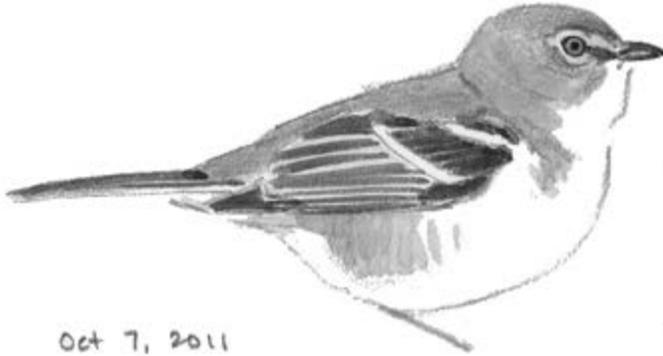


Bird Observer

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 5

OCTOBER 2014



white-eyed
vireo
- without the
white-eye!
- 2 first year
bird

Oct 7, 2011

in "the Grove",
Salisbury

Flanks washed
w/ strong
lemon



- very subtle
color shifts
gray/olive
white
on head



we saw two
birds in this plumage,
today - here and at
P.I.

HOT BIRDS



On July 10 a **Sandwich Tern** was spotted on Plum Island. Earlier in the month another Sandwich Tern, this one banded, was sighted at Nauset Marsh. Mary Keleher got photos.

On July 14 a **Gull-billed Tern** joined the tern show at Plum Island. John Hoye took the photograph on the right.



On July 22 Mass Audubon's Wildlife Information Line received a report of a **Rufous Hummingbird** in Townsend, and the homeowner graciously allowed birders to visit. Jason Forbes took the photograph on the left.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRICE INCREASE

Bird Observer last had a price increase in 1996. Since then production costs have risen substantially, in particular for printing and postage. In order to maintain the magazine's financial viability, a price increase is necessary. Starting with Volume 43 (2015), new one-year subscription and renewal rates for *Bird Observer* will increase to \$25.00. The two-year rate will increase to \$48.00.



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Birding UMass Amherst

Ian Davies

The University of Massachusetts Amherst was established as a public university in 1863 and is currently the largest public university in New England, with over 1,100 faculty and 27,000 students. The campus is set in the northwestern section of the town of Amherst. The contiguous area that is outlined for birding in this site guide comprises roughly 1200 acres or 1.9 square miles. The campus features many habitat types, highlighted by several shallow ponds, a small cattail marsh, some agricultural fields that are actively farmed, and a well-forested glacial drumlin known as Orchard Hill. The entire area lies east of the Connecticut River in the river floodplain. Orchard Hill is the beginning of an area of hilly topography that eventually becomes the Pelham Hills east of town.



Despite its relatively small size and lack of large bodies of water, an impressive 247 species of birds have been recorded on the UMass campus. Among other things, this list includes 15 species of waterfowl, 21 species of shorebirds, a remarkable 13 species of gulls and terns, and 32 species of warblers. Notable records include: Greater White-fronted and Cackling geese; Sandhill Crane; Ruff; Wilson's and Red-necked phalaropes; Sabine's, Black-headed, Franklin's, Laughing, and Mew gulls; Loggerhead Shrike; Le Conte's and Lark sparrows; and Western Meadowlark.

Birding on campus is generally best during the migration seasons. My experience with exploring the avifauna of UMass comes from 3.5 years as an undergraduate student there (2010–2013), when I lived within walking distance of the major birding locations on campus and visited them daily for much of the year. The overall list consists of the 194 species I observed during my time there, augmented by historical records going back to 1900.

In the following account I will detail my experiences and recommendations by campus area, with specific recommendations throughout the year, generally following the academic cycle of fall through spring.

Orchard Hill <<http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L989562>>

The journey across the UMass campus usually begins at Orchard Hill, which can be accessed from Eastman Lane or East Pleasant Street at the far northeastern corner of campus. Orchard Hill is undeniably not only the best birding location on campus during migration seasons, but one of the best in Hampshire County. The combination of many habitat types, its small area, and unique topography result in a location that is easily covered in a few hours and can regularly turn up 70+ species in peak migration. Orchard Hill, locally known on campus as "OHill," is among the first lumps on the eastern edge of the flat canvas that lies in the Connecticut River Valley. This hill seems to have a focusing effect on migrants, especially early in the morning, when sunlight



Map 1. Northern UMass campus



Map 2. Southern UMass campus

hits the ridge before the surrounding terrain. One particular spot, known as “the bare tree” (1), is a great vantage point to watch the day unfold. A snag that is being slowly overcome by vines and time, the bare tree provides a great perch for many species, and the location lets you see many of the nearby productive areas. Parking here is only available before 8:00 am on weekdays, but is accessible all day on weekends. Consult the map to see the two parking areas (P1 and P2), of which the southern one (P1) is generally better for location and availability.

From the end of August through early October, Orchard Hill is invariably where you want to start a day of birding on campus. Arriving about 45 minutes before dawn at the bare tree allows you to experience the last gasp of nocturnal flight calling as well as the sounds of dawn, which often include some confused American Woodcocks and various thrush species. Wood Thrush, Veery, and Swainson’s Thrush are all common dawn noises as these two months progress. As the sky lightens, cast your eyes upward, where from late September onwards there are often flights of hundreds of American Robins leaving their nightly roosts. They are often accompanied by icterids such as Rusty Blackbird.

As the sun rises after a night of strong migration, an interesting hilltopping effect occurs here, perhaps a form of reoriented migration similar to the phenomenon of “morning flight,” well known from Cape May, New Jersey. The early morning sky is often filled with warblers and other small songbirds, perhaps still aloft from a night of migration, or just looking for a good place to spend the day. Because the tree line on the eastern side of the crest of Orchard Hill (2) is the first local spot to be lit by the warmth of the sun, the migrants flock there. You can often spend a couple hours just standing at the edge of the field above the bare tree as waves of birds move past, following the tree line downhill or flying overhead. Regular migrants in this most productive of areas include Cape May, Bay-breasted, Blackburnian, Tennessee, and Wilson’s warblers; Philadelphia Vireo; and most common songbird migrants. The bushes can be full of sparrows, and by the start of October they are rustling with White-throats. Connecticut Warbler is an annual occurrence in this upper field during the second and third weeks of September—listen for its distinctive call in the hour following dawn.

After the activity tapers off along the tree line and bare tree area (which can take several hours), it is time to head downhill. The extensive network of paths throughout Orchard Hill provides many options, and simply walking the paths and looking and listening is usually the best course of action. Locations that are often productive include just above the small pond (5), near the backfield willow (4), and anywhere along the stream trail (the trail running south from 4). Fruiting trees often hold Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Scarlet Tanagers into October, and thrushes favor the undergrowth of the wetter riparian areas along the stream. The backfield itself often attracts good numbers of sparrows, and Empidonax flycatchers enjoy flycatching amid the blackberry brambles.

From the middle of October onwards, the focus shifts to sparrows, and a quick run through the bare tree area (1) and the back field (4) can turn up several hundred individuals on a good day. Especially nice is the migration of Fox Sparrows through



Brewster's Warbler, Orchard Hill. (All photographs by Ian Davies)

this area, and in early November the thickets between the bare tree and the observatory (3) often hold upwards of a half-dozen! White-crowned Sparrows are regular along the main path by the bare tree, mixed in with the hordes of White-throats and juncos that throng every patch of bare ground.

Early November is also a time of year when sky watching is at its most interesting, with flocks of geese constantly overhead, joined by good numbers of hawks and an occasional rarity. This is the best time of year to see a Northern Goshawk or a Golden Eagle in migration, and when the winds are right, scarce waterfowl migrants such as Brant, White-winged Scoter, and Northern Pintail can appear overhead. Standing at the tree line north of the observatory (2) provides the best views, looking east across the valley to the Pelham Hills.

In years when there are irruptive winter finches, this is the time when flocks start moving overhead, as well as feeding in the birches or crab apples, depending on the species. Hoary Redpoll, White-winged and Red crossbills, Pine Grosbeak, and Evening Grosbeak have all been recorded here, along with the more regular species. The most productive birches on the hill are adjacent to the small pond (5), and the crab apples are densest near the Orchard Hill dorms, just to the south of the natural area here.

Unless there are irruptives, winter is grim here through the beginning of March. However, hardy souls who put in the time to listen and watch for unusual flyovers can turn up species like Snow Bunting or Horned Lark, and maybe even a Northern Shrike at the edge of a field.

March and early April are similar to November for sky watching, and on a day with good southwest winds you never know what you'll see. In April 2013 three

Sandhill Cranes made a pass over the hill, and species like Rough-legged Hawk are migrating through in addition to those previously mentioned.

By the end of April the songbirds are kicking up again, and the same strategy as fall applies—start the day by the bare tree, spend time working the tree line until the activity dies down, and then head downhill and walk the various paths, looking and listening. In spring, Field Sparrows often sing from the bare tree area, and a Brewster's Warbler spent a summer singing from the back field. Unusual occurrences have included Hooded and Golden-winged warblers and a Summer Tanager.

After you've had your fill of Orchard Hill, you can work your way to the northern edge of the bike path along Eastman Lane. From here make your way uphill to the east, toward the traffic light at the corner of Eastman Lane and East Pleasant Street, until you see a path across the street descending into the woods. This is the entrance to Sylvan Woods and Fields.

Sylvan (Woods and Fields) <<http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L1524857>>

Located just north of Orchard Hill, this area is often just as good for birding, and by combining these two locations, the northeastern corner of campus is unparalleled. The wooded portion of Sylvan features tall forest, mostly deciduous but with hemlocks lining portions of the rocky stream that flows through the center of the forest. The trees give way to fields, with productive second-growth edges and large expanses of open ground that attract species that don't occur often in the smaller fields of Orchard Hill. In 2013 farming started in the back field of Sylvan— great news for sparrows, as the farmers began transitioning the fairly sterile grass into pumpkin patches, cornfields, and weedy fallow rows. Today the back field of Sylvan provides one of the best viewpoints for sky watching on campus, potentially even better than near the observatory on Orchard Hill.

You can start here either on foot from Orchard Hill, or from the edge of the parking lot behind the Sylvan dorms (P3). Parking here, as at many other locations, is free on weekends and before 8:00 am, but you will likely get ticketed after 8:00 on weekdays. I will give the birding route from Orchard Hill to the Sylvan lot; simply reverse it if coming from the Sylvan parking area. (To get to the Sylvan parking lot, take North Pleasant Street north from the roundabout at the northern edge of campus along Eastman Lane/Governors Drive. Take your first right onto North Residential Drive. Follow this until you see the first building close to the road on your right, where you take the next left. Park at the far back of the left side of the parking lot, where a dirt road enters the woods and soon crosses over a small stream.)

Starting at Eastman Lane (the first alternative), walk down the dirt trail into the Sylvan Woods. The trail soon bends to the left, and a small side trail splits off to the right. The bushes just before this side trail held a singing Kentucky Warbler in May 2011, and the surrounding thickets and trees are often abuzz with activity. Taking the side trail until it reaches the edge of the upper field, you pass through some of the tallest forest in these woods. The oaks and maples are very good for migrant warblers in spring, with 20 species recorded in this spot in a single morning—including Cape



Fox Sparrow, Orchard Hill

May, Bay-breasted, Blackburnian, Tennessee, and the aforementioned Kentucky. At dawn and dusk in September and October, and again in May, this is a great spot to hear calling thrushes, especially Veery and Swainson's Thrush. From the edge of the upper field of Sylvan Fields, I usually retrace my steps back to the main path, and take a right to continue through the forest. There are trails through and around the edge of the fields, but are not that productive for birding.

The rocky stream is visible along the south side of much of this path, and in April often has a vocal Louisiana Waterthrush that sometimes stays to attempt breeding. During October you can see Hermit Thrushes hopping along the trail and flocks of sparrows scattered throughout. In May the treetops often have warblers and other songbirds, and keeping an ear out can turn up groups of migrants. This area seems to be inordinately good for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and sometimes more than a dozen individuals can be heard singing along this short stretch of trail in early May.

The trail continues past a brief view of a field and then hooks right (north), splitting into two soon after. The area of this split has productive marshy thickets and canopy trees, and during migration seems particularly attractive to species like Northern Waterthrush, Canada Warbler, and Winter Wren; in September it is also good for Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Going either left or straight here takes you to the same location eventually, but straight is generally more productive for migrants. Taking a left at the T-junction, you'll see an opening into a large field soon on your right, the back field of the Sylvan Fields. The opening itself can often be productive, and one May morning it held an Orange-crowned Warbler—a very good spring record for Massachusetts!

This back field is the most reliably productive location for open-country birds on campus, and provides an excellent view of Mount Toby and Mount Sugarloaf to the north and Mount Warner and the Connecticut River to the west. Heading north toward the hay and manure piles provides the best location from which to scan (6). Starting in October, there are often many sparrows present; keep checking overhead for raptors or flyover shorebirds. The whole field is walkable, but the most productive areas in fall are the farmed patches at the northern edge (7). Up to ten species of sparrows, hordes of Palm Warblers, and an occasional American Golden-Plover or Wilson's Snipe all seem to adore this mixture of pumpkins, corn, and fallow fields. American Pipits and Horned Larks are often in the shorter grass or flying around in small flocks. Over the years, as this field has grown up and been cut back, species such as Le Conte's Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, and Lark Sparrow have been found in the fall.

Songbird numbers dwindle in November, as they do everywhere else, but sky watching peaks. One day in November 2013 provided several White-winged Scoters

and a lone Golden Eagle. This is a good time to check the edges for vagrants from the western U.S. A Western Kingbird has been recorded here, a rare inland record for the state. For the rest of the winter through March, not much goes on here unless small patches of bare ground remain open, attracting species like Snow Bunting and Horned Lark.

During the breeding season there are surprisingly few grassland birds nowadays, represented mainly by Savannah Sparrows and Bobolinks, with an occasional Eastern Meadowlark stopping in for a while. Historically both Upland Sandpiper and Grasshopper Sparrow have been recorded here.

Return to the entrance to this back field, take a right, and follow the gravel road, which comes out at the parking area by the church (P3). The hedgerow on your right can be excellent for sparrows in October and April, with a couple Fox Sparrows often skulking about.

Northwest Campus — <http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L1008126>

The Northwest Campus area has a different feeling than either Orchard Hill or Sylvan Woods, featuring forest more similar to the floodplain forest found farther west near the Connecticut River. There is a nice swampy forest that looks superb for southern swamp warblers such as Prothonotary or Yellow-throated, and the mixture of thickets and tall forest attracts many migrants. There are also a couple of small wood-edged ponds, isolated from people, which sometimes provide a refuge for species like Wood Ducks and Solitary Sandpipers. Combine this with a few productive weedy places, and you have another great birding area! Activity here seems to persist well into the morning, and this is a good spot to check after starting the day at Orchard Hill and Sylvan.

To get here from Sylvan, return to North Pleasant Street and take a left. At the roundabout, take your first right to head west along the northern edge of campus on Governors Drive. Follow this until you reach the first light, then take a right, follow the road to the back of the dirt parking lot, and park wherever you like (P5). As elsewhere, parking here is available only before 8:00 am on weekdays but is accessible all day on weekends.

In September and October, the birding starts near the car; the weedy margins of the dirt parking lot frequently attract sparrows, especially Chipping and Field, and many juncos. Making your way to the southern edge of the parking lot, you will see a break in the guardrail with a chain across it between two yellow poles. Down this road toward the UMass power plant is good habitat on both sides, which you see as you cross the small bridge. Sparrows and other migrants are often flitting around in the weeds. The unkempt area surrounding the power plant (8) was exceedingly productive in fall 2010, but unfortunately has not turned up much in recent years. That fall there were Clay-colored and Vesper sparrows, at least four Dickcissels, and an Orange-crowned Warbler. Over 200 juncos were usually present that season, and on one occasion over 500 sparrows! This area is not often productive in the spring, but American Kestrels do nest under the eaves of the power plant.

Returning to the parking lot, follow its western edge to the north. With more weedy and scrubby edges, this lot in fall has similar birds to those near the power plant. After a few hundred meters, the edge of the lot turns into a road, which may or may not be gated. If the gate is open, you can drive it; if not, walking is always allowed. This is known as either the NW campus road or the “cinder road,” the latter a historical name whose origin I do not know. Following this road through mixed shrubby areas and forest can be productive for migrants, especially Tennessee Warblers, which seem to like the area in September and occasionally in spring.

After some time on the road you’ll reach a T-junction with a decrepit shed/garage in front of you. Going to the left takes you to a dead end at a powerline cut, which can have interesting migrants along it, such as Yellow-throated Vireo in May. Continuing to the right, the road hooks sharply to the left, and an interesting swampy forest, reminiscent of the South, starts on your right. In early April this wet area is usually overrun with Palm, Yellow-rumped, and Pine warblers and provides a wonderful experience as winter relinquishes its claim on the forests. To my knowledge nobody has recorded a Yellow-throated Warbler here, but it is only a matter of time!

Soon you’ll reach a gravel dump/storage area (9) that in fall attracts sparrows to the weedy places, and finches in winter to the seeding plants. This is another good place to comb through the flocks of juncos for unusual species, and if Pine Siskins are staging a movement that year, they will be here from October through December. The best birding in this area is usually past the gravel dump, where there is a mixture of fields and ponds on the right and a tree-lined powerline cut on the left (10). In May the ponds, as mentioned earlier, often attract Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, and Solitary Sandpipers. The large cottonwoods looming over the water are a magnet for warblers, and the birdsong here can be so deafening that it is hard to pick out the more uncommon species—not a bad problem to have! Brown Thrashers frequently sing from the edge of the field, and Swamp Sparrows can often be heard singing from the marshy area at the end of the road.

The only way back out is to retrace your steps to the start, so keep that in mind as you’re walking in. But of course the most interesting areas are near the end! There is one parking lot off Governors Drive closer to the middle of this road, but it involves walking across unstable rocks and crossing a small ditch, which is not for everyone. I include it in the map as another parking place for this area in case anyone is interested (P4). To find it, when driving along Governor’s Drive in the northwestern corner of campus, go to the farthest northwestern corner of the three parking lots north of the road. Walking across the rocks and ditch here and proceeding to your left will get you into the heart of the Northwest Campus birding area.

Campus Pond area <<http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L842464>>

As far as birding is concerned, there are two main attractions in the mostly built-up central campus: the campus pond (11) and the fruiting trees. Despite being only slightly more than a large murky puddle, this pond has turned up almost as many rare and unusual birds as any other single location on campus. In addition, checking the edges of

the high buildings year-round will often result in one or both of the resident Peregrine Falcon pair; the library corners are especially frequent perches.

To get here by car, take North Pleasant Street through the center of campus and turn onto a street to the west, just south of the large green lawn and north of the Fine Arts Center, which dead-ends at a parking area at the southeastern corner of the pond (P6). Parking here for several minutes with your flashers on shouldn't be an issue.

With the middle of September come the first American Black Ducks to join the hordes of Mallards, and the potential for other, unusual waterfowl starts to increase. Checking the willow trees at the southeastern corner of the pond (12) will often result in a handful of migrants: warblers gleaning insects, sparrows working the bushes at the base, and sapsuckers tapping the trunks. In mid-October the goose flocks start moving through, and every day becomes exciting, as you never know what to expect. Up to four Cackling Geese have shown up in a single fall, as well as groups of one to three Greater White-fronted Geese



Cackling Goose (right) with Canada Goose, Campus Pond

and ducks such as Northern Pintail, Gadwall, and American Wigeon. Carefully check the margins of the pond, where occasionally Green Herons or rarely a Black-crowned Night-Heron may lurk, and Rusty Blackbirds can sometimes be found at the muddy edge. The pond levels are at times so low that mudflats become exposed. Low pond levels mean there is a higher chance for Solitary and Spotted sandpipers or even more uncommon shorebirds, and dabbling ducks like Green-winged Teal put in more appearances than normal.

The aforementioned willow trees and accompanying shrubs in the southeast corner are always worth a check, as every bush or crab apple tree could harbor a lingering songbird as the fall draws on. Wilson's Warblers have been seen toward the end of October, and Northern Parula, Blackpoll, Nashville, and Yellow-rumped warblers have all stuck it out through November, the latter species staying even into December. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have drilled a network of wells in the willows, and in October a few individuals will sometimes squabble over feeding rights. An unknown person occasionally puts cracked corn on the footpath, and the resident House Sparrow flock is often joined by up to five species of true sparrows, with Lincoln's and White-crowned being the most uncommon. The gull numbers increase through the fall, with up to 200 Ring-bills present at times, joined by an occasional rarity such as a Bonaparte's or Iceland Gull.

As November progresses, the landbirds in this area dwindle to scarcely more than a memory, but the waterfowl show is still heating up. It is worth noting that the microclimate of the water and surrounding buildings could potentially attract November vagrants from the western US—it always pays to check every bird. Flocks

of geese are still coming and going throughout the winter, and no two days are the same here. Cackling and other unusual geese are seen sporadically throughout the entire winter season, and sometimes Canada Geese with neckbands from Greenland will put in an appearance. In cold years, the water at the southern end of the campus pond is often one of the last places to freeze. The water can thus attract large concentrations of several hundred ducks and other frigid waterbirds trying to hang on in the area.

Beginning in November, the crab apples around the pond start to attract frugivores, and in certain years Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks join the standard fare of Cedar Waxwings and European Starlings. The crab apple trees on the southwest edge of the pond (13) are most productive, and have held up to 20 Pine Grosbeaks in the past (winter of 2012–2013). There are many ornamental crab apples planted throughout campus, but the pondside location of this stand seems to be the most attractive to our rare winter visitors.

Spring movements come early here, and the first returning blackbirds on campus singing atop the willows often herald the beginning of March. Around this time migrants join the winter flocks of waterfowl and goose diversity increases, with the potential for rarities peaking toward the end of March. The songbird diversity is lower here in spring, but checking the spots that were attractive in the fall can always turn up something unusual. The resident Peregrine Falcon pair usually starts courting around February, and their cries can be heard overhead throughout the rest of the spring.

The summer months are quite slow, mainly featuring families of Canada Geese and Mallards feeding on the adjacent lawn. The only potential for unusual species is a wandering heron or egret, which can turn up in July or August at the pond's edge.

Returning to North Pleasant Street, take a right and follow the road to a traffic light, where you'll take another right on Massachusetts Avenue. Follow this through the southern area of campus (watch out for pedestrians!) and through another light. The next stop, the athletic fields, are now on your right, and your next right turn (Mullins Way) brings you to an ideal vantage point (P7).

Southwest Campus and Hadley Horse Farm

Mostly consisting of forest patches and open fields, this area of campus is the hardest to access on foot from the other areas. Birding here is not the most species-diverse, but the historical list features some of the most interesting records on the campus. The Northwest Campus and Orchard Hill have better songbird diversity, but the extensive fields here offer the best chance for shorebirds and odd gulls, weather permitting.

At the main athletic fields (14) there are often many gulls loafing early in the morning, especially on foggy or rainy days, with up to 500 birds present at times. Historically the adjacent sewage plant attracted many more birds than today, and past records include an astounding 12 species of gulls: Sabine's, Bonaparte's, Black-headed, Laughing, Franklin's, Mew, Ring-billed, Herring, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, Glaucous, and Great Black-backed. These days almost every gull is Ring-billed, but

occasionally a Bonaparte's will drop down during migration, and Black-headed has occurred in nearby (off-campus) fields as recently as 2013. Aside from gulls, these fields have also attracted Snowy Owl, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Cattle Egret; the latter was trying to fit into a group of Ring-billed Gulls in October 2012.



Pine Grosbeak, Campus Pond

To get to the stadium area, drive directly across Massachusetts Avenue and take a right, passing the track field on your left and some small cattail-filled puddles on your right, where the road turns to dirt. Follow this road through the woods, and once it opens into fields, a marsh will be on your right (15). Here, the best birding is in the marshy area and adjoining fields, with the stands of trees occasionally harboring migrants. This is another area that has sadly become less productive over time, for as recently as the mid-90's there were breeding Marsh Wrens, Soras, American Bitterns, and Virginia Rails in the cattail marsh. These days only Virginia Rails remain as breeders, joined by Soras during migration, but fortunately the quality of the marsh is still good enough so that who knows what the future may hold. In the 80s and 90s the marsh would regularly flood into the fields, and the shorebird list featured great species like Ruff, Red-necked Phalarope, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and regular Upland Sandpipers in migration. As with all fields in this area, a well-timed rainy day visit can result in unusual species; the Stadium Fields have proven themselves time and time again. You can walk right to the edge of the cattail marsh, and taking time to listen and watch open patches during the breeding season can yield secretive marsh birds such as rails or bitterns or more visible species such as Green Herons or Wood Ducks. Parking in this area is allowed at all times (P8).

Continuing by car past the marsh, take a right just before the Stonehenge lookalike, and then a right on Rocky Hill Road. Crossing over Route 116, bear right on Plainville Road, and you will find yourself above the Hadley Horse Farm (16). Owned by UMass, this is a teaching area for the agricultural portions of the school. There are two general areas to bird here—the horse bowl and the Farm Pond fields. The horse bowl is the interior of the oval horse track, where the grass is generally kept fairly short, and where

small puddles form after rain. To get here, go right on North Maple Street and take your first right into the entrance road, disregarding the signs. Park in the lot on the right (P9), and be courteous—we are fortunate that birders are allowed here.

Best after rain, the puddles in October often attract Wilson's Snipe, which may be joined by other shorebirds depending on the weather event. Vesper Sparrows can also be found in October, especially by the several isolated bushes in the center of the oval. In winter there usually isn't too much going on aside from the occasional American Kestrel frequenting the fence lines, but Short-eared Owls have been recorded here at least twice. In spring this is often the best place on campus to see swallows, with Northern Rough-winged, Tree, Bank, and Barn all regulars. Savannah Sparrows and Eastern Meadowlarks breed in the longer grass, and can be seen singing from the fence posts. Cattle Egrets have been recorded here several times throughout the seasons and should be looked for among the livestock.

Farther up North Maple Street is a small and unobtrusive pond by the western side of the road ringed with a few cattails and surrounded by fields (17). This is the Farm Pond, which has turned up far more unusual species than you'd expect. Black Tern, Red-necked (2) and Wilson's phalaropes, and Dunlin have all occurred here, Soras have bred, and a Western Meadowlark spent some time one June singing from the fields just behind the pond! Be careful pulling off the road—there can be a lot of traffic. The pond also attracts ducks and has had Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shoveler over the years among the more regular species. This is another good area to look for a Cattle Egret in the surrounding fields, and the tree line often has raptors.

One of the most interesting and controversial records from the area also comes from this location—a White-tailed Hawk that was seen in April 2006. Initially found by Scott Sumner, this bird stuck around for several days and was seen by many. The identification was not in question, but the origin was troubling, considering that there is no other record of White-tailed Hawk north and east of Louisiana. I won't get into the details of the battle between those who believe the bird was a captive escapee and those who believe it was wild, but we can hope that a future pattern of vagrancy will be established for this species, supporting a wild origin.

Now that you've done the whole UMass circuit, you can either head farther up North Maple Street to investigate more agricultural fields, west along the river to the Honey Pot, back into campus, or call it a day well spent! ♣

Ian Davies is a resident of Manomet, Massachusetts, where in 2004 he discovered an interest in birds during a visit to the Manomet Bird Observatory. That has led to the pursuit of as many birds as possible in as many places as possible, which has resulted in birding trips to over 20 countries over the past decade. Some of his favorite spots to bird in Massachusetts include Plymouth Beach and Manomet Bird Observatory in Plymouth, Cuttyhunk Island off New Bedford, and Orchard Hill and the Berkshires in the western part of the state. Ian sincerely thanks all who contributed records for the campus list, with particular nods to Tom Gagnon, Scott Sumner, and David Spector for their knowledge and help.

Oceans Changing: Do Seabirds Tell Us Something About Ocean Changes?

Thomas Robben, Stephen Broker, and Shoon N. Robben
oceanschanging.blogspot.com



Figure 1. Flock of Razorbills over Miami Beach. © December 2012 Trey Mitchell.

Introduction

Thousands of Razorbills (*Alca torda*) left their normal range along the continental shelf of northeastern North America and invaded Florida's offshore waters in late 2012 (Figure 1). The invasion was unprecedented and raised many questions. How big was this event? Why did it happen? Will it happen again? Where did these birds come from? What is the significance of the Razorbill invasion and what changes in the marine ecosystem could have caused it?

This paper: 1) verifies the uniqueness of the Florida event and suggests a possible source location—the northern Gulf of Maine (GOM)—for many of these errant seabirds; 2) hypothesizes a mechanism involving above-average temperatures in the GOM that could have precipitated the invasion; and 3) finds evidence in the GOM to support the hypothesis.

Another goal of our project was to engage marine ornithologists, scientists from other disciplines, and other collaborators for this and future investigations of seabirds and the marine ecosystem. This article highlights of some of their work in progress.

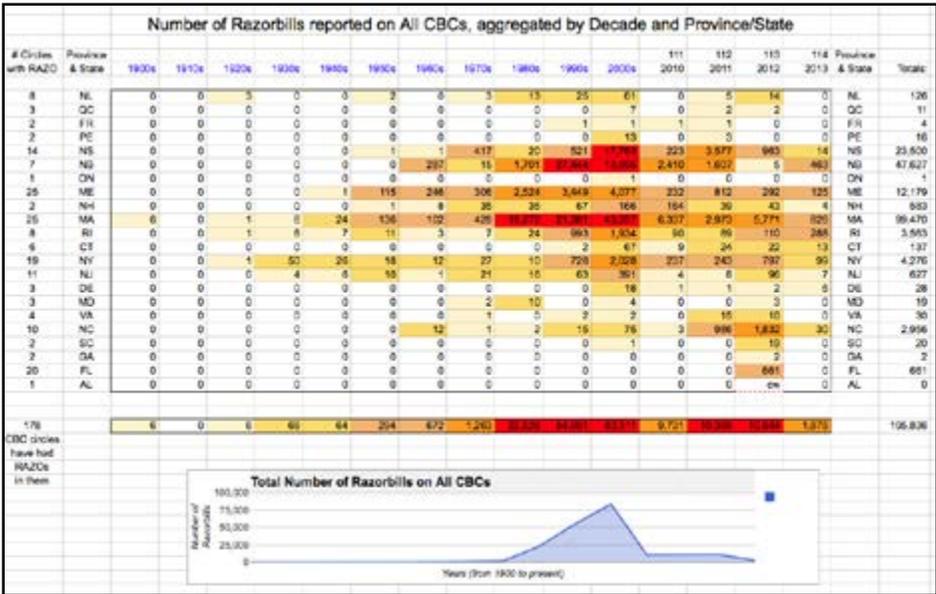


Table 1. Razorbills reported on all Christmas Bird Counts 1900–2013. Data courtesy of the National Audubon Society.

Hypothesis: Changes in seabird distribution reflect changes in ocean temperature

Our working hypothesis consists of the following points:

- The planetary atmosphere is warming.
- Atmospheric warming leads to ocean warming.
- Areas of high tidal mixing, such as the Bay of Fundy (BOF), absorb atmospheric heat more rapidly than most of the ocean, acting as an unusually effective gas-liquid direct-contact heat exchanger. This mechanism contributed to the above-average warming of the GOM and the nearby western North Atlantic in 2012.
- Warming of the ocean can cause unusually early spring phytoplankton blooms, as in 2012.
- Early phytoplankton blooms impede zooplankton production.
- Reduction in zooplankton abundance impacts many organisms that prey upon them, such as larger zooplankton, small fish, and some smaller seabirds. Reductions in sand lance, capelin, hake, and especially Atlantic herring cause redistribution of seabirds.
- Razorbills are a dispersive species (Gaston & Woo 2008) that strike out in search of new feeding grounds when food supplies are greatly reduced, making them a good indicator species to reflect environmental changes.

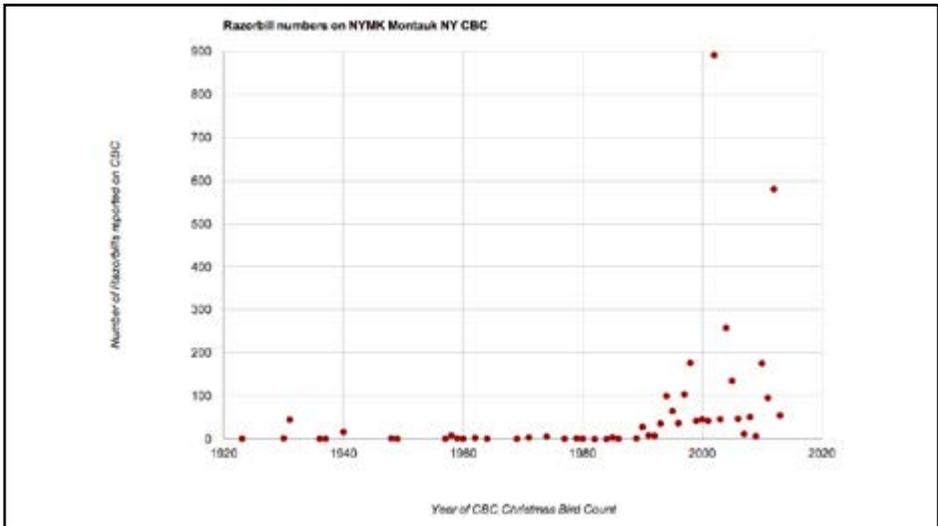


Fig. 2. The number of Razorbills reported at the NYMK CBC, Montauk, New York. Data courtesy of the National Audubon Society.

2012 Changes in Razorbill Distribution

Razorbills are rarely seen south of the Carolinas in winter, and never more than a few. Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data show only a total of 16 Razorbills in Florida waters previous to 2012. The 2012 irruption of thousands of Razorbills into Florida coastal waters was therefore unprecedented in the last hundred years.

In order to understand the magnitude and historical context of this irruption, we asked Audubon for a subset of the complete CBC database for every report containing Razorbills from 1900 to 2013. We found that 195,836 Razorbills had been seen on 178 different CBCs. Table 1 on page 274 shows the number and distribution of Razorbills for all of these CBCs. We reorganized the data for easier viewing by aggregating the CBC time series for Razorbill numbers by state and province and by decades from 1900 through 2009. The rightmost four columns are single years, 2010–2013, being compared against decades in the columns on the left.

This is an interesting summary, aggregated by state/province. Clearly, the total number of Razorbills reported is growing, but the data are hard to interpret due to several variables, including the number of CBC circles, whether CBCs are run every year, the field effort from year to year, weather variability, and the increasing quality and availability of good optics and educated observers. When we examined the CBC circle for Montauk, New York (Figure 2) where sightings are limited and standardized to a one-day CBC count, and the number of observers has remained fairly steady, it is clear that Razorbill numbers have increased since the early 1990s. Prior to 1990 almost every dot reflects single-digit counts of Razorbills; since 1990 only three dots reflect counts of fewer than ten birds.

We reduced the subset of CBCs by rejecting counts with short durations, inactive counts, or counts with few Razorbills, leaving us with 23 CBCs along the East Coast,

the majority of which had reported the most Razorbills over the last hundred years. The selected CBCs reported a total of 170,799 birds, retaining 87% of the total reported Razorbills. Table 2 shows the 23 CBCs with the last 25 years of their Razorbill numbers.



Fig 3. Two CBC circles with large numbers of Razorbills: NSBI Brier Island, Nova Scotia, and NBGM Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick. Data courtesy of the National Audubon Society.

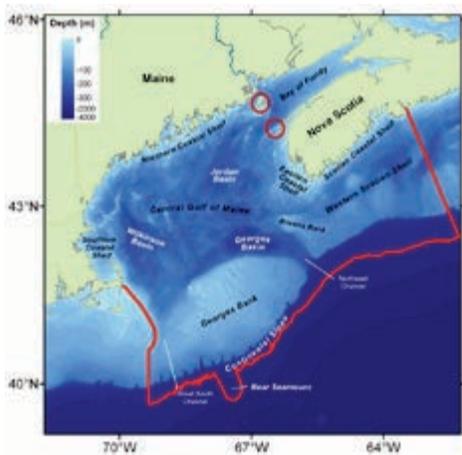


Fig 4. The greater Gulf Of Maine Area (GOMA) includes all waters inside the line.

It appeared that the vast majority of Razorbills winter from Grand Manan (NBGM count) and the nearby Brier Island (NSBI count) on the Nova Scotia side of the BOF south (or offshore away from CBCs). Figure 3 depicts these two key CBC circles at the mouth of the BOF. Figure 4 shows the greater Gulf Of Maine Area (GOMA), which includes all waters inside the line. Grand Manan Island (the upper circle) is at the western edge of the Bay of Fundy, just east of the US/Canada border; Brier Island (the lower circle) is at the west end of Nova Scotia. Cape Ann, Massachusetts, has a good number of Razorbills, as do most of the CBCs around the Cape Cod area. The islands—Martha’s Vineyard, Nantucket, and Tuckernuck in Massachusetts, and Block Island in Rhode Island—have good numbers of Razorbills, as does Montauk, New York. The best Razorbill numbers south of Montauk are at NCWI, the Wilmington, North Carolina CBC.

South of NCWI, few Razorbills are reported on CBCs. That changed in 2012 when the NCSB (Southport-Bald Head-Oak Islands, North Carolina) CBC jumped to 360, and the FLDC (Miami-Dade County) CBC jumped to 600 from no previous Razorbill reports. In addition to the 23 CBCs that we analyzed, two Georgia and fifteen other Florida CBCs (plus five more if we allow for count-

week birds) reported first-time appearances of a few Razorbills. The analysis of all the CBC data confirms that the 2012 December migration of Razorbills to Florida waters was unprecedented since 1900.

Comparison of the 2011 and 2012 numbers indicates that the largest CBC declines come from the Grand Manan CBC—1605 birds down to 5—and Brier Island—3556

| | A | B | C | D | E | DS |
|-----|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | Thanks to National Audubon Society for all data, from their CBC Christmas Bird Counts database. This is work-in-progress. Initial contact is robbert96AT@gmail.com | | | | | DR |
| 2 | Num | CBC | Label | Name | Abbrev | Time |
| 3 | 1989-1990 | 1991-1992 | 1993-1994 | 1995-1996 | 1997-1998 | 1999-2000 |
| 4 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
| 5 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| 6 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
| 7 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| 8 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 |
| 9 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031 | 2032 | 2033 | 2034 |
| 10 | 2035 | 2036 | 2037 | 2038 | 2039 | 2040 |
| 11 | 2041 | 2042 | 2043 | 2044 | 2045 | 2046 |
| 12 | 2047 | 2048 | 2049 | 2050 | 2051 | 2052 |
| 13 | 2053 | 2054 | 2055 | 2056 | 2057 | 2058 |
| 14 | 2059 | 2060 | 2061 | 2062 | 2063 | 2064 |
| 15 | 2065 | 2066 | 2067 | 2068 | 2069 | 2070 |
| 16 | 2071 | 2072 | 2073 | 2074 | 2075 | 2076 |
| 17 | 2077 | 2078 | 2079 | 2080 | 2081 | 2082 |
| 18 | 2083 | 2084 | 2085 | 2086 | 2087 | 2088 |
| 19 | 2089 | 2090 | 2091 | 2092 | 2093 | 2094 |
| 20 | 2095 | 2096 | 2097 | 2098 | 2099 | 2100 |
| 21 | 2101 | 2102 | 2103 | 2104 | 2105 | 2106 |
| 22 | 2107 | 2108 | 2109 | 2110 | 2111 | 2112 |
| 23 | 2113 | 2114 | 2115 | 2116 | 2117 | 2118 |
| 24 | 2119 | 2120 | 2121 | 2122 | 2123 | 2124 |
| 25 | 2125 | 2126 | 2127 | 2128 | 2129 | 2130 |
| 26 | 2131 | 2132 | 2133 | 2134 | 2135 | 2136 |
| 27 | 2137 | 2138 | 2139 | 2140 | 2141 | 2142 |
| 28 | 2143 | 2144 | 2145 | 2146 | 2147 | 2148 |
| 29 | 2149 | 2150 | 2151 | 2152 | 2153 | 2154 |
| 30 | 2155 | 2156 | 2157 | 2158 | 2159 | 2160 |
| 31 | 2161 | 2162 | 2163 | 2164 | 2165 | 2166 |
| 32 | 2167 | 2168 | 2169 | 2170 | 2171 | 2172 |
| 33 | 2173 | 2174 | 2175 | 2176 | 2177 | 2178 |
| 34 | 2179 | 2180 | 2181 | 2182 | 2183 | 2184 |
| 35 | 2185 | 2186 | 2187 | 2188 | 2189 | 2190 |
| 36 | 2191 | 2192 | 2193 | 2194 | 2195 | 2196 |
| 37 | 2197 | 2198 | 2199 | 2200 | 2201 | 2202 |
| 38 | 2203 | 2204 | 2205 | 2206 | 2207 | 2208 |
| 39 | 2209 | 2210 | 2211 | 2212 | 2213 | 2214 |
| 40 | 2215 | 2216 | 2217 | 2218 | 2219 | 2220 |
| 41 | 2221 | 2222 | 2223 | 2224 | 2225 | 2226 |
| 42 | 2227 | 2228 | 2229 | 2230 | 2231 | 2232 |
| 43 | 2233 | 2234 | 2235 | 2236 | 2237 | 2238 |
| 44 | 2239 | 2240 | 2241 | 2242 | 2243 | 2244 |
| 45 | 2245 | 2246 | 2247 | 2248 | 2249 | 2250 |
| 46 | 2251 | 2252 | 2253 | 2254 | 2255 | 2256 |
| 47 | 2257 | 2258 | 2259 | 2260 | 2261 | 2262 |
| 48 | 2263 | 2264 | 2265 | 2266 | 2267 | 2268 |
| 49 | 2269 | 2270 | 2271 | 2272 | 2273 | 2274 |
| 50 | 2275 | 2276 | 2277 | 2278 | 2279 | 2280 |
| 51 | 2281 | 2282 | 2283 | 2284 | 2285 | 2286 |
| 52 | 2287 | 2288 | 2289 | 2290 | 2291 | 2292 |
| 53 | 2293 | 2294 | 2295 | 2296 | 2297 | 2298 |
| 54 | 2299 | 2300 | 2301 | 2302 | 2303 | 2304 |
| 55 | 2305 | 2306 | 2307 | 2308 | 2309 | 2310 |
| 56 | 2311 | 2312 | 2313 | 2314 | 2315 | 2316 |
| 57 | 2317 | 2318 | 2319 | 2320 | 2321 | 2322 |
| 58 | 2323 | 2324 | 2325 | 2326 | 2327 | 2328 |
| 59 | 2329 | 2330 | 2331 | 2332 | 2333 | 2334 |
| 60 | 2335 | 2336 | 2337 | 2338 | 2339 | 2340 |
| 61 | 2341 | 2342 | 2343 | 2344 | 2345 | 2346 |
| 62 | 2347 | 2348 | 2349 | 2350 | 2351 | 2352 |
| 63 | 2353 | 2354 | 2355 | 2356 | 2357 | 2358 |
| 64 | 2359 | 2360 | 2361 | 2362 | 2363 | 2364 |
| 65 | 2365 | 2366 | 2367 | 2368 | 2369 | 2370 |
| 66 | 2371 | 2372 | 2373 | 2374 | 2375 | 2376 |
| 67 | 2377 | 2378 | 2379 | 2380 | 2381 | 2382 |
| 68 | 2383 | 2384 | 2385 | 2386 | 2387 | 2388 |
| 69 | 2389 | 2390 | 2391 | 2392 | 2393 | 2394 |
| 70 | 2395 | 2396 | 2397 | 2398 | 2399 | 2400 |
| 71 | 2401 | 2402 | 2403 | 2404 | 2405 | 2406 |
| 72 | 2407 | 2408 | 2409 | 2410 | 2411 | 2412 |
| 73 | 2413 | 2414 | 2415 | 2416 | 2417 | 2418 |
| 74 | 2419 | 2420 | 2421 | 2422 | 2423 | 2424 |
| 75 | 2425 | 2426 | 2427 | 2428 | 2429 | 2430 |
| 76 | 2431 | 2432 | 2433 | 2434 | 2435 | 2436 |
| 77 | 2437 | 2438 | 2439 | 2440 | 2441 | 2442 |
| 78 | 2443 | 2444 | 2445 | 2446 | 2447 | 2448 |
| 79 | 2449 | 2450 | 2451 | 2452 | 2453 | 2454 |
| 80 | 2455 | 2456 | 2457 | 2458 | 2459 | 2460 |
| 81 | 2461 | 2462 | 2463 | 2464 | 2465 | 2466 |
| 82 | 2467 | 2468 | 2469 | 2470 | 2471 | 2472 |
| 83 | 2473 | 2474 | 2475 | 2476 | 2477 | 2478 |
| 84 | 2479 | 2480 | 2481 | 2482 | 2483 | 2484 |
| 85 | 2485 | 2486 | 2487 | 2488 | 2489 | 2490 |
| 86 | 2491 | 2492 | 2493 | 2494 | 2495 | 2496 |
| 87 | 2497 | 2498 | 2499 | 2500 | 2501 | 2502 |
| 88 | 2503 | 2504 | 2505 | 2506 | 2507 | 2508 |
| 89 | 2509 | 2510 | 2511 | 2512 | 2513 | 2514 |
| 90 | 2515 | 2516 | 2517 | 2518 | 2519 | 2520 |
| 91 | 2521 | 2522 | 2523 | 2524 | 2525 | 2526 |
| 92 | 2527 | 2528 | 2529 | 2530 | 2531 | 2532 |
| 93 | 2533 | 2534 | 2535 | 2536 | 2537 | 2538 |
| 94 | 2539 | 2540 | 2541 | 2542 | 2543 | 2544 |
| 95 | 2545 | 2546 | 2547 | 2548 | 2549 | 2550 |
| 96 | 2551 | 2552 | 2553 | 2554 | 2555 | 2556 |
| 97 | 2557 | 2558 | 2559 | 2560 | 2561 | 2562 |
| 98 | 2563 | 2564 | 2565 | 2566 | 2567 | 2568 |
| 99 | 2569 | 2570 | 2571 | 2572 | 2573 | 2574 |
| 100 | 2575 | 2576 | 2577 | 2578 | 2579 | 2580 |
| 101 | 2581 | 2582 | 2583 | 2584 | 2585 | 2586 |
| 102 | 2587 | 2588 | 2589 | 2590 | 2591 | 2592 |
| 103 | 2593 | 2594 | 2595 | 2596 | 2597 | 2598 |
| 104 | 2599 | 2600 | 2601 | 2602 | 2603 | 2604 |
| 105 | 2605 | 2606 | 2607 | 2608 | 2609 | 2610 |
| 106 | 2611 | 2612 | 2613 | 2614 | 2615 | 2616 |
| 107 | 2617 | 2618 | 2619 | 2620 | 2621 | 2622 |
| 108 | 2623 | 2624 | 2625 | 2626 | 2627 | 2628 |
| 109 | 2629 | 2630 | 2631 | 2632 | 2633 | 2634 |
| 110 | 2635 | 2636 | 2637 | 2638 | 2639 | 2640 |
| 111 | 2641 | 2642 | 2643 | 2644 | 2645 | 2646 |
| 112 | 2647 | 2648 | 2649 | 2650 | 2651 | 2652 |
| 113 | 2653 | 2654 | 2655 | 2656 | 2657 | 2658 |
| 114 | 2659 | 2660 | 2661 | 2662 | 2663 | 2664 |
| 115 | 2665 | 2666 | 2667 | 2668 | 2669 | 2670 |
| 116 | 2671 | 2672 | 2673 | 2674 | 2675 | 2676 |
| 117 | 2677 | 2678 | 2679 | 2680 | 2681 | 2682 |
| 118 | 2683 | 2684 | 2685 | 2686 | 2687 | 2688 |
| 119 | 2689 | 2690 | 2691 | 2692 | 2693 | 2694 |
| 120 | 2695 | 2696 | 2697 | 2698 | 2699 | 2700 |
| 121 | 2701 | 2702 | 2703 | 2704 | 2705 | 2706 |
| 122 | 2707 | 2708 | 2709 | 2710 | 2711 | 2712 |
| 123 | 2713 | 2714 | 2715 | 2716 | 2717 | 2718 |
| 124 | 2719 | 2720 | 2721 | 2722 | 2723 | 2724 |
| 125 | 2725 | 2726 | 2727 | 2728 | 2729 | 2730 |
| 126 | 2731 | 2732 | 2733 | 2734 | 2735 | 2736 |
| 127 | 2737 | 2738 | 2739 | 2740 | 2741 | 2742 |
| 128 | 2743 | 2744 | 2745 | 2746 | 2747 | 2748 |
| 129 | 2749 | 2750 | 2751 | 2752 | 2753 | 2754 |
| 130 | 2755 | 2756 | 2757 | 2758 | 2759 | 2760 |
| 131 | 2761 | 2762 | 2763 | 2764 | 2765 | 2766 |
| 132 | 2767 | 2768 | 2769 | 2770 | 2771 | 2772 |
| 133 | 2773 | 2774 | 2775 | 2776 | 2777 | 2778 |
| 134 | 2779 | 2780 | 2781 | 2782 | 2783 | 2784 |
| 135 | 2785 | 2786 | 2787 | 2788 | 2789 | 2790 |
| 136 | 2791 | 2792 | 2793 | 2794 | 2795 | 2796 |
| 137 | 2797 | 2798 | 2799 | 2800 | 2801 | 2802 |
| 138 | 2803 | 2804 | 2805 | 2806 | 2807 | 2808 |
| 139 | 2809 | 2810 | 2811 | 2812 | 2813 | 2814 |
| 140 | 2815 | 2816 | 2817 | 2818 | 2819 | 2820 |
| 141 | 2821 | 2822 | 2823 | 2824 | 2825 | 2826 |
| 142 | 2827 | 2828 | 2829 | 2830 | 2831 | 2832 |
| 143 | 2833 | 2834 | 2835 | 2836 | 2837 | 2838 |
| 144 | 2839 | 2840 | 2841 | 2842 | 2843 | 2844 |
| 145 | 2845 | 2846 | 2847 | 2848 | 2849 | 2850 |
| 146 | 2851 | 2852 | 2853 | 2854 | 2855 | 2856 |
| 147 | 2857 | 2858 | 2859 | 2860 | 2861 | 2862 |
| 148 | 2863 | 2864 | 2865 | 2866 | 2867 | 2868 |
| 149 | 2869 | 2870 | 2871 | 2872 | 2873 | 2874 |
| 150 | 2875 | 2876 | 2877 | 2878 | 2879 | 2880 |
| 151 | 2881 | 2882 | 2883 | 2884 | 2885 | 2886 |
| 152 | 2887 | 2888 | 2889 | 2890 | 2891 | 2892 |
| 153 | 2893 | 2894 | 2895 | 2896 | 2897 | 2898 |
| 154 | 2899 | 2900 | 2901 | 2902 | 2903 | 2904 |
| 155 | 2905 | 2906 | 2907 | 2908 | 2909 | 2910 |
| 156 | 2911 | 2912 | 2913 | 2914 | 2915 | 2916 |
| 157 | 2917 | 2918 | 2919 | 2920 | 2921 | 2922 |
| 158 | 2923 | 2924 | 2925 | 2926 | 2927 | 2928 |
| 159 | 2929 | 2930 | 2931 | 2932 | 2933 | 2934 |
| 160 | 2935 | 2936 | 2937 | 2938 | 2939 | 2940 |
| 161 | 2941 | 2942 | 2943 | 2944 | 2945 | 2946 |
| 162 | 2947 | 2948 | 2949 | 2950 | 2951 | 2952 |
| 163 | 2953 | 2954 | 2955 | 2956 | 2957 | 2958 |
| | | | | | | |

down to 936 birds. CBC circles cover a small fraction of the entire range of Razorbills, but these numbers suggest that birds that normally winter in the northern Gulf of Maine around the mouth of the Bay of Fundy may have moved farther south or offshore. Increased numbers of Razorbills in CBCs from Massachusetts south also reflected the southern migration. Confirming that some of the southern Razorbills could have originated in the northern GOM area, Eric Mills (2013) wrote in “Nova Scotia Birds” quarterly, “...in early December [2012] it was clear that something was going on with RAZORBILLS. Sea-watching then revealed a steady passage of southward-bound birds in early December, after which numbers were relatively low through the end of February.”

We then tried to determine what happened to the Razorbills after they reached Florida. The data in row 5 of Table 2 (page 277) shows the total number of Razorbills in all 23 CBC circles from 1989–2013. The totals for 2007 through 2012 show a steady buildup from around 2000 to more than 9000 birds. In 2013 the number of Razorbills plunged to 1719—an 82% loss—suggesting that many Razorbills perished during the winter of 2012. If these birds had irrupted into Florida waters, the low food abundance in the warm waters may explain the population reduction.

Finally, we examined the Razorbill irruption using eBird data from the last several years. We compared all Razorbills reported to eBird for the three months of December, January, and February. The three maps in Figure 5 show Razorbill sightings in 2011–2012, 2012–2013, and 2013–2014. Clearly the southern distribution of Razorbills in the winter of 2012–2013 (the map in the middle of the three) was different from the winters before or after due to its many reports from Florida waters.

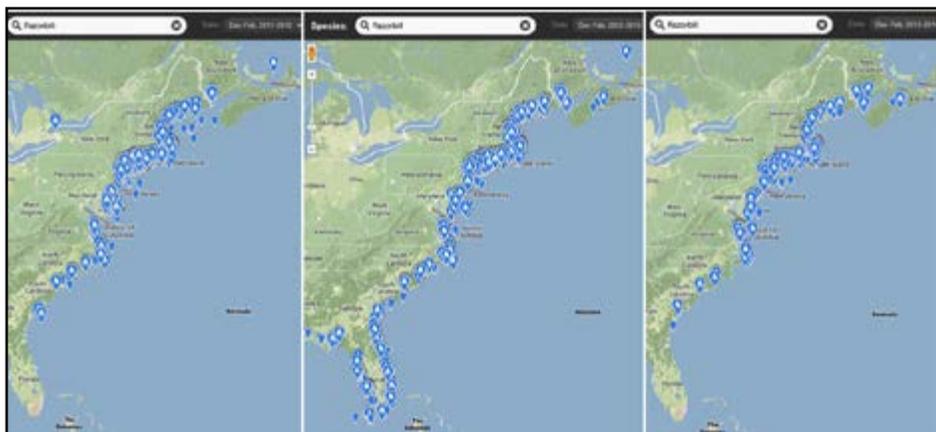


Fig. 5. Razorbills reported to eBird for three winters, December through February, for 2011–2012, 2012–2013, and 2013–2014. Note the Florida reports in 2012–2013 only. Data courtesy of eBird.

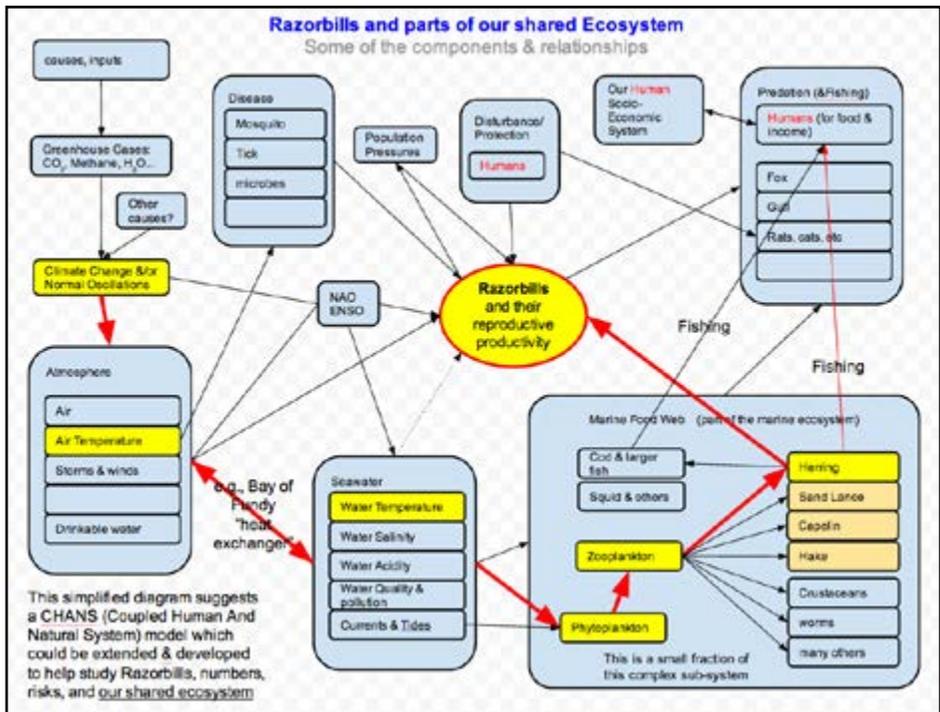


Fig. 6. The Razorbill's position in a simplified CHANS (coupled human and natural systems).

Changes in Other Marine Ecosystem Components (Ocean Changes)

What were the conditions in northern GOM that might have caused the birds to depart? What was going on in the Brier Island and Grand Manan Island areas during 2010, 2011, and 2012? Were conditions different there than in southern Maine and Massachusetts waters where Razorbills also congregate in the winter?

Observations in the Arctic (Gaston & Woo 2008) suggest that Razorbills are a good indicator species because they are dispersive in response to changes in their environment, especially to changes in sand lance and other fish they prefer to eat, such as herring. Our hypothesis is that the Razorbill changes, especially in 2012, were correlated with, and probably driven by, a chain of marine ecosystem component changes, starting with warming in the atmosphere, warming of the seawater (accelerated by the extreme tidal turnover in the Bay of Fundy), changes in phytoplankton, changes in zooplankton, and changes in Atlantic herring, sand lance, and similar small fish that Razorbills depend upon. We looked for correlations over time of Razorbill numbers and various components in both the human ecosystem and the natural marine ecosystem of which Razorbills are a part in the Gulf of Maine area. Figure 6 is a simplified CHANS (coupled human and natural systems) diagram that shows a number of possible factors, for which the following sections present evidence.

Water Temperature

Generally, the western North Atlantic is warming and at an accelerating pace. The specific causes of this warming trend are still being debated, but the evidence of the trend is strong. Several studies indicate that the 2012 ocean temperature was much higher than normal in the GOM. The year 2012 was abnormally warm across a wide area of the Northwest Atlantic, including the Canadian Shelf. Johnson (2003) wrote, “2012 was a record warm year in air and ocean temperatures in the Maritimes region” [which includes GOM]. There was a clear warming in the northeast United States coastal ocean in 2012, including the GOM (Chen 2013) caused by the atmosphere and likely related to a strongly positive North Atlantic Oscillation. The array of NERACOOS buoys that have been deployed in the GOM since 2001 also recorded the anomalous nature of the 2012 warming (Morrison et al. 2013).

May 2012 was especially warm, relative to previous years (Gawarkiewicz 2013). The highest heat anomaly in the entire world ocean occurred in the North Atlantic in the extreme tidal waters coming out of the Bay of Fundy, near Grand Manan Island New Brunswick and wrapping around the south coast of Nova Scotia.

Perhaps most surprising was the study by H. Koopman et al. (2013) of the rapid deep water ocean warming in the Bay of Fundy, down 230m to the bottom:

The 2.5°C increase throughout the deeper part of the water column was much more profound, given the enormous thermal input required to heat this well mixed, tidally driven system....In the BOF, 2012 was indeed much warmer than previous years, as it was in the GOM, but in addition, bottom temperatures had been steadily increasing by ~ 0.6°C per year since 2008.

This seems to support our hypothesis that the BOF’s extremely high tidal turnover enables high absorption of excess heat from the atmosphere.

Plankton

It appears that the 2012 warm temperatures in the GOM impacted phytoplankton and zooplankton, such as the normally-abundant copepod *Calanus finmarchicus* (Koopman et al. 2013, Koopman et al. 2014). The GOM phytoplankton bloomed early in 2012, and early spring blooms occur before zooplankton can take advantage of the phytoplankton abundance (Friedland 2013). This raises the question: was biomass of GOM zooplankton low in 2012?

Fish

There are many factors that make it difficult to measure the abundance of fish (Richardson 2014). Most of the 2012 numbers in the major fish stock assessments produced by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center are not available as we go to press. However, several studies have been published that provide evidence in support of our hypothesis that greatly decreased numbers of herrings seem correlated with the departure of Razorbills from northern GOM waters in 2012.

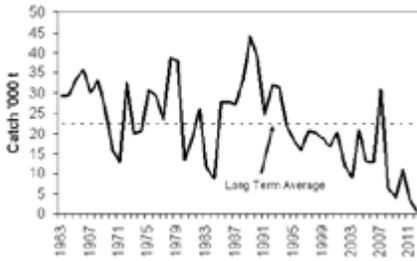


Figure 7. The herring landings from New Brunswick weirs have been declining for years, but in 2012 dropped to 2% of their long-term average. DFO 2013

In 2012, timing of Atlantic herring development in Cobscook Bay, Maine and in the GOM waters off Eastport, Maine, was anomalous compared to 2011 and 2013. Due to the unusually early plankton bloom, the herring grew sooner in the year, possibly making them larger than the ideal size for Razorbills during breeding time in May and June; by August and September there were almost no herrings left for the alcids to eat (Vieser et al. 2013). This chain of events may have been a factor in the Razorbills’ southern movement.

Laurie Murison, from the Grand Manan Whale and Seabird Research Station, said, “There have been many things happening in the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine over the last five years including warming temperatures, herring staying in deep water probably because of warmer temperatures, lack of phytoplankton and zooplankton” (personal communication, July 18, 2014). If herring move to deeper water they will probably be harder for Razorbills to catch.

The 2012 herring numbers from fish weirs along the New Brunswick side of the GOM and BOF confirm historically low numbers of herring in 2012 (Richardson 2014). Figure 7 shows the decline from 1963-2012. According to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Canada (DFO 2013), “Landings in New Brunswick weir and shut-off fishery were down dramatically from 10,958t in 2010, to 3,711t in 2011 and 504t in 2012. The 2012 catch is the lowest in the history of the fishery.” Because weirs are in fixed locations, their year-to-year numbers should be comparable.

Weir landings popped back up in 2013 to about 6,000 metric tons, still far below the long-term average of 23,560 metric tons (DFO 2014). Therefore, in 2012 in this area both Razorbills and migrant juvenile Atlantic herring were at historic low numbers.

Conclusions

Razorbills experienced a dramatic and unprecedented extension of their winter range to Florida in late 2012, and probably suffered a large loss of population. A possible source of some of these birds is the northern GOM. We have found some correlations between Razorbill distribution and changes in other components of their marine ecosystem, especially water temperature, plankton, and reduction in abundance of several fish species. We interpret this chain of evidence as supporting our hypothesis.

We propose the BOF’s extreme tides as a major contributor to the above average heating of the GOM and perhaps the western North Atlantic Ocean. We are collecting and analyzing further fish data for 2012 as it becomes available. Based on these analyses, we are heading toward a plausible explanation of what happened in 2012

in the northern GOM and the BOF. We have improved our understanding of the marine ecosystem in the GOM. Learning more about this marine ecosystem and its interdependencies will help us test our multi-point hypothesis and more generally understand, anticipate, and adapt to the many changes in our global and local environment.

Recommendations

One positive outcome of our study has been an increase in communication and collaboration with marine scientists, birders, and the fishing community. There is value in comparing and relating seabird data with other marine ecosystem data. Some of the seabird data was contributed by amateur birdwatchers who participate in Christmas Bird Counts or contribute their field observations to eBird. Birders, ornithologists, fishermen, and marine scientists all have different experiences of the marine world; sometimes their data and knowledge are in different places and may be inaccessible to others. As our environment changes, now may be a good time for all stakeholders to document their relevant data resources (including the new marine data portals) into one catalog, a type of directory that links most data sources, starting with the Gulf of Maine and nearby areas. The authors of this report will be happy to work with others to develop a shared resource, e.g., a multi-purpose catalog or directory or perhaps to augment an existing one. Please let us know if you would like to partner on this: Robben99@gmail.com.

A second recommendation is to take more people out on a new kind of pelagic trip where birders and others could get firsthand experience with major aspects of the ocean ecosystem, including all the factors in this article. Marine scientists and birders knowledgeable about seabirds could lead the trips. We need to help many more people understand through direct personal experience what is changing in the ocean. We request any marine scientists interested in creating such ocean trips to contact us. ✦

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Thomas Robben has held CIO and CTO positions and is now a consultant at BizMapTech.com. He works with businesses to develop economic best practices in how they interrelate with the natural ecosystem. Tom began bird study at the age of seven and has had the good fortune to observe seabirds off the coasts of five continents.

Stephen Broker is a long-time compiler of the Connecticut Christmas Bird Count. He recently completed 10 years as secretary of the Connecticut Ornithological Association and is a past president of the New Haven Bird Club. His field research focuses on breeding Peregrine Falcons, Common Ravens, and the marsh birds of Outer Cape Cod. He taught physical and life sciences in the New Haven public schools and at area universities and also worked in university graduate administration.

Shoon Nakajo Robben is working on his degree in MIS Management Information Systems. He loves nature, business, music, cars, and programming in Python. He has developed realistic simulations, e.g., an automobile race and a food web. He worked with his father to develop a new algorithm to traverse and evaluate weighted directed graphs, such as those representing complex business and natural risk systems. He is interested in the changing natural ecosystems and the future health of the planet.

Connecting Children with Nature through Science and Art: Junior Duck Stamp Program Marks 20 Years in Massachusetts

Pam Landry



Trumpeter Swan by Xiaomei Chen, Grade 12. Junior Duck Stamp Best of Show from Massachusetts and Top 25 National. (All images are courtesy of the author.)

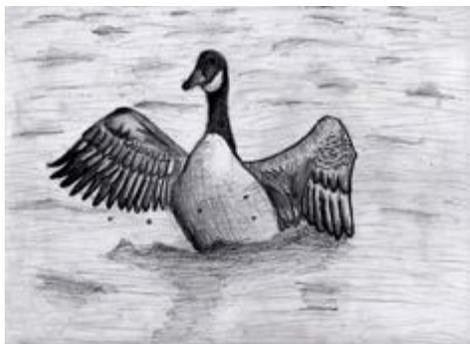
You can be a significant part of the celebration of youth, art, and conservation as 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the Junior Duck Stamp Program in Massachusetts. To help increase the statewide flock of youth artists, I invite birders, sportsmen, educators, parents, grandparents, and others to encourage, cultivate and support youth who have an innate interest in art and conservation. Take a child outdoors to observe waterfowl and be part of reconnecting youth creatively with the natural world. They are the future!

Students in grades K-12 from across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have submitted more than 12,500 entries since 1995. Teachers and parents incorporate the program into various education settings including public, private, and home schools, art studios, art museums, after-school programs, libraries, zoos, scouts, boys and girls clubs, and sportsmen's clubs. Nationally, more than 29,400 students participate annually from all 50 states, Washington, DC, and several US territories.

Since 1934, licensed waterfowl hunters must have a waterfowl stamp known as the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or Duck Stamp. In Massachusetts, licensed waterfowl hunters must also purchase a state waterfowl stamp. The \$15 Federal Duck Stamp has generated over \$850 million, which has been used to acquire more than 6.5 million acres of important wetland and associated upland habitat. In 1994 Congress passed the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act authorizing the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to sponsor the Junior Duck Stamp program and produce the Junior Duck Stamp.

The Junior Duck Stamp is a pictorial stamp produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to recognize the conservation efforts of students and support environmental and conservation education programs. Sold by the U.S. Postal Service <<http://www.usps.com>> and Amplex Corporation <<http://www.duckstamp.com>>, the \$5 stamp is purchased by birders, conservationists, wildlife art and stamp collectors, students, hunters, educators—any citizen can purchase a Junior Duck Stamp! Funds generated are re-invested in the program to fund environmental education efforts, provide awards

for the students, teachers, and schools that participate in the program, and market the JDS program.



Canada Goose by Chloe Zastrow (Honorable Mention, Grades 7-9)

The purpose of the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program <<http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/>> is to teach “Conservation through the Arts” and to acquaint youth with one of the most successful wildlife conservation programs in the history of the nation—duck stamps. This pairing of subjects—science and arts—promotes a greater awareness of our nation’s natural resources and provides our youth with a deeper appreciation, knowledge, and understanding of wildlife and the natural world. Students express their knowledge of the beauty, diversity,

and interdependence of waterfowl artistically by creating a drawing or painting, which they submit to their state Junior Duck art contest.

Each state assembles a panel of talented artists with widely ranging areas of expertise to select its winners; judges include veteran birders, international wildlife artists, waterfowl carvers, professional nature photographers, waterfowl hunters, and entrants and winners of past state waterfowl stamp contests. They judge the entries according to grade level: grades K-3, grades 4-6, grades 7-9, and grades 10-12. The judges select the top 100 pieces of art (three 1st, three 2nd, three 3rd, and sixteen honorable mention in each of the four grade categories) using several criteria: original design, anatomical accuracy, colors, artistic composition, and suitability for reproduction as a stamp. Next, each panel chooses its state’s best of show from the twelve first-place finishers, which then represents the state at the national judging. The artwork of the first place national winner of the contest graces that year’s junior duck stamp.

Artists who submit an official entry receive a certificate of appreciation and the top 100 artists receive additional recognition and prizes at an awards ceremony. In Massachusetts, a combination of the top pieces of artwork go on tour as part of a yearlong traveling exhibit to various venues across the Commonwealth. For an exhibit schedule visit MassWildlife’s website <<http://www.masswildlife.org>>. The state entry judged “Best of Show” tours with the national exhibit <<http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/ArtTour.htm>>.

With all the components of coordinating a statewide program it is sometimes difficult to determine how or if the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Program will have an impact on a student’s life. The impact is revealed when past participants state that they are now teachers and are sharing their excitement, knowledge, and experience with their students who are submitting entries:

I'm excited to get to work on these with my students! I grew up in New Jersey (my grandfather has a decoy collection of over 300 birds) and placed second for my age group three years in a row—nothing that impressive, but it was very meaningful and encouraging to me at the time. So much so, that my rule as an art teacher is that all of my students' first paintings must be of a duck! It teaches students to do a wash for the sky, water techniques, and solid lines and patterns on the bird, using light and dark to convey shape (Rachel Fondell, Covenant Christian Academy)

Another teacher, Marina Raybman of Chestnut Hill Art Studio is equally enthusiastic:

Coaching my students through the Junior National Duck Stamp Competition is a delight. They get to learn the finer aspects of painting using a subject that brings them closer to nature, pushes them to make deep observations of their environment, and ignites their sense of inquiry.

Students of all abilities enjoy and benefit from the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp program, as well as learn about conservation and art. They begin the process by following the guidelines set forth in the official contest brochure and by selecting a permitted waterfowl species from the list provided. Extensive research of this species allows students to ascertain the habitat, behavior, plumage, colors, and anatomy so that they can best depict the waterfowl in its natural environment. The program encourages students to spend time outdoors photographing waterfowl and studying mounted specimens at local sportsmen clubs, nature centers, and museums in order to gain inspiration for the creation of their final original masterpiece. To solidify the learning, all students are also encouraged to write a short conservation message that expresses the spirit of what they have learned about wetland conservation and the importance of conserving habitat for wildlife or why conservation is important to them. Below are four conservation messages from students across Massachusetts:

I learned that we need to protect wildlife to help keep the environment balanced. (Abigail, Worthington Rod & Gun Club)

Preserve and protect the environment and it will provide you a future. (Hanna, Tong Pei Studio)

Think of nature as your best friend, you care for it and should never want to hurt it. (Allison, Charlton Middle School)

Conservation is important because it preserves the beauty of nature for future generations. (Mattina, Notre Dame Academy)

Daniel, from Marina Raybman's Chestnut Hill Art Studio expresses the impact of the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Program on his perspective as an artist:

Capturing the beauty and magnificence of a nature scene, especially that of life, is impossible. However, with the Junior Duck Stamp competition I have a chance to portray nature through my style, and while not being perfect

representations of nature, the images that I create allow me to admire the subtle features which make life so elegant.

For several students, participation in the Massachusetts Duck Stamp Program has become an annual ritual.

My daughters, Anisha & Piyusha have been participating in the Junior Duck Stamp Contests since Kindergarten (over 7 years now). They have developed a unique love for nature & birds. Living next to the Assabet River Wildlife Refuge, they have participated in hikes, birding trips & even outdoor camps. They have taken plenty of pictures of ducks, geese, swans etc. at refuges and other natural reserves just so they can paint them for the JDS contests. It has been an invaluable experience for them over the years and we are forever grateful to the organizers of JDS for giving them a great opportunity to develop their artistic skills. (Bageshri Kundu)



Black Duck by Jenna Gormley (Honorable Mention, Grades 7-9.)

Jenna, a student, explains:

If it wasn't for JDS, I wouldn't have known I was an artist. It's something I do that no one else in my school does, it makes me unique. I look forward to designing my drawing every year.

Jenna has participated in the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Program for eight years. Her mother Shelby Langevin describes the profound change that the JDS has made in Jenna's life:

At age five, Jenna spoke few words. She was labeled with an expressive and receptive language disorder; art was her communication tool, she drew all kinds of pictures for us. When our library offered a workshop for the JDS, we jumped on it. Her first drawing made Honorable Mention; she was so proud of herself, she brought her ribbon to school. Her self-esteem grew, and she started to work harder at talking. I truly believe Jenna came out of her shell with the positive praise from her peers on the drawings she's done for the JDS state competitions. Every year, she tells her friends, "I'm entering the Junior Duck Stamp Competition." Most of them don't even care, but for Jenna she is proud of herself and how far she's come, not only in her art, but in life. I also think you (Pam Landry) have made this an amazing journey for the kids, by dedicating your time to this program and our children. Kids need a constant, and you provide that year after year. Jenna always looks forward to seeing you, and she also wants to make you proud of her accomplishments. You are the JDS constant!

Teachers and parents can connect students to the natural world through the JDS Program's redesigned arts and science curriculum, which sparks youth interest in habitat conservation and careers in natural resources through science, art, math, and technology. Aimed at students in grades 5-8, with suggested adaptations for younger and older audiences, the curriculum encourages students to engage with the natural world and develop a deeper appreciation of natural resources. The diverse curriculum provides students with opportunities to increase their knowledge of field journaling, waterfowl anatomy, adaptations, migration, habitats, elements of art, waterfowl painting technique, and science and art process skills (observation, data gathering and interpretation, creative and critical thinking, problem solving, and artistic expression). It hones students' skills in using the Internet as a conservation tool, provides scientific information about current conservation challenges such as climate change and the impact on wetland habitat, and also focuses on careers in natural resources, photography, exploring the outdoors, and more. The guides meet a number of national educational standards for students in grades K-12. You may download the free Educator and Youth curriculum guides and supplements created for homeschool and nonformal education at www.fws.gov/juniorduck/curriculum.html.



Junior Duck Stamps 2013-2014 (Canvasback) and 2014-2015 (King Eider)

Help support youth, art, and conservation. Purchase your Junior Duck Stamp today!

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp is administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and in Massachusetts is coordinated by the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife) with support from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Massachusetts Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, and Massachusetts Wildlife Federation.

To learn more about how you can become involved in or help promote this program contact Pam Landry, Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator, MassWildlife, at pam.landry@state.ma.us, call 508-389-6310, or visit www.masswildlife.org 🐦

Pam Landry has been the Wildlife Education Specialist for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) since 1998. In this capacity she is the coordinator for the Junior Duck Stamp Program and Project WILD and also provides wildlife-related programs for preschoolers to retired adults.

PHOTO ESSAY

Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Entries



Above: *Mallard* by Amy Li (Honorable Mention, Grades 4-6), *Trumpeter Swans* by Chunzhou Gu (Honorable Mention, Grades 4-6), *Red-breasted Mergansers* by Anisha Kundu (First Place, Grades 4-6).

Opposite page: *Emperor Goose* by Mariah Morse (Honorable Mention, Grades 10-12), *Northern Pintail* by Yolander Yang (Honorable Mention, Grades K-3), *Canada Goose* by Nicholas Saparano (Honorable Mention, Grades K-3), *Green-winged Teal* by Matthew Liu (First Place, Grades K-3), *Wood Duck* by Grace Young (First Place, Grades 10-12).





2014-2015
TRAVELING EXHIBIT SCHEDULE
MASSACHUSETTS JUNIOR DUCK STAMP ART

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| June 17 - Aug 17, 2014 | Custom House Maritime Museum, Newburyport Contact: Mike Mroz (978) 462-8681 |
| Sept 8 - Sept 18, 2014 "ArtWalk" | Franklin Land Trust, Shelburne Falls Contact: Mary Lynn Sabourin (413) 625-9151 x 103 |
| Sept 20-Oct 27, 2014 | MA Audubon - Arcadia, Easthampton Contact: Patti Steinman (413) 584-3009 x 14 |
| Oct 1-Oct 29, 2014 | Borderland State Park, N. Easton Contact: Ellenor Simmons (508) 238-6566 |
| Oct 1 - Oct 29, 2014 | Millers River Environmental Center, Athol Contact: Dave Small (dave@dhsma.net) (www.atholbirdclub.org) |
| Nov 6-Dec 18, 2014 | Wachusett Regional High School, Bowes Gallery, Holden Contact: Suzanne Breen (508) 829-6771 Brian Keddy (brian_keddy@wrsd.net) |
| Dec 1, 2014-Jan 31, 2015 | Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls Contact: Laurel Carpenter (413) 863-3676 |
| Jan 8-Feb. 15, 2015 | Buttonwood Park Zoo, New Bedford Contact: Jen Collier (508) 991-6178 |
| March 1-31, 2015 | Notre Dame Academy, Flagg Gallery, Worcester Contact: Mary Zywar (508) 757-6200 x 253 |

A combination of the top 100 pieces of art will be on exhibit throughout the Commonwealth during 2014-2015. Check the *MassWildlife* website for an updated schedule at www.masswildlife.org. Call Pam Landry, MA Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator at (508) 389-6310 to determine if your artwork of interest is on exhibit.

Help support the Junior Duck Stamp Program! Proceeds from the purchase of the \$5 Junior Duck Stamp are used to support the program and go toward youth conservation education, awards for students &/or schools participating in the program, and marketing of the JDS program. You may purchase stamps from the U.S. Postal Service website (www.usps.com) or Amplex Corporation (www.duckstamp.com/mm5).

The Junior Duck Stamp program is sponsored in Massachusetts by MassWildlife, and US Fish & Wildlife Service with support from Massachusetts Ducks Unlimited, and Massachusetts Wildlife Federation,

05/14

Birding at the Front: A Wartime Letter from Ludlow Griscom

Edited by David Swain

Not much is known of Ludlow Griscom's activities during World War I between his enlistment on August 24, 1917 and discharge on January 13, 1919 after the death of his father (Davis 1994, p. 28-9). From the point of view of ornithology, Griscom's service appears an unavoidable interruption to his ornithological work and of minor interest otherwise. It is perhaps impossible to know Griscom's views on war and the means to peace in which he was involved, yet his own account of his service suggests that Griscom used birding as a way to structure and understand an experience he was otherwise reluctant to discuss.

Below is the complete text of an unpublished wartime letter that was briefly excerpted in William Davis, Jr.'s excellent biography of Griscom. Written several weeks after the armistice on November 11, 1918, this letter is addressed to his friend John Treadwell Nichols, then curator of ichthyology at the American Museum of Natural History and coauthor with Griscom of several papers on ornithology. Griscom and Nichols apparently spent some time shorebirding at Mastic on the south shore of Long Island, to which Griscom alludes in this letter. Also mentioned is their one-time colleague, Francis Harper, a naturalist noted for his pioneering work in the Canadian North, who served near Griscom as a rodent control officer.

This letter presents Griscom's service as a propaganda officer in France as primarily a tedium punctuated by escapes to the countryside, every free moment dedicated to recording the ebb and flow of fall migration. He provides eBird-ready lists and precise observations of status and distribution and notes on visual identification of tricky species. Griscom's detached, urbane tone suggests only control and calm, but the truth is no doubt more complex, and he only comes close to betraying his feelings for the war in his concluding narrative. The letter is understandably silent on the nature of Griscom's classified work, but offers eloquent testimony to Griscom's relentless focus on birds and their ironic affirmation of life amid the waste and destruction of war.

Stationed at the American Expeditionary Force General Headquarters in Chaumont in the Haute-Marne, 2nd Lieutenant Ludlow Griscom was one of four military intelligence officers assembled by Captain Heber Blankenhorn, formerly an editor in New York and the pioneering leader of the U.S. Army's first Psychological Operations Task Force (Laurie 1995, p. 452ff.; Tracy 2014, pp. 10-11). Griscom in fact was recruited for his linguistic abilities directly into the Psychological Subsection of Military Intelligence (G. H. 2) along with a select group of academics and writers including 2nd Lt. George Ifft (Laurie 1995, p. 463; Blankenhorn 1919b, p. 512). Blankenhorn's office designed, wrote, and printed propaganda leaflets, trained field officers in their use, and distributed them by means of hydrogen balloons deployed near the front lines.

Although he was initially office-bound—and by his own account, bored—Griscom was soon deployed on extended trips to propaganda field stations with Ifft, notably to Bar-le-Duc and Toul, as well as to the front lines beyond Verdun where he encountered some of the final shelling of the war. Blankenhorn writes in a private letter on September 11, 1918, “I am sending [Griscom and Ifft] to the field soon,” and on November 3 he recounts how “Griscom and Ifft were off in another direction. They got shelled and had to take to dugouts for an hour, dragging a wounded man from the street into their dugout” (Blankenhorn 1919a, pp. 52-3, 128).

The war ended much sooner than the American Expeditionary Force had expected, and planning for demobilization had only just begun, yet there was immediate pressure to return soldiers home as rapidly as possible (Howenstein 1945, p. 180). One of the ironies of this letter is that Griscom, with the propaganda war apparently won, now had no official reason to get into the field, and he perhaps naively wonders if he could wangle a discharge in Europe and go birding with Harper in Egypt. Such was the itch that both Harper and Griscom submitted Christmas Bird Counts from their stations to *Bird-Lore* (December 7 and 16, 1918 respectively). Whatever Griscom’s hopes, the sudden death of his father, Clement Griscom, earned a discharge on January 13, 1919 and he returned to work at the American Museum of Natural History within the year (Davis 1994, p. 29).

This letter is published with the permission of the American Museum of Natural History Ornithology Archive. My thanks to Carole Griffiths of Long Island University and Paul Sweet, Collection Manager of Ornithology at AMNH for their help facilitating its publication. I am indebted to William Davis for first excerpting this letter and providing a broader context for Griscom’s service in France. Special thanks to Jonathan Trouern-Trend for providing a modern perspective and excerpts from his journal recording his wartime birding in Iraq during 2004. The letter is transcribed as Griscom typed it, with his penciled corrections and additions in brackets.

9-2-A-4.

G. H. 2.

Chaumont

12/6/18.

Dear Jack:-

It is a long time now that I have been owing you a letter, but if I had written oftener, none of them would have been particularly interesting, while now enough material has accumulated to make some of it worth reading.

In the first place, let me acknowledge with thanks the recent receipt of two letters from you, both of which contained news which, as you know well, would be calculated to interest me particularly. Quite a time ago I got a letter containing your shore-bird notes from Mastic. Heavens and earth, what you do manage to turn up at that place is remarkable, and I congratulate you. It looks as if I were the real Mastic hoodoo, as together we have never succeeded in raising shore birds.

You will be interested to hear that I got a letter from Harper yesterday. It was two weeks on the way, but he turned out to be only thirty miles away, though it might just as well be 4000, as far as my chances of seeing him are concerned. But [I] astonished him by calling him up on the 'phone, anyhow. He seemed very subdued, somehow. His letter speaks of dipping into European birds with fair success, and relates the surprising experience of seeing a flock of Black-capped Petrels on the way over, which followed the boat for several hours.

Neither he [n]or I have the faintest idea when we can get home. We are both going to pull as hard as possible, for the discharge over here, so as to take a trip. If we get cut during the winter we'll go to Egypt. Don't know yet whether they will allow discharges over here or not. Meanwhile, I have hardly anything to do, and so far all efforts to get a leave have failed. I could go to the mouth of the Rh[i]ne for water-birds like a shot.

Now for such ornithological news as I have. On Sept. 17th I left Chaumont and went north to Colombey-les-Belles, s.e. of Toul. Circumstances obliged me to remain in a small camp right out in fine country with nothing to do except birding for several days after Sept. 17th. It turned out to be the height of the fall migration and I enjoyed myself exceedingly. The following summary respectfully submitted:-

Sept. 17th Great Migration of Swallow and House Martins. Pied and Spotted Flycatchers Common. Willow Wrens abundant; seven species of Warblers.

Sept. 18th General clearing out.

Sept. 19th Out in open country. The first Fire-crest seen. The last Wood Wren.

Sept. 20th Increase of Skylarks and Fire-crests. Decrease of Swallows and Martins. Big migration of White-throats and Redstart. An adult Woodchat Shrike seen, a rare bird this far north. Woodlark seen, my first, a difficult bird to identify by plumage alone the first time.

Sept. 21st Increase of Tits and Fire-crests. Flight of Wheatears.

The list of Sept. 21st follows: Partridge, 15; Turtle Dove, 2; Buzzard, 5 (1 in melanistic phase); Kite, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Kestrel, 2; Skylark, 50; Woodlark, 6; Rook, 25; Jay, 2; Magpie, 1; Starling, 25; Goldfinch, 2; Greenfinch, sev.; Chaffinch, 25; House Sparrow, 1; Tree sparrow, 9; Yellow Bunting, 10; Swallow, 50; Pied Flycatcher, 1; Great Grey Shrike, 1; Red-backed Shrike, 1; Tree Pipit, 6; Wren, 1; Nuthatch, 2; Great Tit, 4; Coal Tit, 1; Willow Tit, 4 (a very rare and local bird in this section of Europe); Blue Tit, 6; Goldcrest, 1; Fire-crest, 6; Willow Wren, 1; Chiffchaff, 1; Blackcap, 1; White-throat, 1; Redstart, 4; Redbreast, 5; Whinchat, 2; Stonechat, 1; Wheatear, 4; Blackbird, 2.

Crested Tit and Marsh Tit seen 9/22.

Sept.. 23 Made the trip to Chaumont and return. A flock of Missel-thrushes just a miles south of the station.

Sept. 24 Very few birds. Big migration of Buntings and Wheatears. Another Willow Tit seen. [Last] House Martin seen.

Sept. 25 Continued increase in Tits and Buntings. Very few Swallows. Returned in p.m. to Chaumont.

I was able to get out all afternoon around Chaumont, Sept. 26th. In all 35 species, of which the most noteworthy were the Bullfinch, Kingfisher, Cirl Bunting and Reed Warbler. A big migration of Black Redstarts, many of them singing.

Oct. 2, near Chaumont A flock of five Montagu's. [Harrier a prize, 2nd time I have seen it.]

Oct. 5, Last Black Redstart.

Oct. 15, Big migration noted of Larks, Buntings and White Wagtails. Also a flock of very large water-birds, either Storks, Cranes or Swans.

Oct. 17, Last Swallow.

Oct. 30. Ba[r]-le-Du[c]. Walk in the afternoon. The only bird of interest a pair of Twites, the first I ever saw.

Oct. 31. Last Chiffchaff seen.

No opportunity to do any birding in Nov. Dec. 1st at Chaumont, winter conditions prevail only 12 species seen.

Now for what I shall term military ornithology. On Oct. 2nd left Chaumont for the Vosges front and reached St. Die, divisional headquarters, 1 ½ kilometers from the front line, Oct. 3. This town is under direct observation from Germany, is constantly shelled, and has the reputation of being the most gassed place in the American sector. In spite of this fact, Swallows and House Sparrows were common. At dusk during heavy firing at the front, and while two Hun aeroplanes were flying over the town, saw three Bullfinches feeding peacefully in a mountain as[h] tree near the office window.

Nov. 1st I went north from Ba[r]-le-Duc in an auto-truck to Verdun, and from there went n.w. through what had been No Man's Land a few months ago. The country was absolutely wrecked and blasted, not a tree left, nothing but an innumerable succession of shell holes and barbed wire entanglements. Just back of this country was our heavy artillery and the whole area shelled by the Huns almost daily. Birds noted Kestrel, 1; Rook, flock; Goldfinch, 10; (feeding on thistles); Great Grey Shrike, 1 (perched on barbed wire).

Spent the night nearby at a ruined village, Némonéville. Situated in a hollow between two hills, it boasted a few small trees and a brook. All night drum-fire at the front, and in the early morning our heavies thundered away, making the ground shake, and dislodging tiles from the busted roofs. About 8:30 9:00 German medium shrapnel fell in the hillside ¼ mile away. A walk around the village from 7:00 8:30 yielded the following list Rook, com; Skylark, a few; House Sparrow and Tree Sparrow, common; Chaffinch, sev.; Yellow Bunting, 1; White Wagtail, 1; Wren, sev.; Yellow Bunting, 1;

White Wagtail, 1; Wren, sev.; Great Tit, 1; Redbreast, com.; Wrens and Redbreasts were in full song, and one Redbreast did not stop singing during the explosion of a shell. Redbreasts usually very shy in this part of France, here very tame.

About 10 A.M. the village was shelled by 14-inch high explosive. I was standing in the street when the first shell fell 200 yards away. A cloud of House Sparrows flew away. Shells fell every five minutes for over an hour, and birds and man took to dug-outs or the equivalent. One shell burst almost in front of my dug-out, 75 ft. away, and I can positively affirm that a Redbreast was singing 50 ft. from where it burst five minutes after the shelling was over. A man 50 ft. away from a shell in the open would probably be killed or at any rate seriously injured by the concussion, if unhit by a fragment. Even at 75 ft. and in the cave underground, I can testify to the physical shock.

Well, Jack, I guess I have about run out of dope. Best regards to your wife, and Xmas. and New Year's wishes to both of you. Regards to anybody around in the Museum.

Always sincerely,

[Signed] Ludlow Griscom

P. S. Harper's permanent address is Central Medical Dept. Laboratory A.P.O. 721.

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David Swain lives and birds primarily in Concord. While he should be grading Shakespeare papers, he compiles the Concord Birds Project under the eBird avatar Ludlow G. and occasionally writes at the blog Birding With Ludlow, <<http://birdingwithludlow.blogspot.com>>.

Birding Babylon: Iraq, 2004

Jonathan Trouern-Trend



The author in the bunker described in the article waiting out the Red Alert after a rocket interrupted his birding at the Laundry Pond. (Photograph courtesy of the author.)

Ludlow Griscom's letter was penned almost a month after the Armistice in 1918 as he awaited orders to redeploy back home and restart his civilian life. As I reflect on my experiences with birds and war in Iraq, I feel a unique identification with Griscom's state of mind and the filter through which he saw his experiences. Each line I read of his letter brings to mind parallel events in Iraq and for many of the bird species he observed, I remember where I saw the same species.

Griscom went through an intense period of personal upheaval taking him from the American Museum of Natural History in New York to being caught up in the massive mobilization that led up to the American entry into World War I. He had stops at military camps in upstate New York and Texas and finally was a witness to the killing fields of France. Amid his military duties he managed to transcend the tedium and horrors of war, engaging his drive to connect with nature and satisfying his boundless curiosity about the birds around him. I believe the birds provided both of us, as well as

numerous other soldier naturalists on countless battlefields, a connection to beauty and sanity in the midst of the dehumanizing forces of war.

We both were pulled out of academic scientific pursuits into the world of real enemies. Griscom was on an ornithological expedition in Nicaragua when registration for the first draft started. By the end of August 1917 he was in the Army training in Plattsburg, New York. He was assigned to a camp in San Antonio, Texas, until March 1918. Never idle, he meticulously recorded his observations from his birding forays around San Antonio, publishing them in 1920.

I had been a member of the Army National Guard for years, however my military time was limited to a weekend each month and two weeks training in the summer. I worked for the American Red Cross studying blood-borne diseases. Within weeks of notification my medical unit was off to Fort Drum, New York, to prepare for Iraq. When I could, I broke out my binoculars and looked for birds around our training area. Later on my second tour we trained at Fort Hood, Texas, where I regularly would take an early morning walk, finding Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and Painted Buntings. I remember waiting in a large camp in the middle of the Kuwaiti desert preparing to cross into Iraq, surrounded by unfamiliar sights and sounds of American and foreign troops preparing for war. During that time I also saw a deeply familiar sight of Barn Swallows, winging their way through the camp—the vanguard of the spring migration.

Griscom had arrived at Chaumont, France, the headquarters of the American Expeditionary Forces in mid-July 1918. I imagine that when he arrived, he subconsciously mapped out places where he would carve out a few minutes of freedom observing the birds. A mixture of fear of the unknown and excitement at the novel would have been expected. In February 2004 I arrived at Camp Anaconda, a huge American base north of Baghdad, after a two-day convoy from Kuwait. I noted a large pond ringed with reeds and fed by the base's laundry facility. It proved to be the focus of my birding during 22 months spent in Iraq on two tours.

A common theme of birding in a war zone, that I have heard from others and detect from Griscom's letter, is the ability to temporarily transcend the present, often horrible, circumstances of a combat zone while observing the birds carrying on as they have for millennia. They act as an anchor of deep permanence and comfort that some things are not affected by the human events that seem to consume everything around them. I believe Griscom experienced this while watching the bullfinches feed in a mountain ash when German planes flew over, and hearing the Redbreast [European Robin] sing when the guns fell silent.

On our convoy up from Kuwait we had to stop because one of the humvees had a flat. We all piled out of the vehicles and set up a defensive perimeter with our weapons pointing out. It was a bit of a surreal scene because as I'm laying on the ground with my eye on some guy racing around in a pickup truck wondering if he's going to take a potshot at us (which would have been suicidal), a pair of crested larks were not even 10 feet from me with the male displaying and dancing around.

I experienced this transcendence frequently. My job involved immersion in the granular details of war: casualties, car bombings, murder of civilians, and attacks. My building was next to the Combat Support Hospital and each Medevac helicopter reminded us of the reality of war. During the Fallujah Operation large Marine helicopters carrying wounded Marines hovered over our building waiting their turn to unload casualties at the Hospital LZ. Sometimes a call would go out that more blood was needed to transfuse casualties and we would sprint over to the hospital to donate. Our base was hit with hundreds of mortar rounds and rockets during my time there. It was easy to become fatalistic and cynical about life.

Entry to my journal 8/14/2004

I've been back [at my base] 36 hours now and we've had 4 red alerts with maybe 15 or so rockets and mortars. I spent one alert alone in a bunker near the laundry facility.

I had in fact been birding at my favorite location, temporarily transported out of the world of human conflict into the timeless cycles of the birds and nature. A rocket exploding on the airfield nearby interrupted this. The birds carried on as if nothing had happened. Every person on base took shelter in case more rockets were on the way. After the alert was over, I stole a few more looks at the pond and hurried back to check in with my unit.

I got out for a little while and visited the usual places. One of the ponds had over 100 white-winged black terns all either happily feeding over the water or roosting on some little islands in the middle. No migrant shorebirds were seen but I did see the resident black-winged stilts as well as half a dozen Little Egrets. At one of the other ponds I saw a Turtle Dove, the first one I've seen in Iraq.

Bird List 8/14/2004 1500-1700

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Little Grebe—2 | Collared Dove—4 |
| Cattle Egret—5 | Turtle Dove—1 |
| Little Egret—6 | Blue-cheeked Bee-eater—3 |
| Moorhen—3 | Crested Lark—1 |
| Black-winged Stilt—4 | Barn Swallow—4 |
| Spur-winged Plover—1 | White-cheeked Bulbul—1 |
| White-winged Black Tern—Approx 100 | Magpie—1 |
| Rock Dove—200 | Hooded Crow—1 |
| Wood Pigeon—5 | House Sparrow—10 |

The birds provided an antidote, whether it be a flock of Rooks playfully calling to each other as they moved to their night roosts or a Barn Owl quietly watching me as I walked back to my building late at night. They were reminders that everything was not lost. 🦉

Jonathan Trouern-Trend is author of *Birding Babylon: A Soldier's Journal from Iraq* (Sierra Club 2006) and blogged about birding during his two deployments to Iraq at <<http://birdingbabylon.blogspot.com>>.

MUSINGS FROM THE BLIND BIRDER

Why We Bird

Martha Steele

Editor's Note: With this issue we present a new column, "Musings from the Blind Birder," by Martha Steele that will cover a wide and eclectic range of topics about birding. We hope that you will enjoy this feature.

It had been a tough day where we spent too much time driving on unfamiliar roads in too much traffic to birding locations that turned out to be inaccessible due to recent wildfires. Tempers were flaring and frustration was mounting for a day fast being lost. After finally arriving in late afternoon at a walking trail into a lush meadow in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains north of Denver, tensions quickly drained from our bodies when a Yellow-breasted Chat belted out its welcome before we could lock the car, a Spotted Towhee delivered its melodic tune from a perch on a low bush, and a Lazuli Bunting dazzled with flight, display, and song. Our meadow walk was followed by a visit up a narrow canyon highlighted with a Virginia Warbler, only Bob's second ever, and a walk across from sheer cliffs aglow with brilliant late afternoon sunlight, shouts of rock climbers communicating with each other, and White-collared Swifts chattering overhead. As the sun set, we headed back to the hotel, spirits soaring and images of scenery and birds vividly rewinding in our heads.

This is what birding can do to us. Our hobby, our passion, lifts our spirits and takes us to places we would otherwise never go. Along the way, we discover special and out-of-the-way spots that we often have to ourselves and create memories with our birding friends that become irreplaceable and permanent threads of connection through time. Although I can no longer see most birds, I remember what most of them look like and I can take vicarious pleasure in knowing others are enjoying their beauty. Thanks to my cochlear implant, I can now enjoy birding through song, learning to match the bird with the song or call note. I often find myself pausing to close my eyes and listen to the songs that are becoming more and more familiar: a Winter Wren, a Wood Thrush, a White-throated Sparrow, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and so many more. I know who is there with me at that moment and I can't help but grin and nod my head before moving on. This is what birding can do to us.

Our Colorado trip had taken us to over 12,000 feet in Rocky Mountain National Park, where we searched for a White-tailed Ptarmigan and Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, the latter of which we never located. The ptarmigan was a different story. Walking up a path for about a quarter to half a mile and up to an elevation of about 12,300 feet, Bob thought he heard (in a strong wind) something that sounded like a grouse. We continued walking until I, too, heard what he first detected. Suddenly, he shouted, "Look at the top of that rock!" To a blind person, standing in tundra with about 100 million rocks, this is not exactly a great description of where to find a bird. Eventually, following Bob's extended arm, I located the shape of a ptarmigan sitting on a huge

rock. We spent the next half hour or so getting closer, getting photos, and listening to all sorts of vocalizations, a wonderful encounter with a beautiful male ptarmigan. When it decided to leave us, it flew within yards of my head, literally screaming into my ears before disappearing over the rocky edges into the clouds. Arms to the sky, smiling from ear to ear, oblivious to the thin and cold air, we exulted in our good fortune. This is what birding can do to us.

But it is not just the exceptional moments on birding trips that define our exuberance over birds. In more recent years, Bob and I have spent nearly all of our vacation times in New England, largely northeastern Vermont. Peregrinating on foot or by car in search of resident or migratory birds, or the occasional surprise, we have come to realize that our deepest satisfaction comes from our local birds. We get to know *our* birds; we welcome them back every spring, and we wish them well every fall. We embrace the seasonal ebb and flow of changing bird populations, from the silence of a winter walk to the din of a spring morning. Our home is their home, and we, as birders, are always aware of their presence or absence. This is what birding can do to us.

Our nonbirding friends and family may not understand how we can enjoy standing quietly waiting for birds to announce themselves, or riding slowly along rural roads listening and looking. They also shake their heads at the early morning forays to catch the best times to bird, especially during migration or breeding seasons. But we know the rush we get at spotting our familiar friends or our rare guests. We know how our excitement rises each spring and fall, and how the summer doldrums cannot end soon enough. We know that we can (and often do) step outside anywhere, at any time, in any weather, and go birding. In so doing, we break from our daily demands, stresses, and routines, share our sightings or experiences with others of similar ilk, and live in the moment. This is what birding can do to us, and I am grateful that it does. 🦋

Martha Steele, a former editor of Bird Observer, has been progressively losing vision due to retinitis pigmentosa and is legally blind. Thanks to a cochlear implant, she is now learning to identify birds from their songs and calls. Martha lives with her husband, Bob Stymeist, in Arlington.



Harlequin Duck by Briana Yang. Honorable Mention, Grades 4-6. Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Program.

GLEANINGS

Flashers

David M. Larson



Hooded Warbler. (Photograph by Sandy Selesky).

Many insectivorous birds have flashy wing, rump, or tail patterns that may be useful in attracting mates, signaling conspecifics, or flushing prey items. For instance, birders in Massachusetts are familiar with the exaggerated wing-flash display of the Northern Mockingbird. However, a direct connection between these high-contrast plumage characteristics, foraging strategies (e.g., flush-pursuit foraging), and hunting success has been demonstrated for only a few taxa of birds, notably mockingbirds and *Myioborus* redstarts.

The *Myioborus* redstarts—such as Painted and Slate-throated redstarts—flash their contrasting black and white tail feathers to flush, pursue, and capture insect prey. This strategy takes advantage of the escape-behavior reflex triggered in insects with well-developed visual systems by high contrast between an approaching object and the background. Adult Diptera (flies), Hemiptera (true bugs), and Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) are especially sensitive to these stimuli, in contrast to nonflying insects. The American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) is convergently similar to the *Myioborus*

redstarts in coloration and feeding behavior. Other warbler species may use similar strategies.

R. L. Mumme (2014) has tested hypotheses relating to tail-spot-dependent foraging in Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*). Hooded Warblers have conspicuous white patches on the three outer retrices, with males having slightly more white than females. During foraging, Hooded Warblers flash these contrasting patches continuously. Mumme used field studies on birds with experimentally darkened tails (marker pen) to test four predictions of a prey-flushing hypothesis: (1) Birds with darkened tails will show decreased foraging performance largely due to decreased aerial prey attack; (2) Birds with darkened tails will provide food for nestlings at reduced rates; (3) Birds with darkened tails will deliver a lower proportion of flying insects to nestlings; and (4) Tail-flicking behavior in juvenile birds will develop in synchrony with independent foraging.

Foraging Performance

These experiments involved 14 breeding pairs with five-day-old nestlings. For seven experimental nests, both adults had their white retrices darkened with a permanent marker. For the seven control nests, the same amount of marker was applied to the dark inner vanes of the adults. After a 24-hour recovery period, the author collected foraging data including tail flicks, flights, gleans, hover-gleans, and sallying on identified adults in the field. Adults with darkened white tail spots had significantly fewer prey attacks per minute than the control birds, largely due to reduced rates of hover-gleaning, despite comparable rates of hops and tail-flicks in both groups.

Nestling Provisioning and Prey Type

In these experiments, Mumme made high-definition video recordings of 25 nests of randomized treated and control adults. Analysis of the video recordings included determination of provisioning rate and, when possible, type of prey item. The provisioning rate of experimental females was only 70% of that of the control females; provisioning rates by experimental and control males were the same. Although the majority of identified food items delivered to nestlings were insect larvae or adult flies, experimentally darkened females delivered significantly fewer winged insects and more insect larvae than control females. Treatment of males had no such effect on prey items.

Development of Tail-flicking and Foraging Behavior in Juveniles

Using the behavioral study techniques above, the author collected data on 37 young Hooded Warblers (11-40 days old) in comparison to 27 adults. Fledglings from 9-18 days old are largely sedentary, exhibiting no tail flicking or foraging. By 18 days, young birds begin to forage and hop and tail-flick rates increase. For birds between 27 and 40 days old, hop rate and tail-flick rates were significant positive predictors of prey-attack rate in multivariate analyses.

Conclusions

This study presents significant support for the hypothesis that tail flicking and prey startling is an important foraging mechanism for Hooded Warblers during the breeding season, even though this species does not engage in classical flush-pursuit foraging. First, birds with darkened tail spots showed significantly lower prey-attack rates than the control birds, driven largely by reduced hover-gleaning and sallying. Second, darkened tail spots altered the types of prey items delivered to nestlings by females (but not males). Finally, development of tail-flicking behavior in young Hooded Warblers coincided with independent foraging in juveniles and was a significant predictor of prey-attack rates in juveniles.

Two interesting results bear further investigation. Since darkening of tail spots changed the prey types of female but not male birds, it is likely that female and male Hooded Warblers employ different foraging strategies (and behavioral observations from this study do suggest that females are more active foragers than males). This differential may be related to the normal positioning of males in the lower canopy (for improved song transmission) whereas the females forage more in the understory. In addition, since the darkening of tail spots led to a reduction in foraging performance but the provisioning of nestlings was unaltered, were the experimental birds able to compensate by increasing foraging time or shifting prey types?

Finally, it is clear that selection for white spots on tails in males must involve factors beyond foraging in the breeding season. Although sexual selection is a plausible explanation, it is also possible that habitat selection on the wintering grounds in Central America could be important. Female Hooded Warblers generally use open scrub habitat in the winter, whereas males winter in closed-canopy forest where large tail spots would be more effective in flushing prey.

Since all of the 34 *Setophaga* warbler species have conspicuous tail spots, these observations on Hooded Warblers may be generally applicable to other members of the genus. ♀

Reference

Mumme, R. L. 2014. White tail spots and tail-flicking behavior enhance foraging performance in the Hooded Warbler. *The Auk* 131(2): 141-9.

David M. Larson, PhD, is the Science and Education Coordinator at Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center in Newburyport, the Director of Mass Audubon's Birder's Certificate Program and the Certificate Program in Bird Ecology (a course for naturalist guides in Belize), a domestic and international tour leader, and a member of the editorial staff of Bird Observer.

ABOUT BOOKS

Looking Back And Planning Ahead

Mark Lynch

“I no longer have inspirations, only recollections.” Marcello Mastroianni as Giovanni in Antonioni’s *La Notte* (1961).

Reflections on a Golden-winged Warbler: The Joys and Aesthetics of Birding. Douglas E. Chickering. 2014. Belchertown, MA: Bard Books.

Look Up! Bird Watching In Your Own Backyard. Annette LeBlanc Cate. 2013. Somerville, MA: Chadwick Press.

The following books are about two different stages in a person’s birding life. One book is a fond memoir of many years spent in the field and the other is a guide for the young person just beginning to look at birds. Both books are by Massachusetts authors.

People who indulge their birding obsession—and that is what it is for me and many others—will find Plum Island a special place. (*Reflections on a Golden-winged Warbler* p. xv)

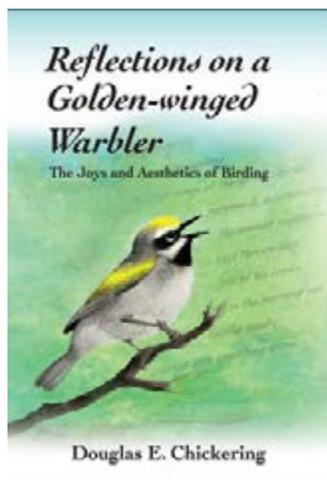
Douglas E. Chickering’s *Reflections on a Golden-winged Warbler* is a mash note to Plum Island and Essex County. This book is a chronological collection of the short pieces Chickering has written about birding over the years. Most are only two or three pages long. They were written between January 2002 and May 2013. Much of the writing has appeared before on *Massbird*, in Steve Grinley’s weekly, in the Newburyport *Daily News*, and even in *Bird Observer*. The majority of the pieces were written about locations in Essex County, many of those on Plum Island. The reason is simple; the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge is Douglas Chickering’s home patch. He lives close enough to Plum Island to be able to zip over there wherever the mood strikes or if a “good bird” is found. His history in the area goes back to his grandfather’s cottage along the Parker River, where he used to spend his boyhood summers. Later, his family built a year-round house on that site, and Chickering’s fate was sealed.

After my father passed away I moved in and spent the next two decades there, once again within sight of Plum Island. This time, however, the island was more than a line of dunes on the horizon. It quite naturally became the center of my birding life. Within a year I had started keeping a Plum Island Life List and quickly the island became the epicenter of my birding. (p. xv)

A few of the one hundred plus essays do stray from Chickering’s beloved Plum Island. There are the expected trips to Salisbury, Cape Ann, Boxford, and other locations around Essex County. There are accounts of a few pelagic trips and a far-flung voyage to Martha’s Vineyard to tick the Red-footed Falcon. His one account of venturing west of Essex County occurs in “Sometimes You Get the Bear and Sometimes...” (p. 30–31). In the first paragraph, Chickering and his birding companion, Lois Cooper, zip out to Royalston in northern Worcester County to tick

Bohemian Waxwing and Evening Grosbeak. When they succeed in that quest, they immediately head to Barnstable on Cape Cod to see a Western Tanager and Sandhill Crane. The rest of the piece is about missing those birds. I would have enjoyed more of Chickering's thoughts about birding outside his familiar turf in locations like Westport, Quabbin, the Connecticut River Valley, or maybe even the Berkshires.

The narrow geographic focus is one of the limitations of this book. Birders who visit Plum Island and the surrounding area often will obviously identify with Chickering's accounts of the special birds he found there. For birders from Central and Western Massachusetts, and even from the South Shore, the focus of many pieces in *Reflections on a Golden-winged Warbler* can feel a bit claustrophobic after a while. Everyone certainly enjoys birding on Plum Island, but for many birders from around the state there are many other interesting and exciting birding locations in addition to Plum.



Chickering always tries to capture the feel of the day remembered, the lighting, the weather, the emotions he felt. He often focuses in on small events like watching the common birds at a feeder in a winter storm or the rustling of birds in the underbrush at dusk. There is no doubt that he enjoys every moment he is in the field and every bird is worthy of attention:

“There are no banal birding experiences.” (p. 14)

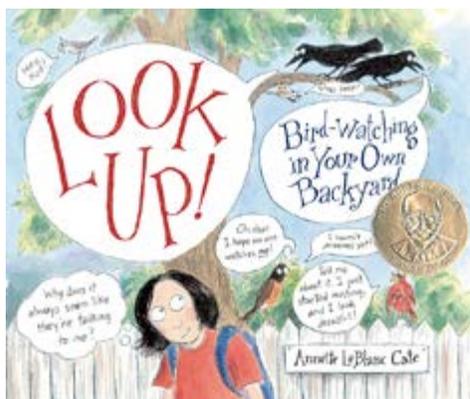
“All birds are beautiful in their own way.” (p. 39)

“Of course there are really no bad birding days.” (p. 107)

His is a somewhat romanticized attitude toward birding, and the feeling in every essay is always upbeat and positive. However, the quality varies. His reference to beach goers on Plum Island as “Beach Weasels” (p. 264) seems out of character and jarring. Some of the work is repetitive. The year-end summary accounts of his best birds of that year would be of interest mainly to people who also saw those same birds. My favorite essays focus on Chickering's personal life, like “Plum Island and I” (p. xiii–xvi) and “Brave New World” (p.125–126), which is about his retirement and how it changed his birding. A nice addition to the essays is an appendix titled “A Birder's Guide To Plum Island” (p. 267–272) complete with a detailed map.

What is unexpected about *Reflections on a Golden-winged Warbler* is that it is a wonderful chronicle of a birding relationship. The book has a tender dedication to Lois Cooper “the love of my life and my most constant birding companion.” Many of the essays feature Douglas and Lois in the field together looking for something interesting. There are probably not many birding couples in which both partners are equally dedicated and serious about what they do and share equally in birding's highs and lows. This book is a celebration of just such a romance, and that makes this book unique.

Even though I do not bird Plum Island often anymore, that location does figure prominently in my past. As a very young child living in Watertown, I participated in yearly family get-togethers on its beaches. When I began birding, I naturally thought of Plum Island as the center of the Massachusetts birding universe and made almost weekly trips there throughout the year. This was at a time when there were a number of great Essex County birders to guide a neophyte like me. They included people like Larry and the Judge, Dick and Dora Hale, and most especially Herman Weissberg, who gets a nice shout-out in Chickering's book. This was a time when the only bird communication was the Voice of Audubon phone recording, and the Sportsman's Lodge was where the Joppa Flats Mass Audubon is now. There were few field guides, and the descriptions of species like shorebirds and gulls in those guides left a lot to be desired. Like Chickering, I found many lifers on Plum Island. But as the years passed and I discovered the rest of the state, including my own local patch of Worcester



County, I realized I enjoyed birding in a forest more than in the dunes and thickets of the barrier beaches of Plum Island. I now spend most of my time in the field in places like the Ware River Watershed, Quabbin and Wachusett reservoirs, the Brookfields, and the Berkshires. When I get a desire to visit the coast, I now prefer the Buzzard's Bay towns. But reading *Reflections on a Golden-winged Warbler* brought me back to my beginnings and reminded me of why I fell so much in love with Plum Island in the first place.

“Mr. Sibley’s drawings are much nicer than the ones in this book—he actually draws the right number of toes!” (a bird on the Bibliography page of *Look Up! Bird Watching In Your Own Backyard*)

Because there is considerable interest in introducing young people to birding, there are now a number of books on the subject written for younger audiences. Most of these are beautifully designed, well written, and earnest. None of them are as much fun to read or as wild and raucous as *Look Up! Bird-Watching in Your Own Backyard*. From front cover to back cover, cartoon birds are everywhere talking to the reader, adding humorous color commentary, kibitzing, and teaching the basics of birding, ornithology, and drawing birds. It’s like looking at the storyboards for some future crazy animation.

Annette LeBlanc Cate is a writer, artist, and illustrator. She wrote *Look Up!* not only to capture the fun she had learning about and drawing birds over the years but also to pass on all the tips she learned from experienced birders. The amount of information on birds and how to bird in this slim children’s book is nothing short of mind-blowing. There are numerous practical and important dos and don’ts, a list of things you need for birding, and things not to bring into the field. And those are listed just inside the front cover and on the front endpaper! There are sections on where to look for birds, including urban environments. There are pages on behavior, morphology, migration,

bird song, and a great three-page spread on taxonomy and classification that features a cameo by Linnaeus.

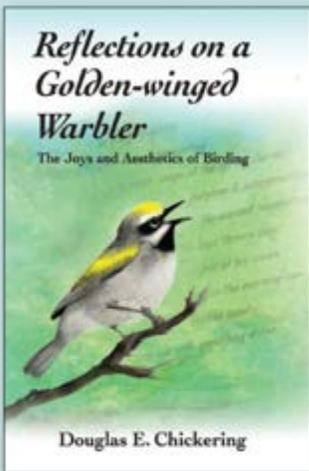
Because Cate is a visual artist, she includes three pages on color in birds that includes a brown color wheel featuring a different brown species squeezed into every wedge. There is a nicely drawn two-page section on using silhouettes as clues to identification. Pages on the importance of field marks include four species of look-alike wrens in a conversation about what separates them and a two-page fashion show of sparrows. It's surreal and very funny, and somehow it all works. Cate emphasizes the importance of taking field notes and making field drawings and offers some tips on how to draw birds that many adult birders would find useful. The book ends with a nice bibliography.

Cate's drawing style is somewhat Roz Chast-ish, yet most of the bird species are recognizable and include the correct colors and field marks. Dialogue bubbles appear all over the pages. Cate inscribed the copy she sent to me with several birds and dialogue bubbles that went over two pages. You get the feeling that an editor may have threatened her with bodily harm to get her to stop drawing. When I first read *Look Up!* her drawings seemed oddly familiar to me, and it wasn't till I interviewed her that I found out why. Cate worked on the legendary animated series *Dr. Katz, Professional Therapist*, which aired on Comedy Central from May 1995 to December 24, 1999, a total of eighty-one episodes. This background explains the animated look of her work in *Look Up!* and her nonstop sense of humor.

Look Up! Bird-Watching in Your Own Backyard is a wonderful book that manages to convey a lot of practical and technical information on birds and birding but never loses its creative approach to the subject. This is a book that is written to encourage the young novice to get outside and start looking at birds and then how to get better at birding. Because of its humor and infectious sense of fun, this is a book that can be enjoyed by older birders as well. 🐦



Trumpeter Swan by Kate Spengler. Honorable Mention, Grades K-3.



A Celebration of Birding Plum Island and Its Environs

Share the joys of birding with friends and family this holiday season with this lovingly assembled selection of Doug Chickering's most fascinating encounters on his "patch" of Plum Island and beyond.

"A wonderful read for any birder."

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The Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America

"I recommend *Reflections on a Golden-Winged Warbler* heartily to all who love birds and to all who enjoy wise and insightful observations expressed with beauty, eloquence, and a clearly-expressed love for our natural world."

— Ray Brown, host of *Talkin' Birds*, a weekly radio show

Paperback / 274 pages / \$20.00

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Reflections on a Golden-winged Warbler is available in Newburyport, MA at Bird Watcher's Supply & Gift and at Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center, and in Medford, MA at Bestsellers Cafe. To order online go to www.amazon.com. Quantity discounts are available: please contact info@bardbrookpress.com.

Neonics and NWRs

Birding Community E-Bulletin

By January 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency will ban the use of neonicotinoids, often called "neonics," at National Wildlife Refuges across the country. Neonics are widely used nerve insecticides that an increasing number of scientific studies have shown are harmful to bees, but also to birds, mammals, and fish. Most often, agricultural seeds are coated with the neonics, which spread the toxins throughout the plant as the plant grows. More importantly, recent studies have raised concerns over the impact of neonics on birds and on aquatic systems. Neonicotinoids currently account for 40 percent of the global pesticide market and are used to treat most of the corn and soybean crops in the U.S. Ironically, these nicotine-like chemicals were introduced in the 1990s in response to health concerns linked to older pesticides.

In the announcement concerning the phase-out of neonics on refuges, the chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System, Jim Kurth, wrote, "We have determined that prophylactic use, such as a seed treatment, of the neonicotinoid pesticides that can distribute systemically in a plant and can affect a broad spectrum of non-target species is not consistent with Service policy." In the same USFWS memo by Kurth, the Service announced that it will also begin to phase out the use of genetically modified crops to feed wildlife on refuges.

<http://refugeassociation.org/2014/09/the-birding-community-e-bulletin-september-2/>



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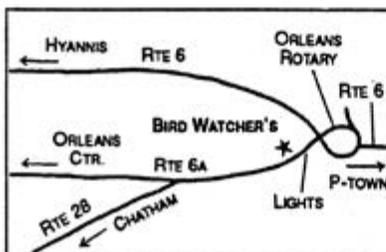
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BIRD SIGHTINGS

May/June 2014

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

May was nearly perfect for birding: no extreme heat, good southwest winds, and little rain. Temperatures averaged 59° in Boston, only one degree above normal. Strong southwest winds began on May 9, resulting in temperatures in the eighties, culminating in the month's high of 85° on May 12. The low for the month was 52° on May 13, a drop of 33° overnight! Rainfall totaled 2.86 inches in Boston. There were 18 days with no rain, and only a trace of rain on another seven days. Ironically, the most rain all month fell in the evening and morning of the annual Mass Audubon Bird-a-thon on May 16 and 17.

June was a great month for breeding birds, with no cold spells and very little rain. The temperature averaged 68° in Boston, exactly the historical average for the month. The high was 89° on June 25 and again on June 30, and the low was 60° on June 4 and 5. Precipitation was just 2.62 inches, 1.06 inches less than normal.

R. Stymeist

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

A **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** was photographed by a nonbirder on a golf course in Southbridge on June 21. It had evidently been in the area for a few weeks, but only came to the attention of the birding community on June 23. There was a second report of a flock of six at a pond in Charlton on May 21, but once again it was by a nonbirder, and these birds were not confirmed by photographs. Previous records fell between April and July and included multiple birds, so this second record is plausible.

The naturalist aboard the Seven Seas whalewatch boat is always alert for interesting sea birds, but on June 1 he was astonished to spot a **Yellow-nosed Albatross** just seven miles off Gloucester. There were several birders onboard who documented the bird well. There are only a handful of records of this visitor from the southern oceans, all between May and early June.

On June 25 a passenger on a whale watch to Stellwagen Bank photographed what he initially thought was an odd shearwater. As he studied the bird, he hesitantly identified it as a **Fea's Petrel**, and submitted his photos to experts who confirmed his identification. Although Fea's Petrel is nearly annual off the North Carolina coast, it is one of only a handful of records away from the Gulf Stream, and a first record for Massachusetts.

A trip to Hydrographer Canyon on June 29 produced eight **Audubon's Shearwaters**, two **White-faced Storm-Petrels**, and a **South Polar Skua**. These species are rarely seen on routine whale watches but are regular farther offshore. On May 4 some nonbirders on Nantucket saw five or six unfamiliar birds at Great Point so snapped a photo of one and sent it to a birder friend. The birder was astonished to view an adult **Brown Booby**. Sadly the boobies did not remain to be seen by the photo recipient.

A **Little Egret** was discovered on Nantucket on May 17. An individual photographed on nearby Tuckernuck Island on May 19 was almost surely the same bird. There were no additional sightings until June 1, when one was seen once again on Nantucket. The first United States record for this species occurred in 1989 on Plum Island. The **White-faced Ibis** initially seen in Ipswich in April was viewed through May 17 in surrounding towns.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------|-------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|----------|------|-----------------|
| White-winged Scoter (continued) | | | | 5/1 | Turners Falls | 2 | | J. Rose |
| 6/13 | Chatham | 6 | R. Schain | 5/16 | Southwick | 5 | | S. Kellogg |
| Black Scoter | | | | 5/17 | N. Scituate | 2 | | G. d'Entremont# |
| 5/10 | N. Scituate | 50 | BBC (GdE) | Yellow-nosed Albatross | | | | |
| 5/21 | Westport | 41 | BBC (R. Stymeist) | 6/1 | E. of Gloucester | 1 ph | | J. Frontierro |
| 5/23 | Nantucket | 700 | K. Blackshaw | Northern Fulmar | | | | |
| 6/10 | Chatham (MI) | 45 | B. Nikula | 6/14 | Stellwagen | 3 | | K. Hartel |
| 6/28 | N. Truro | 11 | B. Nikula | 6/28 | E. of Chatham | 7 | | v.o. |
| Long-tailed Duck | | | | 6/29 | SE of Nantucket | 20 | | V. Laux |
| 5/3 | P.I. | 920 | T. Wetmore | Fea's Petrel | | | | |
| 5/10 | Turners Falls | 1 | E. Huston | 6/25 | Stellwagen | 1 ph | | C. Otto |
| 6/24 | Chatham (MI) | 7 | B. Nikula | Cory's Shearwater | | | | |
| Bufflehead | | | | 6/8, 22 | E. of Chatham | 1, 20 | | Flood, Nikula |
| 5/1 | Randolph | 16 | G. d'Entremont | 6/15, 27 | P'town | 1, 150 | | B. Nikula |
| 5/2 | Medford | 15 | A. Trautmann | 6/28 | N. Truro | 55 | | B. Nikula |
| 5/5 | P.I. | 15 | T. Wetmore | 6/29 | SE of Nantucket | 500 | | V. Laux |
| 5/7 | Dennis | 22 | P. Flood | Great Shearwater | | | | |
| 5/18 | Pembroke | 1 | J. Johnson | 6/8, 28 | E. of Chatham | 10, 80 | | v.o. |
| Common Goldeneye | | | | 6/14 | Stellwagen | 32 | | K. Hartel |
| 5/6 | Wachusett Res. | 2 | J. Johnson | 6/23 | Tillies Bank | 70 | | S. + J. Mirick# |
| 5/12 | P.I. | 1 | G. d'Entremont# | 6/27 | P'town | 12 | | B. Nikula |
| 6/7 | Squantum | 1 | A. Trautmann | 6/29 | SE of Nantucket | 220 | | V. Laux |
| Hooded Merganser | | | | Sooty Shearwater | | | | |
| 5/2 | Ware R. IBA | 4 | M. Lynch# | 5/21 | Stellwagen | 2 | | B. Harris# |
| 5/26 | W. Newbury | 11 | S. McGrath# | 6/8, 28 | E. of Chatham | 125, 550 | | v.o. |
| 6/11 | GMNWR | 7 | A. Bragg# | 6/14 | Wellfleet | 120 | | M. Faherty |
| 6/17 | Yarmouth | 4 | R. Debenham | 6/27 | P'town | 115 | | B. Nikula |
| Common Merganser | | | | 6/29 | SE of Nantucket | 250 | | V. Laux |
| 5/2 | Andover | 2 | M. Baird | Manx Shearwater | | | | |
| 5/4 | Chestnut Hill | 9 | R. Doherty | 5/19, 6/27 | P'town | 2, 6 | | B. Nikula |
| 5/9 | Wachusett Res. | 9 | M. Lynch# | 5/21 | Stellwagen | 1 | | B. Harris# |
| 5/16 | Athol | 2 | G. d'Entremont# | 6/26 | Revere B. | 14 | | S. Riley |
| Red-breasted Merganser | | | | Audubon's Shearwater | | | | |
| 5/6 | Wachusett Res. | 4 | E. Kittredge | 6/29 | Hydrographer | 8 | | V. Laux |
| 5/10 | Turners Falls | 4 | E. Huston | Wilson's Storm-Petrel | | | | |
| 5/24, 6/29 | P'town | 270, 9 | B. Nikula | 6/8, 28 | E. of Chatham | 1, 95 | | v.o. |
| Ruddy Duck | | | | 6/14 | Wellfleet | 5 | | M. Faherty |
| 5/3 | W. Newbury | 8 | SSBC (Emmons) | 6/23 | Tillies Bank | 12 | | S. + J. Mirick# |
| 5/4, 16 | Waltham | 6, 1 | J. Forbes | 6/29 | SE of Nantucket | 800 | | V. Laux |
| 5/10 | Turners Falls | 3 | E. Huston | White-faced Storm-Petrel | | | | |
| 5/18 | Pembroke | 10 | J. Johnson | 6/29 | Hydrographer | 2 | | V. Laux |
| 6/30 | Chestnut Hill | 1 | R. Doherty | Leach's Storm-Petrel | | | | |
| Northern Bobwhite | | | | 6/20 | Stellwagen | 1 | | K. Hartel |
| 5/13 | W. Yarmouth | 2 | R. Greene | 6/29 | SE of Nantucket | 75 | | V. Laux |
| 6/8 | Brewster | 6 | S. Finnegan | Brown Booby | | | | |
| 6/14 | Chatham | 2 | R. Schain | 5/4 | Nantucket | 5 | fide | K. Blackshaw |
| Ruffed Grouse | | | | Northern Gannet | | | | |
| 5/2 | Ware R. IBA | 4 | M. Lynch# | 5/4 | Nantucket | 25 | | K. Blackshaw# |
| 5/21 | Falmouth | 2 | M. Schanbacher | 5/13, 6/27 | P'town | 75, 11 | | B. Nikula |
| 6/22 | October Mt. | 2 | SSBC (GdE) | 6/14 | Stellwagen | 11 | | K. Hartel |
| Red-throated Loon | | | | 6/22 | E. of Chatham | 20 | | B. Nikula# |
| 5/20 | P.I. | 12 | R. Heil | Double-crested Cormorant | | | | |
| 5/25 | Plymouth B. | 2 | SSBC (GdE) | 5/5 | P'town | 610 | | M. Faherty |
| 6/15 | P'town | 1 | B. Nikula | 5/14 | P'town Harbor | 1650 | | G. d'Entremont |
| Common Loon | | | | 5/24 | Chatham | 1500 | | P. Trimble# |
| 5/2 | Chatham | 73 | R. Schain | 6/1 | Orange WMA | 5 nests | | M. Lynch# |
| 5/16 | S. Quabbin | 13 | L. Therrien | Great Cormorant | | | | |
| 5/20 | P.I. | 30 | T. Wetmore | 5/5 | P'town | 9 | | M. Faherty |
| 5/23 | Wachusett Res. | 13 | M. Lynch# | 6/6 | Boston H. | 7 | | C. Trocki# |
| 5/24 | Waltham | 4 | J. Forbes# | American Bittern | | | | |
| Pied-billed Grebe | | | | 6/7 | Granville | 3 | | D. James |
| 6/9 | Fairhaven | 1 | C. Longworth | 6/7 | Blandford | 2 | | K. & M. Conway |
| 6/12 | GMNWR | 1 | J. Forbes | Least Bittern | | | | |
| 6/23 | P.I. | 1 | J. Hoye# | 5/12 | Brimfield | 1 | | I. Lynch |
| 6/29 | Fairhaven | 1 | C. Longworth | 5/17 | P.I. | 2 | | B. Parker |
| Horned Grebe | | | | 6/8 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 1 | | D. Hefferon |
| 5/2 | Revere B. | 2 | J. Young | 6/18 | GMNWR | 3 | | A. Bragg# |
| 5/5 | Sharon | 2 | L. Waters | Great Egret | | | | |
| 5/28 | S. Quabbin | 1 | L. Therrien | 5/12 | Manchester | 29 | | S. Hedman |
| 5/29 | Wachusett Res. | 1 | K. Bourinot | 6/7 | Westport | 13 | | M. Lynch# |
| Red-necked Grebe | | | | 6/8 | Chatham | 11 | | R. Schain |
| 5/1 | Dennis (Corp.B.) | 5 | E. Hoopes | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------|---------------------|
| Little Egret | | | | Bald Eagle | | | |
| 5/17, 6/1 | Nantucket | 1 | Ray, Pastuszek | 5/8 | Mashpee | 2 | M. Keleher |
| 5/19 | Tuckernuck | 1 ph | R. Veit | 6/14 | Holyoke | 2 | BBC (L. Ferraresso) |
| Snowy Egret | | | | 6/25 | P.I. | 2 ad | T. Wetmore |
| 5/8 | Rowley | 10 | P. + F. Vale | Northern Harrier | | | |
| 5/12 | Manchester | 80 | S. Hedman | 5/2 | P.I. | 11 | Hawkcount (TM) |
| 5/12 | P.I. | 18 | K. Elwell | 6/14 | Tyringham | 1 | S. Kellogg# |
| 6/1 | P.I. | 35 | T. Wetmore | 6/28 | Sandwich | 1 | J. McCumber# |
| 6/7 | Westport | 1 | M. Lynch# | 6/28 | N. Truro | 2 | M. Stone |
| Little Blue Heron | | | | Sharp-shinned Hawk | | | |
| 5/11 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 1 | C. Husic# | 5/2, 3 | P.I. | 79, 64 | Hawkcount (TM) |
| 5/12 | Manchester | 2 | S. Hedman | 5/4 | Cohasset | 44 | I. Davies# |
| 5/27 | P.I. | 1 | T. Wetmore | 5/6 | N. Truro | 44 | Hawkcount (DM) |
| 6/2 | P.I. | 1 | T. Wetmore | Cooper's Hawk | | | |
| 6/8 | Manchester | 1 | P. + F. Vale | 5/3 | P.I. | 3 | BBC (L. de la Flor) |
| Tricolored Heron | | | | 5/6 | N. Truro | 10 | Hawkcount (DM) |
| 5/2 | Chatham | 2 | R. Schain | 5/19 | Medford | 2 | M. Rines# |
| 5/17 | Nantucket | 1 | C. Caron# | Northern Goshawk | | | |
| 6/8 | Manchester | 1 | P. + F. Vale | 5/11 | W. Warren | 2 | B. Zajda |
| Cattle Egret | | | | 5/18 | MBWMA | 1 | K. Elwell |
| 5/1 | Rowley | 1 | v.o. | 6/7 | N. Truro | 1 | Hawkcount (DM) |
| 5/8 | Westport | 1 | P. Champlin | 6/9 | Ware R. IBA | 1 ad | M. Lynch# |
| Green Heron | | | | Red-shouldered Hawk | | | |
| 5/6 | W. Warren | 2 | B. Zajda | 5/12 | N. Truro | 2 | Hawkcount (DM) |
| 5/6 | Reading | 2 | D. Williams | 6/1 | Berkeley | 2 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 5/14 | GMNWR | 4 | A. Bragg# | 6/21 | Marion | 4 | M. Lynch# |
| 6/15 | N. Truro | 3 | D. Rotino# | 6/21 | Rochester | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | | | | Broad-winged Hawk | | | |
| 5/16 | Chatham | 44 | Y. Liaskaris | 5/2 | Ware R. IBA | 37 | M. Lynch# |
| 6/6 | Watertown | 8 | C. Cook | 5/3 | P'town | 40 | I. Davies# |
| 6/12 | Medford | 40 | J. Kovner | 5/3 | Concord | 17 | C. Winstanley |
| 6/24 | P.I. | 9 | D. Adrien | 5/11 | N. Truro | 41 | Hawkcount (DM) |
| Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | | | | 6/7 | N. Truro | 23 | Hawkcount (DM) |
| 5/16 | Chatham | 1 | Y. Liaskaris | 6/21 | Mt. Greylock | 4 | SSBC (GdE) |
| 6/9 | P.I. | 2 | J. Hoyer# | 6/22 | Wendell | 5 | M. Lynch# |
| Glossy Ibis | | | | 6/22 | October Mt. | 4 | SSBC (GdE) |
| 5/3 | P.I. | 97 | BBC (L. de la Flor) | Swainson's Hawk | | | |
| 5/8 | DFWS | 2 | P. Sowizral | 5/3 | P.I. | 1 ph | J. Trimble |
| 6/10 | Mashpee | 5 | M. Malin | Rough-legged Hawk | | | |
| 6/10 | Orleans | 5 | C. Harris | 5/2 | P.I. | 1 | Hawkcount (TM) |
| 6/14 | Essex | 36 | B. McBrian | Clapper Rail | | | |
| 6/21 | Chatham | 4 | J. Baldwin | 5/6, 6/4 | Wellfleet | 3, 2 | S. Broker# |
| White-faced Ibis | | | | 5/18 | Mattapoisett | 1 | J. Johnson |
| 5/1-17 | Essex County | 1 | v.o. | 6/10 | S. Dart. (A.Pd) | 1 | R. Hodson |
| Black Vulture | | | | King Rail | | | |
| 5/6 | Canton | 2 | S. Perkins | 5/18 | W. Bridgewater | 1 | J. Johnson |
| 5/19 | Falmouth | 2 | M. Malin | Virginia Rail | | | |
| 6/5 | Sheffield | 24 | J. Pierce | 5/2 | Lexington | 3 | J. Andrews |
| 6/10 | Holyoke | 2 | L. Therrien | 5/7 | Bolton Flats | 3 | J. Hoyer# |
| Turkey Vulture | | | | 5/17 | Quabog IBA | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/2 | Ware R. IBA | 13 | M. Lynch# | 6/14 | GMNWR | 4 | BBC (Z. Weber) |
| 5/thr | N. Truro | 191 | Hawkcount (DM) | 6/15 | N. Truro | 4 | D. Rotino# |
| 6/15 | Warren | 15 | M. Lynch# | Sora | | | |
| Osprey | | | | 5/2 | Lexington | 3 | J. Andrews |
| 5/3 | P.I. | 24 | Hawkcount (TM) | 5/9 | Southwick | 2 | S. Kellogg |
| 5/8 | Chatham | 21 | R. Schain | 5/11 | W. Newbury | 2 | K. Elwell |
| 5/11 | N. Truro | 26 | Hawkcount (DM) | 5/11 | Lenox | 2 | G. Hurley |
| 5/21 | Westport | 28 | BBC (R. Stymeist) | Common Gallinule | | | |
| Swallow-tailed Kite | | | | 5/11-6/31 | Lenox | 2 | G. Hurley |
| 5/4 | Cohasset | 1 | I. Davies# | American Coot | | | |
| Mississippi Kite | | | | 5/3 | P.I. | 1 | BBC (L. de la Flor) |
| 5/4 | Falmouth | 1 | G. Hirth | 6/8 | GMNWR | 1 | J. Forbes |
| 5/11, 12 | N. Truro | 2, 3 | Hawkcount (DM) | Sandhill Crane | | | |
| 5/27 | Nantucket | 1 | M. Malin | 5/3 | Hyannisport | 1 | P. Trimble |
| 6/6 | Easton | 2 | N. Block | 5/17 | Wakefield | 1 | P. + F. Vale |
| 6/8 | WBWS | 1 ph | A. Bragg | 5/20 | Bolton Flats | 1 | A. Marble |
| 6/10 | Concord | 1 | W. Hutcheson | 5/22 | WBWS | 1 | M. Faherty# |
| 6/12 | Boxford | 1 | K. Dalton | Black-bellied Plover | | | |
| 6/14 | New Salem | 1 | E. Dalton | 5/17 | P'town | 175 | B. Nikula |
| 6/15 | Chatham | 1 ph | M. Malin | 5/20 | Hadley | 3 | B. Emily |
| 6/15 | Belchertown | 1 | L. Therrien | 5/20 | P.I. | 180 | R. Heil |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|----------------|-------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Black-bellied Plover (continued) | 5/26 | Chatham | 600 | C. Goodrich | 5/25 | Plymouth B. | 12 | BBC (GdE) |
| Wilson's Plover | 5/14 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 ph | K. Yakola# | 5/26 | P.I. | 12 | T. Wetmore |
| | 5/14-17 | Westport | 1 ph | P. Champlin | 5/26 | Gloucester (E.P.) | 6 | S. Hedman |
| | 5/22 | P.I. | 1 ph | A. Spears | 6/2 | Chatham | 6 | J. Hoye# |
| Semipalmated Plover | 5/2 | N. Falmouth | 2 | I. Nisbet | Red Knot | 5/14 | Chatham | 50 |
| | 5/8 | Duxbury B. | 18 | R. Bowes | 5/25 | Westport | 2 | G. d'Entremont |
| | 5/8 | Chatham | 70 | R. Schain | 6/8 | S. Monomoy | 20 | P. Champlin# |
| | 5/13 | Hatfield | 4 | L. Therrien | Sanderling | 5/7 | Revere B. | 60 |
| | 5/26 | P.I. | 90 | T. Wetmore | 5/25 | Plymouth B. | 125 | S. Riley |
| Piping Plover | 5/10 | P.I. | 56 | USFWS | 6/5 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 1 | SSBC (GdE) |
| | 6/1-6/9 | Chatham (S.B.) | 53 pr | MAS | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 5/14 | Chatham | 425 |
| | 6/5 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 16 | J. Berry# | 5/26 | P.I. | 180 | B. Nikula |
| | 6/28 | Plymouth B. | 25 | S. van der Veen | Least Sandpiper | 5/4, 14 | W. Harwich | 280, 700 |
| American Oystercatcher | 5/7 | P.I. | 1 | D. Adrian | 5/8 | Groveland | 28 | B. Nikula |
| | 5/7 | Revere B. | 3 | S. Riley | 5/14 | Chatham (S.B.) | 135 | P. + F. Vale |
| | 5/14 | Duxbury B. | 2 | M. Nepshinsky | 5/21 | Bolton Flats | 18 | K. Yakola# |
| | 5/18 | Nantucket | 2 | K. Blackshaw# | 5/21 | P.I. | 18 | M. Lynch# |
| | 5/22 | Chatham (S.B.) | 6 pr | MAS | White-rumped Sandpiper | 5/4 | S. Dart. (A.Pd) | 2 |
| | 5/24 | Mattapoisett | 2 | J. Hoye# | 5/12 | W. Harwich | 7 | P. + F. Vale |
| | 5/28 | Nahant | 2 | S. Solomon | 5/14 | Chatham (S.B.) | 15 | P. Champlin |
| | 6/11 | Marion | 3 | G. Gove# | 5/21 | Bolton Flats | 2 | P. Kyle |
| | 6/21 | Marion | 6 | M. Lynch# | Pectoral Sandpiper | 5/4 | Longmeadow | 4 |
| Black-necked Stilt | 5/28 | P.I. | 1 | M. Nolan | 5/10 | W. Warren | 6 | M. Moore |
| | 5/30-6/4 | Rowley | 1 | v.o. | Purple Sandpiper | 5/2 | Sandwich | 5 |
| American Avocet | 6/19-20 | Ipswich | 2 | M. Halsey + v.o. | 5/3 | Gloucester | 13 | J. McCumber |
| | 6/21-30 | P.I. | 2 | v.o. | 5/21 | Westport | 14 | B. Harris |
| Spotted Sandpiper | 5/7 | Salisbury | 3 | S. McGrath | 5/22 | Duxbury B. | 3 | BBC (R. Stymeist) |
| | 5/8 | Arlington | 3 | R. Stymeist | 5/25 | Plymouth B. | 6 | R. Bowes |
| | 5/14 | GMNWR | 3 | A. Bragg# | Dunlin | 5/10 | Turners Falls | 2 |
| | 5/23 | Wachusett Res. | 12 | M. Lynch# | 5/14 | Chatham | 1500 | E. Huston |
| | 6/9 | Barnstable | 3 | M. Malin | 5/16 | Ipswich | 40 | B. Nikula |
| Solitary Sandpiper | 5/7 | Bolton Flats | 8 | M. Lynch# | 5/20 | P.I. | 40 | J. Berry |
| | 5/8 | W. Roxbury | 2 | W. Bradford | Ruff | 5/20-22 | P.I. | 1 |
| | 5/8 | Holden | 2 | L. Hennin | Short-billed Dowitcher | 5/10 | Dennis | 32 |
| Greater Yellowlegs | 5/2 | Newbury | 17 | P. + F. Vale | 5/20 | P.I. | 580 | P. Flood |
| | 5/7 | Bolton Flats | 30 | J. Hoye# | 5/20 | Essex | 16 | R. Heil |
| | 5/8 | W. Harwich | 40 | B. Nikula | 5/21 | Hatfield | 3 | J. Berry |
| | 5/12, 6/30 | P.I. | 20, 8 | v.o. | 5/24 | Bolton Flats | 4 | L. Therrien |
| | 5/15 | Chatham | 17 | E. Hoopes | 6/8 | S. Monomoy | 16 | G. d'Entremont# |
| Willet | 5/6 | Chatham | 56 | R. Merrill | Wilson's Snipe | 5/5 | Northampton | 9 |
| | 5/14 | Rowley | 12 | J. Berry | 5/7 | Bolton Flats | 6 | L. Therrien |
| | 5/25 | P.I. | 40 | J. Berry# | 5/20 | Hadley | 10 | M. Lynch# |
| | 6/7 | Westport | 21 | M. Lynch# | 6/14 | Tyringham | 1 | B. Emily |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | 5/2 | Newbury | 8 | P. + F. Vale | American Woodcock | 5/9 | P.I. | 7 |
| | 5/7 | Bolton Flats | 30 | J. Hoye# | 5/16 | Falmouth | 12 | P. + F. Vale |
| | 5/8 | W. Harwich | 8 | B. Nikula | Wilson's Phalarope | 5/3 | Rowley | 4 |
| | 5/27, 6/30 | P.I. | 20, 4 | T. Wetmore | Red-necked Phalarope | 5/17 | Williamstown | 1 |
| Upland Sandpiper | 5/25 | Plymouth | 3 | BBC (GdE) | 5/24 | S. Quabbin | 1 | A. Werner |
| | 6/8 | Westover | 6 | H. Schwartz | 5/25 | P.I. | 1 | L. Therrien |
| | 6/8 | Weymouth | 1 | V. Zollo | Black-legged Kittiwake | 5/25 | Wellfleet | 2 |
| | 6/14 | Westover | 8 | BBC (L. Ferraresso) | 5/25 | Wellfleet | 2 | M. Faherty |
| | 6/21 | Saugus | 1 | T. Factor# | 6/1, 29 | P'town (Hatches) | 3, 8 | B. Nikula |
| | 6/28 | Sandwich | 3 | J. McCumber# | Bonaparte's Gull | 5/6 | Chatham | 180 |
| Whimbrel | 5/22 | Marion | 2 | R. Sawyer | 5/7 | S. Quabbin | 5 | R. Merrill |
| | 5/29 | Chatham | 1 | J. Baldwin | 5/10 | Turners Falls | 3 | L. Therrien |
| | 5/30 | WBWS | 1 | R. Carlson | 5/12 | Belchertown | 3 | E. Huston |
| Ruddy Turnstone | 5/25 | Westport | 6 | P. Champlin# | 5/16 | Pittsfield | 2 | L. Therrien |
| | | | | | | | | K. Hanson |

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|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Bonaparte's Gull (continued) | | | 5/21 | P.I. | 10 | P. + F. Vale | |
| 5/22 | Wachusett Res. | 1 | K. Bourinot | 6/9 | Monomoy | 8 | Y. Laskaris# |
| 6/1, 27 | P'town | 200, 200 | B. Nikula | 6/21 | Marion | 7 | M. Lynch# |
| Black-headed Gull | | | | 6/29 | P'town (Hatches) | 30 | B. Nikula |
| 6/29 | P'town (Hatches) | 1 | B. Nikula | Common Tern | | | |
| Little Gull | | | | 5/1 | Northampton | 1 | B. Bieda |
| 5/6 | Chatham | 2 | R. Merrill | 5/1 | Turners Falls | 1 | J. Rose |
| 5/15 | Westport | 1 | G. d'Entremont | 5/20 | P.I. | 630 | R. Heil |
| 5/26 | Chatham | 1 | C. Goodrich | 5/25 | Plymouth B. | 1200 | SSBC (GdE) |
| 5/28 | P.I. | 1 | T. Spahr | 6/1 | P'town | 1350 | B. Nikula |
| 6/16, 29 | P'town (Hatches) | 1, 1 | B. Nikula | 6/21 | S. Monomoy | 5000 | M. Malin |
| Laughing Gull | | | | 6/21 | Marion | 100 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/14 | Scituate | 1 | S. Maguire | Arctic Tern | | | |
| 5/25 | Plymouth B. | 300 | SSBC (GdE) | 6/1, 27 | P'town (Hatches) | 2, 20 | B. Nikula |
| 6/7, 23 | P'town | 250, 400 | B. Nikula | Forster's Tern | | | |
| 6/21 | S. Monomoy | 250 | M. Malin | 5/24 | P.I. | 1 | T. Wetmore |
| Franklin's Gull | | | | 6/25 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 1 | P. Kyle |
| 6/10 | Plymouth B. | 1 ad ph | C. Gras | 6/29 | Newbypt H. | 1 | B. Harris |
| Iceland Gull | | | | Royal Tern | | | |
| thr | Reports of indiv. from 7 locations | | | 6/16, 23 | P'town | 1, 1 | B. Nikula |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | | | | 6/17 | Nantucket | 1 | T. Pastuszak |
| 5/2 | Nantucket | 15 | G. Andrews | Black Skimmer | | | |
| 5/3 | Concord | 1 | C. Winstanley | 5/18 | Duxbury B. | 1 | R. Bowes |
| 5/17 | Gloucester (E.P.) | 2 | S. + J. Mirick | 6/9 | Monomoy | 4 | Y. Laskaris# |
| 5/21 | Stellwagen | 3 | B. Harris# | 6/12 | Plymouth B. | 4 | E. Lipton |
| 6/thr | P'town | 14 max | B. Nikula | 6/17 | Edgartown | 2 | K. Moulder |
| 6/8 | E. of Chatham | 4 | B. Nikula# | 6/19 | Chatham | 5 | Y. Liaskaris |
| Glaucous Gull | | | | 6/21 | Edgartown | 3 | R. Price |
| 5/12 | Nantucket | 1 | K. Blackshaw# | South Polar Skua | | | |
| 5/17 | Truro | 1 | P. Trull | 6/29 | SE of Nantucket | 2 | V. Laux |
| 6/8 | E. of Chatham | 1 | P. Flood# | Parasitic Jaeger | | | |
| 6/10 | Chatham (MI) | 1 | B. Nikula | 5/21 | Stellwagen | 2 | B. Harris# |
| Least Tern | | | | 6/1, 28 | P'town | 12, 4 | B. Nikula |
| 5/3, 20 | P.I. | 1, 245 | BBC, Heil | 6/8 | Cape Cod Bay | 1 | B. Nikula# |
| 5/7 | Dennis | 23 | P. Flood | 6/13 | Chatham | 5 | R. Schain |
| 5/17 | Acoaxet | 35 | G. Gove# | 6/23 | W. of Cuttyhunk | 1 | M. Sylvia# |
| 5/17 | Manomet | 125 | G. d'Entremont# | Long-tailed Jaeger | | | |
| 6/5 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 80 | J. Berry# | 6/2 | P'town | 1 | B. Nikula |
| Caspian Tern | | | | Common Murre | | | |
| 5/1-3 | Lynnfield | 1 | C. Lapite | 6/28 | E. of Chatham | 1 | v.o. |
| 5/2 | Chestnut Hill | 1 | P. DeGennaro | 6/29 | SE of Nantucket | 1 | V. Laux |
| 5/2 | Wakefield | 2 | S. Walker | Razorbill | | | |
| 5/4 | Westport | 3 | P. Champlin | 5/31 | P.I. | 2 | B. Harris |
| 5/17 | S. Quabbin | 1 | L. Therrien | 6/8 | Chatham | 1 | Y. Laskaris# |
| 5/20 | Duxbury B. | 1 | R. Bowes | Black Guillemot | | | |
| 5/25 | Wellfleet | 2 | M. Faherty | 5/16 | Rockport (A.P.) | 1 | J. Hoye# |
| 6/5 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 1 | J. Berry# | 5/17 | Gloucester (E.P.) | 4 | S. + J. Mirick |
| Black Tern | | | | 5/22 | Marblehead | 2 | D. Bates# |
| 5/23 | GMNWR | 1 | S. Perkins# | 6/8 | Vineyard Sound | 1 | W. Freedberg |
| 6/1, 27 | P'town | 2, 2 | B. Nikula | Large acid species | | | |
| 6/8 | E. of Chatham | 1 | B. Nikula# | 5/2 | P'town | 7 | B. Nikula |
| Roseate Tern | | | | | | | |
| 5/2 | Chatham | 4 | R. Schain | | | | |

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

A **White-winged Dove** was photographed on Crane Beach in Ipswich on June 27. Historically, many of the Massachusetts records for this species occurred in late June and July, but in more recent years the doves have appeared at any time. For example, the most recent record was from December 2013 on the Greater Boston Christmas Bird Count in Dorchester. A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was found and photographed on Nantucket during the Mass Audubon Bird-a-thon May 16-17. This species was first noted in North America in the late 1970s and continues to expand its range, although it is still rare in Massachusetts. The first state record was from Morris Island in Chatham on October 30, 2006, and very few others have been documented.

The Snowy Owl explosion of 2013–2014 ended with a final sighting on the very late date of June 15 at Sandy Neck in Barnstable. The previous late date was June 12, 2009, from Logan Airport. Long-eared Owls were found in Granville and Northampton. A **Chuck-wills-widow**

returned for the fourth straight year to the same spot on Pochet Island in Orleans, and a Chuck returned for the second consecutive year near the Crane Wildlife Management Area in Falmouth. Whip-poor-wills are doing well in Wellfleet, where 21 birds were tallied, as well as in Sandwich, where 14 calling birds were recorded. A pair of Monk Parakeets was probably set loose in Brighton, where nest building was underway. This exotic species has yet to get a foothold as a breeding bird in the state, but they seem to do well in Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Spring migration started early this year. The Beech Forest in Provincetown, normally a late migrant trap, was loaded with new arrivals on May 2. Birders were treated with 10 species of warblers including a **Yellow-throated Warbler** right in the parking lot! The night of May 2 saw winds out of the southwest changing to westerly, and a good fallout was noted at many locations. Birders in Mount Auburn Cemetery reported 11 species of warbler including eight Black-and-white Warblers, 20 Northern Parula, and 60 Yellow-rumped Warblers. Good numbers of Blue-headed Vireos, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Hermit Thrushes were also observed. The biggest and most widespread fallout of migrants occurred on May 12. For several days prior to May 12, east winds halted the movement of migrants, and with rain to our south, the buildup of migrants just got bigger. The night of May 11 was clear with a strong southwest wind. The next morning, birds were everywhere. At Gooseberry Neck in Westport more than 150 warblers of 14 species were reported. While flocks of three to 20 warblers were launching from the parking lot, many more were foraging in the low bushes and even more were flying high overhead. Many birders reported multiple migrants in their own backyards, and a common refrain was that this was the best migration in years. That night the temperature dropped 30° and nothing moved. Everyone was joyous as birds lingered for several memorable days.

The banding station at Manomet handled 1,966 birds of 72 different species during the spring season. Trevor Lloyd-Evans reported that thanks to “three significant migration days in May, the number of birds we captured this season was slightly above average for the decade in terms of captures per unit effort and the diversity of species captured.” On May 8 Manomet banded its first White-throated Sparrow x Slate-colored Junco hybrid. Sue Finnegan’s banding station in Brewster banded 323 birds of 41 species. The persistent easterly winds pushed many of the migrants inland.

Among the rare birds during this period, a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** at Mount Auburn Cemetery tops the list. The bird was discovered on the morning of May 13 and remained until May 15, undoubtedly the most observed individual Fork-tailed Flycatcher anywhere, including within its range. This was just the sixth record since 2000, with four records found on Nantucket! A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was found at Coast Guard Beach in Eastham. There have been more than 20 reports of this species since 2000. A **Western Tanager** originally discovered in April lingered through May 2 in Auburn. A male **Painted Bunting** was photographed on Chappaquiddick on May 14. Noteworthy among the 35 warbler species recorded during this period were two Golden-winged Warblers, three Prothonotary Warblers, five Orange-crowned Warblers, eight Kentucky Warblers, six Cerulean Warblers, five Yellow-throated Warblers, and two Yellow-breasted Chats. There were reports of four Blue Grosbeaks and two Dickcissels. A Nelson’s Sparrow singing on June 2 at Belle Isle Marsh in East Boston was noteworthy, and it may be the only June record for Massachusetts.

Purple Martins have been doing well in Mashpee, with 74 fledged as of June 30. A mid-season report of Purple Martins at two sites in Rehoboth stands at 37 pairs and 190 chicks at the Crestwood Country Club and 21 pairs and 105 chicks at the Clark family site.

R. Stymeist

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Least Flycatcher (continued) | | | | Common Raven | | | |
| 5/11 | Marlboro | 7 | T. Spahr | 5/4 | Waltham | 6 | J. Forbes |
| 5/12 | Ware R. IBA | 27 | M. Lynch# | 5/4 | Spencer | pr + 2 yg | M. Lynch# |
| 5/25 | Quabbin (G35) | 6 | B. Zajda# | 6/1 | Rochester | pr + 4 yg | L. Gerrier |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | | | | 6/8 | W. Roxbury | 4 | T. Aversa |
| 5/4 | Wompatuck SP | 3 | I. Davies# | 6/19 | Ashby | 4 | J. Forbes |
| 5/11 | W. Warren | 6 | B. Zajda | 6/21 | Mt. Greylock | 4 | SSBC (GdE) |
| 5/14 | GMNWR | 6 | A. Bragg# | Horned Lark | | | |
| 5/18 | Middleton | 9 | J. Berry# | 5/10, 25 | Plymouth | 4, 1 | BBC (GdE) |
| 5/24 | Ipswich | 10 | J. Berry | 5/14 | Chatham (S.B.) | 14 | D. Clapp |
| 5/27 | P.I. | 8 | T. Wetmore | Purple Martin | | | |
| 6/1 | Fall River | 8 | G. d'Entremont# | 5/2 | Ware R. IBA | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 6/29 | ONWR | 8 | J. Hoye# | 5/3 | P.I. | 6 | BBC (L. de la Flor) |
| Eastern Kingbird | | | | 5/17 | DWWS | 10 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 5/2, 12 | P.I. | 3, 21 | v.o. | 6/2 | GMNWR | 2 | J. Young |
| 5/2, 21 | P'town | 3, 15 | B. Nikula | 6/21 | Rochester | 18 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/2 | Winchester | 3 | M. Rines# | 6/30 | Mashpee | 58 ad + 74 yg | M. Keleher |
| 5/8 | Chatham | 10 | R. Schain | Bank Swallow | | | |
| 6/29 | Cheshire | 18 | M. Lynch# | 5/8 | Chatham | 42 | R. Schain |
| Scissor-tailed Flycatcher | | | | 5/16 | P.I. | 21 | T. Wetmore |
| 6/3 | Eastham (CGB) | 1 | J. Bradford | 5/18 | Nantucket | 25 | K. Blackshaw |
| Fork-tailed Flycatcher | | | | 5/24 | Bolton Flats | 40 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 5/13-15 | Mt.A. | 1 | A. Trautmann, v.o. | 5/25 | Plymouth B. | 10 | BBC (GdE) |
| White-eyed Vireo | | | | Cliff Swallow | | | |
| 5/3-6/10 | Reports of indiv. from | 25 | locations | 5/4 | Chestnut Hill | 2 | R. Merrill# |
| 5/13 | Mt.A. | 2 | R. Stymeist# | 5/12 | Chatham | 2 | R. Debenham |
| 5/21 | Westport | 3 | BBC (R. Stymeist) | 5/25 | GMNWR | 12 | C. Cook |
| 5/21 | Scusset B. | 2 | B. Harris | 5/25 | P.I. | 2 | B. Harris# |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | | | | 5/25 | Newbury | 2 | J. Berry# |
| 5/5 | ONWR | 3 | J. Hoye# | 6/13 | Amesbury | 2 | S. McGrath |
| 5/10 | S. Quabbin | 17 | M. Lynch# | 6/29 | Cheshire | 60 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/10 | Quabbin Pk | 5 | J. Hoye# | Red-breasted Nuthatch | | | |
| 5/11 | W. Warren | 3 | B. Zajda | 5/3 | P.I. | 2 | BBC (L. de la Flor) |
| 5/12 | Ware R. IBA | 3 | M. Lynch# | 5/12 | Ware R. IBA | 15 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/24 | Bolton Flats | 3 | G. d'Entremont | 5/25 | Quabbin (G35) | 4 | B. Zajda# |
| 5/25 | Great Barrington | 7 | M. Lynch# | 6/10 | Boxford (C.P.) | 2 | J. Berry# |
| 6/6 | Groveland | 3 | P. + F. Vale | 6/19 | Ashby | 2 | J. Forbes |
| Blue-headed Vireo | | | | 6/22 | October Mt. | 4 | SSBC (GdE) |
| 5/3 | P'town | 8 | B. Nikula | 6/28 | Russell | 3 | S. Kellogg |
| 5/3 | Mt.A. | 6 | P. + F. Vale# | Brown Creeper | | | |
| 5/3 | Medford | 7 | M. Rines | 5/2 | Ware R. IBA | 11 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/3 | P.I. | 6 | BBC (L. de la Flor) | 5/3 | Carlisle | 5 | A. Ankers# |
| 5/11 | Gloucester (E.P.) | 6 | S. Hedman | 5/3 | Boxford | 5 | SSBC (Emmons) |
| 6/21 | Mt. Greylock | 5 | SSBC (GdE) | 5/10 | Wompatuck SP | 4 | BBC (GdE) |
| 6/24 | Winchendon | 2 | T. Pirro | 6/14 | Concord | 19 | C. + J. Winstanley |
| Warbling Vireo | | | | House Wren | | | |
| 5/3 | Woburn (HP) | 6 | J. Thomas | 5/8 | W. Newbury | 6 | P. + F. Vale |
| 5/16 | Quabog IBA | 19 | M. Lynch# | 5/11 | Gloucester (E.P.) | 6 | BBC (S. Hedman) |
| 5/28 | Wakefield | 10 | P. + F. Vale | 5/16 | Quabog IBA | 22 | M. Lynch# |
| 6/1 | GMNWR | 10 | BBC (J. Forbes) | 6/15 | Warren | 10 | M. Lynch# |
| 6/29 | Cheshire | 14 | M. Lynch# | 6/29 | Cheshire | 10 | M. Lynch# |
| Philadelphia Vireo | | | | Winter Wren | | | |
| 5/13 | Cheshire | 1 | K. Hanson | 5/3 | Boxford | 4 | SSBC (Emmons) |
| 5/25 | P.I. | 1 | B. Harris# | 5/10 | Wompatuck SP | 3 | BBC (GdE) |
| 5/26 | Nahant | 1 | L. Pivacek | 6/2 | Hawley | 4 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/29 | Brewster | 1 b | S. Finnegan | 6/2 | Cohasset | 5 | V. Zollo |
| Red-eyed Vireo | | | | 6/14 | Concord | 4 | C. + J. Winstanley |
| 5/16 | Hadley | 21 | G. d'Entremont# | Marsh Wren | | | |
| 5/25 | Quabbin (G35) | 33 | B. Zajda# | 5/7 | Bolton Flats | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| 6/1 | Warwick | 83 | M. Lynch# | 5/10 | Burlington | 2 | M. Rines |
| 6/2 | Hawley | 114 | M. Lynch# | 5/16 | P.I. | 20 | T. Wetmore |
| 6/21 | Mt. Greylock | 91 | SSBC (GdE) | 6/4 | Wellfleet | 12 | S. Broker |
| 6/22 | October Mt. | 46 | SSBC (GdE) | 6/9 | W. Harwich | 15 | C. Schloegel# |
| 6/22 | Wendell | 110 | M. Lynch# | 6/25 | GMNWR | 38 | A. Bragg# |
| Fish Crow | | | | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | | | |
| 5/11 | Ipswich | 2 | J. Berry | 5/3 | Wayland | 7 | G. Long |
| 5/12 | BWWS | 12 | S. Perri | 5/4 | IRWS | 12 | M. Brengle# |
| 5/26 | S. Weymouth | 2 | G. d'Entremont | 5/4 | W. Warren | 7 | B. Zajda |
| 5/26 | Gloucester (E.P.) | 2 | S. Hedman | 5/7 | GMNWR | 8 | A. Bragg# |
| 6/21 | Marion | 3 | M. Lynch# | 5/10 | S. Quabbin | 10 | M. Lynch# |

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (continued) | | | 6/26 | Wellfleet | 2 | M. Faherty |
| 5/11 | P'town | 8 | | American Pipit | | |
| 6/14 | Milton | 9 | | 5/7 | Sheffield | 3 |
| 6/14 | GMNWR | 15 | BBC (Z. Weber) | 5/11 | WBWS | 5 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | | | | 5/26 | Chatham | 1 |
| 5/11 | Petersham | 2 | M. Lynch# | Cedar Waxwing | | |
| 6/7 | Granville | 3 | S. Kellogg | 5/26 | P.I. | 150 |
| 6/9 | Norfolk | 4 | M. Iliff | 5/27 | Medford | 47 |
| 6/14 | Washington | 2 | S. Kellogg | 6/7 | Chatham | 512 |
| 6/17 | W. Roxbury | 3 | M. Iliff | 6/7 | N. Truro | 48 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | | | | Ovenbird | | |
| 5/3 | Mt.A. | 16 | M. Sabourin# | 5/3 | W. Warren | 13 |
| 5/3 | P'town | 10 | B. Nikula | 5/4, 6/14 | Concord | 16, 68 |
| 5/3 | P.I. | 16 | BBC (L. de la Flor) | 5/4 | Wompatuck SP | 28 |
| 5/8 | Chatham | 14 | R. Schain | 5/12 | Ware R. IBA | 138 |
| 5/8 | Manomet | 19 b | T. Lloyd-Evans | 6/1 | Freetown | 56 |
| 6/1 | P.I. | 1 | J. Hoye# | 6/14 | Manchester | 47 |
| Veery | | | | Worm-eating Warbler | | |
| 5/4, 6/14 | Concord | 1, 17 | C. Winstanley | 5/3, 6/7 | Hadley | 1, 4 |
| 5/24 | Ware R. IBA | 39 | M. Lynch# | 5/5-21 | Reports of indiv. in 9 locations | |
| 5/25 | Quabbin (G35) | 12 | B. Zajda# | 5/10 | Wompatuck SP | 4 |
| 5/31 | Great Barrington | 38 | M. Lynch# | 5/22 | Mashpee | 3 |
| 6/1 | Freetown | 22 | BBC (L. Abbey) | 6/19 | Sharon | 2 |
| 6/14 | Manchester | 15 | J. Berry | 6/21 | Marlboro | 1 |
| 6/22 | October Mt. | 11 | SSBC (GdE) | 6/25 | Milton | 3 |
| 6/29 | Cheshire | 51 | M. Lynch# | Louisiana Waterthrush | | |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | | | | 5/3 | Pepperell | 2 |
| 5/27 | Manomet | 1 b | T. Lloyd-Evans | 5/4 | Spencer | 7 |
| 5/30 | P.I. | 1 b | B. Flemer# | 5/4 | Wompatuck SP | 3 |
| 6/1 | Roxbury | 1 | M. Garvey | 5/8 | Holden | 2 |
| Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush | | | | 6/19 | Groton | 1 |
| 5/12 | Ware R. IBA | 1 | M. Lynch# | 6/21 | W. Leyden | 1 |
| 5/13 | Medford | 1 | M. Rines# | Northern Waterthrush | | |
| 5/14 | Mt.A. | 1 | L. Kramer# | 5/8 | MINWS | 4 |
| 5/15 | Cambr. (F.P.) | 1 | J. Trimble | 5/8 | P.I. | 9 |
| 5/16 | Easthampton | 1 | T. Gagnon | 5/14 | GMNWR | 6 |
| 6/1 | P.I. | 1 | J. Hoye# | 6/1 | Freetown | 7 |
| Swainson's Thrush | | | | 6/14 | Concord | 21 |
| 5/8 | Dorchester | 1 | J. Taylor | 6/22 | October Mt. | 4 |
| 5/8 | Longmeadow | 1 | M. Moore | Golden-winged Warbler | | |
| 5/14 | Medford | 7 | M. Rines | 5/3 | W. Warren | 1 |
| 5/15 | Cambr. (F.P.) | 6 | J. Trimble | 5/28 | Cheshire | 1 |
| 5/26 | P.I. | 6 | T. Wetmore | Blue-winged Warbler | | |
| 6/21 | Mt. Greylock | 3 | SSBC (GdE) | 5/3 | Medfield | 3 |
| 6/28 | Russell | 1 | J. Weeks | 5/7 | Bedford | 9 |
| Hermit Thrush | | | | 5/7 | Concord | 9 |
| 5/2 | P'town | 5 | B. Nikula | 5/12 | Pepperell | 18 |
| 5/3 | Boston (F.Pk) | 7 | P. Peterson | 5/26 | S. Weymouth | 13 |
| 5/3 | Mt.A. | 6 | F. Lehman | 6/14 | Milton | 7 |
| 5/12 | Ware R. IBA | 19 | M. Lynch# | 6/15 | Warren | 6 |
| 6/14 | Manchester | 6 | J. Berry | Brewster's Warbler | | |
| 6/22 | October Mt. | 7 | SSBC (GdE) | 5/8 | P.I. | 1 |
| Wood Thrush | | | | Black-and-white Warbler | | |
| 5/4 | Wompatuck SP | 5 | I. Davies# | 5/4 | Jamaica Plain | 12 |
| 5/8 | Cambr. (F.Pd) | 6 | M. Badger | 5/4 | Waltham | 10 |
| 5/11 | W. Warren | 6 | B. Zajda | 5/10 | Mt.A. | 27 |
| 5/11 | W. Newbury | 6 | K. Elwell | 5/10 | S. Quabbin | 16 |
| 5/16 | Quabog IBA | 17 | M. Lynch# | 5/11 | Gloucester (E.P.) | 15 |
| 6/8 | Topshfield | 10 | J. Berry# | 5/11 | Medford | 48 |
| 6/14 | Milton | 7 | P. Peterson | 5/11 | P'town | 17 |
| Gray Catbird | | | | 5/12 | Ware R. IBA | 18 |
| 5/3 | Scituate | 8 | S. Maguire | 5/12 | Manomet | 15 b |
| 5/11 | Gloucester (E.P.) | 50 | S. Hedman | 5/12 | P.I. | 12 |
| 5/12 | P.I. | 69 | G. d'Entremont# | 5/13 | Waltham | 15 |
| 6/14 | Concord | 46 | C. + J. Winstanley | 5/14 | DFWS | 10 |
| 6/14 | Milton | 44 | P. Peterson | 5/31 | Great Barrington | 18 |
| 6/15 | Warren | 69 | M. Lynch# | 6/1 | Freetown | 12 |
| Brown Thrasher | | | | 6/2 | Hawley | 14 |
| 5/3 | Bolton Flats | 3 | M. Lynch# | 6/22 | Wendell | 19 |
| 5/3 | W. Warren | 3 | B. Zajda | Prothonotary Warbler | | |
| 5/11 | Gloucester (E.P.) | 3 | BBC (S. Hedman) | 5/18-20 | Newton | 1 |
| 5/15 | P.I. | 12 | P. + F. Vale | 5/20 | DWWS | 1 |

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|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------|------------------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| Prothonotary Warbler (continued) | | | 5/18 | Roxbury | 2 | P. Peterson |
| 5/30 Salem | 1 | K. Val | | | | |
| Tennessee Warbler | | | | Cerulean Warbler | | |
| 5/15 Medford | 3 | M. Rines# | 5/7 | S. Quabbin | 1 | T. Gagnon |
| 5/15 Pepperell | 9 | A. Bostick | 5/13 | Williamstown | 1 | B. Bomkamp |
| 5/18 Amherst | 4 | L. Therrien | 5/23 | Mt Holyoke | 1 | J. Oliverio |
| 5/18 Agawam | 3 | S. Kellogg | 5/27 | Wompatuck SP | 1 | E. Giles |
| 5/20 S. Quabbin | 7 | L. Therrien | 5/29 | Quabbin (G8) | 1 | P. + F. Vale |
| 5/20 MNWS | 3 | J. Hoye# | 6/7 | Granville | 1 | S. Kellogg |
| 5/21 P'town | 2 | B. Nikula | | Northern Parula | | |
| 6/8 P.I. | 1 | S. Grinley# | 5/3 | Mt.A. | 25 | F. Lehman |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | | | 5/11 | Medford | 72 | M. Rines |
| 5/6 Manomet | 1 b | T. Lloyd-Evans | 5/12 | P.I. | 28 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 5/11 Medford | 1 | S. Simpson | 5/12 | Westport | 22 | P. Champlin# |
| 5/12 Manomet | 1 b | T. Lloyd-Evans | 5/14 | Worcester | 21 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/13 Concord | 1 | J. Winstanley# | 5/21 | P'town | 16 | B. Nikula |
| 5/13 Sharon | 1 | BBC (GdE) | 6/12 | Mashpee | 2 | J. Baldwin |
| Nashville Warbler | | | | Magnolia Warbler | | |
| 5/3, 5/11 Medford | 2, 16 | M. Rines | 5/3, 15 | Mt.A. | 4, 16 | BBC (D. Hursh) |
| 5/8 Cambr. (F.Pd) | 6 | M. Badger | 5/3, 19 | Medford | 1, 44 | M. Rines |
| 5/11 Ipswich | 8 | M. Brengle | 5/13 | Sharon | 32 | L. Waters |
| 5/12 Sudbury | 6 | T. Spahr | 5/21 | P'town | 14 | B. Nikula |
| 5/12 P.I. | 8 | K. Elwell | 5/27 | Manomet | 45 b | T. Lloyd-Evans |
| 6/9 Ware R. IBA | 1 | M. Lynch# | 6/21 | Mt. Greylock | 3 | SSBC (GdE) |
| | | | 6/28 | Quabbin (G40) | 3 | S. Miller# |
| Mourning Warbler | | | | Bay-breasted Warbler | | |
| 5/13-6/9 | Reports of indiv. from 32 locations | | 5/5 | S. Quabbin | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/25 Great Barrington | 3 | M. Lynch# | 5/13 | Quabbin | 5 | M. Rines# |
| 5/25 P.I. | 2 | B. Harris# | 5/13 | Pepperell | 4 | A. Bostick |
| 6/2 Manomet | 5 b | T. Lloyd-Evans | 5/14 | Longmeadow | 2 | J. Orcutt |
| 6/2 Hawley | 2 | M. Lynch# | 5/14 | Mt.A. | 5 | BBC (D. Hursh) |
| 6/21 Mt. Greylock | 2 | SSBC (GdE) | 5/18 | Amherst | 2 | L. Therrien |
| 6/22 October Mt. | 2 | SSBC (GdE) | 5/25 | Nantucket | 6 | K. Blackshaw# |
| Kentucky Warbler | | | 5/25 | P.I. | 8 | B. Harris# |
| 5/2 Manomet | 1 b | T. Lloyd-Evans | | Blackburnian Warbler | | |
| 5/3-08 MNWS | 1 | L. Pivacek | 5/5 | S. Quabbin | 5 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/14 Longmeadow | 1 | E. Rutman | 5/12 | P.I. | 8 | K. Elwell |
| 5/17 Fall River | 1 | P. Champlin | 5/25 | Great Barrington | 17 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/19 Vineyard Haven | 1 | L. McDowell | 5/25 | Medford | 6 | M. Rines |
| 5/20 W. Warren | 1 | B. Zajda details | 6/2 | Hawley | 13 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/21-25 Uxbridge | 1 | C. Rosenblatt# | 6/21 | Mt. Greylock | 24 | SSBC (GdE) |
| 5/30 P.I. | 1 | S. Sullivan | 6/22 | Wendell | 14 | M. Lynch# |
| Common Yellowthroat | | | | Yellow Warbler | | |
| 5/4-30 P.I. | 329 b | B. Flemer# | 5/4 | Spencer | 17 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/12 Ware R. IBA | 84 | M. Lynch# | 5/12 | P.I. | 71 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 5/13 Lexington | 33 | J. Andrews | 5/16 | Quabog IBA | 41 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/14 GMNWR | 37 | A. Bragg# | 5/24 | Bolton Flats | 26 | G. d'Entremont |
| 5/16 Quabog IBA | 66 | M. Lynch# | 6/1 | Freetown | 25 | BBC (L. Abbey) |
| 5/26 S. Weymouth | 31 | G. d'Entremont | 6/14 | Milton | 41 | P. Peterson |
| 6/14 Milton | 34 | P. Peterson | | Chestnut-sided Warbler | | |
| Hooded Warbler | | | 5/3, 19 | Medford | 1, 14 | M. Rines |
| 5/4-6/7 | Reports of indiv. from 16 locations | | 5/12 | Ware R. IBA | 55 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/4 MNWS | 2 | S. Sullivan | 5/13 | Pepperell | 15 | A. Bostick |
| 5/9 Mt.A. | 2 | S. Simpson | 5/13 | Concord | 13 | J. Winstanley# |
| 6/1 Freetown | 2 | BBC (L. Abbey) | 5/25 | Quabbin (G35) | 10 | B. Zajda# |
| 6/21 Westfield | 3 | M. Moore | 5/31 | Great Barrington | 85 | M. Lynch# |
| American Redstart | | | 6/21 | Mt. Greylock | 18 | SSBC (GdE) |
| 5/4 Wompatuck SP | 11 | I. Davies# | | Blackpoll Warbler | | |
| 5/6, 19 Medford | 2, 63 | M. Rines | 5/4 | Chestnut Hill | 1 | P. DeGennaro |
| 5/16 Quabog IBA | 38 | M. Lynch# | 5/13 | Medford | 20 | M. Rines# |
| 5/21 P'town | 12 | B. Nikula | 5/13 | P'town | 7 | R. Merrill |
| 5/22 P.I. | 60 | S. Sullivan | 5/14 | Mt.A. | 18 | BBC (D. Hursh) |
| 5/25 Great Barrington | 62 | M. Lynch# | 5/25 | Nantucket | 8 | K. Blackshaw# |
| 6/1 Freetown | 22 | BBC (L. Abbey) | 6/21 | Mt. Greylock | 4 | SSBC (GdE) |
| 6/21 Mt. Greylock | 13 | BBC (GdE) | | Black-throated Blue Warbler | | |
| Cape May Warbler | | | 5/3, 12 | Mt.A. | 2, 18 | v.o. |
| 5/5-26 | Reports of indiv. from 25 locations | | 5/3, 12 | P.I. | 1, 27 | v.o. |
| 5/12 P.I. | 5 | K. Elwell | 5/11 | Medford | 32 | M. Rines |
| 5/13 Medford | 2 | R. LaFontaine | 5/11 | Ipswich | 16 | M. Brengle |
| 5/14 Sheffield | 4 | K. Hanson | 5/13 | Waltham | 13 | J. Forbes |
| 5/14 Mt.A. | 2 | BBC (D. Hursh) | 5/21 | P'town | 10 | B. Nikula |
| 5/15 Windsor | 3 | L. Hoffman | 5/25 | Great Barrington | 23 | M. Lynch# |

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| Black-throated Blue Warbler (continued) | 5/26 | S. Weymouth | 25 | G. d'Entremont |
| 6/21 Mt. Greylock 24 | SSBC (GdE)\ | 6/1 Freetown | 60 | BBC (L. Abbey) |
| Palm Warbler | | Clay-colored Sparrow | | |
| 5/3 P'town 22 | B. Nikula | 5/4 P'town | 1 | M. Faherty# |
| 5/3 Gloucester 45 | B. Harris | 5/15 P.I. | 1 | T. Wetmore# |
| 5/3 Mt.A. 20 | F. Lehman | 5/18 Pepperell | 1 | A. Bostick |
| 5/6 Reading 22 | D. Williams | 5/20 Belchertown | 1 | D. Griffiths |
| 5/12 Newbypt 1 | P. + F. Vale | 5/30, 6/28 Sandwich | 3, 2 | J. McCumber |
| 5/12 P.I. 1 | K. Elwell | 6/6 Weymouth | 2 | P. Peterson |
| Western Palm Warbler | | Field Sparrow | | |
| 5/29 Boston (PG) 1 | T. Factor | 5/3 WBWS | 6 | M. Faherty |
| Pine Warbler | | 5/4 Pepperell | 12 | A. Bostick |
| 5/2 Ware R. IBA 55 | M. Lynch# | 5/4 W. Warren | 4 | B. Zajda |
| 5/2 P'town 26 | B. Nikula | 5/5 Falmouth | 9 | M. Malin |
| 5/4 Wompatuck SP 20 | I. Davies# | 5/13 Sharon | 4 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 5/5 S. Quabbin 30 | M. Lynch# | 5/26 S. Weymouth | 9 | G. d'Entremont |
| 6/1 Freetown 28 | BBC (L. Abbey) | Vesper Sparrow | | |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | | 5/7 Hadley | 2 | L. Hoffman |
| 5/2 P'town 90 | B. Nikula | 5/10 P.I. | 1 | B. Harris |
| 5/2 P.I. 300 | P. + F. Vale | 5/10 Concord | 2 | O. Burton |
| 5/3 Gloucester 200 | B. Harris | 5/17 Sandwich | 1 | J. Trimble |
| 5/8 Medford 75 | M. Rines | 5/25 Plymouth | 2 | SSBC (GdE) |
| 5/13 Mt.A. 80 | R. Stymeist# | 6/15 Lancaster | 2 | C. Buelow# |
| 6/21 Mt. Greylock 11 | SSBC (GdE) | Savannah Sparrow | | |
| 6/22 Wendell 4 | M. Lynch# | 5/3 P.I. | 10 | T. Wetmore |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | | 5/26 S. Weymouth | 13 | G. d'Entremont |
| 5/2 P'town 1 | B. Nikula | 6/29 Cheshire | 26 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/2 Medfield 1 | B. Harris | Grasshopper Sparrow | | |
| 5/4-5 Chestnut Hill 1 | R. Doherty# | 5/20 Sunderland | 2 | B. Lafley |
| 5/13 Falmouth 1 | J. Pratt | 5/24 Lancaster | 2 | G. d'Entremont |
| 6/21 Hingham (WE) 1 | P. Edmundson# | 5/24 Falmouth | 5 | BBC (R. Petersen) |
| Prairie Warbler | | 6/8 Westover | 6 | H. Schwartz |
| 5/3, 12 Westport 2, 6 | P. Champlin | 6/28 Sandwich | 3 | J. McCumber# |
| 5/13 Bedford 5 | A. Bragg# | Nelson's Sparrow | | |
| 5/14 Grafton 8 | L. Hennis | 5/26 Fairhaven | 1 | C. Longworth |
| 5/25 Quabbin (G35) 6 | B. Zajda# | 5/30 P.I. | 1 | K. Hansen |
| 5/31 Newbury 5 | G. d'Entremont | 6/2 E. Boston (B.I.) | 1 | M. Iliff |
| 6/1 Freetown 15 | BBC (L. Abbey) | Saltmarsh Sparrow | | |
| 6/22 Wendell 5 | M. Lynch# | 5/29 Chatham | 15 | J. Baldwin# |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | | 6/7 Westport | 7 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/2, 21 P'town 3, 13 | B. Nikula | 6/19 Barnstable | 15 | P. Crosson |
| 5/3, 11 Medford 3, 18 | M. Rines | 6/21 S. Dart. (A.Pd) | 20 | C. Floyd |
| 5/3, 12 P.I. 11, 30 | v.o. | 6/24 P.I. | 12 | T. Wetmore |
| 5/8 W. Newbury 13 | P. + F. Vale | Seaside Sparrow | | |
| 5/13 Waltham 11 | J. Forbes | 6/8 P.I. | 6 | T. Wetmore |
| 6/22 Wendell 29 | M. Lynch# | 6/13 Chatham | 1 | R. Schain |
| Canada Warbler | | 6/21 S. Dart. (A.Pd) | 5 | C. Floyd |
| 5/8, 25 Medford 1, 11 | M. Rines | Lincoln's Sparrow | | |
| 5/12 Ware R. IBA 9 | M. Lynch# | 5/11 Ipswich | 2 | M. Brengle |
| 5/14 Mt.A. 5 | BBC (D. Hursh) | 5/12 Sudbury | 3 | T. Spahr |
| 6/14 Concord 4 | C. Winstanley | 5/13 Sharon | 5 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 6/22 October Mt. 3 | SSBC (GdE) | 5/14 DFWS | 2 | P. Sowizral |
| 6/22 Wendell 8 | M. Lynch# | White-throated Sparrow | | |
| Wilson's Warbler | | 5/4 Squantum | 50 | G. d'Entremont |
| 5/3 Westford 1 | S. Beaudreault | 5/7 W. Roxbury | 40 | R. Schain# |
| 5/8, 14 Medford 3, 15 | M. Rines | 5/9 Wellfleet | 24 | M. Faherty |
| 5/11 Gloucester (E.P.) 5 | S. Hedman | 5/12 P.I. | 75 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 5/12 Manomet 7 b | T. Lloyd-Evans | 6/22 October Mt. | 12 | SSBC (GdE) |
| 5/13 Mt.A. 6 | R. Stymeist# | 6/29 Moran WMA | 4 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/15 Woburn (HP) 8 | M. Rines | White-crowned Sparrow | | |
| 5/25 P.I. 11 | B. Harris# | 5/10 Lenox | 2 | R. Laubach |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | | 5/10 S. Quabbin | 7 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/14 Newton 1 | J. Forbes | 5/11 N. Truro | 2 | J. Duggan |
| 6/7 Orleans 1 | C. Goodrich | 5/12 P.I. | 5 | G. d'Entremont# |
| Eastern Towhee | | 5/13 IRWS | 2 | S. Santino |
| 5/2 P.I. 27 | P. + F. Vale | 5/14 P'town | 2 | E. Hoopes |
| 5/5 S. Quabbin 29 | M. Lynch# | Dark-eyed Junco | | |
| 5/12 Ware R. IBA 38 | M. Lynch# | 6/2 Hadley | 8 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/18 Nantucket 45 | K. Blackshaw | 6/20 Pittsfield SF | 12 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/23 Falmouth 24 | K. Fiske | 6/21 Mt. Greylock | 27 | SSBC (GdE) |

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| Dark-eyed Junco (continued) | | | | | | | | |
| 6/22 | October Mt. | 5 | SSBC (GdE) | | Bobolink | Wayland | 2 | A. McCarthy# |
| Slate-colored Junco X White-throated Sparrow | | | | | 5/11 | W. Newbury | 20 | K. Elwell |
| 5/8 | Manomet | 1 b | T. Lloyd-Evans | | 5/14 | GMNWR | 15 | A. Bragg# |
| Summer Tanager | | | | | 6/15 | Essex | 28 | J. Berry# |
| 5/3 | WBWS | 1 | J. Riehl# | | 6/29 | Cheshire | 45 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/5 | P.I. | 1 | D. Williams# | | Eastern Meadowlark | | | |
| 5/5 | P'town | 1 | M. Faherty# | | 5/20 | Amesbury | 2 | S. McGrath# |
| 5/11 | Nahant | 1 | L. Pivacek | | 5/29 | Wachusett Res. | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/12 | Manomet | 1 b | T. Lloyd-Evans | | 6/8 | Westover | 5 | H. Schwartz |
| 5/14 | Bourne | 1 | S. Cerchio | | 6/12 | Southwick | 3 | P. Desjardins |
| Scarlet Tanager | | | | | 6/14 | Weymouth | 11 | G. d'Entremont |
| 5/4,6/14 | Concord | 4, 22 | C. Winstanley | | 6/16 | Woburn | 6 | M. Rines |
| 5/13 | Waltham | 6 | J. Forbes | | 6/29 | Cheshire | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/14 | Medford | 7 | M. Rines | | Rusty Blackbird | | | |
| 5/24 | Ipswich | 7 | J. Berry | | 5/6 | Amherst | 4 | S. Surner |
| 6/21 | Mt. Greylock | 6 | BBC (GdE) | | 5/7 | Lexington | 5 | J. Forbes |
| 6/22 | Wendell | 22 | M. Lynch# | | 5/7 | S. Quabbin | 8 | L. Therrien |
| Western Tanager | | | | | 5/11 | Westport | 2 | P. Champlin |
| 5/1-2 | Auburn | 1 ph | Stephanie Stokes | | 5/12 | Longmeadow | 1 | M. Moore |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | | | | | Orchard Oriole | | | |
| 5/11 | W. Newbury | 8 | K. Elwell | | 5/6 | Boston (BNC) | 4 | BBC (M. Kaufman) |
| 5/11 | Gloucester (E.P.) | 12 | S. Hedman | | 5/8 | Wayland | 4 | B. Harris# |
| 5/12 | Sudbury | 12 | T. Spahr | | 5/8 | Falmouth | 12 | M. Malin |
| 5/18 | Middleton | 8 | J. Berry# | | 5/10 | Marlboro | 4 | T. Spahr |
| 5/25 | Great Barrington | 14 | M. Lynch# | | 5/11 | WBWS | 5 | M. Detrey |
| 6/8 | Lexington | 7 | C. Cook | | 5/11 | W. Newbury | 4 | K. Elwell |
| 6/14 | Milton | 9 | P. Peterson | | 5/27 | Hadley | 3 | L. Therrien |
| Blue Grosbeak | | | | | Baltimore Oriole | | | |
| 5/3 | Westfield | 1 | J. Kraus | | 5/12 | Ware R. IBA | 19 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/5 | Nantucket | 1 | K. Blackshaw# | | 5/14 | Rowley | 19 | J. Berry |
| 5/22 | Weymouth | 1 | D. Chandler | | 5/16 | Quabog IBA | 21 | M. Lynch# |
| 5/27 | Westport | 4 | P. Champlin | | 6/7 | Chatham | 37 | R. Schain |
| Indigo Bunting | | | | | Purple Finch | | | |
| 5/2 | Chestnut Hill | 1 | N. Hayward | | thr | P.I. | 15 max | v.o. |
| 5/12 | Sudbury | 8 | T. Spahr | | 5/1 | Bolton | 2 | J. Moosbrucker |
| 5/26 | Newbury | 7 | J. Berry | | 5/17 | Sandwich | 2 | J. Trimble |
| 5/27 | Waltham | 6 | J. Forbes | | 6/1 | Wompatuck SP | 3 | R. Stymeist# |
| 6/8 | MBWMA | 7 | M. Brengle# | | 6/14 | New Marlboro | 7 | M. Lynch# |
| 6/21 | Mt. Greylock | 6 | SSBC (GdE) | | 6/15 | Essex | 3 | J. Berry# |
| 6/29 | Cheshire | 10 | M. Lynch# | | 6/21 | Mt. Greylock | 4 | SSBC (GdE) |
| Painted Bunting | | | | | 6/22 | October Mt. | 7 | SSBC (GdE) |
| 5/14 | Chappaquiddick | 1 m ph | A. Slater | | Red Crossbill | | | |
| Dickcissel | | | | | 6/18, 26 | New Salem | 1 | Dalton, Therrien |
| 5/11 | E. Orleans | 1 | S. Moore | | Evening Grosbeak | | | |
| 6/11-22 | Sharon | 1 | V. Zollo# | | 6/2 | Hawley | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| | | | | | 6/11 | Plymouth (MSSF) | 2 | SSBC (GdE) |



Wood Duck by Maxime Pitchon. Third Place, Grades 7-9. Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Program.

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, up to the 53rd Supplement, as published in *Auk* 129 (3): 573-88 (2012) (see <<http://checklist.aou.org/>>).

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Locations | | ONWR | Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge |
| Location-# | MAS Breeding Bird Atlas Block | PG | Public Garden, Boston |
| A.A. | Arnold Arboretum, Boston | P.I. | Plum Island |
| ABC | Allen Bird Club | Pd | Pond |
| A.P. | Andrews Point, Rockport | POP | Point of Pines, Revere |
| A.Pd | Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth | PR | Pinnacle Rock, Malden |
| B. | Beach | P'town | Provincetown |
| Barre F.D. | Barre Falls Dam | 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 | RKG | Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston |
| BMB | Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester | S.B. | South Beach, Chatham |
| BNC | Boston Nature Center, Mattapan | S.N. | Sandy Neck, Barnstable |
| C.B. | Crane Beach, Ipswich | SRV | Sudbury River Valley |
| CGB | Coast Guard Beach, Eastham | SSBC | South Shore Bird Club |
| C.P. | Crooked Pond, Boxford | TASL | Take A Second Look, Boston Harbor Census |
| Cambr. | Cambridge | WBWS | Wellfleet Bay WS |
| CCBC | Cape Cod Bird Club | WE | World's End, Hingham |
| Corp. B. | Corporation Beach, Dennis | WMWS | Wachusett Meadow WS |
| Cumb. Farms | Cumberland Farms, Middleboro | Wompatuck SP | Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate, Norwell |
| DFWS | Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary | Worc. | Worcester |
| DWMA | Delaney WMA, Stow, Bolton, Harvard | | |
| DWWS | Daniel Webster WS | Other Abbreviations | |
| E.P. | Eastern Point, Gloucester | ad | adult |
| F.E. | First Encounter Beach, Eastham | b | banded |
| F.H. | Fort Hill, Eastham | br | breeding |
| F.P. | Fresh Pond, Cambridge | dk | dark (morph) |
| F.Pk | Franklin Park, Boston | f | female |
| G40 | Gate 40, Quabbin Res. | fide | on the authority of |
| GMNWR | Great Meadows NWR | fl | fledgling |
| H. | Harbor | imm | immature |
| H.P. | Halibut Point, Rockport | juv | juvenile |
| HP | Horn Pond, Woburn | lt | light (morph) |
| HRWMA | High Ridge WMA, Gardner | m | male |
| I. | Island | max | maximum |
| IRWS | Ipswich River WS | migr | migrating |
| L. | Ledge | n | nesting |
| MAS | Mass Audubon | ph | photographed |
| MP | Millennium Park, W. Roxbury | pl | plumage |
| M.V. | Martha's Vineyard | pr | pair |
| MBWMA | Martin Burns WMA, Newbury | S | summer (1S = 1st summer) |
| MNWS | Marblehead Neck WS | v.o. | various observers |
| MSSF | Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth | W | winter (2W = second winter) |
| Mt.A. | Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambr. | yg | young |
| NAC | Nine Acre Corner, Concord | # | additional observers |
| Newbypt | Newburyport | | |

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 email. Send written reports to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 36 Lewis Avenue, Arlington MA 02474-3206. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). For instructions on email submission, visit: <<http://massbird.org/birdobserver/sightings/>>.

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts, should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Matt Garvey, 137 Beaconsfield Rd. #5, Brookline MA 02445, or by email to <mattgarvey@gmail.com>.

ABOUT THE COVER

White-eyed Vireo

The White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) is a rather cryptic species with a big voice—it is more often heard than seen. The sexes are similar in plumage, greenish brown above except for a gray nape, and whitish to light gray below with yellow flanks. They have prominent white wing bars. The head is distinctive with a dark line from the bill to the eye that contrasts with a yellow eye stripe that bends around the eye, which gives the bird its name. Juveniles are duller, with a white rather than a yellow eye stripe, and a dark eye. Juveniles could be confused with the smaller, grayer Bell's Vireo. Six subspecies are generally recognized, with *V. g. noveboracensis* the subspecies that is found in Massachusetts. The White-eyed Vireo is one of nine closely related species that constitute a superspecies, although until recently they were all considered as subspecies of a single species.

The White-eyed Vireo's breeding range encompasses most of the eastern half of the United States north to the southern extremities of the Great Lakes and to southern Massachusetts in the east. They also breed in the northeastern portions of Mexico. Most of the population is migratory. In winter, migrants join resident birds along the Gulf Coast, from southeastern Virginia to scattered islands in the Caribbean, and south to Honduras. A few make it to Bermuda. Tower strikes suggest they are mostly nocturnal migrants. In Massachusetts White-eyed Vireos are considered local and uncommon breeders and uncommon to rare migrants. In the mid-19th century they were widespread breeders in Massachusetts, but by 1930 were largely extirpated. Since the 1940s they have made something of a comeback, primarily in the southern part of the state. They arrive in late April and are gone by October.

In breeding season White-eyed Vireos prefer scrubby habitats such as abandoned agricultural land, deciduous thickets, patches of small trees, and, in Florida, mangroves. In winter they are more cosmopolitan, and include forest habitats, possibly because of competition with resident birds. They are monogamous and may occasionally produce two broods. Only males sing in breeding season but both sexes may sing in winter. The male has at least a dozen songs that are a complex mixture of nasal, harsh notes that may include call notes copied from other species. Song typically begins and ends with *chip* notes. They also have a rambling song that includes warbling notes along with harsh ones. Young birds learn their song from their father and neighboring males. Unpaired males have a higher song rate which suggests that song may serve as a mate attractant as well as territorial advertisement. Territorial males will respond to intrusion with aggressive displays that include alternately fluffing and sleeking or with head held forward or wings flicking. This may lead to chases and grappling. White-eyed Vireos will attack intruders of other species as well. Courtship display is limited, but males closely follow females and give contact calls. Males are site faithful, returning to the same breeding territory and often to the same wintering grounds.

The female probably chooses the nest site, generally in dense vegetation. Both parents build the nest, which is usually within three feet of the ground. The nest is

a hanging cup of bark, leaves, rootlets, and lichen, held together with spider and caterpillar silk. It is lined with grass or hair. The usual clutch is four dull white eggs, speckled with various dark colors. Both parents develop brood patches and both share the incubation for the two weeks until hatching. The young are altricial, helpless, lacking down, and with eyes closed. Both parents brood the chicks for the two weeks to fledging, and both feed the young for up to three weeks post fledging. The young may remain in the parental territory throughout the breeding season.

White-eyed Vireos primarily glean from leaves and stems of shrubs, vines, and trees. They also hawk insects and may hover-glean. They prey primarily on insects, especially caterpillars, but also leafhoppers, beetles, moths, and spiders—about anything that flies or crawls. They take some fruit year-round and have been recorded eating snails and even anole lizards.

Little is known about White-eyed Vireo predators, but they likely include snakes, small mammals, and avian nest predators such as jays. In a variety of studies, cowbirds parasitized 40-83% of nests. Breeding Bird Survey data suggests declining population numbers, but the species has been extending its breeding range northward, so as long as suitable scrub habitat is available White-eyed Vireos should continue to do well. 🐦

William E. Davis, Jr.

About the Cover Artist: Barry Van Dusen

Once again, *Bird Observer* offers a painting by the artist who has created many of our covers, Barry Van Dusen. Barry, who lives in Princeton, Massachusetts, is well known in the birding world. Barry has illustrated several nature books and pocket guides, and his articles and paintings have been featured in *Birding*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and *Yankee Magazine* as well as *Bird Observer*. Barry's interest in nature subjects began in 1982 with an association with the Massachusetts Audubon Society. He has been influenced by the work of European wildlife artists and has adopted their methodology of direct field sketching. Barry teaches workshops at various locations in Massachusetts. For more information, visit Barry's website at <www.barryvandusen.com>. 🐦



Madelyn Sweet. Honorable Mention, Grades 10-12. .

AT A GLANCE

August 2014



DAVID M. LARSON

This issue's mystery bird offers a cryptic view of a swimming waterbird. A quick look at the picture could offer the impression that the bird is facing the reader because of the striking appearance of two white markings that seem to be on the bird's head. However, a more careful examination of the position of the bird's folded wings over its back indicates that the bird is facing away from the camera even though this may not be immediately obvious.

Once perspective is established, identification is simplified. The bird's uniformly dark coloration eliminates a number of identification possibilities. The appearance and location of the white markings removes all of the waterfowl, loons, and grebes; the Sooty Shearwater; and all of the cormorants and alcids. A more careful and thoughtful examination of the bird's white markings reveals that they are separated by dark feathering, which indicates that they are white outer tail feathers with the dark feathers of the tail showing in between.

The only remaining waterbirds that are uniformly dark are the Common Gallinule and the American Coot. Although gallinules possess white outer tail feathers, they are more extensively white than in coots, and they also exhibit a conspicuous white flank stripe that would almost certainly be visible in the view of the mystery photograph. And finally, close scrutiny shows a hint of some white tips to the trailing edge of the folded wing. The absence of extensive white on the tail, the lack of a white flank stripe, and the white tips to the trailing edge of the folded wing definitively identify the

mystery bird as an American Coot (*Fulica americana*). The white tips on the trailing edge of a coot's secondaries show up as a thin white stripe in flight.

American Coots are common to locally abundant fall migrants in Massachusetts on freshwater ponds and lakes, and in some years many remain if they can find sufficient open freshwater. Coots are uncommon as spring migrants in Massachusetts. They are rare as breeders and only a handful of nesting records exist for the Commonwealth. David Larson photographed this American Coot in North Dakota. 🐦

Wayne R. Petersen

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PIPING PLOVER BY SANDY SELESKY

AT A GLANCE



WAYNE PETERSEN

Can you identify the birds in this photograph?

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

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