

BIRD OBSERVER



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Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced on one side only of 8.5 x 11 inch paper with 1.5 inch margins all around. There is no limit on the length of manuscripts, but most do not exceed 10 double-spaced typewritten pages (about 3000 words). Use the 1983 A.O.U. Check-List for bird names and sequence. Type tables on separate pages. Black-and-white photographs and graphics are best. Include author's or artist's name, address, and telephone number and information from which a brief biography can be prepared if needed. Views expressed in *BIRD OBSERVER* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect an official position of Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc.

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DO YOU WANT THE "SUNDAY HUNTING BILL" TO PASS?

For those of our readers who do not want to have their Sunday birding along the coast disrupted by gunfire, *Bird Observer* calls attention to the fact that House Bill 994, also known as the "Sunday Hunting Bill," passed the Massachusetts House by the substantial margin of 109 to 37. The bill will come before the Senate sometime after it reconvenes this fall. If you are opposed to extending the hunting week to include Sundays, write to your senator at once to let him know how you want him to vote and give your reasons. Should you wish to learn how your representative voted so that you can communicate your wishes about future bills of this nature, call the Boston Office of the Massachusetts Audubon Society (617-367-1026). This office has prepared an information sheet listing the complete voting records, on environmental issues, of all the state representatives. To obtain a copy, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to the Massachusetts Audubon Society, 3 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02108.

NANTUCKET, PART I

by Marcia J. Litchfield

Nantucket Island is a veritable birder's paradise. In any month of the year, a great variety of specialties may be found, many of which are difficult to see so easily elsewhere in New England. The Nantucket checklist sports 354 species including 53 accidentals. And there are few places, if any, left in eastern Massachusetts that are as strikingly beautiful, refreshing and endearing as the Gray Lady, with her heathlands, rolling moors, and open skies or the endless dunes, long beaches, and wild surf.

Thirty miles offshore, Nantucket has much to offer the adventurous birder. Getting here takes some planning and arranging, but it is all well worth the effort. By far the most exciting season with the best weather is the fall. Although true fall migration begins in late July with shorebirds and terns and continues on through August and September with landbirds and raptors, the peak period for fall vagrants is mid-September to mid-October, when exciting numbers of Blue Grosbeaks, Western Kingbirds, Indigo Buntings, Lesser Golden-Plovers, and Peregrine Falcons may be noted. Yellow-headed Blackbird, Dickcissel, Lark and White-crowned sparrows are regulars. The accidental list includes Western Reef Heron, Black-necked Stilt, Brown Noddy, Allen's Hummingbird, Say's Phoebe, Fork-tailed and Scissor-tailed flycatchers, Eurasian Jackdaw, and Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Birders also come to see some of the rare or endangered species confined to breeding strongholds on Nantucket. The Short-eared Owl, Northern Harrier, Least Tern, and Piping Plover breed in healthy numbers. American Oystercatchers and Savannah Sparrows are abundant. Other species are present in consistently high numbers, including hundreds of migrating Roseate and Common terns, Common and Red-throated loons or hundreds of thousands of wintering Oldsquaws, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Common Eiders. The large concentrations of white-winged and Bonaparte's gulls and the fancier species like Lesser Black-backed Gull for which Low Beach is famous, the crisply handsome wintering seaducks of Nantucket Harbor and Madaket, or the windblown western vagrants are but a sampling of what draws birders to this avian gold mine.

Although it's best to allow yourself a full week to thoroughly cover the Island, it CAN be done over a two- or three-day weekend. The eighteen locations listed here represent five general areas: Nantucket Harbor and Town, Polpis/Siasconset (pronounced "Scon-set") and the east end, the farms and south shore, Madaket and the west end, and Coskata-Coatue (Cos-kay-ta-Co-too) Wildlife Refuge and Great Point. Obtaining a good map in advance is highly

recommended. The Nantucket Conservation Foundation's map of conservation lands is excellent (118 Cliff Road, Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554, telephone 1-508-228-2884), or a USGS Topo map is fine (Nantucket and Siasconset quadrants). It's also best to bring or rent a vehicle to get around the island, which measures roughly seven by fifteen miles. A four-wheel drive (FWD) vehicle is needed to drive over the five miles of barrier beach out to Great Point. Also, having a warm, comfortable FWD vehicle makes counting seaducks or gulls in cold, rainy, or windy weather much more pleasant and allows for much greater mobility around the island. There are unfortunately no public camping facilities on Nantucket. Visitors should make reservations in advance or obtain information about accommodations upon arrival at the Nantucket Information Bureau at 25 Federal Street.

Although it is very easy to get turned around in downtown Nantucket, the three main routes out of town are clearly marked. The island newspapers (available free on the ferry) that have Nantucket street maps as centerfolds are helpful. Here are the basic routes out of town. To head east from Steamboat



Northern Saw-whet Owl

Illustration by Robert C. Humphrey

Wharf, take a left onto South Water Street, cross the base of Main Street (cobblestoned), and follow signs to the rotary (there's only one). There will be signs to Siasconset and Polpis.

To head south from Steamboat Wharf, take a left onto South Water Street, then right onto cobblestoned Main Street. Follow Main all the way to the upper (Soldiers and Sailors) monument. Here, taking a left will lead you onto Milk Street, which becomes Hummock Pond Road leading to the farms and Cisco. Or, heading straight towards this monument will lead you to Madaket Road and the west end of the Island.

To head west from Steamboat Wharf, take a right onto South Beach Street and then left onto Easton Street. Take the next right onto Cliff Road, which leads to Madaket Road and the west end.

If you arrive by air, island newspapers are available free at the airport, or ask the ticket or car rental agent for a road map. Mopeds are not recommended to birders due to their unstable nature and limited carrying capacity for fragile optics and camera equipment. They also do very poorly on the many sandy or unpaved roads. Bicycles are certainly a pleasant and quiet way to get around, particularly in the fall, but also have limited carrying capacity.

The numbered locations that follow offer some of the best birding spots on the island. They can be visited in sequence in a series of loops taking several hours or several days, or each site is excellent on its own. Birders will appreciate the fact that almost every place described here offers something of interest to look for in nearly every season. And when the birding is slow, the aesthetics make up for it. (This falls under the definition of paradise.) Be sure to pick up a Nantucket Bird Checklist at the Maria Mitchell Science Center, 2 Vestal Street, telephone 1-508-228-9198, and a local tide chart at Harbor Fuel or Hardy's Hardware before you head out. Also check the local newspaper, *Inquirer and Mirror*, which carries a weekly column, "Island Bird Sightings," written by the author.

Nantucket Harbor Flats, The Creeks, and Consue Springs (1). Follow Washington Street to Washington Street Extension, pass Nantucket Shipyard on the left, and park anywhere out of the way near the salt marsh and dunes. A walk along this small barrier beach allows for viewing of the Nantucket Harbor Flats and The Creeks. At low tide, look for a wide variety of shorebirds, gulls, terns, and waders. In winter, this is a great place to count upwards of eleven Barrow's Goldeneyes with other expected seaducks. Other specialties here include Peregrine Falcon, Lesser Golden-Plover, Stilt Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Little Blue Heron, Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Seaside Sparrow. Walk along the marsh edge towards Union Street to kick up sparrows, rails, and shorebirds in marsh pools. You will come to the old railroad bed (raised dike). Off to the right is Consue Springs Pond (pronounced "Con-soo"), where the

resident Mallards may have visitors like Pied-billed Grebe, Common Moorhen, Wood Duck, or Eurasian Wigeon. Great Blue Herons, Green-backed Herons, or Black-crowned Night-Herons may be flushed.

The Jetties, Brant Point, Bird Sanctuary, and Nantucket Town (2). From Steamboat Wharf, take a right onto North Beach Street, cross Easton Street and stroll 0.4 mile to a right turn down to a large pavilion. This parking lot serves as the Town's scallop shell dump in the winter and becomes host to hundreds of gulls, best viewed from the vehicle. Here they are easily photographed. The flock has included Iceland and Glaucous gulls. Walk or drive over the sand to the base of the western jetty where the shallows become available at lower tides to shorebirds and seaducks. This is the best place on the Island to look for Harlequin Ducks in winter along with Barrow's Goldeneyes, King Eider and huge rafts of Common Eiders, Common Goldeneyes, and Red-breasted Mergansers. A few Purple Sandpipers and Dunlin may be seen along the eastern jetty. Northern Gannets and Black-legged Kittiwakes are often noted just outside the jetties in winter. The jetties are covered with hundreds of Harbor Seals in winter, too, and occasionally the larger bull Gray Seals may be spotted among them. It's also worth a glance across to the western tip of Coatue, where a Snowy Owl may be spotted on the beach or in the cedars.

In summer and fall, the channel is full of feeding terns, which loaf on the exposed rocks of the jetties in their off-hours. Expect to see exciting numbers of Roseates, with the possibility of a Black, a Royal, or a Sandwich Tern. Late Common Terns may be seen here or elsewhere in the lower harbor. The jetties at this time will also have migrant Ruddy Turnstones, an occasional Red Knot, upwards of a dozen American Oystercatchers, Snowy Egrets, and Black-crowned Night Herons. While sailing past on the boat at night, you may note some of these by their calls.

To get to the Nantucket Conservation Foundation's Bird Sanctuary, walk back to North Beach Street, where a large maroon sign marks the overgrown path. This 0.9 acre lot is an overgrown thicket below the Cliff and can be good during landbird migration. The small pond has a bench and is a quiet spot where skulking warblers or lingering landbirds like Winter Wren, Northern Waterthrush or Orange-crowned Warbler have been seen.

The narrow lanes, lovely gardens, and quiet courtyards to be discovered around Nantucket Town are sometimes loaded with migrant landbirds during migration. Some spots are good to check in early winter for lingerers, too. Obtain one of the Nantucket street maps and walk the following route, which is at its best in late May. Start at the intersection of Gull Island Lane and West Chester Street. Turn right along Lily Street to visit the Lily Pond Conservation Area. Continue along Lily Street into Liberty Street until you reach Brock's Court on the right. Return to Liberty Street and follow it (the street makes a left

turn) until you can enter Walnut Lane on the right. Cross Main Street to follow Ray's Court to Fair Street and then return to Main. Turn left, walk west (away from the harbor) on Main Street to the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, and go left onto Milk Street. Take the first right onto Vestal Street to reach the Maria Mitchell Science Center. Check the gardens around and behind the Science Library. Return to Milk Street and cross it to follow New Dollar Lane to Mill Street. Turn left here, then right onto North Mill Street until you can enter Angora Street on the left. Turn right at the end of Angora Street and follow South Mill Street to the Old Mill. Cross Prospect Street to Mill Hill Park, which is the end of this walk.

Bartlett's Ocean View Farm and Miacomet area (3). From the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on upper Main Street, go left on Milk Street, which becomes Hummock Pond Road, and travel to Bartlett's Farm Road on the left. Enter the first dirt road on the left and park well off the road. This area is notorious for the many fancy fall migrants seen here over the years. It is best covered on foot early in the morning. You may wish to time your visit to coincide with a high tide, at which time many of the shorebirds that feed on the flats are believed to fly inland to these farm fields to roost, to preen, and to continue feeding in the freshly tilled fields.

All of the farmland and moors within view are PRIVATE PROPERTY owned by Phil and Dorothy Bartlett. Although they have been most tolerant over the years, birders are now asked to obtain permission before wandering around the borders of their farm fields and vineyard. The Bartletts may be found at the farm stand at the end of the road.

Most of this rich area can be covered very adequately from the public roads. Once parked as above, walk north on this dirt road towards Somerset Road. The hedgerows along both sides of the road are some of the best places to kick up fall sparrows, including Grasshopper and Lark, as well as Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, Dickcissels, Orange-crowned Warblers, and Western Kingbirds. Check any open farm fields for large flocks of Lesser Golden-Plovers and Black-bellied Plovers. Here is where Buff-breasted and Pectoral sandpipers, Killdeer and Upland Sandpipers roost and feed regularly. Keep your head up for Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, American Kestrels, and Sharp-shinned Hawks cruising through, and for Northern Harriers, especially the pale-colored males, quartering over the fields. The roving flocks of blackbirds may have a Yellow-headed among them, and any loafing gull flocks in the fields should be scanned for Lesser Black-backed Gull. One November a Sandhill Crane was present in these fields, poised in a flock of Canada Goose decoys!

Once you have reached Somerset Road, retrace your steps back to Bartlett's Farm Road, and you will be facing the other hot spot where the above birds may occur. A Chestnut-collared Longspur was banded and photographed here in the

fall of 1979, when it stayed October 12-16. Check in particular rows of flowers and corn going to seed. The grape arbors are usually very active, too. Go all the way to the farm stand and find still more farm fields out to the south which may have Lesser Golden-Plovers and other shorebirds. These fields can be viewed easily from a dirt road which winds southward past a field with cows and horses where the ocean just comes into view in the distance, hence the name Ocean View Farm.

Still on foot, retrace your steps along Bartlett's Farm Road to Hummock Pond Road. Along the way, note a small, hidden sedgy pond off to the right near the pines where a Henslow's Sparrow was once seen in October. The pines may have warblers, waxwings, blackbirds, etc. Go left on Hummock Pond Road and you will find more hedgerows (belonging to Mt. Vernon Farm), a friendly bird carver Pat Gardner, and many open fields from the Bartlett's Farm Road until you reach a small farm with horses and a small pond on the left. This will be just on the edge of Larrabee Swamp on the topographical map. Enjoy!

The Miacomet Raceway is the last known breeding site of Grasshopper Sparrows on Nantucket, where they were historically common. It is just a short distance east of the dirt road on which you have been parked. Go right on Somerset Road. Listen for them in early- to mid-June among the many new houses in the area. Continue on Somerset and then bear left towards the Miacomet Golf Course. These dirt roads are all right for most vehicles. All fields in this area are good for more Lesser Golden-Plovers, Upland and Buff-breasted sandpipers. Head straight southeast toward Miacomet Pond, where you may again park anywhere off the road. A stroll southward will provide views of the pond and the vast, colorful moors. You will eventually reach the ocean, where Surfside Rip may be visible off toward the east.

Once back in the car, drive over your steps southward towards the ocean, and then continue on the dirt road around a loop back towards a radio tower, the golf course, and the farms. You are now in prime Short-eared Owl nesting and wintering habitat. This is also an excellent spot for Rough-legged Hawks in the winter.

Cisco, Mothball Pines, and Ram Pasture (4). Take Hummock Pond Road to its very end, where there is a parking area above the beach. Pelagics may be seen from here in May and September, migrating seaducks and loons occur in high numbers, and feeding flocks of Northern Gannets occur through the winter. However, the Mothball Pines to the west are most noted as an exciting landbird trap in both spring and fall. Ornithologist Edith Andrews operates a bird-banding program at one of the small cottages from late August to October. Walk down the dirt road listening intently for migrating birds in the pines. Most of the cottages will likely be vacant in the migration months.

Eventually, you will see the south end of Hummock Pond and Ram Pasture. Here you may see Short-eared Owls hunting, Osprey nesting atop a platform, and Rough-legged Hawks, meadowlarks, and hundreds of fresh water ducks in fall and winter.

"Nantucket, Part II" will appear in the December issue.

MARCIA J. LITCHFIELD visited Nantucket for the first time in the fall of 1976 with the South Shore Bird Club. She was instantly captivated by its natural beauty and the abundance of birds to be found. She moved to the island in 1979, leaving only to complete her B.S. in biology at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. Born into a family of birders and interested in birds from childhood, Marcia has had varied experience in field ornithology. She has been the Voice of Audubon for Massachusetts Audubon Society, worked on the state Breeding Bird Atlas and for Manomet Bird Observatory's seabird project. She is a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, has led bird trips for the Maria Mitchell Science Center, is the Nantucket Tern Warden for the Trustees of Reservations, and writes a column, "Island Bird Sightings," for the "world's largest newspaper," *The Inquirer and Mirror*.

The pen-and-ink portrait of a saw-whet owl was created by **ROBERT C. HUMPHREY**, a regular contributor of articles and drawings to *Bird Observer*. Bob is also a watercolorist and an award-winning photographer. He has a master's degree in wildlife biology with thesis research on the range expansion of American Oystercatchers in Massachusetts. Bob has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for several years, three of them as manager of Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge.

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THE PHYLOGENETIC SPECIES CONCEPT: CORNUCOPIA FOR LISTERS

by John C. Kricher

Species are real. I know it; you know it; and, most importantly, *they* know it. When was the last time you saw a Tufted Titmouse courtship-feeding his mate, a Northern Cardinal? Sure, both birds have crests, and both come to bird feeders. They're always running into one another as they go about their version of birding, but they never mate. Titmouse sex is between titmice; cardinal sex between cardinals. The result is the gene constellations of titmice and cardinals remain separate: titmice genes don't mix with cardinal genes. And thus, we have two species, two separate gene pools. Each gene pool is a vast array of genes, strings of DNA, that have traveled together through evolutionary time and have coevolved to interact in extremely precise ways. The DNA recipe for Northern Cardinal is quite different from that for Tufted Titmouse. To mix cardinal genes with titmouse genes would be like mixing notes from a Mozart symphony with those of Beethoven. The notes would fail to arrange in any reasonable manner, and the result would be a symphonic monstrosity.

Species are *reproductively isolated* from each other. Genes program each species to recognize others of its kind. Hybrids are rare. When they do occur, hybrids will look and sound different from either parent species, usually causing the hybrid great difficulty in attracting a mate programmed to recognize a different plumage or song. Hybrids are genetic dead ends. It is therefore unsurprising that birds, as well as many other animals, have evolved elaborate courtship displays that function in large part to assure species recognition and thus prevent reproductive wastage. Songs, plumage, and behavior all function as *reproductive isolating mechanisms*.

Some species, such as the Song Sparrow, range very widely, and local populations are genetically differentiated into recognizable races or *subspecies*. When a species is divided into several subspecies, it is *polytypic*. The *National Geographic* field guide is particularly complete in illustrating distinct subspecies. Subspecies are regional populations that have unique genetic identities. But, they are not reproductively isolated from neighboring subspecies, at least not at the moment. Some subspecies may have almost reached the point of *speciation*, but not quite. This last point has been a sore one with many birders, particularly those who place the importance of their life lists next to their love for their children. Listers have taken a real beating of late, because certain populations, once deemed to be full species, hybridize successfully with neighboring populations. Doing so has resulted in lumping what were once designated as separate species into subspecies. Goodbye, Baltimore and

Bullock's orioles. Farewell, Gilded, Red-shafted, and Yellow-shafted flickers. Adios, Myrtle and Audubon's warblers. There are others, as you well know from the erasure marks on your life list. You get the point.

What I have just outlined is called the Biological Species Concept (BSC), championed in large part by Ernst Mayr (1942, 1963). It rests on the presumption that species are reproductively isolated from one another, that they recognize each other and mate accordingly. Spotted Towhees look different from Rufous-sided Towhees, but where they meet, they mate. So they are one species. Black-crested Titmice find Tufted Titmice attractive: one species, not two. Sometimes species don't look distinct to us, but they do to them. The Alder and Willow flycatchers tell us they are two species, not one. So do the Tropical and Couch's kingbirds.

Though the BSC is well entrenched in evolutionary theory, it is not without difficulties. What do we do about Scrub Jays in Florida versus those in California, for instance? The Florida subspecies has a whitish forehead and a cooperative breeding system, making it both morphologically and behaviorally distinct from the western subspecies (Woolfenden 1975). Would a Florida bird mate with a Californian? Who knows? They are separated by a continent and have no opportunity to mate. Their status as subspecies or separate species is not resolvable using the BSC, since the critical criterion, mating, cannot be verified or refuted. A similar situation exists with Marsh Wrens. The western subspecies has a broader song repertoire and distinct brain anatomy from the eastern race (Kroodsma and Canady 1985). Could they or would they mate if an eastern and western individual were together, or are they like the *Empidonax* flycatchers, separate species that merely look alike? When populations do not overlap, all the BSC allows for is an educated guess. Clark's Grebe, newly split from Western Grebe, would in all likelihood still be considered a subspecies were it not for the fact that the ranges of both populations overlap, permitting ornithologists to document whether or not they interbreed. They don't, so they are separate species. Even when ranges overlap, there are difficulties. Black-capped and Carolina chickadees hybridize in a narrow zone in southwestern Missouri but do not hybridize when in contact in many other areas (Robbins et al. 1986). As Judge Wapner would say on *The People's Court*, the "preponderance of the evidence" seems to favor considering the chickadees to be separate species -- for now.

Recently some ornithologists have challenged the BSC, advocating its replacement with something they call the Phylogenetic Species Concept (PSC). The PSC, it is argued, would eliminate the subjectivity evident in attempting to use the BSC when populations don't overlap in range. It would also be a major windfall for listers. The PSC was strongly advocated by Cracraft (1983) and is detailed by McKittrick and Zink, the lead paper of the February 1988 *Condor*.

The PSC defines a species as "the smallest diagnosable cluster of individual organisms within which there is a parental pattern of ancestry and descent." Notice that any reference to reproductive isolation is missing. Notice also that the "diagnosis" of species status is entirely up to the taxonomist, not the organisms themselves. It makes no difference who breeds with whom. A species is what the taxonomist says it is, based on observing any anatomical, behavioral, vocal, or other genetic characteristic that is held in common by lineage. Sharpen your pencils, listers; the Bullock's is back! Ditto the juncos and flickers. Western Fox Sparrows are now a species distinct from Eastern Fox Sparrows. Pay attention to those *nelsoni* Sharp-tailed Sparrows, or should I say "Nelson's Sparrow?" The Green-winged Teal and Common Teal are separate again. And oh joy, oh rapture! Think of all those new species of Canada Goose created just by the stroke of a taxonomist's pen.

You are not dreaming. The PSC folk really do advocate making a species out of virtually any population that has genetic identity. This would, of course, include just about all of the subspecies and maybe then some. The advantage of the PSC, so say its advocates, is that it defines *lineages* which are presumed to be the most recent and therefore the most significant evolutionary entities. The evolutionary picture is thus clarified rather than muddled as PSC advocates claim it often is with the BSC. One hypothetical example, given by McKittrick and Zink, supposes that a population of Trumpeter Swan is discovered to have one extra hooklet on a barb of the seventh primary. (I realize that this would present a significant field problem -- it's their example, not mine.) Rather than dismiss the additional hooklet as trivial, McKittrick and Zink argue that such a character may reflect most recent evolutionary history, the "cutting edge" of evolution. Good enough to call these Trumpeters a new species? Why not? McKittrick and Zink recognize that some genetic characters, such as hooklet number, may vary even within a localized population, presenting a problem in judging whether or not the population should be awarded species status. Their solution: call these populations "potential incipient phylogenetic species" (PIPS)! I can well imagine the birding elite studying blurred slides as they one-up each other on PIPS identifications.

What of reproductive isolation as a species delineator? The PSC recognizes reproductive isolation as a primitive character, not sufficiently precise to utilize in species definition. The one characteristic that, in fact, does actually separate gene pools is summarily dumped.

The PSC is not without its own problems. Many populations vary gradually from north to south, for instance. Where does the taxonomist draw the lines to separate *gradual* variation? Some variation is not genetic. Red-winged Blackbirds are considerably larger in Colorado than in Florida. Should this body size difference confer species status on each population? No way, since

transplant studies have shown that the offspring from Florida red-winged eggs, hatched and raised in Colorado, grow to the size of typical Colorado birds and vice versa (James 1983). The geographic differences are *environmentally induced*, not genetic, and thus insufficient for species designation. It would be like saying fat birds are a different species from thin birds. Notice, however, that without the careful transplant studies, a PSC taxonomist might well have decided to confer species status on these Red-wing populations.

The PSC is a response to frustration by taxonomists. People who like to put up predawn mist nets and collect the dead birds at dusk have no way of knowing about reproductive isolation. They have only specimens. Classifying such specimens as to species status is greatly facilitated by the PSC. The subspecies category is eliminated (though PIPS sounds suspiciously like subspecies reincarnated), and we generate a neatsy keen list of "good" species. Bravo.

I believe the PSC to be far less useful than the BSC. It focuses on traits rather than process. It is artificially static because by reducing species to merely a population with any distinct genetic trait, it loses the dynamism evident in the realization that speciation is often gradual and often incomplete, because such is the nature of the evolutionary process. The BSC, for all its shortcomings, focuses on process, on characteristics of real biological significance, such as behavior, ecology, and biogeography. I believe we have learned much more about evolution from applying the BSC than we would now know had we always used the PSC.

One final point. Consider how the PSC would apply to what you see in the mirror each day. The last time I rode the T there were at least four species in the bus with me. There was *Homo caucasiensis* along with two caucasiensis PIPS, irishensis and italianensis. Then there was *Homo negroensis*, *Homo asianensis*, and *Homo hispaniensis*. You can't have it both ways. If you're going to split the birds, you gotta split the folks too. Human racial variation is genetic: Thus, races ought to be given species status under the rules of PSC. By applying PSC to humans, its real ludicrousness is apparent. Humans are one gene pool, one species. It is worth recognizing that races (subspecies) and species are two different things. To apply the PSC to humans would set back social enlightenment two hundred years. It would also mask biological reality. Neither is a good thing.

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NEW ENGLAND REDISCOVERED THROUGH THE EYES OF A BIRDER

by Alden G. Clayton

Bird Finding in New England by Richard K. Walton. 1988. Maps by Adelaide Walton, illustrations by Barry Van Dusen. Boston: David R. Godine. 328 pages. \$14.95 softcover.

For many natural events and American cultural traditions, New England is a classic example of the familiar adage, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts." When we complain (or Mark Twain jokes) about changeable weather, it is always labeled "New England" weather. Whether the subject is fall foliage, regional speech accents, American literature, or a whole range of human traits the two words "New England" evoke an image that is distinctive of the entire region. Surprisingly, field birding has not developed a regional quality. How do we account for the absence of an *all-New England* birding tradition, particularly within such a compact, albeit varied, geographical area?

Perhaps a clue can be found in American history. New England's individual states have a historical record of independent action with respect to each other and to national control. During colonial times territorial and boundary disputes were frequent. State conflicts flared even when under arms against a common foe. Washington's Continental Army was no more than an aggregation of individual states, each of which recruited and supplied its own line regiments. Vermont's Green Mountain Boys were simply a group of self-organized militiamen who fought only when they chose to (as in the defeat of General Burgoyne's British army). Independence of action was a particular privilege of New England seamen. Massachusetts fitted out its own navy in 1775. All the seaboard states and many seaside towns organized ships and crews for access to the enormous profits to be gleaned from privateering. (The Continental Congress issued 626 letters of marque to Massachusetts vessels alone.) When it came time to write a constitution for the victorious colonies in 1778, Rhode Island refused to send a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and agreed to ratify the new constitution only when the Senate passed a bill ending all commerce with Rhode Island.

Interestingly, this independence of action has characterized birding organizations and field birding activities in the six New England states up to the present time. In contrast to the rest of the nation, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island have their own independent statewide Audubon societies rather than local chapters of National Audubon. In the birding literature only Edward Howe Forbush's classic *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States* transcends state boundaries. Perhaps it is not surprising then that many New England birders become so

absorbed in their own state birds, whether breeding bird atlases, year lists, or life birds, that they show little interest--except for rare accidentals--in the birds and birding habitats of neighboring states.

On the other hand, it may simply be that no one has identified and put together the parts that sum up to a greater New England whole. Dick Walton has now done so in his new book, *Finding Birds in New England*. It is an all-New England guide written with literary style, skillfully weaving together observations on geology, botany, local legends, and historical events, in addition to basic information about birds and their habitats.

In his descriptions of twenty-nine individual sites, Walton has sampled New England's richly varied habitats--its offshore islands, coastal salt marshes, and tidal flats, its river valleys, ponds, and lakes, deciduous and boreal forests, upland meadows, and mountains. His north-to-south journey starts at the most easterly point of the United States, Quoddy Head State Park. A side trip is included to Campobello Island, the only site not actually in New England but just across the New Brunswick border and of historical interest as the summer home of Franklin Roosevelt. Walton's birding trail takes us from there to Baxter State Park, Mount Desert Island, Monhegan Island, Biddeford Pool, and Scarborough Marsh in Maine; the Connecticut Lakes, the Pinkham Notch area of the White Mountains, Squam Lake, and Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire; on to Island Pond in Vermont's "Northeast Kingdom," Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area and Lake Champlain, Mount Mansfield, and the southern Green Mountains; through Massachusetts with stops at Newburyport/Plum Island and Salisbury, Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, the Sudbury River Valley, and a variety of important sites on Cape Ann and Cape Cod. Rhode Island sites are Swan Point Cemetery in Providence, Point Judith, Quonochontaug, and Watch Hill along the south shore, and Block Island. Connecticut birding is represented by the woods and meadows of the White Memorial Foundation in the northwest corner of the state with Milford Point, Lighthouse Point Park, and Hammonasset Beach State Park on Long Island Sound.

Each site description includes a list (by season) of noteworthy species that may be found and a description of the habitat in which they are normally seen. Road directions are clear and concise. Site maps, prepared by Adelaide Walton, are particularly easy to read and understand, nicely avoiding the "too much" or "too little" syndrome that plagues many maps. Excellent black-and-white drawings by Barry Van Dusen are interspersed throughout the text. Each one portrays a single species in its typical habitat. Lodgings and restaurants of some particular local interest are noted. For birders seeking more information about individual states and additional sites, appropriate references are furnished.

Part Two of *Finding Birds in New England* is devoted to hawks and seabirds. The first chapter (on hawkwatching) covers site information for each of the New England states, along with expectations for hawk flights by season. The pleasures and rewards of pelagic birding on New England's ocean waters are described by Wayne Petersen in the second chapter. He discusses oceanographic causes for the diversity of species that may be seen, recounts species most probable or possible through the four seasons of the year, provides useful information on where to go for pelagic trips, and gives seagoing birders a number of helpful tips. This pelagic chapter should be of particular value for birders from outside the New England area.

A final section, Part Three, is an annotated checklist of sixty-five species that are, in Walton's words, "of special note in New England...primarily because the northeast is the best locale in which to find them [or]...simply because they represent typically, but not exclusively, New England phenomena...." Appendix material includes a listing of state organizations, rare bird alerts, floral and faunal references, and an exceptionally complete bibliography.

The sum of all the parts of this book is itself a remarkable whole. A naturalist with a bent for history, Walton gracefully blends visible present with historical past, as he did in his fine book, *Birds of the Sudbury River Valley*. In effect, the author offers his readers site descriptions that are a series of essays on the joys of birding. This is a book with broad appeal, a pleasure for leisurely reading as well as a source of specific information. It is highly recommended to birding enthusiasts of all skills wherever they may live.

ALDEN G. CLAYTON was born a New Englander, has lived equally in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, vacationed in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, and spent three years at sea in World War II aboard a U. S. Navy destroyer that was built in New England. Since retiring in 1986 from the presidency of the Marketing Science Institute in Cambridge, he has had more time to seek out and photograph birds in some of the world's remote places. These have included Lake Baikal and the Siberian taiga forest, the Gobi Desert and Altai mountains of Mongolia, and the ice floe edge in Baffin Bay, four hundred miles from the Arctic Circle. A lifelong interest in history traces back to a college major in that field. Alden enjoys books like Samuel Eliot Morison's *Maritime History of Massachusetts, 1783-1860*--"a classic of good reading."

WERE THERE REALLY 16,463 COMMON EIDERS OUT THERE?

by David E. Clapp

EDITOR'S NOTE: The question above and the answer printed below are taken from a letter to the editor written in response to a query posed by Jodi Adams of Jefferson ("How Do You Count?" in Bird Observer, August 1988, 16:217). The letter, dated September 12, 1988, was from David E. Clapp of Marshfield, director of the South Shore Regional Center of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

I knew it would happen. Someday someone was going to ask [that question]. The Marshfield Christmas Bird Count (CBC) has long allowed me to greet the sun at the bend in the Duxbury Beach sandspit known as the Gurnet. From this vantage point I have been able to watch (and, yes, count) Common Eiders returning to the shallow bays from their night of communal bobbing somewhere on Cape Cod Bay.

Before I explain about the counting, let me offer a few tidbits that may be helpful or essential to the stationary birder in winter. For example, it is easy to lose friends on a fourteen-hour-long winter birding trip, but when you must sit still, exposed to wind and weather, for even a two-hour vigil, it is almost a sure thing that your relationship with any companion who is not a fully consenting individual will never be the same again. It is important that anyone you invite along be interested, willing, and fully prepared for the long cold adventure. It is much colder sitting than walking, and it is invariably much less comfortable. Good partners are very helpful for the psychological well-being of everyone involved. They are also essential for an accurate count and as a source of additional food. Gilda Santoro has been my companion at the aforementioned counts for several years (about half the time as Gilda Cross). The counts have always been fun for Gilda and me, and that makes the weather and bodily discomforts bearable.

Sitting on a cement buttress, a sloping revetment, or a patch of frozen ground can become almost instantly a pain in the butt. For several years I winced and bore it, but now I have a solution. You know those funny little foam bits that cushion delicate packages, spill all over the floor, and then evade any efforts to sweep them up? Well, when those things are put in a stuff sack or other rip-proof bag, they become a comfortable and wonderfully insulating seat.

Food is essential to winter bird-counting. Hot drinks are fun, but most don't stay with you very long and require awkward maneuvering within an hour after imbibing. The clothing necessary for winter birding on a bluff by the ocean is such that drinking lots of tea or coffee is really not worth the exercise. Ten years ago I carried a bag of peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches and just ate all day

long. Now, my taste is more haute cuisine, and I carry several kinds of sandwiches and fruit as well as a variety of drinks. Most Christmas counts do not stop for a sit-down lunch, and thoughtful food preparation the day before can keep you alive while you travel around the countryside counting birds.

And now for the bird-counting issue. Jodi Adams of Jefferson asked in the last issue, "How are very large flocks of birds counted or estimated?" In my example (counting eider for the Marshfield CBC), we make ourselves comfortable and then locate buoys on the water. As the horizon opens up, we begin to see small flocks of eider flying in from the open ocean, passing in front of us. As they pass the buoys, we count them one by one and then note the total on a pad of paper. This is easy enough with flocks of twenty to seventy. Once the flight increases, we split the counting line in half. I count from the buoy out, and Gilda counts from the buoy in. We usually see well over one hundred flocks of fifty or so. This gives us a good handle on what a flock of fifty looks like, and we can often guess how many there are before counting. It becomes more hectic as time passes, but our skills become honed as well.

There are often flights of over a thousand at a time. But when seen from a good vantage point, there is plenty of time to estimate the birds that pass by. On occasions like this, we will count by tens in order to determine the size of a flock. As the flight slows down, we resume the easier pace of dawn. After each flight passes by, we write down the number of individuals in the group. After a while, some of the birds below us will begin to mill around and occasionally pass out of the bay to head north along the coast. At that point we decide that enough is enough, and we count no more eider that day.

With eider the most difficult situation is found when the birds decide to swim into the bay rather than fly in. The flocks on the water are often very dense and long. When the birds are concentrated this way, it is more difficult for the counter. But again, the movement past a buoy is the best way to make a good count.

The most important part of counting is to make sure that you record your numbers as you proceed. Trying to remember is never adequate. At the end of the counting period we often have a hundred numbers scrawled on the page to be tallied. There is no substitute for this type of record keeping. We also note the mergansers, cormorants, oldsquaws, scoters, and the occasional King Eider. At the Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary in Marshfield, David Ludlow and I have counted flights of American Robins going to roost. We use a stone to designate each one hundred birds. As darkness and mosquitoes end our ability to concentrate on the task at hand, we count up our stones and head for shelter. Somehow this seems appropriate for modest numbers (we had 1515 robins) but would require a lot of advance rock collecting for the eider flight.

Counting is an interesting exercise. Next time you go out with some friends for a day of birding, each of you might keep an accurate count of a fairly common bird without telling your companions what species you are watching. Blue Jays, Ring-billed Gulls, and Song Sparrows are good examples of birds we see often and fail to record mentally. "How many ringers do you think we've seen today?" will often elicit a wide range of responses from your companions. As far as numbers go, I have little faith in the numbers provided by those folks who sit down in front of a fireplace to determine how many individuals were seen during a day. "Numbers seen" can be used to help determine times of passage or to aid in establishing migration routes, and they may be most important in identifying (and hence, preserving) valuable habitat.

In summary--yes, you do count one at a time as fast as you can. After that, to count large flocks, you use the smallest unit of birds possible. Real challenges occur at sites like the Fore River Bridge in Quincy as the starlings come in to roost at dusk or in counting the huge eider flocks off the coast of Chatham from an airplane.

NEWS NOTE: GONE BIRDING! Several local birders have been involved in the production of a videotape VCR game. The idea was conceived by Oliver Komar, a well-known young birder from Newton, and Alf Wilson of Walpole, who discovered the Henslow's Sparrow on the 1981 Greater Boston CBC. Together they founded Rupicola Productions, Inc., which is producing *Gone Birding!* The two-hour video is cohosted by Peter Alden, author and birding tour leader, and Bill Oddie, British birder and humorous writer. Peter also contributed to the design of the game board, which is a detailed map of North America with its biomes and over a hundred top birding hot spots, and wrote the detailed information found on each of the game's hotspot cards. Richard Forster helped the producers select the nearly one thousand cuts of bird footage that encompasses over 350 North American species, and Wayne Petersen and other local birders helped review and test the game. Connecticut Artist Julie Zickefoose, an active birder in the area during her days at Harvard's MCZ, has produced extensive artwork for the project, including an original portrait of A Greater Prairie Chicken. The video is introduced by actress Jane Alexander and is scheduled to enter the market in early November.

FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE _____

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER INSIDE OUR SHED

In the early part of December 1987, I was at my kitchen window peering out at our bird feeder. There I saw a beautiful bird I had never seen before. It was a small bird with black-and-white stripes along its side and a yellow throat. When I looked it up in our bird book, the description matched the Yellow-throated Warbler. A few days later my husband spotted the little bird on the same feeder and photographed it through the kitchen window. We saw "our" bird several times on the same feeder during December.

On Tuesday, December 29, there was a nor'easter that left a foot of snow on the ground in Falmouth and very cold temperatures. We did not see the little bird that day. The next day, Wednesday, our thermometer in Falmouth read zero degrees Fahrenheit with a wind chill factor of minus 20-40 degrees. Late in the afternoon, my husband and I returned from shopping--for bird food among other things. We drove into the driveway and saw the warbler trying to get a drink of water at the head of our garden where water is continuously circulated by a pump. My husband got out of the car taking the bird feed with him to the shed. The little bird followed him inside and perched on the lawn mower handle in front of him. It was so cold and windy my husband closed the door and left the bird inside for the night. The next day, December 31, we put bread crumbs and water out for him in the shed. He partook of both. My husband photographed



Yellow-throated Warbler in the shed

Photo by Wallace E. Brown

him several times before opening the window to let him fly to freedom as he wished. That is the end of my story as we did not see our little bird again.

Ruth Brown (Mrs Wallace E. Brown), East Falmouth

Editor's Note: In A. C. Bent's *Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers* (Part One) this species' "tameness" is noted; it is further described as "gentle and friendly" and as "fonder of bathing than most other warblers" (New York: Dover, 1963, 355-56). Mrs. Brown called the Environmental Helpline at Massachusetts Audubon Society to confirm the identification of the bird and later sent in photos. When this story was related to James Baird, his comment was that this was typical behavior of Yellow-throated Warblers. They are regularly found close to buildings, i.e., on porches, window ledges, and overhanging trees, and readily enter them through open doors or windows, as though interiors had some attraction for them. Although it is not apparent from the photo as reprinted here, in the color original the eyebrow stripe is yellow anteriorly, indicating this bird is a member of the eastern race, *Dendroica dominica dominica*, which breeds from Maryland southward and east of the mountains. It is noted for its affinity for Spanish Moss, in clumps of which it often nests.

SCARLET Tanager WITH RED WING BARS

On the rainy morning of May 11, I stopped in at Mount Auburn on the way to work. It proved to be a frustrating day, normal for this spring of 1988. After one hour of searching I came up with a female Black-and-white Warbler and a glimpse of the olive back of an unidentified thrush flying away--most likely a Swainson's. I was about to give up when I spotted a female tanager (my first of the year) working through the trees. As I got closer, I discovered a male with her. When he came around the tree to my side, I did a double take, for the bird appeared to have a wing bar. I followed the two from tree to tree until they finally got into an oak, still leafless. The male did indeed have an almost perfect wing bar. I moved close enough to count seven out of eight feathers, well fringed with red. Everything else was correct for a normal Scarlet Tanager--easy to verify as another male came into the same tree and offered an easy comparison. The wing bar was a symmetrical variation, present on both wings.

I tried to convert the bird into a Scarlet and Western hybrid. However, after looking at all the guides and talking to Trevor Lloyd-Evans, I decided that it was a lack of melanin in the coverts that let the red pigment show through. Trevor said he had seen this phenomenon only once in an individual. Everyone else I asked had never run into such a plumage. I would be interested in hearing of any other reports.

Ted Raymond, Dedham



Purple Gallinule
 East Weymouth, MA
 May 1988
 Photo by Robert Abrams

FIELD RECORDS

MAY 1988

by George W. Gove and Robert H. Stymeist

May 1988 was cool, cloudy, foggy, and had frequent light rain, not birders' weather. The temperature averaged 57.6 degrees, just 0.9 degree below normal. Unfortunately for warbler watchers, cold days predominated, especially during the early part of the month. The low mark was 41 degrees on May 2, 3, and 9; the highest temperature at Boston was 85 degrees on May 23 and again on May 28. Rainfall totaled 2.86 inches with measurable amounts on fourteen days and traces on six days, leaving only eleven days with no rain. Thunderstorms were heard on three days. Some storms dropped heavy rain on localized spots. Some Greater Boston areas, especially communities to the west and north, got above normal amounts of rain. Sunshine was only fifty-two percent of possible, making this the second rather dismal month in a row. In fact from March 24 to May 10, a new record run of forty-five days without clear skies was established! As in April, fog was frequent, noted on eighteen days. Heavy fog was recorded on six days, three times the average. The wind for the eastern Massachusetts birder was for the most part in the wrong direction, and sea breezes were persistent. Southwest winds were recorded on just four days, May 22, 23, 27, and 28. Blah!

R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

On May 11 after a southeast wind, 400 Red-throated Loons, 2500 Northern Gannets, a Northern Fulmar, and a Manx Shearwater were seen off Nantucket. Least Bitterns were observed at four locations after midmonth, and Great Blue Herons were seen at nests in Quabbin and in Westboro (SUASCO). Reports of Tricolored Heron were few. A Cattle Egret was observed feeding on flies at a deer carcass on Tuckernuck Island, and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was observed at Fresh Pond in Cambridge. A single Snow Goose was present in Newburyport for about a week. A drake King Eider and a drake Harlequin Duck were in the Winthrop area for most of the month; last year one each of these two species were present at Plum Island and at Nahant, respectively.

G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1988
Red-throated Loon				
5, 6; 7	Winthrop, N. Scituate; P.I.	1, 2; 5	T. Aversa; W. Petersen	
11	Nantucket (Cisco)	400	L. Jodrey + G. Soucy	
21	P.I., Provincetown	4, 1	L. Taylor#, R. Humphrey#	
Common Loon				
1, 13	Quabbin (G37), Truro	2, 53	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula	
21	Lakeville, P.I.	3, 2	W. Petersen#, D. F. Oliver	
Pied-billed Grebe				
5, 13; 7	IRWS; Quabbin (G40)	1, 1; 1	R. Heil; T. Aversa	
Red-necked Grebe				
1, 8; 6	N. Scituate	15, 2; 4	W. Petersen; T. Aversa	
Northern Fulmar				
11	Nantucket (Cisco)	1	L. Jodrey + G. Soucy	
Sooty Shearwater				
23	Cape Cod Bay	1	K. Holmes	
Manx Shearwater				
5	P.I.	1	R. Heil	
11	Nantucket (Cisco)	1	L. Jodrey + G. Soucy	
Northern Gannet				
9	Nantucket (Sconset)	250	M. Litchfield	
11	Nantucket (Cisco)	2500	L. Jodrey + G. Soucy	
17	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
21	P.I.	3	G. Gove#	
Great Cormorant				
8, 30	N. Scituate, Lakeville	4, 2 imm	W. Petersen#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1988
Great Cormorant (continued)				
21	Provincetown	3	B. Nikula	
Double-crested Cormorant				
1	E. Middleboro	10	K. Anderson	
21, 28	P.I., Rockport	83, 300	J. Berry	
American Bittern				
5, 15	Hingham, P.I.	1, 2	P. Thayer, V. Yurkunas	
22	Bolton	2	M. Lynch#	
Reports of individuals from 4 locations on 5/14.				
Least Bittern				
13, 21	IRWS, Wayland	1, 1	R. Heil, R. Forster#	
21, 28	Whitman, P.I.	1, 1	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
Great Blue Heron				
thr	Quabbin (G37)	4 at 3 nests	M. Lynch#	
7	Westboro (SUASCO)	20	M. Lynch#	
Great Egret				
3	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	9	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
7	Essex	6	J. Berry	
30	Acoaxet	4	M. Lynch#	
Snowy Egret				
5, 7	Hingham, Essex	7, 17	P. Thayer, J. Berry	
Little Blue Heron				
1, 28	Beverly, Ipswich	3, 1	BBC (J. Brown), M. Lynch#	
Tricolored Heron				
3	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1 ad	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
5	Essex	1	R. Heil	
31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Cattle Egret				
thr	Ipswich	13 max 5/21	v. o.	
1, 29	Essex, Tuckernuck	1, 1	D. Small, M. Litchfield	
Green-backed Heron				
1, 7	Beverly, Mt. A.	3, 1	J. Brown, C. Floyd#	
10, 13	Hull, N. Middleboro	1, 1	P. Thayer, K. Holmes	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
8	Gloucester	5	BBC (J. Nove)	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
15, 28	Cambridge (F.P.), P.I.	1 imm, 1 ad	J. Barton, R. Abrams	
Glossy Ibis				
1, 5-23	Lynnfield, Ipswich	1, 27 max	J. Brown, v. o.	
7, 15	Essex, P.I.	31, 8	J. Berry, BBC (T. Athearn)	
24	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Mute Swan				
30	Acoaxet	81	M. Lynch#	
Snow Goose				
7-15	Newburyport-P.I.	1	v. o.	
Brant				
thr	Newburyport	200 max	v. o.	
25, 26	E. Orleans, Plymouth	20, 116	A. Williams	
Canada Goose				
25	Framingham	1 pr + 21 yg	E. Taylor	
Wood Duck				
3, 5	Boxford (C.P.), IRWS	4, 15	J. Brown, R. Heil	
17, 27	Lynnfield, Auburn	8, 11	BBC (W. van Cor), M. Lynch#	
Green-winged Teal				
1-24, 3	Stoneham, Ipswich	pr, 22	T. Aversa, J. Berry	
Northern Pintail				
21	S. Monomoy	8	B. Nikula#	
Blue-winged Teal				
3-8, 21	Ipswich, S. Monomoy	2 or 3, 5	J. Berry, B. Nikula	
Northern Shoveler				
3, 13-27	Wayland, P.I.	2, 2	R. Forster, v. o.	
21, 31	S. Monomoy, Hull	3, 1	B. Nikula#, P. Thayer	
Gadwall				
3-8, 21-30	Ipswich, P.I.	2 or 3, 2-5	J. Berry, v. o.	
American Wigeon				
3, 21	Ipswich, S. Monomoy	4, 2	J. Berry, B. Nikula#	
Ring-necked Duck				
1	Quabbin (G37)	5	M. Lynch#	
Lesser Scaup				
15	S. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1988
Common Eider 6, 14; 20 28, 31	N. Scituate; Marblehead Rockport, Hull	120, 50; 25 10 imm, 125	T. Aversa J. Berry, P. Thayer	
King Eider 1-22	Winthrop	1 m	v. o.	
Harlequin Duck 1-28	Winthrop	1 m	I. Giriunas# + v. o.	
Oldsquaw 1-22	Newburyport	400 max	v. o.	
Black Scoter 21, 28	P.I., Nahant	7, 5	G. Gove#, R. Stymeist#	
Surf Scoter 21, 28	P.I., Nahant	3, 1	A. Williams, I. Giriunas#	
White-winged Scoter thr 8, 27	Nahant, Marblehead Gloucester, P.I.	150 max, 60 max 6, 75	R. Stymeist# BBC (J. Nove), T. Aversa	
Common Goldeneye 14	Nahant	1 m	C. Floyd#	
Bufflehead 14	Newburyport	3	R. Stymeist#	
Hooded Merganser 1, 21	Quabbin (G37), Petersham	2 f, 1 f	M. Lynch#	
Common Merganser 2-9, 5	Stoncham, Mt. A.	25 max, 1	T. Aversa, F. Bouchard	
Red-breasted Merganser 3 14 21-28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) N. Monomoy P.I.	52 100 4-6	LCES (D. Christiansen) B. Nikula v. o.	

VULTURES THROUGH GALLIFORMES

An unprecedented number of kites was reported this month. Three reports of **American Swallow-tailed Kites** included one from Martha's Vineyard where, two days later, a **Mississippi Kite** was found dead. During the last decade increased sightings of Mississippi Kites in the east in May and June suggest that their breeding range has extended northward. The three reports of swallow-tailed kites may have been the same bird sighted in three locations. The swallow-tail, although of regular occurrence, is the rarer of the two kite species in Massachusetts.

Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, American Kestrels, and Merlins were moving northward between May 3 and 5, as evidenced by the numbers of these species in the reports from coastal hawkwatching sites. An adult Golden Eagle was reported from Quabbin. In Westport, a Ruffed Grouse was found on a nest with eleven eggs. G.W.G.

Turkey Vulture 1 13, 20	Provincetown, Quabbin (G37) N. Truro, Quabbin (G40)	2, 15 7, 12	E. Williams#, M. Lynch# B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
Reports of 1-4 individuals from 16 widely scattered locations.				
Osprey thr 1, 4 8, 13 29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Mt. Wataatic, P.I. E. Boston, N. Truro Westport	4 10, 5 1, 6 22 active nests	LCES (D. Christiansen) EMHW EMHW BBC (T. Athearn)	
American Swallow-tailed Kite (no details) 3 18 26	E. Harwich Yarmouthport M.V.	1 subad 1 subad 1	D. Houghton J. Aylward fide V. Laux	
Mississippi Kite (no details) 28 28	Provincetown M.V.	1 subad 1 dead subad	J. Aylward# V. Laux	
Bald Eagle 1, 20 5, 13 26, 30	Quabbin (G37, G40) P.I., N. Truro Nauset, Lakeville	2 imm, 1 imm 1, 1 imm 1 imm, 1 imm	M. Lynch# EMHW, B. Nikula H. Stabins, W. Petersen	
Northern Harrier 1, 4 8 22, 30	N. Scituate, P.I. Tuckernuck Marshfield, P.I.	1, 18 nest with 2 eggs 2, 1	EMHW M. Litchfield BBC (D.+D. Oliver), W. Petersen	
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Mt. Wataatic, N. Scituate	7, 4	EMHW	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1988
Sharp-shinned Hawk (continued)				
3, 5, 13	Hull	51 total	P. Thayer	
4, 5	P.I.	103, 45	EMHW	
13	N. Truro	66	B. Nikula	
Cooper's Hawk				
1; 4, 5	N. Scituate; P.I.	1; 2, 1	EMHW	
5; 5, 13	Hull; N. Truro	1; 3 imm, 1 imm	EMHW; B. Nikula	
5, 13	IRWS	1 ad	R. Heil	
Northern Goshawk				
1, 5	Topsfield, N. Truro	1, 1 imm	J. Brown, B. Nikula#	
7, 13	Mt. Watatic, IRWS	1, 1 ad	EMHW, R. Heil	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
thr	E. Middleboro, Boxford (C.P.)	pr, pr	K. Anderson, v. o.	
thr	Quabbin (G37)	4	M. Lynch#	
22, 27	Westport, Hull	3, 5	B. Sorrie, P. Thayer	
Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 7 locations.				
Broad-winged Hawk				
1, 7; 13	Mt. Watatic, N. Truro	94, 10; 39	EMHW, B. Nikula	
24	Newburyport	13	R. Forster	
Red-tailed Hawk				
14, 27	Sherborn, Weston	5, 4 imm	E. Taylor, J. Berry	
Rough-legged Hawk				
6	Marshfield	1	J. Carter	
Golden Eagle				
1	Quabbin (G40)	1 ad	M. Lynch#	
American Kestrel				
thr	Sherborn	pr nesting	E. Taylor	
4, 5	P.I.	213, 14	EMHW	
Merlin				
4, 12	P.I.	7, 3	EMHW	
24	P.I.	1	R. Forster	
Peregrine Falcon				
thr	Boston	pr + 3 yg	v. o.	
5, 14; 15	N. Monomoy; S. Monomoy	1 ad, 1 subad; 1	B. Nikula#	
Ruffed Grouse				
22	Westport	1 + nest with 11 eggs	B. Sorrie	
5, 30	IRWS, S. Hanson	3 drum, 3	R. Heil, W. Petersen	
8, 30; 22	Ipswich; Hamilton	2 drum; 2 drum	J. Berry	
28	Ipswich	1	R. Stymeist#	
Wild Turkey				
8	Boxford	1 f	D. Chickering	
Northern Bobwhite				
1, 9	Middleboro, Ipswich	2, 1 f	K. Holmes, J. Berry	
13, 14-18	Cambridge, Mt. A.	1, 1	J. Paputseanos, v. o.	

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

A very obliging King Rail was seen by many observers in a small marsh near the ocean in Rockport, and an adult **Purple Gallinule** spent time in a back yard in Weymouth feeding on and being fed worms and bread. There should be many good photos of that bird. A subadult Sandhill Crane was found in the marshes of Newbury and spent three days there before disappearing.

Up to eight Piping Plovers were observed at Allens Pond in South Dartmouth, and a pair was found at a nest with four eggs on Plum Island. A Curlew Sandpiper in breeding plumage was seen in Newburyport, and an adult male Ruff was seen in Ipswich. On Nantucket, 700 to 900 Roseate Terns apparently spent the month.

G.W.G.

Clapper Rail				
22, 24, 31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 2, 3	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
King Rail				
21, 22	Lynnfield	1, 2	R. Stymeist#	
22-29	Rockport	1	M. + R. Barnett + v. o.	
Virginia Rail				
1-17	Lynnfield	12 max 5/17	v. o.	
14	Bolton, Ipswich	4, 2	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
21	Whitman	3	W. Petersen#	
Sora				
4, 17	Lynnfield	1, 2	J. Berry, BBC (W. Van Cor)	
14; 14, 22	Ipswich; Bolton	1; 3, 2	J. Berry; M. Lynch#	
15, 21; 22	S. Monomoy; Marshfield	1 or 2; 1	B. Nikula; BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1988
Purple Gallinule thr	E. Weymouth	1 ad	v. o.	
Common Moorhen 1, 28	Lynnfield	2, 1	D. Small#, R. Stymeist#	
Sandhill Crane 27-29	Newbury	1 subad	I. Giriunas + v. o.	
Black-bellied Plover thr	N. Monomoy	600 max 5/20	B. Nikula	
10-31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	87 max 5/24	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
21, 28	Newburyport, E. Boston	600, 300	BBC (W. Drummond), R. Stymeist#	
30	Plymouth	180	R. Stymeist#	
Lesser Golden-Plover 26-28	Newburyport	1	R. Forster + v. o.	
Semipalmated Plover 10-29, 13	N. Monomoy, Nahant	20 max 5/20, 12	B. Nikula, G. Gove	
17, 22	P.I., Squantum	25, 25	D. Chickering, T. Aversa	
Piping Plover thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	8 max 5/24	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
thr	Nant. and Tuckernuck	8 pr	M. Litchfield	
26-30	Plymouth	1-3	v. o.	
28, 30	P.I., Acoaxet	pr + 4 eggs, 2	D. F. Oliver, M. Lynch#	
Killdeer 11-30, 20	Marlboro, Quabbin (G40)	2 ad + 2yg, 13	R. Graefe, M. Lynch#	
American Oystercatcher thr	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	10 pr, 3 pr	B. Nikula#, D. Houghton	
thr	Nantucket (Great Pt)	9 pr	M. Litchfield	
17	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
22	M. V.	1	P. Overby	
21-23	Plymouth	1	W. Petersen#	
Greater Yellowlegs 1	E. Middleboro	15	K. Anderson	
7	Newburyport	300	BBC (K. Griffis)	
21	P.I.	40	BBC (W. Drummond)	
Solitary Sandpiper 1, 5	Middleboro, Topsfield	1, 9	K. Holmes, R. Heil	
9, 14	Arlington, Ipswich	1, 6	J. Heywood, J. Berry	
9, 23	Stoneham, Peabody	2, 3	T. Aversa, R. Heil	
Willet thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	11 max	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
thr	N. Monomoy	35 max 5/10	B. Nikula	
15-30	P.I.	4 max 5/21	v. o.	
5, 29	Yarmouth, Plymouth	4, 2	J. Aylward, G. Gove	
Spotted Sandpiper 7	GMNWR, Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	BBC (W. Gette), T. Aversa	
14, 20	Bolton, Quabbin (G40)	7, 7	M. Lynch#	
29	Westport	5	D. Small	
Upland Sandpiper 1, 1-10	Middleboro, N. Monomoy	1, 1	K. Holmes, B. Nikula	
1, 13	Hanscom AFB, N. Truro	2, 2	J. Carter, B. Nikula	
21, 28	Newburyport	1, 1	BBC (W. Drummond), R. Stymeist#	
Ruddy Turnstone 10-31	N. Monomoy	200 max 5/29	B. Nikula	
23-30	Plymouth	125 max 5/30	v. o.	
24, 28	Hull, Winthrop	15, 65	P. Thayer, R. Stymeist#	
Red Knot thr	N. Monomoy	180 max 5/29	B. Nikula	
22, 28; 26	Squantum; Plymouth	4, 2; 7	T. Aversa; A. Williams	
26, 28	Newburyport	2, 2	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
Sanderling thr	N. Monomoy	2000 max 5/29	B. Nikula	
14, 28	Nahant	100, 150	R. Stymeist#	
Semipalmated Sandpiper 14-31	N. Monomoy	800 max 5/29	B. Nikula	
29, 30	P.I.	100, 60	J. Brown, D. Chickering	
Least Sandpiper 1-29	N. Monomoy	120 max 5/10	B. Nikula	
5	Newburyport	400	v. o.	
White-rumped Sandpiper 23, 29; 29	N. Monomoy; P.I.	1, 1; 15	B. Nikula; v. o.	
30	Plymouth	3	R. Stymeist#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1988
Purple Sandpiper				
5, 20	Winthrop, Marblehead	85, 25	T. Aversa	
21	Newburyport, N. Scituate	150, 20	G. Gove#, W. Petersen#	
23, 28	Lynn	125, 12	R. Forster, R. Stymeist#	
Dunlin				
thr	N. Monomoy	700 max 5/20	B. Nikula	
10, 24	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	100, 54	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Curlew Sandpiper				
24-27	Newburyport	1 breeding plumage	R. Forster + v. o.	
Ruff				
1-7	Ipswich	1 ad m	E. Nielsen + v. o.	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
thr	N. Monomoy	3 max 5/10, 29	B. Nikula	
26	Plymouth	1	A. Williams	
Common Snipe				
1, 5	Halifax, Stoneham	1, 1	K. Holmes, T. Aversa	
7	Ipswich, Newburyport	2, 5	J. Berry, BBC (K. Griffis)	
American Woodcock				
4; 12, 29	Waltham; Ipswich	1; 2, 3-4	L. Taylor; J. Berry	
20, 24	Quabbin (G40), Wellfleet	10, 6	M. Lynch#, A. + E. Williams	
27, 28	P.I.	5, 4	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist#	
Wilson's Phalarope				
14-29	Newburyport-P.I.	6 max	v. o.	
24	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1 f	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Parasitic Jaeger				
10, 21	N. Monomoy	1, 1	B. Nikula	
Laughing Gull				
27	Newburyport	1 imm	H. Wiggin#	
Little Gull				
thr	Newburyport	1 or 2	v. o.	
Common Black-headed Gull				
1, 7	N. Monomoy, Provincetown	1 ad, 1 imm	B. Nikula#, J. Aylward#	
15	Orleans	1 ad	P. Trull#	
Bonaparte's Gull				
2-27	Newburyport	150 max 5/7	v. o.	
Iceland Gull				
5, 20	Newburyport, Marshfield	5 imm, 1 (2S)	R. Heil, fide D. Ludlow	
Glaucous Gull				
21	Scituate	1	W. Petersen#	
Black-legged Kittiwake				
23	Cape Cod Bay	3	K. Holmes	
Caspian Tern				
5	Squantum	1	fide S. Perkins	
Roseate Tern				
11	Nantucket	900	E. Andrews	
26, 30	Plymouth	2, 12	A. Williams#, K. Griffis#	
28	Nantucket (Smith Pt)	700-800	M. Litchfield	
Common Tern				
11, 15	Nantucket, P.I.	100, 60	E. Andrews, BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
Arctic Tern				
11, 29	Nantucket, Plymouth	2, 4-6	E. Andrews, G. Gove#	
Least Tern				
10-31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	15 max 5/10	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
13-27	Newburyport-P.I.	6 max 5/21	v. o.	
11, 22	Nantucket, Squantum	56, 1	E. Andrews, T. Aversa	
Black Tern				
28-29	N. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula#	
Black Skimmer				
12	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
15, 26	Orleans	2, 4	P. Trull, H. Stabins	

DOVES THROUGH CORVIDS

Over 10 reports of Black-billed Cuckoos were received, up from 6 last year. Nesting Great Horned Owls were recorded in several locations, and 3 young Eastern Screech-Owls were banded in Lakeville. A late Snowy Owl continued to be seen on Georges Island in Boston Harbor through May 9, over a month beyond the normal departure date.

Reports of Whip-poor-wills were most encouraging. A total of at least 65 individuals was recorded, compared with just 4 birds in May 1987. At Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth, 39 birds were heard

calling on May 28. Nighthawks arrived at midmonth, but no reports were received from the traditional breeding areas in the cities.

Five Red-bellied Woodpeckers were noted, but only one Red-headed Woodpecker was found. The only Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reported in May was from Middleboro. Eleven Pileated Woodpeckers were tallied during the month.

Four Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported during May, down from the total of 9 in May 1987. Acadian Flycatchers were found in five locations. It was a good year for Eastern Kingbirds, with 45 birds noted at Plum Island on May 29.

During the month, a maximum of 60 Purple Martins was reported at Plum Island, where 20 Cliff Swallows were also noted. A count of 800 Barn Swallows was made at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield on May 20.

Blue Jays were migrating all month, with a large flock of 300 reported from Plum Island on May 4. In Hull, a total of 430 Blue Jays was logged in on four days. Fish Crows were breeding at Mt. Auburn Cemetery again this year, and a single individual was found on Plum Island on May 21. R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1988
Mourning Dove				
4	Arlington	1 sitting on nest	J. Heywood	
Black-billed Cuckoo				
14	Bolton Flats, Belmont	1, 1	M. Lynch#, L. Taylor#	
20, 21	Cambridge, S. Natick	1, 1	J. Barton, E. Taylor	
22, 23	Bolton Flats, Worcester	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
23, 23-24	Watertown, Mt. A.	1, 1+	R. Stymeist#, v. o.	
29	Stow, P.I.	1, 1	L. Taylor#, W. Petersen#	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
20	Middleboro, Brookline	1, 1	K. Holmes, R. Stymeist	
30	Acoaxet, Taunton	1, 1	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
10-13, 23	Mt. A., N. Middleboro	1, 1	v. o., K. Holmes	
28	Lakeville	3 yg banded	K. Anderson	
Great Horned Owl				
thr	Waltham, Ipswich	pr with 2 yg, 4 max	v. o., J. Berry	
thr	Westboro (SUASCO)	pr with 2 yg	v. o.	
5, 7	IRWS, GMNWR	3 pr, 1	R. Heil, BBC (W. Gette)	
14, 16	Newbypt, Ashland	1 ad + 2 yg, 1	BBC (N. Mueller), G. Gove	
22, 27	Canton, N. Middleboro	1, 1	T. Aversa, K. Holmes	
Snowy Owl				
1-9	Boston (Georges I)	1	fide J. Nove	
Barred Owl				
thr	Boxford, Quabbin (G40)	2+, 1 or 2	v. o.	
4, 5	Ashland, IRWS	2, 1	G. Gove, R. Heil	
Short-eared Owl				
23	Halifax	1	K. Holmes	
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
20, 23	Wellfleet, N. Middleboro	1, 1	R. Prescott#, K. Holmes	
Common Nighthawk				
14; 20, 29	Worcester; Quabbin (G40), (G37)	1; 1, 1	M. Lynch#	
20	Wayland, GMNWR	9, 16	R. Forster, G. Gove	
22	Athol	6	D. Small	
Whip-poor-will				
10, 28	Plymouth (M. Standish SP)	7, 39	G. d'Entremont	
14	Newbury, Clinton	4, 1	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
16, 20	Plymouth, Quabbin (G40)	9, 1	D. Ludlow#, M. Lynch#	
21	Bridgewater, Plymouth	2, 5	W. Petersen#	
22	Nantucket	12	fide M. Litchfield	
23, 24	Middleboro, Wellfleet	1, 5	K. Holmes, A. + E. Williams	
Chimney Swift				
2-31, thr	Mt. A., Cambridge (F. P.)	25 max, 21 max	5/18 v. o., J. Barton	
1	Taunton	1	D. Emerson	
7	GMNWR, Westboro	15, 15+	BBC (W. Gette), M. Lynch#	
8	Ipswich, Gloucester	10-12, 45	J. Berry, BBC (J. Nove)	
13, 14	IRWS, Ipswich-Rowley	53, 20+	R. Heil, J. Berry	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
3, 6	Nahant, Taunton	1, 1	D. Chickering, D. Emerson	
15	MNWS, Nantucket	1, 3	R. Heil, fide M. Litchfield	
Six reports of individuals from 6 locations 5/16 on.				
Red-headed Woodpecker				
4	Nantucket	1 ad	B. Sorrie	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1988
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
4	S. Dartmouth	1 m	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
21	Milton	1	G. d'Entremont	
21-29	Hamilton (B. Palmer S.P.)	1 m	J. Berry + v. o.	
22, 30	W. Tisbury, Acoaxet	1, 1	P. Overby, M. Lynch#	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
8	Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	
Hairy Woodpecker				
thr	Arlington	2 ad + 3 yg	J. Heywood	
Northern Flicker				
1	Mt. A.	14	BBC (D. Oliver)	
Pileated Woodpecker				
thr	Boxford (C.P.)	pr at nest	R. Stymeist#	
1, 20	Quabbin (G37), (G40)	1, 3	M. Lynch#	
21, 31; 22	IRWS; Hamilton	1, 1; 1	J. Brown; J. Berry	
21, 28	Milton	1, 2	W. Petersen#, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
17, 23	Brookline, P.I.	1, 1	K. Griffis, N. Mueller	
23, 29	Nahant, Ipswich	1, 1	H. Coolidge#, R. Stymeist#	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
10	Waltham (Met. State)	1	L. Taylor	
20-31, 20	Mt. A., Quabbin (G40)	1-6, 4	v. o., M. Lynch#	
20, 21	Middleboro, P.I.	1, 6+	K. Holmes, A. Williams#	
23, 26	Nahant, Arlington	1, 1	H. Wiggin#, J. Heywood	
27, 29	Ipswich, Quabbin (G37)	2, 8	M. Argue#, M. Lynch#	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
21-22, 28	P.I.	1 or 2, 1	v. o., M. Lynch#	
23	Peabody, Nahant	1, 1	R. Heil, H. Coolidge#	
Acadian Flycatcher				
15, 23-24	P.I., Mt. A.	1, 1	V. Yurkunas, v. o.	
27, 30	P'town, Waltham	1, 1	B. Nikula, L. Taylor	
30	Westminster	1	M. Lynch#	
Alder Flycatcher				
22; 29	Bolton Flats; P.I., Lynnfield	2; 1, 1	M. Lynch#; v. o., I. Giriunas#	
31	IRWS, Lynnfield	1, 1	J. Brown, R. Forster	
Willow Flycatcher				
23, 29	Lynnfield	4, 6	H. Wiggin#, R. Stymeist#	
23, 29	Bolton Flats, P.I.	7, 3	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen	
27, 28	Wayland, Beverly	3 or 4, 1	J. Berry, J. Brown	
Least Flycatcher				
7, 8	Quabbin (G40), ONWR	2, 1	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
12, 23, 24	Waltham (Met. State)	1, 1, 1	L. Taylor	
13, 14	Spencer, Mt. A.	4, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
20, 29	Quabbin (G40), (G37)	11, 11	M. Lynch#	
Eastern Phoebe				
thr	Ipswich-Boxford	4 nests	J. Berry	
8	ONWR	6	M. Lynch#	
Great Crested Flycatcher				
10, 12	Middleboro, Waltham	1, 2	K. Holmes, L. Taylor	
13, 14	Topsfield, ONWR	1, 3	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
20, 22	Brookline, Hamilton	4, 4	R. Stymeist, J. Berry	
Eastern Kingbird				
7, 8-31	GMNWR, Cambridge	2, 9 max 5/15	BBC (W. Gette), J. Barton	
8-31, 11	Mt. A., Bedford	17 max 5/24, 1	v. o., L. Taylor	
13, 22	Hamilton, Bolton	2, 8	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
21	P.I.	14	BBC (W. Drummond)	
29	P.I.	45	BBC (J. Center)	
Purple Martin				
thr	P.I.	60 max 5/21	v. o.	
20, 23	Wayland, Peabody	4, 3	R. Forster, R. Heil	
Tree Swallow				
thr	P.I., Cambridge (F. P.)	190 max 5/21, 35	max 5/11 v. o., J. Barton	
1, 2	Danvers, Stoneham	80, 200	J. Brown, T. Aversa	
1, 20	Quabbin (G37), IRWS	200+, 700	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
1, 2	Quabbin (G37), Stoneham	4, 10	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
20, 24	IRWS, Arlington	5, 5	T. Aversa, J. Heywood	
Reports of 1 or 2 from 12 locations.				

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1988
Bank Swallow				
15	Nantucket (Dionis)	15 pr	M. Litchfield	
21, 23	P.I., Peabody	12, 20+	D. Chickering, R. Heil	
Cliff Swallow				
thr	P.I.	20 max 5/21	D. Chickering+v. o.	
10-11, 12	Cambridge, Auburn	1, 1	J. Barton, M. Lynch#	
20, 23	Wayland, DWWS	3, 1	R. Forster, T. Aversa	
23, 24	Halifax, Rowley	2, 20	K. Holmes, R. Forster	
Barn Swallow				
thr, 1-18	P.I., Cambridge (F. P.)	16 max, 65 max 5/11	D. Chickering, J. Barton	
2, 20	Stoneham, IRWS	300, 800	T. Aversa	
Blue Jay				
4; 5, 13	P.I.; Hull	300; 64, 116	J. Murray; P. Thayer	
13; 16, 27	Truro; Hull	70+; 80, 170	B. Nikula; P. Thayer	
Fish Crow				
thr	Mt. A.	6-8	v. o.	
14-18, 17	Waltham, Stoneham	1, 1	L. Taylor, T. Aversa	
21, 22	P.I., Hanson	1, 2	D. F. Oliver, W. Petersen	
Common Raven				
20	Quabbin (G40)	1	M. Lynch#	

NUTHATCHES THROUGH SHRIKES

Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported from just seven locations, compared with thirteen areas in 1987. It was a good year for Winter Wrens, especially at Crooked Pond, Boxford, where at least three pair were found. They had been absent as breeders from there for many years. A pair of Carolina Wrens were feeding 3 fledged young in Brookline on May 20, confirming for the first time Carolina Wrens breeding in that town.

The last migrant Ruby-crowned Kinglet was noted on May 22. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continued as breeders in Essex County, with good numbers in Boxford State Forest and along the Ipswich River in Topsfield.

Bluebirds were found nesting in at least nine communities. Thrush reports were down from May 1987 (Veery, 55 in 1988 versus 85 in 1987; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 8 in 1988 versus 15 in 1987; and Swainson's Thrush, 19 in 1988 versus 74 in 1987). The only variation to this drop-off was Wood Thrush, for which there were 44 reports in 1988 versus 27 in 1987. Gray Catbirds were everywhere, with high counts at Plum Island and Martha's Vineyard. A single Water Pipit was noted, and Cedar Waxwings were flocking late in the month.

R.H.S.

Red-breasted Nuthatch				
1, 29	Quabbin (G37)	5, 1	M. Lynch#	
7, 8; 8	Mt. A.; Ipswich	2, 2; 2 pr	M. Lynch#; J. Berry	
14, 15	Ipswich, Boxford	1, 1	J. Berry	
21, 22	Middleboro, ONWR	2, 1	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
27	P.I.	1	T. Aversa	
White-breasted Nuthatch				
thr	Arlington (Menotomy Rocks))	3 pr (feeding yg 5/9)	J. Heywood	
Brown Creeper				
thr, 1-9	Boxford, Arlington	4 pr, 2	R. Stymeist#, J. Heywood	
1, 29	Quabbin (G37), Stow	8, 1	M. Lynch#, L. Taylor#	
29	Taunton, Sudbury	pr at nest, 1	K. Anderson, L. Taylor#	
Carolina Wren				
6, 8-17	DWWS, Middleboro	2, 1	T. Aversa, K. Anderson	
8	Tuckernuck	1	M. Litchfield	
20, 22	Brookline, W. Tisbury	2 ad + 3 yg, 2	R. Stymeist, P. Overby	
23, 25	Rehoboth, Lynnfield	1, 1	K. Anderson, H. Wiggin#	
29	Taunton, Sudbury	3, 1	K. Anderson#, L. Taylor#	
30	Acoaxet	9	M. Lynch#	
House Wren				
1, 29	Quabbin (G37)	1, 4	M. Lynch#	
6, 7	DWWS, Quabbin (G40)	1, 8	T. Aversa	
7	W. Newbury, Lexington	1, 4	H. Wiggin#, L. Taylor	
Winter Wren				
thr, 21	Boxford, Milton	3 pr, 1	v. o., W. Petersen#	
1, 20	Quabbin (G37), (G40)	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
Marsh Wren				
4, 17	Lynnfield	3, 6	J. Berry, W. van Cor#	
13, 28	IRWS, P.I.	15, 15+	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
20, 21	Quabbin (G40), Lakeville	1, 5	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1988
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
1-14, 1	Mt. A., Quabbin (G37)	10 max 5/1, 20	v. o., M. Lynch#	
12; 20, 22	Waltham; P.I.	1; 1, 1	L. Taylor; T. Aversa, D. Chickering	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
thr	Boxford, IRWS	7 max, 15 max	v. o.	
5, 24; 6	Mt. A.; Brookline	1, 2; 1	v. o.; B. Hallett	
7, 8	Quabbin (G40), Bridgewater	6, 3	T. Aversa, K. Holmes	
8, 13	ONWR, Ipswich	3 (pr building nest), 2	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
14, 21; 14	P'town; DWWS	4, 3; 1	B. Nikula; D. Ludlow	
Eastern Bluebird				
thr	Athol, Petersham	3 pr, 6 pr	D. Small	
thr	Groveland, Sherborn	pr, pr	v. o., E. Taylor	
5, 6	IRWS, Brookline	1, 1	R. Heil, B. Hallett	
7	Quabbin (G40), W. Newbury	5, 1	T. Aversa, BBC (K. Griffis)	
8, 14	E. Middleboro, N. Andover	2, 1	K. Anderson, V. Yurkunas	
16, 22	Yarmouthport, M. V.	1, 2	J. Aylward, P. Overby	
23, 29	Peabody, Lancaster	pr, 1	R. Heil, R. Stymeist#	
Veery				
5, 11-26	MBO, Mt. A.	1, 1-4	J. Atwood, R. Campbell# + v. o.	
14	Waltham, Belmont	1, 3	L. Taylor, R. Stymeist#	
14, 15	ONWR, Boxford	4, 3	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
20, 29	Quabbin (G40), (G37)	9, 13	M. Lynch#	
21	P.I., Hamilton	3, 4	W. Drummond#, J. Berry	
30	Acoaxet	10	M. Lynch#	
Gray-cheeked Thrush				
14, 15, 20	Mt. A.	1, 1, 2	v. o.	
15, 23	Newburyport, Peabody	1, 1	D. Chickering, R. Heil	
24	MBO, MNWS	1 b, 1	T. Lloyd-Evans, M. Martinek	
Swainson's Thrush				
4, 12-29	Mt. A.	1, 8 max	F. Bouchard, v. o.	
14-24, 15	Arlington, Middleboro	2 max, 3	J. Heywood, K. Holmes	
20, 22	Brookline, Nahant	3, 2	R. Stymeist, C. Schubarth	
Hermit Thrush				
thr	Boxford, Sherborn	3 or 4 m, 6	R. Stymeist#, E. Taylor	
2, 5	Boston (Pru Tower), MNWS	5 or 6, 16	N. Stauker, R. Heil	
20, 29	Quabbin (G40), (G37)	8, 8	M. Lynch#	
21, 29	Plymouth, Stow	8+, 3	W. Petersen#, L. Taylor#	
Wood Thrush				
5, 14, 22	Waltham (Met. State)	1, 4, 6	L. Taylor	
6, 9	Ipswich, MBO	2 m, 1 b	J. Berry, J. Atwood	
10, 14	Bridgewater, ONWR	6, 4	K. Holmes, M. Lynch#	
15, 20	W. Newbury, Brookline	8, 8	BBC (D. + D. Oliver), R. Stymeist	
20, 30	Quabbin (G40), Sherborn	6, 3	M. Lynch#, E. Taylor	
Gray Catbird				
2-31	Mt. A.	15 max 5/25	v. o.	
5, 13	Waltham (Met. State)	2, 9	L. Taylor	
8-31	Cambridge (F. P.)	7 max 5/15	J. Barton	
14	Bolton Flats, ONWR	10, 20	M. Lynch#	
21, 22	P.I., M. V.	60, 75	BBC (W. Drummond), P. Overby	
Brown Thrasher				
thr, 1	P.I., Andover	8 max 5/27, 1	T. Aversa + v. o., V. Yurkunas	
Water Pipit				
13	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula	
Cedar Waxwing				
8, 13	Lexington, Brookline	40, 6	L. Taylor, H. Wiggin	
25, 27	Mt. A., IRWS	50, 15	C. Floyd#, T. Aversa	
28, 30	P.I., Lawrence	23, 49	M. Lynch#, V. Yurkunas	
shrike species				
8	Concord	1	J. Carter	

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

General comments on this year's spring migration were on the negative side. No really big waves were detected. The first three weeks were filled with northeasterly and easterly winds that brought in damp ocean air with lots of fog. Presumably the major migration passage was deflected to our west due to the unfavorable conditions along the coast. Rick Heil characterized the month as "in my experience the worst May migration in at least a dozen years." My observations at Mount Auburn indicated a significant drop, compared to last year, which was also a poor year for migration waves. In May 1988, the first really good southwest wind did

not come until late in the month. By that time, most of the migrants had already dribbled through, and the potential for a big wave had fizzled.

Yellow-throated Vireos were well reported with 34 individuals noted, compared with 23 last year and only 10 in 1986. Many of these birds were seen in ideal nesting habitats, and a range expansion seems underway. Eight Philadelphia Vireos were reported during May 13-26. Red-eyed Vireos numbers were down compared to 1987.

Thirty-five warbler species were reported, the same as in 1987. As was the case last year, an unusually high number of warbler species (22) made their first appearance of the year during May. The weather pattern in 1988 was again cold with easterly winds.

It was a poor year for Cape May Warblers with only 6 reports, compared with 36 last year. This observer saw only one Cape May all spring! Numbers were also down considerably for Tennessee, Nashville, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Northern Waterthrush, and even Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Warbler species of special note included 10 Golden-winged, 3 Orange-crowned, 1 Yellow-throated, 3 Cerulean, 1 Prothonotary, 2 Kentucky, 2 Hooded, and 1 Yellow-breasted Chat. R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1988
White-eyed Vireo				
2-30, 7	MBO, Westport	1, 2	J. Atwood, R. Stymeist#	
12, 15	Brookline, MNWS	1, 1	H. Wiggin#, R. Heil	
17-30, 29-30	Plymouth, P.I.	1, 1	M. Kasprzyk, J. Brown#	
Solitary Vireo				
1, 29; 4	Quabbin (G37); Mt. A.	4, 3; 5	M. Lynch#; F. Bouchard#	
7, 9	Quabbin (G40), Ipswich	7, 1	T. Aversa, J. Berry	
15, 28	Boxford, P.I.	4 m, 1	J. Berry, W. Petersen	
Yellow-throated Vireo				
5, 20	Wayland (Hearsd Pd)	1, 2 m	G. Gove, R. Forster	
7, 8	Quabbin (G40), Mt. A.	2, 1	T. Aversa, D. Small	
12	Petersham, Waltham	2, 1	M. Lynch#, L. Taylor	
13	IRWS, Spencer	5, 1	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	
13	Nahant	1	D. Chickering	
14	Arlington; ONWR, Bolton	1; 2, 2	J. Heywood; M. Lynch#	
Reports of 13+ individuals from 7 locations on 5/22.				
Warbling Vireo				
1, 12; 7	Middleboro; Westboro	1, 1; 2	K. Holmes; M. Lynch#	
13-31, 14-31	Auburn, Bolton Flats	5 max, 6 max	M. Lynch#	
14	Lincoln, DWWS	2, 2	R. Stymeist#, T. Aversa	
14, 15	Ipswich, Waltham	4, 4	J. Berry, L. Taylor	
27, 28	Wayland, Cambridge (F. P.)	6 m, 10	J. Berry, J. Barton	
Philadelphia Vireo				
13, 15	IRWS, Middleboro	1, 1	T. Aversa, K. Holmes	
17, 20	Brookline, MNWS	1, 1	K. Griffis, T. Aversa	
21	P.I., Newbury	1, 1	H. Rich#, D. F. Oliver	
24, 26	Newburyport, Mt. A.	1, 1	R. Forster, D. Dillavou	
Red-eyed Vireo				
13, 14-31	Worcester, Mt. A.	2, 6 max 5/24	M. Lynch#, v. o.	
14-31, 17-31	Sherborn, Arlington	10 max, 7 max 5/27	E. Taylor, J. Heywood	
20, 29	Quabbin (G40), (G37)	15, 22	M. Lynch#	
Blue-winged Warbler				
5; 6, 14, 22	Sherborn; Canton (F.M.)	3; 2, 6, 6	R. Forster; T. Aversa	
7, 11	Westport, Middleboro	1, 2	R. Stymeist, K. Holmes	
13, 14	IRWS, Waltham	7, 3	R. Heil, L. Taylor	
14	Ipswich, ONWR	3, 12	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
29	Taunton	16 m	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
Golden-winged Warbler				
8, 8-31	Cambridge (F. P.), Ipswich	1, 1 or 2	J. Barton, J. Berry + v. o.	
12	WBWS, MBO	1, 1 b	D. Reynolds, J. Atwood	
14, 15	ONWR, P'town	1, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Comeau#	
21, 22, 29	Mt. A., Hamilton, Stow	1, 1, 1	H. Wiggin#, J. Berry, L. Taylor	
Tennessee Warbler				
9-28, 12	Mt. A., Bridgewater	15 max 5/15, 1	v. o., K. Holmes	
13, 21	Worcester, P.I.	2, 1	M. Lynch#, D. F. Oliver	
Orange-crowned Warbler				
17	Brookline (Halls Pd)	1	K. Griffis	
22, 23	P.I., Nahant	1, 1	D. Chickering, H. Wiggin	
Nashville Warbler				
6, 10	Canton (F.M.), MBO	1, 1	T. Aversa, J. Atwood	
11, 12	Ipswich, Mt. A.	1, 8	J. Berry, S. Denison#	
14, 20	ONWR, MNWS	4, 4	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1988
Northern Parula				
4-28	Mt. A.	30 max 5/15	v. o.	
15	Nahant, MNWS	20, 40	M. Lynch#, R. Heil	
15	P.I.	10	D. F. Oliver#	
21, 22	P.I., P'town	25, 25	BBC (W. Drummond), B. Nikula	
Yellow Warbler				
thr	P.I., GMNWR	50+ max 5/21, 12	max 5/7 v. o.	
thr	Cambridge (F. P.)	31 max 5/17	J. Barton	
7	Westport	6	R. Stymeist#	
7, 8	Westboro, ONWR	6, 11	M. Lynch#	
14, 22	Bolton Flats, Saugus	14, 18	M. Lynch#, BBC (C. Schubarth)	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
7, 13	Westboro, Ipswich	1, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
14	Bolton Flats, ONWR	2, 8	M. Lynch#	
15	Mt. A., Nahant	5, 3	M. Lynch#	
15, 22	MNWS, P.I.	8, 6	R. Heil, D. Chickering	
Magnolia Warbler				
14-28, 15	Mt. A., MNWS	20 max 5/15, 15	v. o., R. Heil	
15	Nahant, Newbypt	15, 6	M. Lynch#, D. Chickering	
21, 22	P.I., Waltham	14, 6	BBC (W. Drummond), L. Taylor	
23	Arlington	6	J. Heywood	
Cape May Warbler				
10, 12	Middleboro, Auburn	1, 1	K. Holmes, M. Lynch#	
14, 14-15	Mt. A., P.I.	1, 1+	T. Aversa#, D. Chickering + v. o.	
15, 20-21	Nahant, P.I.	1, 1+	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa + v. o.	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
5, 8	Stoneham, Bridgewater	1, 1	T. Aversa, K. Holmes	
13, 15	P.I., Mt. A.	5, 10	T. Aversa, v. o.	
15	Nahant, MNWS	10, 2	M. Lynch#	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
1-29	Mt. A.	55 max 5/4	v. o.	
1-15	Cambridge (F. P.)	105 max 5/4	J. Barton	
1, 29	Quabbin (G37)	28, 6	M. Lynch#	
5, 8, 14	P'town	110, 90, 80	B. Nikula	
12, 21	Auburn, Arlington	35, 2	M. Lynch#, J. Heywood	
29, 30	Stow, Ipswich	1 m, 1m	L. Taylor#, J. Berry	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
1, 20	Quabbin (G37), (G40)	3, 21	M. Lynch#	
1, 8, 17	Boxford	6, 8, 25	L. Taylor#, J. Berry, R. Stymeist#	
4, 15	IRWS, Mt. A.	10, 15	v. o.	
Blackburnian Warbler				
9, 13-29	Ipswich, Mt. A.	1, 10 max 5/15	J. Berry, v. o.	
14, 22; 15	Bolton Flats; Middleboro	1, 3; 1	M. Lynch#; K. Holmes	
21	Newburyport	2	J. Berry	
22	Arlington, Hamilton	1, 1	J. Heywood, J. Berry	
29	Quabbin (G37)	8	M. Lynch#	
Yellow-throated Warbler				
12	Petersham	1 m	J. Johnson + v. o.	
Pine Warbler				
1, 29	Quabbin (G37)	16, 11	M. Lynch#	
1, 4	Wenham, Mt. A.	4, 3	BBC (J. Brown), F. Bouchard	
8, 14, 22; 9	ONWR; Arlington	6, 3, 2; 1	M. Lynch#, J. Heywood	
23, 28	Concord, P.I.	2, 1	J. Carter, D. Chickering	
Prairie Warbler				
5, 8	MBO, Middleboro	2, 3	J. Atwood, K. Holmes	
11, 22	Bridgewater, Canton	7, 3	K. Holmes, T. Aversa	
22	Saugus, Hamilton	18, 1	BBC (C. Schubarth), J. Berry	
Palm Warbler				
1-8, 22	Mt. A.	16 max 5/4, 1	v. o., L. Robinson	
4, 10	Arlington, Cambridge (F. P.)	3, 1	J. Heywood, J. Barton	
12	Waltham	1	L. Taylor	
Bay-breasted Warbler				
14-31, 14	Mt. A., Bolton Flats	1-4, 1	v. o., M. Lynch#	
15	Boxford, MNWS	3, 11	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
19, 23	Arlington, Waltham	2, 7	J. Heywood, L. Taylor	
Blackpoll Warbler				
11, 12-31	MBO, Mt. A.	1 b, 25 max 5/24	J. Atwood, v. o.	
22, 23-31	Saugus, Arlington	6, 6 max 5/23	BBC (C. Schubarth), J. Heywood	
24, 28	N. Middleboro, P.I.	1, 9	K. Holmes, M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1988
Cerulean Warbler				
12	WBWS	1	D. Reynolds	
15	MNWS, P'town	1, 1	R. Heil, R. Comeau#	
29-31	Boxford (C.P.)	1 m	B. Drummond# + v. o.	
Black-and-white Warbler				
1-27, 1-23	Mt. A., Arlington	18 max 5/4, 6 max 5/4	v. o., J. Heywood	
1, 29	Quabbin (G37)	8, 8	M. Lynch#	
1, 7	Bridgewater, Newbypt	5, 4	K. Holmes, BBC (K. Griffis)	
8; 15	ONWR; MNWS, Nahant	7; 10, 5	M. Lynch#	
American Redstart				
10, 11-31	Middleboro, Mt. A.	2, 15+ max 5/24	K. Holmes, v. o.	
12, 22; 12-24	Waltham; Arlington	4, 8; 2+	L. Taylor; J. Heywood	
12, 13	MBO, Rutland	1, 1	J. Atwood, M. Lynch#	
15	Nahant, MNWS	5, 5	M. Lynch#	
20, 21	Quabbin (G40), P.I.	22, 30	M. Lynch#, BBC (W. Drummond)	
22	ONWR, Bolton Flats	14, 11	M. Lynch#	
Prothonotary Warbler				
18-19	Nantucket	1	J. vanVorst# + v. o.	
Worm-eating Warbler				
5-9, 5	MBO, Manchester	1 b, 1	J. Atwood, fide S. Perkins	
14, 14-16	WBWS, Nahant	1 b, 1	fide D. Reynolds, J. Quigley + v. o.	
15, 17	Bridgewater, Worcester	1, 1	K. Holmes, M. Lynch#	
21	P.I.	1	J. Berry#	
Ovenbird				
1, 29; 20	Quabbin (G37); (G40)	1, 23; 29	M. Lynch#	
8, 14, 22	ONWR	5, 7, 2	M. Lynch#	
15	Boxford	16 m	J. Berry	
22	Hamilton, Ipswich	8 m, 9 m	J. Berry	
Northern Waterthrush				
4	Middleboro, Mt. A.	2, 1	K. Holmes, F. Bouchard	
24	Dartmouth	1 flushed from nest	B. Sorrie	
Louisiana Waterthrush				
1, 5	Petersham, MNWS	3, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Heil	
21	Boxford, Milton	3 m, 1	R. Stymeist#, W. Petersen	
Kentucky Warbler				
14, 28	Marshfield, Mt. A.	1, 1	D. Ludlow#, v. o.	
Mourning Warbler				
15, 17	MNWS, MBO	1, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Lloyd-Evans	
20, 23	Manomet	1, 1	M. Kasprzyk, J. Atwood	
21, 28	P.I.	1, 1	BBC (W. Drummond), W. Petersen	
22, 31	Mt. A.	1, 2 or 3	L. Taylor, R. Stymeist#	
Common Yellowthroat				
7; 8, 18, 22	Winchester; Waltham	1; 1, 12, 15	L. Taylor	
8, 14, 22	ONWR	2, 21, 14	M. Lynch#	
10; 14, 22	Middleboro; Bolton Flats	5; 15, 19	K. Holmes; M. Lynch#	
21, 22	P.I., Hamilton	18, 20+	BBC (W. Drummond), J. Berry	
22	Saugus	12	BBC (C. Schubarth)	
22	Marshfield	20	BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
Hooded Warbler				
5	P.I.	1 m	v. o.	
6, 12, 24	MBO	1 f, 1 m, 1 f (all banded)	MBO staff	
8, 15	Weston, MNWS	1 m, 1 m	J. Heywood#, R. Heil#	
18, 18-31	Marshfield, Newton	1 f, 1 m	D. Ludlow#, O. Komar#	
22	Nahant	1	BBC (C. Schubarth)	
Wilson's Warbler				
12, 13-29	Brookline, Mt. A.	1, 5 max 5/15	H. Wiggan#, v. o.	
13, 14	P.I., Rowley	4, 1-2	T. Aversa, J. Berry	
15, 21, 28	P.I.	2, 3, 2	v. o.	
Canada Warbler				
13-27	Mt. A.	5 max 5/15	v. o.	
14, 22	ONWR	2, 1	M. Lynch#	
15	MNWS, Nahant	10, 5	M. Lynch#	
21, 22	P.I., Hamilton area	3, 3	J. Berry	
Yellow-breasted Chat				
23	P.I.	1	N. Mueller#	

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

At least 12 Summer Tanagers were reported during the month, 5 or more from Nantucket alone. The total number was about average for previous years but was four times more than that of last May. Blue Grosbeaks

were noted in three locations on Nantucket. The highlight for many fortunate observers was the discovery in Nahant of a male **Painted Bunting** which remained for two days. A male **Dickcissel**, unusual in the spring, was found at Pond Meadow Park in Braintree. Other noteworthy sightings included 5 Grasshopper Sparrows, a **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, and good counts of Sharp-tailed and Seaside sparrows at Allens Pond in South Dartmouth.

It was a poor migration of Lincoln's Sparrows, with only one individual reported during the entire month. It was the first year this observer failed to see a Lincoln's Sparrow in the spring. White-crowned Sparrows were also hard to find, with only 5 birds reported.

On the plus side, Orchard Orioles must have pleased almost everyone this May. Over 40 individuals were reported, up 7 from 1987 but down 6 from 1986. Reports of lingering winter finches included several flocks of Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks.

R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1988
Summer Tanager				
6-12, 15	Duxbury, Mt. A.	1, 1	E. Mallory, v. o.	
15, 16-27	Cambridge (F. P.), Nantucket	1, 5+	J. Barton, J. Van Vorst# + v. o.	
21	WBWS, Arlington	1, 1	D. Reynolds#, C. Floyd	
23, 28	Nahant, M. V.	1, 1 (dead)	R. Forster, V. Laux	
Scarlet Tanager				
11, 12	Middleboro, Ipswich	1, 1	K. Holmes, J. Berry	
14	Marshfield, Sherborn	2, 6	D. Ludlow, E. Taylor	
14-31	Arlington, Mt. A.	2, 8 max 5/24	J. Heywood, v. o.	
14, 15	ONWR, Boxford	7, 10	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
20, 21	Quabbin (G37), (G40)	13, 9	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
5, 12	Waltham	1, 6	L. Taylor	
8, 14	ONWR	4, 8	M. Lynch#	
14, 16	Canton (F.M.), Nantucket	15, 8	T. Aversa, E. Andrews	
20, 21	IRWS, Quabbin (G40)	5, 12	T. Aversa	
Blue Grosbeak				
4, 14	Nantucket	1, 1 dead	E. Andrews#, F. Bouchard	
7, 15	Yarmouthport, Nantucket	1, 1	R. Scott#, M. Litchfield	
12	Braintree (Pond Meadow Park)	1 f	G. d'Entremont	
Indigo Bunting				
1	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1 m	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
8-29	Nantucket	4	E. Andrews#	
14, 18	Mt. A., Waltham	2, 2	T. Aversa, L. Taylor	
Painted Bunting				
13-14	Nahant	1 m	L. Pivacek + v. o.	
Dickcissel				
13	Braintree (Pond Meadow Park)	1 m	G. d'Entremont	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
1, 4	Quabbin (G37), N. Andover	3, 7	M. Lynch#, V. Yurkunas	
7, 21	Lexington, P.I.	5, 20	L. Taylor, BBC (W. Drummond)	
22, 23	Saugus, M. V.	18, 25	BBC (C. Schubarth), P. Overby	
Chipping Sparrow				
thr	Mt. A.	10-13 pr	R. Stymeist + v. o.	
Field Sparrow				
23	Peabody	15	R. Heil	
Vesper Sparrow				
8, 21	Plymouth	6, 3	D. Ludlow#, W. Petersen#	
20	Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	
Savannah Sparrow				
3, 8	Ipswich	7, 6	J. Berry	
15, 21	Rowley, Newburyport	3, 18	J. Berry, BBC (W. Drummond)	
Grasshopper Sparrow				
15	W. Newbury	1	BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
17	Nantucket	1	L. Jodrey + G. Soucy	
22, 24	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 2	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
17, 31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	10, 23	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
21, 24	P.I., Newbury	2, 2	BBC (W. Drummond), R. Forster	
28	Rockport	1	J. Berry	
Seaside Sparrow				
14, 21	P.I.	5, 4	R. Stymeist#	
17, 24, 31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2, 1, 3	LCES (D. Christiansen)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1988
Song Sparrow				
thr	Cambridge (F. P.)	13 max 5/18	J. Barton	
14	Bolton Flats, ONWR	15, 10	M. Lynch#	
Lincoln's Sparrow				
22	P.I.	1	V. Yurkunas	
Swamp Sparrow				
4, 14	Lynnfield, Sherborn	10+, 5	J. Berry, E. Taylor	
22, 28	Bolton Flats, Canton	6, 6	M. Lynch#, E. Taylor	
White-throated Sparrow				
4	Arlington, Madaket	23, 18	J. Heywood, E. Andrews#	
5	Madaket, Waltham	38, 25	B. Vigneau, L. Taylor	
29	MNWS, Taunton	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, D. Emerson	
White-crowned Sparrow				
5-6, 9	Madaket, Polpis	1, 1	B. Vigneau, J. Papale	
15, 19-20	P.I., Madaket	1, 1	BBC (D. + D. Oliver), E. Andrews#	
22	P.I.	1	D. Chickering	
Dark-eyed Junco				
4, 21	Mt. A., Boxford	6, 1	F. Bouchard#, B. Hallett#	
Bobolink				
6, 14, 22	DWWS	2, 60, 75+	T. Aversa + v. o.	
7, 12	W. Newbury, Mt. A.	3, 1	J. Gordon#, R. Stymeist#	
14	Bolton Flats, Sherborn	25+, 6	M. Lynch#, E. Taylor	
15, 30	Rowley, Framingham	50+, 2	J. Berry, E. Taylor	
Eastern Meadowlark				
6, 21	DWWS, P.I.	10, 12	T. Aversa, W. Drummond#	
Yellow-headed Blackbird				
10	P.I.	1 f ph	R. Martel#	
Rusty Blackbird				
5	Belmont	3	L. Taylor	
Common Grackle				
thr, 29	Arlington, Framingham	50-60, 410	J. Heywood, E. Taylor	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
5-31	Mt. A.	1 f (had band)	R. Stymeist# + v. o.	
8	Gloucester	40	BBC (J. Nove)	
Orchard Oriole				
1	Nantucket, P'town	1 m, pr	E. Andrews#, E. + A. Williams	
5, 6	Nantucket, DWWS	4, 2	E. Andrews#, T. Aversa	
7-31, 7	Mt. A., Lexington	pr, 1	v. o., L. Taylor	
7, 11-18	W. Newbury, Cambridge (F. P.)	pr, 1	H. Wiggin#, J. Barton	
11; 12, 16	Wellesley; Auburn	1 m; 1 m, 1	R. Forster; M. Lynch#	
13, 15	P.I., Lexington	1, 2	T. Aversa, C. Floyd#	
16, 17	Medway, Hull	pr, 1	R. Forster, P. Thayer	
Reports of 17 individuals from 13 locations from 5/20-24.				
Northern Oriole				
1, 6	Halifax, Taunton	1, 1	K. Holmes, D. Emerson	
10-31; 12, 18	Sherborn; Waltham	20; 7, 9	E. Taylor; L. Taylor	
16	Cambridge (F. P.)	19	J. Barton	
Purple Finch				
thr, 1	P.I., Bridgewater	3 or 4, 3	v. o., K. Holmes	
1, 15	P'town, Boxford	1, 1	A. + E. Williams, J. Berry	
House Finch				
thr	Watertown	2 prs nesting	L. Doherty	
thr	Sherborn	pr nesting	E. Taylor	
Red Crossbill				
7, 8, 15	Mt. A.	25+, 8, 1	v. o., D. Small, O. Komar	
8, 13	Quabbin (G40), Worcester	2, 7	J. Gordon#, M. Lynch#	
18, 19	Arlington	35+	J. Heywood	
Pine Siskin				
1, 20	Quabbin (G37), (G40)	6, 2	M. Lynch#	
5	P'town, IRWS	3, 9	B. Nikula, R. Heil	
13, 14	N. Truro, Newburyport	1, 6	B. Nikula, BBC (N. Mueller)	
21	Brookline, Lakeville	3, 4	H. Coolidge#, W. Petersen#	
29	Stow, Lancaster	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, L. Taylor#	
Evening Grosbeak				
4, 5, 12	P'town	1, 2, 2	B. Nikula	
4, 5	Ipswich, IRWS	1, 6	J. Berry, R. Heil	
12, 14	Waltham, Marshfield	2, 1	L. Taylor, D. Ludlow	
22	Ipswich	1	G. d'Entremont	



FIELD RECORDS

JUNE 1988

by Glenn d'Entremont, George W. Gove, and Robert H. Stymeist

June was sunny and dry. The temperature averaged 68.5 degrees, just 0.5 degrees above normal. The month began with a cold streak; the first eleven days averaged over 4 degrees below normal. However, the next twelve days, June 12-23, were a siege of heat, averaging 9 degrees above normal, including four days of 90 degrees or more. The high was 98 degrees on June 15, a new record high for the date, exceeding the 96 degrees recorded in 1956. Rain totaled 1.29 inches, 1.63 inches less than normal. Most rains were very light, although some communities had short intervals of excessive rain, which produced some local street flooding, especially during thunderstorms on June 22. Sunshine was 68 percent of possible, and fog was infrequent. Thunder was heard on six days, two more than average.

R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH HAWKS

A Red-necked Grebe was still present at Winthrop in June. Pelagic birds noted on several sea trips included Northern Fulmars, Greater, Sooty, and Manx shearwaters, Wilson's and Leach's storm-petrels, Northern Gannets, and Parasitic Jaegers. American Bitterns were seen at three locations, one Least Bittern was reported, and a Tricolored Heron was present at North Monomoy. Sea ducks reported included Common Eiders, a King Eider, a Harlequin Duck, Oldsquaws, Surf and White-winged scoters, and Red-breasted Mergansers.

G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1988
Common Loon				
18	Boston	4	G. d'Entremont#	
Pied-billed Grebe				
26	Milford	1	M. Lynch#	
Red-necked Grebe				
11	Winthrop	1	J. Cumming#	
Northern Fulmar				
5	SE of Chatham	5	B. Nikula#	
Greater Shearwater				
5, 25	SE of Chatham, Stellwagen	50, 12	B. Nikula#, W. Ellison	
Sooty Shearwater				
5, 25	SE of Chatham, Stellwagen	1000+, 40	B. Nikula#, W. Ellison	
Manx Shearwater				
18, 25	off Truro, Stellwagen	1, 2	G. d'Entremont#, W. Ellison	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
5, 18	SE of Chatham, Stellwagen	1200+, 125	B. Nikula#, G. d'Entremont#	
25	Stellwagen	270	W. Ellison	
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
18	Stellwagen	1	G. d'Entremont#	
Northern Gannet				
5, 18	SE of Chatham, Stellwagen	50, 1 imm	B. Nikula#, G. d'Entremont#	
Double-crested Cormorant				
5	Provincetown, N. Monomoy	250, 200	B. Nikula#, BBC (J. Barton)	
6, 27	Lawrence, P.I.	85, 55	V. Yurkunas, BBC (H. Weissberg)	
American Bittern				
4-19, 19	Bolton, Gardner	2 max, 1	M. Lynch#	
14	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Least Bittern				
11	Milford	3	T. Aversa	
Great Blue Heron				
5, 8, 12	Boxford, Methuen, Ipswich	2, 1, 1	J. Berry#	
11-26, 28	Milford, GMNWR	4 max 6/11, 17	v.o., T. Aversa	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1988
Great Egret				
7, 11	E. Boston, Ipswich	1, 1	T. Aversa, J. Berry	
28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	8	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Snowy Egret				
7, 16; 20	E. Boston; Hingham	8, 21; 12	T. Aversa; P. Thayer	
27	P.I.	52	BBC (H. Weissberg)	
Little Blue Heron				
7	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
27	Somerset	1	P. Anderson	
Tricolored Heron				
11	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#	
Cattle Egret				
22-26	Ipswich	10 max	J. Berry	
Green-backed Heron				
6, 19	Wenham, Worcester	1, 1	J. Brown, M. Lynch#	
27	P.I.	4	V. Yurkunas	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
thr	E. Boston, Ipswich	12 max, 2	T. Aversa, J. Berry	
18	N. Monomoy, Watertown	22, 13	BBC (S. Moore), R. Stymeist#	
25, 29	GMNWR, P.I.	10, 8	M. Lynch#, W. Drew#	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
18, 25-29	Boston, P.I.	1, 2 ad max	G. d'Entremont#, v. o.	
Glossy Ibis				
2, 6	Ipswich, P.I.	2, 2	J. Brown	
14	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
29	P.I.	5	W. Drew#	
Mute Swan				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	18 max	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
8	Hull	18	P. Thayer	
Wood Duck				
4-19	Bolton	1 f + 9 yg	M. Lynch#	
11, 28	Milford, GMNWR	45, 125	T. Aversa	
Green-winged Teal				
thr	P.I.	27 max	W. Drew#	
11, 26	S. Monomoy, E. Boston	6, 4	B. Nikula#, T. Aversa	
American Black Duck				
11	S. Monomoy	60	B. Nikula#	
Northern Pintail				
11	S. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula#	
Blue-winged Teal				
thr, 11	P.I., S. Monomoy	6-8, 8	v. o., B. Nikula#	
Northern Shoveler				
5, 11	P. I., S. Monomoy	1 m, 3	G. d'Entremont#, B. Nikula#	
Gadwall				
thr	P.I.	12-16	v. o.	
11	S. Monomoy	50	B. Nikula#	
American Wigeon				
20, 27; 28	P. I.; GMNWR	1, 3; 1 m	v.o.; T. Aversa	
Common Eider				
7, 11	Hull, Revere	125, 110	P. Thayer, J. Cumming	
King Eider (from May)				
4, 11	Winthrop	1 ad m	J. Cumming#	
Harlequin Duck (from May)				
11	Winthrop	1 ad m	J. Cumming#	
Oldsquaw				
thr	Chatham	7 max	B. Nikula	
White-winged Scoter				
4, 11	Winthrop	16, 13	J. Cumming	
Hooded Merganser				
4-19	Bolton	1 f + 7 yg	M. Lynch#	
Red-breasted Merganser				
16	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
16	Winthrop	1	T. Aversa	
Turkey Vulture				
7, 11	Plymouth, Holliston	2, 2	W. Petersen, T. Aversa	
18, 26	Dover, Quabbin (G40)	2, 4	E. Taylor, BBC (J. Center)	
4-13	Reports of individuals from 9 locations.			
Osprey				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	9 max 6/21	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
thr	Nantucket	pr + 2 yg	M. Litchfield	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1988
Bald Eagle 6	S. Harwich	1 imm	B. Nikula	
Northern Harrier 4, 5	E. Middleboro	1 m, 1 f	K. Anderson	
Northern Goshawk 4, 20	Lakeville, P.I.	1, 1 imm	W. Petersen#, BBC (W. Drummond)	
26	Quabbin (G40)	1	BBC (J. Center)	
Red-shouldered Hawk thr	E. Middleboro	pr + 2 yg	K. Anderson	
5, 8, 22	Easton, Andover, Hanover	2, 1, 2	K. Ryan, V. Yurkunas, W. Petersen	
Broad-winged Hawk thr	Wenham	1-2	J. Brown	
	Reports of individuals from 7 locations.			
American Kestrel 4, 5	ONWR, Lynnfield	1, 1 f	M. Lynch#, J. Brown	
17, 24, 26	DWWS, W. Roxbury, E. Boston	2, 2, 2	T. Aversa	
Peregrine Falcon thr	Boston	2 ad + 2 yg	v. o.	

RAILS THROUGH OWLS

One or two Clapper Rails were present at Allens Pond in South Dartmouth all month, probably breeding birds, and the Rockport King Rail continued to be seen through June 12. Common Moorhens, a species that has become uncommon recently, were reported from four locations, and an American Coot was also noted.

Piping Plover were present throughout the month at breeding sites and included a pair at Plum Island at a nest with one egg. Willets are apparently expanding their breeding range with a pair with one chick found at Nantucket for the second recent nesting record, the last being 1987. A Marbled Godwit, an unusual June species, was seen on one day at North Monomoy, where all previous June reports of this species have originated. A Western Sandpiper in basic (winter) plumage, another unusual June record with three occurrences in the last 15 years, was also noted at North Monomoy.

Little Gulls were present at Plum Island, and a Royal Tern was reported from Nantucket. Black Terns were seen at North Monomoy and Nantucket. G.W.G.

Clapper Rail thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1-2	LCES (D. Christiansen)
King Rail 1-12	Rockport	1	v.o.
Virginia Rail 4, 4-19	Whitman, Bolton	2, 9 max 6/4	W. Petersen#, M. Lynch#
19, 25	Gardner, GMNWR	6, 2	M. Lynch#
5, 12	Lynnfield, Salem	3, 3	J. Brown
Sora 4	Bolton	2	M. Lynch#
Common Moorhen 1, 12	Nantucket, Salem	1, 1	fide M. Litchfield, J. Brown
19, 26	E. Boston, Milford	2, 1	S. Zende, M. Lynch#
American Coot 26	E. Boston	1	T. Aversa
Black-bellied Plover 1-19	N. Monomoy	300 max 6/8	v. o.
4, 14	Winthrop, P.I.	20, 20	J. Cumming, W. Drew#
Lesser Golden-Plover 21	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (D. Christiansen)
Semipalmated Plover 4, 26	Winthrop, P.I.	4, 2	J. Cumming, J. Brown
28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	4	LCES (D. Christiansen)
Piping Plover thr	Plymouth, Ipswich	3, 8 pr	v.o., D. Rimmer
thr	Nantucket-Tuckernuck	13 pr	M. Litchfield
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	11 max 6/21	LCES (D. Christiansen)
14	P.I.	pr + nest + 1 egg	D. Melvin
Killdeer 4-19, 23	Bolton, Hull	2, 2 + 2 yg	M. Lynch#, P. Thayer
14, 29	P.I.	14 (1 nest+2 eggs), 13	W. Drew#
30	Topsfield	5	J. Brown

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1988
American Oystercatcher				
thr	Nantucket	19 pr	M. Litchfield	
thr	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	11 pr, 6 pr	D. Houghton	
Greater Yellowlegs				
14-28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1-4	LCES(D. Christiansen)	
10-29	P.I.	6 max 6/10	v. o.	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
19, 29	E. Boston, P.I.	2, 22	J. Cumming#, W. Drew#	
Willet				
thr	P.I., N. Monomoy	6 max, 35 pr	v.o., B. Nikula	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	11 max 6/28	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
thr	Nantucket	pr + 1 yg	M. Litchfield	
Spotted Sandpiper				
thr	Marlboro	1 or 2	R. Graefe	
7-28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	7 max	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
18, 29	Quabbin (G36), P.I.	2 ad + 1 yg, 2	M. Lynch#, W. Drew#	
Upland Sandpiper				
3, 5	Hanscom AFB, Middleboro	6-7, 2	J. Carter, W. Petersen#	
Marbled Godwit				
5	N. Monomoy	1	BBC (J. Barton)	
Ruddy Turnstone				
4, 5	Plymouth, N. Monomoy	32, 125	BBC (G. d'Entremont, J. Barton)	
10	P.I.	5	T. Aversa	
Red Knot				
7, 14	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), P.I.	16, 6	LCES (D. Christiansen), W. Drew#	
8, 19	N. Monomoy	70, 40	B. Nikula	
Sanderling				
4	Plymouth	7	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
4	Winthrop, Plymouth	85, 50	J. Cumming, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
8, 19	N. Monomoy	800, 20	B. Nikula	
14, 29	P.I.	26, 7	W. Drew#	
Western Sandpiper				
12	N. Monomoy	1 basic pl	B. Nikula	
Least Sandpiper				
14	P.I.	10	W. Drew#	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
4, 8	Plymouth, N. Monomoy	2, 10	BBC (G. d'Entremont), B. Nikula	
20	P.I.	4	J. Cumming	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
29	P.I.	4	W. Drew#	
Dunlin				
8	P.I.	1	W. Drew#	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
26, 29	P.I.	9, 24	J. Brown, W. Drew#	
American Woodcock				
thr, 1	P.I., Topsfield	1, 1	v. o., J. Brown	
Wilson's Phalarope				
19-21	E. Boston	pr	S. Zende, T. Aversa	
23-27	P.I.	6 max 6/25	T. Aversa, V. Yurkunas	
jaeger species				
5	SE of Chatham	1	B. Nikula#	
Parasitic Jaeger				
25	Stellwagen	1	W. Ellison	
Laughing Gull				
11, 17	N. Monomoy, Plymouth	130, 1	BBC (W. Drummond), T. Aversa	
19, 26	E. Boston	2 imm, 3 imm	J. Cumming	
Little Gull				
25, 29	P.I.	3, 2	v. o.	
Bonaparte's Gull				
8-26	P.I.	144 max	v. o.	
Black-legged Kittiwake				
5	SE of Chatham	50	B. Nikula#	
Royal Tern				
10	Nantucket	2	fide M. Litchfield	
Roseate Tern				
thr	Plymouth	8 max 6/4, 17	v. o.	
Common Tern				
Plymouth, N. Monomoy		500, 600	BBC (G. d'Entremont, S. Moore)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1988
Arctic Tern 4, 11	Plymouth, S. Dartmouth	7, 1	BBC (G. d'Entremont), H. Wiggin#	
Least Tern thr thr	Plymouth Ipswich, Nantucket	100 max 6/17 175 nests, 627 pr	v. o. D. Rimmer, M. Litchfield	
Black Tern 5, 8 15	N. Monomoy Nantucket	1, 1 ad 1	BBC (J. Barton), B. Nikula M. Litchfield	
Black-billed Cuckoo 4-24	Bolton	2 max 6/4	v. o.	
	Reports of individuals from 5 locations.			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 8, 19	Plymouth, Topsfield	2, 2	G. d'Entremont, J. Brown	
	Reports of individuals from 7 locations.			
Great Horned Owl 8, 9 24	Plymouth, Ipswich IRWS, E. Orleans	1, 3 ad 1, 1	G. d'Entremont, J. Berry J. Brown, E. Williams	
Barred Owl 4; 5, 12 23	Lakeville; Lincoln Easton	1; 1 ad + 1 yg 1	W. Petersen#; D. Bechar K. Ryan	
Short-eared Owl 11	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Chuck-will's-widow was heard calling initially at 4:15 A.M. on June 10 on Morris Island in Chatham. That evening the bird called nearly constantly from 9:05-9:25 P.M. At Myles Standish State Forest, a weekly census of Whip-poor-wills yielded a high count of 39 birds calling on the night of June 8.

A pair of Acadian Flycatchers was found at a nest in Plymouth on June 13. This was only the third nesting record of this species in Plymouth County. Another Acadian Flycatcher was found in Freetown State Forest in suitable habitat on June 20. Other noteworthy counts of *Empidonax* flycatchers included 13 Willow Flycatchers at Bolton Flats, and 27 Least Flycatchers at Quabbin (Gate 36).

Purple Martins totaled about 60 individuals at Plum Island on June 20. Fish Crows apparently were nesting in the Hanson area for the second year in a row. Winter Wrens continued to call most of the month at Crooked Pond in Boxford. A Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen gathering nesting material in Barnstable; this is only the second reported Cape nesting record. A Veery's nest with two eggs was found in Boxford State Forest. Reports of Wood Thrushes were much lower than average.

A nest of a Solitary Vireo was found in Pepperell on June 5. The nest was about five feet from the ground, and the adult was feeding three young. It is noteworthy that when this nest was revisited after the young birds had fledged, an unhatched cowbird egg was found in the nest under the thin upper floor. Yellow-throated Vireo nests were found at Crooked Pond in Boxford and at Hears Pond in Wayland.

Golden-winged Warblers were found singing in three locations, and a "Brewster's" Warbler was found in Wenham. No fewer than 7 male Yellow-rumped Warblers were singing in the extensive White Pine plantations in the Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth; all were certainly breeding birds. This species is also known to breed casually at several other Plymouth County locations. Another Yellow-rumped Warbler was singing in Mashpee on June 18, unusual for Cape Cod. The passerine highlight was the male Cerulean Warbler that was present at Crooked Pond in Boxford until at least June 14. This bird was first found on May 29. No one has reported with certainty a second bird in the area. Other warbler highlights included a singing Worm-eating Warbler at Dover on June 26, a Kentucky Warbler at Topsfield on June 19, and the Hooded Warbler continued to sing at Crystal Springs Park in Newton all month. Another Hooded was found at Crooked Pond in Boxford. R.H.S.

Common Nighthawk 1, 12	Brookline, Boston	1, 1 or 2	H. Wiggin, J. Berry
Chuck-will's-widow 10	Chatham (Morris Island)	1 calling	W. Bailey + R. Forster
Whip-poor-will thr	Plymouth (Myles Standish)	39 max 6/8	G. d'Entremont#
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 4, 11	N. Middleboro, Topsfield	3, 1	K. Holmes, J. Berry
Red-headed Woodpecker 19	Topsfield	1	J. Brown
Hairy Woodpecker 4	Ipswich	pr feeding yg	J. Berry

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1988
Pileated Woodpecker				
6, 7	Sherborn, Westford	1, 1	E. Taylor, S. Selesky#	
18, 19	Quabbin (G36), Bolton Flats	3, 1	M. Lynch#	
19	Westminster, IRWS	1, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Brown	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
thr	Boxford	6 max 6/5	v. o.	
18, 19	Quabbin (G36), N. Andover	11, 4	M. Lynch#, V. Yurkunas	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
3	Mt. A.	2	C. Floyd	
Acadian Flycatcher				
10, 13-16	Wenham, Plymouth	1, pr at nest	J. Brown, W. Petersen	
20	Freetown (State Forest)	1	K. Anderson#	
Alder Flycatcher				
4	Bolton Flats	2	M. Lynch#	
4, 5	Whitman, Halifax	1, 1	W. Petersen#	
Willow Flycatcher				
thr	Bolton Flats	13 max 6/19	M. Lynch#	
4, 5	Whitman, Lynnfield	2, 1	W. Petersen, J. Brown	
10, 16	W. Newbury, E. Boston	2, 1	T. Aversa	
18	W. Bridgewater, Falmouth	2, 3	W. Petersen#, B. Nikula#	
25	GMNWR	4	M. Lynch#	
Least Flycatcher				
4, 5	ONWR, Dunstable	2, 1	M. Lynch#, L. Taylor#	
18	Quabbin (G37)	27	M. Lynch#	
Eastern Phoebe				
thr	Topsfield, Wenham	2-4, 2	J. Brown	
4	Bolton Flats, Ipswich	3, 2 (nest)	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
5	Groveland, Boxford	4, 2	H. Wiggin#, J. Berry	
Great Crested Flycatcher				
4	ONWR, Ipswich	1, 2	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
11, 18	Topsfield, Quabbin (G36)	3, 3	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
Eastern Kingbird				
20	P.I.	16	BBC (W. Drummond)	
Horned Lark				
thr	Plymouth, N. Monomoy	3 max, 12 max 6/11	v. o., BBC (W. Drummond)	
2	Plymouth (off Route 3)	2	J. Carter	
Purple Martin				
thr	P.I.	60 max 6/20	v. o.	
5	Nantucket	1	fide M. Litchfield	
Tree Swallow				
18, 19	Quabbin (G36), Westminster	25+, 20+	M. Lynch#	
N. Rough-winged Swallow				
5, 11	Lynnfield, Plymouth	2, 6	J. Brown, C. Floyd	
Bank Swallow				
thr	Bolton Flats	20+ max 6/4	M. Lynch#	
4, 5	Tyngsboro, P.I.	18, 15	BBC (R. Gerrish), H. Wiggin#	
Fish Crow				
16, 19-30	Plymouth, Hanson	2, 2+ (nesting)	W. Petersen	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
4, 5	ONWR, Dunstable	1, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
11, 19	Ipswich, IRWS	2, 1	J. Berry, J. Brown	
Brown Creeper				
4	Sudbury, Stow	2, 1	L. Taylor#	
4, 5	Ipswich, Boxford	1, 1	J. Berry	
5	Harvard, Groton	1, 1	R. Stymeist#	
17, 19-30	Plymouth, Hanson	1, 1	W. Petersen	
Carolina Wren				
5, 28	Brookline, Hanson	1, 1	M. Argue#, W. Petersen	
Winter Wren				
thr	Milton (Blue Hills)	1 or 2	G. d'Entremont	
1-12, 4	Boxford, Ipswich	1 or 2, 1	v. o., J. Berry	
18	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	
Marsh Wren				
5, 18	Lynnfield, W. Bridgewater	6, 6+	J. Brown, W. Petersen#	
25, 26	GMNWR, Milford	14, 3	M. Lynch#	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
19	Barnstable	1	B. Nikula#	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
7, 18	Plymouth, Quabbin (G36)	1, 6	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
19	Wayland (Heards Pd)	pr on nest	BBC (B. Howell)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1988
Eastern Bluebird				
thr, 5	Sherborn, Groveland	2, pr feeding yg	E. Taylor, H. Wiggin#	
4, 11	Tyngsboro, E. Middleboro	1 pr, 3 pr	L. Files, K. Anderson	
23	N. Middleboro	2	K. Holmes	
Veery				
4	Ipswich, ONWR	4 m, 4	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
5, 18	Boxford, Quabbin (G36)	nest with 2 eggs,	26 J. Berry#, M. Lynch#	
Hermit Thrush				
thr	Plymouth, Sherborn	2 max, 6	G. d'Entremont#, E. Taylor	
4	Ipswich, Stow	5 m, 2 m	J. Berry, L. Taylor#	
18	Quabbin (G36)	9	M. Lynch#	
Wood Thrush				
18	Quabbin (G36)	5	M. Lynch#	
Gray Catbird				
thr	Topsfield, Bolton Flats	6 max, 8	J. Brown, M. Lynch#	
18	Watertown (Charles R.)	8	R. Stymeist	
18, 19	Quabbin (G37), N. Andover	7, 16	M. Lynch#, V. Yurkunas	
Brown Thrasher				
7, 8	Beverly, Newbury	2, 2	J. Brown	
11	Hamilton	3 pr + 1	J. Berry	
19	N. Andover	7 (1 at nest)	V. Yurkunas	
Cedar Waxwing				
thr, 1	Topsfield, Cambridge (F.P.)	40 max, 125	J. Brown, BBC (J. Barton)	
White-eyed Vireo				
11	S. Dartmouth	1	H. Wiggin#	
Solitary Vireo				
5, 7	Pepperell, Boxford	1 at nest with 3 yg, 4	L. Taylor#, R. Forster	
Yellow-throated Vireo				
thr, 5	Boxford (2 locales)	1 or 2, 1	v. o., G. d'Entremont	
4-19, 4	Bolton Flats, GMNWR	3, 1	M. Lynch#	
18	Quabbin (G36)	1	M. Lynch#	
19	Wayland (Heards Pd)	pr at nest with 2 yg	BBC (B. Howell)	
Warbling Vireo				
thr	Cambridge (F. P.)	8 max	J. Barton	
thr	Bolton Flats	9 max	M. Lynch#	
18	Watertown (Charles R.)	8	R. Stymeist	
Red-eyed Vireo				
thr	Topsfield, Marlboro	4, 6	J. Brown, R. Graefe	
thr, 4	Sherborn, ONWR	10, 9	E. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
5, 11	Boxford, Canton (F.M.)	10 m, 6	J. Berry#, E. Taylor	
18	Quabbin (G36)	20	M. Lynch#	
Blue-winged Warbler				
thr, 4	Topsfield, Ipswich	3, 3 m	J. Brown, J. Berry	
5, 10	Groveland, Wenham	2, 2	H. Wiggin#, J. Brown	
11, 17	Hamilton, Canton (F.M.)	3 pr + 1, 6	J. Berry, T. Aversa	
19, 23	N. Andover, N. Middleboro	3, 2	V. Yurkunas, K. Holmes	
Golden-winged Warbler				
4, 19	Topsfield	2	J. Brown	
4, 19	Stow, N. Andover	1, 1	L. Taylor#, V. Yurkunas	
"Brewster's" Warbler				
18	Wenham	1	J. Brown	
Nashville Warbler				
8, 19	Brookline, Westminster	1, 1	H. Wiggin, M. Lynch#	
Northern Parula				
19	Osterville	3	B. Nikula#	
Yellow Warbler				
4-19, 1	Bolton Flats, Cambridge (F. P.)	30, 14	M. Lynch#, BBC (J. Barton)	
5, 18	Lynnfield, Watertown	12, 9	J. Brown, R. Stymeist	
18, 19	Quabbin (G36), N. Andover	7, 8	M. Lynch#, V. Yurkunas	
19, 21	Westminster, GMNWR	6, 21	M. Lynch#	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
thr	Topsfield	6	J. Brown	
4	Ipswich, ONWR	4 m, 4	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
11, 18	Chatham, Petersham	1, 2	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
5, 10	Pepperell, P.I.	1, 1	L. Taylor#, T. Aversa	
16	Plymouth (Myles Standish)	7+	W. Petersen	
18	Quabbin (G36), Mashpee	9, 1	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula	
19	Westminster (High Ridge)	4	M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1988
Black-throated Green 4, 5	Warbler Ipswich, Boxford	6 m, 4 m	J. Berry	
Blackburnian Warbler thr 11, 18	Boxford Chatham, Quabbin (G36)	1 or 2 1 m, 8	v. o. R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
Pine Warbler 18, 26	Quabbin (G36), (G40)	5, 8	M. Lynch#, BBC (J. Center)	
Blackpoll Warbler 3	Topsfield	1	J. Brown	
Cerulean Warbler 1-14	Boxford (C. P.)	1 m	B. Drummond + v. o.	
Black-and-white Warbler 18	Quabbin (G36)	9	M. Lynch#	
American Redstart 4, 18	ONWR, Quabbin (G36)	20+, 23	M. Lynch#	
Worm-eating Warbler 26	Dover	1	C. Marchant#	
Ovenbird 4, 5 18 19	Ipswich, Boxford Quabbin (G37) N. Andover	10 m, 14 m 37 9	J. Berry# M. Lynch# V. Yurkunas	
Northern Waterthrush 5	Halifax	4	W. Petersen#	
Louisiana Waterthrush 1-18	Boxford	4 m	J. Berry + v. o.	
Kentucky Warbler 19	Topsfield	1	J. Brown	
Mourning Warbler 10, 13	Boxford, Plymouth	1, 1	T. Aversa, W. Petersen#	
Common Yellowthroat thr, 18	Bolton Flats, Quabbin (G36)	17 max 6/4, 23	M. Lynch#	
Hooded Warbler thr, 2	Newton, Boxford	1, 1	O. Komar# + v. o., R. Stymeist	
Canada Warbler 5, 24	Boxford, IRWS	2 m, 2	J. Berry#, J. Brown	

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

One Rose-breasted Grosbeak was observed for two days on Cape Cod where, according to the observer, the species is not known to nest. Grasshopper Sparrows were seen in the usual places. A count of 33 Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Allens Pond in South Dartmouth was indeed noteworthy.

An impressive count of 7500 Common Grackles was tallied at dusk in a swamp behind the Natick mall. Many Orchard Orioles were observed. An Evening Grosbeak was seen in Chatham on June 11. This is an unusual sighting in eastern Massachusetts for June. G.d'E.

Scarlet Tanager thr 5-10, 4-24 18, 19	Topsfield, Sherborn Boxford, ONWR Quabbin (G36), N. Andover	2 max, 10 5 max, 4 max 10, 4	J. Brown, E. Taylor v. o. M. Lynch#, V. Yurkunas
Rose-breasted Grosbeak thr 6-7, 4-24 18, 19	Topsfield Barnstable, ONWR Quabbin (G36), N. Andover	2 max 1, 3 max 5, 5	J. Brown J. Aylward, v. o. M. Lynch#, V. Yurkunas
Indigo Bunting 7, 10 19 24	Beverly, Wenham Bolton Flats, ONWR W. Roxbury	1, 4 1, 1 8	J. Brown M. Lynch# T. Aversa
Rufous-sided Towhee thr 4, 12 18, 19	Wenham, Topsfield Ipswich, Salem Quabbin (G36), N. Andover	6 max, 4 max 4, 8 13, 12	J. Brown J. Berry, J. Brown M. Lynch#, V. Yurkunas
Field Sparrow 7, 11 12, 18	Beverly, Hamilton Salem, Quabbin (G36)	2, 2 12, 2	J. Brown, J. Berry J. Brown, M. Lynch#
Savannah Sparrow 10, 24	Newburyport, W. Roxbury	3, 2	T. Aversa

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1988
Grasshopper Sparrow				
18	Falmouth	4	B. Nikula	
28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	33 max 6/28	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
thr	P.I., Monomoy	10, 15 max	v. o.	
13, 16	Ipswich, E. Boston	2 or 3, 5	J. Berry, T. Aversa	
Seaside Sparrow				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	4 max	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Song Sparrow				
thr, 12	Bolton Flats, Plymouth B.	19 max, 24	M. Lynch#	
18	Watertown (Charles R.)	17	R. Stymeist	
18, 25	Quabbin (G36), GMNWR	10, 19	M. Lynch#	
Swamp Sparrow				
thr	Bolton Flats	8 max	M. Lynch#	
5, 19	Lynnfield, Westminster	6, 6	J. Brown, M. Lynch#	
19, 25	IRWS, GMNWR	6, 20	J. Brown, M. Lynch#	
White-throated Sparrow				
18	Sharon, Quabbin (G36)	1, 5	C. Floyd, M. Lynch#	
Dark-eyed Junco				
18, 26	Quabbin (G36), Dover	1, 1	M. Lynch#, C. Marchant	
Bobolink				
thr	E. Boston, Bolton Flats	2 m, 31 max	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
7	Beverly	9	J. Brown	
Eastern Meadowlark				
4, 6	ONWR, Bedford (Hanscom AFB)	1, 1 or 2	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
26, 27	P.I., Ipswich	2, 2	J. Brown, J. Berry	
Common Grackle				
thr	Natick	7500 max 6/25	E. Taylor#	
Orchard Oriole				
1, 4	Cambridge (F. P.), Lexington	1, 1	BBC (J. Barton), R. Forster	
25, 26	Orleans, W. Newbury	3, 1	E. Williams, V. Yurkunas	
Reports of 7 individuals from as many locations.				
Northern Oriole				
thr	Sherborn, Topsfield	15, pr	E. Taylor, J. Brown	
1, 18	Cambridge (F. P.), Quabbin (G36)	7, 7	BBC (J. Barton), M. Lynch#	
19	Wayland	9	BBC (B. Howell)	
Purple Finch				
11	Ipswich, Natick	1 m, 1m	J. Berry, E. Taylor	
18	Quabbin (G36)	1	M. Lynch#	
Pine Siskin				
4, 5	Maynard, Halifax	3, 1	R. Stymeist#, W. Petersen	
Evening Grosbeak				
11	Chatham	1 f	R. Forster	



*Purple Gallinule
being hand-fed a worm
East Weymouth, MA
May 1988
Photo by Robert Abrams*

BIRD OBSERVER FIELD RECORDS

Bird Observer monthly field records represent observations from the ten counties of eastern Massachusetts (Essex, Middlesex, Worcester, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Duke, and Nantucket). Although space does not permit the inclusion of all sightings submitted, the compilers attempt to present sufficient data to document early and late dates for migratory species, maximum counts for migrants, and high or low numbers for the more common species and to note species outside of their normal ranges.

Please send eastern Massachusetts field records of any given month, no later than the 8th of the subsequent month, to Robert H. Stymeist, 98 Boylston Street, Watertown, MA 02172. The basic information that should be submitted is species name, date and place of observation, an accurate count or careful estimate, sex (if determinable), immature or adult plumage, vocalizations (if any), and observers. Species should be arranged in the current A.O.U. (American Ornithologists' Union) checklist order. Reports of species that can be difficult to identify should include details of the diagnostic characteristics observed or heard that led to the identification.

All field records received by *Bird Observer* are archived at the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad	adult	F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge
b	banded	G37 or 40	Gate 37 or 40, Quabbin
br	breeding	H.	Harbor
dk	dark (phase)	H.P.	Halibut Point, Rockport
f	female	I.	Island
imm	immature	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
ind	individuals	Mt.A.	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
juv	juvenile	Nant.	Nantucket
loc	location	Newbypt	Newburyport
lt	light (phase)	Noanet WR	Noanet Woodland Reservation
m	male	P.I.	Plum Island
max	maximum	Pd	Pond
mi	mile	P'town	Provincetown
migr	migrating	Quab.	Quabbin
n	nesting	Res.	Reservation
ph	photographed	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
pl	plumage	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
pr	pair	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
S	summer (1S = first summer)	Stellw.	Stellwagen (Bank)
thr	throughout	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
v.o.	various observers	BOEM	Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts
W	winter (2W = second winter)	CBC	Christmas Bird Count
w/	with	CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
yg	young	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
#	additional observers	DWWS	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	EMHW	Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	FCBC	Felix Cutler Bird Club
B.	Beach	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	LCES	Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies
Buzz.	Buzzards Bay	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
C.	cape as in Cape Cod	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
Cambr.	Cambridge	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	NEHW	New England Hawk Watch
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	PRNWR	Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
F.M.	Fowl Meadow	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

ABOUT THE COVER: Eastern Screech-Owl

Eastern Screech-Owls (*Otus asio*) are small, eight-inch owls with yellow eyes and pale bills. They have feathered ear tufts that are prominent when raised but when flattened give the bird a round-headed look. The significance of these hornlike tufts has led to several hypotheses that are described in *Birds of the Great Basin, A Natural History* by Fred A. Ryser, Jr. One explanation is that the tufts give the species a distinctive night silhouette in the eyes of other owls. Others speculate that the tufts have protective value because they mimic the ears of certain mammalian predators during threat displays and thus help the owl when approached by a predator that may yield to such a display. More believable is the hypothesis that ear tufts have camouflage functions. Ryser says, "Nocturnal owls are usually grayish or brownish in color and roost on branches during the day. When disturbed they often stretch, thinning their silhouettes. Then, the ear tufts make them look much like a broken vertical limb, since jagged breaks are more typical in nature than straight ones."

Eastern Screech-Owls are widely distributed throughout New England. Usually a permanent resident, they do demonstrate some irregular migration and movement, especially during the harsher winter months when food sources are not reliable. Their habitat preferences are small woodlots, old orchards, deciduous forests, parklands, and residential areas. Eastern Screech-Owls are good examples of polychromatism. There are three distinct color forms that occur in this species--red, brown, and gray. These are inherited phenotypes, usually referred to as color phases or color morphs. A study in Ohio found that gray-phase birds were more abundant in the northern part of the screech-owl's range, and the red-phase morphs predominant in the southern part. In 1976 J. A. Mosher and C. J. Henny reported in *The Auk* (93: 614-19) that red screech-owls had higher energy requirements at low temperatures, i.e., needed more food, than did gray morphs. Thus, red-phase owls might not survive in extreme cold because of the problem of catching enough prey to satisfy their greater energy needs.

Listen to an Eastern Screech-Owl, and you will realize that the name is a misnomer. There are two typical calls, neither of them a screech. One is a tremulous whistle, descending in pitch, and the other a long single trill, all on one pitch. Hearing these plaintive cries on a dark, still night may send shivers up the spines of the some listeners. Thoreau was so impressed by the sound that he wrote in one of his journals, "I love to hear their wailing, their doleful responses, trilled along the woodside, reminding me sometimes of music and singing birds, as if it were the dark and tearful side of music, the regrets and sighs that would fain be sung....They give me a new sense of the vastness and mystery of that nature which is the common dwelling of us both."

J. B. Hallett, Jr.

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

SCOTT HECKER's *Screech Owl*, which graces the front of October's *Bird Observer*, is the second of this young artist's drawings to appear on our cover. A fusion of two interests occurred early in Scott's childhood in Olmsted Falls, Ohio, that has determined his adult career--an enthusiasm for the natural world, especially birds, and a talent for art. His artistic heritage was fostered in preschool days by his art-teacher grandmother (who at 85 is still an active watercolorist) and by the portfolio of artwork left by his artist grandfather. Scott recalls making at an early age an extensive set of colored-pencil sketches of ducks for his father, a hunter and naturalist, and learning all of the duck names in the process. The hours after classes in high school were devoted to exploring the wildlife marshes along Lake Erie in the company of his ninth grade biology teacher. This further focused his interest on natural history so that he spent all of his time in art classes on wildlife subjects.

Scott graduated from Prescott College in Arizona in 1979 with a dual major in natural history and art. While still a college student, he directed an environmental education program in Ontario, Canada, and produced for the National Park Service wildlife drawings to illustrate trail guides for the Grand Canyon National Park and a book on bears for Yellowstone Park. He has taught classes in biological illustration in college and graduate school. Thesis research on the freshwater wetlands of Belize earned Scott his master's degree in the field of natural resource management at Antioch University in New Hampshire. He is at present coordinator of the Coastal Breeding Bird Program for Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS), is particularly concerned with tern colonies, and also leads natural history tours to Belize for the society.

The Green Briar Nature Center in Sandwich held an exhibit of Scott's artwork in June and July 1988, and a number of pieces were also on view at The Old House on Main Street in Hyannis. His work will be on display in Marshfield at the MAS South Shore Regional office from November 15 through January. A number of Scott's wildlife drawings, some of them done as a youngster, have been used as notecard illustrations or sold as prints. He likes to work in pen-and-ink on scratchboard and especially enjoys printmaking (the fine art process). He is now applying his talents to the media of watercolor and oils for depicting wildlife subjects.

Scott resides in Marshfield with his wife Ann Prince Hecker, who is a writer and assistant editor of the MAS publication *Sanctuary*. Inquiries about commission work, future exhibits, or sales should be addressed to him at the Conservation Department, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773.

Dorothy R. Arvidson

Some bird species are frequently more easily identified by the general impression created by their collective field marks than by the individual field marks themselves. This can be usefully applied when trying to identify birds in photographs where certain specific markings may be obscured or be otherwise difficult to determine. August's *At a Glance* photo provides an example where the holistic approach to identification can be profitably put to use.

The first step in identifying the pictured bird is to determine the bird's proper family. A close look at the tail reveals a slight notch, and the head seems to be black-capped. The bill appears stout and uniformly dark. The neck looks short and thick, and the body appears chunky. The bird's wings are fairly broad, not long, thin, and streamlined. Additionally, the wings appear to have a strong pattern--possibly dark primaries, a secondary window, and a grayish inner wing.

When considering these impressions, the birder's mind should run in two directions. First, the seemingly bold wing pattern, unmarked notched tail, and dark bill could suggest adult Sabine's Gull. However, adult Sabine's Gulls have complete hoods, much like a Laughing Gull and even in changing or winter plumage would not display a neatly capped appearance. The apparently patterned wing can be dismissed as an artifact created by strong back-lighting. The other logical choice then is some species of tern.

Keep in mind that we are viewing a bird whose stubby tail, chunky body, thick neck, and stout bill caused us to briefly consider a gull species as a possibility. Given that the tern in question has a black cap, it is apparently in breeding plumage, so its lack of a long, deeply forked tail readily eliminates Roseate, Common, Arctic, and Forster's terns as candidates. The thick neck, chunky body, stout bill, and notably broad wings serve not only to remove Least and Sandwich terns as possibilities but also to reinforce the impression that the bird is not one of the Massachusetts breeding tern species.



Careful analysis of the composite impression created by the bird's appearance in the photograph should lead the reader to the conclusion that the mystery bird is a Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*), the only tern species that shares the features noted above. Unfortunately, the bird's distinctive black legs are only barely visible in the photograph. Although not yet breeding in Massachusetts, Gull-billed Terns are slowly colonizing Long Island, New York, and the species does appear casually in the Commonwealth, mostly in early summer or following fall hurricanes. The pictured bird was photographed by Oliver Komar.

AT A GLANCE

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



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