

Bird Observer

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HOT BIRDS



The leucistic juvenile eastern **Willet** (left) was photographed on North Monomoy Island, Chatham, on July 26, 2004, by Blair Nikula. While not fitting the usual definition of a Hot Bird, it certainly is a cool bird! © 2004 Blair Nikula.

Speaking of cool birds, this leucistic **Dunlin** (right) was photographed in October 2001 at First Encounter Beach, Eastham, by Richard Johnson. Maybe it's something in the water on the Cape.



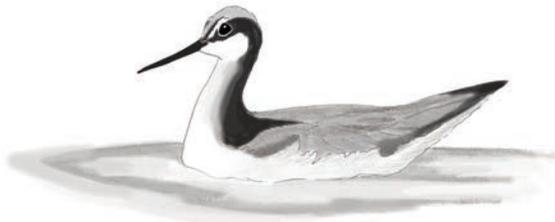
Richard Johnson also captured this photograph of a stunning **American Avocet** (left) at Third Beach in Middleton, Rhode Island, on July 29.

Edie Ray got her first successful digiscoped photograph with her new camera, capturing this **Sandwich Tern** (right) at Smith Point on Nantucket on July 23.



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WILSON'S PHALAROPE BY GEORGE C. WEST



Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal — to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds
VOL. 32, NO. 4 AUGUST 2004

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Watching Nighthawks in the Blackstone National Corridor

Mark Lynch

Perhaps no other regular and spectacular avian migration is as poorly understood as the fall movements of Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor minor*) in Massachusetts. Every year, thousands of these typically nocturnal birds pass through selected areas of our state in daylight, but only a few persistent birders ever make systematic counts. To date, “nighthawk watching” does not have the cachet or the crowds of hawk watching, but that may change in the future. In this short article, I will describe some of what has been learned of nighthawk movements in the Blackstone National Corridor.



About the Blackstone National Corridor

The Blackstone River flows southeast from its headwaters in Worcester to Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Here, it broadens and becomes the Seekonk River between Providence and East Providence, and eventually empties into the Providence River at India Point. The Blackstone River has a long and typically sad history of environmental abuse by European settlers in New England. Most surprising, a forty-five-mile long canal was constructed and finished in 1828 connecting Worcester and Providence. This canal was meant to speed up the shipment of goods between the two cities via horse-drawn barges, but with minimally forty-five locks (some say the number was closer to sixty-two), it was a long and arduous process. The canal lasted only a short time, when it was made obsolete by the Worcester-Providence railroad. Today, you can still hike along miles of sections of the towpath that separate the canal from the river.

Numerous dams were built to harness the river's energy for the many mills that rapidly sprang up along its length. The American Industrial Revolution began along the banks of the Blackstone at Slater's Mill in Pawtucket in 1793, when Samuel Slater opened a mill using mechanical spinning machines. It will come as no surprise that the end result of all this industrialization along the river's banks was that the Blackstone became notoriously polluted and was considered a health hazard at the turn of the twentieth century.

The good news is that, with the passage of the Clean Water Act in the 1970s, combined with many local efforts to create parkland and clean up the river, the Blackstone is recovering slowly but surely. These efforts culminated in 1986, when the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor was established by Congress "to preserve and interpret the significant historic and cultural lands, waterways and structures and pursue park development along the River and to coordinate a valleywide land use strategy." It is 250,000 acres in area and contains

some sections that are not actually part of the watershed. Then again, some areas of the watershed are not part of the "Corridor." Massachusetts towns in the Corridor are Worcester, Leicester, Grafton, Millbury, Uxbridge, Millville, Northbridge, Blackstone, Upton, Mendon, Hopedale, and Douglas. Rhode Island towns in the Corridor are Burrillville, Glocester, Cumberland, Woonsocket, North Smithfield, Smithfield, Lincoln, and small sections of Providence and East Providence. The Federal Government does not own or manage the land; instead, people, businesses, nonprofit historic organizations, twenty-four local and two state governments, the National Park Service, and a unifying commission work together to protect the Corridor. The Corridor offers numerous opportunities for environmental education and makes an interesting ornithological study area. The Massachusetts Audubon Society at Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester is one of the key organizations spearheading these efforts.

Nighthawk Movements in Massachusetts

The subspecies of the Common Nighthawk that breeds in and migrates through Massachusetts is *C. m. minor*. This subspecies breeds from British Columbia and northwestern Washington east across Canada to sections of the Midwest, the mid-Atlantic states, and New England. In fall, the nighthawks migrate to South America east of the Andes, as far south as Buenos Aires, Argentina. Interior birds may migrate through Central America, but some eastern populations use "transoceanic routes" (Cleere, p. 167). For example, nighthawks are common autumn migrants in Bermuda.

Spring migration of nighthawks is never as concentrated or as well observed as fall migration. Most birds in spring pass through undetected in May and early June (Veit and Petersen, p. 273). By far, most spring sightings are in single-digit numbers, although uncommonly larger flocks have been noted, as on May 17, 1974, when 356 were seen in Squantum by Brown (Veit and Petersen, p. 273).

In Massachusetts, fall nighthawk migration typically occurs between mid-August and mid-September, with peak numbers migrating during the last week of August and the first week of September, when an early evening count may range from a hundred to over one thousand birds if you are in a prime spot. Veit and Petersen note "the largest numbers are always seen in the Connecticut River Valley, with counts decreasing steadily eastward" (p. 274). Observers like Seth Kellogg in Southwick and Tom Gagnon in Northampton have historically reported some of the highest counts in the state from the valley. The Berkshires occasionally also records good numbers of southbound birds. One of the highest recent counts from the Berkshires occurred on August 31, 2000, when Tom Collins reported 355 over Pittsfield. Fall tallies east of Worcester County are spottily reported, but can be rather high. Bob Stymeist has noted a number of decent flights of nighthawks in the Greater Boston area. One example is Bob's report of 2006 nighthawks migrating over Brookline between August 20 and September 7 in 1983. Other observers in the Greater Boston/Metro West area have also on occasion noted double-digit or higher flight totals. Typically, those areas around the Concord River watershed have been the most consistently productive. In the last decade Linda Nachtrab has several times reported nighthawks in the triple digits in Maynard (*Bird Observer*).

It is interesting to note that dramatic fall nighthawk movements are very rare and almost absent from most areas of Southeastern Massachusetts, especially the coastal plain, Cape Cod, and the islands. Here, the very infrequent fall nighthawk reports are of lone birds or small flocks in the single digits. On September 1, 1996, Erik Nielsen reported more than 4500 nighthawks from Norwood, certainly the largest count in recent years from anywhere even close to the area known as the South Shore. Reports of sizable flocks of nighthawks from the coast of the North Shore are uncommon. Three of the most significant recent reports from Essex County as reported to *Bird Observer* are September 2, 1990, when more than 60 were seen over Plum Island (Jim Berry); August 25, 1992, when 124 were seen in Haverhill (Joe Hogan); and August 21, 1998, when 40 were seen over West Newbury (Rick Heil).

In Worcester County, decent movements of nighthawks, sometimes rivaling counts from the Connecticut River Valley, have been noted from Quabbin east to West Boylston and from several towns in the northern part of the county (“North County”) such as Leominster, Gardner, and Westminster. For decades now, triple-digit or higher counts of fall migrating nighthawks have been regularly reported from Notre Dame Cemetery in the southwest corner of Worcester by veteran county birders like Fran McMenemy and Bart Kamp. The city of Worcester remains the focal point for watching nighthawks in the county. Like other birders before me, I began my passion for nighthawk watching at Notre Dame in the learned company of Fran and Bart.

**HIGHEST SINGLE NIGHT COUNTS OF NIGHTHAWKS
IN WORCESTER COUNTY SINCE 1990**

SOURCE: *The Chickadee*

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVER
8/26/1990	WORC	550	ML/SC
8/23/1991	WORC	1650	BK
9/9/1992	WORC	1200	FM
9/3/1993	WORC	300	ML/SC
8/26/1994	WORC	1000	FM/BK
8/29/1995	WORC	700	ML/SC
8/26/1996	WORC	700	BK
8/26/1997	WORC	1500	FM/JZ
8/22/1998	WORC	800	FM/JZ
8/22/1999	WORC	2000	FM/JZ/ML
8/23/1999	WORC	2000	FM/JZ/ML
8/24/2000	WORC	1500	FM/JZ/ML
8/28/2001	WORC	934	BK
8/25/2003	BLKST	1181	ML/SC

Observers: Sheila Carroll (SC), Barton Kamp (BK), Mark Lynch (ML), Fran McMenemy (FM), Joan Zumpfe (JZ). Although most of the high counts were from Notre Dame Cemetery in Worcester (WORC), the 2002 high count was from Daniel’s Farm in Blackstone (BLKST).

Nighthawk Movements in the Blackstone Corridor

As soon as I started seeing those flocks of hundreds of nighthawks wafting over Notre Dame in the early evening, I began to wonder where they went. Most birds seemed to be flying south or southwest. Were there other locations in South County as good for watching this spectacle as Notre Dame? Did folks in Rhode Island and Connecticut also get to see these impressive numbers of birds? Was Notre Dame the best place in the city to be watching nighthawks? Part of the problem has been that rarely in the local journal literature (*The Chickadee* and *Bird Observer*) have details of direction of movement, behavior, and weather been noted.

With the creation of the Blackstone National Corridor and the leading role that Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook has played in education and research in this unique National Park, I thought it was a perfect opportunity to look more critically at nighthawk movements throughout the Corridor as one of several monitoring projects that Broad Meadow was conducting. This has culminated in a single coordinated nighthawk count from several locations across the Massachusetts section of the Corridor in late summer, beginning in 2002. A single night is chosen in advance for monitoring, and teams of volunteers fan out across the Corridor to assigned spots and count whatever nighthawks pass that spot between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., noting direction, weather, and behavior. This has allowed us to get a picture of how birds were moving across a broad area. Monitors were also encouraged to submit sightings from the Corridor with all the particulars on days other than the official watch day. In 2002 we got lucky, and the night chosen for monitoring proved to be very productive. However, in 2003 the night chosen was plagued by windy conditions after the passage of a cold front, and only a few nighthawks were seen. Still, even those few sightings were interesting and contributed to a better understanding of nighthawk movements in the Corridor.

Tips on Watching Nighthawks in the Blackstone Corridor

Timing. Although flocks of nighthawks can be seen in the fall moving throughout the day, typically in the Corridor the big movements occur from about 5 p.m. until dusk. Birds are still moving after then, but visibility becomes an issue.

Weather. Weather certainly plays a role in nighthawk migrations, but we are still very much on the beginning of the learning curve in understanding all the intricacies of this relationship. Not surprisingly, heavy rain is bad for migration. Some flocks of nighthawks have been seen migrating right after a massive thunderstorm has passed, but these observations are not typical. Windy conditions are also not conducive to big movements. That said, an interesting observation occurred on August 28, 2003, the night of last year's coordinated count. Conditions were poor: a front had passed the day before, and it was clear and dry but rather windy. From 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. most monitoring sites recorded no nighthawks. Then, right after 7 p.m., a small number of birds were seen moving low and rapidly to the southwest from three of the sites in the southern section of the Massachusetts part of the Corridor. For instance, I saw ninety-four birds pass the Daniel's Farm spot in the town of Blackstone. The wind had died down just a bit by this time, and birds may have just waited for that change. So far,

and this is subject to further findings, it seems the biggest passage of nighthawks occurs on warm, still, somewhat humid evenings, typically the evening before a cold front passes. Yet another parameter may be the phase of the moon, but that is a subject for further investigation.

Behavior of Migrating Flocks

The behavior of large groups of nighthawks is complex. Sometimes birds are seen to move directly and rapidly along their route. At these times, birds can be seen in several widely separated flocks passing over the course of an hour or more, and within these flocks individual birds can be widely spaced. Groups of birds seem to come in pulses. Depending on the evening weather conditions, flocks seem to favor two or three main routes, almost like flight lines in crows, although the flight lines can be quite broad. These flight paths may change from night to night, as observations from single locations have shown. Changes in flight paths and even in directions may be caused by changes in weather or availability of food. At other times, the nighthawks can be seen whirling about in all directions at once as they chase insect swarms. Flocks become very difficult to count at this time. The flock may drift out of view, and part or all of the flock may then later drift back again over the count site. This can occur over and over in a single evening, causing frustration and confusion to nighthawk watchers trying to keep an exact count. When in this feeding mode, flocks are less strung out and more concentrated, and may appear to ball up, sometimes with a large number of birds in what appears to be a feeding frenzy. In years past, large flocks of nighthawks have been seen actively feeding over the city of Worcester and then, as evening approaches, beginning to peel off and migrate over the count site on their way south or southwest. For the most part, migrating nighthawks are silent.

The Flying Ant Connection

From the beginning of my nighthawk watching days, I learned from the veterans to watch for flying ants. There are certain days in late summer when the air is filled with flying ants, and they can be seen flying up from lawns and found on your car windshield. It has been the traditional wisdom around here that the largest movements of nighthawks would occur on these days. Some folks even watch for the ants to be enlarging their holes in preparation for the flights later that day or the next. The flight of these ants, species uncertain, seems dependent on a variety of environmental factors, including amount of rain, humidity, and temperature. Also, the ants may be flying in one part of the Corridor but not in others, and in some years there doesn't seem to be a major flight of ants at all. It must be said that sizable movements of nighthawks have been seen when the ants are not flying, but it is still a very useful rule of thumb.

Direction of Flight

Typically within the Corridor, most birds are seen flying south to the southwest. Of course, when birds are feeding, they can be found flying in any direction. Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary monitor Dan Berard has begun to map all reports from the Corridor that include information on direction of flight. So far, his efforts are showing

a general movement toward extreme northeastern Connecticut in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island sections of the Corridor. Very generally: birds in the Massachusetts part of the Corridor move predominantly southwest, and birds seen in northern Rhode Island move west. From the Route 56 overlook of the Worcester Airport in Leicester, several times I have also had large flocks flying west, indicating that they may be heading toward the Brookfields and the Quaboag River Valley and perhaps eventually the Connecticut River.

When nighthawks are moving, they can be fairly high early on, although never as high as migrating buteos. At other times, birds are quite low, closely following the contours of the land and working along valleys. This may present a challenge for nighthawk watchers. Once, while counting birds from Goddard Memorial Park on Airport Hill, the conditions seemed perfect, but we were seeing only a few birds. Later, as we were driving along a road at the base of the hill, we saw hundreds of nighthawks, all too low to be seen from Goddard Park. But nighthawks do not stick only to valleys, and there are many times when they can be seen flying over rather high hills. It should be obvious that we still have a lot to learn about the routes taken by migrant nighthawks.

What about the Rhode Island Section of the Corridor?

Dick Ferren, in his legendary and as yet unpublished masterwork *The Birds of Rhode Island*, calls Common Nighthawks a “common fall transient” but also notes “nighthawks are far more numerous in fall but never reach numbers suggestive of counts regularly obtained in the inland river valleys of Central and Western New England.” He refers to the more modest Rhode Island counts as “echoes” of the big counts that occur in Worcester County and the Connecticut River Valley. Triple digit daily counts of nighthawks are rare anywhere in Rhode Island, and the largest counts seem to occur over inland sections of the state. This comes as no surprise now that we are learning about the direction that most birds in the Massachusetts section of the Corridor take. This would indicate that most birds would miss Rhode Island entirely and head directly into Connecticut. As you can imagine, fall nighthawk flocks of any size are rare in the southeastern section of the state, but still occur here more commonly than on Cape Cod and the Islands.

The Corridor in Rhode Island covers just the northern quarter of the state, the area very close to where four-digit counts of migrating nighthawks have been tallied in Massachusetts, as in the town of Blackstone. It is logical to assume that large numbers of migrating nighthawks may sometimes pass through these areas of northernmost Rhode Island undetected (so far). Over the last few years, Sheila Carroll and I have been actively searching for potential watch spots in the area of Cumberland, North Smithfield, and Burrillville with some genuine success, and now we have recorded several triple-digit counts of nighthawks in northern Rhode Island. Still, nighthawk watching in this section of the Corridor is in its formative stages as we put together this list of potential sites. Part of the challenge has been that areas with public access *and* a good view of the sky are uncommon in this part of Rhode Island. Two cemeteries, in Lincoln and Cumberland, which offer the best potential

nighthawk viewing in the entire Rhode Island section of the Corridor, both close their gates at 5 p.m.!

Locations for Nighthawk Watching in the Corridor

Please refer to the map on page 220 for general locations.

Massachusetts

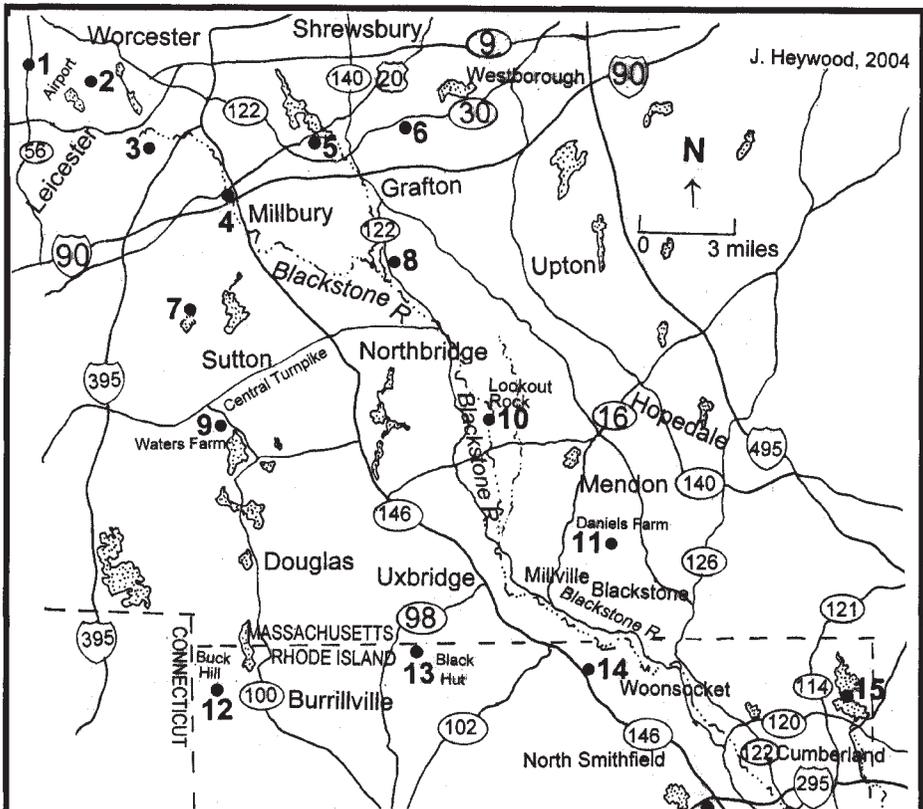
Route 56 overlook of Worcester Airport, Leicester. This is now, by far, my favorite site in Worcester County to watch for nighthawks. There is a long scenic dirt pulloff on the east side of the road just north of the legendary Hot Dog Annie's. This site offers a commanding view overlooking the fields and runways of Worcester Airport to the east. Lighting in the evening is excellent. Birds are sometimes seen rather far out, heading south over the airport or even Worcester (scope needed). Birds can also appear from the north, flying south or even west-southwest toward the Brookfields. While looking for nighthawks, watch for raptors, Pileated Woodpeckers, Wild Turkeys (often on the runways), and migrant flocks of Bobolinks. The only disadvantage to this site is the traffic along Route 56. My biggest single evening total in 2003 was 983 birds on August 27. Like Notre Dame (see below) this is a site that needs nightly coverage.

Goddard Memorial Park, Airport Hill, Worcester. This site for a proposed park is off Goddard Memorial Drive, south of the Airport Drive intersection. The park is on the east side of the road and has a small dirt pulloff and a dirt path up to a rise. I have looked for nighthawks from this site several times and have been able to count numbers of birds over the city of Worcester.

Notre Dame Cemetery, Worcester. Access is from the west side of Webster Street (Route 12). Park in the small lot just past the chapel, and walk back to the chapel along the road. Birds can pass either west or east of this location or even right overhead. Most birds are seen heading south. This has long been *the* traditional nighthawk watch spot in Worcester County, but as the surrounding trees have gotten taller, the views are not as good as even a decade ago. Lighting is also a problem when looking toward the west. While here, watch for large migrant flocks of swallows and swifts as they feed over the nearby ponds.

Millbury/Worcester line on Route 146. There have been several sightings now of good movements of birds from a variety of locations near this area, including the foot/bike bridge over Route 146. A new mega mall off Route 146 in Millbury south of the Mass Pike is just opening. This mall is built on a high hill and offers great views to the north, and scouting so far seems to promise that it will become another great nighthawk watch site.

Flint Pond, Worcester-Shrewsbury line. Flocks of nighthawks have been sighted here in years past. But in 2003 an attempt to monitor the pond from a canoe proved fruitless because of windy conditions. Best access is from Oak Island south of Route 20, where there is a parking lot, a boat launch, and a trail to the north. Orchard Orioles have bred here.



1. Route 56 overlook of Worcester Airport
2. Goddard Memorial Park, Airport Hill, Worcester
3. Notre Dame Cemetery, Worcester
4. Millbury/Worcester line on Route 146
5. Flint Pond, Worcester-Shrewsbury line
6. Tufts Veterinary Medicine School, Grafton
7. Ramshorn Pond, Millbury
8. Fisherville Pond overlook, Grafton
9. Waters Farm, Sutton
10. Lookout Rock, Northbridge
11. Daniels Farm, Blackstone
12. Buck Hill Wildlife Mgmt. Area, Burrillville
13. West Ironstone Road power line cut-through, Burrillville
14. Great Road, North Smithfield
15. Diamond Hill and Arnold's Mill Reservoirs, Cumberland
16. Lincoln Center Mall and vicinity on Rt.116,
17. Bike path overlook of Bold Point, Providence/ East Providence

**Nighthawk
Watching
Locations in the
Blackstone
National Corridor**

Tufts Veterinary Medicine School, Grafton. This spot consists of two possible viewing locations. One is right on the Westborough-Grafton line in an extended area of fields along Route 30. The other location is the fields of the school east of Institute Road. This area was monitored for the first time in 2003, but because of adverse weather, no nighthawks were recorded on that one day.

Ramshorn Pond, Millbury. Dan and Deb Berard, two ecological monitors from Broad Meadow Brook, live on the shores of this small pond in southwestern Millbury on the Sutton line. They consistently report modest to large flocks of nighthawks both feeding and migrating over this pond. Birds are typically heading south or southwest.

Fisherville Pond overlook, Grafton. Access is behind the Riverview Apartments on Route 122, or from parking under the power lines and walking down a rough trail. This is a new monitoring site that turned up no birds in adverse conditions in 2003 but still should prove productive in years to come. If water levels are low, shorebirds are often present on mudflats here.

Waters Farm, Sutton. This conservation and historical area is found by taking Douglas Road south off the Central Turnpike. Turn left onto Waters Road, and follow it to the end. This has been one of the locations staffed for Corridor nighthawk monitoring and has produced counts of nighthawks into the triple digits. Birds are typically heading southwest. Another nearby spot is the high point of Town Farm Road, north off the Central Turnpike. This is a broad area of fields with a commanding view.

Lookout Rock, Northbridge. Access is from Quaker Street on the east side of the Blackstone River. There is a well-signed small parking lot and a short trail that swings to the right and leads to a nice high overlook of this scenic section of the Blackstone Valley and Goat Hill. This is a regular monitoring site and has produced flocks of nighthawks in the triple digits. Birds are sometimes seen feeding over the main stem of the river. The only drawback to this beautiful site is that lighting can be very difficult in the early evening, since your view is to the west.

Daniels Farm, Blackstone. This conservation/historical site has been managed by the Metacomet Land Trust and is on the east side of Mendon Street in extreme northwest Blackstone. It is one of the sites regularly monitored on the coordinated watch. You will know you are in the right place if a tall microwave tower is across the street. This is a wonderful spot, perched on the east and north-facing slope of a high hill. Boston can be seen in the distance on clear days. In two years of monitoring, this has proved to be an exciting place not only for nighthawks, but also for passerine migrants. On August 25, 2002, nighthawks tallied totaled 1181. Nighthawks are seen coming in from the east, sometimes rather low, and usually go either northwest or southwest around the hill. Flocks have also been seen heading southwest regularly right overhead. Getting a good view of the horizon is critical and difficult as the surrounding trees get taller. Both fields on either side of the house need to be watched. Typically, you are looking in small depressions of the tree line. I find the small rise next to the well to be one of the better locations. Watching so many birds come in from the east, just south of Boston, had made me wonder if nighthawks (like

monarchs in the southern states), take a version of the “Big Right Turn.” This appears to be happening just south of Boston and may explain why big numbers in southeastern Massachusetts are so rare. Time will tell if this theory has any merit. In early morning, migrants can be found in the surrounding forest edge. For the last two years, Common Ravens have bred in the microwave tower and are often present throughout the summer, and also while you are nighthawk-watching.

Rhode Island

Buck Hill Wildlife Management Area, Burrillville. Take Route 100 south from Douglas, then go right on Buck Hill Road 2.1 miles to the entrance. There is a sign *just* before the entrance dirt road. Drive to the gate and parking area. Small flocks of nighthawks have been seen passing over the parking lot or the pond and heading west. This is an area that needs more coverage.

West Ironstone Road power line cut-through, Burrillville. This area is just north of the Black Hut Wildlife Management Area. Park under the power lines on the north side of the road. This is a new location. On August 31, 2003, we saw 239 birds in less than half an hour. Most were heading west or southwest, though a small flock flew over our heads heading northwest into Worcester County. Lighting from this location is good.

Great Road, North Smithfield. Park under the power lines, and look south. On August 31, 2003, in less than half an hour, 141 birds were counted heading west and low. Another lookout farther north on the road that has a view into Massachusetts had no birds moving.

Diamond Hill and Arnold's Mill Reservoirs, Cumberland. Access is from Reservoir Road. Small flocks of nighthawks have been recorded from this location, and it looks like a place where triple-digit flocks could be seen with increased monitoring.

Lincoln Center Mall and vicinity on Route 116, Lincoln. On August 26, 2001, at 7 p.m., we tallied forty-one birds passing southwest in less than fifteen minutes. We got the sense we had missed most of the movement that night. This is a site for future monitoring.

Bike path overlook of Bold Point, Providence/East Providence. Access is from the northernmost lot off Veteran's Memorial Parkway in East Providence. You have a dramatic overlook of Providence and the terminus of the Blackstone National Corridor. We have tried this spot for nighthawks only once, but actually monitor India and Bold Points regularly for waterbird surveys of the Corridor. Lighting is poor because you are looking west from a high elevation, and we recorded only small numbers of migrating nighthawks. Still, it is a location that should be checked more often.

Conclusion

The Blackstone National Corridor appears to be on one of the important migration routes for Common Nighthawks. Hundreds and even thousands of birds

feed and fly through this area every year, making the Corridor an important area regionally for this species. The direction of nighthawk flights in the Corridor seems to indicate that most birds pass from the Massachusetts or extreme northern Rhode Island sections of the Corridor into Connecticut. Although systematic counts in the Rhode Island section of the Corridor are just getting underway, it appears that regular high counts of fall migrant nighthawks in Rhode Island may occur in the Corridor as birds move west or southwest into Connecticut.

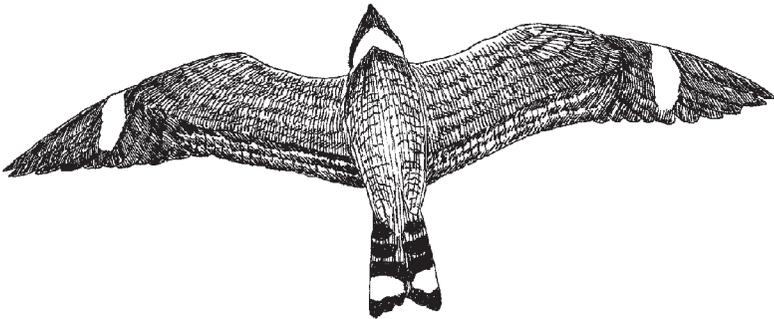
There is something very special about standing out on a warm summer evening and watching these mysterious and rarely well-seen birds flutter by in large numbers, the sinking sunlight emphasizing the browns and buffs of their plumage. It is one of the great yearly pleasures of birding the interior of Massachusetts. If you do see flocks of Common Nighthawks moving anywhere in the Corridor in the fall, please send the totals to me (moa.lynych@verizon.net), noting exact location, direction of flight, behavior, and weather. 🦉

Nota bene: all records quoted in the article are from *Bird Observer* unless otherwise indicated.

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Mark Lynch is an ecological monitor, teacher, and trip leader for Broad Meadow Brook, the Massachusetts Audubon Sanctuary in Worcester. He also hosts a talk show on arts and sciences, Inquiry, on WICN 90.5FM. He is a docent and teacher at the Worcester Art Museum. He thanks the following sanctuary monitors and longstanding Worcester county birders for their numerous important contributions to understanding nighthawks in the Corridor: Kim Bacciocchi, Dan Berard, Dan Berard Jr., Deb Berard, Sheila Carroll, Phil Guerin, Barton Kamp, John Liller, Fran McMenemy, Valerie Miller, Kathy Mills, Bill Rasku, John Shea, and Joan Zumpfe.



COMMON NIGHTHAWK BY GEORGE C. WEST

Wow, Did You Hear That? — Observations from a Blind Birder

Jerry Berrier

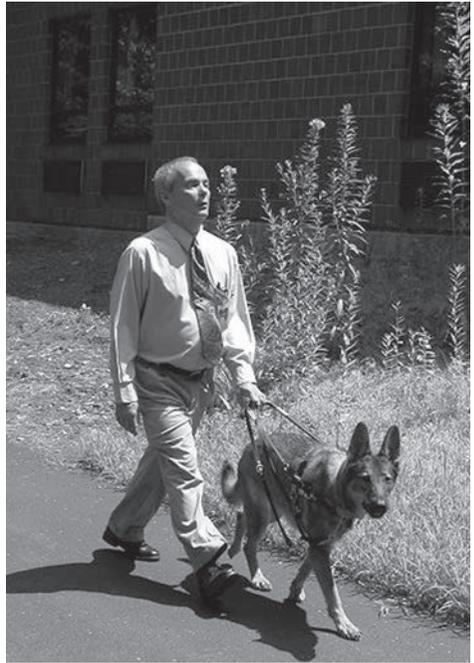
My college biology professor introduced me to birding in 1971. He felt that the laboratory portion of the course I was taking would present some significant problems for me, a blind student, so he created a workable alternative. My assignment involved listening to recordings of birds common to the northeastern United States. I was asked to study these sounds on a regular basis during the school term, and my exam would consist of an early-morning stroll with my teacher, during which I was to identify some bird sounds. His proposal that I learn to identify bird calls turned out to be a marvelous gift, leading me to a hobby that still brings me immense pleasure.

Ever since that biology class, I have enjoyed listening to and identifying bird sounds, and I eventually started making audio recordings of some of the more interesting ones. When my children were very young, I attached an inexpensive microphone to our bird feeder so I could listen to the birds from inside the house, but what I heard was not what I expected. The microphone amplified all of their scratching and chewing sounds and the noise was sometimes astoundingly unpleasant. My son and daughter, however, did enjoy watching them from the window while listening to them through my crude setup.

Since then, I have found that a microphone works much better if placed some distance from the feeder. I currently have a parabolic microphone called a Bird Bug, which I purchased over the Internet, attached to the outside of my house and wired to my computer's sound card, so that I can listen and enjoy the birds from indoors during the winter. The Bird Bug came with fifty feet of cable and a small amplifier/speaker box. Although it picks up some traffic noise, it serves its purpose well. As I write this article, sitting in my home office, I am hearing through my computer speakers the sound of robins, Blue Jays, and a Tufted Titmouse calling from my backyard, along with the hammering of a woodpecker. Using an audio editing program, I can capture sounds for later use. I currently use a program called "Gold Wave," but there are many others on the market that work very well. If I plan to work at my desk for a while, I set Gold Wave in "loop mode." If I hear a sound I want to capture, I can stop the recording and automatically save the previous sixty seconds of sound. I have added some of my recordings to my personal web site at <http://www.townisp.com/~jerry.berrier>.

I also use a minidisk recorder and a relatively inexpensive hand-held microphone to record interesting bird sounds. If I am out somewhere and hear a sound that I cannot identify, I record it and then try to match it with a sound from one of several birding CDs I have purchased over the years. Some day I hope to acquire a parabolic microphone for field recording, but for now I use a Sony MZR907 "powered" stereo microphone, which does quite well.

I live in a relatively quiet suburban area, and my guide dog Sobe and I take long walks, during which I often pause to make brief recordings. She has gotten accustomed to my all-too-frequent commands to “Halt!” and is generally patient while I stop to capture bird sounds. I sometimes feel a bit conspicuous and wonder what neighbors think when they see me out there with a microphone in my hand. Nobody has yet questioned me about it; perhaps they think it’s a high-tech device I use to find my way back home. Although I enjoy taking such walks with my dog and recording bird song, my ability to learn new sounds is limited, because I have no way of visually confirming what I think I am hearing. My enjoyment of birding is greatly heightened when I can walk with a sighted companion who shares my enthusiasm.



The author and Sobe

Over the years, my interest in birds has made me more aware of my surroundings, and it has provided a link to the outdoors and to a part of the world that most people either fail to notice at all or enjoy only by seeing. When traveling, one of the first things I detect when I get out of the car is the sound of whatever birds happen to be vocalizing. I’m always on the lookout for a good opportunity to record a bird I have yet to add to my sounds collection. My passion for birding encourages me to spend a lot of time outdoors. To me, there’s nothing more uplifting than the sound of the first robin in the spring, or the *konk-la-ree* sound of the Red-winged Blackbird announcing that winter is almost over for another year.

Friends have asked me how I, a person who has been blind from birth, can sustain an interest in something that is inherently so visual; frankly, I have pondered that myself a time or two. There’s an old saying that “You cannot miss something you have never had.” Well, I have never been able to see, and I most definitely miss it. The inability to see robs me of the chance to experience many things that sighted people find beautiful and interesting. Rather than lament that, I seek ways to find beauty and inspiration through my other senses. When I hear a towhee sing *drink your tea*, I am delighted and think it is singing just for me; I don’t need to see it to be fascinated and greatly thrilled by it. If that’s not awesome enough, how about the sound of a wood thrush as its song echoes softly through a dense woodland on a cool summer evening. I have experienced that, but I can no more adequately describe it to you than you can enable me to feel your joy at the sight of a stunningly handsome cardinal as it perches on your deck railing. We must each experience beauty in our own way.

Birding by ear has brought me much joy, and it has given me some common ground with sighted birders. More than anything else, though, it has raised my consciousness and afforded me a deeper appreciation of some of the miracles of nature that can help make life on earth a truly beautiful experience. 🐦

***Jerry Berrier** recently retired from Verizon Communications, where he worked for the past six years as assistant manager in the Verizon Center for Customers with Disabilities in Marlboro, MA. Prior to that he spent 18 years in Pittsburgh, PA, in the human resources department of the telephone company. He is now beginning a new and exciting career as a consultant, training people who are blind to use computers. He has run “birding by ear” workshops for several groups of blind and visually impaired adults and also for a Girl Scout troop. He lives in Shrewsbury, MA, with his wife Elaine.*

LETTERS

To the Editor:

I am a subscriber to *Bird Observer* and grew up in Wellesley near Rockridge Pond, where I found a Red Phalarope at age thirteen. I had the same science teacher [Doug Sands] as Wayne Petersen and Dick Forster.

I enjoyed the brief article on the Common Loon by William Davis. I have spent my summers near Dublin Lake in the Monadnock Region. In recent years, loons have returned to the lake (along with Northern Goshawks, Bald Eagles, and a pair of Black Vultures).

As Dr. Davis pointed out, loons are fish eaters. While fishing for trout from a canoe, I have on many occasions observed a loon catching a relatively large trout and chewing/flipping the fish between its mandibles, losing the fish and recapturing it before finally tilting its head and swallowing the fish whole. The entire process lasts approximately twenty minutes. All fish are eaten above water in these observations.

The loons swim approximately four hundred yards between two points of land in a section of the lake known for cold-water springs. I presume the springs oxygenate the water, thus making it more attractive to trout and to the loons.

Sincerely,

Tom Warren



COMMON LOON BY DAVID LARSON

The Digital Camera as an Identification Tool

Peter Capobianco and Steve Davis

Computer and optical technology are increasingly becoming useful tools for birders. One example of this is the use of digital cameras for the confirmation of field identifications. This article describes the use of a digital camera in the identification of a first state record for New Hampshire.

On August 7, 2003, a shorebird identified as an adult Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) in breeding (alternate) plumage was discovered by Mike Harvey in Rye, N.H. On August 10 Peter Capobianco rediscovered and photographed the bird. He was able to obtain numerous images from a distance of about 35-45 feet in good light as the bird fed on the rocky intertidal area of the beach. The basic image of the bird is shown in Figure 1. The camera used was a Nikon D100 SLR with a Sigma 170-500 zoom f 4-6.3 lens with a 1.4 X teleconverter. The digital camera was rated at six megapixels.



Figure 1. Little Stint (all photographs by Peter Capobianco)

Because the bird was in sharp focus, and the pixel capability of the camera was excellent, Peter was able to enlarge the image in the picture to analyze fine details of structure and plumage features. He was then able to compare these details with information in standard field guides and eventually post a web site showing these details in order to receive input from shorebird experts.

The field separation of Little Stint from its close relative, the Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*), requires care; however, the cautious observer should also consider the more common *Calidris* species when attempting to identify this species as well. The clarity of the images obtained during the observation of this individual, along with the ability to zoom in on small portions of the image, made it possible to analyze distinctions not always easy to see in the field. This feature emphasizes the

value of a digital camera when trying to distinguish between similar species. Analysis of the Little Stint images revealed the following characteristics:

1. The prominent black centers of the scapular feathers, as shown in Figure 2, is characteristic of Little and Red-necked stints and helps to eliminate more common “peep” species.



Figure 2. Scapulars



Figure 3. Toes

2. The nonwebbed (nonpalmated) toes, as shown in Figure 3, are also characteristic of both Little and Rufous-necked stints. This helps to separate this species from the two *Calidris* species that have partially webbed toes, Semipalmated Sandpiper and Western Sandpiper. Least Sandpipers also have no webbing between their toes, and they possess yellow legs, unlike the other species.
3. The patterns of feather flecks and reddish wash on the necks of Little Stints and Red-necked Stints also vary. Red-necked Stints have a more prominent and extensive reddish wash that extends above the level of the necklace of dark flecks. Little Stints have a more limited reddish wash, as shown in Figure 4. (Since the original images were in color, they are not shown here.)



Figure 4. Neck and throat

this feature was more distinct than in the black-and-white reproductions.)

4. The white throat and chin that are characteristic of Little Stints are also apparent in Figure 4.

The analysis of digital images provided invaluable information to the New Hampshire rarities committee in evaluating the record. In the past, a first state record of a species difficult to identify might have resulted in the taking of a specimen; however, as the detail of these photos demonstrates, it is often no longer necessary to collect a bird in order to confirm its identification. If one can get close enough to shoot a bird, then it should also be possible to take digital pictures that will reveal what needs to be shown to identify the bird.

Digital cameras have several advantages over traditional cameras. Conventional film cameras do not make it possible to enlarge images on the spot. Also, digital cameras allow one to take as many images as desired with no additional cost of film and processing. All one needs to do is to keep the desired views and scrap the rest. Ease of enlargement is another clear advantage of a digital camera. And finally, digital cameras let one review a photograph and then zoom in on a feature that may be difficult to see on a moving bird, such as the lack of palmation on the toes.

Digital images enable rapid sharing of problem identifications. With a film camera, pictures need to be duplicated and distributed by mail, whereas digital images can be posted on a web page for viewing within minutes. In addition, with a high-resolution digital camera, a section of a photograph can be easily cropped and included on the web page for focused discussion. The application of this technology allows for the identification of rare birds to be confirmed much more rapidly than ever before.

The level of detail that can be captured, along with the ability to quickly analyze and share the images that digital cameras provide, significantly enhances one's identification armamentarium. Also, with the close-up capacity of a digital camera, it is possible to better appreciate the delicate and beautiful features of the birds around us. 

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Peter Capobianco is a student at Brown University. Steve Davis is a family doctor who lives in Swansea, MA. They share the distinction of being graduates of East Providence High School and they count Hugh Willoughby as a birding friend in common.

Peregrine Falcons in Massachusetts in 2004

Thomas W. French

Editor's Note. In the February 2004 issue of *Bird Observer*, Tom French reviewed the historical status and recovery of Peregrine Falcons in Massachusetts. Here he updates this information for the 2004 breeding season.

Custom House/Federal Reserve Bank, Boston

After the Marriott's Custom House closed off the traditional nest site that had been used since 1988, the pair moved to the President's balcony on the 32nd floor of the Federal Reserve Bank, where they nested in a landscaped section planted with shrubs and a few small trees. On June 2, 2004, we banded four three-week-old chicks (one male, three female). Although two of the chicks ended up on the ground near South Station on the day they fledged (June 21), one was able to fly back up to a building, and the other was placed on a building roof by the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Unfortunately, one of these chicks was found dead about a week later, apparently having struck a building. The adult male of this pair may be the oldest known Peregrine in the east at eighteen years old.

Christian Science Church Administration Building, Boston

On June 2 we banded four five-week-old chicks (three male, one female). One of these chicks was picked up on the ground on the day it fledged and was taken to the New England Wildlife Center in Hingham until it could be returned to the roof of the building.

Tobin Bridge/Logan Airport

A visit to the nest box on the Tobin Bridge on May 27 confirmed that it had not been used at all this year. The bridge staff said that the falcons had not been present. Last year they fledged chicks from this box.

At Logan Airport a pair appeared to be interested in nesting on the central office portion of the control tower above the 19th floor on the southwest side. However, no evidence of a nest site could be found on a May 5 visit, although there was considerable whitewash from roosting adults. Permission has been granted for us to place a nest box on the south shoulder of the tower, and this should happen over the summer.

Although no falcon nest could be found, there was a nest somewhere nearby. On June 8, Norm Smith, raptor specialist from Massachusetts Audubon, saw an adult peregrine feeding an unbanded fledgling out on the airport field. About a week later he saw an adult with two unbanded fledglings.

Goliath Crane, Quincy Shipyard

Last year this pair laid eggs right on the bare steel of the crane, and they did not hatch. This year it was more difficult to get permission to climb the crane, so by the time we visited (April 27), the pair had already laid and abandoned an egg on the east side of the crane. We left a nest tray near the 2003 nest site on the west side and returned to check it on June 8. The adults were very attached to the tray, but it did not contain eggs or chicks. A search revealed shells from a second egg on the east side and a broken egg with a well-developed embryo on the west side just under the tray. The adult female was the same bird as last year, but the male was new.

Braga Bridge (Interstate 195 over the Taunton River), Fall River

The adult pair had been defending the vicinity of the nest box until about May 20, but when the nest box was visited on May 26, they were no longer present. Their apparent failure is almost certainly the result of intensive repair work that is being done under the bridge. Both last year and this year the pair apparently nested within the support beams of the bridge and not in the box. Unfortunately, the site was not observed sufficiently to locate the exact nest site on the bridge during either year. The repair work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the summer, so they should have a good chance for success next year.

Ideal Box Company (in an old mill building), Lawrence

For the second year a pair of falcons nested on the sixth floor of this building. On May 24 we banded three three-week-old chicks (two male, one female). One of the chicks was later found on the ground when it was near fledging and was put up on the roof. All have now fledged.

An abandoned mill building behind the Tsongas Arena, Lowell

This is the first mill building you pass if you take the river walk from behind the Tsongas Arena and walk upriver. The pair is said to have nested here last year as well. If you look at the building from the river walk, the male often sits on the large chimney, and the nest is inside a metal air exhaust pipe just a few windows to the right on the sixth floor. This building is now being renovated by the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, for a dormitory. On June 9 we banded two three-week-old chicks (two female). This exhaust pipe is too small for large chicks, so at five weeks of age they were moved to a box on the roof.

Mechanic Bank Building, Worcester

This year, the nest box that had been placed on the west side of the eighth floor balcony of the old Mechanic Bank Building (120 Front Street) at the end of the Common was removed. After being present for four years, there was no evidence that a Peregrine had ever even looked at it. A new box was placed on the eleventh floor of the Fallon Health Building. However, when Worcester's first Peregrine nest was finally discovered, it was in an unused planter on the east side of the very same balcony that the old nest box had occupied.

On June 2 we banded four three-week-old chicks (two male, two female), but one of the females was picked up shortly after fledging with a wing injury. This bird was taken to the Tufts Wildlife Clinic, but will not be releasable.

Monarch Place Building, Springfield

Three three-week-old chicks (one male, two female) were banded on May 25. They all fledged successfully. The Springfield community continues to be able to follow the progress of this nest on its local cable television network.

University of Massachusetts Library Tower, Amherst

On June 5, we banded four three-week-old chicks (two male, two female). This is the second year that this site has produced chicks, and the second year for the current adult female. She was banded as a chick on a building in Manchester, New Hampshire. Among the prey found at this site were a Black-bellied Plover and a drake Ring-necked Duck.

Mount Sugarloaf, Deerfield

On June 3 we checked this nest and found a clutch of four abandoned and rotten eggs at the 2003 nest site. Later the same day we observed the cliff for about an hour and saw the adult female enter another possible nest site farther to the north on the same cliff. We assumed they were renesting and decided to wait a week before checking this new site closely. On June 8 this site was checked and, to our surprise, we found egg shells, remains of prey, lots of whitewash, and lots of loose chick down, suggesting that a second clutch had already fledged. The adults were very defensive, but no chicks were seen. We would be very interested to know if anyone saw juvenile falcons or more than two falcons flying around this cliff.

In 2002 falcons at the Farley Cliffs in Erving raised chicks but have not used the cliff during the past two years. It is very possible that this pair moved to Mount Sugarloaf, which is about 13 air miles to the southwest of the Farley Cliffs.

Totals for 2004

The total number of nesting pairs in the state was at least eleven, including the unlocated nest that produced the two unbanded young seen at Logan Airport. Nine of these successfully fledged young. Twenty-four young were banded, an additional two were seen at Logan, and at least one young fledged at Mount Sugarloaf, for a total of at least twenty-seven young from the nine successful nests.

This is by far the greatest number of Peregrine chicks fledged from Massachusetts nests since restoration began. In the previous four years, ten fledged from four successful nests in 2000, thirteen from four nests in 2001, eight from four nests in 2002, and fifteen from six nests in 2003. 🦅

Tom French is an Assistant Director of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. He would like to thank the many people who continue to help MassWildlife with monitoring, banding, and rescue of grounded chicks, as well as with nest site maintenance. The falcons have benefited greatly from these efforts.

Gleanings from the Journal of William Brewster: Journey to Lake Umbagog

Robert H. Stymeist

Ornithologists were first introduced to the Umbagog region by Edward Samuels, who mentioned the area in his *Birds of New England*. This volume included casual observations made while Samuels was trout fishing there. In 1870, Henry Bailey and Ruthven Deane, two young bird collectors, were intrigued by the possibilities of the birds that had been described by Samuels, and they traveled to the region. Returning to Cambridge, Massachusetts — then the center of ornithological zeal and activity — the pair brought specimens of birds that were represented in very few private collections. This put the area on the map for future explorations. William Brewster began to visit the region in May, 1871, and continued to do so for a period of thirty-eight years. In the earlier days it took considerable trouble to get there, and careful planning and arrangements had to be made well in advance. Brewster never visited in April or early May. The forests were, according to Brewster, “infested by myriads of mosquitoes, midges, and black flies, even the briefest camping trips were seldom undertaken except in late summer or early autumn, when these grievous pests were no longer to be feared.”

“William Brewster loved Lake Umbagog intensely,” wrote Ludlow Griscom in 1938, when he completed the unpublished manuscript left when Brewster died in 1919. Brewster’s “Lake Umbagog region of Maine” is, in fact, more than half actually in the state of New Hampshire. Brewster was not interested in what records were from Maine or New Hampshire and did not explain locations with the same concentrated attention he did for Massachusetts. In the introduction to *Birds of the Lake Umbagog Region of Maine* (published by the Museum of Comparative Zoology in four parts from 1924 to 1938), Brewster writes, “many passages relating to it [visits to the lake] occur in my journal; as some of these will perhaps give a better understanding of it, I shall venture to draw from them rather freely as follows.” These are excerpted below. Enjoy.

June 13, 1879: Upton, Oxford County Maine

Cambridge River and shores of the lake near the Lake House

A clear and rather warm day with a very high west wind. Taking Oscar [his dog], I started off at about 8AM. We went first up the Cambridge River as far as the old pine stand where I left a nest (*D. maculosa*) (Magnolia Warbler) on the 11th. On the way up I saw several *Buteo pennsylvanicus* (Broad-winged Hawk) and shot a fine male from the top of a tall fir. Then after hunting some time for a nest of *E. flaviventris* (Yellow-bellied Flycatcher), the mosquitoes finally proved too much for us and we returned to the Lake House [an inn in Upton, Maine at the southeast corner of Lake Umbagog, just north of the outlet of the Cambridge River] at about 10AM.

Starting off again we paddled out to B. point [about a mile north of Lakeside, NH] where we ate our lunch. After spending about an hour at the point we sailed across to Brown's clearing on the south shore and worked slowly along from there towards the Lake House, landing at frequent intervals. The lake was exceedingly rough and we nearly swamped my little boat in crossing from B. point to the south shore. The woods were carpeted in places with beautiful wild flowers. There are apparently two species of "lady's slippers", one of a faint purple color, the other pure white.

Observations:

Icterus Baltimore (Baltimore Oriole): I have at length found this species here. This morning while standing upon the piazza I heard his loud familiar notes in the elm in front of my window. Altho' he sang six or eight times I did not succeed in getting a sight at him.

Vireo philadelphicus (Philadelphia Vireo): I both heard and saw the male above the mill this morning. I also listened to one that was singing on B. point and finally shot at and wounded him but could not find him. I can now instantly distinguish their song from that of the Red eye. It is feebler, higher and does not flow so smoothly. They sing much in the tops of the highest trees. The one on B. point was in the crest of a mighty yellow birch, at least a hundred feet above the ground, and the branch was lashed wildly about by the rushing wind that floated the leaves and swung the whole tree top thro' many feet of air, yet he hardly paused in his strain even when the fiercest gusts swept by.

Picoides arcticus (Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker): I visited the nest on the Cambridge River this morning. The parents were making frequent trips with food and the young came to the mouth of the hole to receive it keeping up an incessant chattering that could be heard 100 yards away. In no instance did either parent enter the hole but they simply hung beneath it and placed the food in the eager hungry mouths that lined the opening.

Dendroica maculosa (Magnolia Warbler): Nest with 4 young at least a week old and one egg with a dead embryo.

Otus wilsonianus (Long-eared Owl): Saw one in the woods near Brown's clearing. He was pursued by a mob of enraged, noisy crows and was forced constantly to take wing.

Junco hyemalis (Slate-colored Junco): A nest in earth bank of fallen tree, beautifully concealed by a hanging curtain of earthy roots. Contents five young about a week old.

June 16, 1879

Upton, Oxford County, Maine

Cambridge River

A continuation of yesterday's storm: wind east with steady rain all day.

Thro' the forenoon I remained in the house but after dinner I donned my rubber coat and boots and started for the woods, or rather for the Cambridge River. I paddled up only a short distance above the rapids and landing, spent most of the P.M. in searching for a nest of *Emp. flaviventris* (Yellow-bellied Flycatcher) but without success. I did however find two vireo nests high up in birch trees, which may prove to be those of *V. philadelphicus*. The mosquitoes singularly enough, hardly molested me at all today.

Observations:

Nyctala acadica (Northern Saw-whet Owl) While forcing my way thro' a dense cedar swamp this afternoon a beautiful little adult of this species flew from a branch about 3 feet above my head and alighted again some ten paces off. I tried to creep up near enough to knock him down with a pole (I had left my gun at home on account of the rain) but he was much too shy to allow me to get within reach, and taking another short flight he settled on a higher branch. Before I could get beneath him it startled off and disappeared. He seemed very animated in all his motions and undoubtedly saw quite as well in the gloom of this stormy afternoon as he would have done at night. His flight was noiseless and essentially Owl like and I noticed that he alighted in their peculiar way. There were a number of small birds within a few yards of him but they made no unusual fuss and indeed did not seem to notice him at all.

Carpodacus purpureus (Purple Finch) This bird like the Robin occurs miles away from the clearings in the very heart of the forest. The song of all the males differs markedly from that of Mass(achusetts) birds, in being rather shorter and with a wild ringing tone that makes it on the whole more beautiful if not so finished.

Turdus migratorius (American Robin) Breeds miles away from the clearings. Song does not appreciably differ from that of Mass[achusetts] birds

Seiurus noveboracensis (Northern Waterthrush) I rarely hear them now except in early morning.

June 24, 1879

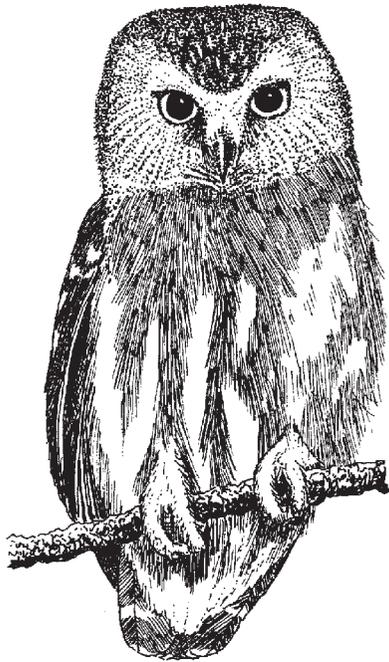
Upton, Oxford County, Maine to Boston, Mass.

A clear perfect June Day. Rising at 4AM we had an early breakfast and with Mr. Ryerson to drive started on my return home. As we left the lake at about 5AM, a heavy fog cloud enveloped everything chilling us to the very marrow, and casting a gloom over the early morning that only a few of the more daring songsters seemed able to defy. I heard from the gloomy evergreen forest the songs of a few *Turdus swainsoni* and the clear ringing notes of the White-throated Sparrow came at intervals

from the roadside thickets as we were ascending the hill. But as we reached its summit we found ourselves emerging from the obscurity as we gradually climbed up above the sea of fog that shrouded the lower lake valley. When we finally reached the hilltop the sun was shining brightly and the sky perfectly clear. Looking back over the lake the eye rested upon one vast expanse of billowing fog that concealed from view everything beneath and beyond. Its upper surface was finely tinted by the sun's rays which however absolutely failed to penetrate the dense masses below.

The drive to Bethel was one of great enjoyment. The grand mountain scenery thro' the notch was seen under exceptionally favorable conditions. In places where the mountain summits still through their protecting shadow over some little stretch of meadow the grass was fairly frosted with bead-like dew drops, and the leaves in the forest were fresh and wet with moisture. A species of low shrub like maple that grew in great profusion by the roadside was covered with clusters of pendant-like blossoms. I noticed that its stem was blotched with grayish, but the leaves were very much like those of the rock-maple. Mr. Ryerson called it bush maple. We reached Bethel at 9AM and taking the 9:45 train I arrived in Boston at 5:30PM. As the cars swept thro' Massachusetts I noticed the farmers at work in the hay fields and many of them had already been mown- a striking contrast with the condition of the season at the lake where haying never begins before July. 

From: *Journal of William Brewster*. Reprinted with permission from the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.



NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL BY GEORGE C. WEST

FIELD NOTES

The Phoebe and the Spiketail

Richard W. Hildreth

Along the possibly thousands of miles of logging roads in eastern and northern Maine, at every major stream crossing, under each bridge, there is usually a nesting pair of Eastern Phoebes (*Sayornis phoebe*).

One of my favorite logging roads is the Spectacle Pond Road, which runs northwest 15.7 miles, from Route 193 in Beddington to Route 9 (the Airline) in Aurora. At mile 2.6 (from Route 193) is a small, stony, southward flowing stream crossing the road. On May 1, 2001, I briefly visit this site; a pair of phoebes is already present, obviously nesting under the bridge. I do not visit the site again until July 21. Now there are five to six phoebes present; the nesting pair has been successful and there are several recently fledged young. All these phoebes are busy hunting from perches along the stream.

This is a drought year in eastern Maine; the water level in the stream is very low, so I can easily wade along hunting for odonates. I manage to collect three specimens for the MDDS (Maine Damselfly and Dragonfly Survey) project. One of these specimens is the twin-spotted spiketail (*Cordulegaster maculata*).

After my walk along the stream, I return to the road and stand on the bridge overlooking the stream. Several twin-spotted spiketails are patrolling the stream just under the bridge. I watch the phoebes busy hawking for insects. One of the phoebes flies from its perch down to the stream and catches a big dragonfly. It returns to the perch with a large spiketail in its bill. It has grasped the dragonfly by the head and thorax (see Figure 1). The bird proceeds to swallow the dragonfly “whole,” wings and all. The bird gulps and gasps, and the dragonfly gradually disappears inside the bird. An amazing feat, a 2.6-inch dragonfly swallowed by a 7-inch bird. 🐦

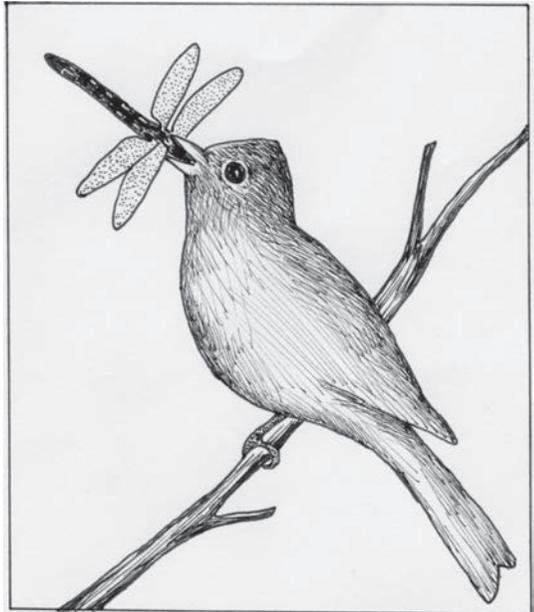
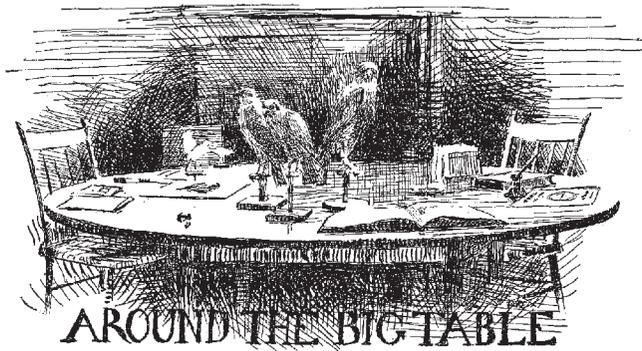


Figure 1. Sketch by the author



THE HARLEQUIN DUCK ON THE COAST OF ESSEX COUNTY, MASS.

In the "Birds of Essex County," published in 1905, I was able to give only three records of the Harlequin Duck for the County. These were all from mounted specimens. Two were in the Essex County collection of the Peabody Museum of Salem, one a male from Baker's Island, without date; the other a young male from Marblehead, dated Nov. 11, 1883. The third, also a male, from Swampscott, dated Nov. 20, 1877, was in the collection of the Brookline, Mass., High School. In the "Supplement," published in 1920, I was unable to add any more records, but I have had recently an interesting experience, which is worth recording.

On March 4, 1922, in company with several friends, I took the steamer from Boston running to Gloucester. The Captain, at our request, steamed close to Half-way Rock, a small rocky islet rising abruptly from the sea to a height of about fifty feet. The Rock lies two miles off Marblehead, about half-way between Boston Outer Light and Gloucester. In addition to a Common Cormorant and two or more Purple Sandpipers, we started from this rock two small ducks, which I believe were Harlequins. One of these flew wildly about the rock and over the water astern of us, not scaling close to the surface, but rising and falling and turning this way and that, so we were able to see both its back and breast. In the dull light of a cloudy day we were unable, even with 8-power binoculars, to detect any colors or markings, and the duck looked uniformly dull gray or black. Its size, shape and method of flight excluded at once the American Scoter and the Black Duck. I am fairly familiar with the Harlequin Duck on the Labrador coast. The female and young look uniformly dark above and below and on the wings, with the exception of a variable amount of white near the eye, and this it is often difficult to see on a bird in flight.

Knight, in "The Birds of Maine," said of the Harlequin, in 1908: "They were formerly common along the coast from November until March and April, but now occur only in the extreme winter months in limited numbers among the outer surf-beaten ledges and islands of our Eastern coast."

It is possible the Harlequin has been frequenting this outlying Essex County rock.

CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M. D.

[Reprinted from the Bulletin of the Essex County Ornithological Club, 1922, with permission of the Essex County Ornithological Club of Massachusetts, Salem]

ABOUT BOOKS

A John Ford “Wannabe” Channels Konrad Lorenz and Shows that Sometimes the Bird in the Bush *Is* the Same as the Bird in the Hand

Mark Lynch

Winged Migration. 2001. DVD release 2003. Jacques Perrin, Jacques Cluzaud, and Michel Debats, Co-directors.

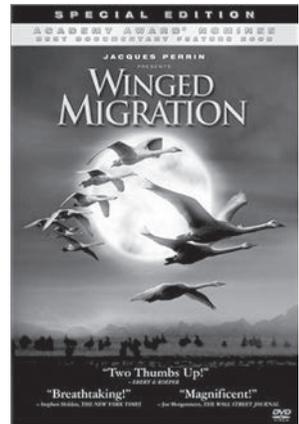
“Call it my women’s intuition, if you will. But I’ve never trusted neatness. Neatness has always been the form of very deliberate planning.” — Leonard in *North By Northwest*.

“**special effects (SP-EFX, FX, SFX).** Artificially devised effects used to create illusory impressions in a motion picture.” — pp. 1282, *The Film Encyclopedia*

The gushing was relentless and unstoppable. “Have you seen *Winged Migration* yet?” every birder I met would ask me with the look of a cult devotee. They would then launch into endless rhapsodic appraisals of this “documentary” film’s amazing footage of bird migration. The hyperbole in reviews was also extreme. As Jim Verniere of the *Boston Herald* wrote, quoted on the back of the DVD: “It is enough to leave even Matrix fans staring at the screen, gaping in awe.”

In many reviews of the film it was often conspicuously mentioned that the film used “no special effects.” This was touted as proof of the directors’ amazing luck and tenacity at getting those perfect shots. As a matter of fact, at the beginning of the film, in the title sequence, there is even the quote: “No special effects were used in the filming of the birds.”

Folks were certainly swept away by calendar-perfect cinematography that seemed well nigh impossible to have filmed. There were endless dramatic and extremely close shots of birds in flight. Birds were filmed in extraordinary and bizarre situations: alighting on a ship on a storm-tossed sea, landing in the polluted muck of a factory, or flying by the Eiffel Tower at dawn. A pair of Common Cranes is shown walking on the burning sands of the Sahara. Canada Geese are seen in the last place you would look for geese: a picturesque painted desert of canyons and buttes right out of the movies. “How did they ever get those shots?” folks wondered. Missing in all the buzz about the film’s visuals was a more serious and critical appraisal of the film’s structure, its hidden agendas, and what the film was actually showing. Lastly, no birder I talked to ever mentioned the ditzy soundtrack.



My initial reaction on viewing the film was not at all positive. I found the structure a mess. The camera moved from one far-flung location to the next with little reason, to the point of confusion. Locations were often not identified, and viewers were left wondering if that desolate icy location was in Iceland, Alaska, or the Kamchatka Peninsula. One moment we are looking at a Hyacinth Macaw escaping its captors on the Amazon (identified by a simple title as such); the next moment we are following albatrosses soaring over the angry seas of the southern hemisphere; and then we are looking at penguins, first at Rockhoppers, followed by Kings. Scenes that seemed to have nothing to do with the main theme of the film were inserted as if for no other reason than that they were “entertaining” breaks from those ponderous never-ending shots of geese flying. In one place we are following Snow Geese in flight, and in the next scene we are looking at Clark’s Grebes performing their prenuptial mating dance on the water, or Sage Grouse booming on a lek. Both avian events are well known to anyone who has watched the Discovery Channel. Neither scene added anything to the film’s purported theme to focus on the migration of birds.

The weirdly sporadic narration by actor/director Jacques Perrin made me long for the halcyon days of Jacques Cousteau getting wet and tan aboard the *Calypso*. For no apparent reason, Perrin’s Gallic tones are suddenly heard invoking such hoary lines as: migration is “the story of a promise...a promise to return” with all the *joie de vivre* of a haughty waiter reciting that night’s specials to American tourists. Perhaps Perrin can be forgiven his dull recitation, since his resume includes acting in such signature films as *Brotherhood of the Wolf* (French title: *Le Pacte des Loups*) and lots of French TV.

Many individual scenes are cringingly pat and trite, yet designed to still get a primal emotional rise out of a nature-loving audience. Out of nowhere, again for no reason, we are shown a phalanx of large wheat combines menacingly approaching a ground-nesting quail, which stays in place as the soundtrack plays a poor man’s version of Star Wars “menace” muzak. The film then cuts before we see what happens. Where were we? Why were we just shown this scene? We never see another quail in the entire film. In another tearjerker segment, caged Canada Geese are shown honking up at passing “wild” Canadas. Perrin et al. have carefully edited scenes to further this Disneyfied and anthropomorphic attitude toward the natural world. A Giant Petrel is shown grabbing and possibly eating a young King Penguin. The actual kill is not shown, only the getting of the chick and then a close-up of the Giant Petrel’s bloody maw. The very next scene is of penguins, which may not have even been the adults in the scene, slowly raising their beaks to the skies and then lowering them as if in mourning. There is likely no actual connection between the two scenes; the film is just edited in such a way to get that kind reaction from the audience.

And, yes, there are obviously “special effects” in the film. There are several enhanced scenes of birds flying high over computer-generated topographic maps of Africa and Europe. Similarly, altered images of birds are shown flying against stars, from inside an observatory, and in silhouette against the end credits. If all of these are not “special effects,” then I need an updated copy of my *Larousse de Poche*.

The music? Well, suffice it say that if the Ray Coniff Singers went to their first Burning Man Festival and took Ecstasy, the results probably would be “*la même chose*.” The music is intrusive and distracting in many scenes.

The cinematography is impressive on the surface, but suspiciously too perfect. My gut reaction on first seeing the film was that there was quite a collection of nearly impossible shots. Lighting, background, and circumstance all seemed to miraculously have come together time, and again, as if staged to create that perfect moment. To get any one of those shots would have been a coup, a stroke of extraordinary luck. Like the villain Leonard in Hitchcock’s masterpiece *North By Northwest*, I found so much “neatness” deeply suspicious. To have so many perfect scenes in one nature film seemed impossible for a “documentary.” I don’t care how many years and folks were involved in the project. And I was right.

I was waiting for the DVD release of this film because I was hoping that it would include some additional material, as do many contemporary DVDs, that would enable me to learn more about the filming of *Winged Migration*. Indeed, among the “Special Features” of the DVD release was a documentary section described as “Incredible “Making-of” goes behind the scenes in revealing how this extraordinary film was made.”

“Of course there’s conscious manipulation! Everything about a movie is manipulation...if you like it, it’s an interpretation. If you don’t like it, it’s a lie, but everything about these movies is a distortion.” — Legendary documentary filmmaker Frederick Wiseman.

Much of the beginning of the “Making of...” documentary deals with the intensive program of imprinting hatchling geese, swans, pelicans, cranes, and ducks that occurred in Normandy over the years in preparation for the filming of *Winged Migration*. The imprinting techniques and writings of Konrad Lorenz are given as the director’s guide and inspiration. Consequently, most of the shots of geese (Bar-headed, Canada, Greylag, Barnacle, Snow, and Red-breasted), White Pelicans, Whooper Swans, and Common Cranes seen in *Winged Migration* were of captive-reared and extensively trained birds. These domestic birds were raised from the egg to follow the ultralights, paragliders, motorcycles, and even hot air balloons used to film them in flight by responding to the constant beeping of a horn. These birds were raised to be totally dependent on humans. This required a lot of personnel, which included young veterinarian students and what the film describes as people found “through the unemployment office.”

The birds were then crated up and shipped with the film equipment to whatever site Jacques Perrin had determined would make a good scene on film. Thus, tame Bar-headed Geese born and raised in Normandy, France, were then trucked to the Himalayas and dumped out into the snow, ice, and cold, which they had never experienced before, to be filmed. Barnacle Geese were sent on board the French warship the Loire and filmed flying over heavy seas beside the ship and eventually, following the horn, landing on it. The tame European-raised Whooper Swans were shipped to Vietnam, where a crew flew them over and over a rice paddy to get that

one perfect shot of them flying behind the oxcart with the tethered ibis — which they also lugged in from a nearby location. Every single time those perfect shots were just setups with living props.

Several of these situations detailed in the “Making Of...” were particularly troubling:

*Canada Geese were trucked in Penske vans to the desert’s Monument Valley, Utah. The narrator describes the area as the “land of legends, westerns and road movies.” The director declares his wish to film the geese against “scenery out of a John Ford movie.” The old truck on the road that the geese are seen hanging around is also towed in because it makes a good prop. In the meantime, the poor geese are led hither and yon over the desert floor by workers beeping their ever-present horns. It is obvious that this is all about “the shot,” not really showing any kind of reality of Canada Goose migration. Do geese even occur here at this spot naturally with any kind of regularity? Would you see them at this time of the year? Or would they be flying high overhead?

* Common Cranes are brought to the Sahara Desert in Libya and filmed in temperatures, which are described as “exhausting,” ranging from +45 degrees to 0 degrees Celsius. Cranes do cross the Sahara in migration, but soaring on thermals high over the desert. I doubt that healthy cranes with a desire to live would hang out walking on the burning sands for any length of time as these cranes are forced to do.

*White Pelicans are shipped to Senegal and then Tanzania. The film documents the fact that they all get ill and have to be force-fed. The reason they are in Senegal is so they can be filmed flying over sun-baked earth. But the weather does not cooperate, so the recovering pelicans are filmed on the seaside. The reason they are brought to Kenya is simply to film them against a dramatic backdrop: Mount Kilimanjaro.

Periodically, some birds would wander off the script and the scene, only to be found again. Once, a flock of Barnacle Geese fly away from the filming area and are later found in the center of town in the police station parking lot, attesting to the fact that these birds were not wild birds by any stretch of the imagination.

There are some genuine wild scenes in *Winged Migration*. The scenes of the penguin colonies, the lekking Sage Grouse, and the alcid colonies are all wild birds in their natural settings. However, the filming of the alcid nesting cliffs is a bit troubling. You see the filmmakers setting up amazingly intrusive cranes and rigging designed to drop the cameraperson quickly down close to the side of the cliff, all the while flushing birds off nests. In most cases, these “wild scenes” have little to do with the purported concept of the film: migration. As a matter of fact, these “natural scenes,” including the cranes at the Arasaki refuge in Japan, have all been filmed before by a number of other nature cinematographers. Sad to say, many of these other more modest efforts are much better products: better filmed, more focused, and more informative.

To call *Winged Migration* a “documentary” is very misleading. In fact, at one point in the “Making Of...”, Perrin describes his film thusly: “We are making a film that is neither fiction nor documentary, just a natural tale.” I confess I have no idea what he means by “natural tale.”

I found this film to be less about the natural world and more about man making nature conform to his idea of what it should look like. It is a film rife with anthropomorphic artifice, a film about making the natural look “pretty,” and the construction of a story we think nature should tell. When I explained to friends how the birds were filmed and treated in *Winged Migration*, they often responded with something along the lines of “well, if at least it makes people interested in birds, I guess it’s all right.” I could not disagree more. To me, this is like saying of Leni Riefenstahl’s *Olympia*, “well, at least if it gets folks interested in physical fitness....” You are missing some of the most important elements of a film if you only critique it on such simple terms.

For any film, especially a “documentary,” is important that it be understood from the point of view of its cultural milieu, its social impact, and the agendas of the filmmakers, as well as from its formal aspects like editing and cinematography. *Winged Migration* has become the third highest grossing documentary film of all time (*New York Times* July 5, 2004, p. B1). Why, when in reality it is not even a “documentary,” by the directors’ own admission? It was extensively marketed here in America as such. We were misled at best. People wanted to believe that all the scenes represented the real, natural world because we want to think that nature conforms to a simple, dramatic story that looks nice. What was surprising to me is how many birders, who should have known better, did not look at this film more critically, but instead just responded to the lovely scenery and close-up shots of the pretty birds.

In some ways, *Winged Migration* can be considered largely as a “special effect” film in which controlled birds were used to present a simulacrum of nature, but without nature’s chaos, complexity, and spontaneity. Perrin’s use of birds is similar to Alfred Hitchcock’s use of trained and mechanical birds in his classic *The Birds* (1963). In both films, what appears to be wild nature is in fact tamed and made to perform on cue. In one instance it is for dramatic effect, and in the other it is for aesthetic effect. The natural world presented in *Winged Migration* is often, but not always, an illusion. Not that there is anything wrong with a filmmaker making that kind of film. However, I believe most viewers here in America thought they were watching one movie when in fact the directors had made quite a different film.

Even as an education tool, this film falls short. *Winged Migration* shows migration only in the most basic, simplistic terms, with little understanding of the complications and variations of these phenomena. Shorebirds get extremely little film time and then only in the distance. Passeriformes are skipped over almost entirely, except for the European Robin that opens and closes the film. This species is mostly a migrant within Europe and a permanent resident in countries like France and Britain. Many novices watching the film will come away thinking all migrants go to the Arctic in summer and the tropics in winter, because that is what the film leads you to believe.

The most troubling aspect of *Winged Migration* is the treatment of the birds, which amounts to something between Lassie and a prop. Birds were forced to perform with no choice in the matter of locations for which they were ill prepared or even, sometimes, probably not even genetically predisposed to deal with. For instance, the Canada Geese brought to the deserts of Utah — were they from the European population of Canada Geese, which do not migrate through deserts? I am no animal rights activist, but certain scenes like the sick pelicans in Senegal, the cranes in the burning Sahara, the geese in the desert, and others can certainly be interpreted as possibly abusive to the animals. Especially when you realize that birds were captives being run through their paces time and again so the cameramen could get the shot right. Interestingly, two scenes that were not shown in the “Making Of...” documentary were of the Red-breasted Geese landing in the pollution and the scenes of goose hunting in which it seemed that the geese we were following were shot. What did happen in these scenes? How did the birds do afterwards? It is also interesting that no mention is made whatsoever of what became of these birds once the filming was over. Were they released? Kept in captivity? I began to ask myself: “Did birds die during the filming of *Winged Migration*?” I sincerely hope not. But these are the kinds of troubling questions that are bound to come up when a film about the natural world is created as “not a fiction, not a documentary.”

“What is not in nature can never be true.”-Voltaire. 🦅



YOUNG PEREGRINE FALCONS BY DAVID A. SIBLEY

News from the USFWS

Ducks Migrating North Found Poor Breeding Conditions

Migrating ducks returning to important nesting areas in the north-central U.S. and southern Canadian prairies this spring were greeted by dry conditions, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's annual waterfowl survey. Although many areas received winter snow, including a late spring snowstorm in the southern portions of the survey area, the snowmelt was absorbed by the parched ground.

In the traditional survey area, known as the Prairie Pothole region, the total duck population estimate (excluding scoters, eiders, long-tailed ducks, mergansers, and wood ducks) was 32.2 million birds. This estimate is 11 percent below last year's estimate of 36.2 million birds and similar to the 1955-2003 long-term average.

Mallard abundance was 7.4 million birds, which was similar to last year's estimate of 7.9 million birds and the long-term average.

Blue-winged teal were estimated at 4.1 million birds, 26 percent below last year's estimate of 5.5 million and 10 percent below the long-term average.

Among other duck species, only shoveler, at 2.8 million, and wigeon, at 2.0 million, estimates were significantly different from those of last year, both of which were 22 percent lower than in 2003 estimates.

In comparison with long-term averages, the 2004 estimates were higher for gadwall at 2.6 million (+56 percent), green-winged teal at 2.5 million (+33 percent), and shovelers (+32 percent), and lower for pintails at 2.2 million (- 48 percent), scaup at 3.8 million (- 27 percent), and wigeon (- 25 percent). Redhead, at 605,000, and canvasback, at 617,000, estimates were similar to their long-term averages.

Most of the U.S. and Canadian prairies were much drier in May of 2004 than in May of 2003. Total pond numbers were 24 percent lower than last year, and the change was greater in Canada, down 29 percent to 2.5 million ponds, than in the north-central United States, down 16 percent to 1.4 million ponds. Snow and low temperatures during May probably had an adverse impact on early-nesting species and young broods. Although many prairie areas received abundant rain after the May surveys, this water likely did not alleviate the dry conditions, because much of it also soaked into the ground.

The Northwest Territories, Northern Alberta, Northern Saskatchewan, and Northern Manitoba were exceptionally late in thawing this year, so the birds that over-flew the dry prairies encountered winter-like conditions, and nesting may have been curtailed. This is especially true for early-nesting species such as mallards and pintails. Late-nesters will have better success.

[continued on page 246]

[continued from page 245]

Alaska birds should produce well because of excellent habitat conditions. Areas south of Alaska's Brooks Range experienced a widespread, record-setting early spring breakup, and flooding due to the rapid thaw was minor.

In the eastern United States and Canada, breeding habitat conditions generally were good to excellent. Although spring was late in most areas, biologists believed that nesting was not significantly affected because of abundant spring rain and mild temperatures.

In the eastern survey area, the 2004 total duck population estimate was 3.9 million birds, similar to both last year and the 1996-2003 average. Estimates for individual species also were similar to those of last year and the 8-year average, with the exception of ring-necked ducks, which was 67 percent above the 2003 estimate, and wigeon and goldeneyes, which were 61 percent and 42 percent below their 8-year averages, respectively.

US Army Corps of Engineers Volunteer Clearinghouse

The US Army Corps of Engineers Volunteer Clearinghouse is a national information center for people who are interested in volunteering their time at Corps lakes and projects.

People may contact the Volunteer Clearinghouse on a toll-free telephone number, 800-VOL-TEER or 800-865-8337, and on the website www.lrn.usace.army.mil/volunteer.

The Corps of Engineers is the steward of almost 12 million acres of land and water at 460 lakes across the country. Volunteers play an important role in protecting the natural resources and maintaining recreation areas.

The Clearinghouse links volunteer workers with Corps lakes and projects across the country that can use their services. Each person that contacts the Clearinghouse receives a volunteer packet with opportunities, points of contact, application, and brochure.

Volunteers serve as campground hosts, staff visitor centers, conduct programs, clean shorelines, restore fish and wildlife habitat, maintain park trails and facilities, and more. A free campsite is sometimes provided for volunteers.

National Public Lands Day and other one-day events attract many individuals and groups to volunteer to make a difference at parks, lakes, and trails.

Volunteers are not paid but receive other benefits. They work outdoors at beautiful lakes, help people and the environment, meet new people, gain valuable skills, have fun, and enjoy making a difference.

Nationwide, over 70,000 volunteers contributed 1.2 million hours of services annually at Corps lakes and projects with an estimated value of \$13.5 million.

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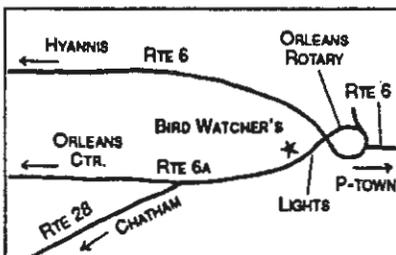
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NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

2004 Request for Proposals

Charles Blake Fund Grants

The Nuttall Ornithological Club is soliciting proposals for bird-related projects to be conducted in 2004-2005 under the direction of organizations meeting certain qualifications (see below). Selected projects will be supported by grants from the Club's Charles Blake Fund.

Grants will support ornithological research, conservation, and education, with particular emphasis on the birds of New England and the Northeast. The Fund will support grants for research, publication, education, and other worthy ornithology-related efforts.

The postmark-date deadline for applications is September 15, 2004. Awards will be announced by October 15, 2004. All funds will be distributed by October 31, 2004.

Application Guidelines:

1. Applying organizations must be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and must not be private foundations under section 509(a). Applications from individuals will not be considered.
2. Three typed copies of a brief proposal must be submitted in the following format:
 - a) Title page: project title and brief abstract; name, address and phone number; proposed starting and completion dates; total amount requested from the Charles Blake Fund;
 - b) Narrative of up to 5 pages including a) objectives, b) brief review of what is already known or has already been done, c) methods, d) value of the project to ornithology, e) project timetable, including a submission date for the final report, f) detailed budget, including funds applied for or expected from other sources;
 - c) Brief statement of investigator qualifications and a resume; and
 - d) Documentary evidence of section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status must be provided with each proposal.
 - e) It is encouraged that the above be submitted in electronic form as an alternative to paper submission.

3. Grants will be awarded on an annual basis from total available funds. The available money varies annually, but rarely is below \$15,000 per year. Proposals may request up to that entire amount. Applications for projects expected to last more than one year will be considered, but no commitment beyond the funds available in the present year will be made.

Nuttall Ornithological Club 2004-2005 Blake Fund Criteria

4. Proposals will be reviewed by the Blake Fund Committee and will be selected for awards based on the following merits:

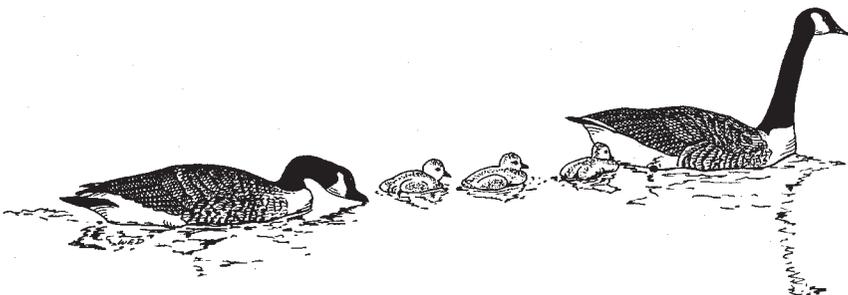
- a) Contribution to the goals of the Nuttall Ornithological Club,
- b) Conservation, management, or educational applications,
- c) Scientific merit,
- d) Feasibility, and
- e) Qualifications of investigator(s).

5. Typically the Blake Funds, along with other Club funds (when available), are distributed in grants ranging from \$1000 to \$5000. Grants requested for more than one year will be noted, but funding will be on an annual basis only. No commitments to future funding are inherent in any grant.

6. Grant payments will be made directly to the 501(c)(3) organizations, and the Nuttall Ornithological Club will retain no authority over use of paid grant funds. However, the Nuttall Ornithological Club requires that recipients prepare a report on their work and use of grant money within twelve months of receiving the grant.

Proposals should be addressed to:

David S. Deifik, M.D.
Nuttall Ornithological Club
Chair, Blake Fund Committee
C/O Dartmouth-Hitchcock Nashua
21 E. Hollis St.
Nashua, NH 03060
Email: David.S.Deifik@Hitchcock.Org



CANADA GEESE BY WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

March/April 2004

Seth Kellogg, Marjorie Rines, Robert H. Stymeist, and Jeremiah Trimble

March came in like a lamb, and then the lion brought stormy weather, with the reminder that winter still had a grip on us. The first five days of the month gave us temperatures quite a bit above normal; Groundhog Day was 17° above the average for March 2. The temperature on that day reached 66° in Boston, which broke the record for that date. The high mark for the month was 67° on March 26; the month averaged 39.4° in Boston, just 0.5° above normal but nearly 2° above last March. Rainfall totaled 3.38 inches, with measurable amounts falling on fourteen days, two over the average, and snowfall in Boston was 10.6 inches, 2.5 inches more than normal.

April started out on the chilly side, and cold dominated most of the first half of the month, with a low of 30° on April 6. The month averaged 49.6° in Boston, 1.3° above average and 5.1° warmer than the very cold April of last year. There was a taste of summer on April 19 when the mercury hit 86°, 16° above the average for this date and a real scorcher for the Boston Marathoners running that day. Rainfall totaled 9.57 inches in Boston, a new April record in the 134 years of official notes. Most fell on All Fool's Day, with nearly 4.5 inches noted. This was the most rain in any month since 9.86 inches came down in September 1999. The rain began on March 31 and ended on April 2, with a total of just over six inches in Boston, causing major flooding throughout our area. This provided a fine potential for water birds in area cornfields and meadows due to the storm. There was only a trace of snowfall. *R. Stymeist*

Waterfowl through Alcids

Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from Easthampton and Northampton, and may well have represented the same individual. More noteworthy was the **Barnacle Goose** which was found at West Newbury. Barnacle Goose was not added to the official Massachusetts state list until 2003, based on a bird found in February of 2002 in Wakefield and Lynnfield. While the identification of this species is straightforward, determining the origin of a bird known to be kept in captivity is tricky. However, the West Newbury bird fit into a time period (October through April) when most Massachusetts and eastern North American records have occurred and likely represented a wild bird.

Certainly the most intriguing and controversial bird found this season was a young **Trumpeter/Tundra Swan** found in some flooded fields in Hadley. The bird was very cooperative and allowed many observers excellent views. Despite those great views, along with hundreds of photographs and hours of video, the identification of this swan remains uncertain. Many experienced observers, however, believe it was a Trumpeter Swan. The identification of young Tundra and Trumpeter swans is one of the most difficult field identification problems in North America, since there is much variation in both plumage and morphometrics. Details have been submitted to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC).

Wood Duck numbers were particularly high in March. Counts of 200 at Northfield and 254 at Bolton Flats were noteworthy. The Eurasian Wigeon lingered at Marston Mills sporadically until the end of March, and another male stayed briefly in Framingham in the last few days of March. Green-winged Teal provided some excitement in the beginning of March. Among the hundreds of Green-winged Teal found in several flooded fields in Newbury, observers identified

at least one Eurasian Teal and one or two hybrid Eurasian x Green-winged Teal. Hybrids can be difficult to tell from pure Eurasian Teal. At least one of the hybrids showed both an indistinct white scapular line and an incomplete white vertical line on the side of the breast, typical of a hybrid. The two Redheads found in Braintree were somewhat tardy in their departure. Typically, Redheads are not found in Massachusetts after the first week of April, although they are occasionally seen even into May.

Although nearly an annual visitor in Massachusetts, the **Tufted Duck** found at Pembroke was a nice surprise. As many as four King Eiders were seen through the first half of March in Rockport, and a male was seen on March 29 on Martha's Vineyard. Down a little from the record totals this winter, but still impressive, was the count of up to 111 Harlequin Ducks at Rockport. Barrow's Goldeneyes were well-reported from throughout the state, including a number of inland localities.

Pacific Loons were found at three locations, with the real hotspot being Race Point in Provincetown. At least two different individuals were seen and photographed there. The annual **Eared Grebe** lingered until at least March 6 in East Gloucester.

American Bitterns were well reported during April, particularly on Plum Island, historically a very important locality for this species, where three were reported.

Black Vultures were reported at scattered locations, with the highest count coming from the roost in Sheffield at the beginning of March. The most exciting raptor report of the season was the **Mississippi Kite** observed moving past the hawk watch at Pilgrim Heights in Truro. **Sandhill Cranes**, possibly the same that spent the winter on Cape Cod, were reported from Nantucket, Truro, and Grafton on successive dates.

The first Piping Plover of the season was found associating with a few Snow Buntings in Hyannisport on March 7! Although there are several records for February, which were most likely winter wanderers or lingerers, this is among the earliest spring arrival dates for Massachusetts. American Oystercatchers also arrived in Massachusetts earlier than normal. In recent years there have been records of oystercatchers overwintering, but the pair found on Martha's Vineyard on March 4 was exceptionally early for a spring arrival. Continuing the trend of record early dates for shorebirds were the two Pectoral Sandpipers encountered in Newbury on March 7, beating the previous Massachusetts record by five days. At least one Reeve was observed at various locations around Newbury and Newburyport during the last week of April. A Red-necked Phalarope found in Ipswich on April 19 was several weeks earlier than the typical arrival date.

April 24 was a good day for Caspian Terns in Massachusetts, with two reported from Plymouth, one from Plum Island, and one from Provincetown. Three species of smaller terns were also seen in late April. A single Common Tern was found in Lynn on April 30, and a Forster's Tern was found on the same day in Newburyport Harbor. The sighting of a Least Tern on April 28 at Gay Head was noteworthy. There are fewer than ten previous April records for Massachusetts.

Common Murres were well reported during the period, with the highest count of seventy individuals coming from Provincetown in early March. This is the second-highest single-day count for Massachusetts.

J. Trimble

Greater White-fronted Goose

3/13-20 Easthampton 1-2 J. Schell
 3/25 Northampton 1 L. Therrien

Snow Goose

3/1-4/19 Edgartown 1 A. Keith#
 3/6-16 1-2 ind. in 5 W. Mass. locations
 3/27, 4/27 P.I. 130, 2 Wetmore, Heil
 3/27 Longmeadow 150 S. Kellogg#
 3/27 P'town (R.P.) 15 M. Barriger#
 4/7 Granville 636 J. Wojtanowski
 4/7 Barre Falls 100+ B. Kamp#
 4/7 Northampton 200+ C. Gentes
 4/8 Richmond 75 W. Lafley
 4/11 N. Hadley 22 C. Gentes

Brant

3/1-4/7 Oak Bluffs 30-40 A. Keith#
 3/7 Boston H. 944 TASL (M. Hall)
 3/19, 4/18 Newbypt H. 60, 230 R. Heil
 3/26 Rockport 90 J. Berry
 3/31 Winthrop 100+ P. + F. Vale
 4/4 Nantucket H. 25 P. Flood
 4/4 Plymouth H. 158 A. Brissette
 4/18 Squantum 75 G. d'Entremont
 4/24 Plymouth 350+ N. Paulson
 4/25 P'town 80+ B. Nikula

Barnacle Goose (details submitted)*

4/15-16, 24 W. Newbury 1 ph T. Wetmore + v.o.

Trumpeter Swan (details submitted)*

3/10-30 Northampton 1 ph B. Bieda + v.o.
 04/16 Hatfield 1 L. Therrien

Tundra Swan

3/13 Barnstable 1 M. Harvey#

Wood Duck

3/10 Northfield 200 M. Taylor
 3/13, 28 N. Hadley 145, 37 C. Gentes#
 3/16 Sudbury 36 L. Nachtrab
 3/23 GMNWR 40+ S. Sutton
 3/24, 4/17 Bolton Flats 254, 20 S. Sutton
 3/24 Northampton 140 A. Magee
 3/25 Hatfield 100+ C. Gentes
 3/27 Oxford 14 P. Meleski
 4/3 Longmeadow 23 C. Gentes
 4/4 DWMA 14 M. Lynch#

Gadwall

3/1 Newbypt 12 R. Heil
 3/6 Marstons Mills 35 G. d'Entremont#
 3/10 Hatfield 10 H. Allen
 3/13 P.I. 26 BBC (J. Center)
 3/19 Newbypt 12 R. Heil
 3/27 Turners Falls 3 H. Allen
 3/30 Seekonk 12 R. Farrell
 4/15 N. Hadley 4 C. Gentes
 4/17 Woburn 3 M. Rines#
 4/18 Randolph 3 G. d'Entremont

Eurasian Wigeon

3/20-27 Marstons Mills 1 m v.o.
 3/27-28 Framingham 1 m E. Taylor

American Wigeon

3/6 Marstons Mills 14 G. d'Entremont#
 3/7, 20 Hadley 18, 20 Gentes, Peake
 3/19 Newbypt H. 18 R. Heil
 3/27 Longmeadow 10 S. Kellogg#
 3/28 Turners Falls 8 T. Gagnon
 4/18 P.I. 7 T. Wetmore
 4/19 Newbury 13 J. Offermann#

Blue-winged Teal

3/28 Marshfield 1 f D. Furbish
 4/thr Chilmark 4-6 A. Keith
 4/3 Longmeadow 3 C. Gentes
 4/7 Lexington 2 M. Rines
 4/11 Pembroke 2 S. Shapiro#
 4/11, 20 P.I. 12, 5 R. Heil
 4/14, 17 Woburn 2, 3 M. Rines
 4/16 Northampton 5 L. Therrien
 4/18 P'town 2 B. Nikula
 4/19 Newbury 2 J. Offermann#
 4/19 Nantucket 2 E. Ray
 4/25 Chatham 2 B. Nikula

4/29 GMNWR 2 S. Perkins#
 4/29 DWWS 3 T. O'Neil
 4/30 Amherst 2 L. Therrien

Northern Shoveler

3/21-4/30 P.I. 1-2 T. Wetmore
 3/31 E. Gloucester 3 P. Cooney
 4/5 Longmeadow 2 J. Schell
 4/5 Oak Bluffs 2 m M. Pelikan

Northern Pintail

3/1, 4/15 P.I. 15, 6 R. Heil, Vale
 3/6 GMNWR 12 I. Reid
 3/7, 4/2 Newbury 90, 31 R. Heil
 3/7 Hadley 28 H. McQueen
 3/10, 4/6 Bolton Flats 4, 2 S. Sutton
 3/12 Northfield 24 M. Taylor
 3/20 Easthampton 25 D. Peake-Jones
 3/25 Turners Falls 4 H. Allen
 3/27 Hatfield 12 C. Gentes
 3/30 Richmond 4 T. Collins
 4/7 W. Bridgewater 4 G. d'Entremont
 4/9 Essex 4 J. Nelson

Green-winged Teal

thr Newbury 365 m ax 4/2 R. Heil
 thr Bolton Flats 350 max 4/17 S. Sutton
 3/10 Pepperell 30 E. Stromstead
 3/10 GMNWR 20 J. Offermann#
 3/12 Northampton 45 L. Therrien
 3/14 Cumb. Farms 50 G. d'Entremont#
 3/19-4/30 Chilmark 30 max A. Keith
 3/20, 4/4 P.I. 25, 50 T. Wetmore
 3/26-4/30 W. Harwich 46 max B. Nikula
 3/27 Hatfield 83 C. Gentes
 3/27 Longmeadow 25 S. Kellogg#
 4/2 Rowley 80+ R. Heil
 4/3 Wakefield 28 P. + F. Vale
 4/18 New Braintree 37 M. Lynch#
 4/28 Concord (NAC) 115 S. Perkins

Eurasian Teal

3/7 Newbury 1 S. Perkins#
 4/2-4 Newbury 1 m v.o.

Eurasian Teal x Green-winged Teal

3/6-7 Newbury 1-2 m J. Trimble + v.o.

Canvasback

3/5 Southwick 7 S. Kellogg
 3/6 Wakefield 3 D. + I. Jewell
 3/6 Falmouth 4 P. + F. Vale
 4/9 Hanson 1 m S. Maguire#
 4/17 Pembroke 1 m F. Bouchard#

Redhead

4/18-30 Braintree 2 G. d'Entremont

Ring-necked Duck

3/5 Brockton 65 M. Faherty
 3/20 GMNWR 275 I. Reid
 3/24, 4/17 Bolton Flats 34, 72 S. Sutton
 3/24, 4/4 Stoughton 75, 90 G. d'Entremont
 3/25 Northampton 65 L. Therrien
 3/27 Amesbury 150+ L. Montague#
 3/27 Sterling 80 R. Stymeist
 3/28, 4/13 Turners Falls 200, 17 Gagnon, Therrien
 4/3 Leicester 72 M. Lynch#
 4/4 DWMA 67 M. Lynch#
 4/5 Longmeadow 70 S. Kellogg
 4/8 Richmond 65 W. Lafley
 4/10 New Salem 60 W. Lafley
 4/25 P.I. 1 f T. Wetmore

Tufted Duck

4/11-16 Pembroke 1 m ad v.o.

Greater Scaup

3/7 Boston H. 1199 TASL (M. Hall)
 3/7 Lakeville 57 J. Sweeney
 3/20, 4/4 Turners Falls 2, 5 Peake-Jones, Kellogg
 3/20 Falmouth 100 CCBC (G. Hirth)
 3/25 Hadley 4 C. Gentes
 3/25 Medford 3 A. Ankers
 3/25 Hatfield 4 C. Gentes
 4/11 Salisbury 47 D. Chickering
 4/17 Pembroke 18 F. Bouchard#
 4/18 Randolph 6 G. d'Entremont

Greater Scaup (continued)				4/18	N. Quabbin	5	E. Nielsen
4/27	Newbypt	45	R. Heil	4/27	Topsfield	12	R. Heil
Lesser Scaup				4/28	Manchester	14	P. + F. Vale
3/10, 4/4	Turners Falls	1, 2	Allen, Kellogg	Common Goldeneye			
3/20	Falmouth	4	CCBC (G. Hirth)	3/5, 4/27	Newbypt H.	600, 11	R. Heil
3/21	Hatfield	2	C. Gentes	3/7	Boston H.	689	TASL (M. Hall)
3/26, 4/17	Northampton	2, 2	Therrien, NBWC	3/8, 4/4	Turners Falls	40, 6	Lafley, Kellogg
3/27	Westport	18	J. Hoye#	3/13	W. Boylston	50	T. Pirro
3/31	Southwick	5	S. Kellogg	3/14	Mashpee	150	M. Keleher
4/12	Fall River	20+	N. Frazee	3/23	GMNWR	27	S. Sutton
4/16	Pembroke	20	G. d'Entremont	3/25	Hatfield	20	C. Gentes
4/18	Braintree	23	G. d'Entremont	4/3	Wachusett Res.	24	S. Sutton
4/thr	Chilmark	15+	A. Keith	4/4	P'town	40	B. Nikula
King Eider				4/17	Pembroke	30	F. Bouchard#
3/1-17	Rockport	1-4	J. Trimble#	Barrow's Goldeneye			
3/29	Gay Head	1 m	A. Keith	3/thr	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 m	v.o.
Common Eider				3/1-29	Newbypt	4 max	v.o.
3/6	Sandwich	1300	G. d'Entremont#	3/1-17	Falmouth	pr	G. Gove#
3/7	Boston H.	5867	TASL (M. Hall)	3/7	Boston H.	1	TASL (M. Hall)
3/14	P.I.	1800	E. Nielsen	3/13-28	P.I.	1 m + 1 f	v.o.
3/21	Nantucket	20,000+	E. Ray	3/24-4/3	GMNWR	1 m	D. Diggins + v.o.
3/26	Rockport	130	J. Berry	3/25	Turners Falls	1 f	R. Packard
3/28	Marshfield	300	D. Furbish	3/25	Hatfield	1 m	C. Gentes
3/29, 4/17	Gay Head	5000, 350	A. Keith	3/26	Sunderland	1 m	L. Therrien
4/4	Plymouth H.	1500	A. Brissette	3/27	Fairhaven	1	BBC (S. Hunt)
4/7	N. Truro	105	D. Manchester	4/2-4	DWMA	1 m	S. Hardy
4/10	Sandwich	350	M. Keleher	Hooded Merganser			
4/28	Manchester	35+	P. + F. Vale	3/7	Longmeadow	20	S. Kellogg#
Harlequin Duck				3/10	Pepperell	125+	T. Pirro
thr	Chilmark	15-25	A. Keith	3/17, 4/6	Bolton Flats	60, 15	S. Sutton
3/1-4/19	Rockport	111 max	v.o.	3/20	W. Boylston	117+	T. Pirro
3/7	Winthrop	1 m	C. Jackson	3/23	GMNWR	40	S. Sutton
3/27	Westport	9	J. Hoye#	3/24	Turners Falls	110	A. Magee
4/3	Gloucester	3 m, 3 f	S. Hedman	4/3	Ludlow	7	C. Gentes
Surf Scoter				4/3	Eastham	7	S. Abele
3/6, 4/18	Sandwich	1500, 35	d'Entremont, Keleher	4/10	Quabbin Pk	5	M. Lynch#
3/7	Boston H.	83	TASL (M. Hall)	4/16	Pepperell	5	E. Stromsted#
3/14, 4/24	P.I.	30	Nielsen, Wetmore	4/18	New Braintree	7	M. Lynch#
3/26	Rockport	13	J. Berry	4/28	Berlin	pr	S. Sutton
3/27	Fairhaven	260	BBC (S. Hunt)	Common Merganser			
4/4	Nant. Sound	5000+	P. Flood	3/6	Pepperell	100+	E. Stromsted
4/15	Nahant	5	L. Pivacek	3/9	Cambr. (F.P.)	120	E. Wyld
4/17	P'town (R.P.)	18	F. Bouchard#	3/10	Arlington	330	M. Rines
4/22	Orleans (Nauset B.)	20	G. Gove#	3/10, 3/30	Turners Falls	215, 77	Allen, Anderson
4/24	Plymouth	8	N. Paulson	3/13	Halifax	141	J. Sweeney
White-winged Scoter				3/20	Wakefield	75	D. + I. Jewell
3/7	Boston H.	192	TASL (M. Hall)	3/27, 4/8	Northampton	52, 24	L. Therrien
3/14, 4/25	P.I.	350, 30	Nielsen, Wetmore	3/31	Southwick	120	S. Kellogg
3/18	Rockport	50+	J. Berry#	4/2	W. Newbury	147	R. Heil
3/27	Fairhaven	240	BBC (S. Hunt)	4/4	Williamsburg	90	R. Packard
4/4	S. Quabbin	1	S. Surner	4/8	New Braintree	26	C. Buelow
4/11	Truro	600	B. Nikula	4/19	Pittsfield	31	R. Laubach
4/17	Marshfield	20	D. Furbish	4/29	Winchester	6 f	R. LaFontaine
4/22	Turners Falls	1	L. Therrien	Red-breasted Merganser			
4/24	Southwick	2	S. Kellogg	3/7	Boston H.	1159	TASL (M. Hall)
Black Scoter				3/14	Medford	32	M. Rines
3/11	Rockport	30	J. Berry	3/24	Turners Falls	1	A. Magee
3/14	P.I.	20	E. Nielsen	4/4	Wachusett Res.	2 f	M. Lynch#
4/4	Nant. Sound	40	P. Flood	4/4	P'town	1600	B. Nikula
4/10	Sandwich	3	M. Keleher	4/19	Rockport (H.P.)	40	J. Berry
4/24	Plymouth	3	N. Paulson	Ruddy Duck			
Long-tailed Duck				3/12	Lynn	2	L. Pivacek
3/5, 4/27	Newbypt H.	150, 2600	R. Heil	3/12, 4/17	Melrose	2, 2	D. + I. Jewell
3/6	P'town	20	M. Taylor	4/2	Gay Head	1	A. Keith
3/20	Woods Hole	40	CCBC (G. Hirth)	4/11	Brookline	7	E. Taylor
3/30	Marion	24	R. Farrell	4/11, 24	Arlington Res.	3, 7	A. Gurka
4/4	P'town	200	B. Nikula	4/16	Pembroke	5	M. Keleher
4/11, 27	P.I.	500, 900	R. Heil	4/18	W. Newbury	2	D. Chickering
4/24	Pittsfield	12	G. Hurlley	Ruffed Grouse			
4/26	Southwick	3	S. Kellogg	3/13	Baldwinville	2	T. Pirro
Bufflehead				3/15	Middleton	1	J. MacDougall
3/5	Newbypt H.	400	R. Heil	4/3	Ludlow	3	C. Gentes
3/7	Boston H.	943	TASL (M. Hall)	4/3	Oakham	3	T. Pirro
3/11	Hudson	16	B. Woods#	4/10	Boxford	2	J. Hoye#
3/30	Marion	108	R. Farrell	4/10	Milton	1	A. Joslin
4/3, 22	Turners Falls	15, 3	Surner, Therrien	4/18	Quabbin	7	E. Nielsen
4/3	Leicester	11	M. Lynch#	4/25	Ware R. IBA	3	M. Lynch#
4/15	Nahant	83	L. Pivacek	4/27	Lincoln	1	G. Harris

Ruffed Grouse (continued)				Eared Grebe *			
4/30 Northampton	1	T. Gagnon		3/1-6 E. Gloucester	1		v.o.
Wild Turkey				Sooty Shearwater			
3/5 Medfield	18	J. O'Connor		4/19 Truro	2		J. Center
3/6 Hadley	35	H. McQueen		Manx Shearwater			
3/6 Agawam	12	S. Kellogg		4/9 P'town	1		G. Williams
3/7 Burlington	21	J. Mullen#		Northern Fulmar			
3/8 Brimfield	22	I. Lynch		3/8 Rockport (A.P.)	15 lt		R. Heil
3/11 W. Newbury	20	T. Wetmore		3/14 Wilkinson's Basin	15		D. Abbott#
3/15 Melrose	12	D. + I. Jewell		3/28 Dennis (Corp. B.)	1		B. Nikula
3/17 Amherst	15	H. Allen		4/17 Rockport	1		J. Wallius
4/4 Plymouth	33	A. Brissette		Northern Gannet			
4/4 Ashfield	15	T. Gagnon		3/14, 4/4 P'town	60, 325		B. Nikula#
4/18 Tyringham	10	M. + K. Conway		3/15, 20 N. Truro	116, 226		D. Manchester
4/thr Sherborn	18	E. Taylor		3/21 Nantucket	131		E. Ray
Northern Bobwhite				3/28 Dennis (Corp. B.)	50		B. Nikula
3/14 Mashpee	1	M. Keleher		4/11, 29 P'town	600, 1100		B. Nikula
4/11 Truro	1	J. Young		4/12, 28 N. Truro	600, 200		D. Manchester
4/24 Eastham	1	P. Arrigo		4/19 Rockport (H.P.)	50+		J. Berry
Red-throated Loon				4/20 Manchester	100+		J. Berry#
3/7 Boston H.	14	TASL (M. Hall)		4/22 Orleans (Nauset B.)	150		G. Gove#
3/13, 27 Eastham	40, 60	B. Nikula#		4/23 Brewster	600+		B. Nikula
3/14, 4/11 P'town	150, 120	B. Nikula#		4/24 Stellwagen	500		N. Paulson
3/27, 4/11 Truro	140, 250	B. Nikula		Double-crested Cormorant			
4/2 Chilmark	50+	A. Keith		3/15 N. Truro	48		D. Manchester
4/4 Nant. Sound	300+	P. Flood		4/4 Squantum	60		G. d'Entremont
4/11 P.I.	82	R. Heil		4/11 Nahant	130		BBC (L. Pivacek)
4/22 Orleans (Nauset B.)	300	G. Gove#		4/11 P.I.	107		R. Heil
4/24 Woburn (H.P.)	1	R. LaFontaine#		4/17, 29 Granville	80, 63		Hawkcount
Pacific Loon *				4/19 Rockport (H.P.)	150		J. Berry
3/10-4/11 P'town (R.P.)	2 ph	V. Laux + v.o.		4/24 Plymouth	90		N. Paulson
4/22 Orleans (Nauset B.)	1	G. Gove#		4/25 P.I.	125+		P. + F. Vale
4/27 Menemsha	1 br pl	V. Laux		4/27, 29 Barre Falls	406, 200		Hawkcount
Common Loon				Great Cormorant			
3/7 Boston H.	7	TASL (M. Hall)		3/1 Newbypt	73		R. Heil
3/20 Ipswich	38	D. Chickering		3/7 Cape Ann	25		ECOC (J. Berry)
4/3, 10 Ludlow	2	H. McQueen#		3/13 P'town	70		B. Nikula
4/4 Nant. Sound	80	P. Flood		4/4 P'town	155		B. Nikula
4/11 Truro	160	B. Nikula		4/11 Nahant	12		BBC (L. Pivacek)
4/11 P'town	95	B. Nikula		4/24 Plymouth	12		N. Paulson
4/11 P.I.	17	R. Heil		American Bittern			
4/17 Barre Falls	2	D. Schilling		4/16 Pittsfield	1		T. Collins
4/22 Gardner	2	T. Pirro		4/16 DWWS	1		T. Duddy
4/22 Orleans (Nauset B.)	200	G. Gove#		4/17 Barre	1		C. Buelow
4/23 Southwick	3	S. Kellogg		4/20 W. Bridgewater	1		R. Titus
4/25 Quabbin (G33)	3	C. Buelow		4/22 Deerfield	1		J. Schell
Pied-billed Grebe				4/25 P.I.	3		D. + S. Larson
3/26 Acoaxet	3	M. Lynch#		4/25 Woburn (H.P.)	1		D. Diggins#
3/27 Oxford	2	P. Meleski		4/26 S. Amherst	1		H. McQueen#
3/30 Boston	2	J. Splaine		4/29 GMNWR	1		S. Perkins#
3/31 Bolton Flats	2	S. Sutton		Great Blue Heron			
4/3 Wakefield	2	D. + I. Jewell		3/7 Westboro	4		M. Lynch#
4/3 Longmeadow	2	C. Surprenant#		3/14 Northampton	4		M. Lynch#
4/27 Ipswich	3	R. Heil		3/15 Westwood	5		W. Webb
Horned Grebe				3/23 Northampton	14		L. Therrien
3/7 Cape Ann	12	ECOC (J. Berry)		3/25 DWMA	27		S. Sutton
3/7 Boston H.	79	TASL (M. Hall)		4/2 Northampton	10 on nests		C. Gentes
3/14, 4/11 P.I.	26, 30	Nielsen, Heil		4/3 Peabody	18 n		P. + F. Vale
3/18 S. Hadley	2	H. McQueen		4/4 DWMA	29		M. Lynch#
3/24 Rockport	60+	D. Gill		4/9 Northampton	15 on nests		L. Therrien
3/30 Falmouth	22	R. Farrell		4/17 Wayland	5 nests		B. Howell#
4/3, 10 Ludlow	2	C. Gentes#		Great Egret			
4/4 Mattapoisett	35	D. Furbish		3/20 S. Dartmouth	2		A. + D. Morgan
4/14-27 Southwick	3 max	S. Kellogg		3/21 Oak Bluffs	1		J. Meyst
4/18 Sandwich	60+	CCBC (Keleher)		3/24 Essex	1		J. Nelson
4/18 Quincy Bay	10	G. d'Entremont		3/26, 4/20 Magnolia	9, 63		Heil, Berry
4/25 Quabbin (G33)	1	C. Buelow		3/26 Acoaxet	4		M. Lynch#
Red-necked Grebe				4/3 Athol	1		K. Dani
3/7 Holland	1	S. Kellogg#		4/8 P.I.	3		T. Wetmore
3/7 Boston H.	47	TASL (M. Hall)		4/12 Pittsfield	1		G. Shampang
3/13 Eastham	250	B. Nikula#		4/17 Rockport	3		J. Wallius
3/14, 4/11 P.I.	18, 14	Nielsen, Heil		4/18 Essex	6		D. + S. Larson
4/9 Dennis (Corp.B.)	13	B. Nikula		4/25 Hingham	2		E. Taylor
4/11 Nahant	14	BBC (L. Pivacek)		4/28 Arlington Res.	1		M. Rines
4/14 S. Gardner	3	T. Pirro		Snowy Egret			
4/15 Southwick	11	S. Kellogg		3/23 Essex	1		P. Brown
4/22 Orleans (Nauset B.)	12	G. Gove#		3/25 Scituate	1		D. Furbish
				3/25 Boston (Logan)	2		N. Smith

Snowy Egret (continued)				Mississippi Kite *			
3/26, 4/20 Magnolia	8	Heil, Berry	4/29	N. Truro	1 ad	Hawkcount (B. Nikula)	
3/29 Springfield	1	C. Roane	Bald Eagle				
4/2 Chilmark	1	A. Keith	3/thr	Barre Falls	6	Hawkcount (B.K.)	
4/4 Turners Falls	3	S. Kellogg#	3/1	Newbypt	2 imm	R. Heil	
4/17 Concord (NAC)	1	G. Long	3/1	Lakeville	7 imm	N. Yeates	
4/25 P'town	8	B. Nikula	3/4	Quabbin (G35)	4 ad, 2 imm	B. Lafley	
4/25 Hingham	3	E. Taylor	3/6	Hadley	1 on nest	C. Gentes#	
Little Blue Heron			3/6	Newbypt H.	4 imm	J. Trimble#	
4/9, 20 Magnolia	8, 22	Heil, Berry	3/7	Lakeville	2 ad, 2 imm	J. Sweeney	
4/14 W. Newbury	1	B. Buxton	3/10	Salisbury	2 subad	F. Vale#	
4/18 Nantucket	1 ad	fide E. Ray	3/14	Royalston	1 juv, 1 3W	T. Pirro	
4/25 Ware R. IBA	1	M. Lynch#	3/20	Newbypt	2 ad	T. Wetmore	
4/28 Hingham	1 ad	R. Carroll	3/22	Dighton	2 ad	J. + L. Tripp	
4/29 DWWS	1 ad	T. O'Neil	3/22	Newbypt	2 ad, 3 imm	M. Reeve	
Green Heron			4/thr	Barre Falls	6	Hawkcount (B.K.)	
4/20 Northampton	1	C. Gentes	4/thr	N. Truro	6	Hawkcount (D.M.)	
4/22 Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell	4/3	Athol	3	D. Small#	
4/27 DWWS	2	D. Furbish	4/7-30	Granville	12	Hawkcount (J.W.)	
4/30 Lexington	3	J. Sutherland	4/7-30	N. Truro	6	Hawkcount (D.M.)	
4/30 Amherst	2	L. Therrien	4/9	Brookfield	1 n	M. Lynch#	
Black-crowned Night-Heron			4/10	Quabbin Pk	5 ad	M. Lynch#	
3/2 Falmouth	2	G. Gove#	4/18	Granville	3	Hawkcount (J.W.)	
3/26 Gloucester (E.P.)	1 ad	M. Taylor#	4/25	Granville	4	Hawkcount (J.W.)	
4/8 Plymouth	4	M. Sylvia	Northern Harrier				
4/11 W. Harwich	15	B. Nikula	3/thr	N. Truro	10	Hawkcount (D.M.)	
4/15 Watertown	2	A. Gurka	3/1, 4/11	P.I.	12, 13	R. Heil	
4/20 Magnolia	4	J. Berry#	3/7	Cumb. Farms	2 f	J. Sweeney	
4/22 Medford	16	M. Rines	3/20	Woods Hole	2	CCBC (G. Hirth)	
4/28 Manchester	8	P. + F. Vale	3/27-29	Granville	5	Hawkcount (J.W.)	
Glossy Ibis			4/thr	Barre Falls	22	Hawkcount (B.K.)	
3/24, 4/4 Bolton Flats	1	Sutton, Lynch	4/thr	N. Truro	13	Hawkcount (D.M.)	
3/25 Mansfield	1	K. Ryan	4/4	P.I.	2 m + 5 f	T. Wetmore	
3/27 P.I.	11	T. Wetmore	4/5	Scituate	1 m, 1 f, 1 juv	S. Maguire#	
4/9-17 Concord (NAC)	1	M. Rines	4/7-29	Granville	18	Hawkcount (J.W.)	
4/9, 28 Magnolia	5, 110	Heil, Vale	4/8	Barre Falls	6	Hawkcount (B.K.)	
4/10, 29 N. Truro	1, 1	D. Manchester#	4/10	Bolton Flats	2	S. Sutton	
4/17 Lenox	5	T. Collins	4/15	Salisbury	2	F. Vale#	
4/22 Northampton	1	H. Allen	4/17	Mt Tom	5	L. Therrien	
4/27 Ipswich	41	R. Heil	4/17	P'town (R.P.)	6 f	F. Bouchard#	
4/29 GMNWR	1	S. Perkins#	4/17	Granville	7	Hawkcount (J.W.)	
Black Vulture			4/25	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#	
3/6 Sheffield	27	C. Blagdon	Sharp-shinned Hawk				
3/26 Granville	1	Hawkcount (J.W.)	3/11-30	Granville	18	Hawkcount (J.W.)	
3/27, 4/19 Westport	2, 1	Hoye, Paulson	3/thr	N. Truro	3	Hawkcount (D.M.)	
3/30 Granville	1	J. Wojtanoski	3/thr	Barre Falls	12	Hawkcount (B.K.)	
4/3 Williamstown	1	A. Werner	3/26	Barre Falls	4	Hawkcount (B.K.)	
4/18 Barre Falls	1	Hawkcount (D.S.)	4/7-27	Granville	109	Hawkcount (J.W.)	
4/22 Granville	1	S. Kellogg	4/7-30	N. Truro	295	Hawkcount (D.M.)	
Turkey Vulture			4/10	P.I.	4	T. Wetmore	
3/thr Barre Falls	27	Hawkcount (B.K.)	4/10	Quabbin Pk	8	M. Lynch#	
3/11-30 Granville	49	Hawkcount (J.W.)	4/10	Barre Falls	27	Hawkcount (B.K.)	
3/14 Westport	44	G. Gove#	4/17	Mt Tom	16	L. Therrien	
3/29 Mt. Tom	11	L. Therrien	4/17	N. Truro	20	Hawkcount (D.M.)	
4/thr Barre Falls	65	Hawkcount (B.K.)	4/17	Granville	31	Hawkcount (J.W.)	
4/2 Hadley	11	H. McQueen	4/17	Barre Falls	25	Hawkcount (D.S.)	
4/4 Orange	12	T. Pirro#	4/18	Granville	35	Hawkcount (J.W.)	
4/6-30 N. Truro	248	Hawkcount (D.M.)	4/18	Barre Falls	27	Hawkcount (D.S.)	
4/7-29 Granville	49	Hawkcount (J.W.)	4/19	Barre Falls	31	Hawkcount (B.K.)	
4/9 Barre Falls	20	Hawkcount (B.K.)	4/22	Mt. Sugarloaf	6	L. Therrien	
4/10 Quabbin Pk	20	M. Lynch#	4/24	N. Truro	22	Hawkcount (M.L.)	
4/17 Granville	16	Hawkcount (J.W.)	4/27	Barre Falls	22	Hawkcount (B.K.)	
4/25 Ware R. IBA	18	M. Lynch#	4/28	N. Truro	20	Hawkcount (D.M.)	
4/30 N. Truro	35	Hawkcount (D.M.)	4/29	N. Truro	121	Hawkcount (D.M.)	
Osprey			4/30	N. Truro	45	Hawkcount (D.M.)	
3/14 Mashpee	1	M. Keleher	4/thr	N. Truro	296	Hawkcount (D.M.)	
3/14 Westport	3	G. Gove#	4/thr	Barre Falls	221	Hawkcount (B.K.)	
4/thr N. Truro	55	Hawkcount (D.M.)	Cooper's Hawk				
4/thr Barre Falls	199	Hawkcount (B.K.)	3/5	Brockton	pr	M. Faherty	
4/6-30 N. Truro	55	Hawkcount (D.M.)	3/7	Gloucester	2	S. Hedman#	
4/9 Mashpee	14	M. Keleher	3/13-26	Barre Falls	12	Hawkcount (B.K.)	
4/10 Barre Falls	34	Hawkcount (B.K.)	3/15	Stow	2 ad	T. Carrolan	
4/10-30 Granville	124	Hawkcount (J.W.)	3/15-30	Granville	4	Hawkcount (J.W.)	
4/17 Granville	55	Hawkcount (J.W.)	3/21	W. Bridgewater	2	J. Hoye#	
4/17 Barre Falls	33	Hawkcount (D.S.)	3/24	N. Truro	3	Hawkcount (D.M.)	
4/17 Mt Tom	15	L. Therrien	3/26	Turners Falls	2	L. Therrien	
4/29 N. Truro	16	Hawkcount (D.M.)	3/27	N. Falmouth	2	BBC (S. Hunt)	
			3/thr	Mansfield	pr	K. Ryan	

Cooper's Hawk (continued)

4/thr	N. Truro	39	Hawkcount (D.M.)
4/7-18	Barre Falls	7	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/7-25	Granville	14	Hawkcount (J.W.)
4/7-30	N. Truro	35	Hawkcount (D.M.)
4/18	Granville	4	Hawkcount (J.W.)
4/29	N. Truro	4	Hawkcount (M.L.)
4/30	N. Truro	7	Hawkcount (D.M.)

Northern Goshawk

3/15	Barre Falls	2 ad	T. Carrolan
3/26	Barre Falls	2 ad, 1 imm	B. Kamp#
4/thr	N. Truro	3	Hawkcount (D.M.)

Red-shouldered Hawk

3/thr	Barre Falls	11	Hawkcount (B.K.)
thr	E. Middleboro	pr	K. Anderson
3/10	Northampton	2	L. Therrien
3/11-30	Granville	16	Hawkcount (J.W.)
3/14	Barre Falls	4	Hawkcount (B.K.)
3/14	Granville	8	Hawkcount (J.W.)
3/26	Barre Falls	3	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/thr	N. Truro	6	Hawkcount (D.M.)
4/thr	Barre Falls	7	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/7	N. Truro	3	Hawkcount (D.M.)
4/10	Barre Falls	3	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/18	Boxford (C.P.)	2	P. + F. Vale
4/18	Quabbin	2	E. Nielsen

Broad-winged Hawk

3/24	Granville	2	Hawkcount (J.W.)
4/11-30	Barre Falls	533	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/12-30	Granville	513	Hawkcount (J.W.)
4/17	Mt Tom	11	L. Therrien
4/18	Barre Falls	79	Hawkcount (D.S.)
4/18	Granville	97	Hawkcount (J.W.)
4/19	Hancock	13	R. Laubach
4/19	Barre Falls	49	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/19-30	N. Truro	84	Hawkcount (D.M.)
4/22	Deerfield	63	L. Therrien
4/22	Granville	37	Hawkcount (J.W.)
4/22	Mt. Sugarloaf	63	L. Therrien
4/24	Barre Falls	75	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/25	Granville	281	Hawkcount (J.W.)
4/25	Barre Falls	50	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/25	Ware R. IBA	21	M. Lynch#
4/27	Barre Falls	44	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/28	Barre Falls	124	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/29	N. Truro	57	Hawkcount (D.M.)
4/29	Barre Falls	29	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/29	Deerfield	23	L. Therrien
4/29	Granville	31	Hawkcount (J.W.)
4/30	N. Truro	16	Hawkcount (D.M.)

Red-tailed Hawk

3/thr	Barre Falls	74	Hawkcount (B.K.)
3/thr	N. Truro	14	Hawkcount (D.M.)
3/7-30	Granville	72	Hawkcount (J.W.)
3/10	Northampton	13	L. Therrien
3/13	P.I.	15 ad	T. Carrolan
3/14	Granville	23	Hawkcount (J.W.)
3/14	Barre Falls	21	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/thr	Barre Falls	57	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/6-30	N. Truro	83	Hawkcount (D.M.)
4/7-29	Granville	60	Hawkcount (J.W.)
4/8	Barre Falls	17	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/10	Quabbin Pk	9	M. Lynch#
4/17, 20, 29	N. Truro	16, 51, 16	Hawkcount (D.M.)

Rough-legged Hawk

3/2, 21	Hadley	1, 1	Minnear, Allen
3/6	Newbypt H.	1 dk	J. Trimble#
3/7, 13	Cumb. Farms	2 dk, 1 lt	J. Sweeney
3/9	Bolton Flats	1	S. Sutton
3/13, 14	N. Truro	2, 1	Hawkcount (D.M.)
3/16	Northampton	1	H. Allen
3/19	P.I.	1 dk	R. Heil
3/20	Woods Hole	1	CCBC (G. Hirth)
3/21, 23	New Braintree	1 lt	C. Buelow
4/7	N. Truro	1 dk	D. Manchester
4/9	Cumb. Farms	1	S. Maguire#
4/17	Pepperell	1	J. Godwin
4/18, 29	N. Truro	1 dk, 1 lt	Hawkcount (D.M.)

Golden Eagle

3/4	Quabbin (G35)	1	B. Lafley
3/29	Granville	1	Hawkcount (J.W.)
4/11	Barre Falls	1 ad	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/18, 25	Granville	1, 1	Hawkcount (J.W.)

American Kestrel

3/14	Newbury	3	E. Nielsen
3/20-30	Granville	17	Hawkcount (J.W.)
3/26	Granville	7	Hawkcount (J.W.)
3/28	Hadley	4	C. Gentes
4/thr	Barre Falls	131	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/thr	N. Truro	132	Hawkcount (D.M.)
4/thr	Granville	64	Hawkcount (J.W.)
4/10	Worcester	4	M. Lynch#
4/11, 20	P.I.	6, 23	R. Heil
4/17	IRWS	3	BBC (P. + F. Vale)
4/17, 18	Barre Falls	21, 40	Hawkcount (D.S.)
4/18	Granville	35	Hawkcount (J.W.)
4/22, 29	N. Truro	14, 25	Hawkcount (D.M.)
4/24	Ware R. IBA	4	M. Lynch#
4/28	Deerfield	12	R. Packard

Merlin

3/20-26	Barre Falls	4	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/thr	Barre Falls	8	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/4, 8	P.I.	2, 2	T. Wetmore
4/8, 11	Barre Falls	2, 2	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/17	Chilmark	2	A. Keith
4/17-30	N. Truro	34	Hawkcount (D.M.)
4/18, 20	N. Truro	5, 6	Hawkcount (D.M.)
4/19	Rockport (H.P.)	4	J. Berry
4/20	P.I.	2	R. Heil

Peregrine Falcon

3/1-4/3	Reports of indiv. from	13 locations	
3/13	P.I.	2	T. Carrolan
3/25	Boston (Logan)	4	N. Smith
4/7-29	N. Truro	8	Hawkcount (D.M.)
4/9	Amherst	2	R. Packard
4/9	Boston	3	T. Pirro
4/12	Boston (Logan)	2	N. Smith
4/17	Worcester	1 ad	M. Lynch#
4/18	Sandwich	1	M. Keleher
4/20	P.I.	1 m subad	R. Heil
4/25	Newbypt	1	T. Wetmore
4/27	Barre Falls	1	Hawkcount (B.K.)
4/29	N. Truro	3	Hawkcount (D.M.)

Clapper Rail

4/18, 20	P.I.	1	R. Heil
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Virginia Rail

4/17	Williamstown	1	L. Reed-Evans
4/17	IRWS	2	BBC (P. + F. Vale)
4/18	New Braintree	2	M. Lynch#
4/24	Winchester	pr	M. Rines#
4/24	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
4/25	Reading	1	D. Williams#
4/27	Wayland	2	J. Hoye#
4/27	Northampton	1	H. Allen
4/27	Topfield	1	R. Heil
4/30	Bolton Flats	1	S. Sutton

Sora

4/18	New Braintree	1	M. Lynch#
4/24	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
4/27	Wayland	1	J. Hoye#

Common Moorhen

4/29-30	Longmeadow	1	L. Atkinson
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American Coot

3/2	Marlboro	1	T. Spahr
3/12	Lynn	2	L. Pivacek
3/23	GMNWR	3	S. Sutton
3/25	Watertown	1	A. McGinnis
4/11	Brookline	1	E. Taylor
4/11-30	Longmeadow	1	K. Perkins#

Sandhill Crane

4/5-7	Nantucket	2	J. Marks#
4/25	N. Truro	1	D. Manchester#
4/30	Grafton	2	J. Liller

Black-bellied Plover

4/18	P.I.	5	R. Heil#
4/24	Duxbury B.	25	R. Bowes

Piping Plover			4/16 Nahant	43	P. + F. Vale
3/7 Hyannisport	1	V. Laux	Least Sandpiper		
3/15 Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw	4/18 P.I.	1	R. Heil#
3/27 Dartmouth	1	J. Hoye#	4/29 W. Harwich	17	B. Nikula
3/28 P'town	10	D. + F. Clapp	4/30 Marshfield	5	D. Furbish
4/8 Chilmark	10	A. Keith	Pectoral Sandpiper		
4/9 Mashpee	4	M. Keleher	3/7 Newbury	1	W. Petersen#
4/10 Sandwich	10	M. Keleher	4/27 Chilmark	2	V. Laux
4/25 P.I.	6	D. + S. Larson	Purple Sandpiper		
4/25 Scituate	7	S. Maguire	3/10 Salisbury	35	T. Wetmore
Killdeer			3/11 Rockport	200+	J. Berry
3/1 Northampton	1	L. Therrien	4/11 Nahant	18	BBC (L. Pivacek)
3/4 Lexington	5	J. Sutherland	4/17 Gay Head	30	A. Keith
3/5 W. Bridgewater	15	M. Faherty	Dunlin		
3/7 Newbury	20+	P. + F. Vale	3/12 Dennis	120	G. Gove
3/25 Boston (Logan)	27	N. Smith	3/14 Westport	150	G. Gove#
4/2 Ipswich	34	R. Heil	4/5 Scituate	40+	S. Maguire#
4/4 W. Newbury	20+	P. + F. Vale	4/11 P.I.	60+	R. Heil
American Oystercatcher			4/18 Newbypt	173	D. Chickering
3/4 Oak Bluffs	2	J. Nelson	4/19 Edgartown	50	A. Keith
3/13, 4/18 Nantucket	1, 17	Blackshaw, Ray	4/20 Manchester	40+	J. Berry#
3/24 Fairhaven	4	N. Frazee	4/24 Duxbury B.	300	R. Bowes
3/25 Boston (Logan)	3	N. Smith	Ruff		
3/31 Winthrop	4	P. + F. Vale	4/18 Newbypt H.	1 f	R. Heil#
4/3 WBWS	2	M. Taylor#	4/19-21 Newbury	1 f	G. Wood + v.o.
4/9 Mashpee	1	M. Keleher	4/25-27 Newbypt	1 D.	Chickering + v.o.
4/17 P'town (R.P.)	2	F. Bouchard#	Wilson's Snipe		
4/24 Eastham	1+	P. Arrigo	3/6, 4/17 Newbury	3, 40	Trimble, Wetmore
Greater Yellowlegs			3/13, 4/18 Cumb. Farms	2, 8	Sweeney, Paulson
3/20 Yarmouthport	1	B. Nikula	3/27, 4/20 W. Bridgewater	23, 31	S. Hunt, Titus
3/21 Longmeadow	1	J. LaPointe	3/27, 4/30 Bolton Flats	14, 6	S. Sutton
3/26 Newbypt	2	J. MacDougall	3/30 Hadley	6	C. Gentes
3/30, 4/24 Northampton	1, 5	Petersen, Gagnon	4/2 Ipswich	16	R. Heil
4/thr W. Harwich	20 max	B. Nikula	4/3 Hadley	9	S. Surner
4/11, 27 Newbypt	34, 150	R. Heil	4/9 W. Brookfield	14	M. Lynch#
4/18 P.I.	20	R. Heil#	4/10 W. Newbury	6	J. Hoye#
4/18 Sandwich	8	CCBC (Keleher)	4/11 W. Harwich	8	B. Nikula
4/24 Chatham	20	B. Nikula	4/11 Topsfield	27	R. Heil
4/30 Marshfield	50	D. Furbish	4/17 Wayland	5	B. Howell#
4/30 Bolton Flats	4	S. Sutton	4/18 Petersham	4	H. Allen
4/30 Cummaquid	57	E. + St. Miller	4/18 P.I.	6	R. Heil#
Lesser Yellowlegs			4/28 Concord (NAC)	5	S. Perkins
4/16 Northampton	1	C. Gentes	American Woodcock		
4/18 Chilmark	1	A. Keith	3/2 Dennis	4 m	M. Dettrey
4/18 E. Dennis	1	D. Silverstein	3/5 Cummaquid	6	MAS (Silverstein)
4/19 Newbury	5	F. Vale#	3/7 Beverly	4	S. Hedman
4/22 W. Bridgewater	4	G. d'Entremont	3/24 Burlington	8	P. + F. Vale
4/27 Longmeadow	2	N. Eaton	3/28 Hardwick	10	C. Buelow
4/27 Newbypt	2	R. Heil	4/5 Boston	6	G. Tepke
4/30 Bolton Flats	6	S. Sutton	4/17 P.I.	6	T. Wetmore
Solitary Sandpiper			4/18 E. Dennis	6	D. Silverstein
4/11, 20 Newbury	1, 2	Heil, Wetmore	4/18 Shutesbury	3	K. Weir
4/19 Sheffield	1	K. Ryan	Wilson's Phalarope		
4/27 Northampton	1	H. Allen	4/27 Newbypt	1	O. Spalding#
4/30 Hadley	1	C. Gentes#	Red-necked Phalarope		
4/30 Lexington	3	J. Sutherland	4/19 Ipswich	1 m	J. Berry
Willet			Pomarine Jaeger		
4/20 W. Dennis	2	D. Silverstein	4/2 Brewster	1 ad	J. Kenneally
4/26 Chatham	25	B. Nikula	Laughing Gull		
4/27 Chilmark	2	V. Laux	3/27 P'town (R.P.)	1	M. Barriger#
4/30 Edgartown	9	A. Keith	3/31 Wellfleet	2	M. Tuttle#
Spotted Sandpiper			4/17 Oak Bluffs	1	V. Laux
4/27 Northampton	1	H. Allen	4/18 E. Dennis	1	D. Silverstein
4/28 Westwood	2	G. Sargeant	4/24 Plymouth	2	N. Paulson
4/30 Bolton Flats	2	S. Sutton	4/25 Newbypt	2	D. Chickering#
4/30 P'town	1	CCBC (Silverstein)	Little Gull		
Upland Sandpiper			4/10-27 Lynn B.	1	J. Quigley
4/12 Boston (Logan)	1	N. Smith	Black-headed Gull		
4/15 DWWS	1	D. Furbish	4/18 Nantucket	1 imm	fide E. Ray
4/19 Cumb. Farms	1	N. Paulson	Bonaparte's Gull		
4/24-27 Gardner	1	T. Pirro	3/27 Turners Falls	1	H. Allen
4/25 Essex	1	C. Corley#	3/27 Newbypt	4	D. Chickering
4/25 Ipswich	1	C. Corley#	3/28 Dennis (Corp. B.)	27	B. Nikula
Ruddy Turnstone			4/9 Mashpee	4	M. Keleher
4/4 Marion	1	D. Furbish	4/11, 22 Turners Falls	3, 7	S. Surner
Sanderling			4/11 Newbypt	16	R. Heil
3/7 P'town (R.P.)	350	G. d'Entremont#	4/18 Lynn B.	300+	P. + F. Vale
4/4 Plymouth B.	1	A. Brissette	4/24 Pittsfield	1	G. Hurley

Bonaparte's Gull (continued)				Common Tern			
4/11 Brewster	240		B. Nikula	4/30 Lynn	1		L. de la Flor
Iceland Gull				Forster's Tern			
3/1, 4/11 Newbypt	5 ad, 2 1W		R. Heil	4/30 Newbypt H.	2		O. Spalding
3/6, 18 Gloucester	5, 3		Trimble, Berry	Least Tern			
3/10 Northampton	4		H. Allen	4/28 Edgartown	1		V. Laux
3/10, 27 Hatfield	2, 2		Packard, Gentes	Dovekie			
3/11 Rockport	2 1W		J. Berry	3/29 Gay Head	1		A. Keith
3/13, 4/3 W. Boylston	2, 1		T. Pirro	Common Murre			
3/13, 4/20 N. Truro	3, 3		D. Manchester#	3/8, 17 Rockport (A.P.)	1, 1		R. Heil
3/14 P'town	25		B. Nikula#	3/10, 20 P'town (R.P.)	70, 13		Laux, Trimble
3/14 Wilkinson's Basin	1		D. Abbott#	3/29 Gay Head	1		A. Keith
3/21, 4/19 Nantucket	34, 1		E. Ray	4/4 P'town (R.P.)	5+		B. Nikula
3/25 Barre	1 ad		C. Buelow	4/24 Stellwagen	1		N. Paulson
3/26 Lynn	1		J. Quigley	Thick-billed Murre			
3/30 Oak Bluffs	1 ad		M. Pelikan	3/1, 17 Rockport	1, 16		Larson, Heil
4/4 S. Quabbin	1		S. Surner	3/6 Eastham	9		P. + F. Vale
4/11, 29 P'town	8, 2		B. Nikula	3/14 Wilkinson's Basin	1 alt pl		D. Abbott#
Lesser Black-backed Gull				3/14, 20 P'town (R.P.)	2, 4		B. Nikula#
3/1-4/23 Brewster	3 max		B. Nikula#	4/4 Wellfleet	1		M. Taylor#
3/6 Gloucester (E.P.)	1 1W		J. Trimble#	Razorbill			
3/9, 4/4 Plymouth	1, 1		Furbish, Brissette	3/8, 17 Rockport (A.P.)	42, 221		R. Heil
3/10 Dennis	1		G. Gove	3/13 P.I.	10		T. Wetmore
3/19, 4/27 Newbypt	2 ad, 2 ad		R. Heil	3/14, 20 P'town (R.P.)	200, 325		Nikula, Trimble
3/21, 4/19 Nantucket	16, 1		E. Ray	3/20 Woods Hole	25		CCBC (G. Hirth)
4/17 Northampton	1		T. Gagnon	3/21 Nantucket	67		E. Ray
4/19-27 Chilmark	1 ad		A. Keith#	3/27 N. Truro	700		B. Nikula
4/25 P'town	1 ad		B. Nikula	3/29 Gay Head	30+		A. Keith
Glaucous Gull				4/4 Nant. Sound	25		P. Flood
3/3-6 Northampton	1		L. Therrien	4/4 P'town	100		B. Nikula
3/6, 18 Gloucester	4 1W, 2 2W		Trimble, Berry	4/17 Rockport	8		J. Wallius
3/8 Newbypt	1 ad		D. Larson	4/21 Tisbury	4		A. Keith
3/13 W. Boylston	1 imm		T. Pirro	Black Guillemot			
3/15 Pittsfield (Onota)	1		N. Purdy	3/6, 17 Rockport (A.P.)	15, 6		Trimble, Heil
3/18 Easthampton	1		H. Allen	3/7, 3/3 Gloucester (B.R.)	12, 3		S. Hedman#
3/20 P'town (R.P.)	1 ad, 1 1W		J. Trimble#	3/21 Nantucket	1		E. Ray
3/27 Lynn	1		J. Quigley	4/4 P'town	1		B. Nikula
4/19 Nantucket	1		E. Ray	4/11 Nahant	4		BBC (L. Pivacek)
4/24 Plymouth	1		N. Paulson	4/19 Rockport (H.P.)	1		J. Berry
Black-legged Kittiwake				Atlantic Puffin			
3/6 Wellfleet	2		F. Vale	3/14 Wilkinson's Basin	2		D. Abbott#
3/8 Rockport (A.P.)	20		R. Heil	Large alcid species			
3/21 Nantucket	1		E. Ray	3/13 Eastham	300		B. Nikula#
Caspian Tern				3/14, 4/25 P'town	500, 2		B. Nikula#
4/24 Plymouth	2		S. Abele	3/17 Rockport (A.P.)	132		R. Heil
4/24 P.I.	1		P. Roberts	3/27 N. Truro	225		B. Nikula
4/24 P'town	1		P. Arrigo	3/28 Dennis (Corp. B.)	65		B. Nikula
				4/4 Nant. Sound	40		P. Flood

Doves through Finches

The discovery of two Mourning Dove chicks on March 31 may well represent the earliest confirmed breeding of this species in the state. The nest was located in a sheltered spot under an eave at the Martha's Vineyard Hospital in Oak Bluffs. It would suggest that these eggs were laid as early as March 16. The egg dates in Veit and Petersen are listed from April 17 through July 27, a full month after the Vineyard birds. There is a New England record of a pair of Mourning Dove eggs found on April 1, 1921, in Fairfield, Connecticut. Another early record was the report of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo that was stunned when it flew into a building in New Bedford on April 15. There are a few other April reports of this species, the earliest being April 6, 2001, in Ashfield.

It was a lackluster winter for Snowy Owls, and only one was noted during this period, a single bird located at Logan Airport on March 25. Short-eared Owls, on the other hand, continued throughout the period from several locations, with as many as four individuals on Plum Island through early April. One found in Northampton was only the second western Massachusetts sighting for this period since 1983. Northern Saw-whet Owls were noted from thirteen areas, typical of recent years. There was a good April flight of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, with eleven individuals noted, as compared with just three last April. The Red-

headed Woodpecker previously recorded in Medfield continued, and another adult was found in Chatham. There was a very good showing of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, which seem to be arriving earlier and earlier, indicating that many are not flying as far south as in previous winters. Notable were eleven individuals from the Quabbin on April 18 and five or more from the Boston Public Garden on April 19.

The much-anticipated spring migration began with the first large flocks of blackbirds early in March, followed by Eastern Phoebes and the first Tree Swallows arriving in late March. A phoebe in Wayland on March 7 may represent an overwintering bird, since there have been several winter reports of Eastern Phoebe in this same location. Flocks of American Robins exceeded several hundreds of individuals by the end of March, and Fox Sparrows were noted in multiple numbers from many locations as they returned north in late March and early April.

Early April weather was not very conducive for migration, as the month opened with a tremendous rainstorm, winds out of the northeast, and temperatures as much as 10° below normal. The first southerly wind was not recorded until April 13, and the first significant movement did not occur until April 18. Rick Heil reported an excellent flight of passerines from the Plum Island area: "The morning hours featured wave after wave of flickers, kinglets, sparrows, and blackbirds moving north along the dunes and refuge road, and the thickets were teeming with Hermit Thrushes." The morning of the 18th was also very good at Mount Auburn Cemetery, Marblehead Neck, and in the Middlesex Fells area. The extended wave continued with new birds showing up right to the end of the month.

One of the most unusual spring records was that of a Worm-eating Warbler, which was documented with a photograph on April 4 in Newbury. This is the earliest arrival, surpassing the previous record of April 16, 1994, from Salisbury. In western Massachusetts, Seth Kellogg reports new early arrival dates for Prairie and Black-and-white warblers, and a tie for the earliest arrival of Tennessee and Nashville warblers. Many "southern" warblers were noted during April: there were four different **Yellow-throated Warblers**, a Cerulean, three **Prothonotary**, two additional Worm-eating, a **Kentucky**, and three Hooded warblers. In fact, there were twenty-five different warbler species noted as compared with eighteen in April 2003.

The warblers were not alone in setting new records for early arrivals. An Eastern Kingbird on April 8 in North Truro tied for the second-earliest arrival on record, and a Red-eyed Vireo in Medford tied for the earliest arrival on April 27. Other contenders for early arrival include: White-eyed Vireo, Cliff Swallow, Scarlet Tanager, and Grasshopper and Lincoln's sparrows.

American Crows continue to be reported in low numbers, almost surely because of West Nile Virus. We urge readers to note local changes in populations and to monitor any roosts when winter comes. On the other hand, the number of Common Raven reports continues to escalate. Noteworthy were fifteen in Royalston and eighteen from Barre Falls Dam. There was a confirmed nesting discovered along Route 128 in the Manchester area, a first for Essex County.

Among the more unusual sightings were: the continued presence of the **Variied Thrush** at Quabbin Park, the largest numbers of **Bohemian Waxwings** in recent years from a wide area of locations, **Summer Tanagers** from Chilmark and Brewster, a **Spotted Towhee** from Rockport, and a **Blue Grosbeak** from Nantucket. **Hoary Redpolls** are notoriously difficult to differentiate from pale Common Redpolls, and reports from Pepperell, Hinsdale, and Brewster are awaiting review of the MARC. The winter finch population continued to show good numbers of Purple Finches, Red Crossbills, and Common Redpolls, and fair numbers of Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks; there were three individual reports of White-winged Crossbills. *R. Stymeist*

Mourning Dove				4/11	Medford	5	M. Rines#
3/31	Oak Bluffs	2 chicks	fide A. Keith	4/17	Hingham	4	G. d'Entremont#
Monk Parakeet				4/18	Sandwich	4	CCBC (Keleher)
4/19	Dartmouth	1	N. Paulson	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				3/26	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 m imm	M. Taylor#
4/15	New Bedford	1	M. LaBossiere	3/27	Pittsfield	1	T. Collins
Eastern Screech-Owl				3/27-28	Beverly	1 m	S. Hedman
thr	Wayland	pr	A. McCarthy#	4/11	Barre Falls	2	B. Kamp#
3/1	Winchester	2	M. Rines	4/11	Medford	2	R. LaFontaine#
3/4	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	4/16	Northampton	2	H. McQueen
3/14	Woburn (H.P.)	pr	P. Ippolito#	4/18	Quabbin	11	E. Nielsen
4/10	Worcester	pr	M. Lynch#	4/18	Brookline	2	F. Bouchard#
Great Horned Owl				4/18-19	Chatham	2	P. Gaines
3/1	Mt.A.	3	R. Stymeist	4/19	Boston	5+	G. Tepke
3/11	Concord	3	P. Cozza	Hairy Woodpecker			
3/15	Northampton	2	L. Therrien	3/7	Mashpee	3	M. Keleher
3/16	Hingham	2	P. Nims	3/27	Oakham	6	P. + F. Vale
4/9	Newbury	pr	L. Leka	3/30	ONWR	4	S. Sutton
4/10	Belmont	pr	M. Fraser#	4/11	Medford	6	M. Rines#
4/15	Dunstable	2 ad, 1 yg	P. Terrasi	4/16	Pepperell	4	E. Stromsted#
Snowy Owl				Northern Flicker			
3/25	Boston (Logan)	1	N. Smith	4/18	P.I.	185+	R. Heil#
Barred Owl				4/18	N. Truro	65 migr	D. Manchester
3/18	Rowley	2	J. MacDougall	Pileated Woodpecker			
4/1	Pepperell	2	P. Terrasi	3/10	Wenham	2	J. MacDougall
4/4	Boxford (C.P.)	2	T. + L. Wetmore	3/12	Wayland	2	G. Long
4/14	Hardwick	1 n	C. Buelow	3/16	Quabbin (G43)	3	C. Buelow
Long-eared Owl				3/27	Turners Falls	2	H. Allen
3/5	Medfield	1	J. O'Connor	3/27	Washington	2	E. Neumuth
Short-eared Owl				4/1	Pepperell	2	E. Stromsted#
3/1-4/5	P.I.	2-4	v.o.	4/2	S. Amherst	pr n	H. McQueen
3/4	Bourne	1	D. Furbish	4/3	Oakham	2	T. Pirro
3/6, 8	Duxbury	1	N. Smith	4/10	Westford	pr n	S. Selesky
3/7	Cumb. Farms	2	J. Sweeney	4/14	Hardwick	3	C. Buelow
3/10	Salisbury	3	MAS (D. Weaver)	4/15	Bedford	pr	T. Roberts
4/4	Leicester	2	M. Lynch#	4/20	Agawam	2	S. Kellogg
4/10	Worcester	2	M. Lynch#	Eastern Phoebe			
4/17	Northampton	1	fide C. Gentes	3/7	Wayland	1	B. Howell#
Northern Saw-whet Owl				3/13	Northampton	1	J. Offerman
thr	Reports of indiv. from 13 locations			3/17	Longmeadow	1	N. Eaton
Whip-poor-will				3/26	Lincoln	5	M. Rines
4/29	N. Hadley	1	C. Gentes#	3/27	E. Quabbin	10	C. Buelow
4/30	S. Peabody	2	R. Heil	3/27	P.I.	12	T. Wetmore
4/30	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	4/9	Warren	22	M. Lynch#
Chimney Swift				4/9	N. Brookfield	13	M. Lynch#
4/19	Woburn	1	E. McDonald#	4/11	Medford	14	M. Rines#
4/23	Malden	4	K. + R. Barnes	4/18	P.I.	31	R. Heil#
4/26	Melrose	3	D. + I. Jewell	Great Crested Flycatcher			
4/28	Amherst	2	H. Allen	4/30	Boston (F.Pk)	2	J. Young
4/29	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins#	4/30	Ashfield	1	S. Sauter
4/30	Worcester	3	M. Lynch#	4/30	Medford	1	M. Rines
4/30	Northampton	3	C. Gentes	4/30	Brookline	1	F. Bouchard
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				4/30	N. Truro	1	D. Manchester
4/15	Chilmark	1	C. Dietz	Eastern Kingbird			
4/24	Brewster	1	S. Finnegan	4/8	N. Truro	1	D. Manchester#
4/24	Mattaoisett	1	M. Sylvia#	4/18	Chilmark	1	A. Keith
4/24	Marshfield	1 m	D. Furbish	4/24	P'town	1	P. Arrigo
4/24	Newbury	1	S. Stitcher	4/24	Amherst	1	S. Sumner
4/25	Mt.A.	1	P. Castle	4/24	Nantucket	2	S. Langer
4/29	Pepperell	1	P. Terrasi	4/25	Lynn	3	D. Horvath
4/29	Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	4/30	Boston (F.Pk)	2	J. Young
4/29	Granby	1	L. Rogers	Northern Shrike			
4/30	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon	3/1-4/17	P.I.	1 ad	v.o.
4/30	Scituate	1	L. Burbank	3/1	Grafton	1	J. Liller
Belted Kingfisher				3/3, 7	Bolton Flats	1	T. Murray
4/10	Bolton Flats	3	S. Sutton	3/3, 7	ONWR	1	T. Murray
4/17	Pepperell	3	M. Resch	3/3	Hadley	1	H. Allen
4/18	Sandwich	3	CCBC (Keleher)	3/6	Amherst	1	D. Minnear
Red-headed Woodpecker				3/9	Ashfield	1	S. Sauter
3/thr	Medfield	1	v.o.	3/10	P'town (R.P.)	1	V. Laux
4/22	Medfield	1	G. Canelli	3/14	Ipswich (C.B.)	1 ad	J. Berry
4/29	Chatham	1 ad	S. Vaule	3/14	Carlisle	1	T. Brownrigg
Red-bellied Woodpecker				3/15	Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab
3/21	Winchester	2 m, 1 f	J. Crystal#	3/21	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon
3/26	Berlin	3+	S. Sutton	3/28	Sheffield	1	K. Ryan
4/3	Boxford (C.P.)	3+	P. + F. Vale	White-eyed Vireo			
4/9	Wayland	4	G. Long	4/17	Gay Head	1	A. Keith
4/10	Chestnut Hill	4	R. Merrill	4/18	Chilmark	1	A. Keith

White-eyed Vireo (continued)			4/2, 10	DWMA	55, 350	S. Sutton
4/24 Nantucket	1	S. Langer	4/4	Westboro	50	S. Sutton
Yellow-throated Vireo			4/11	Groveland	70	R. Heil
4/30 P.I.	1	M. Reeve#	4/11	W. Newbury	110	R. Heil
Blue-headed Vireo			4/14	Hardwick	125+	C. Buelow
4/17 W. Tisbury	1	A. Keith	4/18	New Braintree	150	M. Lynch#
4/18 Quabbin	7	E. Nielsen	4/25	Ware R. IBA	80+	M. Lynch#
4/18 Quincy	2	G. d'Entremont		Northern Rough-winged Swallow		
4/18 Petersham	4	M. Lynch#	4/3	Northampton	1	R. Packard
4/20, 30 Mt.A.	1, 7	Stymeist, Trimble	4/9	Warren	1	M. Lynch#
4/21, 30 Medford	2, 10	M. Rines	4/10	Stoughton	4	BBC (R. Titus)
4/22 Quabbin (G40)	2	I. Lynch	4/11	Pembroke	3	S. Shapiro#
4/24 P.I.	4	P. + F. Vale	4/13	Falmouth	6	G. Gove
4/25 Ware R. IBA	12	M. Lynch#	4/14	Hardwick	10	C. Buelow
4/30 P'town	6	CCBC (Silverstein)	4/19	Cambridge	7	A. Joslin
Warbling Vireo			4/20	P.I.	14	R. Heil
4/24 P'town	1	C. + S. Thompson	4/24	Salem	14	BBC (L. dela Flor)
4/28, 30 Medford	1, 5	M. Rines	4/24	DWWS	4	R. Bowes
4/29 Amherst	2	H. McQueen	4/25	Oxford	16	P. Meleski
4/29 N. Hadley	2	C. Gentes	4/25	Ware R. IBA	4	M. Lynch#
4/30 Melrose	3	D. + I. Jewell	4/25	Longmeadow	7	H. McQueen
4/30 Woburn (H.P.)	2	D. Fruguglietti		Bank Swallow		
4/30 Bolton Flats	4	S. Sutton	4/18	Gay Head	2	A. Fischer
4/30 Groveland	2	D. Chickering	4/24	Longmeadow	1	S. Surner
4/30 Mt.A.	2	R. Stymeist		Cliff Swallow		
Red-eyed Vireo			4/8	Oak Bluffs	1	V. Laux
4/27-30 Medford	1	M. Rines#	4/25	Wayland	1	G. Long
Fish Crow				Barn Swallow		
3/thr Seekonk	9	R. Farrell	3/27	Newbypt	2	B. Krisler
3/26 Scituate	7	S. Maguire#	3/27	P.I.	1	T. Carrolan
3/27 Lakeville	2	BBC (S. Hunt)	4/8	N. Truro	6	D. Manchester
3/28 Pittsfield	4	T. Collins	4/9	Warren	3	M. Lynch#
3/29 Dorchester	12	A. Joslin	4/14	Agawam	1	S. Kellogg
3/31 E. Sandwich	2	D. Manchester	4/14	Norfolk	2	MAS (S. Perry)
4/9 Middleboro	2	S. Maguire#	4/16	Wayland	2	G. Long
4/10 Sharon	5	BBC (R. Titus)	4/24	Falmouth	3	M. Keleher
4/17 WBWS	2	F. Bouchard#	4/25	Oxford	3	P. Meleski
4/17 Marshfield	8	D. Furbish	4/28	Manchester	3	P. + F. Vale
4/19 Braintree	2	N. Paulson	4/28	Melrose	2	D. + I. Jewell
4/22 Northampton	10	R. Packard	4/29	GMNWR	5	S. Perkins#
4/24 Lexington	2	M. Rines		Red-breasted Nuthatch		
4/28 Mt.A.	2	BBC (P. + F. Vale)	3/7	Wachusett Res.	7	S. Sutton
Common Raven			3/7	Mashpee	7	M. Keleher
3/4 Quabbin (G35)	10	B. Lafley	3/27	W. Boylston	7	R. Stymeist
3/7 Ipswich	1	R. Heil	3/27	Oxford	12	P. Meleski
3/14 Royalston	15	T. Pirro	3/27	Oakham	20+	P. + F. Vale
3/17 Gloucester	1	D. Peloquin	3/31	Boxford	7	T. Wetmore
4/2 Mt. Sugarloaf	2	L. Therrien	4/3	Ludlow	6	C. Gentes
4/7, 27 Manchester	1, pr n	R. Heil	4/10	DWMA	5	S. Sutton
4/10 Quabbin Pk	pr n	M. Lynch#	4/11	Petersham	14	M. Lynch#
4/11 New Braintree	1	M. Lynch#	4/18	Gr Barrington	5	R. Laubach
4/18 W. Newbury	1	L. Pivacek	4/18	Quabbin	16	E. Nielsen
4/20 Groton	1	J. Lisk	4/18	P'town	6	B. Nikula
4/22 Gardner	1	T. Pirro	4/19	Wompatuck SP	10	R. Finch
4/25 Oxford	1	P. Meleski	4/19	Berlin	5	S. Sutton
4/25 Ware R. IBA	pr n	M. Lynch#	4/25	Ware R. IBA	21	M. Lynch#
4/27 Barre Falls	18	B. Kamp		Brown Creeper		
Horned Lark			3/6	Wayland	5	G. Long
3/4 Scituate	3	S. Maguire	3/27	Oakham	18	P. + F. Vale
3/6 Wellfleet	2	P. + F. Vale	4/3	Boxford (C.P.)	8	P. + F. Vale
3/7 P'town (R.P.)	15	G. d'Entremont#	4/11	Petersham	8	C. Buelow
3/13 Cumb. Farms	52	J. Sweeney	4/15	Lenox	6	T. Collins
3/17, 4/10 Bolton Flats	30, 3	S. Sutton#	4/17	Nahant	6	L. Pivacek
3/18 Hadley	500	H. Allen	4/18	Mt Tom	6	G. White
3/20 P'town (R.P.)	35	J. Trimble#	4/18	P'town	6	B. Nikula
3/20 Northampton	150	T. Gagnon	4/18	Quabbin	7	E. Nielsen
3/21, 4/8 P.I.	8, 6	T. Wetmore	4/18	P.I.	8	R. Heil#
4/4 Orange	75+	T. Pirro#	4/25	Ware R. IBA	11	M. Lynch#
4/19 Mashpee	4	G. Hirth		Carolina Wren		
Purple Martin			3/4	P'town	16	J. Offermann#
4/13 Chilmark	1 m	A. Keith	4/18	Warren	4	R. Stymeist#
4/18 P.I.	6	D. Chickering	4/29	MNWS	6	BBC (K. Haley)
4/18 DWWS	2 m	D. Furbish		House Wren		
Tree Swallow			4/11	Nahant	2	BBC (L. Pivacek)
3/20, 4/18 P.I.	1, 120	Wetmore, Heil	4/14	Becket	1	R. Laubach
3/21, 4/7 Longmeadow	15, 600	LaPointe, Kellogg	4/21, 30	Medford	1, 7	M. Rines
3/25 Arlington Res.	6	M. Rines	4/24	Salem	2	BBC (L. dela Flor)
3/27 Hatfield	16	H. McQueen	4/29	Hadley	2	H. McQueen

Winter Wren				4/18	Salisbury	22	D. Chickering
3/14	Lynnfield	2	D. + I. Jewell	4/18	N. Quabbin	17	E. Nielson
4/11	Medford	2	M. Rines#	4/18	Boston	10+	G. Tepke
4/16	Hatfield	2	H. Allen	4/18	Boxford (C.P.)	10	D. + S. Larson
4/18	Quabbin	2	E. Nielsen	4/24	Ware R. IBA	13	M. Lynch#
4/18	P.I.	2	D. + S. Larson	Wood Thrush			
4/18	Amherst	2	H. McQueen	4/29	Northampton	1	P. Yeskie
4/18	P'town	4	B. Nikula	American Robin			
4/18	S. Amherst	2	H. McQueen	3/1	Northampton	100	L. Therrien
4/18	Boxford (C.P.)	3	D. + S. Larson	3/23	New Braintree	100	C. Buelow
4/25	Wompatuck SP	3	E. Giles#	3/25	Wakefield	145	F. Vale
Marsh Wren				3/26	Mt.A.	435	R. Stymeist
3/26	GMNWR	3	T. Wetmore#	3/28	Marshfield	700	D. Furbish
4/18	P.I.	1	R. Heil#	4/2	Newbury	140	R. Heil
4/20	Wayland	1	J. Hoye#	4/4	Bolton	400	M. Lynch#
Golden-crowned Kinglet				4/9	Warren	371	M. Lynch#
3/5	Cummaquid	12	MAS (Silverstein)	4/18	P.I.	110	R. Heil#
4/2, 11	Medford	9, 33	M. Rines	Varied Thrush			
4/3	Leicester	9	M. Lynch#	3/19, 20	Quabbin Pk	1	v.o.
4/3	Boxford (C.P.)	25	P. + F. Vale	Gray Catbird			
4/4	Ipswich	8	J. Berry	4/17	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
4/9	P.I.	20	T. Wetmore	4/18	MNWS	1	J. Hoye#
4/10	Stoughton	9	BBC (R. Titus)	4/30	Southwick	6	S. Kellogg
4/11	Quabbin (G37)	9	M. Lynch#	4/30	Medford	36	M. Rines
4/15	Salisbury	15	D. Chickering	Brown Thrasher			
4/18	P.I.	78	R. Heil#	3/19	W. Tisbury	1	L. McDowell
4/24	Ware R. IBA	8	M. Lynch#	3/27	Westport	1	J. Hoye#
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				4/6	P'town	1	C. Skowron
3/26	Marblehead	2	K. Haley	4/19	Pittsfield	2	C. Blagdon
3/28	Sheffield	1	K. Ryan	4/20	P.I.	3	R. Heil
4/8	Woburn	2	M. Rines	4/20	N. Hadley	3	C. Gentes
4/11, 18	Medford	3, 48	M. Rines#	4/21	Medford	3	M. Rines
4/17	P.I.	56 b	B. Flemer	4/24	Salem	4	BBC (L. dela Flor)
4/17	IRWS	18	BBC (P. + F. Vale)	4/25	Oxford	3	P. Meleski
4/17-30	Mt.A.	14+ max	4/29 R. Stymeist	4/28	MNWS	3	K. Haley
4/18	Boston	20+	G. Tepke	American Pipit			
4/18	Quincy	20	G. d'Entremont	3/7	Truro	1	B. Nikula
4/18	P.I.	115	R. Heil#	3/17	Gay Head	1	A. Keith
4/18, 29	P'town	13, 14	B. Nikula	3/30	Turners Falls	2	K. Anderson
4/18	N. Quabbin	17	E. Nielson	4/4	P'town	1	B. Nikula
4/18	Southwick	12	S. Kellogg	4/8	P.I.	4	T. Wetmore
4/18	Braintree	16	G. d'Entremont	4/10	Newbury	50	D. Larson
4/20	MNWS	20+	K. Haley	4/11	New Braintree	1	M. Lynch#
4/20	Brookline	30	F. Bouchard	4/20	W. Bridgewater	1	R. Titus
4/24	Ware R. IBA	26	M. Lynch#	4/30	Bolton Flats	1	S. Sutton
4/28	Granville	12	S. Kellogg	Bohemian Waxwing			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				3/1	Boxford	1	P. Brown
4/16	Woburn (H.P.)	2	P. Ippolito#	3/1-23	Truro	225 max	B. Nikula#
4/19	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 8 locations			3/5	Essex	1	R. Heil
4/20	P.I.	4 m	R. Heil	3/9	HRWMA	40	M. Barriger#
4/20	Groton	4	J. Lisk	3/10-24	Gardner	325 max	T. Pirro#
4/20, 29	Amherst	1, 4	H. McQueen	3/17	Townsend	89	T. Pirro
4/24	DWWS	2 pr	R. Bowes	3/18	Shutesbury	40	D. Minnear
4/25	Longmeadow	10	H. McQueen#	3/21	Winchendon	50	T. Pirro
4/25	Wayland	5	G. Long	3/21	Northfield	200	D. Minnear
4/27	MNWS	4	K. Haley	3/25	Gloucester	25	R. Heil
4/29	GMNWR	4	S. Perkins#	3/26	WBWS	26	D. Silverstein
4/29	Northampton	4	L. Therrien	3/27	Pittsfield	250	T. Collins
4/30	P'town	4	CCBC (Silverstein)	3/27	Turners Falls	150	H. Allen
Eastern Bluebird				4/7	Athol	55	M. Taylor#
3/7	Manomet	6	S. Abele	Cedar Waxwing			
3/17	Falmouth	6	G. Gove#	3/6	Concord	50+	P. Cozza
3/26	Dennis	12	D. Silverstein#	3/16	Northampton	61	R. Packard
3/27	Barre Falls	6	P. + F. Vale	3/18	Newbury	65	T. Wetmore
4/10	Scituate	8	D. Furbish	3/19, 4/2	Newbury	230, 120	R. Heil
4/11	DFWS	7	E. McDonald	4/2	Turners Falls	50	C. Buelow
4/27	DWWS	6	D. Furbish	4/7	Hadley	80	H. Allen
Hermit Thrush				4/12	Melrose	35	D. + I. Jewell
3/5	Essex	2	R. Heil	4/18	P'town	28	B. Nikula
3/14	W. Newbury	1	E. Nielsen	Blue-winged Warbler			
3/26	Marblehead	1	K. Haley	4/24	P'town	1	P. Arrigo
4/4, 18	Medford	2, 49	M. Rines	4/30	Boston (F.Pk)	1	J. Young
4/9, 18	P.I.	1, 86	Chickering, Heil	4/30	P.I.	1 m b	B. Flemer
4/16-30	Mt.A.	1-6	R. Stymeist	4/30	Bridgewater	1	R. Finch
4/17	Nahant	30+	L. Pivacek	4/30	Amherst	2	L. Therrien
4/17	Longmeadow	10	N. Eaton	Tennessee Warbler			
4/18, 29	MNWS	12, 15	Hoye, Haley	4/30	Longmeadow	1	H. Allen
4/18	Quincy	14	G. d'Entremont				

Nashville Warbler			4/18	N. Quabbin	31	E. Nielson
4/20 Springfield	1	N. Eaton	4/19	Wompatuck SP	20	R. Finch
4/22 Gardner	1	T. Pirro	Prairie Warbler			
4/29 Woburn	1	M. Rines	4/17	Deerfield	1	R. Ranney
4/29 Mt.A.	2	R. Stymeist	4/19	Plymouth (MSSF)	1	E. Nielsen
4/29 Northampton	1	C. Gentes	4/21	Amherst	1	H. McQueen
4/29 MNWS	1 m	K. Haley	4/27	Chatham	1	C. + S. Thompson
4/30 Medford	10	M. Rines	4/29	Northampton	1	P. Yeskie
4/30 Brimfield	1	I. Lynch	4/30	Pittsfield	1	G. Shampang
Northern Parula			Palm Warbler			
4/29 MNWS	1	BBC (K. Haley)	4/4	Marion	1	D. Furbish
4/30 Amherst	1	L. Therrien	4/10-30	Medford	43 max	4/17 M. Rines
4/30 Medford	12	M. Rines	4/11, 25	Longmeadow	3, 19	Conway, McQueen
4/30 P'town	2 m	CCBC (Silverstein)	4/12, 17	Melrose	1, 100	D. + I. Jewell
4/30 Granby	1	L. Rogers	4/17	IRWS	40+	BBC (P. + F. Vale)
4/30 P.I.	3	T. Wetmore	4/17	Woburn	42	M. Rines#
4/30 Hadley	1	C. Gentes#	4/17-30	Mt.A.	35 max	4/28 v.o.
Yellow Warbler			4/18, 29	P'town	5, 18	B. Nikula
4/17 Uxbridge	1	M. Lynch#	4/18	Braintree	35	G. d'Entremont
4/29 N. Hadley	1	C. Gentes#	4/19	Westwood	60+	E. Nielsen
4/29 Northampton	1	L. Therrien	4/20	P.I.	82	R. Heil
4/29 Woburn	3	M. Rines	4/27	Topsfield	60	R. Heil
4/29 GMNWR	1	S. Perkins#	Western Palm Warbler			
4/30 Bolton Flats	12	S. Sutton	4/20	P.I.	1	R. Heil
4/30 Mt.A.	10	J. Trimble#	Cerulean Warbler			
4/30 Easton	3	G. d'Entremont	4/30	Mt.A.	1 m	J. Trimble#
Chestnut-sided Warbler			Black-and-white Warbler			
4/30 Andover	1	M. Baird	4/11	Longmeadow	2 m	M. + K. Conway
4/30 Granby	1	L. Rogers	4/18	Warren	1 m	R. Stymeist#
4/30 Northampton	1	C. Gentes	4/18	Halifax	1	SSBC (R. Titus)
Black-throated Blue Warbler			4/21	Southwick	2	S. Kellogg
4/29 Pittsfield	1	T. Collins	4/24	Salem	4	BBC (L. dela Flor)
4/30 N. Truro	1	D. Manchester	4/25, 30	Medford	1, 8	M. Rines
4/30 Mt.A.	1	A. Gurka	4/30	MNWS	15	S. Hedman
4/30 Medford	1	M. Rines	4/30	P'town	3	CCBC (Silverstein)
Yellow-rumped Warbler			4/30	Boston (F.Pk)	4	J. Young
3/4 Bourne	10	D. Furbish	4/30	Mt.A.	10	J. Trimble#
3/5 Essex	20+	R. Heil	4/30	P.I.	4	T. Wetmore
3/14 W. Newbury	5	E. Nielsen	Prothonotary Warbler			
4/3, 25 Longmeadow	1, 316	Patterson, McQueen	4/14	Tisbury	1	L. Silva
4/10 Sandwich	25+	M. Keleher	4/25	WBWS	1	A. Thomas#
4/13, 24 Amherst	9, 75	McQueen, Turner	4/27	Oak Bluffs	1	R. Steves
4/17, 29 Woburn	1, 35	M. Rines#	Worm-eating Warbler			
4/17, 30 Medford	6, 122	M. Rines	4/4	Newbury	1 ph	L. Lyka
4/17-30 Mt.A.	40+ max	4/30 R. Stymeist	4/17	W. Tisbury	1	S. Anderson
4/20 P.I.	39	R. Heil	4/30	Chilmark	1	A. Keith
4/20 Arlington Res.	60	M. Rines	Ovenbird			
4/25 Ware R. IBA	130+	M. Lynch#	4/24	DWWS	1	R. Bowes
4/27 Topsfield	115	R. Heil	4/30	Bridgewater	1	R. Finch
4/30 Mt.A.	40	J. Trimble#	4/30	Chilmark	5	A. Keith
Black-throated Green Warbler			4/30	Brimfield	3	I. Lynch
4/18 Boxford	1	BBC (A. Bennett)	4/30	Boston (F.Pk)	1	J. Young
4/25 S. Natick	2	M. Kaufman	4/30	Wayland	1	D. Peebles
4/25 Oxford	1	P. Meleski	4/30	Becket	1	R. Laubach
4/29 MNWS	2	BBC (K. Haley)	Northern Waterthrush			
4/29 Amherst	3	H. McQueen	4/18	Mattapoisett	1	M. LaBossiere
4/29 Northampton	2	L. Therrien	4/20	Middleboro	2 m	K. Anderson
4/30 Boston (F.Pk)	3	J. Young	4/22	W. Bridgewater	6	G. d'Entremont
4/30 Mt.A.	2	J. Trimble#	4/25	Oxford	2	P. Meleski
4/30 Medford	7	M. Rines	4/25	Longmeadow	3	H. McQueen#
Blackburnian Warbler			4/29	Medfield	4 m	J. O'Connell
4/24 P'town	1	P. Arrigo	4/30	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore
4/29 Becket	1	R. Laubach	4/30	Brimfield	3	I. Lynch
Yellow-throated Warbler			4/30	MNWS	2	S. Hedman
4/18 Foxboro	1	B. Cassie	Louisiana Waterthrush			
4/27 Chatham	1	A. Henson#	4/8	Leverett	1	D. Minnear
4/27-29 Mt.A.	1	T. Spahr# + v.o.	4/10	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
4/30 P'town	1	E. Winslow#	4/17-30	Berlin	1-2	S. Sutton
Pine Warbler			4/18	Boxford	2	BBC (A. Bennett)
4/1-8 Reports of indiv. from	11	locations	4/18	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#
4/8 Mashpee	5	M. Keleher#	4/19	Wompatuck SP	3	R. Finch
4/9 Lynnfield	5	D. + I. Jewell	4/19	Sudbury	1	T. Spahr
4/10 Ludlow	4	C. Gentes#	4/20	W. Bridgewater	1	R. Titus
4/10 Quabbin Pk	4	M. Lynch#	4/27-30	Holyoke	1	L. Therrien
4/11, 19 Medford	8, 10	M. Rines#	4/30	Nahant	1	L. Privacek
4/17 P'town (R.P.)	14	F. Bouchard#	4/30	Brimfield	2	I. Lynch
4/18 Belmont	20	O. Plimpton#	Kentucky Warbler			
4/18 Ware	15	R. Stymeist#	4/30	MNWS	1	S. Hunt# + v.o.

Common Yellowthroat				Savannah Sparrow			
4/12	Millis	1	P. Rennett	3/19	W. Bridgewater	3	R. Finch
4/20	P.I.	1 m	R. Heil	3/31	Bedford	1	M. Rines
4/30	Brimfield	3	I. Lynch	4/9	Scituate	4	K. Robinson#
4/30	Nahant	4	L. Pivacek	4/15	Northampton	9	L. Therrien
4/30	Northampton	1	C. Gentes	4/17	Winchester	7	M. Rines
Hooded Warbler				4/17	Salisbury	10	D. Chickering
4/20	W. Bridgewater	1	R. Titus	4/18	New Braintree	13	M. Lynch#
4/24-29	Brookline	1 m	F. Bouchard#	4/18	Squantum	8	G. d'Entremont
4/25-29	N. Chatham	1	C. + S. Thompson	4/18	P.I.	140	R. Heil#
Yellow-breasted Chat				4/20	Arlington Res.	10	M. Rines
3/24	Scituate	1	S. Maguire#	4/21	Concord (NAC)	45	S. Perkins#
4/24	Truro	1	P. Arrigo	4/29	GMNWR	25	S. Perkins#
Summer Tanager				Ipswich Sparrow			
4/23-27	Chilmark	1	S. Mercer#	3/20	P'town (R.P.)	7	J. Trimble#
4/28	Brewster	1 f	A. Thomas#	3/24	Edgartown	2	A. Keith
Scarlet Tanager				Grasshopper Sparrow			
4/14	Menemsha	1	B. Carroll	4/18	Williamstown	1	S. Miller
4/16-18, 19	Nantucket	1 f, 1 m	fide E. Ray	4/30	Ashfield	1	S. Sauter
4/30	Brimfield	2	I. Lynch	Fox Sparrow			
Spotted Towhee (no details) *				3/2	Stoneham	3	D. + I. Jewell
4/20	Rockport	1 f	C. Leahy	3/5	Essex	3	R. Heil
Eastern Towhee				3/8-20	E. Middleboro	3-7	K. Anderson
3/6	Barnstable	2	G. d'Entremont#	3/18	Gay Head	5	A. Fischer
3/19	Stoneham	2	D. + I. Jewell	3/22	Agawam	8	K. Daniels
3/20	Medford	3	A. Ankers	3/29	Melrose	8	D. + I. Jewell
3/27	Westport	3	J. Hoyer#	3/30	Stoneham	10	D. + I. Jewell
4/6	P'town	6	C. Skowron	4/3	Northampton	6	T. Gagnon
4/20	MNWS	8+	K. Haley	4/3	Needham	5	G. d'Entremont#
4/22	Quabbin (G40)	7	I. Lynch	4/4	Medford	9	M. Rines
4/24	Ware R. IBA	12	M. Lynch#	4/4	Lexington	7	R. LaFontaine
4/24	P.I.	9	P. + F. Vale	4/5	Boston	8	G. Tepke
4/24	Salem	9	BBC (L. dela Flor)	4/21	Mt.A.	1	v.o.
4/25	Falmouth	8	M. Keleher	4/21	MNWS	1	S. McGrath
4/27	Boston (F.Pk)	5	A. Joslin	Song Sparrow			
4/30	Medford	26	M. Rines	3/27	P.I.	500	T. Wetmore
American Tree Sparrow				4/5	Boston	100+	G. Tepke
3/6	New Braintree	21	C. Buelow	4/18	P.I.	107	R. Heil#
3/7	Cumb. Farms	20	J. Sweeney	Lincoln's Sparrow			
3/18	DWWS	22	D. Furbish	4/30	Bolton Flats	1	S. Sutton
3/27, 4/17	Bolton Flats	30, 3	R. Heil#	Swamp Sparrow			
4/18	P.I.	7	R. Heil#	3/1-4/17	Reports of indiv. from 9 locations		
4/18	Squantum	1	G. d'Entremont	4/18	New Braintree	9	M. Lynch#
4/19	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	4/18	P.I.	27	R. Heil#
Chipping Sparrow				4/24	Ware R. IBA	29	M. Lynch#
3/thr	Falmouth	8	G. Gove#	White-throated Sparrow			
3/1	Williamsburg	1	R. Packard	4/18	Quincy	130	G. d'Entremont
3/7	Mashpee	3	M. Keleher	4/20	P.I.	95+	R. Heil
4/4	Squantum	3	G. d'Entremont	4/29	P'town	100	B. Nikula
4/10	Sandwich	2	M. Keleher	White-crowned Sparrow			
4/17	Winchester	15	M. Rines	3/17	Harwich	1	E. Banks
4/17	Pepperell	4	M. Resch	4/3, 17	Amherst	1	Surner, Minnear
4/17	Uxbridge	4	M. Lynch#	4/19	Williamstown	1	G. Soucie
4/17-30	Mt.A.	29 max	R. Stymeist	4/19	Manchester	1	S. Hedman
4/18	Melrose	10+	D. + I. Jewell	4/30	Deerfield	1	R. Ranney
4/18	New Braintree	13	M. Lynch#	4/30	Mt.A.	1	J. Trimble#
4/20	P.I.	42	R. Heil	4/thr	Chilmark	1	A. Keith
4/24	Salem	15	BBC (L. dela Flor)	Dark-eyed Junco			
4/25	Ware R. IBA	45	M. Lynch#	3/16	Boston	175+	A. Joslin
Field Sparrow				3/22	Amherst	120	H. McQueen
3/thr	Chilmark	1	A. Keith	4/18	P.I.	132	R. Heil#
3/thr	Falmouth	1	G. Gove#	4/28	Berlin	2+	S. Sutton
3/3, 4/17	Woburn	3, 5	Gurka, Rines	Lapland Longspur			
4/18	P.I.	3	R. Heil#	3/19	W. Bridgewater	1	R. Finch
4/18	Warren	4	R. Stymeist#	3/20, 4/4	P'town (R.P.)	1, 28	Trimble, Nikula
4/19	Northampton	3	L. Therrien	Snow Bunting			
4/22	Quabbin (G40)	3	I. Lynch	3/3	Ashfield	12	S. Sauter
4/25	P.I.	5	T. Wetmore	3/5	Essex	40	R. Heil
4/25	Falmouth	4	M. Keleher	3/7	Rockport (A.P.)	2	S. Hedman#
4/25	Ware R. IBA	3	M. Lynch#	3/7	Salisbury	2	D. + S. Larson
Vesper Sparrow				3/7	P.I.	5+	T. Carrolan
3/15	Taunton	1	J. Sweeney	3/9, 17	Bolton Flats	2, 3	S. Sutton
3/19	W. Bridgewater	2	R. Finch	4/4	Wellfleet	3	M. Taylor#
3/28	Medford	2	A. Ankers#	Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
4/11	Hatfield	2	C. Gentes	3/thr	N. Truro	1 ph	C. Skowron#
4/20	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	4/16	Chilmark	2	B. Welch
4/24	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon	4/20	Gay Head	3	M. Moreis
4/30	Hadley	1	C. Gentes#	4/26	Amherst	1	D. Minnear

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (continued)				Purple Finch			
4/28 Berlin	1 m		S. Sutton	3/5 Essex	10		R. Heil
4/29 Cambridge	1		A. Clark	3/16 Ipswich	46		R. Heil
4/29 N. Hadley	1		C. Gentes#	3/24 Norfolk	10	MAS (S. Perry)	
Blue Grosbeak				4/14 Williamsburg	12		R. Packard
4/17-30 Nantucket	1		fide E. Ray	4/16 Ashfield	12		S. Sauter
Indigo Bunting				4/17 W. Royalston	14		E. Nielsen
4/9-11 Edgartown	1	A. + B.	Heywood	4/18 Gr Barrington	18		R. Laubach
4/15 Middleboro	1 m		K. Anderson	4/18 P.I.	22		R. Heil#
4/16 Gay Head	1		A. Fischer	4/21 Amherst	40		J. Marcum
4/19 Nantucket	5		fide E. Ray	4/25 Ware R. IBA	13		M. Lynch#
4/25 Springfield	1		L. Richardson	Red Crossbill			
4/30 Chilmark	1		K. Upson	3/15 Barre Falls	1		T. Carrolan
Dickcissel				3/24-4/17 Oakham	19 max 3/28	v.o.	
3/24-26 N. Falmouth	1 m		I. Nisbet	3/29 Becket	1		R. Laubach
4/4-8 Sherborn	1 m		E. Taylor	3/30 W. Quabbin	1		D. Small
Red-winged Blackbird				3/30 Quabbin (G8)	1 m		D. Small
3/2 Northampton	400		L. Therrien	4/17 Quabbin (G40)	6		E. Nielsen
3/9, 24 Bolton Flats	800, 3200		S. Sutton	4/25 Ware R. IBA	8		M. Lynch#
3/20 W. Newbury	500+		S. Grinley	White-winged Crossbill			
3/30 Worc. (BMB)	1500+		J. Liller	3/13 Truro	1	F. + D. Clapp	
4/2 Ipswich	600		R. Heil	4/8 Pepperell	1		M. Resch
4/9 Warren	383		M. Lynch#	4/17 Wompatuck SP	1		G. d'Entremont
4/18 P.I.	440+		R. Heil#	Common Redpoll			
Eastern Meadowlark				3/thr Washington	200+		E. Neumuth
3/1, 4/2 Newbury	1, 2		R. Heil	3/3 Hadley	30		H. Allen
3/15 Washington	2		E. Neumuth	3/3 N. Truro	12		C. Skowron
3/16 Northampton	2		R. Packard	3/4 Bourne	40		D. Furbish
3/21 Tyringham	3	M. + K.	Conway	3/8, 4/2 Pepperell	200, 225		E. Stromsted
3/28 Hadley	2		L. Therrien	3/9 Royalston	30		M. Barriger#
4/3 Leicester	4		M. Lynch#	3/10 Hinsdale	300		L. Roberson
4/9 Essex	2		J. Nelson	3/12 Northfield	60		O. Spaulding
4/10 Worcester	5		M. Lynch#	3/14 P'town (R.P.)	11		J. Trimble#
4/18 S. Amherst	5		H. McQueen	3/14 Ipswich	10		J. Berry
4/18 P.I.	4		R. Heil#	3/18 Blandford	50	M. + K. Conway	
4/18 Squantum	2		G. d'Entremont	3/20 P.I.	30		T. Wetmore
Rusty Blackbird				3/22 N. Egremont	30		R. Reed
3/2 Wakefield	17		P. + F. Vale	3/25 Oakham	30+		C. Buelow
3/12 DWWS	10		D. Furbish	4/1-6 Brewster	10+		D. Clapp#
3/21, 4/18 N. Hadley	5, 20		C. Gentes	4/16 Ashfield	60		S. Sauter
3/27 Granville	12	J.	Wojtanowski	Hoary Redpoll (details submitted) *			
3/28 Medfield	40		T. Wetmore	3/4, 10 Pepperell	2, 1 ph		E. Stromsted
3/28 Lenox	10		T. Collins	3/10 Hinsdale	2		L. Roberson
4/7 Lexington	24		M. Rines	4/1-6 Brewster	1 ph		D. Clapp#
4/9 Wayland	186		G. Long	Pine Siskin			
4/10 Sandwich	15		M. Keleher	3/7 Mashpee	5		M. Keleher
4/12 W. Newbury	6		T. Wetmore	3/12 New Salem	10		W. Lafley
4/19 Pittsfield	26		C. Blagdon	3/14 Royalston	4		T. Pirro
4/29 P'town	15		B. Nikula	3/14 Truro	5		M. Tuttle
Common Grackle				3/16 W. Tisbury	8		S. Silva
3/2 Northampton	80+		L. Therrien	3/25, 4/5 Oakham	4, 12		Buelow, Pirro
3/4 WBWS	100+		F. Vale#	3/27 W. Boylston	4		R. Stymeist
3/5 Topsfield	600+		R. Heil	3/29 Washington	4		E. Neumuth
3/9 Bolton Flats	2600		S. Sutton	4/2, 29 Pepperell	6, 1		Terrasi, Resch
3/20 W. Newbury	1500+		S. Grinley	4/7 Canton	4		M. Ross
3/30 Worc. (BMB)	7500+		J. Liller	4/11 New Salem	10		B. Lafley
4/9 Warren	360+		M. Lynch#	4/17 Athol	4		E. Nielsen
4/18 P.I.	870+		R. Heil#	4/17 Wompatuck SP	4		G. d'Entremont#
Brown-headed Cowbird				4/19 Sudbury	5		T. Spahr
3/12 DWWS	30		D. Furbish	4/24 Amherst	7		S. Surner
3/20 W. Newbury	100+		S. Grinley	4/29 P'town	1		B. Nikula
4/2 Ipswich	35		R. Heil	4/30 Scituate	1		L. Burbank
4/4 Mattapoisett	550+		D. Furbish	Evening Grosbeak			
4/10 Quabbin Pk	32		M. Lynch#	3/9 Royalston	2 m		M. Barriger#
4/18 P.I.	75		R. Heil#	3/27 Washington	22		E. Neumuth
Orchard Oriole				3/29 Oakham	6+		S. Leonard#
4/30 Mashpee	1 m		M. Keleher	4/9 Barre Falls	3		B. Kamp#
4/30 Chilmark	2		A. Keith	4/11 Quabbin (G37)	11		M. Lynch#
4/30 Newbury	2		S. Stichter	4/11 Petersham	2		M. Lynch#
4/30 Boston (F.Pk)	pr		J. Young	4/16 Ashfield	16		S. Sauter
Baltimore Oriole				4/17 W. Royalston	8		E. Nielsen
4/18 Nantucket	1		E. Ray	4/22 Gardner	1 f		T. Pirro
4/28 Chilmark	1		S. Mercer	4/25 Ware R. IBA	14		M. Lynch#
4/30 Mt.A.	9		R. Stymeist#	4/29 P'town	1+		B. Nikula
4/30 Medford	6		M. Rines				
4/30 Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 9 locations							

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, 44th Supplement, as published in *The Auk* 117: 847-858 (2000); 119: 897-906 (2002); 120: 923-932 (2003).

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

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO BIRD OBSERVER

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month, and may be submitted by postal mail or e-mail. Send written reports to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 94 Grove Street, Watertown, MA 02172. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). For instructions on e-mail submission, visit: <<http://massbird.org/birdobserver/sightings/>>.

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (indicated by an asterisk [*] in the Bird Reports), as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts, should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Marjorie Rines, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773, or by e-mail to <marj@mrines.com>.

Editor's Note: The 45th Supplement to the AOU Checklist has just been published in the July 2004 issue of *The Auk* 121 (3): 985-95. Highlights pertaining to birds on the Massachusetts list include the split of Canada Goose into Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*, including *B.h. hutchinsii*, *asiatica*, *leucopareia*, *taverneri*, and *minima*) and Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*, including *B.c. canadensis*, *interior*, *maxima*, *moffitti*, *parvipes*, *fulva*, and *occidentalis*.) For a discussion of subspecies, see <<http://www.oceanwanderers.com/CAGO.Subspecies.html>>. The Checklist is available on-line at <<http://www.aou.org/aou/birdlist.html>>.

ABOUT THE COVER

Canada Warbler

The Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) is a beautiful, active, little wood-warbler sporting a necklace of black streaks on a bright yellow background. The male is slate gray above, without wing bars or white in his tail, bright yellow below, and has a white eye-ring that is highlighted by black facial markings and the black necklace. The female is duller in coloration and has a muted necklace and no black on her face. Juveniles resemble females but are duller yet. The Canada Warbler has a comparatively long tail that it often cocks or flips when foraging. The species is monotypic (no subspecies) and is most closely related to its congeners, the Wilson's and Hooded warblers.

The Canada Warbler breeds in the northeastern United States, across boreal Canada, and in the mountains south to Georgia. In Massachusetts it is a fairly common breeder except for the Cape and the Islands. It is a neotropical nocturnal migrant; it moves late in the spring and early in the fall. In Massachusetts, it is a common migrant, which in the spring peaks in late May. The highest numbers in the fall occur in August. It winters in northern South America, where it occupies the dense undergrowth of rainforests. It often joins mixed species foraging flocks during migration and on its wintering grounds.

A wide variety of moist habitats is used by the Canada Warbler for nesting. The most usual is mixed coniferous/deciduous forest with a well-developed understory, e.g., in rhododendron thickets in the south. The species is territorial, and only the male sings, although females as well as males utter various *chip*, *check*, and *zzee* call notes. The male's song is highly variable and has been described as a *chip* followed by a burst of loud, short notes, ending in a three-note phrase, or, for example, *chip*, *chupety swee-ditchety*. The male has a warbling flight song that accompanies a slow, flapping or wing-quivering flight. Male aggressive displays include facing an intruder with wings raised to the horizontal.

The breeding biology is surprisingly poorly known. The female builds the nest well concealed in a thicket or in fallen debris at or near the ground. Often the nest site is the root mass of a fallen tree. The nest is a bulky cup of plant fibers, bark, and twigs, lined with grass, or deer or horse hair. Incubation is by the female alone, although the male, as well as the female, will give distraction displays when threatened, with feathers ruffled, tail fanned, and wings fluttering. The incubation period is about twelve days, although the data are skimpy, and the time to fledging is unknown. It is thought to be about ten days, as is the case with similar species. Both parents feed the fledglings, but for how long is not known.

Canada Warblers are frequently active aerial foragers, sallying forth to capture flying insects or hovering to glean insects from bark and foliage. This has led to common names such as "flycatcher" and "flycatching warbler." They also glean leaves, predominately from lower branches and shrubs, and sometimes forage on the

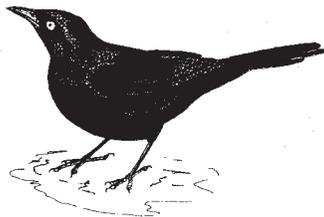
ground. Their main food is flying insects, such as mosquitoes, flies, and moths, and spiders.

Sadly, Canada Warbler populations have declined precipitously in recent decades. Breeding Bird Survey data suggest a 2.1 % per year decline between 1966 and 1996, with the decline particularly sharp in the northeast. Although Canada Warblers are frequently hosts to cowbird nest parasitism, and many are killed in migration by collisions with radio towers and other man-made structures, the major problem seems to be changes in forest structure and the draining of forested wetlands. Apparently, a critical factor is the presence of a well-developed forest understory. Regeneration of New England farmland in the twentieth century provided optimal habitat with dense understory and thickets, but many forests have now matured, and the understory is largely gone or browsed by deer to unacceptable levels. Because of the population declines, the Canada Warbler is considered a Species of Special Concern in several states, and most states now protect wooded swamp habitats, which gives some reason for optimism. Conservation initiatives are hampered by lack of information on the ecology, distribution, and population size of the Canada Warbler — monitoring programs have trouble coping with species that nest in wet and inaccessible habitats. We can only hope that the decline slopes will flatten and that this perky little warbler will continue to be a common migrant and breeding resident bird in Massachusetts. 🐦

William E. Davis, Jr.

About the Cover Artist

Julie Zickefoose, our featured artist for April, appears here again as a welcome and familiar contributor to *Bird Observer* covers. Educated at Harvard University in biology and art, she is a widely published natural history writer and artist. She worked for six years as a field biologist for The Nature Conservancy before turning to a freelance art career. Her observations on the natural history and behavior of birds stem from more than three decades of experience in the field. She has presented illustrated lectures for nature organizations and festivals across the country and exhibited her paintings at universities, museums, galleries, and in juried shows. With her husband, Bill Thompson III, editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, Julie lives on an 80-acre nature sanctuary in the Appalachian foothills of southeast Ohio. A 42-foot-tall bird watching tower atop their home helps them enjoy and catalogue the wildlife they protect, including 180 bird species and 66 butterfly species to date. You can find more of her work at <<http://www.juliezickefoose.com>>. 🐦



COMMON GRACKLE BY WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

AT A GLANCE

June 2004



DAVID LARSON

This month we see an obvious passerine perched on the ground among dry leaves; plain on the back and wings, tail held slightly up, and with at least the back of the head either in shadow or significantly darker in color than the rest of the dorsum. A first impression suggests the possibility that the bird is a thrush, possibly even an American Robin, based upon the contrast between the back of the head and the back.

A closer look at the surroundings of the bird, however, suggests that the bird is not nearly large enough to be a robin, or even some other species of thrush for that matter. The bird pictured in the photograph hardly appears larger than some of the dry leaves in its surroundings. Likewise, close scrutiny of the legs of the mystery bird shows them to be very thin and not terribly long, both of which characters are atypical for virtually any North American thrush. Indeed, this is no thrush.

Further examination reveals what appears to be a pale or light-colored crescent on the bird's right cheek. More significantly, perhaps, is that the dark eye of the bird is clearly visible, suggesting that the eye is located on the face of a bird having the same color as the light crescent barely visible from the rear. With this in mind, it is reasonable to conclude that the bird has a dark eye clearly set off against a light-colored face. With this assumption in mind, the significance of the black on the crown and back of the head takes on added importance.

There is really only one species of bird in Massachusetts that shares the combination of a plain back and wings, a black crown and back of head, and a plain (actually yellow) face with a dark eye in the center — an adult male Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*). Although a Black-capped Chickadee might superficially seem to have this combination of features, a chickadee's tail and overall appearance would be slimmer, the wings would show pale edgings on some of the feathers, and the eye would not be positioned in the white of the face, but rather in the black of the cap. Once the pattern of the pictured species is properly integrated, the identification is actually quite straightforward.

The Hooded Warbler is a relatively rare spring and autumn migrant in Massachusetts that has actually nested in the state on a handful of occasions. Although the species can appear anywhere in the Commonwealth, the majority of reports come from the eastern parts of Massachusetts. David Larson took this photograph of a Hooded Warbler at Hall's Pond in Brookline. 🐦

Wayne R. Petersen



UPLAND SANDPIPER BY DAVID LARSON

AT A GLANCE



DAVID LARSON

Can you identify this animal?

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



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