

Bird Observer

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 2006



HOT BIRDS



Phil Brown captured this image of a **Selasphorus hummingbird** (left) visiting Richard and Kathy Penna's Boxford feeder. The bird remained for several weeks, and Phil Brown took this photo on November 20, 2005.

On November 21, 2005, Linda Pivacek discovered a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (right) at the Swampscott Beach Club, and Robb Kipp captured this breathtaking photo. This cooperative bird delighted many visitors over the following weeks.



At Wellfleet Harbor, Blair Nikula picked out a **Franklin's Gull** (left) in a large feeding flock on November 26, 2005. On December 11, Erik Nielsen took this stunning portrait of the cooperative rarity.

On December 2, 2005, Gwilym Jones discovered a female **Varied Thrush** (right) on the Fenway in Boston. Andrew Joslin took this great photograph of this western wanderer. This bird was reported by many observers through January, 2006.



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IMMATURE NORTHERN SHRIKE BY DAVID LARSON



Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal — to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds
VOL. 34, NO. 1 FEBRUARY 2006

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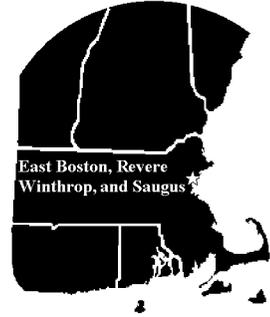
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Birding in East Boston, Winthrop, Revere, and Saugus

Soheil Zende



INTRODUCTION:

Ecology Influences History

In 1775, after the battle of Lexington and Concord, the Colonists raided and slaughtered the British army's cattle herds, which grazed in the salt marshes east and north of Boston: in other words, today's East Boston, Revere, Winthrop and Chelsea. The Colonists were in turn attacked by the British Navy. A British attack ship even sank in Chelsea Creek. And so it happened that the second battle of the Revolutionary War took place in Belle Isle Marsh, East Boston.

These salt marshes — now parts of the Rumney Marsh Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) — were important to the British because salt-marsh hay was a naturally occurring, high-protein forage for cattle. Nothing that grew in the uplands near the coast was even close in nutritional value.

Coverage in *Bird Observer*

The marshes along the northern edge of Boston have received plenty of attention from birders and naturalists over the years. In William Brewster's *Birds of the Cambridge Region* (1906) there are at least twelve citations for bird sightings (many of which were made down the barrel of a gun) at Revere Beach and in the Revere Marshes. Brewster initially refers to Revere Beach as Chelsea Beach, then says the name was recently changed.

Bob Stymeist was the first to describe the area in these pages in November 1974 ("Revere — Winthrop," *Bird Observer* 2 (6): 172-74). In his introduction to the region he quoted William Wood (*New England's Prospect*, 1634) and Obadiah Turner (journal entry, 1630) to attest to the abundance of wildlife in these parts in early colonial days as well as through the middle of the 19th century.

In November 1976 I updated Stymeist's story in "Revere — Winthrop Revisited" (*Bird Observer* 4 (6): 159-62).

In rereading those two earlier articles, I find it amusing that neither Bob nor I at the time knew that what he called "a junk-filled pond" and I referred to as the "East Boston Puddle" would soon come to be known by many of us as Rosie's Pond, part of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Belle Isle Marsh Reservation. "Rosie," incidentally, was Rose Corrado, who used to live in the little red house across Palermo Street from the pond (or puddle, as I prefer to call it). She used to come out and talk happily with the ragged folks who wandered into her neighborhood in the wee hours of the morning to look for birds. Twenty-five years ago, Rosie became the

first Friend of Belle Isle Marsh, as we formed a neighborhood group around her to watch over the marsh.

In February 1988, Jane Cumming, a crack British birder living in Winthrop at the time, contributed “Where to Find Birds in Belle Isle Marsh, East Boston” (*Bird Observer* 16 (1): 4-9).

BIRDING THE AREA:

Which Birds When

Winter was once considered the only good time to bird East Boston, Winthrop, and Revere. There were far fewer people out and about then, and the plenitude of winter waterfowl and other sea creatures was a sure attraction. Over the years, however, I have found the occurrence of birds during other seasons to be very predictable as well, almost down to the week or even day of the month.

- The second week of April, as you muck about the marshes, you’ll certainly flush Least Sandpipers.
- The third week of April, look for Glossy Ibis at the Key in Belle Isle at Revere.
- Common Terns always seem to show up on May 1 at Snake Island, Winthrop.
- If I don’t find Common Snipe in the mud at the Oasis in East Boston during the first week of May, I’m probably going to miss them for the season.
- The third week of May brings large flocks of Black-bellied Plovers to Belle Isle.
- August is the time to see the shorebird passage at the Douglas Street salt pan of Rumney Marsh.
- October is — or at least was a decade ago — the time to find an American Golden-plover at the Route 107 roost in Rumney Marsh.
- The first two weeks of November, look for migrating Red-throated Loons at Winthrop’s Five Sisters.
- The last week of November, join Bob Stymeist in his annual hunt for King Eider at Simpson’s boatyard. Even if unsuccessful, you have a chance to find an Ipswich Sparrow at Belle Isle Park.

Clearly, there are birds to fancy at each season. Nesting season is now more important to me than it was thirty years ago when I first began birding; I’ve been trying to keep track of nesting terns and shorebirds in the area. The catalog of nesting species in the area has changed over the years, but I still haven’t found an American Oystercatcher nest at Snake Island, although others have.

Access and Safety

One time, walking at Point of Pines in Revere, I was accosted by a couple of well-dressed gentlemen who inquired what I was doing. As usual, I was toting a spotting scope, and I’m used to getting questions from bystanders. Most think I’m a photographer. (Does a telescope really look like a camera?)

At any rate, I spoke a few minutes with these gentlemen, explaining what I did. Assuming that they were local residents (they sure sounded local), I offered to provide them with whatever bird and natural history data I could come up with in order to

help with the preservation of their beautiful beach. At once the more talkative of the two assumed a domineering stance and informed me in loud tones that, as mayor of Revere, he didn't need my help but that I needed his. I was speechless, and walked away. That was at least twenty years ago and remains the only negative interaction I have ever had with anyone in these coastal towns. So, if you stay away from hostile politicians, you ought to be safe!

You can get to most of the places I mention by car, MBTA, or even by bike. The T can get you to within a mile or two of just about any of them. The Blue Line is the train of choice for Revere, Winthrop, and East Boston.

And now on to the wilds of the near North Shore.

EAST BOSTON

East Boston is an island — really and truly. If you don't believe me, just try to get there some time when both tunnels are backed up and both drawbridges are up.

I exaggerate, but only a little. Let's say it's June or July, you want to drive to East Boston from Boston, and you want to end up at Belle Isle Marsh. Along the way you might want to stop at the Donald McKay Docks in Central Square to check out the tern colony.

Tern Colony at McKay Docks

Park behind Shaw's Supermarket in Central Square, near the water, and walk back and forth along the edge, looking over the docks that jut out. Some Common Terns will be on the dock directly behind the supermarket. Some are still trying to use the really rotten docks to the left. These are much easier to look down upon, but you may have to walk around construction equipment or other obstructions and fencing to see them. Good luck!

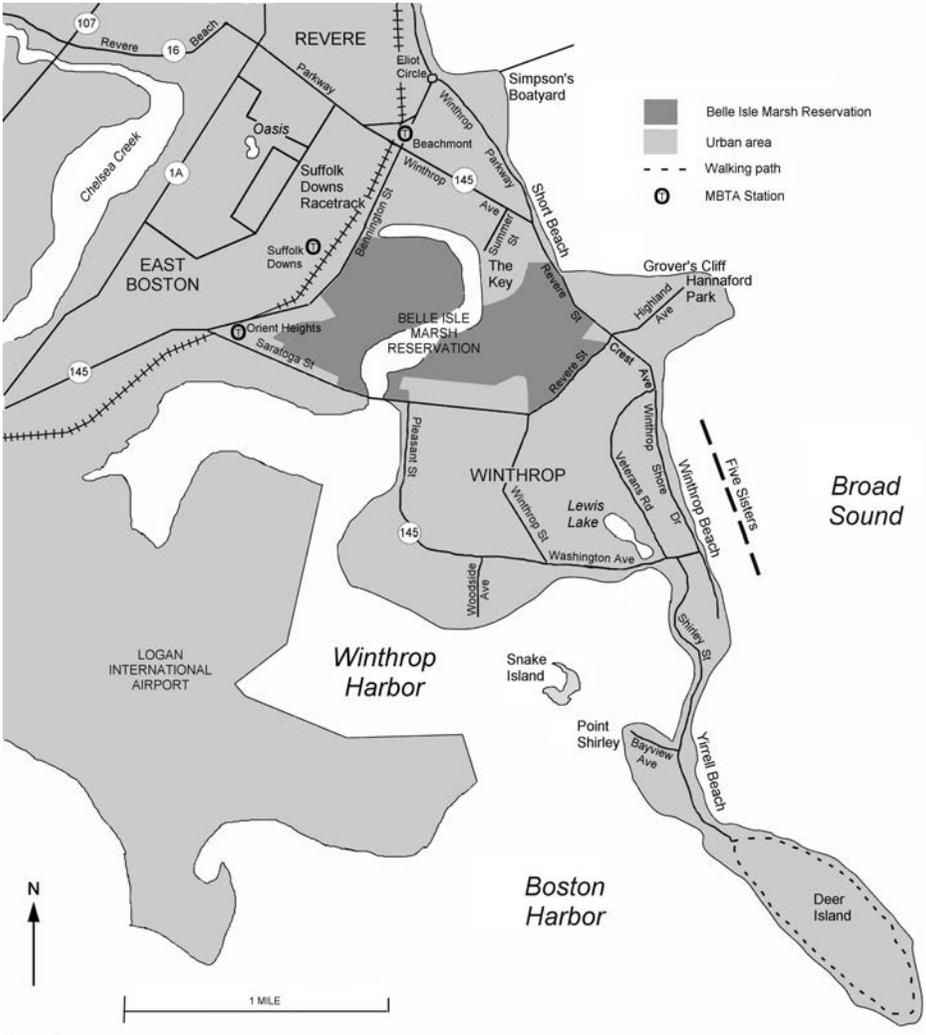
Best time of year: June, July

Best tide: Any

Directions: From south, head north on I-93 (still referred to by many as the Central Artery or the Expressway), or from the west take the Mass Turnpike (I-90). Take the Ted Williams Tunnel. Once at the airport, head for Route 1A southbound, which brings you to the entrance to the Sumner Tunnel, heading back toward Boston. (The old Eastie tunnels have different names depending on which way you're headed: Callahan if you're going away from Boston, Sumner if you're going toward Boston.)

At the last minute, before you pay the toll and enter the tunnel, bear right and you emerge shortly into Central Square, one of the oddest intersections on the planet. It is an oblong rotary with traffic going both ways around. And you want to end up in the shopping center parking lot directly across the square from where you enter it.

Since the traffic flows both ways (and many ways in between as well), you have a choice here, but take a left and enter the McDonald's parking lot. Head right in the parking lot until you reach Shaw's Supermarket. Park at the rear of the supermarket, near the water.



MAP BY DOROTHY GRAASKAMP AND SOHEIL ZENDEH

If you're coming from the north, take I-93 south to the Callahan Tunnel (follow signs for Logan Airport). Once you emerge from the tunnel, bear right immediately to get on Porter Street. Take a right immediately on Paris Street and then a right on Gove Street. Finally, take another right on Maverick Street. You'll enter Central Square within two blocks. Turn left immediately into the McDonald's parking lot. Proceed as above.

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation

Belle Isle has gone from that "old puddle in East Boston" to the crown jewel of the MDC park system. Starting with a hint from Bob Stymeist, I began to bird at the old puddle in the mid-1970s, and quickly found that, as long as I didn't mind stepping

over rusted cars and old tires, it was a perfectly good substitute for fancier spots on the North Shore, South Shore, or Cape Cod. The possibilities for herons, shorebirds, and wetland birds such as Red-winged Blackbirds, Sharp-tailed Sparrows, Northern Harriers, Short-eared Owls, and winter waterfowl are wide open.

The MDC (recently reorganized as part of DCR, the Department of Conservation and Recreation) acquired the original parcel of approximately 250 acres — which comprises most of Belle Isle Marsh in East Boston — from MassPort and the Belle Isle Drive-in Theater in the 1970s. Belle Isle Reservation was officially dedicated by Governor Dukakis on September 6, 1986.

Since then, the MDC has added several new parcels to its Belle Isle holdings, mostly in Winthrop and a little bit in Revere. Today, Belle Isle Reservation comprises nearly 300 acres, mostly of salt-marsh terrain but including some upland and filled areas. It is located in three municipalities: East Boston (approximately 200 acres), Winthrop (approximately 80 acres), and Revere (approximately 20 acres). Belle Isle Park is a 40-acre section of Belle Isle Reservation, all in East Boston, the site of the former drive-in theater and currently the main access to the reservation.



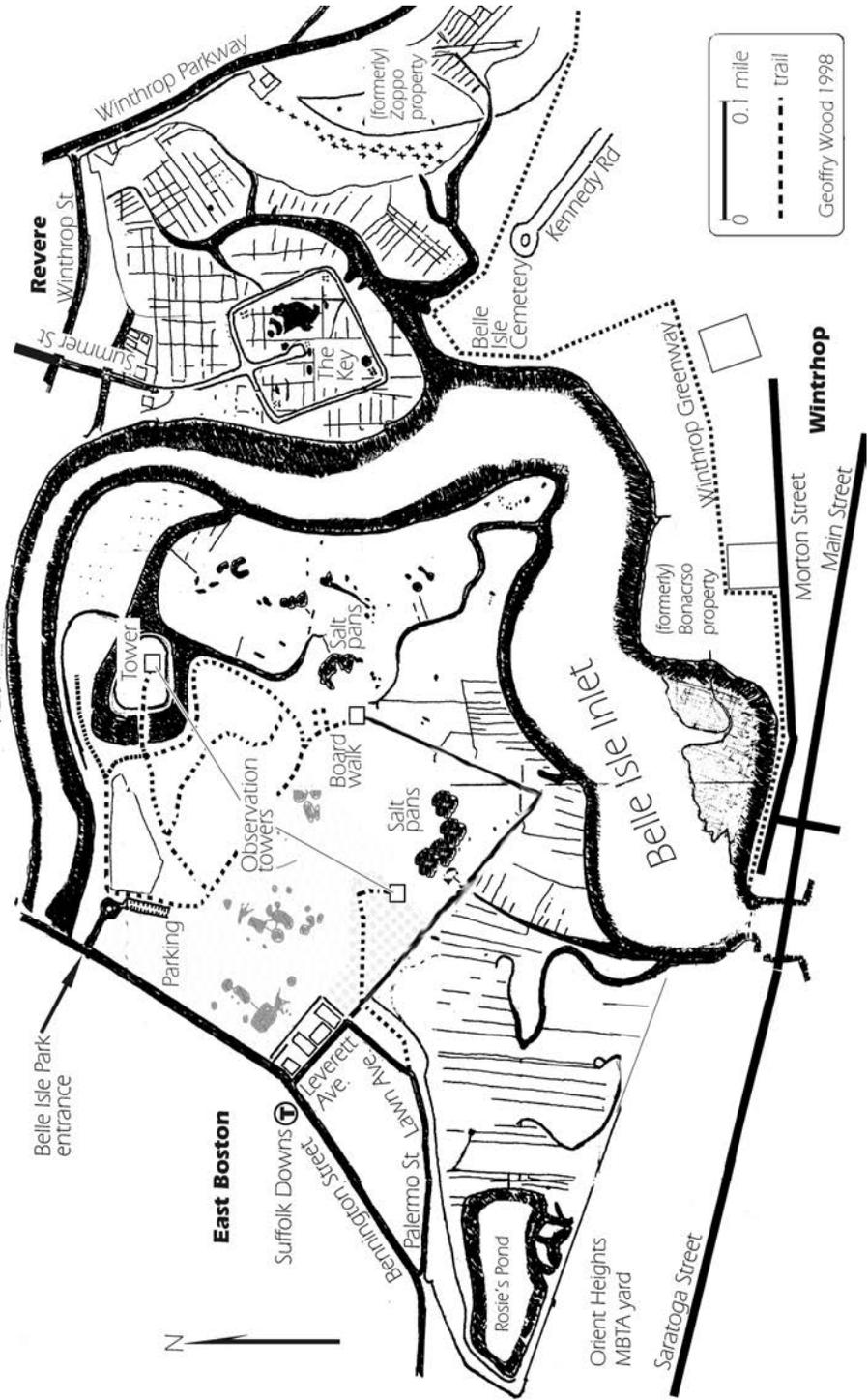
Egrets in Belle Isle marsh (photo by the author)

The Birds of Belle Isle

Heron highlights are primarily of the numerical kind: over 280 Snowy Egrets and 57 Great Egrets have been tallied at Belle Isle Marsh during one of our dawn heron censuses. However, most other east coast herons, including Great Blue, Green, Little Blue, and Tricolored, along with Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned night-herons; American and Least bitterns; and Glossy Ibis have all been sighted here as well.

Shorebird highlights include several American Avocet sightings, a Black-necked Stilt, American Golden-plovers, Marbled and Hudsonian godwits, Stilt, Pectoral, Baird's, White-rumped, and Western sandpipers, Ruff, Red Knots, Wilson's and Red-necked phalaropes, and flocks of hundreds of Short-billed Dowitchers, which, in early August, almost always include one or two bright salmon individuals of the *hendersoni* (midwestern) race. Standard shorebird fare consists of Black-bellied and Semipalmated plovers, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, and Semipalmated and Least sandpipers.

Highlights other than herons and shorebirds include Eastern Meadowlarks and Bobolinks in summer and fall in the meadow, Virginia Rails in the reeds, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel and Osprey during spring and fall migration, and the occasional Snowy Owl wandering over to the marsh from Logan Airport on a winter day.



Following are brief sketches of the best-known areas in the Reservation.

Rosie's Puddle

On Palermo Street look for the large wooden sign on the left reading "Belle Isle Marsh Reservation and Wildlife Habitat." Park anywhere along this side of the street, step over the low wooden fence, and walk to the edge of the marsh. The marsh is narrow at this point and across from you is the Bennington Street MBTA repair yard with a high chain-link fence. To your right is Rosie's Puddle. Currently the Puddle is tremendously overgrown with marsh vegetation and has not been as successful recently at attracting shorebirds and herons. You can walk to the edge of it easily — just watch the marsh ditches along the way.

Best time of year: April-October

Best tide: High

Directions: Take Route 1A north (Callahan Tunnel). About one mile north of the airport stay right and take the exit marked "145 Winthrop Revere." Bear right at the bottom of the ramp and you are on Bennington Street heading northeast. The Orient Heights T station is about one mile ahead. One-half mile past Orient Heights, take a right, but not a sharp right, on Palermo Street Park where the pavement starts again, near the big wooden Belle Isle Reservation sign. Rosie's Puddle is behind and to your right.

Alternatively, from Bennington Street bypass Palermo Street and take the next right on Leverett Avenue, directly across the street from the Suffolk Downs T station. Jimmy Magg's Restaurant at the corner of Leverett and Bennington has a plane crashing into its roof as a decoration. (Directions to the main parking lot for Belle Isle Marsh are below.)

Geoff Wood Trail and Observation Platform

From the wooden Belle Isle Reservation sign near Rosie's Puddle, walk east (left if facing the sign) and look for an opening in the fence next to the metal gate. This is the beginning of a nature trail that Geoff Wood, the ubiquitous MDC site supervisor and an excellent birder, has been maintaining for a number of years.

Follow the mowed trail to the east. Don't ignore the apple trees and the lone peach tree along this path in the fall; some of the fruit is excellent.

Soon the path enters tall reeds, goes over a berm, and enters a tiny but dense woodland worth investigating for spring and fall passerine migrants. A bit farther on, scruffier bushes take over, and Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, and Willow Flycatcher are heard and seen in springtime.

Stay on this path as it traverses a wet patch, rises slightly, and twists to the right. You'll come to a wooden observation platform, built and maintained through Geoff's efforts. Mount the stairs cautiously. Just beyond, in the open marsh, in season, there are often flocks of shorebirds and herons, and they will flush if you rush up onto the platform. But if you take your time and slowly poke your head over the top, the chance for close observation of waders at this spot is superb.

Even if there are no birds here, this is an excellent vantage point over the surrounding marsh and the woody plants and bushes you have just been traversing.

Best time of year: April-October

Best tide: High

Sireen Reinstein Memorial Boardwalk

Sireen Reinstein, a science teacher in the Winthrop public schools, was one of the founding members of the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh. The boardwalk and observation platform commemorating her were built in 1998. They are located in the center of the reservation, where the tower affords views of several large salt pans, Belle Isle Creek, and surrounding drumlins. Visit the tower first to get the lay of the land, and check the various pans and creeks, starting from the main entrance to Belle Isle Park on Bennington Street, directly across the street from Suffolk Downs racetrack.

Return to the parking lot, and walk east, heading toward the southeast corner of the park (away from the observation tower), keeping the tall-grass meadow on your left. Along the edge of the walking path, in late fall, be sure to check out the sparrows. Ipswich Sparrow is tallied here in winter almost annually.

A park bench and small row of evergreens planted on a slight rise mark the southeast corner of the park, where, formerly, the screen for the drive-in theater was located. There are still solid blocks of concrete here, referred to as Marsh-henge, marking the foundations of the screen.

A gravel path starts next to one of the concrete blocks and leads east to a short boardwalk over the marsh and then to an octagonal platform. To the northeast of the platform is a large salt pan, which at times holds significant numbers of roosting shorebirds. At dawn in summer when the tide is high, herons can fill the creeks and ditches leading to this salt pan.

Other salt pans dot the area to the north and east of the platform, and a large salt pan, better seen from the Geoff Wood observation platform, is to the southwest.

Best time of year: April-October

Best tide: High

Directions: The East Boston section of Belle Isle is directly across Bennington Street from the Suffolk Downs station of the Blue Line T. To reach it by car from Boston, take Route 1A north (Callahan Tunnel). Approximately one mile north of the airport, stay right, and take the exit marked "145 Winthrop Revere." Bear gently right at the bottom of the ramp, and you are on Bennington Street heading northeast. After one and a half miles, shortly after passing the Suffolk Downs T station on the left, the entrance to Belle Isle Park is on the right. You can park free on the street if you arrive before the gate is open. Be advised that many, many people walk their dogs in this park, and not all of them are conscientious about cleaning up after them.

Note: Other Belle Isle locations are in Revere (The Key) and Winthrop (Belle Isle Cemetery). See the appropriate section.

The Oasis

The land surrounding Suffolk Downs Racetrack is undergoing major development. Currently there is still access to what has come to be known to local hunters and birders as “The Oasis.” There is no telling how long that state of affairs will last. But meanwhile, a new wetland has been created to mitigate the effects of the building boom in the area. So the Oasis is evolving.

The Oasis is a pond and wetland next to the large complex of oil storage tanks just west of the Suffolk Downs buildings. This pond is not visible from the Suffolk Downs parking lot.

Park across the parking lot from the main Suffolk Downs building. There is a ditch just past the trees, with weeds and reeds impeding your access to the top of the berm in front of you. Scramble to the top, and look over the pond complex. In recent years the water level has been consistently high, not conducive to shorebird roosting, but along the edges be sure to check for rails, herons, and shorebirds. In the middle of the pond, American Black Ducks, Green- and Blue-winged teal, Northern Shovelers, and scaup are seen in season, with American Coot and Common Moorhen possibilities. In Late April and early May, it is almost impossible to climb the berm and not flush snipe from this spot.

Look for roosting night-herons and egrets in the trees across the way. Sometimes, through the trees, you can glimpse the pond on the other side. Getting to that pond (for better views) is feasible but quite arduous and generally not worth the trouble.

After scrambling down from the berm, be sure to scan the small artificial pond and wetland to the left. The edges often hold shorebirds during migration. After the late May nor'easter in 2005, this was the pond where Dexter Hunneman, one of several regular Belle Isle and Oasis birders, found Red and Red-necked phalaropes.

Best time of year: April-October

Best tide: High

Directions: Drive into the Suffolk Downs complex from Revere Beach Parkway. First you pass the entrance to the stables on your left. Then there is an immense shopping mall on the right. Shortly after this, pull into the far-right parking lot, across from the main racetrack building. Park as close to the stunted trees on the right edge as possible.

WINTHROP

The town of Winthrop is a tiny peninsula, formerly an island in the archipelago of glacial drumlins that dot Boston Harbor. In Colonial times it was known as Pulling Point and could be reached only by boat. Currently there are two roads into Winthrop, one leading east from East Boston and another leading south from Revere.

Winthrop's shore locations are where most birders concentrate, and winter is the season of choice.

The outer Winthrop shore is exposed to Broad Sound, Massachusetts Bay — the open ocean. During nor'easters Winthrop Shore Drive can become impassable from surf, foam, sand, and rocks thrown into the road by the ocean. On calm days in winter, however, the birding is fine, and the views spectacular.

Winthrop Harbor, the inner shore, faces Logan Airport. In fact, it surrounds Logan Airport. At one time Boston Harbor and Winthrop Harbor were contiguous, before Apple, Governor, and Wood Islands were filled and joined to create Logan Airport in the 1950s, thus cutting the two harbors off from each other. The relatively calm waters and extensive mudflats of the harbor attract bay and sea ducks and shorebirds. Logan Airport is well-known for the raptors it attracts.

In inland Winthrop there are at least two locations worth checking out for birds: Lewis Lake and the adjoining golf course, and Belle Isle Cemetery.

Hannaford Park

This is the site of an old military fort that was sold to the town of Winthrop and converted to a public park overlooking Broad Sound. It is easily a hundred feet above sea level, and views in three directions are magnificent. Looking north and northeast, there is the breakwater at Simpson's Boatyard, the curving vista of Revere Beach, then Lynn Harbor. To the east is the Nahant causeway, Little Nahant and "big" Nahant, and south of that the open ocean.

In winter, it is possible to see any of our seabirds from this headland. The most numerous birds in the vicinity are Common Eiders, Common Goldeneyes, and Red-breasted Mergansers, with loons, grebes, scoters, and other sea ducks scattered at all distances in large and small groups. The rarer birds such King Eider, Barrow's Goldeneye, and various alcid species have all been sighted here as well.

Best time of year: October-March

Best tide: Any

Directions. From Eliot Circle at the southern end of Revere Beach, go south along Winthrop Parkway. This becomes Revere Street in Winthrop. At a sharp right turn in Revere Street (traffic lights), go left on Highland Avenue. At the end of Highland, go right into Hannaford Park.

Winthrop Beach and Five Sisters

Just south of Hannaford Park are the high-rise apartments at Seal Harbor; south of that Winthrop Shore Drive starts and takes you past Winthrop Beach and the Five Sisters, a string of five breakwaters about a quarter-mile off the beach. It is worth allowing a lot of time to scan along the seawall here in fall and winter. Consider walking out on the beach and, at sufficiently low tide, walking on the pebbled tombolo (a bar of sand joining an island to the shore) out to the middle Sister.

During migration season, the rocks of the Sisters are often covered with cormorants and shorebirds. High tide in October and November is a particularly productive time here. The distance of the Sisters from the seawall makes identifying

small shorebirds on them difficult. Start with identifying the Black-bellied Plovers, often present in the hundreds in midfall, and work down to Ruddy Turnstone, Dunlin, Sanderling, Semipalmated Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and sometimes a few yellowlegs or dowitchers.



The Five Sisters at Winthrop Beach at low tide (photo by the author)

Be sure to scan the pebbled tombolo for shorebirds at mid- to high tide. Once you begin seeing them, scan through the Black-bellied hordes, and try to pick out the golden-plovers. This roost is closer than the Sisters, and the birds can be made out more easily.

Purple Sandpipers, as elsewhere in Massachusetts, have become scarcer, but flocks are still possible on these breakwaters, as well as on the groins that serrate the seawall north of the beach. (A groin is a breakwater that is perpendicular to the shore.)

After storms a lot of seaweed gets tossed up on the pebbly southeast edge of Winthrop Beach, and this attracts gulls and shorebirds. Look particularly for Pectoral and Baird's sandpipers among the seaweed. At low tide the sandy beach along the northeast edge often hosts large numbers of small sandpipers. Look where the low waterline approaches the seawall for species such as dowitchers and golden-plovers.

Also at low tide, a sheltered lagoon forms between the southernmost Sister and the southern edge of the beach. This attracts varying numbers of Ring-billed Gulls, with Black-Headed and Common (Mew) gulls as possibilities. From October to March, this whole beach is an excellent place to scope out gulls.

The masses of sea ducks arrive in late fall. Common Eiders and the occasional King may be anywhere along the Sisters, often beyond them. The streaming flocks come in and out of view as they pass by the openings between the Sisters. Common Goldeneyes and the nearly annual Barrow's are most frequently just inshore of the northernmost Sister, as are the annual flocks of Greater Scaup, often with a few Lessers mixed in. Farther north, between the northernmost Sister and the headland (Seal Harbor), there is an area that attracts Red-necked Grebes, especially in November and March.

A favorite walk among the locals and birders in the know starts at the southern end of Winthrop Shore Drive, at a little rotary at the foot of the drumlin that holds the red-blue-and-white Winthrop water tower. Walk south toward Deer Island along the seawall, with a pebbly tombolo to your left (east) and the high drumlin wall to your west. Eventually you have to get up and walk on top of the seawall.

The tombolo hosts gulls, usually of the more common types, and in season, shorebirds. Look carefully through the Black-bellied Plovers and Dunlins in the rocks for the more uncommon species such as turnstone or golden-plover. Also scan the

ocean for seabirds. As you round the bend in the seawall, Yirril Beach opens out before you, with Deer Island beyond it. Scan the cove of Yirril Beach for loons, grebes, scoters, and eiders. To the east and southeast are uninterrupted views out toward the outer Harbor islands where, at times, thousands of Common Eiders may be seen.

The hillside to your west has proved to be a fun little migrant passerine trap over the years. Scan it for sparrows (hint: Dickcissel), thrushes, and warblers.

Best time of year: October-March

Best tide: Any

Directions: From the intersection of Revere Street and Highland Avenue go southeast on Crest Avenue. Within a quarter-mile this becomes Winthrop Shore Drive. Stay along the coast road with the seawall on your left to the end, then U-turn at the little rotary and head back to the northwest. Park anywhere along the seawall where spaces are available. It is usually easy at this time of year.

Winthrop Harbor

Be sure to scan Logan Airport and Winthrop Harbor, which encloses Snake Island, an active Common Tern colony in summer. Snowy Owls and other large raptors, if present at the airport, can easily be picked out from Winthrop.

There are many angles and vantages over Winthrop Harbor, but my favorites are as follows:

- Bayview Avenue at the angle with Grand View Ave. Drive south toward Deer Island on Shirley Street, go right on Bayview, and stop at the corner near Coughlin Park. Snake Island is the wooded island between you and the airport.
- Winthrop Boat Ramp off Shirley Street. Drive south on Shirley Street and turn right into the large parking lot just past Winthrop Yacht Club. Snake Island is the wooded island between you and the airport.
- Woodside Avenue. From Pleasant Street turn south on Woodside and proceed to the end. From this angle, Snake Island is to the southeast (left) and the airport to the southwest (right). At low tide the huge mudflats and salt marshes of Snake Island are best visible from this vantage. Scan for American Oystercatchers, Willets, Ruddy Turnstones, Black-bellied Plovers, and other shorebirds in summer and for Brant and sea ducks in winter.

Best time of year: Any

Best tide: Any

Deer Island

Until a very few years ago, Deer Island was the site of a prison and off limits to anyone without a special permit. It also was (and continues to be) the site of the sewage treatment plant for the city of Boston and many suburbs. About fifteen years ago the prison was moved off the island, but then the entire island was taken over by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). For years it remained off limits as the new treatment facility was constructed, but the intense construction phase

is finally over, and there is a public pathway open around the perimeter of the island. Now any of us can walk near the giant egg-shaped secondary treatment fermenters and take in their heady aroma. Note: Be on the lookout for Peregrine Falcons nesting on one of the giant eggs.

Notwithstanding the potential blustery weather and lack of shelter on the three-mile loop hike, the best time to walk Deer Island is in winter. Park at the gated entrance to the island and then start at either the east side or the west side of the island to walk the loop.

West side. On the west side are Logan Airport and the Inner Harbor, with birds scattered all the way to Castle Island in South Boston and the Kennedy Library in Dorchester. To the southwest are Moon and Long islands.

A long dock-like structure juts out from Logan Airport for hundreds of yards. This is the Instrument Landing System (ILS). It attracts cormorants, which perch on its railings, and Greater Scaup and Common Eiders, which mill around its support pilings. Be sure to scan the length of the ILS.

Here and elsewhere, scan flat areas on the airport and its riprap perimeter for Snowy Owls and other raptors.

South side. The tip of Long Island is directly south of the tip of Deer Island. President Roads is the channel between the two islands to the Inner Harbor. In the middle of the channel are ledges and a lighthouse. Scan the gulls in the channel and around the lighthouse. Though much reduced in numbers and variety since the sewage outlet (the “bubbler”) was diverted nine miles out into Massachusetts Bay, there are still gulls hanging around this channel.

As you walk east along the tip of Deer Island, various islands, and then the open ocean, come into view. There are few places from which you can scan out to the Brewsters and other outlying islands in the Harbor — this is one of them. Scan the waters around Nix’s Mate, the black-and-white pyramidal object to the southeast. Large numbers of eiders are often in the vicinity. Scanning near the outer islands for Long-tailed Ducks and Black Guillemots is a good idea. Halfway out to the most distant islands, harbor seals are often seen feeding at high tide and loafing on rocks at low tide.

One of the most bizarre sightings I have ever had was at the tip of Deer Island when a fisher ambled by. I wouldn’t go there expecting any such thing again!

East side. The main attraction here is the long sand and pebble tombolo known as Fawn Bar. It is often submerged and attracts varying numbers of eiders, sometimes in enormous flocks. Scan in all directions for a variety of seabirds



Black-bellied Plover in flight by John Garp

including scoters, goldeneyes, and mergansers. If the wind is out of the east, keep an eye out for kittiwakes and gannets.

Best time of year: October-March

Best tide: Any

Directions: Take Shirley Avenue to the end of Shirley Point, follow the tiny signs leading you on to Deer Island, and park at the gated entrance to the island.

Lewis Lake

This tiny pond off Washington Ave became well-known among gull aficionados during the 1980s and 1990s because of the occurrence of Black-headed Gulls here in the flocks of wintering Ring-billed Gulls. At high tide on a midwinter day, with the pond frozen and the gulls napping on the ice or skittering around trying to find a patch of open water to bathe in, there was no finer place to watch gulls. And then the Common (Mew) Gulls started turning up. One January day, after I had looked at one Common Gull for a while, another walked out of the gull pack and stood next to it. I panicked! What if no one believed my report? Fortunately, Bob Stymeist rolled up just then and took in the sight without a murmur. Maybe he *expected* to see two Common Gulls standing next to each other in Eastern Massachusetts, but I sure didn't!

There has been a noticeable drop in the number of gulls in Winthrop, both here and at Winthrop Beach. In any case, this pond and the beach are complementary high tide-low tide sites. What birds you find here on the ice at high tide are often feeding in the shallow lagoons off the beach at low tide. So, despite the lull in gull numbers, don't skip this pond when birding Winthrop in winter.

At the north end of the pond is tiny bridge and beyond that a brackish marsh and a golf course. Check out the ducks in the marsh to the north of the bridge — Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, and American Wigeon have been seen here along with American Black Ducks and Mallards. The edges of the golf course also entertain, in addition to the ubiquitous Canada Geese, a host of Brant. If the Lewis Lake gulls are disturbed by a dog running out on the ice, sometimes they end up along the wetland in the golf course. You can scan them by looking over the fence from Veterans Road on the east edge of the golf course.

Best time of year: December-March

Best tide: High

Directions: From the intersection of Veterans Road (Route 145) and Washington Avenue, go west 100 yards on Washington Avenue, and pull into one of the parking lots on the left. The lake is to the right of the street.

Belle Isle Cemetery

Belle Isle Marsh divides three communities: East Boston, Revere, and Winthrop. There is a chunk of the marsh in each, and much of it is public land. A large tract in Winthrop was used as a landfill (translation: dump) until about thirty years ago. With

the rise in awareness of environmental issues, the town stopped using the dump, but it sat untended for many years and its contents washed into Belle Isle Creek.

About fifteen years ago, the town decided it needed a cemetery and proceeded to cap the landfill and build the graveyard on top. It is now pretty well landscaped and pleasant to visit. It sits very high above the level of the marsh, so views over Belle Isle Park and all its features are superb. However, down at water level the hastily installed cap has worn off, and the debris of several generations is slowly oozing out of the base of the cemetery. It is unlikely that actual corpses will wash out into the marsh, but this is Winthrop — anything is possible.

Killdeer nest in the cemetery. Otherwise, it's worth visiting for the grand views of Belle Isle Marsh and Boston beyond. It's a quick trip there to survey all the different places in the marsh and the water and wading birds scattered about.

Best time of year: April-October

Best tide: Any

Directions: From Revere Street intersection with Highland and Crest avenues, go southwest approximately a quarter-mile on Revere Street. Turn right on Kennedy Road and proceed to the end. Park anywhere in the cemetery, and walk to the edge of the bluff to look over the marsh.

REVERE and SAUGUS

The Key

The Key, or the “Donut,” is a corner of Belle Isle Marsh owned by the town of Revere. At one time this area was a radar installation, with tall towers at four corners of a square impoundment. The impoundment is still there, but the towers are long gone. The riprap that contains a few acres of salt marsh has a fine path on top of it and is excellent for walking, so there are many dog-walkers here. On the other hand, there are now two breaches in the impoundment wall, so you have some rock-hopping to do at high tide, if you're walking around.

You want to be here at high tide. That is the time for shorebirds and herons on the impoundment mudflats. The birds are very close by here and some are skittish, so be careful walking around. This is a good place to look for Glossy Ibis, egrets, dowitchers, yellowlegs, and Pectoral Sandpipers. Sharp-tailed Sparrows nest here, and Seaside Sparrows occur in migration. There is even a record of a Western Kingbird here — in June!

Best time of year: July-August

Best tide: High

Directions: From Bennington Street at Beachmont MBTA Station go east on Winthrop Avenue. After about half a mile, turn right on Summer Street (stop sign). Go to the end and park. If you don't feel comfortable about parking where the locals have hastily put up “no parking” signs, turn right or left and park on Crystal Avenue, or just a little bit higher on the hill on Summer Street itself.



MAP BY DOROTHY GRAASKAMP AND SOHEIL ZENDEH

Walk to the end of Summer Street and past the metal gate. Walk about 200 feet on the dirt causeway to reach the impoundment wall.

Simpson's Boatyard

Whenever there is a particularly powerful nor'easter and coastal communities get flooded, Revere gets mentioned. What birders refer to as Simpson's Boatyard is the neighborhood in Revere that inevitably gets hit the hardest. It lies between Winthrop Parkway and the ocean and is pretty much below sea level. There is a point of land which is extended out with a wooden jetty and a series of rock breakwaters.

From the seawall overlooking the breakwater, looking north you see the curve of Revere Beach and looking south are the Winthrop headlands and drumlins, including Grover's Cliff at Hannaford Park. East of you, across Lynn Harbor at its widest, is Nahant.

Often, starting in mid-November, enormous flocks of eiders arrive at this location and hang about the rocks for weeks. Be sure to check them carefully for King Eider. Also look for Purple Sandpipers on the rocks. At higher tides, search for roosting shorebirds of various kinds. Loons, grebes, and every variety of sea duck are possibilities here, so scan carefully.

An alternative viewing spot puts you somewhat farther away from the breakwater but higher up for easier viewing. See the directions for Beachmont Overlook.

Best time of year: October-March

Best tide: Mid- to high

Directions: From Eliot Circle at the southern end of Revere Beach, proceed southeast on Winthrop Parkway, bearing left almost immediately on Broad Sound Avenue. Go to the end and park. Walk left on Mermaid Avenue and across the open area to the seawall.

Revere Beach

Revere Beach is the oldest public beach in the country, and the state has made a serious attempt to keep it neat and fun for summer folks. However, it also attracts a lot of shorebirds and gulls, along with seabirds just off shore. Even in summer you're likely to find scattered scoters or loons here.

Over the many years that I have walked this beach searching for birds, I have run into a significant number of Massachusetts firsts (for me), such as Western Grebe, and quite a few lifers: Marbled Godwit, Manx Shearwater, Common (Mew) Gull, Royal Tern, and Bar-tailed Godwit.

Each of these birds has a story. The Manx Shearwater sighting was perhaps the oddest of all. I was walking along the beach with my wife, hoping to catch some shorebirds feeding along the edge despite the hordes of people using the beach. I noticed three large shorebirds flying parallel to the beach just offshore. To the naked eye, they were the size and general shape of Greater Yellowlegs. As long as I was looking at them with the naked eye, my brain would not allow that maybe they were

not yellowlegs. As soon as I put up binoculars, I realized they were shearwaters. As they were clearly no larger than Greater Yellowlegs, there was nothing they could be other than Manx. This was in the late 1970s, when Manx Shearwater sightings in Massachusetts waters were not all that common.

Point of Pines

Take in the birds all along the beach, but be sure to leave the maximum time for Point of Pines, at the northeastern terminus of the beach. This is where the Saugus and Pines rivers enter Lynn Harbor, and there is a giant mudflat here at low tide. Bring boots (or old sneakers) and walk out on it. At low tide at dusk on a hot August evening, there is no better place to be.

The best time to arrive is shortly after low tide. Walk out on the mudflat, find a relatively solid place to stand, and plant yourself and your optics. In August, which is the best time here, the majority of birds are likely to be Semipalmated Sandpipers, though Sanderlings may give them a good run for the numbers. Semipalmated Plovers are also like to be numerous. Smaller numbers of Short-billed Dowitchers, Black-bellied Plovers, White-rumped Sandpipers, and Red Knots are worth perusing for yellowlegs, turnstones, sometimes a Pectoral Sandpiper, American Golden-plover, or Western Sandpiper — these are rarer but possible.

Keep sorting through all the shorebird hordes, and keep an eye on the close ones. Eventually, as the tide comes in and pushes the birds closer to you, the little peeps begin to get closer than your binoculars want to focus. Just stay quiet, and they'll come closer still! This is the best time to study minute plumage variations in the smallest peep.

Gulls and terns make for a good show here as well. Aside from the regular Great Black-backed, Herring, and Ring-billed gulls, there are the seasonal migrants, Bonaparte's and Laughing gulls. Keep looking and you may find Black-headed and Little gulls here. (How about a Common [Mew] Gull? Nice adult, May 1982!) My strangest gull here was a very large, very aggressive white gull with a two-toned bill and dark smudges on the wingtips. The best guess as to its identity that I was offered was by Davis Finch, who thought it was a Herring x Glaucous Gull hybrid. Turns out there are enough of these particular hybrids around so that they even have a name: Nelson's Gull! Davis wrote me in a note that one of the few hybrids of this sort that he had found was "the orneriest gull I have even seen."

Common terns nest on the ancient pilings under the General Edwards Bridge just up the Saugus River from Point of Pines, so they are around all summer and into the fall. Their numbers can attract Roseate and Forster's terns. On a couple of occasions a Royal Tern has also dropped in.

Best time of year: August

Best tide: Mid- to low

Directions: From Eliot Circle at the southern end of Revere Beach proceed northeast, stopping anywhere along the beach to scan the shore and the water. At the northeast terminus of Revere Beach Boulevard, pull into the little roundabout and

scan northeast toward Point of Pines and Nahant beyond it. You can use one of the beach access breaks in the seawall just to your right to get down to the beach and walk to Point of Pines.

To reach a closer parking spot for Point of Pines, proceed another quarter-mile northeast along the continuation of Revere Beach Boulevard, here called Lynnway. Stay right, and at the very end turn right on Rice Avenue. Take another right on either Witherbee or Wadsworth and park near the end of the street. From here the walk to the tip of Point of Pines takes five minutes.

Rumney Marsh

In 1988, marshes of the Pines River in Saugus and Revere and Belle Isle Marsh in East Boston were grouped into the Rumney Marsh Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). This designation by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts adds an additional level of oversight to the existing protections that any wetland in the Commonwealth receives.

ACEC designation was the result of hard work by Joe James of the Friends of Saugus Marsh and Dan McAuliffe of the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, in addition to dozens of motivated local environmental activists.

The ACEC sprawls over an area of 1000 acres in six municipalities. The Belle Isle Marsh section is dealt with earlier. Here, let me give you a brief tour of the Pines River and Saugus River sections of this ACEC. The directions are included in the text for each section.



Shorebirds at Rumney Marsh (photo by the author)

Route 1A Overlook

Heading to Lynn on Route 1A north, for two or three miles you run parallel to Revere Beach Boulevard but about a quarter-mile inland. To your left, as you head northeast, is an estuary, the Pines River. At low tide, in season, the mudflats attract shorebirds.

It's hard (and quite foolhardy) to stop on this road. From Butler Circle (access to Wonderland dog-racing park), proceed 1.5 miles northeast on Route 1A to a "bear right for left turn" sign. (Only in New England.) Go left on Mills Avenue. Now you can stop anywhere along the edge of the marsh and check out the mudflats.

Best time of year: Spring and fall

Best tide: Low

Douglas Street Salt Pans

Make a U-turn on Mills Avenue and return to Route 1A. Turn right on the highway, and proceed to the second traffic light. Go right on Revere Street. The

eleventh right is Douglas Street. Go to the end, turn right again, and park next to a high wooden fence. To the northeast, over the tops of the phragmites plants, a salt pan is visible across the marsh.

Walking across the marsh to this pan is feasible and quite fruitful, primarily at high tide in August. That is when the shorebirds mass in, sometimes in spectacular numbers. On many August trips we've seen hundreds of Black-bellied and Semipalmated plovers, lots of Short-billed Dowitchers, dozens of yellowlegs, odd counts of Willets and Hudsonian Godwits, and countless peep, including White-rumped, Western, and Pectoral, in addition to the usual Semipalmated and Least sandpipers.

Tall boots are a very good idea when walking across this marsh. You will be jumping across a good number of salt-marsh ditches. Most are easy to see. Watch out for the hidden ones! Look where you're stepping! The trick is to look left and right as you walk and watch for straight lines in the marsh that seem to disappear near where you're walking. The grass where you are may be hiding an old filled-in ditch. Step carefully.

Best time of year: August

Best tide: High

Route 107 Overlook

Return to Douglas Street or go to any of the parallel streets that bring you back to Revere Street. Take a right, and at St. Anthony's Catholic Church bear right and proceed to the intersection with Route 60. Go right and from the rotary just ahead take the first exit on Route 107 north toward Lynn.

You are now traveling on a road with the Pines River salt marsh on both sides. Visible on the right side are the Douglas Street salt pans, described earlier. Soon there are a couple of bridges over branches of the Pines River. Stop at the second bridge, pull well off the road, and walk to the edge of the estuary. To the left is a high-tide shorebird roost. In addition to Black-bellied Plovers, yellowlegs, peep, and Dunlin, be on the lookout for an American Golden-plover here in October. We even turned up an American Avocet here once.

From April to August, if you look east about 200 yards, the nesting platform for the Rumney Marsh Ospreys is occupied and active with nesting birds or young Ospreys. This platform was erected by Geoff Wood of the MDC in the late 1990s and has been hosting Ospreys almost since the beginning. They are apparently unfazed by the locals who fish the creeks in their neighborhood.

Best time of year: September-October

Best tide: High

RESCO Flying Club

Proceed northeast on Route 107 and look for a U-turn sign on the left. Once you are heading southwest on the road, look for a metal gate on the right with a RESCO

Flying Club sign here and other signs warning vehicles to stay out. RESCO Flying Club members, however, routinely drive in and out of this gate — they have the key. The flying club is a model airplane enthusiast group, and you will most likely hear the screechy buzz of their airplanes along the dike that parallels Route 107 to the west.

Park off to the side near the metal gate, walk around the gate, and proceed to the dike on the causeway, keeping an eye on the sky and the reeds on both sides of the road. From the dike itself there is a grand view of the expanse of Rumney Marsh all the way to the Saugus hills on the western and northern edge.

When on the dike, try to keep out of the way of the flying planes and do not walk on the runways — the folks at the flying club are friendly but can get antsy if you trespass too close to their turf. The planes they fly are high-tech and fast. Stay close to the trees that are beginning to sprout up along the old dike.

Inspect the marsh carefully for waterfowl, raptors, herons, Snowy Owls, and gulls. Scope the model-plane runways for Horned Larks. Walk to the southern terminus of this dike, and look for Snow Buntings along the gravel at the water's edge.

Best time of year: Winter

Best tide: High 

Soheil Zende was born in Iran, grew up in Tehran and Tangier, Morocco, arrived in Cambridge in 1961 as a college freshman, and started an auto repair shop in Cambridge, (later Watertown). He began birding in 1973, never got a good look at the Newburyport Ross's Gull, got sick of driving to the north shore for birds, and began checking out local Boston spots in 1975, finding the "old puddle" in East Boston in 1976. He founded the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh with Craig Jackson in 1978, then founded "Take a Second Look" (TASL), an ongoing program to monitor fall and winter water birds in Boston Harbor, with Craig Jackson, Dave Lange, Wayne Petersen, Leif Robinson, Bob Stymeist, and many others in 1979. He edited and published Belle Isle News until 2004, and published TASL News from 1980 to 1992. In 1996 he started TASL OnLine. He has also assisted Dick Veit and Ian Nisbet with Muskeget Island tern restoration.



COMMON AND KING EIDERS BY DAVID LARSON

Massachusetts Important Bird Areas (IBAs) — The South Shore Region

Wayne R. Petersen and Brooke Stevens

In the December 2005 issue, *Bird Observer* introduced its readers to the history of the Massachusetts Important Bird Area (IBA) Program. As stated in the Editor's Note accompanying that article, we intend in 2006 to present six articles highlighting approximately eighteen IBAs throughout Massachusetts. These are not intended to be bird-finding articles, nor will they contain detailed profiles of the birds found at each site. Instead, they will attempt to highlight some of the special features of each site, including distinctive habitat characteristics, special birds found there, and specific conservation concerns or success stories. Although a number of IBAs across the state already enjoy some level of habitat protection, others do not, and are, consequently, especially sensitive to human disturbance. For this reason, the IBAs featured in this series will be only those sites that permit visitation by interested birders willing to observe appropriate birding etiquette. To kick off this series, three IBAs in Southeastern Massachusetts are described.

Allens Pond/Westport River Watershed IBA

An area already familiar to many Massachusetts birders, Allens Pond and the Westport River Watershed together comprise a diverse combination of nearly 5000 acres of estuaries, tidal ponds, barrier beaches, salt marshes, and inner saltwater bays. Located on the Massachusetts (Bristol County) and Rhode Island (Newport County) border, the main trunk of the Westport River is divided into an east branch and a west branch. The smaller Slocum and Little Rivers roughly bound the IBA on the eastern edge. Central to the IBA is Mass Audubon's Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary: a 593-acre site, which includes carefully managed access trails, an elevated forested wetland boardwalk, and slightly over 100 acres of grassland, some of which is actively being managed for grassland bird species.

This IBA is probably best known for its historic Osprey colony which holds nearly seventy-five active nests and fledged a record 105 young in 2005 (fide David Cole). Considering that in 1970 the Commonwealth's Osprey population dropped to an all-time low of ten successful nesting pairs, the result of pesticide contamination, these figures are most encouraging. In addition to the Osprey colony, the barrier beach at Allens Pond annually supports a significant nesting population of Piping Plovers (listed as a federally threatened species) and Least Terns (listed as a species of special concern in Massachusetts).



Allens Pond Salt Pannes by Gina Purtell

Because of electric fencing used to exclude marauding canine predators, both of these species enjoyed exceptional anti-predation success during the 2005 nesting season.

Two bird species very close to the northern limit of their range on the planet — Clapper Rail and Seaside Sparrow — breed in small numbers in the salt marshes adjacent to Allens Pond. These species share this habitat with upward of 75-100 pairs of Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows (Reinert and Hill, 2001). Not insignificantly, Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow appears on the Partners in Flight Watch List for landbirds — a roster for “species with multiple causes for concern across their entire range.” Even more noteworthy is that the Eastern Avifaunal Biome, which includes the New England and Mid-Atlantic Coast Bird Conservation Region (BCR 30), supports the entire world population of both Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows (Rich et al., 2004). This listing underscores the importance not only of salt marsh habitat, but also of the Allens Pond IBA as a site having significance beyond the borders of Massachusetts.

In addition to supporting unusual nesting species, the tidal waters and coastal ponds of this IBA seasonally hold notable concentrations of waterfowl in fall and winter (e.g., Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Red-breasted Merganser), large numbers of Great and Snowy Egrets, modest numbers of migrating shorebirds in late summer, and Tree Swallows in autumn, when they stage for migration in massive numbers on the phone wires throughout the area.

Allens Pond Conservation Updates and Issues

Imagine a piece of land that sits on a pristine salt pond — one of relatively few remaining in the Northeast — along with several other habitats that support rare wildlife. Wedge it in between fragments of conservation land, and you have an ideal acquisition. It sounds too good to be true, yet Mass Audubon, with a little luck and the generosity of Gil Fernandez, recently added 104 vital acres to the Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary.

An educator, farmer, and conservationist who appreciated the significance of his land, Fernandez sold it to Mass Audubon for a fraction of its monetary value. In addition to more than a quarter-mile of shorefront on Allens Pond, the Fernandez property contains woodlands and fields, as well as vernal pools that host a variety of amphibian species. Preserving this habitat will also help rare wildlife such as Least Tern, Piping Plover, and diamondback terrapin, the only reptile whose habitat is restricted to brackish marshes.

The unique value of the Fernandez land suggests that in the future we might discover other rare species on this property — possibly marbled salamander, eastern box turtle, or spotted turtle.

Even though the Fernandez property has been purchased and permanently protected, the long-term stewardship of this coastal gem must still be maintained.

Along with its significance to birds, this IBA also hosts a population of diamondback terrapins (listed as a threatened species in Massachusetts), as well as being a site for a number of unusual butterfly occurrences, most notably at Gooseberry Neck in late summer and fall.

Assawompsett Pond Complex IBA

The Assawompsett Pond Complex IBA (often simply referred to as “the Lakeville ponds”) is comprised of approximately 10,000 acres of mixed woodlands and large



Pocksha Dike — aerial photograph by Wayne R. Petersen

freshwater ponds, including Lake Assawompsett (the largest natural body of freshwater in Massachusetts), Long Pond, Pocksha Pond, and Great and Little Quittacus Pond. These water bodies are located in interior southeastern Massachusetts, in the Towns of Lakeville and Middleborough (Plymouth County), and Rochester and Freetown (Bristol County). Not only are the ponds scenic in aspect but their water quality is pure enough to allow them to serve as reservoirs for the cities of Taunton and

New Bedford. However, it is their importance to migratory waterfowl, especially in autumn, and the presence of two nesting pairs of Bald Eagles that make this region an IBA.

Every fall, occasionally beginning in early September, Ring-necked Ducks start appearing in the Lakeville ponds. They have visited the ponds at least since the 1940s, when the late Ludlow Griscom began writing about the fall migration and the population increase taking place for this species in the Northeastern United States at that time (Griscom, 1939; Elkins, 1949). Today, the Assawompsett Pond Complex IBA represents one of the most important fall migratory stopover sites for this species in southern New England. In addition, large numbers of other waterfowl routinely appear in October and November, most notably Pied-billed Grebe, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded and Common merganser, and Ruddy Duck. Although their numbers are highly variable from year to year, in some seasons American Coots appear by the hundreds.



Bald Eagle — adult, nest, and 2 young in Middleboro, MA, on June 21, 1993 — photograph by Wayne R. Petersen.

With the establishment of nesting Bald Eagles in central Massachusetts in the late 1980s, following hacking efforts begun at Quabbin Reservoir in 1982, it did not take long for a pioneering pair of eagles to nest at Assawompsett Pond in

Middleborough. This occurred in 1993 and was the first definite nesting in eastern Massachusetts since 1905. Since then, a pair of eagles has successfully bred at Assawompsett Pond every year and was actually joined by a second nesting pair in 2005. In addition to breeding eagles, one to three pairs of Ospreys have nested on the ponds in this IBA at least since the early 1980s.

In the mixed woodlands surrounding the ponds, most notably in a planted grove of Norway spruces adjacent to Great Quittacus Pond, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Yellow-rumped Warbler are irregular nesters. And in swampy woodland near Assawompsett Pond, the first twentieth century Bay State breeding of Acadian Flycatcher was confirmed in 1977, not far from a spot where Northern Parula (listed as a threatened species in Massachusetts) has been suspected of nesting for many years.

Besides its concentrations of waterfowl and nesting Bald Eagles, this IBA is also notable for supporting two state-listed mollusks (eastern pondmussel and tidewater mucket), a state listed fish (bridle shiner), and a recently introduced population of the federally endangered northern red-bellied cooter (formerly called the Plymouth red-bellied turtle).

Assawompsett Conservation Updates and Issues

The permanent protection in 2002 of the 480-acre Betty's Neck, including 2.5 miles of frontage on Assawompsett Pond, the largest freshwater lake in Massachusetts, is a remarkable example of how a coalition of nonprofits and government agencies can work together to protect critical habitat. In this case, one of the most stunning landscapes in southeastern Massachusetts, two globally rare natural communities, and habitat for Bald Eagles were set aside in perpetuity.

Related agreements extended conservation easements to include over 3500 acres of nearby watershed land. This watershed supplies drinking water for the cities of Taunton and New Bedford, along with supporting the state's largest alewife fishery.

Today, threats to the Assawompsett Pond complex include invasive aquatic plants such as variable milfoil and *Cabomba*, which continue to spread in Long and Pocksha ponds. Purple loosestrife is also well established in the emergent marsh bordering Sampson's Cove. Treatment for milfoil and *Cabomba* has included the use of herbicides, which may pose a threat to non-target plants and fauna. Potential sources of pollution include shoreline development (nutrients, pesticides), road drainage (Routes 18 and 105), and aerial fallout from the nearby SEMASS incinerator. Sand and gravel removal on Assawompsett Neck may threaten ground water quality. If the estimated safe yield of the ponds is exceeded, excessive draw down could threaten the aquatic habitat. Finally, excessive use of Long Pond for personal watercraft operation could threaten water quality and the suitability of the pond complex for wildlife.

Hockomock Swamp IBA

Although historically covering an area that probably amounted to more than 10,000 acres, the 5126-acre Hockomock Swamp IBA is the largest swamp in Massachusetts and possibly the largest freshwater wetland in the Northeast. Today, the area is contained largely in three different Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) — Hockomock, Wilder, and West Meadows — each one variously located in Taunton, Easton, West Bridgewater, Bridgewater, and Norton and straddling the Plymouth and Bristol County line.

Because of its size and habitat complexity, it is difficult to characterize this region. Extensive acreages of Atlantic white cedar swamp, however, allow the area to meet the IBA criteria that a site “must contain assemblages of species characteristic of a representative, rare, threatened, or unique habitat within the state or region.” Atlantic white cedar swamp has been described as “very vulnerable to extirpation in Massachusetts” by both the Nature Conservancy and the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (Swain and Kearsley, 2000). Indeed, the IBA’s extensive stands of Atlantic white cedar and red maple (particularly in the Hockomock WMA), along with its abundance of berry-bearing shrubs in the understory, provide optimum habitat for robust populations of nesting species, particularly Veery, Gray Catbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, and Swamp Sparrow.

At West Meadows WMA, a large cattail marsh at one end of a pond harbors nesting Virginia Rail and Sora, and Pied-billed Grebe and King Rail (both listed as threatened in Massachusetts) have been recorded here during the breeding season. Nowhere else in the Commonwealth can one find as extensive a freshwater wetland complex as that in the Hockomock Swamp IBA.

The area is also noteworthy for its role in an important study. Between 1957 and 1968 thousands of passerines were banded and blood-sampled in the swamp as part of a Massachusetts Department of Public Health long-term study of Eastern equine encephalitis. Much of what is known today about this potentially life-threatening virus is based on data gathered from birds banded in the Hockomock Swamp IBA.

The extensive size and relative inaccessibility of much of the interior of this IBA make it an important refuge for a number of retiring mammal species, such as fisher and mink. In addition, it supports a rich floral diversity, typical of the highly acidic conditions found wherever Atlantic white cedar grows.

Hockomock Conservation Updates and Issues

The Hockomock Swamp IBA is part of the greater Hockomock region, a 16,950-acre area of associated wetlands and water bodies that comprise the largest vegetated freshwater wetland system in Massachusetts. It is a vast natural and scenic area that, because of its size and unique and irreplaceable wildlife habitat,

has been designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The area hosts at least thirteen rare and endangered species.

The wetlands act as a giant reservoir and serve as the headwaters for the Town River, which ultimately flows into the Taunton River. In hydrologic terms the wetlands and floodplains are connected to an extensive underlying system of medium to high-yield aquifers.

Also, according to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, archaeological sites in the vicinity of this wetland complex are known to date as far back as 9000 years, making the potential significance of the archaeological resources enormous. Productive agricultural lands are located on the uplands adjacent to the wetlands, brooks, and rivers.

At present, the state holds title to over 5000 acres, and as opportunities arise, more land is continually added. The area surrounding Nippinicket Pond has already been designated as an ACEC, and the Hockomock Swamp WMA bounds much of the pond itself. Eugene S. Wilder WMA is a former farm still maintained as open fields with some mixed stands of hardwoods, pine and hemlock. West Meadows WMA is a large reservoir maintained by a dike and surrounded by wet woodland, a mix of pines and hardwoods.

Conservation threats to this IBA include a proposed reactivation of the railroad through the swamp, heavy aerial spraying of insecticides during encephalitis outbreaks, and the ongoing threat of commercial development along the IBA borders. 

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LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Dear Folks;

Recently an old friend sent me a copy of the August 2005 issue of *Bird Observer* and I was surprised and delighted that my name was listed among those “Wellesley Boys” that had been influenced by Junior High School teacher Doug Sands. Indeed, he was a very significant role model for me and my best buddy Dave Gulick. Dave and I birded with some of the others on “the list,” including Bitty Forster, Hollis Leverett, and Wayne Petersen.

It is a testimony to Doug, and to Dave Miner at Cook’s Canyon (where I taught ornithology while in high school), to David Gulick’s dad, Ed Gulick (who taught at Wellesley College), and to the allure of birding itself that Dave and I still see each other, and still search the puckerbrush in pursuit of the un-findable. I believe Dave found the second nest of a cardinal ever recorded in Massachusetts. It was in the Hunnewell Gardens next to where he grew up, and a place that all of us haunted.

We found a Dovekie on Lake Waban after a malicious storm, watched a Connecticut Warbler at the bog on the far side of the pond, noted Boreal Chickadees in the conifers, and chased Screech Owls in the dead of night near the college president’s house. It was a great pastime, encouraged by strong people who cared about other things besides humans and shopping.

Dave and I both wound up in Maine, and we still bird up here. There are some magnificent places to hunt for northern species, not to mention neo-tropicals and raptors. Every year for the past four we have made a rendezvous at Monhegan Island for the fall migration. We’ll be doing it again next year.

These things run deep in the soul, and it gives me great joy to note that birding has come to be accepted as a mainstream activity. We all need to look outside ourselves to really comprehend what is happening on this planet. Please keep up your good work...and if you’re up this way, give us a call!

Most sincerely, Glenn Jenks

P. S. If you want to know what I’ve been doing, go to
<<http://www.glennjenks.com>>. 

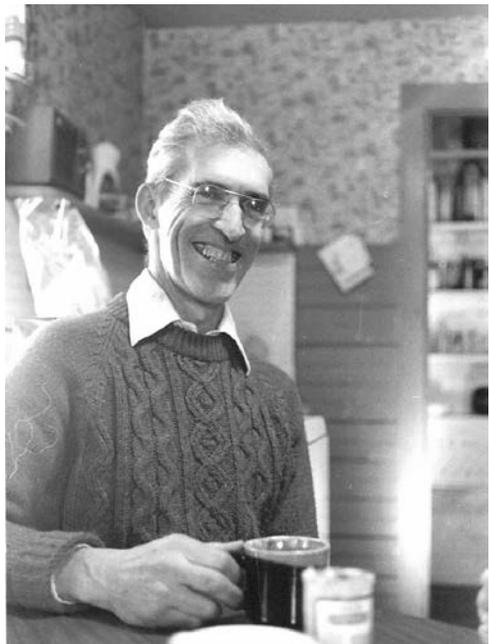


Photo of Doug Sands

COASTAL GRANTS FOR FY 2006

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will award more than \$15 million in grants to 12 states to help conserve, restore, and protect coastal wetlands, Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced recently.

The grants are used to acquire, restore, or enhance coastal wetlands for long-term conservation benefits to wildlife and habitat. Partners in this year's projects include state and local governments, private landowners, and conservation groups.

For more information, visit the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program website at <<http://www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalGrants/>>.

Fiscal Year 2006 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants in Massachusetts:

Great Neck and Moody Island. The Department of Conservation and Recreation in Massachusetts plans to acquire 254 acres of wetlands and buffering uplands at the mouth of the Ipswich and Eagle Rivers, which drain directly into Plum Island Sound. The proposed acquisition is immediately adjacent to and/or in the vicinity of 7000 acres of permanently protected public and private conservation areas, including the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge.

Partners: Town of Ipswich and Fields Pond Foundation.

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Coastal grant: | \$ 846,000 |
| State share: | \$ 100,000 |
| Partners share: | \$ 919,840 |
| Total cost: | \$1,865,840 |

Salisbury Marsh Land Acquisition. The Department of Fish and Game in Massachusetts will acquire about 256 acres of salt marsh and estuary habitat in the Salisbury Marsh in Essex County. The Salisbury marsh has been designated as an important habitat for the American Black Duck, a species that has been identified as a high priority in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Partners: Essex County Greenbelt Association and Essex County Sportsmen's Association.

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Coastal grant: | \$525,400 |
| State share: | \$228,063 |
| Partners share: | \$ 26,000 |
| Total cost: | \$779,463 |

A Summer at Monomoy

Ryan Merrill

I spent the summer of 2005 in Chatham, Massachusetts, working for the US Fish and Wildlife Department and the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The refuge and adjacent South Beach are well-known and remarkable birding sites. While at the refuge I was able to bird every day for more than three months. I also had the unique experience of living in a field camp surrounded by thousands of nesting and migrating birds.

Monomoy NWR includes the refuge headquarters on Morris Island, two barrier beach islands — North Monomoy and South Monomoy — and a series of sandbars off South Monomoy known as “Minimoy.” The topography of the area is ever changing; fifty years ago Monomoy was a peninsular extending south from Morris Island. In 1958, winter storms broke the barrier beach, turning Monomoy into Monomoy Island. Twenty years later the island was split again by storms into North and South Monomoy. Minimoy, formed within the past decade, is constantly evolving. Toward the end of the summer of 2005, a new sandbar appeared between South Monomoy and South Beach, which made it impossible to land our boat where we had previously. This left us with a longer walk over loose, wet sand, and we were obliged to coordinate trips to the island with the tides. Many believe that South Beach will become connected to South Monomoy in the very near future.

Monomoy is a critical nesting area. In recent years it has been home to nearly 10,000 nesting pairs of Common Terns — the largest colony on the Atlantic coast — as well as nesting Least Terns, Roseate Terns, Black Skimmers, Piping Plovers, and American Oystercatchers. These ground-nesting birds have experienced declines in breeding habitat elsewhere as more and more of the coast has been developed.

Most of the terns nest in a sandy area at the north tip of South Monomoy known as “the wash.” On my first trip to the island in mid-May, several hundred terns were already there. By summer, it was impossible to view that part of South Monomoy without seeing hundreds of terns in the air. When a harrier or gull flew over,



Terns in the dawn light (photograph by the author)

thousands of terns would swarm the area. I had one of my most memorable experiences while sitting at the edge of the colony just before dawn: the entire colony rose into the air together. I scanned the wash and couldn't see one bird on the ground. There were over 17,000 birds in the air. I watched in amazement as massive swirling cloud of birds moved back and forth in the predawn light.

During the annual census in mid-June, there were approximately 8800 Common Tern nests in the wash. Entering the wash was an interesting experience: during the first few weeks terns would swoop and scream at us. Once eggs were laid, they became increasingly territorial, and even more so when the chicks began to hatch. To go into the colony we would wear hardhats with attached metal flags. We learned to keep hands and arms close to the body. Anything that stuck out was met with a sharp peck that sometimes drew blood. The terns weren't always vicious though: at times, while we were checking nests, a bird would land on one of our heads. Normally, the colony was filled with the constant background noise of chattering terns, but occasionally, for reasons not known to us, the birds would become silent. The only sound would be the beating of wings. Whenever the chattering ceased, I would look for something unusual but was never able to find a reason for the sudden muting of nearly twenty thousand birds.

The summer of 2005 on Monomoy was unusual in two respects. Strong storms in mid-to late May washed away many plover and oystercatcher nests. Some pairs did nest again, but the breeding success for these shorebirds at Monomoy was rather poor overall.

The other unusual event was an outbreak of red tide in June that closed the waters around the refuge to shellfishing. Shellfishermen are usually ever-present on the mudflats off the islands. Their absence early in the summer was very odd. The red tide also killed a few dozen terns. They died from paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP), a neurological disease that causes respiratory failure. These terns presumably ingested lethal levels of a toxin produced by marine algae that accumulates in their principal food, the sand-lance (*Ammodytes americanus*) (Nisbet 1983). The death of terns from PSP at Monomoy was previously described by Ian Nisbet, when 73 Common Terns were found dead during a two-day period in 1978 (Nisbet 1983). I observed terns suffering from PSP. They would walk with wings hanging to the side, appearing to be very weak and often stumbling, unable to fly.



The author holding a recently banded American Oystercatcher

In June, during the full and new moons, horseshoe crabs come into the shallow waters just off the beach to lay their eggs. It was impressive to walk along the beach and see hundreds of them piled on top of each other just a few feet into the water. At high tide the gulls would line up by the hundreds waiting to flip a horseshoe crab for an easy meal.

Spending time on Monomoy can be strenuous and physically demanding. My first trip to South Monomoy was to help count the nesting wading birds, mainly Black-crowned Night-Herons, and also Snowy and Great egrets. Black-crowned

Night-Herons build their nests in the middle of dense patches of rosebushes and poison ivy. We would wade through these thickets, searching for sky-blue heron eggs or chicks, which look like little alien rock stars with blue-green skin and tufts of spiky feathers on their heads. These searches resulted in many scratches, even through jeans, and for some people a painful reminder of poison ivy for weeks to come. Equally unpleasant were the ticks. I still vividly remember removing 53 ticks from my legs after walking through an area just south of the field camp. For the rest of the summer we avoided this area, which became known as the “Tick Trail.”

We were rewarded for our troubles with a field camp looking west over Nantucket Sound, allowing us to enjoy the silhouettes of sandpipers and plovers feeding against the reflected brilliance of the setting sun. The night before the fourth of July we were treated to distant views of fifteen different fireworks shows along much of the southern edge of Cape Cod. On the night of the fourth, however, we were fogged in.

When not on the job, I spent most of my time birding, usually near camp. I walked greater distances, about ten miles a day, at least once or twice a week, around the perimeter of South Monomoy or, on my days off, around the perimeter of South Beach. Because of its situation on the ocean, almost anything could turn up on the beach. Finds this summer included a four-foot-long whale jawbone, several beach balls, a broom, a half-buried canoe, and an armchair. In November a Brookline Bird Club pelagic trip out of Hyannis observed a fishing boat half-buried in the sand on South Monomoy.



Black-crowned Night-Heron chick on South Monomoy (photograph by the author)

The sole permanent structures on Monomoy are the old lighthouse and its adjacent house on South Monomoy. When the lighthouse was built in 1849, it was located at the southern tip of the island. Now it sits amid sand dunes and freshwater pools over a mile from the southern tip. I was able to spend several nights at the lighthouse while searching for or checking plover and oystercatcher nests.

This part of the island is very special. The ponds provide suitable nesting habitat for a variety of waterfowl including Gadwall, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, and Ruddy Duck and is one of the few traditional nesting sites in Massachusetts for the latter (Veit and Petersen 1993). Early in the summer it was hard to miss the whistling calls of Soras and the grating laughter of Virginia Rails. Another highlight was seeing several thousand gray seals on the southeast side of South Monomoy.

Monomoy NWR offers the opportunity to see a large variety of birds, ranging from seabirds infrequently seen from land to migrating passerines that briefly stop in

the thickets on the islands. More than 350 species of birds have been recorded at Monomoy, approximately 70percent of all species seen in Massachusetts. South Monomoy juts out from the mainland about seven miles, forming a barrier between the Atlantic Ocean and Nantucket Sound. Any bird traveling along the outer coast will encounter Monomoy, making it a prime place for vagrants. On a sunny day in July, a female Magnificent Frigatebird soared for over an hour just off Monomoy and South Beach. The next day I returned to camp on South Monomoy; from there I could see masses of birders on South Beach. I learned that evening that they had found a Little Stint among the thousands of shorebirds present that day. The most frustrating moment of my summer occurred the following evening. While scanning through shorebirds on South Monomoy looking for the stint, I noticed a group of experienced local birders over at South Beach. They all had their cameras out, pointed in the same direction. They had found the stint, and I was stuck on the island with no way of seeing this rare Eurasian visitor. To no avail I spent much of the next few days searching through the feeding and roosting shorebird flocks.

Despite missing the Little Stint, my summer was a big success. I enjoyed every day I spent at Monomoy. Between its abundance of birds to its scenery and somewhat isolated location on outer Cape Cod, what's not to like? For a young birder with a strong interest in ornithology, I can think of no better way to spend my summer than living and working with the birds at Monomoy. 🐦

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Ryan Merrill is a senior at Boston College, where he is working toward a B.S. in Biology. He eventually plans to attend graduate school with a focus in ornithology and conservation. He is especially fascinated by seabirds and shorebirds, interests that began in his home state of Washington and were expanded upon during a semester in New Zealand. This past summer in his one week away from Monomoy he traveled to northwest Ecuador to attend the American Birding Association's first Young Adult Birders Conference.



AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF SOUTH MONOMOY, MINIMOY, AND SOUTH BEACH ON DECEMBER 21, 2005, BY SIMON PERKINS

FIELD NOTE

Latest Occurrence of Arctic Tern for Massachusetts

Richard R. Veit and Carolyn S. Mostello

On November 13, 2005, at approximately 1:30 p.m. we identified a juvenile Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisea*) sitting in a group of terns on an ephemeral sandbar about 0.5 km NE of Muskeget Island, Nantucket, MA (Figures 1 and 2). It was among a group of terns that included about forty Common (*S. hirundo*) Terns and a single Forster's (*S. forsteri*) Tern. We did not identify any Roseate (*S. dougalli*) Terns, but it is possible that one or more were overlooked since they can closely resemble Common Terns at this season. The Arctic Tern was clearly identifiable as such on the basis of its short legs, short and narrow bill, very rounded-looking head, and, in flight,



Figure 1. First basic plumage Arctic Tern, shoal northeast of Muskeget Island, November 13, 2005. Common Terns and Bonaparte's Gull in background. Photograph by Carolyn Mostello

by its whitish secondaries, which contrasted with the rest of the upperwing forming a vaguely Sabine's Gull-like pattern. We watched the bird at close range for about twenty minutes until it flew away to the west.

This is — by a wide margin — the latest fall record of Arctic Tern for Massachusetts. Arctic Terns ordinarily depart Massachusetts during August, and they have always been rare here after early September. The latest records for the state prior to this one include: adults in full alternate plumage collected at Monomoy September 22, September 24, and October 24, 1884, and a juvenile seen at Pamet River, Truro, October 12, 1973. There are other November records elsewhere in the northeast: a juvenile at Montauk, Long Island, New York, November 23-26, 1973 (photo in *American Birds* 30: 43; Levine 1998). This is the latest record ever for eastern North America. Another one is November 12-16, 1989, near Niagara Falls, New York (Levine 1998).

Seemingly, its migratory route is the reason for the rarity of this common and widespread species south of New England after early September. Arctic Terns “perform the most extensive movements of any bird” (Cramp 1985, Hatch 2002).

They breed in Arctic regions, fly south to Massachusetts, and winter among ice floes and drifting icebergs in the Antarctic. They travel about 20,000 km each way during both spring and fall. In fall, North American breeders either travel directly south over mid-ocean or travel east to Europe before moving south. The oft-repeated claim that the entire North American population moves to Europe before heading south is based on less than twelve banding recoveries (Hatch 2002). In any event, Arctic Terns are rare anywhere on the east coast south of New England at any season.



Figure 2. Same Arctic Tern (left) as in Figure 1. Photograph by Carolyn Mostello

That the above-cited Monomoy specimens are in full alternate plumage as late as late October seems very surprising at first, since all adult Common and Roseate Terns in Massachusetts molt into basic plumage by late August or so. Since they are usually far out at sea, little is known about Arctic Terns during migration, but apparently the adults delay molt until arriving at or near the wintering grounds. Of twelve specimens obtained off southern Africa between October and December, five were in full alternate plumage (Hatch 2002).

All terns in the Muskeget Shoal flock on November 13 were birds of the year (Figure 1). Unlike some seabirds, hatching year terns usually accompany their parents for some time after fledging, and it is common to see young terns following adults, presumably their parents, at least into September in the Cape Cod area. It is not known whether adult and juvenile terns migrate south together, but in the High Arctic, some young Arctic Terns begin migration with their parents (Parmelee and MacDonald 1960). For Common Terns and Roseate Terns, there is some evidence of segregation of the ages during the winter (Hays, et al., 1997). 🐦

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ABOUT BOOKS

Virtual Encyclopedia Ornithologica: The Birds of North America On-line

Mark Lynch

“Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it.” Samuel Johnson, creator of the Dictionary in 1755, from *Boswell’s Life of Johnson*.

One morning at the end of October 2005, I was standing at the Enfield Lookout in Quabbin Park, scoping north along the vast forested expanse of the Prescott Peninsula and the surrounding waters of Quabbin. I was hoping for an eagle, of course, but all I was seeing that day were crows, moving west-southwest over Ram Hill. In a few minutes I counted 77 of them, flying high enough to be migrating buteos. Many times over the decades I had seen crows going to and from roosts, but this event seemed different. It appeared I was witnessing a crow migration, but then I caught myself: do crows migrate? How come I have never thought about crow migration before? Jays regularly migrate, so why not a fellow corvid? Field guides are useless when it comes to questions like this because field guides are all about identification, but I knew where I could find out just about everything I would ever want to know about crow migration. And I could accomplish that while sipping a cold beer in the comfort of my own home, for I had subscribed to *Birds of North America On-Line*.

Of all the tools in my birding arsenal, there are only two I now use more than the *Birds of North America* (BNA): my binoculars and my scope. Sure, I still get out my *Sibley Guide* every once in a while, but several times a week I find myself at the BNA website: reading about nesting behavior of this species, vocalizations of that species. Even when I don’t have specific questions, I’ll just aimlessly browse species accounts, picking up nuggets of knowledge about birds I have seen or hope to see.

There have been other historical attempts at compiling all the ornithological knowledge of North America. Alexander Wilson’s *American Ornithology* (finished posthumously in 1814), John James Audubon’s *Birds of America* (finished in 1838), and Arthur Bent’s *Life Histories of North American Birds* (completed posthumously in 1968). The problem with all such compendia of knowledge of bird life is that ornithological research never stops; no sooner is the mammoth “project of a lifetime” finished, than it needs a complete revision. To make matters worse, in recent decades there has been an international explosion of scientific ornithological research. Publications and new findings about bird life are being published monthly in numerous journals both famous and obscure. Every year there is more research by ever more ornithologists published in an ever-growing number of journals. Just trying to keep up with all the new information is a full-time job, let alone distilling the fruits of all that research into some other book.

That didn't stop Drs. Alan Poole and Frank Gill, though, from undertaking an ambitious publication called *The Birds of North America* (BNA), a joint 10-year project of the American Ornithologists Union (AOU), the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and the Academy of Natural Sciences. Poole and Gill enlisted numerous experts to author comprehensive, up-to-date, species profiles, including all 716 species known to breed in the United States and Canada. The plan was to issue these in installments to BNA subscribers. Ironically, this mammoth late twentieth century project was published in much the same way as Wilson's and Audubon's works: meted out in pieces over a long period of time, and only to subscribers. From 1992 to 2002, folks who were willing to shell out the steep \$1875 fee (\$1690 to AOU members) eagerly awaited the next volume of avian life histories. Subscribing to the BNA represented a significant commitment of time and money, and in a way, testified to your seriousness as a birder.

“Art and nature have stores inexhaustible by human intellects; and every moment produces something new to him who has quickened his faculties by diligent observation.” Samuel Johnson: *Rambler* #124 (May 25, 1751)

Well over a decade ago, while teaching a class at the Worcester Art Museum, I met a group of people who were involved in something I found remarkable: they were photographing every piece of ancient Greek art in the museum's collection. What's more, they were traveling around the world photographing every available work of Greek art as well as every archeological site. Their intention was to put all this visual information on a single computer for centralized access. They would also include all the literature from the Classical Period in ancient Greek and Latin, and in translation; at least, that was their grand intention. (This effort ultimately evolved into the somewhat more modest, but still fascinating Perseus Project of Tufts University: <<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/>>.)

I was fascinated by this project that sounded so futuristic at the time. I invited them onto my radio show, where I learned from these folks about a new world on the horizon, a world of unprecedented public access to information via computers. It was one of the very few times I can actually claim to have seen the future and it's why I did NOT subscribe to the BNA when it first came out. If ever there was a publication that was destined to evolve into an online resource, it seemed to me the BNA was it.

Indeed, in 2005 the BNA became an on-line living resource of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. This means the BNA can now be updated frequently and easily. (For instance, while writing this review in early January 2006, the Blue Grouse section had been updated as recently as November 2005.) Being on-line also means that the BNA can now offer features that the print version could not. Most notably, this includes songs and calls culled from Cornell's Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds, the most extensive library of bird songs in the world. Some of these songs are also accompanied by sonograms created with the Raven software.

There is also now a plethora of visual resources under each species account. These typically include a collection of color photographs by the likes of Arthur Morris and Brian Small. An outstanding example of this new visual component to BNA can be found under the section on Blue Grouse. Here you will find very good color photos

of males, females, breeding habitat, displays, eggs, droppings, and different subspecies (Sooty versus Dusky). There's even a close-up photograph captioned: "vinaceous cervical apterium and papillate superciliary." (In layman's terms that's that colored area on the neck skin and the surrounding feathers that are prominently featured in the cock's display in spring.) These photos are augmented with drawings by artists like David Sibley and Julie Zickefoose. If that wasn't enough, the Image Gallery for a species may also include charts and diagrams depicting subjects like the timing of molt and breeding cycles and the changes of food preferences throughout a year. Some species accounts even include video clips.

The written accounts are just as extensive, scholarly, and thorough as in the printed version. On the BNA On-Line site you can search by species name or by keywords like "eggs," "breeding," or "migration." Under each species account you will find a number of topics which you can click on directly, or you can just scroll down through the entire text.

Topics covered for each species include: (taken from the website)

- conservation and management issues, including effects of human activity, status of essential habitats, prospects for survival, and more
- a detailed, up-to-date, color-keyed map indicating the species' breeding and wintering ranges throughout the Americas
- details of nature, timing, and routes of migration
- a full description of breeding, migratory habitats
- detailed accounts of feeding habits, songs and calls, and other behaviors
- up-to-date treatment and description of subspecies, with a full discussion of systematics of the species
- details of life at the nest: eggs, young, feeding, predation
- a comprehensive bibliography for each species — a guide to published research
- full data on breeding success, life span, mortality and disease, plus demographic and population information
- gaps in knowledge are highlighted to guide future research

By and large, the writing is technical, but to the point, and, most important, readable by someone without a degree in ornithology. It is no exaggeration to say that you can spend hours reading about a single species; it becomes addictive. While navigating the resources at the BNA, I find myself time and again mumbling to myself: "Wow! I didn't know that!" Suddenly, a vast world of information is opened up before you, formerly only available to certain well-read field researchers, university professors of ornithology or ornithologist "wannabe's" with the money to afford several journal subscriptions and the leisure time to read them. It is also interesting to find out how much is still to be learned about bird's lives because the BNA also highlights the gaps in our avian knowledge.

When I looked up American Crow on the BNA On-Line site I found a long section that contained an overview of crow migration (yes, it turns out they are regular migrants), a section on the timing of the spring migration, details of what is known about their migration routes, and notes on migration behavior. Evidently, what

I had observed from the Enfield Lookout was not so unusual after all. What was odd was that I had never noticed it before (duh!), but now I am on the lookout for other occurrences of crow migration.

The cost of a year's access to the BNA On-line is \$40.00, which is pretty reasonable. There is even a reduced rate if ten people from one organization all want individual accounts. But this exposes the dark lining to an otherwise brilliant silver cloud. What about all those people and institutions who shelled out the \$1875 for the print version of this project, a version that is already out of date? How do they feel? At the rate of \$40 per year, you would have to subscribe to BNA On-Line for over forty-six years to equal the cost of subscribing to the original print version; one that will never be updated again and lacks all the considerable bells and whistles of the website. (By the way, to state the obvious, the original BNA is no longer in print but Buteo Books is handling reprints for those few crazed avian bibliophiles that desire to complete their collection of every book about birds ever printed.)

When the original print version of this project was conceived prior to 1992, the idea of what BNA has become — the form it has now taken — was unknown or at best a pipe-dream. In the late 1980s, few could foresee the role the personal computer would soon play in creating unprecedented public access to massive resources of information. The print version of the BNA was started at the outset of the Information Revolution. However, once subscriptions were taken, the publisher was obliged to complete the print version even if halfway through it became obvious that an On-Line version was the ideal format for this project. (Who knows, in forty years, we may all have BNA resources beamed to a chip implanted in our brain at births.)

So much of birding seems bogged down in what I call the “tyranny of identification.” Books upon books, articles upon articles, are devoted to describing minutiae like the feather wear and primary patterns in gulls, so someone can confidently call “Yellow-legged Gull” and tick it on their list before moving on to the next bird. However, once you begin to ask questions like “how did that bird get here?” “what is it eating?” or simply “what is it doing?” you begin a conceptual evolution of knowledge and understanding that takes you beyond the “postage stamp collecting” aspect of birding. Certainly, identification is important, but it is only the beginning of what looking at birds can be about. The BNA is the resource on birds that can best take the reader beyond the mere details of identification.

In birding, as in so many things, information is power. In a great example of the democratization of information that only the Web can offer, *The Birds of North America On-Line* offers everyone — from professional ornithologists to neophytes watching titmice at their backyard feeders — the same chance to continually expand their knowledge of bird's lives with a simple click of their mouse.

“Sir, a desire of knowledge is the natural feeling of mankind; and every human being, whose mind is not debauched, will be willing to give all that he has, to get knowledge.” Samuel Johnson quoted in *Boswell's Life*.

The Birds of North America On-Line can be accessed via:
<<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/BNA/>>. 

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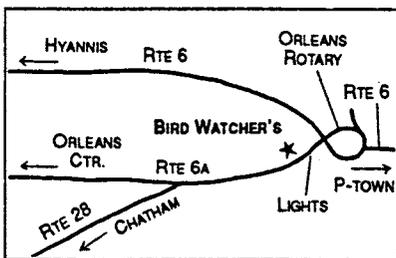
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BIRD SIGHTINGS

September/October 2005

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

September was very warm, the second month in a row with above-normal readings. In Boston the average temperature was 67.9°, 3.2° above normal, making it the warmest September since 2002. The high was 91° on September 12, the low 48° on September 25. Rainfall was just 1.78 inches, 1.69 inches below average, making this the driest September since 1997. The remains of Hurricane Ophelia passed well offshore on September 17, producing high surf and good pelagic birding from Cape Ann. It was a sunny month with possible sun 68 percent of the time, compared to 56 percent in a typical September. The windiest day was September 29, when the wind peaked at 53 mph from the south. There was considerable wind damage, and extensive power outages were noted across the state.

October was very wet and cloudy with an average temperature of 54.7° in Boston, just a degree above normal. The first eight days were very mild with a high reading of 81° on October 7, the warmest October reading since 2002. The low mark recorded in Boston was 33° on September 29. There was no killing frost in Boston, but some suburbs dropped below 32° on the 22nd, about two weeks after the average date for a killing frost. Rain totaled 9.41 inches, 5.62 inches above normal, making this October the wettest since the record 10.66 inches in 1966. The most in any 24-hour period was 3.70 inches on September 14-15. Of the five weekends, four Saturdays had significant rains, and two out of the five Sundays had rain. In Worcester 15.56 inches of rain fell in October, topping the previous October record of 10.98 inches in 1955. Snow fell throughout eastern Massachusetts on October 29, with 1.1 inches recorded in Boston. This is a new record for October, exceeding 0.4 inch in 1913. Four days experienced heavy fog, and thunder was heard on two days. The windiest day was October 25 when a peak gust of 54 mph was noted out of the northeast. Considerable wind damage was reported throughout eastern Massachusetts that day.

R. Stymeist

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

Several **Greater White-fronted Geese** were spotted during this period. Two individuals were reported from the Concord/Acton area, one of which was identified as the Greenland race. The recent splitting of the Canada Goose complex has stimulated interest in the difficult field identification of the varied forms of these species. A **Cackling Goose**, the smaller form of Canada Goose now recognized as a full species, was observed during the entire period at Great Meadows NWR and surrounding areas. Another individual was discovered in West Newbury on October 30. Caution should be exercised when identifying this species in Massachusetts since the field marks are only now being worked out. Identification is more difficult because of wide variation in the species.

Other interesting waterfowl sightings during the period included a **Tundra Swan** at South Quabbin and a Eurasian Wigeon at Plum Island. Redheads were detected in at least seven sites, with a maximum of eleven in West Newbury. These sightings represent the best showing in nearly a decade of a species that appears to be declining in the state. Previous daily high counts, outside of Nantucket, have not exceeded three individuals since 1995.

Pacific Loons showed up during October storms, with two at Andrew's Point in Rockport on October 11 and 12 and another two in Dennis and Eastham (one each on October 12 and 13). The **Eared Grebe** returned to its usual haunts in East Gloucester for an eleventh consecutive year on October 11 but was not reported again during the period.

Not long after Hurricane Wilma churned up the North Atlantic, a strong nor'easter resulting from Tropical Storm Alpha created some avian excitement along the coast of Massachusetts. Certainly the most exciting report that resulted from the fifty-plus mile per hour wind was the **Black-capped Petrel**, which was observed on October 25 at Andrew's Point in Rockport. Despite the strong winds, a sighting of this highly pelagic species was quite unexpected. There have been only four previous sightings of this species in the state, although increased detections in waters not far to our south suggest the possibility of future sightings in Massachusetts. Significant numbers of Leach's Storm-Petrels were detected during a series of storms in early October. Counts of 285 at Rockport on October 12 and 220 in Eastham on October 16 are worth noting.

Strong single day totals of migrating Broad-winged Hawks included a very respectable count of 9122 on 23 September. As many as eight individual Golden Eagles were detected during migration at typical hawk watch sites.

There were interesting holdovers from this summer's impressive shorebird spectacle at South Beach in Chatham. These included a **Wilson's Plover** and **Curlew Sandpiper**. An impressive number of Stilt Sandpipers was tallied at Plum Island on September 6. At least eighty-six individuals, all but one juveniles, were counted at two sites. Many of the previous high counts for the state have come from this location: eighty-one (August 4, 1974) and seventy-three (August 2, 2000). South Monomoy, the other state stronghold for this species during migration, has produced high counts of seventy-eight (July 30, 1974) and seventy (July 22, 1975).

A number of interesting larid sightings came in during the season. A fair number of unidentified **skuas** (*Catharacta* sp.) were reported, including six from Georges Bank in late September. During a storm on October 31 one second summer **Long-tailed Jaeger** was identified at First Encounter Beach in Eastham. A first winter **Franklin's Gull** was reported from Andrew's Point in Rockport on October 29. A strong influx of this species into the northeast was noted this fall, perhaps resulting from the passage of Hurricane Wilma. The Canadian Maritimes, for example, hosted more than a dozen Franklin's Gulls after Wilma's passage. As many as thirty-three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from Nantucket during the period. Even western Massachusetts got into the gull game with amazing records of Black-legged Kittiwakes from Northampton (up to seven individuals), Turners Falls (one individual), and Quabbin Park (one individual). There were only two previous records of this species for the western part of the state: October 27, 1942, at Holyoke and November 9, 1997, at Lake Onota in Pittsfield. Following several sightings during the summer, a **Sandwich Tern** was observed on October 30 in North Truro. This represents one of very few October records for Massachusetts and the latest record for the state by eleven days. There were a number of other late tern sightings this fall. A Black Tern on October 16 represents one of only a half dozen October records for the state. The Least Tern in East Harwich on September 24 approaches the late date for the state. Finally, a Black Skimmer in Chatham on the October 28 is perhaps the third-latest record ever for the state.

J. Trimble

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------|---------------------|-----------|--------------|--------|---------------|
| Greater White-fronted Goose | | | Snow Goose | | | | |
| 10/16 | Turners Falls | 1 | H. Allen | 10/6 | P.I. | 1 | A. + G. Gurka |
| 10/22-31 | Concord/Acton | 1 ad | S. Perkins + v.o. | 10/10 | GMNWR | 1 ad | S. Perkins# |
| Greenland Greater White-fronted Goose | | | | 10/16, 28 | Granville | 96, 50 | J. Weeks |
| 10/20-31 | Concord/Acton | 1 | 1WS. Perkins + v.o. | 10/17 | Russell | 15 | T. Swochak |
| | | | | 10/19 | Chatham (MI) | 7 | D. Manchester |

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|------|-------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Snow Goose (continued) | | | | | 10/23 | Acton | 8 | G. d'Entremont |
| 10/19 | Chilmark | 150 mig | J. Humphries | | | Green-winged Teal | | |
| Brant | | | | | | thr | P.I. | 650 max 10/14 v.o. |
| 9/19, 10/25 | Plymouth | 2, 100 | K. Anderson | | | thr | GMNWR | 1200 max 10/13 v.o. |
| 9/24 | E. Boston | 1 | K. Hartel# | | 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 125 | B. Nikula |
| 9/29, 10/30 | Nantucket | 1, 116 | Kennedy, Ray | | 9/4 | Acoaxet | 44 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/20 | P.I. | 64 | R. Heil | | 9/5, 23 | Arlington Res. | 4, 55 | M. Rines |
| 10/20 | Quabbin Pk | 50 | J. P. Smith | | 10/12 | Dennis (Corp. B.) | 34 | B. Nikula |
| 10/23 | Thompson I. | 55 | R. Stymeist# | | 10/12 | Rockport (A.P.) | 71 migr | R. Heil |
| 10/23, 27 | Granville | 19, 79 | J. Weeks | | 10/16 | E. Boston | 57 | S. ZendeH |
| 10/26 | Brewster | 125 | S. Ellis | | 10/23 | Hadley | 30 | C. Gentes |
| Cackling Goose | | | | | | Canvasback | | |
| 9/1-10/9 | GMNWR/Concord | 1 | | v.o. | 10/25 | Cambr. (F.P.) | 2 | B. Miller |
| 10/20-30 | Concord/Acton | 1 | S. Perkins + v.o. | | 10/26 | Nantucket | 2 | N. Slavitz |
| 10/30 | W. Newbury (CH) | 1 | R. Heil | | 10/30 | Southboro | 8 | M. Lynch# |
| Mute Swan | | | | | | Redhead | | |
| 9/17 | Acoaxet | 29 | M. Lynch# | | 10/15, 29 | GMNWR | 8, 3 | S. Perkins# |
| 9/24 | Randolph | 30 | G. d'Entremont | | 10/19-30 | W. Newbury | 8-11 | M. Daley + v.o. |
| 10/19 | Ipswich | 31 | J. Berry | | 10/24 | P.I. | 6 | S. Grinley |
| 10/25 | P.I. | 17 | T. Wetmore | | 10/26 | Gardner | 3 m | T. Pirro |
| Tundra Swan | | | | | 10/29 | Pittsfield (Mud Pd) | 2 | Allen BC (CB) |
| 10/18 | S. Quabbin | 1 | L. Therrien | | 10/30 | Randolph | 3 m | G. d'Entremont |
| Wood Duck | | | | | 10/30 | Southboro | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/9 | Longmeadow | 127 | L. Therrien | | | Ring-necked Duck | | |
| 9/18, 10/13 | Winchester | 5, 38 | R. LaFontaine | | thr | GMNWR | 110 max 10/29 | S. Perkins |
| 9/24 | Bolton Flats | 50 | S. Sutton | | 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 19 | B. Nikula |
| 9/24 | Salem | 23 | BBC (L. dela Flor#) | | 9/4-10/31 | Cambr. (F.P.) | 157 max 10/18 | v.o. |
| 9/4, 10/9 | Wakefield | 56, 27 | P. + F. Vale | | 9/17-10/31 | Southboro | 919 max 10/30 | v.o. |
| 10/9 | GMNWR | 35 | S. Perkins# | | 9/24-10/30 | W. Newbury | 1380 max 10/30 | v.o. |
| 10/11 | Agawam | 25 | S. Kellogg | | 10/29 | Pittsfield (Mud Pd) | 900 | Allen BC (CB) |
| Gadwall | | | | | 10/30 | Randolph | 230 | G. d'Entremont |
| thr | P.I. | 73 max 10/14 | | v.o. | | Greater Scaup | | |
| 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 100 | B. Nikula | | 9/17, 10/23 | Rockport (A.P.) | 2, 49 | R. Heil |
| 9/26, 10/24 | Marstons Mills | 2, 10 | M. Keleher | | 10/4, 18 | Cambr. (F.P.) | 1, 3 | M. Rines |
| 10/22-29 | Pittsfield (Pont.) | 2 | N. Purdy# | | 10/27 | Falmouth | 155 | M. Keleher |
| 10/25 | Turners Falls | 2 | B. Lafley | | 10/27 | Nantucket | 405 | E. Ray |
| 10/4, 19 | Ipswich | 12, 33 | Heil, Berry | | 10/30 | Quincy Bay | 35 | G. d'Entremont |
| Eurasian Wigeon | | | | | | Lesser Scaup | | |
| 10/26-31 | P.I. | 1 m | | v.o. | 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 3 | B. Nikula |
| American Wigeon | | | | | 9/24, 10/30 | Randolph | 1, 28 | G. d'Entremont |
| thr | P.I. | 127 max 10/23 | | v.o. | 10/27 | Falmouth | 10 | M. Keleher |
| 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 10 | B. Nikula | | 10/30 | Southboro | 17 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/26, 1-/24 | Marstons Mills | 20, 68 | M. Keleher | | | Common Eider | | |
| 9/5, 22 | Arlington Res. | 1, 15 | M. Rines | | 9/4 | Acoaxet | 57 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/4 | Ipswich | 34 | R. Heil | | 9/11 | P'town | 40 | BBC (Stymeist) |
| 10/9 | Wakefield | 13 | P. + F. Vale | | 9/17, 10/12 | Rockport (A.P.) | 7, 3050 | R. Heil |
| 10/15-21 | Turners Falls | 6 | S. Surner# | | 10/13 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 355 | D. Clapp |
| 10/23 | Lexington | 63 | J. Forbes | | 10/20 | Nahant | 360+ | L. Pivacek |
| American Black Duck | | | | | 10/26 | Eastham (F.E.) | 2500 | E. Anderson |
| thr | P.I. | 630 max 10/18 | | v.o. | 10/26 | Dennis (Corp. B.) | 700+ | S. Ellis |
| 10/16 | GMNWR | 120 | S. Perkins# | | | Harlequin Duck | | |
| Mallard | | | | | 10/12 | Dennis (Corp. B.) | 1 m | B. Nikula |
| 9/11 | Arlington Res. | 140 | J. Sharp | | 10/16 | P'town H. | 2 m | B. Nikula# |
| 10/16 | GMNWR | 900 | S. Perkins# | | 10/31 | Rockport (A.P.) | 20 | R. Haaseth |
| Blue-winged Teal | | | | | | Surf Scoter | | |
| thr | P.I. | 19 max 9/13 | | v.o. | 9/17, 10/12 | Rockport (A.P.) | 38, 10, 100 | R. Heil |
| 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 80 | B. Nikula | | 10/2, 20 | Nahant | 14, 230 | L. Pivacek |
| 9/4, 10/9 | Wakefield | 2, 23 | P. + F. Vale | | 10/9-29 | S. Quabbin | 2-14 | v.o. |
| 9/4, 17 | Acoaxet | 3, 8 | M. Lynch# | | 10/11 | P.I. | 9 | T. Wetmore |
| 9/5, 18 | Arlington Res. | 1, 15 | M. Rines | | 10/13 | Eastham (F.E.) | 750 | B. Nikula# |
| 9/9, 10/16 | Marstons Mills | 14, 26 | M. Keleher | | 10/23 | Cheshire | 8 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/19 | Richmond | 4 | B. Lafley | | 10/25 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 1557 | R. Stymeist# |
| 10/26 | Orleans | 10 | C. Thompson# | | | White-winged Scoter | | |
| Northern Shoveler | | | | | 9/2 | Chatham (S.B.) | 8 | MAS (Silverstein) |
| thr | P.I. | 5 max | | v.o. | 9/16, 10/12 | P.I. | 23, 80 | T. Wetmore |
| 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 12 | B. Nikula | | 9/17, 10/12 | Rockport (A.P.) | 36, 2800 | R. Heil |
| 9/23, 10/6 | Arlington Res. | 2, 3 | M. Rines | | 10/2 | N. Scituate | 150 | SSBC (S. Maguire) |
| 9/28 | Brookline | 3 | A. Morgan | | 10/9, 15 | Wachusett Res. | 13, 3 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/26 | Nantucket | 3 | E. Ray | | 10/11-20 | S. Quabbin | 1-10 | v.o. |
| 10/27 | Truro | 3 | C. Thompson# | | 10/12 | Pittsfield (Pont.) | 17 | T. Collins |
| 10/31 | Marstons Mills | 1 f | M. Keleher | | 10/13 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 503 | D. Clapp |
| Northern Pintail | | | | | 10/23 | Nahant | 215 | S. ZendeH |
| thr | P.I. | 152 max 10/14 | | v.o. | 10/27 | Granville | 10 | J. Weeks |
| thr | GMNWR | 35 max 10/13 | | v.o. | | Black Scoter | | |
| 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 25 | B. Nikula | | 9/17, 10/12 | Rockport (A.P.) | 10, 4400 | R. Heil |
| 10/15, 25 | Northampton | 1, 2 | C. Gentes# | | 10/9-29 | S. Quabbin | 7-35 | v.o. |
| 10/18 | Concord | 11 | S. Perkins# | | 10/25 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 274 | R. Stymeist# |
| 10/19 | S. Quabbin | 12 | L. Therrien | | | | | |

Black Scoter (continued)

| | | | |
|-------|--------------------|-------|---------------|
| 10/28 | Westfield | 4 | L. Richardson |
| 10/29 | Pittsfield (Pont.) | 18 | Allen BC (CB) |
| 10/30 | Dennis (Corp. B.) | 1000+ | M. Tuttle |
| 10/30 | Eastham (F.E.) | 1100 | B. Nikula# |

Long-tailed Duck

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------|-----|--------------|
| 10/19 | S. Quabbin | 2 | L. Therrien |
| 10/23 | Cheshire | 1 m | M. Lynch# |
| 10/25 | Rockport (A.P.) | 545 | R. Heil |
| 10/25 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 564 | R. Stymeist# |

Bufflehead

| | | | |
|-------|--------------------|-----|----------------|
| 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 1 | B. Nikula |
| 10/16 | DWWS | 2 | D. Furbish |
| 10/18 | New Salem | 5 | M. Taylor |
| 10/18 | P.I. | 7 | R. Heil |
| 10/20 | Pittsfield (Pont.) | 5 | T. Collins |
| 10/23 | Thompson I. | 220 | R. Stymeist# |
| 10/30 | Squantum | 55 | G. d'Entremont |

Common Goldeneye

| | | | |
|-------|-----------------|-----|----------------|
| 10/29 | Rockport (A.P.) | 1 | R. Heil |
| 10/30 | Randolph | 1 f | G. d'Entremont |
| 10/31 | Ludlow | 3 | L. Richardson |

Hooded Merganser

| | | | |
|-------|--------------------|-------|---------------|
| 9/4 | Lenox | 5 | R. Laubach |
| 9/18 | Monson | 4 juv | M. Lynch# |
| 10/29 | Pittsfield (Pont.) | 35 | Allen BC (CB) |
| 10/29 | Woburn (H.P.) | 14 | S. Ryken |
| 10/30 | P.I. | 15 | T. Wetmore |
| 10/30 | Southboro | 12 | M. Lynch# |

Common Merganser

| | | | |
|-------|----------------|----|------------|
| 9/7 | Northampton | 7 | T. Gagnon |
| 9/12 | Williamsburg | 9 | R. Packard |
| 10/2 | Quabbin (G35) | 16 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/9 | Wachusett Res. | 11 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/27 | Northampton | 12 | C. Gentes |
| 10/30 | W. Newbury | 4 | R. Heil |

Red-breasted Merganser

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------|
| 10/12 | Rockport (A.P.) | 1400 | R. Heil |
| 10/13 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 101 | D. Clapp |
| 10/13, 10/23 | Eastham (F.E.) | 225, 1000 | B. Nikula# |
| 10/20 | Quabbin Pk | 2 | J. P. Smith |
| 10/22 | P'town H. | 325 | B. Nikula |
| 10/23 | Thompson I. | 80 | R. Stymeist# |
| 10/30 | Pittsfield (Onota) | 4 | T. Gagnon |

Ruddy Duck

| | | | |
|----------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 14 + 5 downy yg | B. Nikula |
| 10/1, 20 | W. Newbury | 2, 286 | Chickering, Grinley |
| 10/17 | Chilmark | 75 | A. Fischer |
| 10/17-31 | Melrose | 94 max | D. + I. Jewell |
| 10/25 | Cambr. (F.P.) | 46 | B. Miller |
| 10/28 | Ludlow | 89 | L. Therrien |
| 10/29 | Pittsfield (Mud Pd) | 100 | Allen BC (CB) |
| 10/30 | Marlboro | 150+ | J. Liller# |
| 10/30 | Southboro | 66 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/30 | Randolph | 74 | G. d'Entremont |

Ring-necked Pheasant

thr Reports of indiv. from 9 locations

Ruffed Grouse

| | | | |
|-------|--------------|---|-------------------|
| 9/5 | Royalston | 1 | S. Sutton |
| 9/24 | Mt. Watatic | 3 | T. Pirro# |
| 9/24 | Wompatuck SP | 1 | C. Nims |
| 10/2 | Quabbin | 5 | Hamsphire BC (TG) |
| 10/6 | Newbury | 1 | A. + G. Gurka |
| 10/8 | W. Boylston | 1 | S. Sutton |
| 10/28 | Mashpee | 1 | M. Keleher# |

Wild Turkey

| | | | |
|-------|----------------|----|--------------|
| 9/6 | Brookline | 14 | D. Vara |
| 9/24 | Colrain | 20 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/8 | Wachusett Res. | 11 | S. Sutton |
| 10/8 | Lexington | 18 | C. Floyd# |
| 10/15 | Templeton | 35 | T. Pirro |
| 10/16 | Newton | 16 | P. Perry# |
| 10/23 | Concord | 32 | P. Brown |
| 10/23 | Pepperell | 20 | E. Stromsted |

Northern Bobwhite

| | | | |
|-------|----------|----|-----------------|
| 9/24 | N. Truro | 8+ | B. Nikula |
| 10/1 | WBWS | 19 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 10/22 | Dennis | 6 | SSBC (Clapp) |

Red-throated Loon

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|--------|----------------|
| 9/29-30 | Pittsfield (Onota) | 1 | Allen BC (CB)# |
| 10/12, 23 | Rockport (A.P.) | 64, 85 | R. Heil |
| 10/13 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 8 | D. Clapp |
| 10/22 | P.I. | 38 | T. Wetmore |
| 10/22 | Quabbin Pk | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/30 | Eastham (F.E.) | 26 | B. Nikula# |
| 10/31 | Dennis (Corp. B.) | 8 | M. Tuttle |

Pacific Loon *

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|
| 10/11, 12 | Rockport (A.P.) | 2 migr, 2 migr | R. Heil |
| 10/12 | Dennis (Corp. B.) | 1 alt pl | B. Nikula |
| 10/13 | Eastham (F.E.) | 1 alt pl | B. Nikula |

Common Loon

| | | | |
|------------|--------------------|--------|----------------|
| 9/5, 10/12 | Rockport (A.P.) | 2, 596 | R. Heil |
| 10/2 | Quabbin (G35) | 16 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/9 | Wachusett Res. | 25 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/12 | Bradford | 13 | S. + J. Mirick |
| 10/12 | Pittsfield (Pont.) | 7 | T. Collins |
| 10/12 | Dennis (Corp. B.) | 38 | B. Nikula |
| 10/19 | P.I. | 50 | T. Wetmore |
| 10/21 | Ware | 7 | B. Lafley |
| 10/22 | Buzzards Bay | 8 | R. Farrell |
| 10/22 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 14 | G. d'Entremont |

Pied-billed Grebe

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|------|----------------|
| 9/11 | W. Newbury | 2 | D. Chickering |
| 9/17 | Longmeadow | 2 | C. Gentes |
| 9/24, 10/30 | Randolph | 3, 9 | G. d'Entremont |
| 10/11 | Turners Falls | 3 | M. Fairbrother |
| 10/14-21 | Southboro | 3 | G. Gove# |
| 10/28 | P.I. | 4 | T. Bronson# |
| 10/29 | Cheshire | 8 | Allen BC (CB) |
| 10/30 | Westboro | 5 | J. Liller# |
| 10/30 | Southboro | 5 | M. Lynch# |

Horned Grebe

| | | | |
|-------|--------------------|----|----------------|
| 9/5 | Gloucester | 1 | R. Heil |
| 10/20 | Nahant | 8 | L. Pivacek |
| 10/22 | Pittsfield (Pont.) | 2 | N. Purdy |
| 10/29 | Quabbin Pk | 5 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/30 | Randolph | 2 | G. d'Entremont |
| 10/30 | Buzzards Bay | 28 | R. Farrell |
| 10/30 | Quincy Bay | 94 | G. d'Entremont |

Red-necked Grebe

| | | | |
|------------|-------------------|------|--------------|
| 9/5, 10/12 | Rockport (A.P.) | 2, 7 | R. Heil |
| 9/16-18 | Southboro | 3 | G. Gove |
| 9/18 | Manomet | 3 | S. Abele |
| 10/15, 30 | Wachusett Res. | 1, 2 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/20, 24 | Quabbin Pk | 1, 2 | J. P. Smith# |
| 10/30 | Eastham (F.E.) | 2 | B. Nikula# |
| 10/31 | Dennis (Corp. B.) | 5 | M. Tuttle |

Eared Grebe *

| | | | |
|-------|---------------|---|----------|
| 10/11 | E. Gloucester | 1 | J. Berry |
|-------|---------------|---|----------|

Northern Fulmar

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------|------------|
| 9/17, 10/12 | Rockport (A.P.) | 1, 15 | R. Heil |
| 10/30 | Eastham (F.E.) | 2 | B. Nikula# |

Black-capped Petrel (details) *

| | | | |
|-------|-----------------|---|---------|
| 10/25 | Rockport (A.P.) | 1 | R. Heil |
|-------|-----------------|---|---------|

Cory's Shearwater

| | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-------|------------|
| 9/3-10/1 | off Gay Head | 15-40 | v.o. |
| 9/24 | Georges Bank | 10 | D. Wilson |
| 9/25 | Tillies Bank | 1 | J. Wallius |
| 10/11 | Rockport (A.P.) | 1 | R. Heil |

Greater Shearwater

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------|------------|
| 9/2, 10/10 | P'town | 10, 11 | B. Nikula |
| 9/4 | 4 mi off P.I. | 500 | S. Mirick# |
| 9/5, 9/17 | Rockport (A.P.) | 140, 510 | R. Heil |
| 9/17 | Acoaxet | 5 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/22-24 | Georges Bank | 128 | D. Wilson |
| 9/30, 10/25 | Rockport (A.P.) | 240, 12 | R. Heil |
| 10/26, 30 | Eastham (F.E.) | 8, 12 | B. Nikula# |

Sooty Shearwater

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--------|------------|
| 9/2 | P'town | 2 | B. Nikula |
| 9/3 | Tillies Bank | 2 | J. Wallius |
| 9/4 | 4 mi off P.I. | 30 | S. Mirick# |
| 9/5, 17 | Rockport (A.P.) | 15, 18 | R. Heil |
| 9/17 | P.I. | 2 | T. Wetmore |
| 9/22-23 | Georges Bank | 2 | D. Wilson |
| 10/26, 30 | Eastham (F.E.) | 2, 3 | B. Nikula# |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------|------------------|
| Manx Shearwater | | | | 9/11, 25 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 31, 25 | BBC (Zende) |
| 9/2 | P'town | 1 | B. Nikula | 9/16 | E. Longmeadow | 1 | G. Kingston |
| 9/4 | 4 mi off P.I. | 60+ | S. Mirick# | 9/24 | Squantum | 16 | G. d'Entremont |
| 9/5, 17 | Rockport (A.P.) | 40, 20 | R. Heil | 10/15 | Cape Ann | 50 | BBC (Hedman) |
| 9/13 | Jeffries Ledge | 3 | S. Mirick# | 10/22 | Chappaquiddick | 5 | G. Daniels# |
| 10/12, 13 | Rockport (A.P.) | 7, 2 | R. Heil | Little Blue Heron | | | |
| 10/16 | Eastham | 1 | B. Nikula# | 9/3 | Leicester | 1 imm | M. Lynch# |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel | | | | 10/15 | Cape Ann | 1 | BBC (Hedman) |
| 9/3 | Tillies Bank | 7 | J. Wallius | 10/27 | WBWS | 1 imm | E. Ellis |
| 9/4 | 4 mi off P.I. | 8 | S. Mirick# | Cattle Egret | | | |
| 9/13 | Jeffries Ledge | 45 | S. Mirick# | 9/7, 23 | Manchester | 1, 2 | S. Hedman |
| 9/17 | Rockport (A.P.) | 25+ | R. Heil | Green Heron | | | |
| Leach's Storm-Petrel | | | | 9/4 | Sudbury | 40 | S. Eills |
| 10/12, 13 | Rockport (A.P.) | 285, 34 | R. Heil | 9/11 | Lexington | 5 | M. Rines# |
| 10/13, 25 | P.I. | 2, 1 | T. Wetmore | 9/24 | Amherst | 3 | J. Smith |
| 10/15 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 15 | G. Hirth | 10/7 | Sudbury | 1 | G. Gov# |
| 10/16 | Eastham | 220 | B. Nikula# | 10/9 | GMNWR | 1 | S. Perkins# |
| Northern Gannet | | | | Black-crowned Night-Heron | | | |
| 9/16, 10/8 | P.I. | 25, 90 | Pirro, Wetmore | 9/4, 10/7 | Sudbury | 6, 2 | S. Eills |
| 9/17, 10/25 | Rockport (A.P.) | 41, 6600 | R. Heil | 9/11 | P'town | 9 | BBC (Stymeist) |
| 10/10 | P'town | 700 | B. Nikula# | 10/4 | Ipswich | 46 | R. Heil |
| 10/13, 26 | Eastham (F.E.) | 1050, 4000 | B. Nikula# | 10/18 | P.I. | 21 | USFWS (Harris) |
| 10/20 | Nahant | 65 | L. Pivacek | 10/21 | Marshfield | 10 | MAS (Clapp) |
| 10/25 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 7800 | R. Stymeist# | Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | | | |
| 10/26 | Dennis (Corp. B.) | 1100+ | S. Ellis | 9/1-7 | Oak Bluffs | 1 | A. Sgroi# + v.o. |
| American White Pelican (no details) * | | | | 10/4 | Ipswich | 1 juv | R. Heil |
| 10/29 | WBWS | 3 | J. Lawler | Glossy Ibis | | | |
| Double-crested Cormorant | | | | 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 9 | B. Nikula |
| 9/24 | Squantum | 1300 | G. d'Entremont | 9/10 | P.I. | 1 | T. Wetmore |
| 9/27 | Chatham (MI) | 4000+ | D. Manchester | 9/26 | Chatham (MI) | 1 | D. Manchester |
| 10/10 | P.I. | 3171 migr | S. Sutton | Black Vulture | | | |
| 10/12 | Edgartown | 1000+ | L. McDowell | thr | Russell | 2-3 | T. Swochak |
| 10/22 | Burlington | 430 | M. Rines# | thr | Granville | 8 max | J. Weeks |
| 10/22 | Duxbury | 7000+ | R. Bowes | 10/7 | Wayland | 1 | G. Long |
| Great Cormorant | | | | 10/21 | Barre Falls | 1 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| 9/13, 25 | P.I. | 1, 4 | Heil, Wetmore | Turkey Vulture | | | |
| 9/17 | Lakeville | 1 | W. Petersen# | 9/3 | Quabbin Pk | 16 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/17, 10/12 | Rockport (A.P.) | 1, 23 migr | R. Heil | 9/18 | Monson | 14 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/24 | Quabbin Pk | 2 | J. P. Smith | 9/30 | Barre Falls | 16 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| 10/26 | Ludlow | 1 | J. Smith | 10/thr | Barre Falls | 206 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| American Bittern | | | | 10/thr | Granville | 156 | Hawkcount (JW) |
| thr | P.I. | 1-4 | v.o. | 10/thr | Russell | 91 | Hawkcount (TS) |
| 9/2, 10/21 | GMNWR | 1, 1 | Reid, Kwong | 10/12 | Amherst | 50 | H. Allen |
| 9/7 | Edgartown | 1 | A. Keith | 10/16, 17 | Barre Falls | 94, 35 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 1 | M. Lynch# | 10/20 | Granville | 54 | Hawkcount (JW) |
| 9/11 | Newbypt | 1 | J. Liller# | 10/21-28 | Mt. Watatic | 66 | Hawkcount (TP) |
| 9/18 | Carlisle | 1 | D. + T. Brownrigg | Osprey | | | |
| 9/18 | Amherst | 2 | H. Allen | 9/thr | Russell | 64 | Hawkcount (TS) |
| 9/19 | Marstons Mills | 1 | M. Tuttle | 9/thr | Granville | 152 | Hawkcount (JW) |
| 9/21 | Pittsfield | 1 | R. Guthrie | 9/4-30 | Barre Falls | 133 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| 9/26 | Marblehead | 1 | R. Stymeist# | 9/5-24 | Mt. Watatic | 117 | Hawkcount (TP) |
| 10/1 | Scituate | 1 | D. Furbish | 9/10, 27 | Barre Falls | 17, 21 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| Least Bittern | | | | 9/10-23 | Mt. Wachusett | 106 | Hawkcount (JS) |
| 9/1-10/4 | P.I. | 1-2 | v.o. | 9/11, 24 | Mt. Watatic | 17, 13 | Hawkcount (TP) |
| Great Blue Heron | | | | 9/18, 24 | Mt. Wachusett | 23, 24 | Hawkcount (JS) |
| 9/4 | Sudbury | 12 | S. Eills | 9/23 | Granville | 37 | Hawkcount (JW) |
| 9/5 | Chatham | 15 | B. Nikula | 10/1-22 | Granville | 47 | Hawkcount (JW) |
| 9/11 | P'town | 15 | BBC (Stymeist) | Bald Eagle | | | |
| 9/19 | Plymouth H. | 12+ | K. Anderson | 9/thr | Russell | 17 | Hawkcount (TS) |
| 9/27 | Eastham (F.H.) | 22 | CCBC (Furbish) | 9/thr | Granville | 29 | Hawkcount (JW) |
| 10/16 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 26 | BBC (Zende) | 9/3 | Quabbin Pk | 5 ad | M. Lynch# |
| 10/17 | Chilmark | 42 | B. Welch | 9/4-29 | Barre Falls | 49 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| Great Egret | | | | 9/5, 10 | Mt. Watatic | 6, 6 | Hawkcount (TP) |
| thr | P.I. | 52 max | 10/18 R. Heil | 9/5-24 | Mt. Watatic | 29 | Hawkcount (TP) |
| 9/4 | Lenox | 4 | R. Laubach | 9/10-23 | Mt. Wachusett | 16 | Hawkcount (JS) |
| 9/4 | Sudbury | 11 | S. Eills | 9/24 | Mt. Tom | 7 | T. Gagnon |
| 9/11, 10/16 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 21, 5 | BBC (Zende) | 9/24, 27 | Barre Falls | 9, 12 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| 9/11, 10/27 | Nantucket | 52, 1 | fide E. Ray | 10/thr | Granville | 14 | Hawkcount (JW) |
| 9/17 | Westport | 97 | M. Lynch# | Northern Harrier | | | |
| 9/22 | Lee | 2 | R. Laubach | thr | DWWS | 8 max | D. Furbish |
| 9/30, 10/30 | Falmouth | 67, 2 | R. Farrell | thr | P.I. | 12 max | 10/18 R. Heil |
| 10/4 | Ipswich | 32+ | R. Heil | 9/thr | Granville | 26 | Hawkcount (JW) |
| 10/17 | Chappaquiddick | 11 | E. Potter | 9/3-28 | Barre Falls | 9 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| Snowy Egret | | | | 9/5-25 | Mt. Watatic | 14 | Hawkcount (TP) |
| 9/1-10/21 | P.I. | 75 max | 9/13 R. Heil | 9/10-23 | Mt. Wachusett | 5 | Hawkcount (JS) |
| 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 15 | B. Nikula | 10/thr | Granville | 34 | Hawkcount (JW) |
| 9/5 | Chatham | 30 | B. Nikula | 10/thr | Barre Falls | 9 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| 9/11 | Nantucket | 62 | N. Slavitz | 10/16-29 | Russell | 15 | Hawkcount (TS) |

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------|----------------------|
| Northern Harrier (continued) | 10/21-28 | Mt. Watatic | 9 | Hawkcount (TP) | 10/27 | Russell | 112 | Hawkcount (TS) |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 9/thr | Russell | 210 | Hawkcount (TS) | Golden Eagle | | | |
| | 9/thr | Granville | 323 | Hawkcount (JW) | 9/22 | Mt. Wachusett | 1 | Hawkcount (JS) |
| | 9/thr | Chatham (MI) | 55 | D. Manchester | 9/27, 10/23 | Barre Falls | 2, 1 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| | 9/4-30 | Barre Falls | 413 | Hawkcount (BK) | 10/17 | Hatfield | 1 | J. Smith |
| | 9/5-25 | Mt. Watatic | 178 | Hawkcount (TP) | 10/21, 22 | Mt. Watatic | 1 juv, | 1 juv Hawkcount (TP) |
| | 9/10-23 | Mt. Wachusett | 78 | Hawkcount (JS) | 10/28 | Mt. Watatic | 1 ad | Hawkcount (TP) |
| | 9/24, 10/22 | Mt. Watatic | 55, 62 | Hawkcount (TP) | American Kestrel | | | |
| | 10/thr | Granville | 668 | Hawkcount (JW) | 9/thr | Granville | 211 | Hawkcount (JW) |
| | 10/thr | Barre Falls | 628 | Hawkcount (BK) | 9/thr | Barre Falls | 72 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| | 10/thr | Chatham (MI) | 356 | D. Manchester | 9/thr | Russell | 40 | Hawkcount (TS) |
| | 10/15, 21 | Granville | 136, 84 | Hawkcount (JW) | 9/5-25 | Mt. Watatic | 55 | Hawkcount (TP) |
| | 10/16, 17 | Barre Falls | 145, 147 | Hawkcount (BK) | 9/10, 13 | Mt. Watatic | 12, 9 | Hawkcount (TP) |
| | 10/16-30 | Russell | 465 | Hawkcount (TS) | 9/10-23 | Mt. Wachusett | 27 | Hawkcount (JS) |
| | 10/17 | Gay Head | 35+ | L. McDowell# | 9/18, 10/16 | Barre Falls | 11, 30 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| | 10/17 | Hatfield | 35 | J. Smith | 9/23, 30 | Granville | 29, 26 | Hawkcount (JW) |
| | 10/18, 20 | Russell | 121, 83 | Hawkcount (TS) | 10/thr | Russell | 29 | Hawkcount (TS) |
| | 10/21-28 | Mt. Watatic | 134 | Hawkcount (TP) | 10/1-21 | Granville | 140 | Hawkcount (JW) |
| Cooper's Hawk | | | | | 10/1-27 | Barre Falls | 57 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| | 9/thr | Granville | 19 | Hawkcount (JW) | Merlin | | | |
| | 9/thr | Chatham (MI) | 20 | D. Manchester | thr | PI. | 2-3 | v.o. |
| | 9/thr | Russell | 10 | Hawkcount (TS) | 9/thr | Chatham (MI) | 13 | D. Manchester |
| | 9/5-24 | Mt. Watatic | 14 | Hawkcount (TP) | 9/3-28 | Barre Falls | 25 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| | 9/10-23 | Mt. Wachusett | 13 | Hawkcount (JS) | 9/9-25 | Mt. Watatic | 16 | Hawkcount (TP) |
| | 9/18-30 | Barre Falls | 13 | Hawkcount (BK) | 10/thr | Barre Falls | 22 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| | 10/thr | Chatham (MI) | 96 | D. Manchester | 10/thr | Chatham (MI) | 12 | D. Manchester |
| | 10/thr | Barre Falls | 49 | Hawkcount (BK) | 10/1-27 | Granville | 15 | Hawkcount (JW) |
| | 10/thr | Granville | 53 | Hawkcount (JW) | 10/16, 17 | Barre Falls | 8, 8 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| | 10/16-30 | Russell | 20 | Hawkcount (TS) | 10/16-23 | Russell | 8 | Hawkcount (TS) |
| | 10/17 | Chatham | 48 | D. Manchester | 10/17 | Gay Head | 35+ | L. McDowell# |
| | 10/17 | Gay Head | 14 | L. McDowell# | Peregrine Falcon | | | |
| | 10/21-28 | Mt. Watatic | 13 | Hawkcount (TP) | 9/thr | Chatham (MI) | 12 | D. Manchester |
| Northern Goshawk | | | | | 9/10-30 | Barre Falls | 5 | Hawkcount (BK) |
| | 9/3 | Quabbin Pk | 1 imm | M. Lynch# | 9/21 | Newbypt | 2 | MAS (D. Larson) |
| | 10/thr | Chatham (MI) | 2 | D. Manchester | 10/thr | Chatham (MI) | 66 | D. Manchester |
| | 10/6-28 | Granville | 3 | Hawkcount (JW) | 10/1-16 | Granville | 12 | Hawkcount (JW) |
| | 10/16 | Russell | 2 | Hawkcount (TS) | 10/9, 11 | Rockport (A.P.) | 5, 6 | R. Heil |
| | 10/20-31 | Barre Falls | 4 | Hawkcount (BK) | 10/12 | Bradford | 3 | S. + J. Mirick |
| | 10/21 | Mt. Watatic | 2 | Hawkcount (TP) | 10/13, 18 | PI. | 5, 4 | Wetmore, Heil |
| | 10/28 | S. Lancaster | 1 | S. Sutton | 10/16 | Wellfleet | 4 | SSBC (G.d'E) |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | | | | | 10/16 | Granville | 3 | Hawkcount (JW) |
| | thr | DWWS | 1-2 | D. Furbish | 10/17 | Chatham | 27 | D. Manchester |
| | 9/18 | Monson | 2 pr | M. Lynch# | 10/17 | Gay Head | 14 | L. McDowell# |
| | 10/17-30 | Barre Falls | 28 | Hawkcount (BK) | 10/21 | Chatham (S.B.) | 4 imm | B. Nikula |
| | 10/17-30 | Granville | 44 | Hawkcount (JW) | 10/30 | Boston | 3 ad | BBC (Stymeist) |
| | 10/17-30 | Russell | 37 | Hawkcount (TS) | Clapper Rail | | | |
| | 10/20 | Russell | 10 | Hawkcount (TS) | 9/14 | PI. | 1 | T. Wetmore |
| | 10/20, 21 | Barre Falls | 8, 8 | Hawkcount (BK) | 9/3 | W. Newbury | 1 | D. Chickering |
| | 10/20, 21 | Granville | 18, 7 | Hawkcount (JW) | 9/3-10/4 | PI. | 1-2 | v.o. |
| | 10/21, 27 | Mt. Watatic | 9, 14 | Hawkcount (TP) | 9/4 | Marstons Mills | 1 | St. Miller |
| | 10/21-28 | Mt. Watatic | 28 | Hawkcount (TP) | 9/5 | Magnolia | 1 imm | R. Heil |
| | 10/27 | Mt. Watatic | 14 | Hawkcount (TP) | 9/18 | Mashpee | 1 | M. Keleher |
| Broad-winged Hawk | | | | | 10/2 | Northboro | 1 | B. Volkle# |
| | 9/thr | Granville | 3981 | Hawkcount (JW) | 10/2 | Westboro | 1 | J. Liller# |
| | 9/thr | Russell | 3439 | Hawkcount (TS) | 10/11 | Eastham | 1 | G. Hirth |
| | 9/4-30 | Barre Falls | 16701 | Hawkcount (BK) | 10/30 | Mashpee | 2 | M. Keleher |
| | 9/5-24 | Mt. Watatic | 6362 | Hawkcount (TP) | Sora | | | |
| | 9/10-23 | Mt. Wachusett | 8489 | Hawkcount (JS) | 9/4 | Marstons Mills | 1 | St. Miller |
| | 9/11, 18 | Mt. Tom | 96, 1995 | Gagnon, Therrien | 9/2-10/5 | PI. | 1 | T. Wetmore |
| | 9/18 | Mt. Holyoke | 672 | S. Sumner | 9/24 | Boston (B.I.) | 1 | K. Hartel# |
| | 9/18, 23 | Russell | 1112, 1066 | Hawkcount (TS) | 9/25, 10/6 | Northampton | 1, 1 | J. Smith |
| | 9/18, 23 | Granville | 1181, 901 | Hawkcount (JW) | 10/2 | Westboro | 1 | J. Liller# |
| | 9/19, 23 | Barre Falls | 3633, 9122 | Hawkcount (BK) | 10/10 | Amherst | 1 | H. Allen |
| | 9/19, 24 | Mt. Wachusett | 1472, 4782 | Hawkcount (JS) | 10/10, 15 | GMNWR | 1, 2 | S. Perkins# |
| | 9/19, 24 | Mt. Watatic | 4027, 784 | Hawkcount (TP) | Common Moorhen | | | |
| | 10/1-6 | Granville | 256 | Hawkcount (JW) | 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 1 | B. Nikula |
| | 10/1-17 | Barre Falls | 192 | Hawkcount (BK) | 10/9 | Melrose | 1 | D. + I. Jewell |
| Red-tailed Hawk | | | | | 10/29 | GMNWR | 1 | S. Perkins# |
| | 10/thr | Russell | 358 | Hawkcount (TS) | American Coot | | | |
| | 10/thr | Granville | 387 | Hawkcount (JW) | 10/11 | Amherst | 1 | D. Minnear |
| | 10/thr | Barre Falls | 183 | Hawkcount (BK) | 10/18 | Cambr. (F.P.) | 2 | M. Rines |
| | 10/16-30 | Russell | 358 | Hawkcount (TS) | 10/22 | W. Newbury | 9 | BBC (Grinley) |
| | 10/16-31 | Granville | 387 | Hawkcount (JW) | 10/28 | Sudbury | 47 | G. Dysart |
| | 10/21, 29 | Barre Falls | 30, 49 | Hawkcount (BK) | 10/29 | Richmond | 12 | Allen Club (CB) |
| | 10/21-28 | Mt. Watatic | 102 | Hawkcount (TP) | 10/29 | Stoughton | 7 | G. d'Entremont |
| | 10/26, 30 | Granville | 72, 65 | Hawkcount (JW) | 10/29 | Eastham | 7 | MAS (S. Ellis) |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| American Coot (continued) | | | | 9/24 | Duxbury B. | 2 | R. Bowes |
| 10/29 | GMNWR | 55 | S. Perkins# | 10/4 | Cotuit | 1 | M. Keleher |
| 10/30 | Randolph | 26 | G. d'Entremont | Spotted Sandpiper | | | |
| Black-bellied Plover | | | | 9/2, 10/7 | Lexington | 3, 3 | M. Rines |
| thr | P.I. | 390 max 9/6 | v.o. | 9/4, 10/2 | Arlington Res. | 3, 2 | Gurka, Floyd |
| 9/10 | Newbypt | 111 | D. Chickering | 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 4 | B. Nikula |
| 9/22 | Chatham (S.B.) | 2700 | B. Nikula | 9/5 | Sterling | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/23 | N. Monomoy | 200+ | MAS (Silverstein) | 9/10 | Hadley | 7 | C. Gentes |
| 10/2 | Quabbin (G35) | 5 | M. Lynch# | 9/23 | WMWS | 3 | B. deGraaf# |
| 10/6, 26 | Plymouth B. | 400, 2 | Walker, Anderson | 10/15 | Turners Falls | 1 | S. Surner |
| 10/11 | Sunderland | 2 | C. Gentes | 10/30 | Groveland | 1 | S. McGrath |
| American Golden-Plover | | | | Upland Sandpiper | | | |
| thr | P.I. | 6 max 9/28 | v.o. | 9/9 | Pepperell | 1 | M. Torpey# |
| 9/2 | Edgartown | 5 | A. Keith | 10/14 | Tuckernuck | 1 | R. Veit |
| 9/2-10/3 | Northampton | 1-5 | v.o. | Whimbrel | | | |
| 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 4 | B. Nikula | 9/1-10/11 | P.I. | 3-9 | v.o. |
| 9/5 | Nantucket | 6 | K. Harte | 9/1 | Chatham (S.B.) | 2 | G. Hirth |
| 9/8 | Hadley | 3 | H. McQueen | 9/3 | Scituate | 2 | S. Maguire# |
| 9/13-24 | Newbury | 5-6 | v.o. | 9/8 | Nahant | 1 | L. Pivacek |
| 9/17 | Northfield | 5 | C. Gentes | 9/10, 10/1 | Nantucket | 7, 3 | Harte, Kennedy |
| 9/22 | Chatham (S.B.) | 6 | B. Nikula | 9/17 | Eastham | 5 | M. Resch# |
| 10/11, 15 | Sunderland | 8, 5 | C. Gentes | 9/18 | Westport | 1 | A. + D. Morgan |
| Wilson's Plover (from August) * | | | | 9/23 | N. Monomoy | 1 | MAS (Silverstein) |
| 9/1-3 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 | v.o. | Hudsonian Godwit | | | |
| Semipalmated Plover | | | | 9/1, 9 | Chatham (S.B.) | 15, 3 | Hirth, Nikula |
| 9/3, 22 | Scituate | 316, 315 | S. Maguire# | 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 1 | B. Nikula |
| 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 250 | B. Nikula | 9/5-10/4 | P.I. | 1-2 | v.o. |
| 9/4 | GMNWR | 12 | P. + F. Vale | 9/11 | Marshfield | 1 juv | S. Maguire# |
| 9/6, 10/18 | P.I. | 520, 160 | R. Heil | 10/1 | Eastham (F.E.) | 1 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 9/9, 10/21 | Chatham (S.B.) | 950, 110 | B. Nikula | 10/9 | Duxbury B. | 1 juv | R. Bowes |
| 9/11 | Lexington | 24 | M. Rines# | Marbled Godwit | | | |
| 9/17 | Northfield | 3 | C. Gentes | 9/3-7, 10/5 | P.I. | 1-2 | v.o. |
| 9/24, 10/28 | Duxbury B. | 75, 4 | Bowes, Clapp | 9/4 | Essex | 1 | D. Brown# |
| Piping Plover | | | | 9/5-10 | Nantucket | 1 | v.o. |
| 9/1 | P.I. | 9 | T. Wetmore | 9/15 | W. Tisbury | 1 | V. Laux# |
| 9/9 | Chatham (S.B.) | 40 | B. Nikula | 9/17 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 3 | M. Resch# |
| 9/22 | Scituate | 1 | S. Maguire | 9/18-22 | Edgartown | 1 | A. Keith# |
| Killdeer | | | | 9/24, 10/21 | Chatham (S.B.) | 18, 15 | B. Nikula |
| 9/11 | Lexington | 36 | M. Rines# | Ruddy Turnstone | | | |
| 9/13, 10/16 | Newbury | 64, 42 | Grinley, Vale | thr | P.I. | 1-4 | v.o. |
| 9/17 | Northfield | 160 | C. Gentes | 9/1 | Chatham (S.B.) | 65 | G. Hirth |
| 10/15 | Gardner | 33 | T. Pirro | 9/3 | Sandwich | 4 | M. Keleher |
| 10/15 | Sunderland | 60 | C. Gentes | 9/3, 22 | Scituate | 4, 5 | S. Maguire# |
| 10/15 | Wachusett Res. | 44 | M. Lynch# | 10/9 | Gloucester (B.R.) | 4 | J. Robinson |
| 10/17 | Hatfield | 60 | J. Smith | 10/23 | Winthrop | 10 | S. Zende# |
| 10/18, 29 | Acton | 120, 130 | S. Perkins# | Red Knot | | | |
| American Oystercatcher | | | | 9/4 | Duxbury B. | 12 | D. Furbish# |
| 9/11, 10/27 | Chatham (S.B.) | 135, 68 | B. Nikula | 9/5-10/25 | P.I. | 35 max 10/25 | v.o. |
| 9/23 | N. Monomoy | 18 | MAS (Silverstein) | 9/9, 10/21 | Chatham (S.B.) | 300, 185 | B. Nikula |
| 10/1, 27 | Nantucket | 6, 2 | B. Kennedy | 10/6 | Plymouth B. | 3 | J. Walker |
| Greater Yellowlegs | | | | Sanderling | | | |
| thr | P.I. | 245 max 9/28 | v.o. | 9/2 | Revere B. | 254 | BBC (P. + F. Vale) |
| 9/5, 10/22 | Chatham | 175, 145 | B. Nikula | 9/6, 10/18 | P.I. | 105, 400 | R. Heil |
| 9/4 | Lexington | 9 | M. Rines | 9/9 | Chatham (S.B.) | 2500 | B. Nikula |
| 9/5 | Sterling | 5 | M. Lynch# | 9/22 | Scituate | 410 | S. Maguire |
| 9/5 | Squantum | 25 | G. d'Entremont | 9/24, 10/9 | Duxbury B. | 976, 258 | R. Bowes |
| 9/8 | N. Monomoy | 90 | B. Nikula | 10/2 | Nahant | 320 | L. Pivacek |
| 10/1 | Eastham (F.E.) | 75 | G. d'Entremont# | 10/6 | Plymouth B. | 800 | J. Walker |
| 10/2 | Quabbin (G35) | 9 | M. Lynch# | Semipalmated Sandpiper | | | |
| 10/16 | Hadley | 4 | C. Gentes | 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 800 | B. Nikula |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | | | | 9/2, 11 | Lexington | 6, 4 | M. Rines |
| thr | P.I. | 65 max 9/6 | v.o. | 9/3, 22 | Scituate | 268, 218 | S. Maguire# |
| 9/4-10/9 | Arlington Res. | 16 max 9/12 | M. Rines | 9/6, 10/18 | P.I. | 850, 58 | R. Heil |
| 9/4 | Lexington | 9 | M. Rines | 9/9, 10/21 | Chatham (S.B.) | 400, 25 | B. Nikula |
| 9/7 | Newbypt | 15 | D. Whipple | 9/19 | GMNWR | 7 | S. Perkins# |
| 10/16-19 | Hatfield | 1 | C. Gentes# | 10/10 | Amherst | 3 | H. Allen |
| 10/30 | Nantucket | 2 | E. Ray | 10/17 | Hatfield | 1 | J. Smith |
| Solitary Sandpiper | | | | Western Sandpiper | | | |
| 9/1 | Chilmark | 4 | A. Keith | 9/3 | Sandwich | 1 | M. Keleher |
| 9/2, 10/7 | Lexington | 3, 5 | M. Rines | 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 15 | B. Nikula |
| 9/4 | Lenox | 4 | R. Laubach | 9/5, 10/21 | Chatham (S.B.) | 10, 4 | B. Nikula |
| 9/5, 30 | Arlington Res. | 7, 2 | M. Rines | 9/13, 10/6 | P.I. | 5, 1 | Heil, Gurka |
| 9/5 | Deerfield | 4 | H. McQueen | 9/24 | Revere | 1 | P. + F. Vale |
| 9/5 | Bridgewater | 4 | K. Holmes | 10/1 | Eastham (F.E.) | 1 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 10/12 | Mt.A. | 2 | B. Miller | Least Sandpiper | | | |
| Willet | | | | 9/1 | Chatham (S.B.) | 50 | G. Hirth |
| 9/3 | P.I. | 6 | BBC (Drummond) | 9/2, 11 | Lexington | 67, 35 | M. Rines |
| 9/9 | Chatham (S.B.) | 30 | B. Nikula | 9/3, 10/28 | Hatfield | 10, 1 | Gentes, Smith |

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|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Least Sandpiper (continued) | | | | 10/16 | Eastham | 1 | B. Nikula# |
| 9/5, 10/9 | Arlington Res. | 23, 1 | M. Rines | Red Phalarope | | | |
| 9/4 | GMNWR | 23 | P. + F. Vale | 9/22 | Georges Bank | 120 | D. Wilson |
| 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 250 | B. Nikula | 10/12, 25 | Rockport (A.P.) | 1, 10 | R. Heil |
| 9/10 | Agawam | 16 | C. Gentes | 10/25 | P.I. | 2 | T. Wetmore |
| 9/13, 10/19 | P.I. | 60, 1 | Heil, Wetmore | 10/26 | Dennis (Corp. B.) | 1 | W. Petersen# |
| White-rumped Sandpiper | | | | 10/26 | Eastham (F.E.) | 7 | B. Nikula# |
| 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 80 | B. Nikula | 10/29 | P'town | 1 | B. Nikula# |
| 9/9, 10/21 | Chatham (S.B.) | 75, 25 | B. Nikula | Phalarope species | | | |
| 9/13, 10/14 | P.I. | 135, 45 | R. Heil | 10/26 | Eastham (F.E.) | 80 | B. Nikula# |
| 9/17 | W. Tisbury | 15+ | A. Keith | Skua species | | | |
| 9/18 | Revere | 15+ | P. + F. Vale | 9/23 | Georges Bank | 6 | D. Wilson |
| 10/9 | Duxbury B. | 5 | R. Bowes | 10/13 | Eastham (F.E.) | 1 | B. Nikula# |
| 10/15 | Sunderland | 2 | C. Gentes | 10/25 | Rockport (A.P.) | 1 | R. Heil |
| 10/16-19 | Hatfield | 3 | C. Gentes | 10/26 | Eastham (F.E.) | 2+ | T. Maloney# |
| Baird's Sandpiper | | | | Pomarine Jaeger | | | |
| 9/2, 10/30 | P.I. | 2, 1 | Wetmore, Larson | 9/22 | Georges Bank | 1 | D. Wilson |
| 9/3 | Chatham (S.B.) | 2 | M. Daley# | 10/8 | off Noman's | 1 | P. Harrington |
| 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 1 | B. Nikula | 10/9, 25, 29 | Rockport (A.P.) | 2, 28, 3 | R. Heil |
| 9/5 | Northampton | 1 | T. Gagnon | 10/13, 16 | Eastham | 7, 16 | B. Nikula# |
| 9/17 | W. Tisbury | 1 juv | A. Keith | 10/21 | Jeffreys Ledge | 1 ad | S. Mirick# |
| 9/23-25 | Nantucket | 2 | N. Orr | 10/25 | P.I. | 1 ad | T. Wetmore |
| 10/19 | Hatfield | 2 | M. Taylor | 10/25 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 3 | R. Stymeist# |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | | | | 10/26, 30 | Eastham (F.E.) | 10, 2 | B. Nikula# |
| thr | P.I. | 30 max | 9/17 v.o. | Parasitic Jaeger | | | |
| 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 8 | B. Nikula | 9/2, 24 | P'town | 2, 5 | B. Nikula |
| 9/17 | Newbypt | 108 | D. Chickering | 9/3 | Tillies Bank | 1 | J. Wallius |
| 9/19, 10/13 | GMNWR | 11, 14 | S. Perkins# | 9/11 | Chatham (S.B.) | 4+ | B. Nikula |
| 10/11 | Sunderland | 11 | H. Allen | 9/16, 17 | P.I. | 3, 2 | T. Wetmore |
| 10/17 | Hatfield | 16 | J. Smith | 10/3-25 | Rockport (A.P.) | 6 migr | R. Heil |
| 10/18, 29 | Acton | 10, 16 | S. Perkins# | 10/12 | Dennis (Corp. B.) | 1 | B. Nikula |
| 10/21 | Cumb. Farms | 12 | N. Bonomo | 10/13, 15 | Eastham (F.E.) | 12, 8 | B. Nikula# |
| 10/21 | Chatham (S.B.) | 3+ | B. Nikula | 10/16, 26 | Eastham | 3, 3 | B. Nikula# |
| Dunlin | | | | 10/25 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 17 | R. Stymeist# |
| thr | P.I. | 210 max | 10/25 v.o. | Long-tailed Jaeger * | | | |
| 9/22 | Chatham (S.B.) | 600 | B. Nikula | 10/13 | Eastham (F.E.) | 1 2S | B. Nikula# |
| 10/4 | Ipswich | 30+ | R. Heil | Jaeger species | | | |
| 10/9 | Northampton | 1 | J. Smith | 9/4 | Essex | 1 | D. Brown# |
| 10/23 | Winthrop | 30 | S. Zende# | 9/17 | Eastham | 2 | M. Resch# |
| 10/26 | Eastham (F.E.) | 75 | E. Anderson | 9/17 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 4 imm | M. Resch# |
| Curlew Sandpiper (from August) | | | | 9/27 | N. Truro | 2 | CCBC (Furbish) |
| 9/1-16 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 | v.o. | 10/9-25 | Rockport (A.P.) | 14 migr | R. Heil |
| Stilt Sandpiper | | | | 10/10 | P'town | 3 | B. Nikula# |
| 9/2-4 | Lexington | 1 | M. Rines | 10/15, 16 | Eastham | 5, 13 | B. Nikula# |
| 9/2-22 | P.I. | 86 max | 9/6 v.o. | 10/25, 26 | Eastham (F.E.) | 11, 120 | B. Nikula# |
| 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 4 | B. Nikula | Laughing Gull | | | |
| 9/16 | Chatham (S.B.) | 20 | MAS (S. Ellis) | 9/1-10/13 | P.I. | 30 max | 10/11 T. Wetmore |
| 10/9 | Duxbury B. | 9 | R. Bowes | 10/11, 29 | Rockport (A.P.) | 160, 11 | R. Heil |
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper | | | | 10/13 | Northampton | 1 | A. Magee |
| 9/1-12 | P.I. | 4-5 | v.o. | 10/13, 25 | Barnst. (S.N.) | 375, 60 | Clapp, Stymeist |
| 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 2 | B. Nikula | 10/16 | Eastham | 210 | B. Nikula# |
| 9/5-8 | Nantucket | 1 | E. Ray | 10/16, 29 | P'town | 225, 115 | B. Nikula# |
| 9/7-09 | Edgartown | 2-3 | A. Keith# | 10/23 | Brewster | 150 | B. Nikula |
| 9/9-11 | Chatham (S.B.) | 1 | B. Nikula | Franklin's Gull * | | | |
| 9/14-17 | Newbypt | 2 | v.o. | 10/29 | Rockport (A.P.) | 1 1W | R. Heil |
| 9/17 | W. Tisbury | 1 | A. Keith | Little Gull | | | |
| Short-billed Dowitcher | | | | 9/5 | Nantucket | 1 | B. Kennedy |
| 9/1-25 | P.I. | 120 max | 9/6 v.o. | 9/27 | Newypt H. | 2 ad, 1 juv | R. Heil |
| 9/7 | Newbypt | 10 | D. Whipple | Black-headed Gull | | | |
| 9/9 | Chatham (S.B.) | 45 | B. Nikula | 10/17 | Truro | 1 | G. Ellison |
| 9/17 | Eastham | 10 | M. Resch# | 10/25 | Gloucester | 1 1W | R. Heil |
| 10/2 | Arlington Res. | 1 | M. Rines | 10/31 | Sandwich | 1 ad | J. Kricher |
| 10/27 | WBWS | 3 | E. Ellis | Bonaparte's Gull | | | |
| 10/29 | Acton | 1 juv | S. Perkins# | 9/9 | Nahant | 600+ | L. Pivacek |
| 10/30 | Nantucket | 3 | E. Ray | 9/18 | Essex | 300 | D. Brown |
| Long-billed Dowitcher | | | | 9/27 | Newypt H. | 600 | R. Heil |
| thr | P.I. | 36 max | 9/28 v.o. | 10/14 | Amherst | 1 | J. Smith |
| 9/24 | Lexington | 1 | M. Rines | 10/15 | Turners Falls | 1 | Allen Club (LR) |
| Wilson's Snipe | | | | 10/29 | Pittsfield (Pont.) | 1 | Allen Club (CB) |
| 9/1-10/13 | GMNWR | 1-6 | v.o. | 10/30 | Eastham (F.E.) | 52 | B. Nikula# |
| 10/9 | Northampton | 7 | J. Smith | Iceland Gull | | | |
| 10/15 | Hadley | 5 | C. Gentes | 10/22 | Gardner | 1 1W | T. Pirro |
| 10/16 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 5 | BBC (S. Zende#) | 10/30 | P.I. | 1 | D. Larson |
| 10/21 | Cumb. Farms | 57 | N. Bonomo | Lesser Black-backed Gull | | | |
| 10/27 | DWWS | 2 | D. Furbish | 9/5, 10/15 | Chatham | 25, 4 | B. Nikula# |
| Red-necked Phalarope | | | | 9/16-10/30 | Nantucket | 33 max | 10/27 E. Ray |
| 9/3 | Tillies Bank | 2 | J. Wallius | 9/27, 10/29 | Eastham | 1, 1 | Furbish, Ellis |
| 10/12 | Rockport (A.P.) | 21 | R. Heil | 10/3 | Rockport (A.P.) | 1 ad | R. Heil |

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| Lesser Black-backed Gull (continued) | | | | 9/24 | Weymouth | 700+ | C. Nims |
| 10/6 | Plymouth B. | 1 | J. Walker | 9/24, 10/16 | P'town | 2500, 1500 | B. Nikula |
| 10/11, 23 | Brewster | 1, 1 | Hirth, Nikula | 10/11-15 | Turners Falls | 1 | M. Fairbrother# |
| 10/15 | Hadley | 2 | S. Surner | 10/13, 30 | Eastham (F.E.) | 3700, 380 | B. Nikula# |
| 10/16 | Edgartown | 1 ad | SSBC (D. Clapp) | Forster's Tern | | | |
| 10/16 | P'town H. | 4 juv | B. Nikula# | 9/4 | Acoaxet | 14 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/21 | Gardner | 1 2W | T. Pirro | 10/13, 30 | Eastham (F.E.) | 65, 13 | B. Nikula# |
| 10/30 | Boston | 1 ad | BBC (Stymeist) | 10/15 | Wellfleet | 8 | B. Nikula# |
| Sabine's Gull | | | | 10/23 | Brewster | 25 | B. Nikula |
| 10/12 | Rockport (A.P.) | 1 ad br pl | R. Heil | 10/26 | Plymouth | 2 | K. Anderson# |
| Black-legged Kittiwake | | | | 10/28 | Duxbury B. | 2 | MAS (D. Clapp) |
| 9/13 | Jeffries Ledge | 2 | S. Mirick# | Least Tern | | | |
| 9/17, 10/13 | P.I. | 3, 5 | T. Wetmore | 9/3 | Sandwich | 4 | M. Keleher |
| 10/9, 25 | Rockport (A.P.) | 14, 317 | R. Heil | 9/6 | P.I. | 8 | R. Heil |
| 10/10 | Sandwich | 2 | G. Hirth | 9/16 | Chatham (S.B.) | 4 | MAS (S. Ellis) |
| 10/11 | Turners Falls | 1 | J. P. Smith | 9/18 | Westport | 4 | A. + D. Morgan |
| 10/11-15 | Northampton | 4-7 | J. P. Smith# | 9/18 | Nantucket | 25 | E. Ray |
| 10/12-13 | Quabbin Pk | 1 ad | J. P. Smith | 9/24 | E. Harwich | 1 | A. Curtis |
| 10/16, 26 | Eastham | 210, 900 | B. Nikula# | Black Tern | | | |
| 10/25 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 250 | R. Stymeist# | 9/2 | P.I. | 2 | T. Wetmore |
| Caspian Tern | | | | 9/3 | Falmouth | 4 | R. Farrell |
| 9/11 | Newbypt | 2 | J. Liller# | 9/4 | S. Monomoy | 12 | B. Nikula |
| 9/17 | Oak Bluffs | 13 | A. Keith | 9/4 | Essex | 2 | D. Brown# |
| 9/17, 10/22 | P.I. | 1, 1 | Sharp, Spahr | 9/5 | Rockport (A.P.) | 4 | R. Heil |
| 9/26 | Tisbury | 2 | L. McDowell | 9/9 | Chatham (S.B.) | 15 | B. Nikula# |
| 9/28 | Chatham (MI) | 1 | D. Manchester | 9/9 | Nantucket | 13 | K. Harte |
| 10/28-31 | Nantucket | 2-3 | L. Morgan | 10/13 | Eastham (F.E.) | 1 | B. Nikula# |
| Royal Tern | | | | 10/16 | P'town H. | 1 | B. Nikula# |
| 10/30-31 | Nantucket | 1 | P. Brown# | Black Skimmer | | | |
| Sandwich Tern (details submitted) * | | | | 9/28 | Edgartown | 1 juv | A. Keith |
| 10/30 | N. Truro | 1 | D. Spang | 10/28 | Chatham (MI) | 1 | D. Manchester |
| Roseate Tern | | | | Razorbill | | | |
| 9/5 | Tuckernuck | 450 | R. Veit | 10/9 | Rockport | 1 | R. Heil |
| 10/1 | P'town | 10 | G. d'Entremont# | 10/9, 25 | Rockport (A.P.) | 1, 11 | R. Heil |
| Common Tern | | | | 10/25 | Rockport (A.P.) | 11 | R. Heil |
| 9/4 | Essex | 1500 | D. Brown# | 10/30 | P.I. | 1 | D. Larson |
| 9/4, 10/9 | Duxbury B. | 900, 250 | Furbish, Bowes | Black Guillemot | | | |
| 9/6, 10/25 | P.I. | 600, 6 | Heil, Wetmore | 10/12, 25 | Rockport (A.P.) | 2, 4 | R. Heil |
| 9/15 | Northampton | 1 | C. Gentes | Atlantic Puffin | | | |
| 9/16, 10/12 | Rockport (A.P.) | 900, 214 | R. Heil | 9/17, 10/16 | Rockport (A.P.) | 2, 4 | R. Heil |

CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

Both species of cuckoos were well reported, especially Yellow-billed, with at least eighteen individuals compared to just five last year during this period. A leucistic individual, a pale creamy coffee-colored bird, was noted on Plum Island at the end of October.

For the third year, Strickland Wheelock set up a Northern Saw-whet Owl banding site at Lookout Rock in Northbridge, an attempt to learn more about the incredible magnitude of the fall migration of this little owl. Banding started on October 16, and by the end of the month the total number tagged was 117. The conditions were right on the night of October 20: light winds from the west, slight cloud cover and cooler temperatures. The group netted thirty-two. The following day conditions were even better, and fifty-five were banded in just four hours. Norm Smith and his daughter Danielle banded an amazing 154 Saw-whet Owls at Daniel Webster Sanctuary in Marshfield during October and another thirty in the Blue Hills in Milton. With so many owls moving through, one wonders why birders fail to find them during the day — only one non-banding-station owl was reported during the entire period! There were Long-eared Owl reports from four locations during the period as compared to just one location last year.

Common Nighthawks usually migrate during the last two weeks of August and early September. This year birds were noted during five days in October. These late records are probably reverse migrants rather than late migrants. On most of those days the weather was very mild with southwesterly winds. Chimney Swifts were also reported during October, following the same reverse migration as the nighthawks. The Chimney Swift roost in Hanover had less than 1700 this year, down from 2300 last year and from the high of over 5000 in 2003. A Whip-poor-will was noted from Southwick on September 18, the latest date for western Massachusetts since 1985.

Three *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were noted during the period, one in Byfield and one in Carlisle; both these reports have been submitted to the MARC for possible determination. A third bird, banded in Hadley, was determined to be a **Rufous Hummingbird**. There were an unusual number of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds reported later than usual, including two in October. Only one Red-headed Woodpecker was noted during the period; last year was a banner year with a record number of thirteen reported. Numbers of Red-bellied Woodpeckers, on the other hand, continue to expand all over the state.

Four reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher are typical for the period. It was another good fall for Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and a report of a singing Acadian Flycatcher was intriguing. Three Western Kingbirds were noted, one from Amherst and two from Daniel Webster in Marshfield. Five Northern Shrikes were noted, including a bird from Granville on October 21, the second earliest for western Massachusetts since 1979.

The birding high point of the period occurred on October 24 when a **Bell's Vireo** of the eastern subspecies (*Vireo bellii bellii*) was mist-netted during fall migration banding studies in Manomet in Plymouth. This species is brighter in the eastern part of its range and grayer in the west. Bell's Vireo has become less common in its range recently due to Brown-headed Cowbird nest parasitism. Because this species has been recorded in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and New Hampshire, it was long overdue in our state. It is interesting that after this bird was released it was not seen in the area despite a diligent search but was recaptured in the Manomet nets two days later! Over forty Philadelphia Vireos were noted during this period; is this species increasing or are there more birders out there?

An explosion of Tree Swallows was noted during this period, especially in October, with large groups reported through the end of the month. This was the second year in a row for such a large congregation in Northampton. Mark Lynch and Sheila Carroll described a tremendous cloud of Tree Swallows moving southeast along the coast in Westport on September 4: "The visual effect of this in the early morning light was the definition of *dazzling* and looked like an immense dense cloud of reflective confetti." There were five reports of Sedge Wren, the most ever during the September-October migration period. A **Northern Wheatear** was found and photographed at Gay Head in early September; this is the second year in a row this Holarctic vagrant was recorded during this period in the state. Eastern Bluebirds were well reported during the period. A Veery in Northampton on October 15 was the second latest ever reported from western Massachusetts. There were an exceptional number of Hermit Thrush reports, and over 3300 American Robins were estimated at a roost in Bolton Flats. During this period the number of Gray Catbirds in our state must have been astronomical. In just two days 144 were banded at Wing Island in Brewster, and ninety-eight were noted on Plum Island on September 13. American Pipits, always part of the fall migration, are much more common than in the spring. They like large open areas such as the agricultural fields in the Connecticut River Valley, where large numbers were found. In Hadley, 225 was the largest number noted in the valley since 1997.

A total of thirty-three warbler species was noted, the same number as last year. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, discovered in Chilmark, was the highlight of the period; this is only the second report for this period since 2000, when an individual spent a week at Mt. Auburn. Other noteworthy warbler reports included four Golden-winged (none were seen last year at this time), thirty Orange-crowned, four Cape May, and two Prothonotary (Nantucket and Boston). Twenty-three Connecticut Warblers included nine banded on Plum Island, one of which was a recapture of a bird banded there in September 2003! Also of note were five Hooded Warblers and fourteen Yellow-breasted Chats. The 943 Yellow-rumped Warblers from South Quabbin estimated on October 18 was the largest daily count since 1982 in western

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|----------------------------------|-------------------|------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Selasphorus species * | | | 9/24 | ONWR | 20 | R. Merrill# | |
| 10/14-19 | Byfield | 1 ph | R. Crist + v.o. | 10/1 | Westboro WMA | 31 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/18-20 | Carlisle | 1 | J. Keskulla | 10/2 | Arlington | 21 | M. Rines |
| Belted Kingfisher | | | 10/18, 10/28 | P.I. | 29, 2 | R. Heil | |
| 9/14 | Gloucester | 4 | J. + M. Nelson | 10/29 | Cambridge | 5 | M. Rines# |
| 9/16 | Arlington Res. | 4 | M. Rines | Great Crested Flycatcher | | | |
| 9/25 | P.I. | 3 | P. Roberts | 9/1-23 | P.I. | 1 | v.o. |
| 9/27 | Wachusett Res. | 3 | M. Lynch# | 9/7 | Longmeadow | 3 | J. Hutchison |
| 10/2 | Northboro | 3 | B. Volkle | 9/10 | Wellfleet | 2 | BBC (Stymeist) |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | | | 9/11 | Williamsburg | 1 | R. Packard | |
| 10/6 | Gay Head | 1 | S. Anderson | 10/10 | Edgartown | 1 | T. Baird + v.o. |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | | | Western Kingbird | | | | |
| 9/24 | Braintree | 2 | G. d'Entremont | 9/2-4 | Amherst | 1 | H. Allen# |
| 9/25 | Falmouth | 2 | CCBC (G. Hirth) | 9/5-8 | DWWS | 1-2 | K. Robinson# |
| 9/28 | DFWS | 2 | A. McCarthy# | Eastern Kingbird | | | |
| 10/4 | Ipswich | 3 | R. Heil | 9/3, 24 | P.I. | 10, 2 | Vale, Heil |
| 10/5 | Winchester | 2 | M. Rines | 9/4 | Amherst | 8 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/16 | Wayland | 2 | BBC (G. Long) | 9/5, 24 | N. Truro | 3, 24 | B. Nikula |
| 10/22 | GMNWR | 3 | J. Forbes | 9/5 | Bolton Flats | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/26 | Melrose | 3 | D. + I. Jewell | Northern Shrike | | | |
| 10/27 | Woods Hole | 2 | G. Hirth | 10/21 | Granville | 1 | J. Weeks |
| 10/30 | Mashpee | 3 | M. Keleher | 10/27 | Leverett | 1 | B. Bieda |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | | | 10/29-31 | Belmont | 1 | J. Forbes# | |
| 9/24 | Colrain | 7 | M. Lynch# | 10/30 | Windsor | 2 | B. Wood |
| 9/24 | Gloucester (E.P.) | 3 | S. Hedman | White-eyed Vireo | | | |
| 10/4 | Ipswich | 3 | R. Heil | 9/4 | Acoaxet | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/4 | Ipswich | 3 | R. Heil | 9/5 | N. Middleboro | 1 | K. Holmes |
| 10/16 | Nantucket | 4 | fide E. Ray | 9/17 | Westport | 1 | G. Gove# |
| 10/19 | Gay Head | 8 | V. Laux | 9/20 | MNWS | 1 imm | K. Haley |
| 10/20 | Mt.A. | 5 | R. Stymeist | 9/21 | Pittsfield | 1 | R. Guthrie |
| 10/22 | P.I. | 4 | J. Berry# | 9/24 | Lexington | 1 imm | F. + P. Vale |
| Hairy Woodpecker | | | 9/26 | MNWS | 1 | R. Stymeist# | |
| 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 5 | M. Lynch# | 9/30 | Gay Head | 1 | S. Whiting# |
| 9/24 | Colrain | 7 | M. Lynch# | 10/16 | Nahant | 1 | L. Pivacek |
| 10/2 | Quabbin (G35) | 4 | M. Lynch# | 10/24 | Lexington | 1 imm | C. Floyd |
| 10/4 | Ipswich | 6 | R. Heil | Bell's Vireo (details submitted) * | | | |
| Northern Flicker | | | 10/24-26 | Manomet | 1 b ph | R. Kluin# | |
| 9/17 | Woburn (H.P.) | 22 | BBC (Fruguglietti) | Yellow-throated Vireo | | | |
| 10/1 | P.I. | 12 | T. Wetmore | 9/4, 27 | P.I. | 1, 1 | McGrath, Heil |
| 10/17 | Cambridge | 14 | R. Stymeist# | 9/5 | Bolton Flats | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| Pileated Woodpecker | | | 9/5 | ONWR | 2 | S. Sutton | |
| 9/5 | Amherst | 4 | H. Allen | 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 3 | M. Lynch# | 9/1-10/16 | Reports of indiv. from 13 locations | | |
| 10/2 | GMNWR | 2 | S. Perkins# | Blue-headed Vireo | | | |
| 10/21 | Ipswich | 2 | J. Berry | 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 13 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/27 | IRWS | 3 | J. MacDougall | 9/21, 10/8 | Lexington | 2, 5 | M. Rines |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | | | 9/24 | Colrain | 6 | M. Lynch# | |
| 9/4 | Russell | 1 | T. Swochak | 9/24-27 | P.I. | 4 b | MAS (Standley) |
| 9/5 | Bolton Flats | 1 | M. Lynch# | 9/28 | HRWMA | 6 | T. Pirro |
| 9/5 | Melrose | 1 | F. + P. Vale# | 10/6 | Woburn | 5 | M. Rines |
| 9/18 | Easthampton | 1 | M. Taylor | 10/6, 20 | Wakefield | 3, 9 | F. Vale |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | | | 10/19 | Gay Head | 1500+ | V. Laux# | |
| 9/5 | Magnolia | 6 | R. Heil | 10/24-27 | P.I. | 7 b | MAS (Standley) |
| 9/9 | Sudbury | 5 | T. Spahr | Warbling Vireo | | | |
| 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 2 | M. Lynch# | 9/5 | Melrose | 9 | P. + F. Vale |
| 9/24 | Amherst | 1 | J. Smith | 9/7 | Woburn | 14 | M. Rines |
| 9/24 | Boston | 2 | R. Stymeist# | 9/11 | P'town | 4 | BBC (Stymeist) |
| 9/25 | Waltham | 1 | J. Forbes | 9/19 | GMNWR | 2 | S. Perkins# |
| 10/1 | Northfield | 2 | M. Taylor | 9/21 | P.I. | 2 | T. Wetmore |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | | | 9/28 | Lexington | 2 | M. Rines# | |
| 9/6-14 | P.I. | 3 b | MAS (Standley) | Philadelphia Vireo | | | |
| 9/9-11 | Brewster | 2 b | S. Finnegan | thr | P.I. | 4 max | 9/18 v.o. |
| 9/10 | Wellfleet | 1 | BBC (Stymeist) | 9/1-10/1 | Reports of indiv. from 23 locations | | |
| 9/10-12 | Tuckernuck | 3 | R. Veit | 9/5 | E. Longmeadow | 2 | R. Titus |
| 9/12 | Nahant | 2 | L. Pivacek | 9/5 | Magnolia | 2 | R. Heil |
| 9/12 | Northampton | 1 | L. Therrien | 9/9 | Westfield | 2 | J. Hutchison |
| 9/17 | Lexington | 1 | P. + F. Vale | 9/10 | Wellfleet | 2 | BBC (Stymeist) |
| Acadian Flycatcher | | | 9/10-12 | Tuckernuck | 3 | R. Veit | |
| 9/1 | Boston (A.A.) | 1 | singing M. Kaufman | 9/11 | Chatham | 2 | B. Nikula |
| Trail's Flycatcher | | | 9/11 | P'town | 2 | BBC (Stymeist) | |
| 9/1-26 | P.I. | 7 b | MAS (Standley) | 10/14 | Gloucester | 1 | J. MacDougall |
| Least Flycatcher | | | 10/28 | P.I. | 1 | R. Heil | |
| 9/7 | Windsor | 1 | B. Lafley | Red-eyed Vireo | | | |
| 9/18 | Monson | 1 | M. Lynch# | 9/3, 28 | HRWMA | 10, 4 | T. Pirro |
| 10/1 | P.I. | 1 | S. McGrath | 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 29 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/20 | Gay Head | 1 | A. Keith# | 9/18 | Brewster | 10, 1 | S. Finnegan |
| Eastern Phoebe | | | 9/22, 10/31 | MNWS | 10 b | Haley, Noble | |
| 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 28 | M. Lynch# | 9/23 | P.I. | 20 | M. Daley |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Red-eyed Vireo (continued) | | | | 9/24 | Colrain | 19 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/24, 10/2 | Gloucester (E.P.) | 25, 8 | S. Hedman | 10/2 | Quabbin (G35) | 29 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/28 | Lexington | 6 | M. Rines# | 10/18 | P.I. | 10 | R. Heil |
| 10/2 | Nahant | 4 | L. Pivacek# | 10/30 | Windsor | 20 | B. Wood |
| 10/3-30 | P.I. | 14 b | MAS (Standley) | | | | |
| Blue Jay | | | | 9/24 | Colrain | 9 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/28, 10/20 | Chatham (MI) | 204, 287 | D. Manchester | 9/24 | Gloucester (E.P.) | 8 | S. Hedman |
| American Crow | | | | 9/24-28 | P.I. | 10 b | MAS (Standley) |
| 10/27 | S. Lancaster | 412 | S. Sutton | 9/27 | P'town | 5 | CCBC (Furbish) |
| 10/27, 28 | Mt. Wataatic | 724, 1737 | T. Pirro | 10/2 | Quabbin (G35) | 16 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/28 | Granville | 800 | J. Weeks | 10/17-22 | Brewster | 7 b | S. Finnegan |
| 10/28 | Hatfield | 600 | J. Smith | 10/20 | Wakefield | 5 | F. Vale |
| 10/30 | Boston | 320 | BBC (Stymeist) | 10/30 | Mashpee | 8 | M. Keleher |
| Fish Crow | | | | | | | |
| 9/10 | Wellfleet | 25 | BBC (Stymeist) | 9/3 | MNWS | 5 | J. Hoye# |
| 10/30 | Boston | 55 | BBC (Stymeist) | 9/19 | Belmont | 6 | R. Stymeist |
| Common Raven | | | | 9/24 | Lexington | 6 | M. Rines |
| thr | Quabbin Pk | 2-3 | v.o. | 9/24 | Stoughton | 6 | G. d'Entremont |
| 9/10 | Mt. Wachusett | 9 | J. Stein# | 9/25 | Falmouth | 5 | CCBC (G. Hirth) |
| 9/10 | Mt. Tom | 17 | T. Gagnon | 9/26 | Nahant | 10 | R. Stymeist# |
| 9/12, 10/21 | Mt. Wataatic | 3, 15 | T. Pirro | 9/28 | Mt.A. | 4 | R. Stymeist |
| 9/18 | Monson | 7 | M. Lynch# | 10/2 | Arlington | 7 | M. Rines |
| 9/18 | Wayland | 1 | G. Long | | | | |
| 9/21 | Granville | 15 | J. Weeks | House Wren | | | |
| 9/26 | Groton | 4 | T. Pirro | 9/3, 10/19 | Lexington | 14, 1 | M. Rines# |
| 10/19, 20 | Acton | 1 | S. Perkins# | 9/19 | Belmont | 10 | R. Stymeist |
| 10/23 | Ware | 2 | M. Lynch# | 9/25 | Burlington | 7 | M. Rines |
| Horned Lark | | | | 9/26 | Nahant | 8 | R. Stymeist# |
| 9/1 | Chatham (S.B.) | 10 | G. Hirth | 10/2, 30 | Arlington | 4, 1 | Rines, Floyd |
| 9/3 | Northampton | 1 | M. Lynch# | 10/4 | Ipswich | 4 | R. Heil |
| 10/18, 29 | P.I. | 1, 8 | Heil, Wetmore | 10/10 | Westboro | 4 | T. Spahr |
| 10/22 | Acton | 4 | S. Perkins# | 10/19 | Gay Head | 4 | V. Laux# |
| 10/23 | Templeton | 10 | T. Pirro | 10/20 | P.I. | 1 | R. Heil |
| 10/28 | Duxbury B. | 2 | MAS (D. Clapp) | 10/28 | S. Lancaster | 1 | S. Sutton |
| 10/29 | Cumb. Farms | 12 | A. + D. Morgan | | | | |
| Purple Martin | | | | Winter Wren | | | |
| 9/18 | Chatham (MI) | 1 | D. Manchester | 9/24 | Colrain | 4 | M. Lynch# |
| Tree Swallow | | | | 10/19 | Gay Head | 12+ | V. Laux# |
| 9/4, 17 | Westport | 9570, 4020 | M. Lynch# | 10/21 | Brewster | 3 b | S. Finnegan |
| 9/6, 10/28 | P.I. | 12,000, 2 | Heil, Bronson | 10/29 | S. New Salem | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/22 | S. Monomoy | 500,000 | E. Banks | thr | Reports of 1-2 indiv. | from 28 | locations |
| 10/1 | Northampton | 30,000 | A. Magee | Sedge Wren | | | |
| 10/9 | Duxbury B. | 2000 | R. Bowes | 9/2 | GMNWR | 1 | I. Reid |
| 10/9 | Sandwich | 9000 | D. Silverstein# | 9/11-18 | Northampton | 1 | S. Surner# |
| 10/11, 26 | Nantucket | 5000, 5000 | J. Papale | 9/25 | Cumb. Farms | 1 | J. Hoye# |
| 10/12 | N. Falmouth | 24,000 | I. Nisbet | 9/29-30 | Northampton | 1 | J. Smith# |
| 10/14 | Southwick | 35 | S. Kellogg | 10/5 | Wellfleet | 1 | P. Schaub |
| 10/18 | IRWS | 130 | J. MacDougall | Marsh Wren | | | |
| 10/29 | Halifax | 500 | SSBC (Sweeney) | 9/6, 10/18 | P.I. | 9, 1 | R. Heil |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow | | | | 9/18 | Mashpee | 5 | M. Keleher |
| 9/6 | Wakefield | 75 | P. + F. Vale | 9/19, 10/16 | GMNWR | 4, 2 | S. Perkins# |
| 9/14 | P.I. | 1 | T. Wetmore | 9/25 | Northampton | 4 | J. Smith |
| 9/27, 10/15 | Melrose | 100, 22 | Jewell, Vale | 10/8 | Pepperell | 3 | E. Stromsted# |
| 10/10, 16 | GMNWR | 55, 2 | S. Perkins# | 10/18 | Arlington | 2 | R. LaFontaine |
| 10/16 | Wayland | 50 | BBC (G. Long) | 10/19 | Gay Head | 1 | V. Laux# |
| Bank Swallow | | | | 10/22 | Brewster | 1 b | S. Finnegan |
| 9/3, 10/3 | Northampton | 45, 1 | Lynch, Smith | Golden-crowned Kinglet | | | |
| 9/6, 27 | P.I. | 15, 5 | R. Heil | 9/24 | Chatham | 12 | CCBC (Silverstein) |
| 9/13 | Newbury | 1 | S. Grinley | 9/24 | Colrain | 23 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/23 | Cumb. Farms | 1 | N. Bonomo | 9/24, 10/28 | P.I. | 45, 22 | Grinley, Heil |
| Cliff Swallow | | | | 10/16-21 | Brewster | 23 b | S. Finnegan |
| 9/22 | P.I. | 1 | T. Wetmore | 10/18 | Gay Head | 50+ | A. Keith# |
| 10/3 | Northampton | 1 | J. Smith | 10/22 | Quabbin Pk | 65 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/10 | GMNWR | 1 | S. Perkins# | 10/27 | Wakefield | 18 | F. Vale |
| Barn Swallow | | | | 10/28 | Mt.A. | 12 | R. Stymeist |
| 9/3 | Leicester | 30 | M. Lynch# | 10/30 | Southboro | 22 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/3, 10/3 | Northampton | 10, 2 | Lynch, Smith | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | | | |
| 9/6, 10/18 | P.I. | 50, 2 | R. Heil | 9/1 | Amherst | 1 | H. McQueen |
| 9/24 | Bolton Flats | 4 | S. Sutton | 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/1 | Hadley | 3 | C. Gentes | 9/11, 24 | P.I. | 1, 24 | Vale, Grinley |
| 10/2 | GMNWR | 2 | S. Perkins# | 10/1 | Northfield | 36 | M. Taylor |
| 10/19 | Chilmark | 1 | A. Keith | 10/1 | Granville | 40 | S. Kellogg |
| 10/21 | Chatham (MI) | 3 | D. Manchester | 10/9 | Wachusett Res. | 15 | M. Lynch# |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | | | | 10/15 | Gardner | 14 | T. Pirro |
| 9/5 | Royalston | 26 | S. Sutton | 10/17 | Cambridge | 15 | R. Stymeist# |
| 9/5 | Cape Ann | 9 | R. Heil | 10/18 | Gay Head | 35+ | A. Keith# |
| 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 19 | M. Lynch# | 10/21 | Brewster | 22 b | S. Finnegan |
| 9/18, 10/30 | Mashpee | 21, 12 | M. Keleher | 10/22 | Quabbin Pk | 33 | M. Lynch# |
| | | | | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | | | |
| | | | | 9/4 | Gay Head | 2 | L. McDowell |

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (continued)

| | | | |
|-------|---------------|-----|----------------|
| 9/4 | Woburn (H.P.) | 4 | K. Hartel |
| 9/15 | P.I. | 1 b | MAS (Standley) |
| 9/17 | MNWS | 1 | L. Ferraresso# |
| 9/24 | ONWR | 1 | R. Merrill# |
| 10/18 | Cambr. (F.P.) | 1 | E. Wylde# |
| 10/24 | Amherst | 1 | J. Smith |

Northern Wheatear *

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|--------------|
| 9/3 | Gay Head | 1 ph | S. Anderson# |
|-----|----------|------|--------------|

Eastern Bluebird

| | | | |
|-------|-------------|-----|--------------|
| 9/4 | Northampton | 17 | T. Gagnon |
| 9/30 | DFWS | 12 | A. McCarthy |
| 10/10 | Falmouth | 25 | G. Hirth |
| 10/11 | Sunderland | 30 | C. Gentes |
| 10/23 | Uxbridge | 12+ | W. Howes |
| 10/23 | Pepperell | 13 | E. Stromsted |
| 10/30 | Mashpee | 15 | M. Keleher |

Veery

| | | | |
|--------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| 9/1-20 | P.I. | 5 b | MAS (Standley) |
| 9/3 | Bolton Flats | 1 | S. Sutton |
| 9/4 | WMWS | 1 | W. Howes# |
| 9/5 | Rockport | 1 | R. Heil |
| 9/21 | Lexington | 1 | M. Rines |
| 9/22 | Boston (F.Pk) | 1 | J. Miller |
| 10/9 | Concord | 1 noc. migr | S. Perkins# |
| 10/15 | Amherst | 1 | J. Smith |

Gray-cheeked Thrush

| | | | |
|------|------|-----|----------------|
| 9/28 | P.I. | 1 b | MAS (Standley) |
|------|------|-----|----------------|

Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush

| | | | |
|-------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/25 | Nahant | 1 | C. Floyd |
| 10/2 | Quabbin | 1 | Hampshire BC (TG) |
| 10/9 | Concord | 16 noc. migr | S. Perkins# |
| 10/17 | Springfield | 1 | L. Richardson |
| 10/21 | S. Quabbin | 1 | L. Therrien |

Swainson's Thrush

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 9/8-24 | P.I. | 4 b | MAS (Standley) |
| 9/13, 10/15 | Amherst | 1, 1 | Allen, Smith |
| 9/18 | Brewster | 1 b | S. Finnegan |
| 9/24 | Squantum | 2 | G. d'Entremont |
| 9/24 | Gloucester (E.P.) | 3 | S. Hedman |
| 10/2 | Arlington Res. | 2 | M. Rines |
| 10/2 | Quabbin | 3 | Hampshire BC (TG) |
| 10/9 | Concord | 420+ noc. migr | S. Perkins# |
| 10/19 | Newbury | 1 | L. Leka |

Hermit Thrush

| | | | |
|---------|-------------|------|----------------|
| 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 9 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/2-27 | P.I. | 44 b | MAS (Standley) |
| 10/17 | Springfield | 32 | L. Richardson |
| 10/18 | S. Quabbin | 16 | L. Therrien |
| 10/18 | P.I. | 33 | R. Heil |
| 10/28 | Mt.A. | 17 | R. Stymeist |
| 10/30 | Boston | 26 | BBC (Stymeist) |

Wood Thrush

| | | | |
|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/29 | Hadley | 2 | B. Lafley |
| 10/2 | Quabbin | 1 | Hampshire BC (TG) |
| 10/4 | Amherst | 1 | J. Smith |
| 10/9 | Concord | 2 noc. migr | S. Perkins# |
| 10/20 | P.I. | 1 b | MAS (Standley) |
| 10/22 | Harwich | 1 | SSBC (D. Clapp) |

Thrush species

| | | | |
|------|---------|--------------|-------------|
| 10/9 | Concord | 35 noc. migr | S. Perkins# |
|------|---------|--------------|-------------|

American Robin

| | | | |
|-------|--------------|------|---------------|
| 9/24 | Bolton Flats | 3300 | S. Sutton |
| 10/13 | DWWS | 600 | D. Furbish |
| 10/18 | S. Quabbin | 753 | L. Therrien |
| 10/18 | IRWS | 542 | J. MacDougall |

Gray Catbird

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| 9/9, 18 | Brewster | 64 b, 80 b | S. Finnegan |
| 9/10, 19/19 | Lexington | 68, 4 | Vale, Rines |
| 9/13, 10/28 | P.I. | 98, 5 | R. Heil |
| 9/21, 10/22 | Boston (BNC) | 32, 4 | Stymeist, BBC |
| 9/24 | ONWR | 40 | R. Merrill# |
| 9/24 | Bolton Flats | 32 | S. Sutton |
| 10/1 | Westboro WMA | 53 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/4 | Ipswich | 21 | R. Heil |
| 10/30 | Squantum | 5 | G. d'Entremont |

Brown Thrasher

| | | | |
|-------|-------------|----|---------------|
| 9/17 | Medford | 2 | R. LaFontaine |
| 9/24 | Burlington | 3 | M. Rines |
| 9/28 | P.I. | 10 | R. Heil |
| 10/2 | Northampton | 1 | R. Packard |
| 10/10 | Boston | 1 | M. Garvey |

American Pipit

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------|--------------|
| 9/2, 25 | Northampton | 16, 128 | Zajda, Smith |
| 9/17 | Northfield | 40 | C. Gentes |
| 9/19, 10/10 | GMNWR | 16, 80 | S. Perkins# |
| 9/27 | P.I. | 51 | R. Heil |
| 10/5 | Hadley | 225 | J. Smith |
| 10/6 | Plymouth B. | 46 | J. Walker |
| 10/11 | Sunderland | 200 | C. Gentes |
| 10/12 | Quabbin Pk | 45 | J. P. Smith |
| 10/15 | Templeton | 63 | T. Pirro |
| 10/18, 29 | Acton | 35, 60 | S. Perkins# |
| 10/24 | Concord | 60 | M. Rines |

Cedar Waxwing

| | | | |
|-------|---------|----|--------------|
| 9/5 | Melrose | 46 | P. + F. Vale |
| 9/13 | P.I. | 44 | R. Heil |
| 9/18 | Monson | 76 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/4 | Ipswich | 87 | R. Heil |
| 10/16 | Truro | 38 | SSBC (G.d'E) |

Blue-winged Warbler

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 9/8-24 | Reports of indiv. from 12 locations | | |
| 9/28 | Gay Head | 1 | A. Keith# |
| 10/1 | WBWS | 1 | G. d'Entremont# |

Golden-winged Warbler

| | | | |
|------|----------------|-----|----------------|
| 9/3 | Nahant | 1 | J. Hoye# |
| 9/3 | Medford | 1 m | J. Sutherland# |
| 9/19 | Chappaquiddick | 1 m | A. Keith |
| 9/22 | Medford | 1 f | D. Diggins |

Tennessee Warbler

| | | | |
|------|---------|---|-------------|
| 9/9 | Sudbury | 2 | T. Spahr |
| 9/14 | Holyoke | 2 | L. Therrien |
| 9/24 | Amherst | 3 | J. Smith |

Orange-crowned Warbler

| | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 9/7 | Springfield | 1 | R. Titus |
| 9/9 | Sudbury | 1 | T. Spahr |
| 9/21-10/31 | Reports of indiv. from 21 locations | | |
| 10/18 | P.I. | 2 | R. Heil |
| 10/19 | Gay Head | 2 | V. Laux# |
| 10/21 | DWWS | 2 | D. Ludlow |

Nashville Warbler

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-------|--------------|
| 9/10 | MNWS | 5+ | P. + F. Vale |
| 9/19, 30 | Lincoln | 10, 1 | M. Rines |
| 9/21, 10/28 | Lexington | 5, 1 | M. Rines |
| 9/24 | P.I. | 4 | T. Wetmore |
| 10/29 | Cambridge | 6 | M. Rines# |

Northern Parula

| | | | |
|----------|------------|------|--------------|
| 9/12 | Holyoke | 6 | L. Therrien |
| 9/26 | Nahant | 7 | R. Stymeist# |
| 9/30 | Granville | 5 | S. Kellogg |
| 10/2, 16 | Arlington | 2, 1 | M. Rines |
| 10/9 | Quabbin Pk | 6 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/27 | Medford | 1 | M. Rines |

Yellow Warbler

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|------|-----------------|
| 9/5 | Squantum | 4 | G. d'Entremont |
| 9/10 | MNWS | 4 | I. Giriunasz# |
| 9/13, 10/22 | P.I. | 5, 1 | Heil, Wetmore |
| 9/21, 10/28 | Cambr. (F.P.) | 2, 1 | R. Stymeist |
| 9/25 | Falmouth | 12 | CCBC (G. Hirth) |
| 10/1 | Wakefield | 1 | F. Vale# |
| 10/7 | Newton | 1 | J. Hoye# |
| 10/22 | Gloucester | 1 f | S. Hedman# |

Chestnut-sided Warbler

| | | | |
|------|---------------|---|---------------|
| 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 5 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/18 | Salisbury | 2 | D. Chickering |
| 9/23 | WMWS | 2 | B. deGraaf# |
| 9/24 | Amherst | 2 | J. Smith |
| 10/4 | Cambr. (F.P.) | 1 | M. Rines |

Magnolia Warbler

| | | | |
|------------|-------------|------|--------------|
| 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 6 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/10 | MNWS | 5 | P. + F. Vale |
| 9/14, 10/1 | Granville | 6, 2 | S. Kellogg |
| 9/23 | WMWS | 3 | B. deGraaf# |
| 9/24 | ONWR | 3 | R. Merrill# |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|---------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--|-----------------|
| Magnolia Warbler (continued) | | | | 10/2 | Quabbin (G35) | 112 | | M. Lynch# |
| 9/24, 10/16 Nahant | 6, 1 | Vale, Pivacek | | 10/2 | Arlington | 19 | | M. Rines |
| 9/27, 10/11 P.I. | 4, 1 | Heil, Wetmore | | 10/11 | Boston (Fens) | 17 | | R. Stymeist |
| Cape May Warbler | | | | 10/28 | Mt.A. | 4 | | R. Stymeist |
| 9/3 HRWMA | 1 f | T. Pirro | | 10/31 | Belmont | 2 | | M. Rines |
| 9/12 Nantucket | 1 | E. Ray | | Black-and-white Warbler | | | | |
| 9/18 P.I. | 1 | L. Ferraresso# | | 9/5 | Cape Ann | 7 | | R. Heil |
| 10/1 Westboro WMA | 1 | M. Lynch# | | 9/9 | Sudbury | 6 | | T. Spahr |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | | | | 9/10 | MNWS | 5 | | P. + F. Vale |
| 9/3, 10/7 Lexington | 1, 3 | Rines, Simpson | | 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 4 | | M. Lynch# |
| 9/4, 10/17 Medford | 1, 4 | Gurka, LaFontaine | | 9/18 | Mashpee | 4 | | M. Keleher |
| 9/22 MNWS | 5 | K. Haley | | 9/21 | Lexington | 4 | | M. Rines |
| 9/24 Chatham | 4 | CCBC (Silverstein) | | 9/24 | Gloucester (E.P.) | 7 | | S. Hedman |
| 9/30 Granville | 5 | S. Kellogg | | 10/27 | Northampton | 1 | | C. Gentes |
| 10/1 Truro | 4 | G. d'Entremont# | | American Redstart | | | | |
| 10/23 Quabbin Pk | 2 | S. Surner | | 9/4, 10/16 | Medford | 33, 1 | | Rines, Reddoch |
| 10/23 Thompson I. | 2 | R. Stymeist# | | 9/10 | MNWS | 10 | | I. Giriunas# |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | | | | 9/10 | Wellfleet | 12 | | BBC (Stymeist) |
| 9/13, 10/18 P.I. | 1, 285 | R. Heil | | 9/13, 10/21 P.I. | | 8, 1 | | Heil, McGrath |
| 10/3 Northampton | 150 | B. Lafley | | 9/21, 10/16 | Lexington | 5, 1 | | Rines, Forbes |
| 10/16, 17 Brewster | 77 b, 50 b | S. Finnegan | | 9/26 | Nahant | 7 | | R. Stymeist# |
| 10/18 Cambr. (F.P.) | 86 | M. Rines | | 10/23 | Quabbin Pk | 1 | | S. Surner |
| 10/18 S. Quabbin | 943 | L. Therrien | | Prothonotary Warbler | | | | |
| 10/18 Mattapan | 50 | A. Birch | | 9/3 | Nantucket | 1 m | | S. Langer |
| 10/20 Wakefield | 55 | F. Vale | | 9/24 | Boston (F.Pk) | 1 | | J. Miller |
| 10/23 Pepperell | 50+ | E. Stromsted | | Worm-eating Warbler | | | | |
| 10/23 Thompson I. | 60 | R. Stymeist# | | 9/5-9 | Nahant | 1 | | J. Hoye# |
| Black-throated Gray Warbler (details) * | | | | 9/5 | P.I. | 1 | | J. Hoye# |
| 10/1 Chilmark | 1 | A. Keith, T. Rivers | | 9/10 | Wellfleet | 1 | | BBC (Stymeist) |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | | | | Ovenbird | | | | |
| 9/4 Lexington | 5 | P. + F. Vale | | 9/10 | MNWS | 2 | | I. Giriunas# |
| 9/10 Wellfleet | 14 | BBC (Stymeist) | | 9/18 | Mt. Tom | 2 | | L. Therrien |
| 9/10 Ware R. IBA | 13 | M. Lynch# | | 9/24 | ONWR | 2 | | R. Merrill# |
| 9/19 Becket | 6 | R. Laubach | | 9/24 | P.I. | 2 b | | MAS (Standley) |
| 9/24 Colrain | 20 | M. Lynch# | | 9/28 | Pepperell | 4 | | E. Stromsted |
| 10/12 Medford | 4 | M. Rines# | | 10/9 | Belmont | 1 | | L. Ferraresso# |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | | | 10/10 | Boston | 1 | | M. Garvey |
| 9/10 Ware R. IBA | 4 | M. Lynch# | | Northern Waterthrush | | | | |
| 9/12 Nantucket | 2 | E. Ray | | 9/4, 6 | P.I. | 3 b, 3 b | | MAS (Standley) |
| 9/24 P.I. | 2 | BBC (Grinley) | | 9/9 | Nahant | 4 | | L. Pivacek |
| 9/24 Colrain | 3 | M. Lynch# | | 9/10 | Wellfleet | 4 | | BBC (Stymeist) |
| Pine Warbler | | | | 9/10, 10/21 | MNWS | 6, 1 | | Giriunas, Noble |
| 9/7 Springfield | 8 | R. Titus | | 9/13 | Arlington Res. | 6 | | M. Rines |
| 9/10 Ware R. IBA | 15 | M. Lynch# | | 9/21 | Boston (BNC) | 2 | | R. Stymeist |
| 9/10 Wellfleet | 52 | BBC (Stymeist) | | Connecticut Warbler | | | | |
| 9/18 Mashpee | 15 | M. Keleher | | 9/8, 14, 18 | P.I. | 3 b, 3b, 3 b | | MAS (Standley) |
| 10/2 Quabbin (G35) | 29 | M. Lynch# | | 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 2 imm | | M. Lynch# |
| 10/10 Falmouth | 20 | G. Hirth | | 9/21 | Lexington | 3 | | M. Rines |
| 10/18 P.I. | 2 | R. Heil | | 9/23 | Cumb. Farms | 2 | | N. Bonomo |
| Prairie Warbler | | | | 9/24 | Colrain | 2 imm | | M. Lynch# |
| 9/4 S. Monomoy | 3 | B. Nikula | | 9/24, 10/16 | DFWS | 2 b, 1 | | K. Clayton |
| 9/7 Springfield | 3 | R. Titus | | 10/9 | Salisbury | 1 | | BBC (Grinley) |
| 9/8 DWWS | 2 | D. Furbish | | 10/18 | MBWS | 1 | | S. McGrath |
| 9/9, 23 Brewster | 2 b, 2 b | S. Finnegan | | Mourning Warbler | | | | |
| 9/18 Monson | 4 | M. Lynch# | | 9/2 | Northampton | 1 f | | B. Zajda |
| 10/21 P.I. | 1 | S. McGrath | | 9/4 | DWWS | 1 | | J. Hoye |
| 10/23 Pepperell | 3 | E. Stromsted | | 9/6 | Nantucket | 1 | | E. Ray |
| 10/31 Marblehead | 1 | D. Noble | | 9/8 | Longmeadow | 2 | | R. Titus |
| Palm Warbler | | | | 9/10, 24 | P.I. | 1 b, 1 b | | MAS (Standley) |
| 9/3, 25 Northampton | 2, 29 | Lynch, Smith | | 9/11 | P'town | 1 | | BBC (Stymeist) |
| 9/19 Chatham (MI) | 17 | D. Manchester | | 9/14 | Granville | 1 | | J. Wojtanowski |
| 9/21, 10/17 Cambridge | 6, 27 | R. Stymeist | | 9/24 | Boston (PO SQ) | 1 | | R. Stymeist# |
| 9/23 Lexington | 20 | M. Rines | | 9/25 | Burlington | 1 | | M. Rines |
| 10/2 Quabbin (G35) | 24 | M. Lynch# | | 9/30 | Pepperell | 1 | | E. Stromsted |
| 10/4 Ipswich | 5 Y, 29 W | R. Heil | | Common Yellowthroat | | | | |
| 10/16 Arlington | 31 | M. Rines# | | 9/3 | HRWMA | 14 | | T. Pirro |
| 10/18 S. Quabbin | 20 | L. Therrien | | 9/5 | Bolton Flats | 66 | | M. Lynch# |
| Bay-breasted Warbler | | | | 9/10 | Wellfleet | 19 | | BBC (Stymeist) |
| 9/10 MNWS | 3 | I. Giriunas# | | 9/21, 10/17 | Cambridge | 12, 3 | | R. Stymeist |
| 9/24 Squantum | 1 | G. d'Entremont | | 9/22, 10/8 | Lexington | 15, 5 | | M. Rines |
| 9/24 P.I. | 3 | Grinley | | 9/24, 10/30 | Boston | 12, 4 | | R. Stymeist# |
| 9/28 Northampton | 1 | J. Smith | | 10/1 | Westboro WMA | 23 | | M. Lynch# |
| 10/6 Wakefield | 1 | F. Vale | | 10/31 | MNWS | 1 | | D. Noble |
| Blackpoll Warbler | | | | 10/31 | Belmont | 1 | | M. Rines |
| 9/10 Gay Head | 200+ | M. Pelikan# | | Hooded Warbler | | | | |
| 9/16 P.I. | 40 | T. Pirro | | 9/2 | Medford | 1 | | M. Rines# |
| 9/17 Gloucester (E.P.) | 25+ | S. Hedman | | 9/3, 10/9 | P.I. | 1, 1 | | Hoye, Grinley |
| 10/1 Northfield | 22 | M. Taylor | | 10/3 | Belmont | 1 | | M. Rines |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Hooded Warbler (continued) | | | | 9/18 | Granville | 1 | J. Weeks |
| 10/7 | Lexington | 1 m | S. Simpson | 10/5 | Hadley | 1 | J. Smith |
| Wilson's Warbler | | | | 10/18 | DFWS | 1 | A. McCarthy# |
| 9/9, 10/2 | Nahant | 3, 1 | L. Pivacek | 10/18-28 | P.I. | 1 | R. Heil |
| 9/10, 24 | MNWS | 10, 2 | P. + F. Vale | 10/19 | Truro | 2 | M. Tuttle# |
| 9/11, 10/1 | P.I. | 4, 1 | Vale, Wetmore | Lark Sparrow | | | |
| 9/12 | Northampton | 3 | L. Therrien | 9/2-4 | P.I. | 1 1W | L. Nachtrab + v.o. |
| 9/15 | HRWMA | 2 | T. Pirro | 9/5 | Tuckernuck | 1 | R. Veit |
| 9/15 | Lexington | 2 | M. Rines | 9/5 | Middleboro | 1 1W | D. Furbish# |
| 10/30 | Mashpee | 1 | M. Keleher | 9/20-22 | Gay Head | 1 imm, 1 ad | S. Anderson# |
| Canada Warbler | | | | 9/22-23 | Nahant | 1 | O. Spalding# + v.o. |
| 9/1-9 | Reports of indiv. from 7 locations | | | 10/28-30 | DWWS | 1 | MAS (D. Clapp) |
| 9/9 | Sudbury | 2 | T. Spahr | Savannah Sparrow | | | |
| 9/10 | Brewster | 1 b | S. Finnegan | 9/19, 10/2 | GMNWR | 25, 125 | S. Perkins# |
| 9/10, 22 | MNWS | 2, 1 | Vale, Haley | 9/26 | Ipswich | 110 | R. Heil |
| 9/22 | Arlington | 1 | M. Rines | 9/28 | Newbury | 200 | R. Heil |
| 9/24 | N. Middleboro | 1 | K. Holmes | 10/4 | Ipswich | 155 | R. Heil |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | | | | 10/6 | Northampton | 340 | J. Smith |
| 9/7, 10/14 | Nantucket | 1, 1 | Harte, Pochman | 10/12 | Quabbin Pk | 100+ | J. P. Smith |
| 9/10 | Brewster | 1 b | S. Finnegan | 10/13 | Waltham | 117 | R. Stymeist |
| 9/13-22 | MNWS | 1 | K. Haley# + v.o. | Ipswich Sparrow | | | |
| 9/15, 10/6 | P.I. | 1, 1 | Dorsey, Gurka | 10/30 | P.I. | 2 | D. Chickering |
| 9/16 | Salisbury | 1 | D. Chickering | 10/31 | Rockport (A.P.) | 1 | R. Haaseth |
| 9/21 | Amherst | 1 | H. Lappen | Grasshopper Sparrow | | | |
| 9/21 | Northampton | 1 | L. Therrien | 9/2 | Northampton | 1 | B. Zajda |
| 9/23-10/3 | Nahant | 1 | L. Pivacek | 10/3-4 | Groton | 1 | T. Pirro |
| 9/24 | Chatham | 1 | CCBC (Silverstein) | 10/20 | Gay Head | 1 | A. Keith |
| 10/1 | Gay Head | 1 | M. Pelikan# | 10/24 | Nahant | 1 | T. Martin# |
| 10/4 | Ipswich | 1 | R. Heil | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow | | | |
| 10/4 | Framingham | 1 | A. McCarthy | 9/24, 10/18 | P.I. | 5, 1 | R. Heil |
| Scarlet Tanager | | | | 9/25 | Cumb. Farms | 1 | J. Hoye# |
| 9/24 | MNWS | 3 | P. + F. Vale | 9/29-10/3 | Northampton | 1 | J. Smith# |
| 10/2 | Quabbin | 5 | Hampshire BC (TG) | 10/15 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 4 | J. Miller |
| 10/2, 30 | P.I. | 3, 1 | Wetmore, McFarland | 10/29-30 | Brookline | 1 ph | P. Engelmann |
| 10/10 | Boston | 4 | M. Garvey | Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow | | | |
| 10/18 | Cambr. (F.P.) | 1 | M. Rines | 9/1-10/10 | P.I. | 13 max | v.o. |
| 10/19 | Gay Head | 1 | V. Laux# | 9/12 | Eastham | 2 | CCBC (M. Tuttle) |
| 10/19 | Mt.A. | 1 | R. Stymeist | 9/22 | Scituate | 1 | S. Maguire |
| Western Tanager (no details) * | | | | 9/23 | N. Monomoy | 1 | MAS (Silverstein) |
| 10/19 | Gay Head | 1 | V. Laux# | 10/16 | E. Boston (B.I.) | 2 | BBC (S. Zende#) |
| Eastern Towhee | | | | Sharp-tailed Sparrow species | | | |
| 9/10 | Ware R. IBA | 17 | M. Lynch# | 10/10 | GMNWR | 1 | I. Parsons |
| 9/10 | Wellfleet | 24 | BBC (Stymeist) | Seaside Sparrow | | | |
| 9/25 | Falmouth | 15 | CCBC (G. Hirth) | 9/1-10/21 | P.I. | 1-2 | v.o. |
| 9/27, 10/28 | P.I. | 36, 1 | R. Heil | Fox Sparrow | | | |
| 10/9, 22 | Quabbin Pk | 11, 1 | M. Lynch# | 10/23 | Cheshire | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/19 | Lexington | 3 | M. Rines# | 10/28 | Mt.A. | 2 | R. Stymeist |
| 10/21 | Falmouth | 6 | M. Keleher | 10/28 | Winchester | 2 | M. Rines |
| American Tree Sparrow | | | | 10/30 | Pepperell | 4 | M. Resch |
| 10/10 | GMNWR | 1 | I. Parsons | 10/30 | Belmont | 5 | M. Rines# |
| 10/13 | P.I. | 2 | T. Wetmore | Song Sparrow | | | |
| 10/17 | Mt.A. | 4 | J. Adamson | 10/1 | Westboro WMA | 147 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/29 | Lexington | 2 | P. Vale# | 10/4 | Ipswich | 182 | R. Heil |
| 10/30 | Boston | 2 | BBC (Stymeist) | 10/18 | P.I. | 183 | R. Heil |
| Chipping Sparrow | | | | 10/21 | Brewster | 50 b | S. Finnegan |
| 9/4 | Acoaxet | 50 | M. Lynch# | 10/21 | Wayland | 60 | G. Long |
| 9/10 | Wellfleet | 90 | BBC (Stymeist) | 10/27 | Newton | 60 | H. Miller |
| 9/24 | Boston | 50+ | R. Stymeist# | Lincoln's Sparrow | | | |
| 10/1 | Truro | 55 | G. d'Entremont# | 9/2, 10/19 | P.I. | 1 b, 5 | MAS, Daley |
| 10/15 | Wachusett Res. | 175 | S. Sutton | 9/5, 10/2 | Bolton Flats | 2, 5 | Lynch, Center |
| 10/16 | P.I. | 45 | P. + F. Vale | 9/14, 30 | Northfield | 1, 8 | Taylor, Smith |
| 10/20 | Mt.A. | 45 | R. Stymeist | 9/23 | WMWS | 15 | B. deGraaf# |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | | | | 9/25, 10/22 | Burlington | 5, 1 | M. Rines |
| 9/10-12 | Tuckernuck | 2 | R. Veit | 9/30 | Northfield | 8 | J. Smith |
| 9/23, 10/21 | Cumb. Farms | 1, 1 | N. Bonomo | 10/3 | Northampton | 16 | J. Smith |
| 9/30-10/21 | Gay Head | 4 | v.o. | 10/4 | Ipswich | 11 | R. Heil |
| 10/4 | Ipswich | 4 | R. Heil | 10/14 | Pittsfield | 12 | N. Mole |
| 10/9 | Newbypt. | 2 | BBC (Grinley) | Swamp Sparrow | | | |
| 10/16 | Truro | 2 | SSBC (G.d'E) | 10/2, 16 | GMNWR | 10, 80 | S. Perkins# |
| Field Sparrow | | | | 10/4 | Ipswich | 41 | R. Heil |
| 9/24 | N. Middleboro | 8 | K. Holmes | 10/10 | Westboro | 56 | T. Spahr |
| 9/24 | Colrain | 5 | M. Lynch# | 10/16 | Upton | 75+ | R. Merrill |
| 10/10 | Falmouth | 7 | G. Hirth | 10/19 | Lexington | 54 | M. Rines# |
| 10/18, 28 | P.I. | 18, 3 | R. Heil | 10/20 | Burlington | 46 | M. Rines |
| 10/22 | Truro | 15 | B. Nikula | White-throated Sparrow | | | |
| 10/23 | Thompson I. | 10 | R. Stymeist# | 9/4, 10, 18 | P.I. | 1, 170 | G. d'E., Heil |
| Vesper Sparrow | | | | 9/11 | Nahant | 1 | L. Pivacek |
| 9/12, 10/3 | Northampton | 1, 1 | Therrien, Lafley | 9/12 | Lexington | 1 | M. Rines# |

| | | | | | |
|--|---------|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| White-throated Sparrow (continued) | | | 10/4 Ipswich | 52 | R. Heil |
| 10/1 Westboro WMA | 172 | M. Lynch# | 10/22 Truro | 2 | B. Nikula |
| 10/4 Ipswich | 115 | R. Heil | Red-winged Blackbird | | |
| 10/20 Mt.A. | 155 | R. Stymeist | 10/8, 26 Pepperrell | 800, 800 | E. Stromsted# |
| White-crowned Sparrow | | | 9/11 GMNWR | 1500 | S. Perkins# |
| 9/23, 10/16 Nahant | 2, 5 | L. Pivacek | 9/24 Bolton Flats | 1790 | S. Sutton |
| 9/26, 10/4 Ipswich | 1, 10 | R. Heil | 10/4 Ipswich | 506 | R. Heil |
| 10/1 Northampton | 5 | L. Therrien | 10/20 Bradford | 1600 | D. Larson# |
| 10/5 Pittsfield | 30 | T. Collins | 10/28 S. Lancaster | 530 | S. Sutton |
| 10/15 Amherst | 5 | J. Smith | Eastern Meadowlark | | |
| 10/16, 20 Burlington | 1, 5 | M. Rines | 9/2 Northampton | 2 | B. Zajda |
| 10/18, 28 P.I. | 9, 3 | R. Heil | 9/28, 10/25 P.I. | 2, 1 | Heil, Wetmore |
| 10/21 Cumb. Farms | 5 imm | N. Bonomo | 10/2 GMNWR | 3 | S. Perkins# |
| 10/22 Truro | 8 | B. Nikula | 10/21 Scituate | 2 | D. Furbish |
| Dark-eyed Junco | | | 10/21, 27 DWWS | 5, 14 | MAS (D. Clapp) |
| 9/9 Sudbury | 1 | T. Spahr | 10/29 Halifax | 3 | SSBC (Sweeney) |
| 9/11, 10/23 P.I. | 2, 135 | Wetmore, Vale | 10/30 Chatham (MI) | 9 | D. Manchester |
| 9/22, 10/20 Wakefield | 2, 85 | F. Vale | Yellow-headed Blackbird | | |
| 10/19 Gay Head | 2500+ | V. Laux# | 10/22 Northampton | 1 | S. Satin |
| 10/23 Quabbin Pk | 160 | J. P. Smith | Rusty Blackbird | | |
| 10/23 Cheshire | 328 | M. Lynch# | 9/5 Marshfield | 32 | D. Furbish# |
| Lapland Longspur | | | 9/24, 10/9 Bradford | 7, 15 | D. Larson |
| 9/5 Tuckernuck | 1 | R. Veit | 9/29 Northfield | 7 | M. Taylor |
| 9/17 W. Tisbury | 1 f | A. Keith | 10/1 P'town | 8 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 9/24 P'town | 1 | B. Nikula | 10/2 Bolton Flats | 15 | BBC (J. Center) |
| 9/28, 10/3 Northampton | 1, 4 | J. Smith | 10/9, 16 GMNWR | 6, 12 | S. Perkins# |
| 10/12 Gay Head | 5 | A. Keith | 10/10 DWWS | 50 | D. Furbish |
| 10/13 Quabbin Pk | 2, 1 | J. Smith | 10/15 Northampton | 6 | Allen Club (LR) |
| 10/17 Hatfield | 1 | J. Smith | 10/16, 12 Wayland | 20, 5 | G. Long |
| 10/18-28 P.I. | 6-11 | R. Heil | 10/30 Squantum | 4 | G. d'Entremont |
| 10/26 Granville | 3 | J. Weeks | Common Grackle | | |
| Snow Bunting | | | 10/10 Westford | 1028 | S. Sutton |
| 10/17-30 P.I. | 300 max | v.o. | 10/15 Gardner | 2000 | T. Pirro |
| 10/29 Granville | 5 | J. Weeks | 10/17 Cumb. Farms | 3390 | C. Nims |
| 10/29 Quabbin Pk | 10 | M. Lynch# | 10/28 S. Lancaster | 6700 | S. Sutton |
| 10/30 Wachusett Res. | 8 | M. Lynch# | Brown-headed Cowbird | | |
| 10/30 Nantucket | 25 | P. Brown | 9/25 Mt.A. | 300+ | J. Heywood |
| 10/30 Squantum | 9 | G. d'Entremont# | 10/23 Concord | 200 | I. Reid |
| 10/31 Salisbury | 200+ | O. Spalding# | Orchard Oriole | | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | | | 9/4 Lexington | 1 m | P. + F. Vale |
| 9/4 Lexington | 4 | P. + F. Vale | Baltimore Oriole | | |
| 9/6, 21 DFWS | 8, 4 | J. Hoye# | 9/2 Medford | 3 | M. Rines# |
| 9/23, 10/19 P.I. | 3, 1 | Wetmore, Daley | 9/3 DWWS | 3 | SSBC (G.d'E) |
| 10/2 Gloucester (E.P.) | 2 | S. Hedman# | 9/11 Southwick | 2 | S. Kellogg |
| 10/5 Worcester | 2 | M. Lynch# | 9/18 Nantucket | 4 | E. Ray |
| 10/15 Gardner | 1 | T. Pirro | 10/2 P.I. | 2 | T. Wetmore |
| 10/21 Scituate | 1 f | D. Furbish | 10/18 Cambr. (F.P.) | 1 | R. Stymeist |
| Blue Grosbeak | | | 10/19 Mt.A. | 1 | R. Stymeist |
| 9/17 Danvers | 1 | L. Ferraresso# | 10/19 Newton | 1 | R. Haaseth |
| 9/22 Gay Head | 1 | S. Anderson | Purple Finch | | |
| 10/2 Hadley | 1 | C. Gentes | 9/1, 10/8 Groveland | 3, 9 | D. Chickering |
| 10/11 Boston (Fens) | 1 | R. Stymeist | 9/23 WMWS | 5 | B. deGraaf# |
| 10/16 Wayland | 1 | G. Long | 9/24 Colrain | 7 | M. Lynch# |
| 10/16 Newton | 1 | J. Hoye# | 9/28, 10/18 P.I. | 14, 14 | R. Heil |
| Indigo Bunting | | | 9/30 Northfield | 25 | J. Smith |
| 9/1-10/19 Lexington | 23 max | 10/1 M. Rines# | 10/1, 15 Amherst | 23, 36 | Gentes, Sumer |
| 9/18 Deerfield | 16 | S. Surner | 10/2 Quabbin (G35) | 6 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/23 Framingham | 11 | J. Hoye# | 10/4 Ipswich | 9 | R. Heil |
| 9/25 Northampton | 16 | J. Smith | 10/8 Williamsburg | 44 | R. Packard |
| 9/25 Cumb. Farms | 20 | G. d'Entremont | 10/14 Pittsfield | 25 | N. Mole |
| 10/3 Belmont | 12 | M. Rines | 10/18 Newton | 6 | R. Haaseth |
| 10/4, 29 Ipswich | 23, 1 | Heil, Grinley | White-winged Crossbill | | |
| 10/16 Arlington | 4 | M. Rines | 9/6 Middlefield | 5 | D. St James |
| Dickcissel | | | Pine Siskin | | |
| 9/4 Northampton | 4 | J. Smith | 9/20, 10/30 Pittsfield | 1, 4 | T. Collins |
| 9/4, 10/21 Gay Head | 2, 3 | V. Laux# | 10/3 Nantucket | 1 | E. Ray |
| 10/4 Ipswich | 5 | R. Heil | 10/18, 20 P.I. | 10, 85 | R. Heil |
| 10/4 Framingham | 2 | J. Hoye# | 10/21 Gay Head | 2 | V. Laux# |
| 10/19 Truro | 2 | C. Goodrich# | 10/22 Williamsburg | 3 | R. Packard |
| thr Reports of indiv. from 19 locations. | | | 10/22 Truro | 5 | B. Nikula |
| Bobolink | | | 10/22 P'town | 1 | B. Nikula |
| 9/3 Northampton | 288 | M. Lynch# | 10/22 Quabbin Pk | 46 | M. Lynch# |
| 9/3 Leicester | 106 | M. Lynch# | 10/30 Windsor | 25 | B. Wood |
| 9/9, 10/16 Lexington | 56, 1 | Rines, Forbes | 10/30 Lexington | 1 | C. Floyd |
| 9/10 Gay Head | 200+ | M. Pelikan# | 10/30 Amherst | 5 | S. Surner |
| 9/11, 10/16 GMNWR | 80, 1 | S. Perkins# | Evening Grosbeak | | |
| 9/19 Lincoln | 51 | M. Rines | 9/18 Mt. Holyoke | 1 | S. Surner |
| 9/19 GMNWR | 90 | S. Perkins# | 9/30 Northfield | 1 | J. Smith |

Evening Grosbeak (continued)

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|--------------|---|------------|--|------------|------|------------|
| 10/20 | Lanesboro | 2 | T. Collins | Erratum: the following report was in error: | | | |
| 10/23 | Williamsburg | 6 | R. Packard | Least Tern | | | |
| 10/23 | Cheshire | 4 | M. Lynch# | 6/8 | S. Monomoy | 1002 | R. Merrill |
| 10/29 | Russell | 4 | T. Swochak | It should have read: | | | |
| 10/30 | Amherst | 8 | S. Sumner | Least Tern | | | |
| 10/30 | Windsor | 1 | B. Wood | 6/8 | S. Monomoy | 100 | R. Merrill |

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, 44th Supplement, as published in *The Auk* 117: 847-58 (2000); 119: 897-906 (2002); 120: 923-32 (2003).

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

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO BIRD OBSERVER

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

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

ABOUT THE COVER

Wild Turkey

The Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) is the only Western Hemisphere bird species to become domesticated world-wide. A native North American species, it was introduced around the world by Europeans from Mexico beginning early in the sixteenth century, and brought back to the Atlantic coast from Europe by early colonists. This large, long-necked bird with powerful legs, strong wings and a fan-shaped tail is unmistakable. The head and neck are largely unfeathered and in the male are blue and red. The body is largely metallic, iridescent green in males but rustier in females. Wild birds in all but the southwest can be separated from domestic escaped or released birds by buff-tipped tail feathers which are white in domestic birds. Wild Turkeys are usually found in flocks in open woodland or fields, although they tend to roost in trees. They will run or fly, gaining altitude with rapid wingbeats and then gliding. They can fly about a mile at speeds up to 60 mph.

Six subspecies are currently recognized. The Wild Turkey is a remarkable example of a bird that follows ecologic “rules,” patterns of variation in a widely distributed species that occupies a variety of habitats. Individuals average larger in size in higher latitudes (Bergmann’s rule), tend to have shorter legs in colder areas (Allen’s rule), — both presumably adaptations to facilitate heat retention — and are lighter in color in drier habitats (Glogger’s rule).

Wild Turkeys are most widely distributed in the eastern half of the United States, but are found in all forty-eight contiguous states and from southern Canada to Central Mexico. They were extirpated from New England by the middle of the nineteenth century and subsequently from much of the eastern United States by overhunting and habitat alteration. They have, however, been widely reintroduced during the past half century and are probably more common now than in pre-Columbian times. They are non-migratory. In Massachusetts the Wild Turkey is considered a fairly common resident, especially in the western part of the state, although they have become more common in eastern Massachusetts since the 1980s.

Wild Turkeys have a polygynous mating system, with males congregating on display grounds (leks) and displaying to attract females. They prefer open woodlands, clearings, power lines, and in some areas have invaded the suburbs. Dominance hierarchies exist in this highly social species, and both males and females are aggressive and will fight. In aggressive displays, birds hold head erect, wings drooping, feathers sleeked and tail partially fanned, often uttering a sharp trill. Fights involve the birds striking with wings and kicking, or entwining necks and pushing against each other with their chests. They attempt to grab the skin of the opponent’s neck or bill and force them to the ground. During breeding season, males congregate on leks where they gobble and give assorted yelps, cackles and purrs. These serve to attract females, who watch the strutting males: their tails fanned vertically, wings drooping, back feathers elevated and heads tucked back between their shoulders, crop inflated, quills rattling, while gliding around on their tiny territories. After mating, females leave to build and tend their nest alone.

The nest consists of a simple scratched depression in the ground among dead leaves, often at the base of a tree. The usual clutch is about a dozen buffy-white eggs, spotted red-brown. Egg dumping sometimes occurs where a female will “dump” her eggs in another nest, with a record 26 eggs recorded from a single nest. The female has brood patches and incubates for about a month until hatching. The chicks are precocial, covered with down, eyes open, and able to leave the nest and forage within hours of hatching. The brood imprints on the hen and the group stays together or may join other family groups. The hen broods her young under her body, wings, and tail for about a month, and will perform a distraction display if the young are threatened. In the fall, as the young approach adult size, they leave the family and join independent flocks.

Wild Turkeys forage on the ground, scratching the surface in search of acorns, nuts, and bulbs, or stripping grasses and sedges of seeds. They are largely vegetarian but take invertebrates such as grasshoppers and snails, and even occasional small vertebrates. In winter, when other food is scarce, they will eat evergreen buds and leaves.

Man is the principal predator on Wild Turkeys; all forty-eight contiguous states have a spring gobbler hunting season, and about a quarter million birds are harvested each year. They are also subject to the usual ground nest predators including skunks, opossums, and raccoons, and despite their size occasionally fall prey to eagles and Great Horned Owls. However, Wild Turkeys have proved to be extremely resilient and adaptable, and with their high reproductive rate have been trapped and translocated with great success, expanding their range into nearly all available habitat. This remarkable bird that Benjamin Franklin nominated (unsuccessfully) to be our national emblem appears to have a secure future. 

William E. Davis, Jr.

About the Cover Artist: Barry Van Dusen

Once again *Bird Observer* is happy to offer a cover by wildlife artist Barry Van Dusen. His work has appeared on our cover more often than that of any artist. Barry is well known in the birding world. He has illustrated several nature books and pocket guides, and his articles and paintings have been featured in *Birder's World*, *Birding*, and *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Barry became drawn to nature subjects through an association with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, which began in 1982. He has been influenced by the work of European wildlife artists and uses their methodology of direct field sketching. His skill as a field artist has enabled Barry to participate abroad in projects sponsored by the Netherlands-based Artists for Nature Foundation. With this organization he has traveled to India, Peru, Ireland, and Spain, working with other artists to raise funds for conservation of threatened habitats. In 1994 he was elected a full member of London's Society of Wildlife Artists and is a frequent contributor to its exhibitions. His work has been shown also in Ireland, Scotland, France, and Holland. In the U.S. Barry frequently exhibits in New England and at prestigious national shows such as *Birds in Art* in Wausau, Wisconsin, and *Art of the Animal Kingdom* in Bennington, Vermont. Barry resides in the central Massachusetts town of Princeton. His website is <<http://www.barryvandusen.com>>. 

AT A GLANCE

December 2005



DAVID LARSON

Since the December issue is *the final* number in Volume 33, it seems only appropriate to feature *the tail end* of a bird for the December “At A Glance” photo. Although the tail end of a bird does not always provide the most aesthetic view, it is often fully as identifiable as a head-end view, the view more often emphasized in the field guides.

With this caveat in mind, let us evaluate what this tail-end photo provides in the way of clues that can lead to making a correct identification. First, it’s pretty clear that the bird is very small, a fact readily derived from the bird’s extremely slender tarsi, noticeable on its right leg. Second, the bird clearly has white tail spots: note the folded outer tail feathers, visible on the underside of the mystery bird’s relatively short tail. Third, the bird has prominent dark spots on the undertail coverts. Finally, the bird is apparently quite acrobatic, since it is seemingly hanging or creeping upside down on a small branch.

Taken together, these features are practically diagnostic. The distinctive creeping behavior (beautifully frozen in time by the photographer), combined with the streaks on the sides, flanks, and undertail coverts tell us at once that the little acrobat is not a chickadee or a nuthatch, although both of these species are also capable of such arboreal antics. The white spots on the underside of the tail, combined with the

apparently small size of the bird should immediately suggest the possibility of a warbler as an identification candidate.

If we assume that the pictured bird is a warbler, the identification is easy. Of the eastern warblers, only the Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) has such prominently spotted undertail coverts. Although the Yellow-throated Warbler is also a creeper, much like a nuthatch or a Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow-throated Warblers have white undertail coverts. If it were possible to see the entire bird, the longitudinal black-and white stripes on the body and crown would make the bird unmistakable.

Black-and-white Warblers are common migrants and breeding birds in mixed and deciduous woodlands throughout Massachusetts, and they are among the earliest wood warblers to appear during spring migration. David Larson captured this image of a creeping Black-and-white Warbler during spring migration at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. 

Wayne R. Petersen

Preliminary Midwinter Eagle Survey Results

On January 6, 2006, *MassWildlife* staff and volunteer eagle spotters scoured the state during the annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey, recording a one-day tally of 49 bald eagles wintering in Massachusetts. Last year, a total of 74 bald eagles was reported statewide during the concentrated one day survey effort.

“This is a lower number of birds than usual, but there are two factors that affect our one-day count,” said Dr. Tom French, Assistant Director for the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. “First, the lack of ice and the presence of extensive open water disperses birds more widely, making it difficult to find them. Secondly, we’ve not had a long, very cold spell of winter which would drive birds from the north into Massachusetts.”

Twenty bald eagles were counted at Quabbin, (14 adults, 6 juveniles) and 7 adult eagles were observed along the Connecticut River. Elsewhere, ground crews counted 1 juvenile bird on Cobble Mountain Reservoir in Sandisfield and 1 adult on the Colebrook Reservoir in Blandford, 1 adult on the Wachusett Reservoir, 3 (1 adult, 2 juveniles) on Stodgemoor Pond in Ashburnham, 2 adults along the Millers River, 7 along the Merrimack River (4 adults, 3 juveniles), 5 at Assawompsett Pond (3 adults, 2 juveniles) in Lakeville, 1 adult at Long Pond, and 1 juvenile flying between Big and Little Herring Ponds in Plymouth.

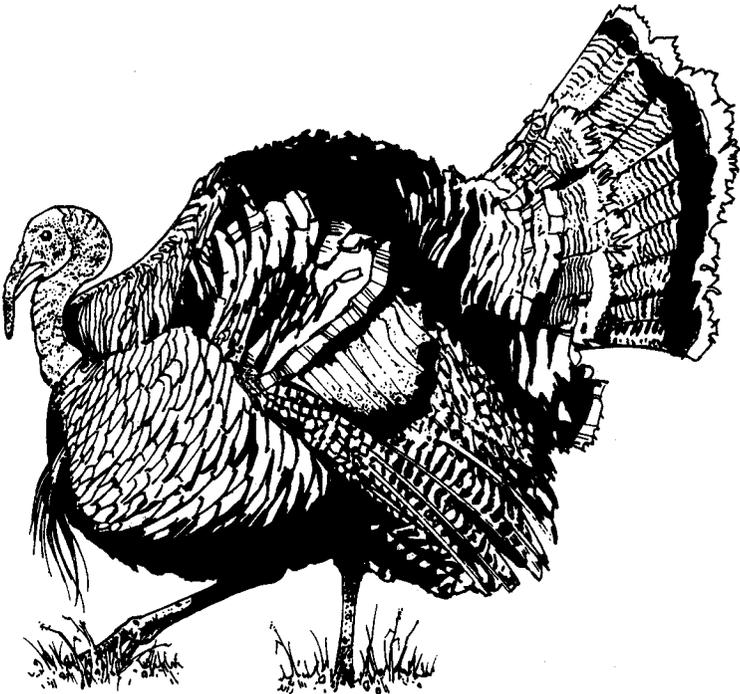


AT A GLANCE



RICHARD JOHNSON

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



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