting of Black-legged Kittiwakes	Marjorie W. Rines	28:28
A Massachusetts Yellow Rail Experience	Dan Furbish	28:99
Robber Blue Jay	Susan Carlson and David Larson	28:100
An Eastern Bluebird Nest with a Twist	Dan Furbish	28:189
Playing Tag with Osprey	Tod McLeish	28:192
Osprey in Reverse	Geoffrey Wood	28:194
The Subjective Effect of a Desirable Visual Stimulus on Exhaustion: Sighting of a Harris's Sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia querula</i>) in Amherst, Massachusetts 5/14/2000		
	Mark Lynch	28:248
A Tale of Urban Red-tails	Lorraine Kaplan	28:250
South Polar Skua	Peter Trull	28:323
Nocturnal Foraging by Common Nighthawks	Aaron Roth	28:324
Jack the Pelican	Maura J. Amrich	28:325
Ring-billed Gull Piracy of Bufflehead	Mark Lynch	28:391
YOUNG BIRDERS		
Crossbills	Scott Yanco	28:16
Massachusetts Audubon Birdathon of 1999	Joseph Moffett	28:92
Big Day Birding: A Change of Pace	Barrett Lawson	28:180
From Rhode Island	Tom Seiter	28:240
	Peter Capobianco	28:242

Close Encounters of an Avian Kind	<i>Andrew P. Brissette</i>	28:387
The Benefits of Bird Banding	<i>Yelena Samsonenko</i>	28:389

HOT BIRDS

Many of these images are available online via: <http://massbird.org/>

POCKET PLACES

Steele Farm, Boxborough	<i>Judy Bartos</i>	28:183
Wildwood Cemetery and Horn Pond Brook, Winchester	<i>Marjorie W. Rines</i>	28:244
Mattapoissett	<i>Marc Sylvia</i>	28:318
The Old Dump and Vicinity, Northfield, MA	<i>Mark Taylor</i>	28:319
Bennett Meadows Wildlife Management Area, Northfield	<i>Vince Yurkunas</i>	28:396

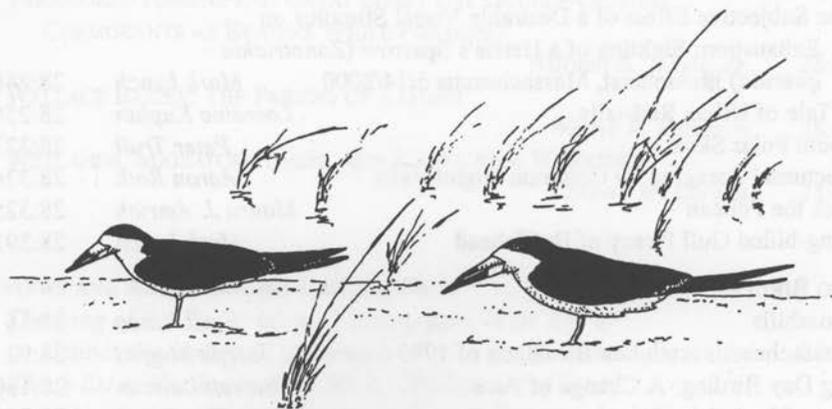
YARD BIRDS

These narratives are available online at: <http://massbird.org/Yardbirds/>

AT A GLANCE

Wayne R. Petersen

Answers only:		
Eastern Wood-Pewee		27:57
Thick-billed Murre		27:117
American Crow		27:169
Baird's Sandpiper		27:224
Common Eider		27:293
Audubon's Shearwater		27:353
Glaucous Gulls and Herring Gull		28:61
Red-tailed Hawk		28:141
Short-eared Owl		28:217
Black-headed Gull		28:277
Black-browed Albatross		28:357
Pectoral Sandpiper		28:433



ABOUT THE COVER

Western Grebe

Western Grebes (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) are rare winter visitors to coastal Massachusetts, but they are spectacular birds and well worth watching for. A genus name that means "spear-bearing" and folk names that include "swan grebe" and "swan-necked hell-diver" suggest that this is a bird worth watching. This large grebe, mostly black above and white below, has a swanlike neck topped by a crested head punctuated with a bright red eye and a long sharp-pointed greenish bill. It is very similar in appearance to its congener the Clark's Grebe (*A. clarkii*), but the Western Grebe has the black crown extending down to include the eye, while the Clark's Grebe sports a white eyebrow. The Clark's Grebe also has a much yellower bill, and in flight shows a more pronounced white wing stripe. The sexes are similar in plumage in the Western Grebe, but females are smaller and have shorter, thinner bills. The taxonomic history of the Western and Clark's grebes is somewhat confusing. Both species were described in 1858, but lumped into a single species, the Western Grebe, by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) in 1886. There they remained, treated as color phases until 1985, when the same august AOU re-split them into separate species on the basis of behavioral differences that suggested reproductive isolation and DNA differences. Thus, the literature for the two species treated them as one for nearly a century, and often the color phase of the birds being studied was not identified. There are currently two subspecies recognized for the Western Grebe.

Western Grebes nest on suitable lakes over most of the western half of the United States and southern Canada. Most migrate to the Pacific coast where they winter from southern British Columbia to central Mexico. A few winter on the Gulf Coast of Texas and on interior lakes. Stragglers reach the East Coast. In Massachusetts there have been apparent flight years, with multiple sightings reported from November through May in 1934-1946 (17 reported), 1946-1947 (a dozen birds reported from Gloucester), and several in 1972-1973, 1979-1980, and 1982-1983.

Western Grebes are gregarious at all seasons and nest in colonies that range from a few pairs to several thousand birds. They are monogamous but will re-nest after nest failure. Suitable breeding habitat requires lakes with extensive open water edged with emergent vegetation. They are nocturnal migrants that arrive at their breeding colony and experience muscle atrophy that leaves them flightless until after a postbreeding molt. Their courtship displays are spectacular and among the most complex ritualized displays known in birds. They defend the territory around their nests, uttering *tuk-tuk* threatening calls, and may make spearing bill-jabs at opponents from under water. Their advertising call is a harsh *cree cree*. Their two most prominent courtship displays are the rushing ceremony and the weed ceremony. In the former they perform a ratchet-pointing display in which they give harsh, ratchet-sounding calls while pointing their bills at their partners, culminating in rushing, where they run across the water, side-by-side, wings lifted, necks arched, heads lowered, and bills pointed forward and slightly upwards. The weed ceremony culminates in weed dancing, the pair facing each other, bodies stretched up and out of the water, bills crossed and

dangling weeds. Interspersed are displays with such exotic descriptive names as dip-shaking, bob-preening, and arch-clucking. Courtship displays often are accompanied by various clucking and trilling calls.

Breeding colonies are in flooded emergent vegetation, with nest sites selected by the male, and with female approval, nest-building is begun by both birds. The nest, which takes 1-3 days to complete, is a solid mound of weeds with a shallow depression, either floating and anchored to emergent vegetation or built up from the lake bottom or a snag. The usual clutch is 3-4 bluish eggs, often stained by the wet vegetation of the nest. Both parents have brood patches and share incubation responsibilities. The eggs hatch in a little more than three weeks. The chicks, within minutes of hatching, climb up under the back feathers of the adult bird. The parents soon leave the nest, and may travel a mile or more, back-brooding the chicks for 2-4 weeks. The fledging period is roughly 9-11 weeks. The young are fed small solid food, mostly aquatic insects, by their parents. They are also fed feathers from the first day. Western Grebes have feather balls in their stomachs that may function to protect the stomach and intestines from fish-bone damage. The chicks can dive and feed themselves after several weeks. The diet of Western Grebe adults is mostly fish that they pursue and capture with spearlike thrusts similar to those of herons and Anhingas.

Western Grebes historically have faced multiple problems of survival. At the turn of the twentieth century, plume hunters slaughtered thousands of Western Grebes for their silky white ventral plumage that was used for hats, capes, and coat trimmings. Large colonies were destroyed. Habitat alteration, especially large drainage for agricultural purposes, has further eliminated colonies, and pesticides have severely impacted others. Human disturbance, e.g., from boats, may cause temporary desertion and result in egg loss to gulls and corvids. They face natural threats as well. Winter kill of fish may produce summer starvation, and storms may destroy entire colonies. Despite these ravages, the North American population has reached more than 100,000 birds, and a winter sighting in coastal Massachusetts remains a thrilling possibility. ↗

William E. Davis, Jr

About the Cover Artist

The work of noted wildlife artist Paul Donahue has appeared many times on the cover of *Bird Observer*. Some of our readers may also have enjoyed the experience of visiting the rain forest canopy walkway at the Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research off the Rio Napo in the Department of Loreto in northeastern Peru. This canopy walkway, the world's longest, is the creation of Paul Donahue and Teresa Wood. Paul can be reached at PO Box 554, Machias, Maine.

The Western Grebe drawing on our cover first appeared in a catalog of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT). *Bird Observer* is grateful for permission from VENT to use this drawing. Founded in 1975, VENT is one of the largest and oldest natural-history tour companies, visiting over a hundred United States and foreign destinations annually. VENT is committed to supporting local conservation organizations and using local drivers and guides at tour destinations. For more information, write VENT at PO Box 33008, Austin, TX 78764, or call 800-328-VENT.

AT A GLANCE

October 2000



Photograph by Wayne R. Petersen

Placing this month's photo quiz bird into its proper order and family should not be difficult for anyone other than a real neophyte. The mystery bird's long legs and long and slender bill, noticeably striped and cryptic plumage pattern, and what appear to be fairly long and tapered wings all suggest that the bird is a shorebird of some type. The large order Charadriiformes is represented in North America by the shorebird families *Jacanidae*, *Haematopodidae*, *Recurvirostridae*, *Charadriidae*, and *Scolopacidae*. Of these five groups, the jacanas, oystercatchers, and stilts and avocets are quite unmistakable and clearly do not resemble the shorebird in the picture. In addition, since none of the North American plover species possess ventral streaking as prominent as those of the mystery shorebird, the bird must belong in the family *Scolopacidae* (sandpipers and their allies).

Knowing that the bird is a sandpiper still leaves more than thirty species, so a further narrowing of the field is desirable. A careful consideration of the list of Massachusetts shorebird species can be a helpful way to begin the elimination process. For example, members of the genus *Tringa* (i.e., yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpipers) are long-legged and slender-looking without heavy ventral streaking. Similarly, Willets, Whimbrels, and godwits are very long-legged and have much

longer bills than does the mystery bird. Spotted Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, Red Knots, and most of the other shorebird species other than peep-sized species, such as Baird's, White-rumped, Western, Semipalmated, and Least sandpipers, lack ventral streaking in all plumages. Dowitchers, woodcocks, and snipes all have very long, straight bills.

Using this approach to narrow down the choices brings the short list to one that includes the Upland Sandpiper, Sanderling, Pectoral Sandpiper, Purple Sandpiper, and Dunlin, in addition to the peep listed above. A look at the leg coloration in the photo, even in black-and-white, suggests that the legs are light in color rather than dark. This critical detail further reduces the options to Upland Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Purple Sandpiper. Upland Sandpiper can at once be eliminated because the pictured bird does not have the long, slender neck, short, straight bill, and the erect carriage of an Upland Sandpiper. Purple Sandpiper, while structurally quite similar to the pictured sandpiper, does not exhibit such a sharply defined streaked breast; instead, its breast appears more evenly gray, usually with streaks running down the flanks and mid-belly.

The only remaining choice is between an adult Least Sandpiper and a Pectoral Sandpiper in any plumage. Although these two species bare a superficial resemblance to one another, the Pectoral Sandpiper is quite a bit larger (8.75 inches compared to 6 inches) and chunkier, and in all plumages has a more distinct band of streaking across the upper and mid-breast than does the Least Sandpiper in alternate (breeding) plumage. Juvenile Least Sandpipers have very fine breast streaks that are confined only to the sides of the upper breast. Also, the streaking on a Pectoral Sandpiper sharply contrasts with the white of the lower breast and belly and does not show the ragged lower edge to the streaking that is often typical of adult Least Sandpipers. And finally, the much longer and heavier bill of a Pectoral Sandpiper is bicolored, typically having a dull yellowish base – a feature just barely discernable in the photograph.

In summary, the pictured shorebird is a Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*), the crisp breast streaking, broadly fringed scapulars, wing coverts, and tertials indicating that the bird is a juvenile. The mystery bird in the picture was photographed in October in Middleborough, MA. Pectoral Sandpipers are locally uncommon to common Bay State migrants in both spring and fall, and they are one of the shorebird species almost as likely to be encountered inland as along the coast. 

Wayne R. Petersen

**Please remember to fill out the reader survey form,
or visit the Bird Observer website at
<http://massbird.org/birdobserver>
to fill out the form online.**

AT A GLANCE

Photograph by David M. Larson



Can you identify this bird?

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

Dear Birders Exchange,

I am contributing \$50 to help other bird lovers. I am a 10 year old birder and I have given to this fund because I get alot of pleasure out of birding and I know many more people could with the right equipment.

Sincerely

David Allen



From Tiny Acorns Mighty Oak Trees Grow: Birders' Exchange



The season for giving knows no bounds.

Please join David in supporting Birders' Exchange with a contribution; our successes depend on you.

Warmest holiday wishes to all,

Betty Petersen
Birders' Exchange Program Director
508-224-6521; bpetersen@manoment.org

BIRD OBSERVER (USPS 369-850)
P.O. BOX 236
ARLINGTON, MA 02476-0003

SECOND CLASS
POSTAGE PAID
AT
BOSTON, MA

xxx

CONTENTS

DUNBACK MEADOW AND ADJACENT AREAS, LEXINGTON, MA	
	<i>Marjorie Rines</i> 365
SIGNIFICANT RECENT NESTING RECORDS FROM ESSEX COUNTY, PART 1	
	<i>Jim Berry</i> 371
THE WIRED BIRDER	
Bird Alerts	<i>David M. Larson</i> 378
TRICOLORED HERONS AND GREAT EGRETS USE DOUBLE-CRESTED	
CORMORANTS AS BEATERS WHILE FORAGING	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i> 383
YARD BIRDS	386
YOUNG BIRDERS	
Close Encounters of an Avian Kind	<i>Andrew P. Brissette</i> 387
The Benefits of Bird Banding	<i>Yelena Samsonenko</i> 389
FIELD NOTES	
Ring-billed Gull Piracy of Bufflehead	<i>Mark Lynch</i> 391
101ST CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	393
HOT BIRDS	395
POCKET PLACES	
Bennett Meadows Wildlife Management Area, Northfield	
	<i>Vince Yurkunas</i> 396
WALLACE BAILEY: THE PASSING OF A GIANT	<i>Wayne R. Petersen</i> 400
WETLANDS, MIGRATORY BIRDS, AND ECOTOURISM WORKSHOP	
	<i>David M. Larson</i> 402
ABOUT BOOKS:	
Three Contenders: <i>Field Guide to the Birds of North America</i> (Third Edition) by National Geographic Soc., <i>Birds of North America</i> by Kenn Kaufman, <i>The Sibley Guide to Birds</i> by David Sibley	
	<i>Mark Lynch</i> 404
BIRD SIGHTINGS: July/August 2000 Summary	410
INDEX TO VOLUMES 27 AND 28, 1999, AND 2000	426
ABOUT THE COVER: Western Grebe	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i> 431
ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Paul Donahue	432
AT A GLANCE	<i>Wayne R. Petersen</i> 433
