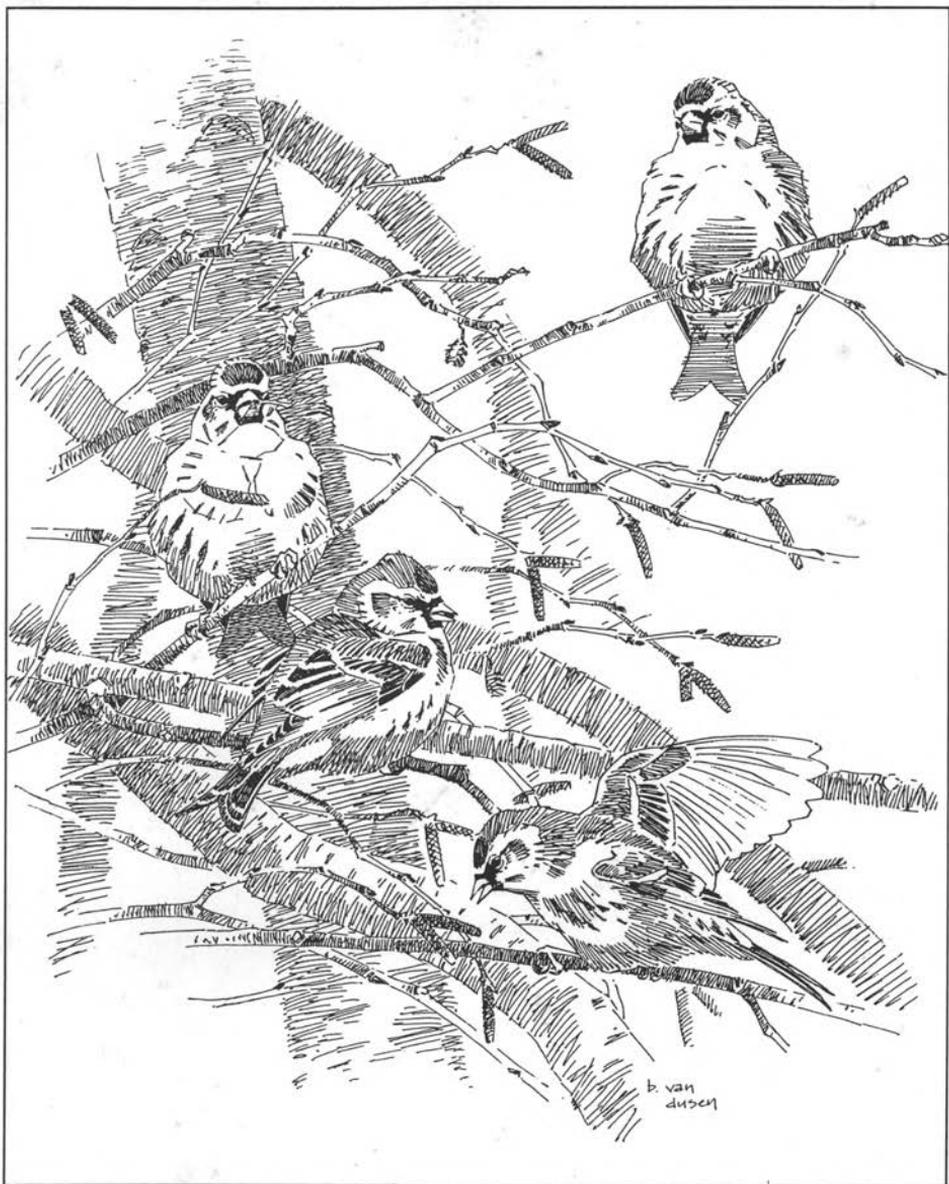


BIRD OBSERVER



© Barry W. Van Dusen

VOL. 24 NO. 1
FEBRUARY 1996



BIRD OBSERVER

• a bimonthly journal •

To enhance understanding, observation,
and enjoyment of birds.

VOL. 24, NO. 1 FEBRUARY 1996

Editor in Chief

Martha Steele

Associate Editor

Janet L. Heywood

Department Heads

Cover Art

William E. Davis, Jr.

Where to Go Birding

Jim Berry

Feature Articles and Field Notes

John C. Kricher

Book Reviews

Alden G. Clayton

Bird Sightings

Robert H. Stymeist

At a Glance

Wayne R. Petersen

Corporate Officers

President

William E. Davis, Jr.

Treasurer & Clerk

Glenn d'Entremont

Assistant Clerk

John A. Shetterly

Subscription Manager

Matthew L. Pelikan

Recording Secretary

Steven M. Arena

Advertisements

Robert H. Stymeist

Associate Staff

Theodore Atkinson

Simon Perkins

Board of Directors

Dorothy R. Arvidson

Alden G. Clayton

Herman H. D'Entremont

H. Christian Floyd

Richard A. Forster

Janet L. Heywood

Harriet E. Hoffman

John C. Kricher

Matthew L. Pelikan

Wayne R. Petersen

Marjorie W. Rines

John A. Shetterly

Martha Steele

Robert H. Stymeist

BIRD OBSERVER (USPS 369-850) is published bimonthly, COPYRIGHT © 1996 by Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc., 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02178, a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts to Bird Observer will be greatly appreciated and are tax deductible.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *BIRD OBSERVER*, 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02178. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, MA.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$16 for 6 issues, \$30 for two years in the U. S. Add \$2.50 per year for Canada and foreign. Single copies \$4.00. An Index to Volumes 1-11 is \$3. Back issues: inquire as to price and availability.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS and subscription inquiries should be sent to Bird Observer Subscriptions, P. O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02174.

ADVERTISING: full page, \$80; half page, \$40; quarter page, \$25. Send camera-ready copy to Bird Observer Advertising, P. O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02174.

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Send reports of any given month in writing by the eighth of the next month to

Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 94 Grove Street, Watertown, MA 02172.

MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION: *BIRD OBSERVER* welcomes for publication contributions of original articles, photographs, art work, field notes, and field studies. Please send these or other suggestions to the editor in chief:

Martha J. Steele, P. O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02174.

Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced on one side only of 8.5-by-11-inch paper. Manuscripts longer than 15 typed pages (about 4500 words) may be shortened when edited. Use the current 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. Indicate whether an IBM-compatible 5.25-inch diskette containing the article in ASCII or Microsoft Word can be supplied. Scientific and technical articles are peer reviewed. 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.

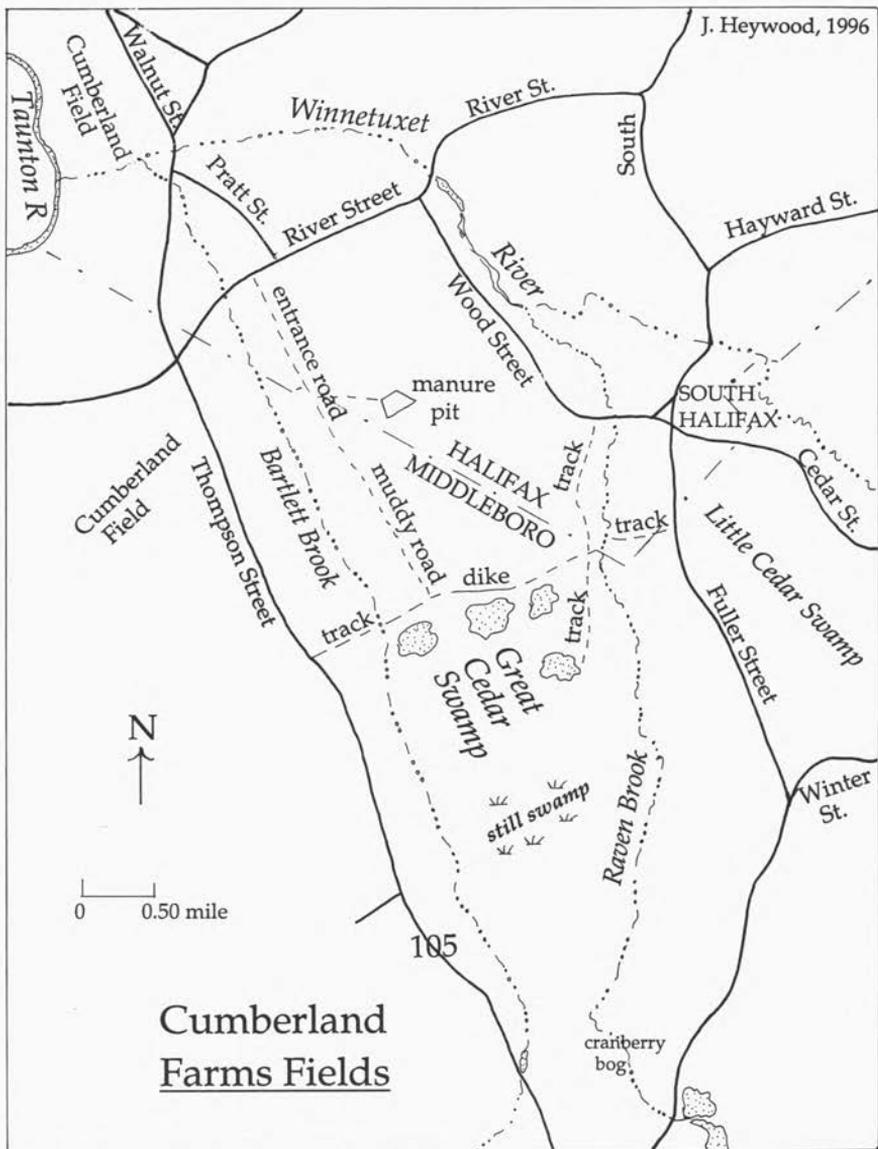
ISSN: 0893-4630

CONTENTS

CUMBERLAND FARMS FIELDS	Kathleen S. Anderson	4
THE IMPACT OF BIRD FEEDING ON WINTERING BIRDS	Herb Wilson	17
ON COLLECTING VAGRANTS	John C. Kricher	24
THE IDENTIFICATION GUIDE SERIES: AN OVERVIEW	Mark Lynch	29
FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE		
Cooper's Hawk and Great Horned Owl Encounter	Christopher Phillips and Paul Ricard	36
Fall Shorebird Migration in Central Massachusetts	Robert C. Bradbury	38
BIRD SIGHTINGS: SEPTEMBER 1995 SUMMARY		40
BIRD SIGHTINGS: OCTOBER 1995 SUMMARY		50
ABOUT THE COVER: Common Redpoll	W. E. Davis, Jr.	62
ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Barry W. Van Dusen	M. Steele	64
AT A GLANCE	Wayne R. Petersen	64
Cover Illustration: Common Redpoll by Barry W. Van Dusen		

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to assist in a study of the breeding birds of Weston, Massachusetts, with a focus on Ovenbirds. The length of service is flexible. Volunteers are needed to monitor forest stands to determine Ovenbird densities, determine Ovenbird pairing and reproductive success, search for and monitor Ovenbird nests, record Ovenbird territory use patterns, and measure vegetation. For the Ovenbird positions, previous experience with bird observation and nest searching is preferred, but not required. Dates of assistance are from late April to mid-July 1995, but the length of service for any one volunteer is flexible. If interested, please contact David Morimoto, Regis College, Department of Biology, 235 Wellesley Street, Weston, Massachusetts 02193, 617-768-7404 or 617-734-4756; email dcmoto@aol.com.



CUMBERLAND FARMS FIELDS

by Kathleen S. Anderson

For no-one-knows-how-many thousands of years a great shallow boggy wetland in what would come to be known as Middleboro and Halifax gradually evolved into one of the two or three largest cedar swamps in Massachusetts, a mini-wilderness of about 2000 acres called the Great Cedar Swamp. Red maple was perhaps the most abundant tree species, but white pine, yellow birch, swamp white oak, eastern hemlock, and other species were also present. The tree that gave this swamp its name, however, is a species limited in distribution to acidic swamps on the Atlantic coastal plain—the Atlantic coastal white cedar, a tree valued for its water resistance by shipbuilders and farmers, who made fence posts from the smaller specimens. *Sphagnum* moss, wild cranberry, winterberry, maleberry, swamp sweetbells, poison sumac, Virginia chain fern, and a limited number of other shrubs and plants made up the understory. Soils are about half peat and half muck with a scattering of higher hillocks.

Jorgensen's (1978) description of cedar swamps applied well to the Great Cedar Swamp: "Because of the density of the cedar trees, the only way into many parts is to follow the frozen outlet streams in winter." Altogether, what would appear from the edge to be a dark, soggy, foreboding morass, upon closer examination was unique and fascinating habitat quite unlike surrounding areas, which are in large part dry and sandy.

Once part of the Great Cedar Swamp, now separated by Fuller Street (in part a man-made dike) is the Little Cedar Swamp. This smaller and isolated bit of the once Great Cedar Swamp remains in its natural state, parts of it preserved forever by the Plymouth County Wildlands Trust. Together, these swamps collected rainfall like a blotter, the overflow spilling out into the Winnetuxet River via Bartlett and Raven brooks and a variety of lesser unnamed brooks.

The distinctive breeding birds of Little Cedar Swamp indicate what species once were present in greater numbers in the Great Cedar Swamp: Northern Goshawk; Red-shouldered Hawk; Great Horned, Barred, and Northern Saw-whet owls; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Winter Wren; Veery; Hermit Thrush; Northern Waterthrush; Canada Warbler; and Swamp and White-throated sparrows. These cool, dark, dense forests provide refuge for northern species otherwise seldom found nesting in southern New England.

The Great Cedar Swamp is now gone, leaving only the Hockomock and Acushnet cedar swamps as the two remaining large cedar swamps in southeastern Massachusetts. While once there were countless others, most have been converted to commercial cranberry bogs.

What Happened to the Great Cedar Swamp?

In 1971 or 1972 Cumberland Farms, Inc., a business entity controlled by V.S. Hasiotis & Sons, bought up the former testing grounds of the National Fireworks Company that made up most of the Great Cedar Swamp and began slowly converting the swamp to cornfields and hayfields to nourish their large herd of dairy cows housed in open sheds in nearby Bridgewater. Intensive clear-cutting began in 1972, and for several years chain saws whined, lumber trucks rolled out, bulldozers flattened the smaller trees and shrubs, and brush piles smoked day and night, year after year. The clear-cutting was followed by the arrival of heavy earth-moving equipment that leveled the rolling, hummocky swampland, and ditched the lowest areas to drain them into existing brooks or into culverts channeled directly to the nearby Winnetuxet River. Raven and Bartlett brooks, which traditionally had meandered in lazy, indistinct courses through the swamp, were ditched and channelized to flow directly north into the Winnetuxet, choking parts of the river with eroded soil. In all, approximately 1500 acres were drained, 1000 of those acres in Halifax and the remainder in Middleboro.

This was followed by the construction of six or seven paved "launching pads" to enable heavy trucks to back off Fuller, Wood, River, and Thompson streets so that they might dump manure in great piles near the roadside, later to be spread upon the fields. About one-quarter mile south of the entrance road off River Street, a deep pit of about one-half acre was dug to hold manure year-round from the company's 900-head Bridgewater dairy herd.

A sturdy fence was constructed around the perimeter of the fields, and then the plowing began, followed by liberal applications of the lime and fertilizers that were necessary to convert the acidic clays and peats of the swampland into fertile fields. During wet periods the fields were a quagmire, and during dry times the dust blew in such dense clouds that it was sometimes necessary to use headlights when driving on perimeter roads. Soil being eroded off the bare fields washed into the Winnetuxet River, a plume of muddy water sometimes reaching the Taunton River. But eventually by the brute force of heavy machinery and the application of tons of manure, lime, and fertilizer, fields of corn and hay began to appear.

What Did the Great Cedar Swamp Become?

Intensive manure dumping began in 1973, but it was not until 1975 that local birders became fully aware of this avian attractant, when birds such as Glossy Ibis, Ruddy Turnstones, and Sanderlings were discovered feeding on manure piles along River Street. Turnstones and Sanderlings in Halifax? It was hard to believe. Thompson Street (Route 105) had long been appreciated by birders looking for Bobolinks and meadowlarks, or occasional rarities such as Western Kingbird and, once, a Northern Wheatear (Anderson 1955). Then, as

the manure piles began to produce additional shorebird records as well as King Rail and other "goodies," the fields began to draw increased attention. The more birders looked, the more they found.

Today, early spring produces large flocks of ducks on the flooded fields along with high flocks of migrant blackbirds. Upland Sandpipers now breed, as well as increased numbers of Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks. August and early fall occasionally bring wonderful flocks of shorebirds to the manure pit and to small pools in the lower areas created after rainfall events.

Later in the season the corn stubble and weedy fields lure large flocks of gulls, Horned Larks, American Pipits, and sparrows of many species, followed by Northern Harriers, hawks, and Short-eared Owls as autumn melds into winter. Even in the most bitter, windswept days of midwinter, there are Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, and wintering raptors to look for. The area has gradually become an inland mecca for birders.

The Changing Fields

Change is a given for all habitats . . . and all businesses, even Cumberland Farms. The company had ignored orders to "cease and desist" clear-cutting the swamp and eventually, in a case brought by the Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal District Court ordered them to "restore" approximately 400 acres of recently cleared swampland, mostly in Middleboro. Cedar swamps evolve over hundreds of years and cannot be quickly restored. As a substitute, four large ponds were dug, and extensive wetland plantings were attempted. As the cattails have expanded and the surrounding vegetation has become denser, these ponds have begun to attract breeding ducks and an assortment of other migratory or breeding wetland species such as American Bittern, Great Egret, Willow Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, and others on an irregular basis. The potential exists for this area to become an important freshwater wetland for breeding birds requiring open marshes, a habitat type rapidly disappearing in many areas.

In the meantime, V.H. Hasiotis & Sons participated in the government's whole-herd dairy cow buyout in 1986 and consequently no longer used the fields for hay and corn. Thus began the next phase. The fields were leased to farmers, who cut hay or planted corn, and to a firm that put a portion of the fields into turf, eventually to be cut and rolled up for sale as sod for instant lawns. This latter enterprise produced, for a few brief years, ideal habitat in late summer and early fall for flocks of American Golden-Plovers and occasionally Buff-breasted Sandpipers, as well as a variety of other shorebirds. Now that is history.

What Next?

Very little corn is currently being planted. This may lead to a decrease in use by geese, ducks, and even the occasional Sandhill Crane. Hayfields have

replaced corn in most areas, and hay is still being cut. However, at present most of the fields are growing up to weeds—fine for sparrows, but not so good for shorebirds. The weed fields are also great for mice and hence excellent for raptors, and the area continues to be an excellent place to see foxes, coyotes, and deer.

Extensive woodlands still surround the fields in most places, providing breeding habitat for most of the raptors seen over the fields during spring and summer, as well as for the grouse, deer, towhees, and other species. Other species listed in Table 1 as breeding nearby breed either in trees along the roads, about farm buildings, or in nearby woods, but not literally "in the fields." The Northern Waterthrush, for example, breeds in the swamp still remaining in Cumberland ownership, but obviously not out in the fields. However one defines the exact boundaries of the Cumberland fields, should the surrounding forest disappear, so will many of the woodland species often found in or over the fields.

Most disheartening for those who have come to appreciate this, now the largest grassland in Plymouth County, is the rapidly increasing number of new homes being built around the periphery of the fields. During heavy rains, house lots become lakes, and how they pass perk tests remains a mystery. And with every house could come more cats, dogs, ORVs, and other suburban problems to harass the birds and mammals that have responded so quickly and favorably to this new mini-prairie.

Predictions cannot be made for the future of this grassland, but no account of the area would be complete without including a tantalizing list of some of the unexpected bird species that have already occurred here: White Ibis, Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, Swainson's Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Sandhill Crane, Yellow Rail, Common Moorhen, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Baird's and Buff-breasted sandpipers, Ruff, Wilson's Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Barn Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Northern and Loggerhead shrikes, Bohemian Waxwing, Blue Grosbeak, and Clay-colored and LeConte's sparrows. Where else in inland Massachusetts has there been quite such a mix of species?

How to Bird the Fields

For detailed directions on reaching the fields and how to bird the area, see *A Birder's Guide to Eastern Massachusetts* (1994). The book's map is larger in scale; a more detailed map of the fields appears here. Cumberland Farms, Inc., cleared other fields in Halifax and Plympton, and they, too, have produced some interesting records, but when most people speak of the "Cumberland fields," the area usually referred to is that part of Middleboro and Halifax between Route 105 (Thompson Street) and Fuller Street.

In terms of when to visit the area, because the distribution of species changes from season to season, this largest grassland area in southeastern

Massachusetts is worth a visit at any time. One can easily spend a full day searching the fields, brooks, and ponds, although even an hour or two can be productive.

Before visiting the Cumberland fields, a few words of caution are in order. Although much of the region can be seen with binoculars and telescope by circling the fields on Thompson, River, Wood, and Fuller streets, there is much more to be observed by walking the fields or by driving in on the few unimproved tracks that enter from Route 105 and River and Wood streets. The area is used seasonally by many outdoor enthusiasts: hunters, falconers, fishermen, skeet shooters, dog trainers, snowmobilers, and variety of others, in addition to the farmers who pay for their use of the fields. Although the land is open, birders should be very conscious of the fact that it is nonetheless private and that they must not drive across the hayfields or cornfields. The farm roads that cross the fields can be hazardous in wet weather, even for four-wheel-drive vehicles.

The most used access is the road that leaves River Street near Pratt Street and passes through a generally open metal gate, and thence south until it reaches an east-west dike road that stretches from Raven Brook to Bartlett Brook, forming the northern borders of the ponds created when a portion of the illegally drained swampland was restored.

About one-quarter mile south of River Street, a road forks left to the manure pit, an odiferous landmark which, when in active use, attracted flies, shorebirds, and birders in varying quantities. The weedy perimeter is still good for sparrows, but the pit is not what it once was for shorebirds, although it did attract the first locally recorded Black-necked Stilt in May 1995 and is always worth a look.

The north-south road south of the manure pit turnoff can be much muddier and more hazardous than the northern portion, but is definitely worth a walk to the ponds. As more birders explore the ponds, increasing numbers of uncommon birds are discovered: American Bittern, King Rail, Common Moorhen, Marsh Wren, and others. For an annotated list of all bird species known to have occurred on or over the fields, or in the woods immediately adjacent, see Table 1.

In recent months, new homes are being built around the perimeter, a change that will inevitably limit access, even on foot, to portions of the fields.

Summary

An unique ecological treasure, the Great Cedar Swamp, with all its specialized species and its tremendous floodwater storage capacity, is gone forever. Quite inadvertently, however, the grassland habitat created in its place is one fast disappearing from the region. Open fields in New England increased dramatically following European colonization. Eighty percent of New England

Table 1
Cumberland Fields Checklist

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Breeds?
Common Loon	R; OV				
Pied-billed Grebe			R		
Great Cormorant	R; OV				
Double-crested Cormorant	U		U		
American Bittern	O	O	O	R	?
Great Blue Heron	C	C	U	U	P
Great Egret		R	R		
Cattle Egret	R				
Green-backed Heron	O	O	O		
Black-crowned Night-Heron	O				
White Ibis	O				
Glossy Ibis	O	O			
Tundra Swan	R				
Mute Swan	O				
Snow Goose	R		O		
Canada Goose	C	C	C	O	Y
Wood Duck	C	U	O		Y
Green-winged Teal	C	R	U		
American Black Duck	A	U	C	U	Y
Mallard	A	U	C	U	Y
Northern Pintail	U		R	R	
Blue-winged Teal	C	O	O		P
Northern Shoveler	R				
Gadwall	O		O		
Eurasian Wigeon			R		
American Wigeon	U				
Ring-necked Duck	U			U	
Common Goldeneye		R	R		
Bufflehead	O				
Hooded Merganser	O				
Turkey Vulture	O	O	O	R	
Osprey	O		O		
Bald Eagle	R				
Northern Harrier	A	O	A	A	?
Sharp-shinned Hawk	O	R	O	O	
Cooper's Hawk	O	O	O	O	NB
Northern Goshawk	O	O	O	O	NB
Red-shouldered Hawk	O	O			NB
Broad-winged Hawk	R	R			
Swainson's Hawk			R		
Red-tailed Hawk	A	A	A	A	Y
Rough-legged Hawk	U		O	C	

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Breeds?
American Kestrel	A	A	A	U	Y
Merlin	O		O		
Peregrine Falcon	O		O		
Ring-necked Pheasant	U	U	U	O	Y
Ruffed Grouse	O	O	O	O	Y
Wild Turkey	R	R	R	R	?
Northern Bobwhite	U	U	O	O	Y
Yellow Rail	R		R		
King Rail	R	R	R		
Virginia Rail	O	O	O		?
Sora	O	O	O		?
Common Moorhen	R				
Sandhill Crane	R				
Black-bellied Plover		O	O		
Lesser Golden-Plover		R	R		
Semipalmated Plover		O	O		
Killdeer	A	A	C	R	Y
Black-necked Stilt	R				
Greater Yellowlegs	U	C	C		
Lesser Yellowlegs	U	C	C		
Solitary Sandpiper	U	C	U		
Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	U		Y
Upland Sandpiper	C	C	U		Y
Whimbrel			R		
Hudsonian Godwit			R		
Ruddy Turnstone		R	R		
Sanderling			R		
Semiplamated Sandpiper		U	U		
Western Sandpiper		O	O		
Least Sandpiper		C	C		
White-rumped Sandpiper	O		O		
Baird's Sandpiper			R		
Pectoral Sandpiper	U	U	U		
Dunlin			R		
Stilt Sandpiper			R		
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			R		
Ruff			R		
Short-billed Dowitcher		U	U		
Long-billed Dowitcher			R		
Common Snipe	C	R	O	R	?
American Woodcock	C	R	O		?
Wilson's Phalarope	R				
Ring-billed Gull	C		C	O	
Herring Gull	V		U	U	
Iceland Gull	R				
Lesser Black-backed Gull	R				

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Breeds?
Great Black-backed Gull	U		O	O	
Rock Dove	A	A	A	A	NB
Mourning Dove	A	A	A	C	Y
Black-billed Cuckoo	O	O			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		O			
Eastern Screech Owl	H	H		H	NB
Great Horned Owl	C; H		U; H	U; H	NB
Barred Owl			H	H	
Short-eared Owl	U		U	U	
Common Nighthawk	R	R			
Chimney Swift	U	C			
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	O		Y
Red-bellied Woodpecker	R				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			R		
Downy Woodpecker	A	A	A	A	Y
Hairy Woodpecker	O	O	O	O	?
Northern Flicker	A	A	A	U	Y
Pileated Woodpecker	R				
Alder Flycatcher	U				
Willow Flycatcher	U	U			Y
Eastern Phoebe	U	U	U		NB
Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U		NB
Western Kingbird			R		
Eastern Kingbird	C	A	U		Y
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher			R		
Horned Lark	C	R	C	C	Y
Purple Martin		R	U		
Tree Swallow	A	C	A		?
N. Rough-winged Swallow	U	O	U		?
Bank Swallow	U	U			?
Cliff Swallow	O		O		
Barn Swallow	A	A	A		NB
Blue Jay	A	A	A	A	NB
American Crow	A	A	A	A	NB
Fish Crow	O	O	O		
Black-capped Chickadee	A	A	A	A	?
Tufted Titmouse	A	A	A	A	?
Red-breasted Nuthatch				O	NB
White-breasted Nuthatch	O	O	O	O	NB
Brown Creeper				O	
Carolina Wren	U	U	U	U	NB
House Wren	U	U	U	R	NB
Winter Wren	R		R		
Marsh Wren	U	U	U	R	?
Golden-crowned Kinglet				O	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	O		O		

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Breeds?
Northern Wheatear	R				
Eastern Bluebird	U	U	U	O	?
Veery	U				
Wood Thrush		O			
American Robin	A	A	A	O	Y
Gray Catbird	A	A	C		Y
Northern Mockingbird	A	A	A	A	Y
Brown Thrasher	O	O	O		?
Water Pipit	C		C	O	
Bohemian Waxwing			R		
Cedar Waxwing	O	O	O	R	?
Northern Shrike	R		O	O	
Loggerhead Shrike				R	
European Starling	A	A	A	A	Y
Red-eyed Vireo	U	U			
Blue-winged Warbler	O				
Tennessee Warbler	R		R		
Yellow Warbler	A	A	C		Y
Yellow-rumped Warbler	U		C	O	
Black-thr'd Green Warbler			O		
Pine Warbler	O		O		
Palm Warbler	U		U	O	
Blackpoll Warbler			O		
Black-and-white Warbler	U				NB
American Redstart	O				
Northern Waterthrush	U	U			NB
Connecticut Warbler			R		
Mourning Warbler			R		
Common Yellowthroat	A	A	A		Y
Wilson's Warbler			R		
Northern Cardinal	A	A	A	A	Y
Blue Grosbeak			R		
Indigo Bunting		A	C		Y
Dickcissel			R		
Rufous-sided Towhee	C	C	C		NB
American Tree Sparrow	C		A	A	
Chipping Sparrow	C	U	C		NB
Clay-colored Sparrow	R		R	R	
Field Sparrow	C		C	U	
Vesper Sparrow	O		O	R	
Lark Sparrow			R		
Savannah Sparrow	A	A	A	C	Y
Grasshopper Sparrow	R			R	
LeConte's Sparrow	R				
Sharp-tailed Sparrow			R		
Fox Sparrow	O		O	O	

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Breeds?
Song Sparrow	A	A	A	C	Y
Lincoln's Sparrow	O		U		
Swamp Sparrow	C	U	C	O	Y
White-throated Sparrow	U	R	C	O	
White-crowned Sparrow	O		U	R	
Dark-eyed Junco	U		C	C	
Lapland Longspur	U		O	U	
Snow Bunting	O		O	O	
Bobolink	A	A	C		Y
Red-winged Blackbird	A	A	C	O	Y
Eastern Meadowlark	A	A	A	C	Y
Yellow-headed Blackbird	R				
Rusty Blackbird	U		U	R	
Common Grackle	A	A	C		Y
Brown-headed Cowbird	A	O	U	O	P
Orchard Oriole	R	R			
Northern Oriole	C	U	U		NB
Purple Finch	O		O	O	
House Finch	C	C	C	C	NB
Common Redpoll				O	
American Goldfinch	A	A	A	U	Y
Evening Grosbeak			O	O	
House Sparrow	A	A	A	A	NB

A=always recorded; C=usually recorded; U=sometimes recorded; O=seldom recorded; R=recorded less than annually; H=heard more often than seen; OV=ordinarily seen migrating overhead; P=presumptive; NB=nearby.

Table 2
Massachusetts Listed Species Recorded on Cumberland Fields

Species	Status	Species	Status
Spotted Turtle	SC	King Rail	T
Common Loon	SC	Upland Sandpiper	E
Pied-billed Grebe	T	Barn Owl	SC
American Bittern	SC	Short-eared Owl	E
Cooper's Hawk	SC	Long-eared Owl	SC
Sharp-shinned Hawk	SC	Loggerhead Shrike	E
Northern Harrier	T	Grasshopper Sparrow	SC
Bald Eagle	E*	Blackpoll Warbler	SC
Peregrine Falcon	E*	Mourning Warbler	SC
Common Moorhen	SC		

From Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

SC=special concern; T=threatened; E=endangered; *=federally listed.

had been cleared by 1850. Today, regenerating forest and a burgeoning human population are reclaiming open land. The Cumberland fields are now one of the most diverse of all the natural grasslands remaining in the Commonwealth (the others being managed are airport grasslands, which tend to be attractive to far fewer species). The Cumberland fields are also providing critical habitat for a variety of both state and federally listed species (Table 2). The potential occurrence of other threatened species is yet to be thoroughly investigated. More importantly, the likelihood for this habitat to disappear or become desecrated in the near future will be obvious to anyone who visits the area and looks carefully as they circumnavigate this 900-acre open area. Southeastern Massachusetts currently has the fastest growing human population in the state and is consequently rapidly losing habitat for all wildlife. Expanding rail lines and major highways will only increase this pressure on wildlife, and the fact that this huge and important grassland area, much of it still wetland, is not protected under its present ownership should be of concern to all who appreciate the values of rural landscape and the wild creatures to be found there.

References

- Anderson, K.S. 1955. Thompson Street Birding. *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Audubon Society*, XXXIX(2):55-58.
- Bird Observer. 1994. *A Birder's Guide to Eastern Massachusetts*. American Birding Association.
- Jorgensen, N. 1978. *A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide to Southern New England*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books.

KATHLEEN S. ANDERSON lives adjacent to the Cumberland Farm fields. Her ornithological career has included eleven years as ornithologist at the Encephalitis Field Station (established by the U.S. Public Health Service following the 1956 outbreak of eastern equine encephalitis in southeastern Massachusetts) and fifteen years as the founding director of the Manomet Bird Observatory. Kathleen was the first woman to serve as president of the Nuttall Ornithological Club and in 1995 received Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's prestigious Arthur A. Allen Award for her contributions in the field of ornithology.

THE IMPACT OF BIRD FEEDING ON WINTERING BIRDS

by Herb Wilson

There is no doubt that birdwatching has increased by leaps and bounds in the last twenty-five years. A recent study by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated that sixty-one million Americans engage in birdwatching. Although only a small percentage of these people are skilled observers, a large percentage feed the birds. Bird feeding accomplishes its primary objective to bring birds to the proximity of our houses and yards. However, you may not have wondered what impacts a feeder-dotted landscape has on birds. In this paper I will review the previous work on the impacts of bird feeding (or food supplementation) on birds. Then I will describe some recent work I have done in central Maine examining the interaction of bird feeding and habitat preferences of winter birds.

Birds in the winter often form mixed-species feeding flocks. Familiar flocks in New England are those composed of six-to-ten Black-capped Chickadees with one or two kinglets, nuthatches, or Downy Woodpeckers mixed in. Large flocks of northern finches also occur. This flocking behavior is thought to have two purposes: finding patchy food sources and detecting predators. Both advantages derive from the benefit of many eyes searching for food and detecting Sharp-shinned Hawks.

Experimental studies (Grubb 1987; Szekely et al. 1989) have shown that flock sizes tend to go down when supplemental food is provided. Because food is easier to find, there is no longer the need to have so many individuals searching for food. When food is easier to find, it is better to share with a few than with many. Also, because less time must be devoted to finding food, birds can be more vigilant in keeping an eye out for accipiters and other predators.

Provision of food can improve the physiological condition of birds. The evidence here comes from an interesting technique called *ptilochronology* (literally, the timing of feathers). By looking at feathers under magnification, one can see that there are daily growth bands, similar in general principle to the growth rings of trees. Grubb and Cimprich (1990) removed a tail feather from several species of winter birds in Ohio woodlands. Replacement of the tail feathers began immediately. Some of these birds had access to supplemental food, and others did not. By recapturing the birds and then measuring the growth marks on the replacement feathers, the authors could get an indirect measure of the health of the birds. Presumably, birds with better nutrition would have greater rates of feather regrowth. That is exactly what Grubb and Cimprich found. Their results suggest that even one bird feeder can make a difference.

Can supplemental food improve the survivorship of birds? Work done in Alberta (Desrochers et al. 1988), Wisconsin (Brittingham and Temple 1988,

1992), and in Pennsylvania (Egan and Brittingham 1990) showed rather dramatic increases in the winter survival of Black-capped Chickadees.

Some ornithologists believe that the prevalence of winter bird feeding in the northern states has resulted in a short-stopping of migrants, particularly the northern finches. The claim is that irruptive species such as Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, and Evening Grosbeak used to regularly migrate to the southeastern states during invasion years, presumably driven by failure of food crops in more northern areas. However, it is argued that those finches do not have to migrate so far south now because of the handouts from bird feeders in the north. This short-stopping hypothesis is an interesting one but needs to be studied more thoroughly before general acceptance will occur.

Although the short-stopping hypothesis is controversial, there is little doubt that bird feeding has allowed the northward range expansion of several passerine species. The Tufted Titmouse has clearly expanded its range in New England in association with bird feeding, which allows these birds to tolerate the winter environment and subsequent low food availability (Kricher 1981). The House Finch has also profited from bird feeding. In central Maine, House Finches are never found far from a feeder in winter. Carolina Wrens push northward into northern New England induced by winter feeding stations but often fail to survive harsh winters (Davis 1991). Northern Cardinals have expanded their range as well, aided no doubt by the largesse of bird feeders.

For the past few years, I have been studying the impacts of bird feeders on the local distributions of birds. The major question I am addressing is as follows: will birds switch from preferred habitats to nonpreferred habitats if food is provided in the nonpreferred habitat? In others, will birds change their habitat preferences in the presence of bird feeders?

During the winter of 1992-1993 I developed a survey route in the townships of Vassalboro and South China in central Maine. Modeling the route after a Breeding Bird Survey route, I established fifty survey stops, separated by at least 0.5 mile. Each stop was classified into one of four habitat types: deciduous forest, coniferous forest, agricultural, or edge (suburban environments, transitions between different habitats, windrows, fields succeeding to forest). I also noted the presence or absence of bird feeders at each station. There were nine agricultural stops, eighteen edge sites, nine deciduous forest sites, and fourteen coniferous forest sites. Seven of the eighteen edge sites had feeding stations (sunflower seeds and usually suet), which were kept supplied by the homeowners for the duration of the study.

Between December 11, 1992, and March 8, 1993, I ran the route ten times, beginning shortly after sunrise. At each stop I recorded all birds seen and heard in a 2.5-minute period and then drove to the next stop. I recorded twenty-eight species on the surveys, of which sixteen were common enough to analyze statistically. For each species I calculated the average number of birds seen per

stop in each habitat type. Using a statistical test called analysis of variance, I could determine whether there were significant differences in abundance among habitats for the sixteen species. I will report here on only five species. The complete data set is available in Wilson (1994).

Four of the species (Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Goldfinch, and House Finch) prefer edge habitats to the other three habitats (Table 1). Black-capped Chickadees are found less frequently in agricultural habitats but do not differ in abundance in the other three habitats. For these five species there are clear habitat preferences.

I next considered the impacts of the feeding stations along the route (only found in edge stations). For the five species in Table 1, I compared the abundance of birds in edge stations with feeders to the abundance in edge stations without feeders. The results of this analysis are shown in Table 2. The effects are striking with each species appearing in far greater numbers when feeders are present. Feeders do work in bringing birds close to houses.

From Table 1 the five bird species show clear habitat preferences. From Table 2 these birds are attracted by the presence of bird feeders. Is it possible that these two effects are interacting? To answer this question, I reanalyzed the habitat preference data after removing the seven edge stations where there were feeding stations. The new analysis then permits me to evaluate habitat preference in the absence of any bird feeding. The results of this habitat preference analysis are shown in Table 3. The data differ from Table 1 only in the reduced numbers of individuals seen in the edge habitats.

The results are surprising. For four of the five species, the habitat preferences changed markedly. Downy Woodpeckers which preferred edge habitats in the first analysis (Table 1) are now most common in deciduous habitats (Table 3). The presence of the bird feeders causes them to forsake their preferred habitat in the absence of food (deciduous forest) and adopt edge habitats where there is supplemental food. Blue Jays, American Goldfinches, and House Finches all showed preferences for edge habitats in the first analysis. When the effects of bird feeding are removed, there is no difference among the four habitat types (Table 3). Only Black-capped Chickadees had the same habitat rankings in the two analyses (Tables 1 and 3).

This study has shown that bird feeding can have strong influences on the habitat selection of wintering birds. Less preferred habitats with feeding stations may be chosen over more highly preferred habitats without supplemental food.

The impacts of bird feeding are clearly manifold, ranging from local effects (increased survivorship, increased nutritional status) to regional impacts (habitat preference switching) to continental influences (range extensions). Feeding stations are a part of the natural world now. We have just begun to understand the impacts of bird feeding.

Table 1. Species Abundance in Habitat Types

Species	Agricultural	Edge	Deciduous	Coniferous	Statistical Comparison
Downy Woodpecker	0 (0)	1.0 (0.09)	0.07 (0.08)	0 (0)	A=C=D<E
Blue Jay	0.12 (1.51)	0.43 (0.24)	0.15 (0.14)	0.16 (0.04)	A=D=C<E
Black-capped Chickadee	0.16 (0.18)	0.43 (0.29)	1.13 (0.46)	0.76 (0.36)	A<E=C=D
American Goldfinch	0 (0)	0.78 (0.61)	0.02 (0.05)	0 (0)	A=C=D<E
House Finch	0 (0)	0.52 (0.33)	0.01 (0.04)	0 (0)	C=A=D<E

The abundance values represent the average number of birds per stop in each habitat type. Numbers given in parentheses are standard deviations, a measure of the variation in abundance.

Symbols for the statistical comparison of means include: = indicates no statistical difference between habitats and < indicates a significantly low value of the left-hand habitat. The four habitats are referred to by the first letter of their name.

Table 2. Comparison of Species Abundance in Edge Habitat

Species	Feeders Present	No Feeders Present
Downy Woodpecker	0.33 (0.214)	0 (0)
Blue Jay	1.07 (0.587)	0.03 (0.043)
Black-capped Chickadee	1.03 (0.670)	0.46 (0.218)
American Goldfinch	1.92 (1.513)	0.06 (0.113)
House Finch	1.32 (0.817)	0.01 (0.032)

The means represent the average number of birds per stop. The numbers in parentheses are standard deviations. The differences between the two types of edge stops are statistically significant for all five species.

Table 3. Species Abundance in Habitats (Not Including Edge Stations with Feeders Present)

Species	Agricultural	Edge	Deciduous	Coniferous	Statistical Comparison
Downy Woodpecker	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.07 (0.08)	0 (0)	A=E=C<D
Blue Jay	0.12 (1.51)	0.03 (0.043)	0.15 (0.14)	0.16 (0.04)	A=E=D=C
Black-capped Chickadee	0.16 (0.18)	0.46 (0.218)	1.13 (0.46)	0.76 (0.36)	A<E=C=D
American Goldfinch	0 (0)	0.06 (0.113)	0.02 (0.05)	0 (0)	A=E=D=C
House Finch	0 (0)	0.01 (0.032)	0.01 (0.04)	0 (0)	A=E=D=C

Numbers given in parentheses are standard deviations, a measure of the variation in abundance. The statistical comparison of means is presented in the right column where = indicates no statistical difference between habitats and < represents a significantly low value of the left-hand habitat. The four habitats are referred to by the first letter of their name.

References

- Brittingham, M.C., and S.A. Temple. 1988. Impacts of Supplemental Feeding on Survival Rates of Black-capped Chickadees, *Ecology* 69:581-589.
- Brittingham, M.C., and S.A. Temple. 1992. Use of Winter Bird-feeders by Black-capped Chickadees, *Journal of Wildlife Management* 56:103-110.
- Davis, W.E., Jr. 1991. How do Carolina Wrens Survive New England Winters? *Bird Observer* 19:248-251.
- Desrochers, A., S.J. Hannon, and K.E. Nordin. 1988. Winter Survival and Territory Acquisition in a Northern Population of Black-capped Chickadees, *Auk* 105:727-736.
- Egan, E.S., and M.C. Brittingham. 1994. Winter Survival Rates of a Southern Population of Black-capped Chickadees, *Wilson Bulletin* 106:514-521.
- Grubb, T.C., Jr. 1987. Changes in the Flocking Behavior of Wintering English Titmice with Time, Weather, and Supplementary Food, *Animal Behavior* 35:794-806.
- Grubb, T.C., Jr., and D.A. Cimprich. 1990. Supplementary Food Improves the Nutritional Condition of Wintering Woodland Birds: Evidence from Ptilochronology, *Ornis Scandinavia* 21:277-281.
- Kricher, J.C. 1981. Range Expansion of the Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) in Massachusetts, *American Birds* 35:750-753.
- Szekely, T., T. Szep, and T. Juhasz. 1989. Mixed Species Flocking of Tits (*Parus* spp): A Field Experiment, *Oecologia* 78:490-495.
- Wilson, W.H., Jr. 1994. The Distribution of Wintering Birds in Central Maine: the Interactive Effects of Landscape and Bird Feeders, *Journal of Field Ornithology* 65:512-519.

HERB WILSON is an associate professor of biology at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. His current research projects include the foraging behavior of migratory sandpipers, the breeding biology of Palm Warblers and other peatland birds in central Maine, and the impact of bird feeders on winter bird distribution and abundance.

Bird Watcher's General Store

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

Come see this exceptional birdfeeder in action.



OTHER BIRD-LOVER ITEMS INCLUDE:

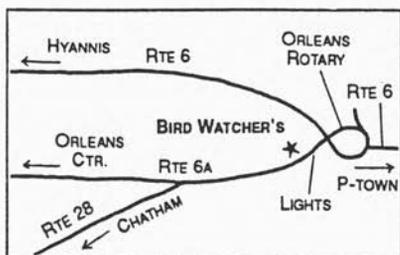
- Bird Mugs
- Bird Note Cards
- Bird Carvings
- Bird Field Guides
- Bird Books
- Bird Key Chains
- Bird Jewelry
- Bird Door Knockers
- Bird Telephone
- Bird Houses
- Bird Baths
- Bird Gift Wrap
- Bird T-Shirts
- Bird Photos
- Bird Prints
- Bird Calls
- Bird Recordings
- Bird Potholders
- Bird Towels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

• A complete line of **Binoculars, Spotting Scopes and Tripods**

• A children's section with **birdhouse kits, beginner books, and other fun and educational items**

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

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



Bird Watcher's General Store

36 Route 6A • Orleans, MA 02653

(508) 255-6974
or
1-800-562-1512

ON COLLECTING VAGRANTS

by John C. Kricher

Editor's Note. In the fall of 1994 two individuals engaged in a lengthy debate on *Birdchat* (Internet) regarding the merits of collecting vagrants as specimens. Both individuals cited an article by John C. Kricher that had appeared in *Bird Observer* in 1989. John's article was part of a "point/counterpoint" done with William E. Davis, Jr., on collecting birds. After learning about the *Birdchat* debate, John clarified his position on collecting vagrants to *Birdchat* subscribers. The following article is adapted from the original version sent to cyberspace.

I did the "point/counterpoint" article on the merits of vagrant collecting with my good friend, Ted Davis, who is also a professional ornithologist. The idea for the article began with a vagrant Hammond's Flycatcher that showed up some years ago around Christmas in a backyard in Wellesley, Massachusetts. The bird was netted and measured, then photographed and videotaped both in the hand and as a free bird. As best as I could learn, there was no disagreement as to its identity. A suggestion was nonetheless made that it be collected, but that was strongly opposed by the birders in whose yard it was residing and who originally discovered it. I don't believe it was ever collected. Ted and I both enjoyed seeing the bird, a life bird for each of us, and, as we were driving back from Wellesley, Ted said half-jokingly (and now that we each had seen it) that it "shoulda been collected." One thing led to another, and Ted and I decided to collaborate in a good-natured way on an article for *Bird Observer* in which each of us would take strong opposing positions, in his case pro-collecting, in my case anti-collecting. What resulted was an article that argued well for the merits of vagrant collecting and, I'd like to think, for the merits of not collecting vagrants. Ted and I presented the issues as we saw them and left it to our readers to decide. Ted is much more strongly in favor of collecting vagrants than am I, so our positions were essentially true to our personal beliefs. Our positions were deliberately stated in strong terms since we were formulating our arguments as a point/counterpoint presentation.

I used several examples from Ted's own published research to suggest that observation can be at least as useful as specimen collection in gaining information about a bird (vagrant or not). Admittedly, this was a debating technique on my part, and both Ted and I had a few chuckles about it when we read each other's article. But it was also my attempt to demonstrate that scientific interests and birding interests can both be served when a vagrant as unusual as a Western Reef Heron (one of the cases I discussed) appears (in this case, in Massachusetts). In the *Birdchat* debate, it was suggested that I was

apparently unaware of the additional knowledge that could have been gained if the bird had been taken for museum study and that I created a false dichotomy of "shoot or observe." But there is a difference between knowing that additional knowledge can be gained and deciding to gain it. It is intellectually possible that someone may, indeed, realize that by not collecting a vagrant, some information about it is forever lost, but nonetheless still choose not to collect the bird. Decisions over the worth of behavioral observations versus specimen data are a matter of varying opinion and varying interest within the ornithological community. Deciding not to take a specimen does not necessarily make one ignorant of the value of specimen data. I regularly attend ornithology meetings, and I know that many other ornithologists harbor serious doubts about the necessity and worth of collecting vagrants, which is probably one of the reasons that it is not done frequently in most states. One ornithologist has suggested that it would be useful at some future meeting to hold a symposium on the subject of specimen collection because it has become a moral dilemma for many of us.

One of the debaters on *Birdchat* seemed most disturbed by what he perceived to be my "animal rights" advocacy, a position he apparently equated with inappropriate emotionalism. Animal rights is a contextual issue for me as it is, I believe, for society in general. I really fail to see how it can be otherwise. As humans we make reasoned judgments. It's acceptable to enjoy watching Tree Swallows feeding over a marsh and still swat the mosquitos that are sucking on your arm (even allowing for the fact that the swallows now have "less available food" since you just killed some of it). Although you may kill dozens of mosquitos, you would never conceive of gunning down the swallows. Why? Swallows are beautiful to watch, you derive pleasure from watching them, they do you no harm, and they are not irritating. Mosquitos fail that test, so most of us swat them. Various animals are given a broad diversity of rights in the form of protections under the laws of this nation. Endangered species have the right to persist and be free of harm, including harm to their habitats, under the Endangered Species Act. Migratory birds are all protected from deliberate harm under the Migratory Bird Act. Numerous anticruelty laws protect pets and other domestic animals from abuse. Treatment of most laboratory animals is strongly regulated at both state and federal levels. The collection of bird specimens (as well as the salvage of deceased birds) is very strongly regulated, as it constitutes, for the most part, an exception to the general laws that is uniquely granted to scientists. What are these laws, if they are not to do with animal rights? I asked rhetorically at the close of my brief point/counterpoint piece what right the vagrant bird has to its life? My "default position" is that, unless there is a reason of overwhelming scientific importance, the bird should be permitted to live. Why do I think this?

Western culture is inculcated with the belief that humans are profoundly different from everything else, the classic Judeo-Christian dualism between

humans and nature that Descartes so clearly articulated as a model for scientific experimentation. The Cartesian view, utterly lacking in emotion, was that it is not objectionable to vivisect animals because as nonhumans they are devoid of souls. True, they may feel pain and react accordingly, but lacking a soul means they cannot, by definition, suffer, and as such justifies their use as mere objects for purposes of research, no matter what the consequences to them. In this view of ethics, animals are entitled to no protection whatsoever. But if there was ever a false dichotomy, this was it. Fortunately, the Cartesian philosophy is largely eroded, even in a strictly scientific sense, if one accepts Darwin's view of evolution as being a process of common genetic descent among all life forms. In my opinion, Darwinian evolution, when placed in a philosophical context, is the closest that Western culture has come to achieving an intellectually robust philosophy in which nonhuman creatures can be seen to have worth apart from mere pragmatic use (e.g., for food, fiber, scientific knowledge). But a Darwinian-based philosophy does not preclude such use. It becomes a matter of judgment.

Darwinian evolution, in a philosophical as well as scientific context, forms the basis for my view of nature. Thus I fully understand the reality of statistics about how many thousands of birds perish daily from various causes (compared with the admittedly trivial loss to scientific collecting, and collecting of vagrants in particular). I fully understand that in nature, for one animal to have life, it must take life. I know the difference between populations and individuals, and I know that populations evolve because individuals die nonrandomly. But it makes no more sense to me to say that I should not bother over the collection of a vagrant bird because thousands of birds are dying daily than to say I should not care about a dog wandering precariously in traffic because thousands of dogs die of various causes on a daily basis.

It may be correct to say that many vagrant birds are somehow physiologically flawed, although I could not accept an implication that vagrants are less healthy than nonvagrants unless supported by data showing that nonvagrant individuals in a given area are, indeed, significantly more healthy. I am fully prepared to grant that many, if not most vagrants, may well not survive their vagrancy to reproduce, and thus they are losers in the struggle for existence. So why not collect them?

For me it is both possible to understand nature as a ecological struggle and evolutionary process and yet to empathize, as a human, with various of its component individuals. Again, it is contextual. I shed no tears for Salmonella or the HIV virus. As a scientist who appreciates the immense complexity of evolutionary ecology and fully understands how much work goes into understanding nature, I have no problem with the knowledge that several pitohuis were collected from a New Guinea rain forest to establish that their plumage contains batrachotoxins. But I nonetheless may also feel emotionally

based regret at the collection of a wayward Hammond's Flycatcher that I have just enjoyed watching and, yes, adding to my list. This is, in part, an admittedly sentimental argument, but emotions evolved as well as reasoning power, and I have no problem acknowledging that my total intellect comprises in part emotional factors. I think that aesthetic arguments bear strongly on questions of biodiversity.

The line between birds as populations ("with rights," the pro-collection advocate might argue) and birds as individuals ("without rights," the pro-collection advocate might argue) becomes cloudy, for instance, when endangered species are considered. What is the worth of a single Northern Spotted Owl? Suppose that one were found as a vagrant, well beyond its normal range? Why, in fact, do we want to protect endangered species, whose numbers are often so precariously low that most evolutionists would predict rapid extinction for the species unless intervention occurs? What is really the issue? I know of no scientific data that show an unequivocal pragmatic argument that would support the preservation of the Northern Spotted Owl in Pacific old growth forests. When I argue for such preservation, most of my emphasis is on a vague but nonetheless real concept of the intrinsic worth of the creature, as well as the ecosystem itself, a worth that is determined, at least for me, by aesthetics as well as ecological understanding (although of course I also discuss the value of taxol, the powerful anticancer drug derived from the Pacific Yew—pragmatism and aesthetics are strong allies, not opponents in the argument for preserving biodiversity). Nature is, I suspect for most of us who revel in it, seen as an art form at least as much as a laboratory.

For me, vagrants are, by definition, individuals, not populations. In a microcosmic way, they are "endangered species" of a sort. They represent special cases, where something well out of the ordinary has appeared, and they engender a particular aesthetic satisfaction for those of us who seek them out. In exchange, I am willing to concede to them the right to exist. I am not so cynical as to think most birders care only for adding another tick. I know many birders, and I could not name one whose only interest in seeing a vagrant is merely in adding another notch to the list. It is understandably hard to see such a creature, enjoy watching it, and yet, in the end, take its life (or know that it was "sacrificed" for science).

Therefore, I have no interest whatsoever in collecting vagrants. I subscribe to each of the major North American ornithological journals, and papers on vagrants, if they appear at all, are at most brief notes, and there are few of these. I really think most ornithologists have very little interest in collecting vagrants. Further, I think biodiversity, environmental ethics, and conservation interests are better served by leaving them alone. In the end, I think that it is the collecting advocate who really creates the false dichotomy ("emotional versus rational"), indicting those of us who admit to an emotional feeling for the organism, a

feeling that colors our decisions regarding vagrant collecting, as somehow inappropriately unsympathetic and ignorant of science and conservation. Consider that it actually may be just the opposite.

I applaud the birders who denied permission to collect the Hammond's Flycatcher. Yes, it got cold after Christmas that year, and the bird may well have perished. But, I'm still glad that it was not collected, an opinion that is both my emotional feeling and my rational belief as an ornithologist and conservation biologist.

Reference

Davis, W.E., Jr., and J.C. Kricher. 1989. On Collection: Points of View. *Bird Observer* 17(1):15.

JOHN C. KRICHER is department head for feature articles for *Bird Observer*. He is professor of biology at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts. John's revision of *A Neotropical Companion* is due for publication in 1997.

**FREE wild bird watering
tips pamphlet,
Happy Bird,
Box 86, Weston, MA
02193, Manufacturer
of Solar Sipper,
1-617-899-7804**

THE IDENTIFICATION GUIDE SERIES: AN OVERVIEW

by Mark Lynch

The series of birding books known as the Helm Series of International Bird Guides (more commonly called the Identification Guide Series) has been with us since the publication of the first volume, *Seabirds: An Identification Guide* (Harrison 1983). As of January 10, 1996, ten titles are in the series, and more are on the way. The idea behind this series has been to take a group, family, or conceptual entity of birds and create a guide that would picture in color every one of the species in that group combined with the latest information on details of plumage, status, range, migration, and movements. There is little doubt that this publishing endeavor ranks as one of the most ambitious in ornithology, and many of the books are now found on the shelves of serious birders throughout the world.

These books fit into an interesting niche between what we know as "field guides" and the larger and heavier monographs. Books that focus on one order, family, or group of birds are nothing new, but many of these books are coffee table size and pricey enough to put them beyond the consideration of many birders. Examples of birding books of this type would be the recent *Storks, Ibises, and Spoonbills of the World* (Hancock et al. 1992) and the classic *Parrots of the World* (Forshaw and Cooper 1973). The latter book in its original printing is large enough to stun an ox, and I find it very difficult to read comfortably. Although books of this type contain beautiful plates and a lot of important written information on species, their sheer size prevents them from being easily used as a reference book.

Since 1978, when the first volume of *The Birds of the Western Palearctic: Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa* (Cramp 1977) appeared, a new class of "super series" has developed. These extend the traditional handbooks of individual countries to vastly broader geographical areas and are characterized by exceptionally comprehensive and scholarly coverage of individual species as well as general characteristics of families and orders and information about regional ecology and conservation. Two additional "super series" are currently in process: *The Birds of South America* (Ridgely and Tudor 1989) and the staggeringly complete *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (Lynx Editions, Bird life International). The depth of the *Birds of the Western Palearctic* and *Handbook of the Birds of the World* series are such that they involved the work of teams of ornithologists. Not surprisingly, these volumes are also characterized by high prices.

On the other hand, small format field guides can contain only a limited amount of written information about species and usually focus on a limited geographical area. Books in the Helm Identification Guide Series and the new

Pica Press Guides therefore offer an interesting alternative to volumes of the super series and field guides. Although more expensive than a traditional field guide, these identification guides are still inexpensive enough that many birders would consider purchasing them. Each book begins with a written introduction to the family or group of birds, followed by a section of plates opposite species names with some concise identification information. Approximately the last half of each identification guide comprises detailed species descriptions. The size of each volume, although often hefty, is still of normal book size, but not small enough to be a field guide. Some of the more popular titles are available in paperback versions.

The size of these books makes them easy to read and use as reference books and some, particularly the paperback versions, can actually be used in the field. Although the Helm Series and the Pica Press Series cannot offer huge sumptuous plates of only a few species per page, they still offer high quality color plates of the majority of the species. The written information is far more detailed than a field guide but may fall short of some of the better coffee table books. Only a few previous books have taken this unique middle ground approach in layout, most notably *The Herons Handbook* (Hancock and Kushlan 1984).

A fair question to ask is "how are these books used?" It is safe to say that the birder/ornithologist of the world is a large target audience for these guides. If you have ever traveled to another country, you know the frustration of using inadequate field guides, if in fact there are any field guides to your chosen destination. Many species in every title in this series have never adequately been illustrated or described before. The written details of plumage, movements, calls, and behavior are far more complete than any field guide could possibly offer. You may not bring the book with you on the trip, but pre-travel research using guides like the ones in this article are often very useful.

Even if you never leave the borders of the state, several volumes in the series are basic and important identification reference works to species of our area. The introductory overview chapters of many of the volumes give the reader a real understanding of the evolution, taxonomy, behavior, and conservation of those species. You also cannot overlook the pleasures of "armchair birding," and the Helm and Pica guide series offer numerous pleasures of bizarre and exotic species to dream about. Lastly, many birders are also passionate ornithobibliophiles, and the books in these series are quality publications worthy of collecting.

American birders may not be aware of all the titles in the series. This is because the series originates in Britain, and not all volumes have been available in the United States from the same publisher. Indeed, the British publishers have gone through several incarnations, tracing originally to the peripatetic Christopher Helm, ornitho-entrepreneur extraordinaire. Because the intent and

format is similar across all ten volumes in both series, these books are often colloquially known as the Helm Series. In America, Houghton Mifflin has been the distributor for many, but not all, of the titles.

Students have asked me which titles are more important to own. Some are more useful to general North American birders than others. Three of the most helpful are reviewed below.

The Helm Identification Guide Series

Seabirds: An Identification Guide (Harrison 1983). This book caused quite a sensation when it was released. Many of the pelagic species had never before been adequately pictured and described. The written descriptions in this book are full of information on the movements and habits of species most birders have little experience with. It is the perfect book for a long pelagic trip.

Critically looking at this book years later compared with other volumes in the series, one problem that becomes obvious is the broad scope of the species for consideration. By "seabirds," Harrison means all penguins, cormorants, gulls, terns, alcids, tubenoses, albatrosses, petrels, shearwaters, boobies, loons, and grebes. He even includes a few species of sea ducks for good measure. There are just too many species to treat them completely. Consequently some of the plates do not show all the plumages that would be useful to know. This is especially true of the gulls. The quality of the illustrations is also the weakest of the series, with some birds appearing stiff and unnatural. Many of the plates are crowded, creating problems for the birder using this as a field guide. Examples of overcrowded plates can be seen in Plate 43 (boobies) and Plate 54 (skuas/jaegers). The distribution maps, which in most volumes in the series are opposite the plates or in the species accounts, in *Seabirds* are at the end of the book, as in a Peterson guide.

The introductory chapters are minimal compared with other books in the series and consist of a "how to use this guide" section, a glossary of terms, and a short overview and introduction to the different groups of birds discussed in the text. The species accounts are broken into subsections with confusing acronym headings: FHJ (for flight, habits, jizz); SS (for similar species); and DM (for distribution and migration). I can only conclude that these abbreviations were used to save space.

A problem with books of this type, and especially dealing with sea birds, can be out-of-date information. Picking up the newly updated *Collins Pocket Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe with North Africa and the Middle East* (1995), you will find several species not listed as such in Harrison's index: Zino's Petrel, Fea's Petrel, Levantine Shearwater, Balearic Shearwater, Yellow-legged Gull, and Armenian Gull. I am happy to report, however, that except for the Armenian Gull, all these newly split species are mentioned in the text of *Seabirds* as distinct subspecies, and some are even illustrated. So for the most

part, this guide is far from being outdated.

This book remains a classic and a basic reference book for anyone who does any type of ocean birding, whether from the heaving deck of a ship or from the warm security of your car during a nor'easter. Certainly, the sections on gulls and terns can be supplemented with other, newer books, such as the excellent *Terns of Europe and North America* by Malling and Larsson, or *Gulls: A Guide to Identification* (Grant 1984). *Seabirds* is available in paperback, and I have on several occasions carried this abroad and used it as a field guide.

A book that may be more convenient to use as a field guide is *A Field Guide to Seabirds of the World* (Harrison 1987). This compact paperback guide uses photographs to illustrate the species, and the concise text focuses only on key identification points. However, because of the constraints of space, far fewer plumages of species are shown than in *Seabirds*, and some of the photographs are of poor quality. A useful section at the back contains good comparison charts of tough-to-identify tubenoses.

Shorebirds (Hayman et al. 1986). This volume was eagerly awaited by some as perhaps the birding equivalent of the Rosetta Stone that would finally decipher every field problem that shorebirds present around the world. Although it falls somewhat short of that unrealistic expectation, this is still one of the most important books published on shorebirds in quite some time (see review by B. Nikula, 1986, *Bird Observer* 14(5):244-246).

The overall design of the book varies from its predecessor in placing the maps conveniently opposite the plates. Color maps show the breeding, nonbreeding, and migration distribution of each of the 214 species included in the text. Gone are the confusing acronym subheadings under the species descriptions. The look of the eighty-eight color plates by Hayman are cleaner and brighter with bits of background included with the birds. The overall quality of the artwork is much improved over *Seabirds*. The species descriptions also are more complete and detailed. Subheadings under species write-ups include identification, voice, habits, movements, description (a much more detailed write-up than "identification"), age, sex, races, measurements, and references. The introductory chapters have been expanded and include sections on "how to use this book," "how to identify waders," "conservation of wader habitat and species," and "how to study waders." Other features include two special plates of *Calidrid* identification in adult and juvenile plumages.

At the back of the book are a series of comparison charts for tough-to-identify groups of species. Although most of these will be of little use to the birder who never leaves North America (e.g., the larger African snipes), several of these identification summaries concern problems you can come across commonly during shorebird migration in Massachusetts. These would include the identification of dowitcher species and the dark-legged stints. The chart on the separation of the three species of Golden Plover should be memorized by

every serious birder because you just know eventually a Pacific or Greater Golden Plover is going to show up here (I just hope I am not the one who has to do the write-up!).

All that said, this book is not without some shortcomings. Many of the plates are very crowded making practical use of them difficult. It almost seems that the artist wanted to fill every small space on the page with a drawing, so each page is filled with tiny pictures of the species surrounding the main illustrations. The overall effect is to overwhelm the reader with too much visual information. Although the quality of the artwork is very good, it is not on the level of some of the master shorebird illustrators such as Lars Johnsson. This is probably an unrealistic expectation for a book of this type.

The most consistent problem with this book is no fault of the book, per se, but of the expectations of the people who buy it. Many birders have difficulty with the field identification of shorebirds. Many have bought *Shorebirds* thinking at last all will be revealed in simple terms easily applicable on the next birding trip. They are soon disappointed to learn that most of the 214 bird species of the world pictured in *Shorebirds* do not occur in Massachusetts. They are also confounded by the very detailed and lengthy plumage descriptions. Finally the grim realization comes that getting good at shorebird identification takes a lot of study, work, and field time. For beginning birders, *Shorebirds* is not the book to start working out the common problems of identification of this complex group. A more practical book for everyday use is one of the popular field guides, *Facts on File Guide to North Atlantic Shorebirds* (Chandler 1989), or *Photographic Guide to the Shorebirds of the World* (Rosaid and Cottridge 1995). The latter book is not a field guide because of its large, although thin, format size. It is very interesting and useful to compare the photos in this book with the plates in *Shorebirds*.

Minor quibbles aside, *Shorebirds* remains an important classic reference book *cum* field guide for the serious birder who has already tackled the basics of shorebird identification. I use this book often both at home and, to a lesser extent, in the field. I will commonly note some unexpected detail of plumage or behavior in the field and later reach for this book at home. This is not a bad book to bring on trips to Plum Island or Cape Cod during the migration season, although it is a bit hefty to lug around all day on a hike to Monomoy. I regularly take this book on out-of-country birding trips because if there is one group of birds that most foreign field guides do a poor job of illustrating, it is certainly shorebirds.

Waterfowl (*Wildfowl* in Britain) (Madge and Burn 1988). Although waterfowl seem like a good choice for a volume in the Helm Identification Guide Series, many birders are not as familiar with this title as the previously mentioned books. Perhaps it is because waterfowl are often well-covered in popular field guides or perhaps ducks and geese do not seem as daunting in the

field as shorebirds. This is a shame because this is a good guide.

All 155 species of ducks, swans, and geese are covered in the forty-eight color plates. The format follows that of *Shorebirds*. The text follows a recent classification review. Species are listed under both their English and American names (e.g., Long-tailed Duck or Oldsquaw). Subheadings under species accounts include field identification, voice, description, measurements, geographical variation, habits, habitat, distribution, population, and references. The text is outstanding in its depth of discussion of plumage and separating similar species. Particularly enlightening is the extensive discussion of the identification of ducks of the genus *Tachyeres*, the so-called Steamer Ducks. These ducks present one of the greatest field challenges for an unwary birder, and *Waterfowl* clearly presents the identification points for telling these ducks apart (when possible). On a less exotic note, the discussion of the separation of Greater from Lesser Scaup is likewise excellent.

The plates fortunately are far less crowded than in the previous two books. The artwork, although a little stiff, is very good. The number of different plumages shown of North American waterfowl is only a little better than what one finds in, say, the *National Geographic Guide*. The only real complaint I have is that on some pages of plates, the name of a species is not opposite the illustration of that species. This may seem a minor quibble, but I do not understand why either the listing of the species on the text side or the illustrations themselves could not have been reordered because it is visually confusing. A number of black-and-white illustrations scattered among the text show fine points of separating similar species (e.g., typical head patterns and shapes of female teals).

I have used this as a field guide abroad and found it very useful in places like Argentina and Australia. In Massachusetts I use *Waterfowl* mostly as a home reference book. A typical problem on the homefront would be to check the fine identification points of separating female Eurasian Wigeon from their American Wigeon counterparts.

Perhaps because, as a group, ducks and geese do not present the kinds of identification challenges that shorebirds do, *Waterfowl* has not reached the cult status of *Shorebirds*. Still, *Waterfowl* is a useful reference book to have and necessary if you are traveling to areas with many species of unfamiliar ducks and geese.

References

- Chandler, R.J. 1989. *The Facts on File Field Guide to North Atlantic Shorebirds*. New York: Facts on File.
- Cramp, S. (chief editor). 1978. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic: Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa: Volume I: Ostrich to Ducks*. Oxford: Oxford Press.
- Forshaw, J.M., and W.R. Cooper. 1973. *Parrots of the World*. New York: Doubleday.

- Grant, P.J. 1986. *Gulls: A Guide to Identification* (second edition). Vermillion, SD: Buteo Books.
- Hancock, J., and J. Kushlan. 1984. *The Herons Handbook*. New York: Harper and Row.
- Hancock, J., J.A. Kushlan, and M.P. Kahl. 1992. *Storks, Ibises, and Spoonbills of the World*. London: Academic Press.
- Harrison, P. 1983. *Seabirds: An Identification Guide*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Harrison, P. 1987. *A Field Guide to the Seabirds of the World*. Lexington, MA: Stephen Greene Press.
- Hayman, P., J. Marchant, and T. Prater. 1986. *Shorebirds: An Identification Guide*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Madge, S., and H. Burn. 1988. *Waterfowl: Identification Guide to the Ducks, Geese, and Swans of the World*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Olsen, K.M., and H. Larsson. 1995. *Terns of Europe and North America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Ridgely, R., and G. Tudor. 1989. *The Birds of South America, The Oscine Passerines*. Austin: University of Texas Press.
- Rosaid, D., and D. Cottridge. 1995. *Photographic Guide to the Shorebirds of the World*. New York: Facts on File.
- Sibley, C.G., and J.E. Ahlquist. 1990. *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Sibley, C.G., and B.L. Monroe. 1990. *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Summers-Smith, J.D. 1988. *The Sparrows*. London: T & AD Pysers.
- Summers-Smith, J.D. 1992. *In Search of Sparrows*. London: T & AD Poyser.

MARK LYNCH is a teacher and ecological monitor at the Broad Meadow Brook Massachusetts Audubon Society sanctuary in Worcester, Massachusetts. He is also a docent and teacher at the Worcester Art Museum and hosts "Inquiry," a radio show of the arts and sciences on WICN. The author would like to thank Harry Foster of Houghton Mifflin for his help in preparing this article.

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

**GTShop
 Inc.**
 (617) 923-0941

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

106 Pleasant Street
 Watertown Square

Formerly Coop Garage

FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE _____

Cooper's Hawk and Great Horned Owl Encounter

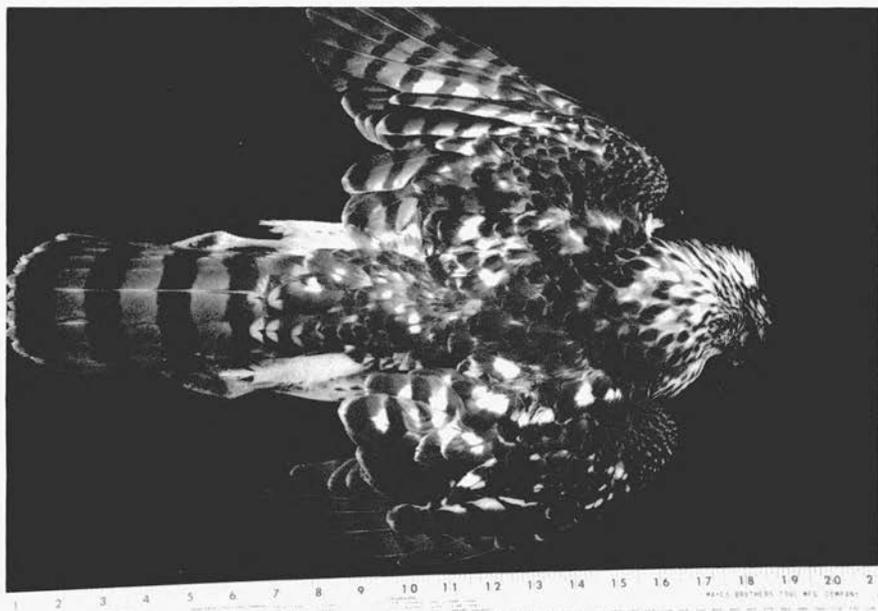
On the morning of March 8, 1995, at 8:00 AM, Paul Ricard saw a female Cooper's Hawk rise up from the forest floor to a dead snag about thirty feet away along the North Link Trail at Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Worcester with a vole or mouse, which it began to eat. Paul was keenly interested in such an observation opportunity. The hawk was well lit by the morning sun at the top of a twenty-five-foot snag. It made a beautiful sight through his 7x35 binoculars.

Until the winter of 1994-1995 Cooper's Hawk had only been seen at the sanctuary as solitary individuals on a single-day basis. In November 1994 a pair of adult Cooper's Hawks took up winter residence at Broad Meadow Brook, attracted to a roost of starlings, blackbirds, and grackles, which sometimes totaled 15,000 individuals. The absence of the usual yearly fire in the phragmites had left about fifteen acres of common reed standing. Two Cooper's Hawks and a Merlin were seen harassing the birds of this reed marsh roost at dawn during the Worcester Christmas Bird Count on December 18. At 1:00 that afternoon they were seen patrolling the east edge of the sanctuary, evidently scrutinizing feeder stations. On January 17 a Cooper's Hawk was seen perched in a tree by Massasoit Road, immediately to the east of the earlier observations. No further observations were made until March 8.

Paul quietly observed the Cooper's Hawk feeding on its prey for about three minutes. The Cooper's Hawk then flew away from Paul into an isolated row of conifers at the junction of the North Link and Brookside trails. Paul backtracked for a closer look. A commotion of flapping wings ensued, but no bird emerged. He used his binoculars to look about two-thirds of the way up the trunk, where he was astounded to see a Great Horned Owl looking directly down at him with the Cooper's Hawk in its talons. Needless to say at this point, Paul realized that he had been party to one of those outstanding wildlife events that few ever see. After a few moments the owl flew, dropped the dead hawk at Paul's feet, and continued toward the northwest. It flew across the Wet Meadow to a wooded area, where it was mobbed by several dozen vociferous crows.

Upon completing his morning circuit, Paul stopped at the same spot and once again flushed a Great Horned Owl from the tree. On the morning of March 11 at 11:00 AM Paul and Maynard Rinker saw the owl calling repeatedly. At 1:00 PM on March 11 Peter Whitney flushed an owl from the same location.

The remains of the Cooper's Hawk provided an interesting study in accipiter identification for volunteer monitors and students in Mark Lynch's "Massachusetts Birds" class. The overall brown body measured seventeen inches from tip to tail, with a thirty-inch wingspread. The tail was heavily worn,



Cooper's Hawk

reducing the white stripe at the tip and giving it the squarish appearance of a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Compared with a Sharpshin, the head was large in relation to the body. The feathers on the back of the head and back were markedly edged with white. No white eye line was present. Thin teardrop-shaped streaking was found on the breast, fading to a very fine streaking on the belly, which would look white from a distance. The absence of a white eye line and the breast streaking indicated that this bird was a juvenile, unlike the mature birds that had been observed earlier exploiting the phragmites roost. You never know what you will experience on a morning jaunt in the Worcester woods.

Christopher Phillips and Paul Ricard

Fall Shorebird Migration in Central Massachusetts

Drought conditions in 1995 produced excellent habitat for fall shorebird migration at Quinapoxet Reservoir in Princeton and Holden, Massachusetts. Quinapoxet is the first of a series of connected reservoirs serving Worcester. It is not open to public access, but I received a license from city officials to monitor the area. I counted shorebirds at this site on thirty-two days from July 16 through October 15. Water levels were falling on my first visit and continued to fall until the first week in October. At the lowest water level, there were about 200 meters of mudflats at the north end of the reservoir, where I found most shorebirds. By October 20 water levels had risen to cover these mudflats.

The table presents the high day counts for each week for the eighteen shorebird species recorded. These are my own observations except for the Buff-breasted Sandpiper observed by Barton Kamp. Over the past twenty-five years, an average of 19.2 shorebird species have been reported in all of Worcester County (*The Chickadee*). Finding eighteen species in one year at a single site is significant. Maximum shorebird numbers occurred the last week of August. The season high counts for seven species were during this week. On August 24 the count totaled 260 individuals. Another highlight of the week was watching a group of seven Baird's Sandpipers.

Robert C. Bradbury, Worcester, Massachusetts



Baird's Sandpiper
September 1995

Photo by Robert C. Bradbury

Quinapoxet Reservoir Shorebirds

Species	7C	7D	8A	8B	8C	8D	9A	9B	9C	9D	10A	12B
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
American Golden Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Semipalmated Plover	-	-	1	1	7	17	19	16	1	-	-	-
Killdeer	9	28	37	40	40	58	41	15	17	15	7	8
Greater Yellowlegs	-	4	7	3	3	5	8	5	9	5	2	4
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	2	2	3	3	10	2	5	9	3	4	-
Solitary Sandpiper	3	11	8	9	11	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spotted Sandpiper	2	9	17	17	25	22	4	2	2	-	2	-
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Semip'd Sandpiper	-	1	1	4	23	36	21	7	1	-	-	-
Least Sandpiper	7	28	39	60	105	121	32	16	6	6	4	2
White-rump'd Sandpiper	-	-	1	-	-	7	3	2	-	-	-	-
Baird's Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	1	7	-	1	1	-	-	-
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	1	-	-	3	4	-	-	7	-	-
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Stilt Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Snipe	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Months are indicated by number and weeks of the month are indicated by letter (e.g., 7C is the third week of July).

BIRD SIGHTINGS

SEPTEMBER 1995

SUMMARY



by Richard A. Forster, Marjorie W. Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist

The first half of September was very dry, sunny, and above-normal temperatures, while the last half of the month was cold, wet, and cloudy. The highest temperature reached 89° in Boston on the first; the low was 46° on September 24, 29, and 30. Rainfall totaled 3.60 inches, just 0.54 inch above normal. September was the first wetter-than-normal month since January. On September 17 a very heavy rain brought much relief from the extended drought. Through September, the year's accumulation was still 9.63 inches below normal. No thunderstorms were heard, and no heavy fog was reported. Winds were out of the northwest on September 10, 13, 14, 22, 23, and 28.

R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

During September, the majority of pelagic birds—shearwaters and storm-petrels—were recorded on a single trip to Cashes Ledge, with typical species in expected numbers. The most interesting report was of four Northern Fulmars on Stellwagen Bank on September 30. This relatively large count on an early date at inshore waters might signal a better-than-average appearance for this scarce species later in the season. It is encouraging to receive fairly widespread reports of American Bittern, while the sole report of Least Bittern was from a non-traditional location. The balance of the heron reports were relatively routine with the possible exception of three immature Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Yarmouthport.

Two sightings of Snow Geese in midmonth were decidedly early, and a widespread movement later in the month on the 29th was slightly early. Waterfowl reports presented no surprises. In general both teal species were reported in better-than-average numbers. One wonders whether the good numbers of Green-winged Teal represent the same individuals that are present in November, or whether there is a general turnover throughout the fall. The Eurasian Wigeon at Marstons Mills was early and was a seldom-reported female or immature. The hawk migration was also disappointing. The highlight was a **Black Vulture** in Leominster on the 10th. The peak count of Broad-winged Hawks at Mt. Wachusett was only slightly less than 5000 on September 15, and the season total was only slightly above 10,000 individuals. Most other hawk reports were not unusual, but Cooper's Hawk continues to be reported from widespread locales in increasing numbers. Northern Goshawks were also better reported than usual, suggesting that they might be more common than usual this winter.

A Clapper Rail at Plum Island likely represented one of the birds present there this spring. Following a spring and summer with very few reports, Soras were widely reported although most records were of single birds. Shorebird reports were fairly typical, with peak counts reported from the North Monomoy/South Beach area of Chatham. American Golden-Plover were less common than usual. In general Western Sandpipers were well reported, with several inland reports. Fewer Baird's and Buff-breasted sandpipers were reported than usual, with most individuals appearing during the optimum period during the first week. Pectoral Sandpipers were relatively few, and there was a scattering of Stilt Sandpipers. Both Red and Red-necked phalaropes were sparsely reported offshore.

Reports of Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers fell neatly into their expected areas with Pomarines in offshore waters and Parasitics in nearshore waters. Only two Little Gulls were reported. As usual Lesser Black-backed Gulls appeared during the month and included a seasonally unusual inland report. One observer reported a Lesser Black-backed Gull of the race *L.f. intermedius* in Lynn, in addition to two individuals of the more common *L.f. graellsii* race. (See the October 1995 issue of *Birding* which contains an article on the races of Lesser Black-backed Gulls and their identification.) Two **Sabine's Gulls**, one reported as an adult, were seen the same day at two different offshore locations. Small numbers of Caspian Terns passed along the coast and at one inland location. There was a slight surge of Forster's Terns at the end of the month.

There were typically few reports of both cuckoo species. An impressive count of Common Nighthawks was reported in Norwood on the 1st. The number far surpassed anything previously recorded in eastern Massachusetts and actually eclipses the best count ever recorded in the Connecticut River Valley, where passage of large numbers of nighthawks is an annual event. The pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers that has nested in Sherborn for the past few years successfully fledged three young. The scattered few reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker during the last week fit neatly into their brief migration period.

R. A. F.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
Red-throated Loon				25	WBWS	35	W. Ellison#
17	P.I.	1	S. Perkins#	29	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	15	LCES (J. Hill)
Common Loon				Great Egret			
4	Wachusett Res.	3	M. Lynch#	1, 13	Woburn	1	M. Rines
9	Wellfleet	9	BBC (R. Stymeist)	3	Lexington	2	J. Center
17	P.I.	9	P. Hunt	4	S. Hanson	3	W. Petersen
18	Westport	8	S. Arena	7, 29	P.I.	40, 17	W. Drew#
Pied-billed Grebe				9, 29	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	37, 38	LCES (J. Hill)
2	W. Newbury	1	W. Petersen#	9	Westport	73	M. Lynch#
5	Yarmouthport	1	S. + E. Miller	16	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale
9	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	24	E. Orleans	34	S. Arena#
16	Westport	4	R. Stymeist#	Snowy Egret			
25	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins#	1	WBWS	70	W. Petersen#
28	Lincoln	2	S. Perkins	3	Lexington	1	J. Center
30	S. Monomoy	3	H. Ferguson	7, 29	P.I.	160, 1	W. Drew#
Horned Grebe				8	E. Boston	84	T. Aversa
24	Gloucester	1	BBC (J. Nove)	9, 29	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	119, 42	LCES (J. Hill)
Northern Fulmar				9	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa
30	Stellwagen Bank	4	H. D'Entremont	9	Westport	145	M. Lynch#
Cory's Shearwater				Little Blue Heron			
4	Cashes Ledge	2	R. Donovan	2	P.I.	14+	W. Petersen#
24	Cape Cod Bay	1	W. Petersen#	1-11	Lexington	1	M. Rines
Greater Shearwater				16	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)
9	P.I.	2	M. Argue#	17	Newburyport	1 imm	M. Rines#
4	Cashes Ledge	200	R. Donovan	Tricolored Heron			
Sooty Shearwater				22	Ipswich	1	J. MacDougall
4	Cashes Ledge	12	R. Donovan	Cattle Egret			
Manx Shearwater				3	Essex	3	P. + F. Vale
4	Cashes Ledge	5	R. Donovan	17	Ipswich	3	M. Rines#
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				Green Heron			
4	Cashes Ledge	3000	R. Donovan	4	S. Hanson	6	W. Petersen
Leach's Storm-Petrel				10	Newbury	4	P. + F. Vale
4	Cashes Ledge	50	R. Donovan	16	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	4	LCES (J. Hill)
24	Provincetown	1	W. Ellison#	Black-crowned Night-Heron			
Northern Gannet				2	S. Monomoy	18	S. Perkins#
4	Cashes Ledge	3	R. Donovan	16	Westport	15	R. Stymeist#
17	P.I.	35	S. Perkins#	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron			
Great Cormorant				11	P.I.	1 imm	R. Stymeist#
4	Concord	1 imm	M. Stewart	13	Orleans	1	H. Coolidge
10	P.I.	3	S. Perkins#	23	Yarmouthport	3 imm	S. + E. Miller
Double-crested Cormorant				Glossy Ibis			
9	Westport	336	M. Lynch#	2	S. Monomoy	3	S. Perkins#
16	Randolph	330 migr	R. Stymeist#	2	P.I.	22+	W. Petersen#
17, 30	P.I.	600, 600	S. Perkins#	Whooper Swan			
American Bittern				17	Ipswich	1	R. Stymeist#
2	Newburyport	1	M. Lynch#	Mute Swan			
3	Dartmouth	1	T. Raymond	16	Westport	40	R. Stymeist#
3	GMNWR	1	S. + L. Hennin	Snow Goose			
9	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	16	N. Monomoy	1 ad	B. Nikula#
10	P.I.	1	S. Perkins#	16	S. Dartmouth	2	S. Perkins#
25	WBWS	1	W. Ellison#	29	Belmont	35	S. Perkins#
28	Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted	29	Quincy	100+	N. Smith
29	Ipswich	1	J. MacDougall	29	P.I.	300-400 I.	+ D. Jewell
Least Bittern				Wood Duck			
21	W. Harwich	1	S. + E. Miller	2	Wakefield	107	P. + F. Vale
Great Blue Heron				4	S. Hanson	350	W. Petersen
7, 25	P.I.	15, 7	W. Drew#	17	Petersham	27	M. Lynch#
16	Westport	34	R. Stymeist#	30	GMNWR	20	E. Taylor
16	Wakefield	17	P. + F. Vale	Green-winged Teal			
24	Eastham (F.H.)	48	S. Arena#	3	S. Monomoy	15	B. Nikula#

Green-winged Teal (continued)				24	New Bedford	12	M. LaBossiere
2	Ipswich	150	W. Petersen#	Black Vulture			
7, 29	P.I.	74, 443	W. Drew#	10	Leominster	1	D. Arvidson
10	Newburyport	40	R. Forster	Osprey			
10	Wakefield	120	R. Forster	10, 15, 16	Mt. Wachusett	17, 28, 10	EMHW
19, 25	GMNWR	50, 200	R. Lockwood	18, 19, 24	Mt. Wachusett	15, 10, 6	EMHW
22	Lexington	21	S. Perkins#	10	P.I.	2	E. Nielsen#
American Black Duck				16	Lakeville	2	S. Arena
3	S. Monomoy	100	B. Nikula#	24	Winchester	2	M. Pelikan
7, 29	P.I.	174, 505	W. Drew#	Bald Eagle			
Northern Pintail				4	Cuttyhunk	1 imm	E. Nielsen
3	S. Monomoy	15	B. Nikula#	10, 11, 15	Mt. Wachusett	4, 8, 7	EMHW
2	Ipswich	7	W. Petersen#	10	Princeton	1 imm	M. Lynch#
9-27	Arlington Res.	1-2	M. Pelikan	15, 18	Maynard	1 ad, 1	imm L. Nachtrab
23	P.I.	22	J. Berry	17	Wenham	1 imm	R. Stymeist#
Blue-winged Teal				Northern Harrier			
2	W. Newbury	45	R. Forster	2	S. Monomoy	3	S. Perkins#
3	S. Monomoy	150	B. Nikula#	16, 18, 23	Mt. Wachusett	8, 6, 5	EMHW
7, 29	P.I.	2, 62	W. Drew#	16	Cumb. Farms	3	S. Arena
10	Wakefield	50	R. Forster	21	P.I.	4	W. Drew#
16	Hanson	60	S. Arena	23	Sandwich	3	G. d'Entremont#
16	Westport	82	R. Stymeist#	25	GMNWR	3	P. Roberts
Northern Shoveler				Sharp-shinned Hawk			
10	Wakefield	1	R. Forster	9	Wellfleet	3	BBC (R. Stymeist)
30	S. Monomoy	20	H. Ferguson	10	Harvard	11	M. Lynch#
Gadwall				10, 11, 18	Mt. Wachusett	17, 35, 29	EMHW
3	S. Monomoy	40	B. Nikula#	19, 20, 23	Mt. Wachusett	26, 17, 43	EMHW
7	P.I.	15	W. Drew#	18	Maynard	5	L. Nachtrab
Eurasian Wigeon				23	Lexington	10	S. Zende#
20-30	Marstons Mills	1	S. + E. Miller	23	N. Monomoy	3	J. Hoyer#
American Wigeon				30	Truro	3	M. Pelikan
3	S. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula#	Cooper's Hawk			
9	P.I.	16	S. Perkins#	7	N. Attleboro	2 imm	G. Valade
9	Wakefield	6	P. + F. Vale	9	Wellfleet	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)
23	Barnstable	21	G. d'Entremont#	10	Bolton Flats	2	M. Lynch#
30	S. Natick	8	P. Gaines	11, 18, 19	Mt. Wachusett	4, 5, 3	EMHW
Ring-necked Duck				20, 23, 24	Mt. Wachusett	4, 5, 7	EMHW
2, 30	W. Newbury	2, 100	R. Forster#	15	Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab
16	Lakeville	92	S. Arena	16	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont
24	Southboro	80	E. Taylor	16	Cuttyhunk	3	T. Raymond#
Greater Scaup				23	Lexington	2	S. Zende#
10	P.I.	1	E. Nielsen#	24	E. Orleans	2	S. Arena#
16	Lakeville	6	S. Arena	26	W. Roxbury	2 imm	T. Aversa
30	S. Monomoy	50	H. Ferguson	30	Truro	2	M. Pelikan
Common Eider				thr Reports of indiv. from 16 locations			
9	Westport	22	M. Lynch#	Northern Goshawk			
16	N. Scituate	30	S. Arena	4	ONWR	1	M. Lynch#
17	P.I.	25	P. Hunt	5	Wayland	1	N. Patterson
24	Gloucester	36	BBC (J. Nove)	10	Newburyport	1	P. + F. Vale
Surf Scoter				11, 12, 15	Mt. Wachusett	1, 1, 1	EMHW
16	Cuttyhunk	1	S. Perkins#	14	Truro	1	H. Coolidge#
24	Gloucester	3	BBC (J. Nove)	23, 25	Mt. Wachusett	2, 3	EMHW
White-winged Scoter				27	Lexington	1	M. Rines
2	S. Monomoy	7	S. Perkins#	Red-shouldered Hawk			
16	N. Scituate	8	S. Arena	thr	Boxford	1	J. Brown#
24	Lynn	100	TASL (M. Hall)	4	S. Hanson	2	W. Petersen
Bufflehead				8, 29	N. Attleboro	1, 1	G. Valade
16	Cuttyhunk	1 f	S. Perkins#	9	Marshfield	2	D. Clapp#
Hooded Merganser				13	Eastham	1	H. Coolidge#
2	Newbury	4	R. Forster#	14	ONWR	1 imm	T. Aversa
Red-breasted Merganser				15	W. Roxbury	1 imm	T. Aversa
2	S. Monomoy	4	S. Perkins#	16	Milton	1	G. d'Entremont
Ruddy Duck				Broad-winged Hawk			
2	S. Monomoy	7	S. Perkins#	10, 11	Mt. Wachusett	497, 2275	EMHW
27	Melrose	2	I. + D. Jewell	15, 18	Mt. Wachusett	4667, 2641	EMHW
30	W. Newbury	11	R. Forster	10, 15	Maynard	56, 118	L. Nachtrab
Turkey Vulture				American Kestrel			
2	Rochester	5	F. Smith	10	Harvard	11	M. Lynch#
4	Mt. Wachusett	7	E. Taylor	10, 18	Mt. Wachusett	30, 10	EMHW
12	Princeton	8	R. Stymeist	23, 24	Mt. Wachusett	11, 8	EMHW
12	Westminster	18	R. Stymeist	23	Lexington	19	S. Zende#

American Kestrel (continued)				4	Scituate	280		D. Clapp
18	Maynard	8	L. Nachtrab	7, 21	P.I.	272, 1		W. Drew#
Merlin				9	Chatham (S.B.)	800		B. Nikula#
2	Newburyport	2	H. Wiggin#	15	Wellesley	6		R. Forster
15, 20	Mt. Wachusett	6, 2	EMHW	16	Lakeville	5		S. Arena
16	P.I.	2	R. Lockwood	Piping Plover				
16, 18, 25	Wellesley	1, 4, 1	R. Forster	1	Barnstable (S.N.)	4		W. Petersen
thr	Reports of individuals from 19 locations			1, 9	Chatham (S.B.)	10, 10		B. Nikula
Peregrine Falcon				2	S. Monomoy	1		S. Perkins#
7	Boston	1	H. Wiggin	16	S. Dartmouth	3		E. Nielsen#
9, 15, 23	Mt. Wachusett	1, 1, 1	EMHW	American Oystercatcher				
16	Braintree	1	G. d'Entremont	thr	N. Monomoy	105 max		B. Nikula
17	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale	4	New Bedford	1		S. Perkins#
18	N. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula	30	S. Monomoy	12		H. Ferguson
23	Chatham (S.B.)	2	B. Nikula	Greater Yellowlegs				
24	WBWS	1	G. d'Entremont#	5	N. Monomoy	300		B. Nikula
25	GMNWR	1	P. Roberts	7, 21	P.I.	56, 1		W. Drew#
30	Provincetown	1	S. Arena	9	Newburyport	250		S. Perkins#
30	S. Monomoy	3	H. Ferguson	10	Lexington	18		J. Center
Ruffed Grouse				18	Princeton	9		R. Bradbury
11	W. Barnstable	3	S. + E. Miller	25	WBWS	60		W. Ellison#
Wild Turkey				Lesser Yellowlegs				
7	Winchester	1	J. Gilcrist	1-10	Easton	14 max		S. Arena
13	ONWR	15	F. Gardner	10	P.I.	450		S. Perkins#
20	E. Boxford	7	J. Brown#	16	Princeton	9		R. Bradbury
23	Petersham	23	M. Lynch#	30	WBWS	13		S. Arena#
25	Canton	2	E. D'Felize	Solitary Sandpiper				
26	Carlisle	4	K. Harte	5	Easton	4		S. Arena
Northern Bobwhite				4	Holliston	3		R. Forster
10	Wellfleet	12	M. Rines#	4, 16	Wakefield	3, 3		P. + F. Vale
17	Barnstable	10	G. d'Entremont#	14	ONWR	2		T. Aversa
27	Newton	4	R. Forster#	24	Carlisle	3		BBC (Brownrigg)
Clapper Rail				24	Provincetown	2		G. d'Entremont#
2	P.I.	1	W. Petersen#	Willet				
Virginia Rail				4	Ipswich	3		BBC (J. Berry)
9, 16	Wakefield	1, 1	P. + F. Vale	5	N. Monomoy	10		B. Nikula
10	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan#	9, 16	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	2, 1		LCES (J. Hill)
23	Eastham (F.H.)	2	S. Arena#	13	P.I.	4		T. Aversa
29	Marshfield	2	S. Arena#	Spotted Sandpiper				
Sora				7	P.I.	3		W. Drew#
8, 19	Melrose	1	I. + D. Jewell	10	Pembroke	3		S. Arena#
8	Scituate	1	D. Clapp	23	W. Newbury	3		R. Forster
9	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	Upland Sandpiper				
15	Mashpee	1	S. + E. Miller	1	P.I.	1		M. Pelikan
16	S. Middleboro	1	S. Arena	4	Halifax	3		D. Clapp
17	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	Whimbrel				
26	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa	5, 18	N. Monomoy	20, 15		B. Nikula
19, 25	GMNWR	3, 3	R. Lockwood	9	Scituate	11		D. Clapp#
29	Marshfield	3	S. Arena#	21	P.I.	1		W. Drew#
30	S. Natick	1	P. Gaines	23	Barnstable	8		G. d'Entremont#
Black-bellied Plover				30	Eastham (F.E.)	1		S. Arena#
4	Scituate	53	D. Clapp	Hudsonian Godwit				
9, 17	Newburyport	250, 70	S. Perkins#	1, 9	Chatham (S.B.)	15, 9		B. Nikula#
9	Chatham (S.B.)	2400	B. Nikula	9, 17	Newburyport	9, 1		S. Perkins#
16	Princeton	1	R. Bradbury	24	E. Boston (B.I.)	1		TASL (M. Hall)
25	WBWS	150	W. Ellison#	Marbled Godwit				
30	Provincetown	100	M. Pelikan	5, 23	N. Monomoy	7, 4		B. Nikula#
American Golden-Plover				24	Winthrop	1		J. Barton#
2, 5	Princeton	1, 2	R. Bradbury	Red Knot				
2	Newburyport	12	J. Brown#	4	Scituate	330		D. Clapp
9	Chatham (S.B.)	4+	B. Nikula#	9	Chatham (S.B.)	500		B. Nikula
12	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont	10	P.I.	110		R. Forster
15	Wachusett Mt.	7	K. Ryan#	Sanderling				
16	Cuttyhunk	1	S. Perkins#	2	Revere	250		P. + F. Vale
16	Marblehead	2	M. Pelikan	9	Chatham (S.B.)	2200		B. Nikula
16	S. Monomoy	10+	J. Jones#	16	Princeton	1		R. Bradbury
21	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#	24	P.I.	150		P. Hunt
Semipalmated Plover				Semipalmated Sandpiper				
thr	Woburn	2-5	M. Pelikan	3	Princeton	21		R. Bradbury
2	Revere	150	P. + F. Vale	4	Lynnfield	90		P. + F. Vale
3	Princeton	19	R. Bradbury	7	P.I.	860		W. Drew#

Semipalmated Sandpiper (continued)			
9	Chatham (S.B.)	350	B. Nikula
16	Pembroke	5	S. Arena#
22	Lexington	33	S. Perkins#
Western Sandpiper			
1, 9	Chatham (S.B.)	6, 4	B. Nikula
2	Lynn	2	S. + L. Hennin
3	Woburn	1	M. Pelikan
6	Lexington	2	R. Lockwood
8	Revere	3	P. + F. Vale
9	P.I.	19	S. Perkins#
9	Scituate	4	D. Clapp#
14	Plymouth	2	M. Kasprzyk
Least Sandpiper			
1-10	Easton	15 max	S. Arena
3	Princeton	32	R. Bradbury
16	Pembroke	12	S. Arena
22	Lexington	4	S. Perkins#
30	WBWS	2	S. Arena#
White-rumped Sandpiper			
1	Princeton	3	R. Bradbury
3	Lynnfield	2	R. Stymeist#
3	S. Monomoy	30	B. Nikula#
6, 21	P.I.	196, 1	W. Drew#
9	Chatham (S.B.)	70	B. Nikula
9	Scituate	20	D. Clapp#
12	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont
15	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa
Baird's Sandpiper			
2	W. Newbury	1	W. Petersen#
2, 17	P.I.	2, 1	R. Forster, H. Robbins#
3	S. Monomoy	3	B. Nikula#
14-18	Princeton	1	R. Bradbury
22	Lynn	1	J. Quigley
Pectoral Sandpiper			
15	Wellesley	4	R. Forster
22	E. Sandwich	6	S. + E. Miller
23	Princeton	7	R. Bradbury
23	Newbury	9	R. Forster
30	S. Monomoy	12	H. Ferguson
Dunlin			
5, 23	N. Monomoy	4, 250	B. Nikula
24	P.I.	20	P. Hunt
30	Newburyport	70	S. Perkins#
Stilt Sandpiper			
1	Lexington	1	T. Aversa
2, 23	P.I.	1, 1	R. Forster
2-9	Woburn	1 juv	M. Pelikan
3	S. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula#
6	Princeton	1	F. McMenemy#
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			
1	Newburyport	1	P. Hunt
1-4	Nantucket	4	J. Smith
3	S. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula#
3	P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale
28-30	Randolph	1	G. d'Entremont
Short-billed Dowitcher			
1	Chatham (S.B.)	175	B. Nikula
2	Revere B.	127	P. + F. Vale
7	P.I.	86	W. Drew#
8	E. Boston (B.I.)	65	T. Aversa
9, 30	Newburyport	125, 2	S. Perkins#
24	E. Boston (B.I.)	5	TASL (M. Hall)
Long-billed Dowitcher			
7	P.I.	51	W. Drew#
23	P.I.	7	BBC (C. Paine)
Common Snipe			
9, 16	Wakefield	3, 2	P. + F. Vale
29	Marshfield	9	S. Arena#
29	Mt. A.	1	R. Stymeist
30	Natick	1	P. Gaines
30	Newburyport	5	S. Perkins#
American Woodcock			
7	Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab
13	P.I.	2	T. Aversa
15	Acton	1	J. Center
22	IRWS	1	J. MacDougall
23	Sandwich	1	G. d'Entremont#
Wilson's Phalarope			
3	S. Monomoy	1	J. Sones#
Red-necked Phalarope			
2	S. Monomoy	1	H. Ferguson#
4	Cashes Ledge	15	R. Donovan
24	P.I.	1 ad	P. Hunt
Red Phalarope			
4	Cashes Ledge	3	R. Donovan
Pomarine Jaeger			
4	Cashes Ledge	4	R. Donovan
Parasitic Jaeger			
9, 10	P'town, Truro	1, 2	R. Stymeist#
12	Chatham (S.B.)	2	T. Maloney#
25	Truro	1	W. Ellison#
Laughing Gull			
2	Nant. Sound	500	S. Perkins#
2	P.I.	35	R. Forster
13	Eastham	400	H. Coolidge#
16	Cuttyhunk	45	S. Perkins#
16	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont
27	Lynn	75	J. Quigley
Little Gull			
4	Nahant	1 ad	R. Forster
9, 30	Newburyport	1	S. Perkins#
Bonaparte's Gull			
4	Newburyport	370	A. Jones#
24	Squantum	300	TASL (M. Hall)
Lesser Black-backed Gull			
4-22	Lynn	1-3	J. Quigley
4	Newburyport	1 ad	S. Perkins#
7	Chatham (S.B.)	1 3S	S. Perkins#
18, 23	N. Monomoy	2, 1	B. Nikula
26-27	Gardner	1	T. Pirrou
Sabine's Gull			
4	Cashes Ledge	1	R. Donovan
4	Jeffries Ledge	1 ad	L. Healy
Caspian Tern			
12	Randolph	4	G. d'Entremont
16	Westport	2	R. Stymeist#
16	Cuttyhunk	3	T. Raymond#
27	P.I.	3	C. Cook
29	Wareham	2	M. LaBossiere
Roseate Tern			
2	S. Monomoy	10	S. Perkins#
7, 15	Chatham (S.B.)	15, 75	S. Perkins#
Common Tern			
2, 12	Chatham (S.B.)	700, 500	S. Perkins#
9	Truro	450	BBC (R. Stymeist)
24	Wellfleet	800+	W. Petersen
30	Provincetown	200	M. Pelikan
Forster's Tern			
4, 17	Newburyport	2, 4	S. Perkins#
9	Chatham (S.B.)	3	B. Nikula
18	Westport	9	S. Arena
23	Eastham (F.H.)	17	S. Arena#
24	Provincetown	10+G.	d'Entremont#
Least Tern			
7	Chatham (S.B.)	3	S. Perkins#
10	P.I.	3	R. Forster
Black Tern			
1	N. Monomoy	14	F. Bouchard
1	Chatham (S.B.)	6+	B. Nikula
9	Truro	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)

Black Skimmer				Whip-poor-will			
7 Orleans	3	S. + E. Miller		3 Dartmouth	1	T. Raymond	
24 Revere	2	TASL (M. Hall)		Chimney Swift			
Mourning Dove				9 Westport	10	M. Lynch#	
21 Concord (NAC)	150+	S. Perkins#		10 Carlisle	1	M. Pelikan	
Black-billed Cuckoo				12 Mt. A.	2	R. Stymeist	
2 S. Monomoy	1	S. Perkins#		16 Cuttyhunk	2	S. Perkins#	
7 P.I.	1	L. High		19 N. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher	
10 Truro	1	R. Stymeist		20 Quincy	2	S. Perkins#	
14 ONWR	1	T. Aversa		Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
16 Wellesley	1	R. Forster		1-10 Boxford	2-4	J. Brown#	
17 Newton	1	F. Bouchard		1 Acushnet	3	M. LaBossiere	
24 Carlisle	1	BBC (Brownrigg)		11 Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				15 Wachusett Mt.	3	S. Perkins#	
9 P.I.	1	M. Argue#		17 Plymouth	3	S. Arena#	
11 W. Barnstable	1	S. + E. Miller		19 Bolton Flats	2	S. + L. Hennin	
18 P.I.	1	C. Floyd		Red-headed Woodpecker			
Eastern Screech-Owl				thr Sherborn	2 ad + 3 imm	E. Taylor	
4 ONWR	2	J. Hoye#		Red-bellied Woodpecker			
7 Mt. A.	5	R. Stymeist		thr Sherborn	4	E. Taylor	
9 Wellfleet	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)		thr Lincoln	1	S. Perkins#	
23 S. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher		15 Concord	1	R. Lockwood	
Great Horned Owl				18 Dartmouth	1 m	S. Arena	
thr Ipswich	1-2	J. Berry		30 Belmont	1 m	K. Griffiths#	
5 N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
12 Orleans	1	H. Coolidge		4 Quabbin	1	R. Lockwood	
17 Bolton	1	S. + L. Hennin		18 Boston (F.Pk)	1 m	T. Aversa	
19 Lexington	1	F. Gardner		24 Carlisle	1	BBC (Brownrigg)	
19 Weston	1	S. Arena		24 Long I. (Boston)	1	R. Donovan	
Barred Owl				25 WBWS	1	W. Ellison#	
19 ONWR	1	T. Aversa		11/26 Provincetown	1	W. Ellison#	
Common Nighthawk				26 Melrose	1	I. + D. Jewell	
1 Norwood	4500+	E. Nielsen		30 P.I.	1	BBC (C. Cook)	
4 Maynard	106	L. Nachtrab		Pileated Woodpecker			
4, 19 Wayland	21, 1	N. Patterson		5 Stow	1	S. + L. Hennin	
9, 21 Mt. A.	26, 1	R. Stymeist#		12 Oxbow		M. Pelikan	
18, 21 Wellesley	5, 1	R. Forster		15 Worcester	1	S. + L. Hennin	
21 Melrose	3	I. + D. Jewell		16 Wayland	1	N. Patterson	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

Two Western Kingbirds were noted this month, one more than last September. A single **Sedge Wren** was seen in the dry grass of Hellcat Swamp on Plum Island. **Northern Wheatears** were noted in three locations, with an individual at Fort Hill in Eastham staying around for five days. The number of Philadelphia Vireo individuals reported (26) was exceptionally high. A total of 32 species of warblers were noted including 4 Orange-crowned, 1 Prothonotary, 1 Worm-eating, 1 Kentucky, 11 Connecticut, 10 Mourning, and 2 Hooded warblers, and 11 Yellow-breasted Chats.

Among the seedeaters, 2 Blue Grosbeaks, 8 Dickcissels, and 6 Clay-colored, 6 Lark and 29 Lincoln's sparrows were tallied. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** found in Wayland and a **Loggerhead Shrike** on Plum Island were among the rare birds sighted this month.

R. H. S.

Olive-sided Flycatcher				16 Cuttyhunk	1	S. Perkins#	
7 N. Attleboro	1	G. Valade		Least Flycatcher			
13 ONWR	1	S. + L. Hennin		4, 16 Cuttyhunk	1, 1	S. Perkins#	
20 Newbury	1	I. + D. Jewell		4 MNWS	1	M. Pelikan	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				16 Scituate	1	S. Arena	
12 ONWR	1	M. Pelikan		16 ONWR	2	M. Pelikan	
16 Cuttyhunk	1	S. Perkins#		18 Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller	
16 N. Scituate	1	S. Arena		Eastern Phoebe			
24 P.I.	2	R. Lockwood		2 Woburn	8	M. Pelikan	
30 Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted		18 Dartmouth	6	S. Arena	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				23 P.I.	6	R. Forster	
12 Chatham	1	S. Perkins#		24 ONWR	6	J. Hoye#	
16 Grafton	1 b	M. Blazis		Great Crested Flycatcher			
27 Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller		4 Wenham	1	J. Berry	
30 Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted		10 Carlisle	1	M. Pelikan	
Acadian Flycatcher				15 Sandwich	1	S. + E. Miller	
3, 6 N. Attleboro	1	G. Valade		24 WBWS	1	T. Prince	
"Traill's" Flycatcher							

Western Kingbird				Marsh Wren			
6	N. Attleboro	1	G. Valade#	10	Dorchester	7	R. Donovan#
16	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood	20	Melrose	1	I. + D. Jewell
Eastern Kingbird				21	P.I.	3	M. Lynch#
4, 16	Cuttyhunk	7, 1	S. Perkins#	21	Wayland	1	N. Patterson
14	Wellesley	1	R. Forster	29	Marshfield	2	S. Arena#
22	Eastham	1	R. Stymeist#	30	Eastham (F.H.)	1	S. Arena#
Horned Lark				Golden-crowned Kinglet			
21	P.I.	3	M. Lynch#	24	MNWS	4	R. Stymeist
Purple Martin				24	P.I.	25+	P. Hunt
23	Barnstable	1	G. d'Entremont#	24	E. Orleans	3	S. Arena#
Tree Swallow				30	Provincetown	8	S. Arena#
4	Cuttyhunk	5000	S. Perkins#	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
9	Westport	3200	M. Lynch#	4	ONWR	2	M. Lynch#
16	P.I.	4000+	J. Center	12	Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab
23	Barnstable	5000	G. d'Entremont#	15	Boxford	1	R. Stymeist#
N. Rough-winged Swallow				16	Petersham	1	J. Baird
2	Wakefield	16	P. + F. Vale	18	Yarmouthport	1	S. + E. Miller
9	W. Roxbury	2	T. Aversa	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
11-18	Wellesley	70	R. Forster#	4	Cuttyhunk	1	T. Maloney#
27	Newton	4	R. Forster#	9	Boxford	1	J. Brown#
30	Mt. A.	1	R. Stymeist	9	Wellfleet	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)
Bank Swallow				18	Dartmouth	1	S. Arena
2	P.I.	1	J. Hoye#	23	P.I.	1	BBC (C. Paine)
2	S. Monomoy	2	S. Perkins#	Northern Wheatear			
4	Cuttyhunk	3	S. Perkins#	16-18	Petersham	1	J. Baird + v.o.
Cliff Swallow				16-21	Eastham (F.H.)	1	P. Trimble + v.o.
4	Cuttyhunk	1	S. Perkins#	30	Katama	1	C. Floyd
12	Chatham (S.B.)	3	S. Perkins#	Eastern Bluebird			
14	Wellesley	1	R. Forster	thr	Mattapoisett	13+	F. Smith
23	Barnstable	5	G. d'Entremont	thr	Boxford	4-6	J. Brown#
Barn Swallow				19	Bolton Flats	6	S. + L. Hennin
16	Cuttyhunk	25	S. Perkins#	23	Barnstable	6	G. d'Entremont#
17	P.I.	14	R. Stymeist#	30	Petersham	8	M. Lynch#
24	Eastham (F.H.)	1	S. Arena#	30	Natick	6	P. Gaines
24	Truro, P'town	1, 1	D. Brown#	Veery			
Fish Crow				5	MNWS	1	T. Aversa
20	Hanson	15	W. Petersen	11	Watertown	1	R. Stymeist
29	Lawrence	1	E. Stromsted	13	Boston	1	F. Bouchard
Common Raven				Gray-cheeked Thrush			
4	Princeton	2	R. Lockwood	15	MNWS	1	C. Cook
11	Mt. Wachusett	2	E. Taylor	Swainson's Thrush			
15	Mt. Wachusett	24	S. Perkins#	9	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa
Red-breasted Nuthatch				14	ONWR	1	T. Aversa
21	P.I.	12	M. Lynch#	15	Rowley	1	R. Stymeist
Brown Creeper				16	Petersham	1	J. Baird
16	Marshfield	1	S. Arena#	17	Newburyport	1	BBC (S. Grinley)
17	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale	23	Arlington Res.	1	M. Pelikan
29	Belmont	1	S. Perkins#	Wood Thrush			
Carolina Wren				5	Bolton	1	S. + L. Hennin
4	Wayland	1	M. Pelikan	10	Boxboro	1	R. Lockwood
5	Stow	1	S. + L. Hennin	14	ONWR	2	T. Aversa
9	Acoaxet	7	M. Lynch#	16	S. Dartmouth	3	S. Perkins#
16	Cuttyhunk	15	S. Perkins#	16	Littleton	1	R. Lockwood
23	Bolton	1	S. + L. Hennin	24	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood
30	Truro	5	M. Pelikan	American Robin			
House Wren				20	N. Dartmouth	225	M. Boucher
17, 23	Barnstable	2, 1	G. d'Entremont#	23	Wayland	150	G. Long
16	Cuttyhunk	3	S. Perkins#	30	Mt. A.	140	R. Stymeist
16	Scituate, Marshfield	2, 2	S. Arena	Gray Catbird			
27	Wayland	1	N. Patterson	16	N. Scituate	58	S. Arena
Winter Wren				21	P.I.	79	M. Lynch#
4	Boxboro	1	R. Lockwood	22	Eastham	42	R. Stymeist
9	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa	24	E. Orleans	57	S. Arena#
16	N. Scituate	4	S. Arena	Brown Thrasher			
23	Sandwich	1	G. d'Entremont#	3	Lexington	4	M. Pelikan
24	Long I. (Boston)	1	R. Donovan	10	P.I.	7	P. + F. Vale
24	Provincetown	1	G. d'Entremont	16	Cuttyhunk	3	S. Perkins#
30	P.I.	2	R. Forster	16	N. Scituate	1	S. Arena
Sedge Wren				20	Medford	2	M. Rines
11	P.I.	1	R. Stymeist#	30	N. Truro	1	S. Arena#

American Pipit				24	P.I.	1	J. Berry
10	Boston	1	F. Bouchard	23	Truro	1	J. Hoye#
23	Westport	1	M. Boucher	25	Boston	3	T. Aversa
26	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa	27	Newton	2	S. Perkins#
30	P.I.	8	R. Forster	Northern Parula			
Cedar Waxwing				4	Medford	3	M. Rines
9	Wellfleet	80	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9	W. Roxbury	7	T. Aversa
16	Cuttyhunk	250	T. Raymond#	12	Arlington	5	M. Rines
Loggerhead Shrike				16	Petersham	4	J. Baird
16	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood	16	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale
White-eyed Vireo				18	Dartmouth	2	S. Arena
3	Dartmouth	3	T. Raymond	27	Newton	3	S. Perkins#
8	Acushnet	1	M. LaBossiere	28	ONWR	2	S. + L. Hennin
9	Westport	2	M. Lynch#	Yellow Warbler			
24	Provincetown	1	imm D. Brown#	9, 15	W. Roxbury	16, 5	T. Aversa
Solitary Vireo				16	P.I.	5	R. Lockwood
4	Quabbin	10	R. Lockwood	24	Gloucester	1	BBC (J. Nove)
7	Boxford	1	J. Brown#	Chestnut-sided Warbler			
15	W. Barnstable	1	S. + E. Miller	2	ONWR	5	T. Aversa
15	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa	9	Wellfleet	3	BBC (R. Stymeist)
22	Lincoln	2	S. Perkins#	23	P.I.	1	S. + L. Hennin
24	P.I.	1	J. Berry	24	Medford	1	M. Rines
28	Medford	3	M. Rines	29	N. Scituate	1	T. Aversa
30	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#	Magnolia Warbler			
Yellow-throated Vireo				4	Cuttyhunk	2	S. Perkins#
4	ONWR	2	M. Pelikan	4, 20	Medford	3, 2	M. Rines
16	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood	9	W. Roxbury	8	T. Aversa
Warbling Vireo				16	DWWS	2	S. Arena
11, 16	Wellesley	4, 2	R. Forster	29	N. Scituate	3	T. Aversa
15	W. Roxbury	3	T. Aversa	Cape May Warbler			
18	Westport	1	S. Arena	2	S. Monomoy	1	S. Perkins#
24	Belmont	1	M. Pelikan	4, 16	Cuttyhunk	1, 1	S. Perkins#
Philadelphia Vireo				18	W. Barnstable	1	S. + E. Miller
4	ONWR	3	J. Hoye#	29	Belmont	1	S. Perkins#
9	W. Roxbury	3	T. Aversa	Black-throated Blue Warbler			
9	Wellfleet	5	BBC (R. Stymeist)	4	ONWR	5	J. Hoye#
11	Nantucket	2	E. Andrews	5	Bedford	4	M. Rines
11	Chatham	3	M. Tuttle	9	Wellfleet	11	BBC (R. Stymeist)
13	P.I.	2	T. Aversa	9	W. Roxbury	7	T. Aversa
3-22	Reports of individuals from 8 locations			24	Provincetown	3	H. D'Entremont#
Red-eyed Vireo				Yellow-rumped Warbler			
9	Wellfleet	14	BBC (R. Stymeist)	12, 24	Mt. A.	2, 15	R. Stymeist
9	W. Roxbury	36	T. Aversa	23	Chatham	2	J. Hoye#
13	P.I.	13	T. Aversa	24	P.I.	5	J. Berry
16	Cuttyhunk	9	S. Perkins#	28	Medford	6	M. Rines
18	Dartmouth	8	S. Arena#	29	Belmont	14	S. Perkins#
24	E. Orleans	4	S. Arena	Black-throated Green Warbler			
24	Medford	4	M. Rines	4, 28	Medford	6, 1	M. Rines
29	N. Scituate	8	T. Aversa	9	W. Roxbury	8	T. Aversa
Blue-winged Warbler				27	Newton	4	S. Perkins#
7	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	Blackburnian Warbler			
9	Wellfleet	5	BBC (R. Stymeist)	3	DWWS	1	J. Hoye#
10	DWWS	1	S. Arena	4	ONWR	1	J. Hoye#
14	ONWR	1	T. Aversa	5	MNWS	1	T. Aversa
18	Westport	1	S. Arena	9	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa
27	Newton	1	S. Perkins#	9	Woburn	1	M. Pelikan
Tennessee Warbler				16	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood
6	W. Barnstable	1	S. + E. Miller	16	Milton	1	G. d'Entremont
8	ONWR	1	L. High	16	Petersham	2	J. Baird
10	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	Pine Warbler			
24	Belmont	1	M. Pelikan	thr	Mattapoisett	17+	F. Smith
Orange-crowned Warbler				9	Wellfleet	15	BBC (R. Stymeist)
15	W. Barnstable	1	S. + E. Miller	14	Concord	5	R. Lockwood
16	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood	23	Barnstable	5	G. d'Entremont#
21	Lexington	1	M. Lynch	23	Provincetown	4	J. Hoye#
24	Provincetown	1	G. d'Entremont#	Prairie Warbler			
Nashville Warbler				2	S. Monomoy	2	S. Perkins#
4	ONWR	2	J. Hoye#	20	Medford	1	M. Rines
4, 20	Medford	1, 1	M. Rines	23	Truro	1	J. Hoye#
9	W. Roxbury	3	T. Aversa	23	P.I.	1	J. Berry
16	Scituate, DWWS	2, 2	S. Arena	25	Boston	1	T. Aversa

Palm Warbler				9	Westport	1 f	M. Lynch#
4	Medford	1	M. Rines	27-28	Hingham	1	fide J. Norton
9	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa	Wilson's Warbler			
9	Eastham	1	J. Hoye#	4	Medford	1	M. Rines
10	P.I.	2	R. Forster	9	W. Roxbury	2	T. Aversa
18	Newton	12	F. Bouchard	21	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#
23	Sandwich	5	G. d'Entremont#	23	N. Truro	2	S. Arena#
30	WBWS	6	S. Arena#	24	WBWS	1	G. d'Entremont#
Bay-breasted Warbler				Canada Warbler			
4	Quabbin	1	R. Lockwood	4	Cuttyhunk	1	S. Perkins#
24	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood	10	Boston (F.Pk)	1	T. Aversa
Blackpoll Warbler				10	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale
4	Cuttyhunk	1	S. Perkins#	16	N. Scituate	1	S. Arena
10	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale	Yellow-breasted Chat			
12	Arlington	6	M. Rines	3	Cuttyhunk	1	E. Nielsen#
18	Dartmouth	9	S. Arena	5, 11	MNWS	1	T. Aversa + v.o.
27	Wayland	25+	N. Patterson	9	P.I.	1	S. Perkins#
Black-and-white Warbler				9	Westport	2	M. Lynch#
9	W. Roxbury	6	T. Aversa	14	Orleans	1	H. Wiggin#
30	P.I.	2	BBC (C. Cook)	16, 29	Scituate	1	S. Arena + v.o.
American Redstart				22	Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller
4, 20	Medford	10, 8	M. Rines	26	N. Wellfleet	1	S. + E. Miller
5	MNWS	12	T. Aversa	28	Belmont	1	C. Floyd
9	Wellfleet	30BBC	(R. Stymeist)	30	Gay Head	1	C. Floyd
9	W. Roxbury	16	T. Aversa	Scarlet Tanager			
13	Wareham	8	M. LaBossiere	4	ONWR	11	M. Lynch#
16	Cuttyhunk	9	S. Perkins#	9	Marshfield	3	D. Clapp#
23	P.I.	3	J. Berry	20	Medford	2	M. Rines
23	Provincetown	2	J. Hoye#	24	Truro	1	G. d'Entremont#
24	WBWS	3	G. d'Entremont#	30	P.I.	2	H. Wiggin#
Prothonotary Warbler				Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
8	Sharon	1	D. Furbish	9	Marshfield	3	D. Clapp#
Worm-eating Warbler				10	Bolton	4	M. Lynch#
5	Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller	16	P.I.	5	R. Lockwood
Ovenbird				20	Medford	1	M. Rines
9	W. Roxbury	2	T. Aversa	24	WBWS	1	G. d'Entremont#
23	P.I.	1	J. Berry	24	Concord (NAC)	1	A. Hirschkop
29	N. Scituate	1	T. Aversa	Blue Grosbeak			
Northern Waterthrush				30	N. Truro	2	S. Arena#
3	ONWR	1	F. Gardner	Indigo Bunting			
9	W. Roxbury	4	T. Aversa	9	Marshfield	12	D. Clapp
10	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	14	ONWR	2	T. Aversa
12	Arlington	1	M. Rines	21	Concord (NAC)	12	S. Perkins#
14	Melrose	1	L. + D. Jewell	29	Wayland	3	G. Long
19	Lexington	1	F. Gardner	Dickcissel			
Kentucky Warbler				1-2	Lexington	2	S. Iannucci
9-21	P.I.	1	E. Nielsen + v.o.	12	Truro	1	H. Coolidge#
Connecticut Warbler				15	Wellesley	1	R. Forster
4	Wayland	1 m	J. Hoye#	16	N. Scituate	1	S. Arena
9, 13, 23-24	P.I.	1	R. Heil + v.o.	19	Concord (NAC)	1	T. Aversa
10	Bolton Flats	2	M. Lynch#	29	Belmont	1	S. Perkins#
11	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews	30	Gay Head	1	C. Floyd
14	ONWR	1	T. Aversa	Rufous-sided Towhee			
15	Wayland	1	S. + L. Hennin	9	Wellfleet	61	BBC (R. Stymeist)
16	Scituate	1	S. Arena	16	Cuttyhunk	30	S. Perkins#
16	Grafton	3 b	M. Blazis	21	P.I.	16	M. Lynch#
Mourning Warbler				30	Provincetown	7	S. Arena#
2	W. Newbury	1	R. Forster	Chipping Sparrow			
4	Grafton	1 b	M. Blazis	thr	Mattapoisett	25+	F. Smith
5	MNWS	1	T. Aversa	21	Concord (NAC)	40	S. Perkins#
9	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa	23	Barnstable	30	G. d'Entremont#
11	Wareham	1	M. LaBossiere	23	N. Truro	200+	S. Arena#
12	Woburn	1	M. Rines	24	S. Wellfleet	30	W. Petersen
15, 29	N. Attleboro	1, 1	G. Valade	Clay-colored Sparrow			
18	Westport	1	S. Arena	10	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
29	N. Scituate	1	T. Aversa	11	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews
Common Yellowthroat				14	Truro	2	H. Coolidge#
9	Wellfleet	20	BBC (R. Stymeist)	16	S. Monomoy	1	J. Sones#
10	Bolton Flats	38	M. Lynch#	18	Newton	1	F. Bouchard
18	Westport	8	S. Arena	Field Sparrow			
Hooded Warbler				9	W. Roxbury	12	T. Aversa

Field Sparrow (continued)			
13	P.I.	4	T. Aversa
23	Barnstable	5	G. d'Entremont#
23	Truro	12	J. Hoye#
Vesper Sparrow			
3, 8	N. Attleboro	3, 2	G. Valade
18	Lexington	1	M. Rines
20	Wayland	1	N. Patterson
Lark Sparrow			
13	P.I.	1	T. Aversa
16	Barnstable	1	S. + E. Miller
16	Newton	1	F. Bouchard
16	Westport	1	M. Rines#
16	Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller
18-21	Lexington	1	M. Rines#
Savannah Sparrow			
1, 29	N. Attleboro	14, 20	G. Valade
10	Bolton Flats	31	M. Lynch#
20	Wayland	25+	N. Patterson
25	GMNWR	40	S. Perkins#
Sharp-tailed Sparrow			
2	Newburyport	10	M. Lynch#
9	Eastham (F.H.)	8	J. Hoye#
16	S. Dartmouth	6	E. Nielsen#
29	Marshfield	22	S. Arena#
Seaside Sparrow			
9	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	2	LCES (J. Hill)
Song Sparrow			
4	Halifax	110	D. Clapp
Lincoln's Sparrow			
8	Newton	2	H. Miller
9	Chatham	2	J. Hoye#
12	Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab
16	Wayland	2	G. Long
18, 28	Bolton Flats	2, 1	S. + L. Hennin
19	Concord	2	T. Aversa
23	Truro	2	J. Hoye#
24	Belmont	2	M. Pelikan
3-24	Reports of individuals from 12 locations		
Swamp Sparrow			
thr	Lexington	15+	M. Rines
10	Bolton F.	20	M. Lynch#
17	Petersham	20+	M. Lynch#
25	GMNWR	20	S. Perkins#
White-throated Sparrow			
6	Lexington	1	M. Rines
11	Wellesley	1	R. Forster
12	Arlington	3	M. Rines
16	N. Scituate	32	S. Arena
23	P.I.	8	J. Berry
White-crowned Sparrow			
14	Provincetown	6	H. Coolidge#
16	Milton	1	G. d'Entremont
24	E. Orleans	1	S. Arena#
29	N. Scituate	1	T. Aversa
30	P.I.	4	K. Hamilton#
30	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#
30	N. Truro	4	M. Pelikan
Dark-eyed Junco			
12	Chatham	1	S. Perkins#
13, 30	P.I.	3, 35	S. Hennin, Forster#
24	Mt. A.	16	R. Stymeist
Lapland Longspur			
26	Eastham	1	S. + E. Miller
30	Cumb. Farms	1	R. Lockwood
Bobolink			
4	ONWR	25	M. Lynch#
16	Cuttyhunk	15	S. Perkins#
16	Cumb. Farms	26	S. Arena
25	Wayland	17	N. Patterson
30	GMNWR	6	E. Taylor
Red-winged Blackbird			
4	Bolton Flats	200+	M. Lynch#
Yellow-headed Blackbird			
5	Wayland	1	B. Howell
Rusty Blackbird			
24	Wayland	6	G. Long
27	GMNWR	2	J. Center
30	Provincetown	8	S. Arena#
30	ONWR	8	BBC (D. Oliver)
30	Hopkinton	100	E. Kyle
30	Natick	5	P. Gaines
30	N. Truro	2	S. Arena#
Common Grackle			
thr	Framingham	2000	E. Taylor
2	Wakefield	550	P. + F. Vale
4	Bolton Flats	1000	M. Lynch#
11	N. Dartmouth	400	M. Boucher
30	Mt. A.	600	R. Stymeist
Brown-headed Cowbird			
12	Bolton Flats	200	M. Pelikan
14	Randolph	200	G. d'Entremont
22	Rowley	220	F. Bouchard
Northern Oriole			
16	Cuttyhunk	17	S. Perkins#
30	Newton	1	G. d'Entremont#
30	Truro	3	M. Pelikan
Purple Finch			
9	Wellfleet	13	BBC (R. Stymeist)
19	Bolton Flats	10	S. + L. Hennin
23	N. Truro	7	S. Arena#
24	ONWR	7	J. Hoye#
27	Stow	5	S. + L. Hennin

BIRD SIGHTINGS

OCTOBER 1995

SUMMARY



by Richard A. Forster, Marjorie W. Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist

October 1995 was very warm and wet. The temperature averaged 58.4° in Boston, 3.6° above normal. This ties for the 7th warmest in 15 years, and the warmest since 1971. The high was 83° on the 13th and the low for the month was 38° on October 30. Rainfall totaled 6.42 inches, 3.12 inches above average. An inch or more fell on three days, triple the normal frequency. For birders, all four weekends were affected by significant rainstorms, while the weekdays tended to be bright and sunny. A late season thunderstorm came on the 28th, and light fog was fairly frequent. Winds were out of the northwest on just three days: October 2, 25, and 26.

R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Loon numbers were generally low reflecting the lack of significant coastal storms late in the month. Numbers of Pied-billed Grebes were good, indicating successful breeding elsewhere in their range. Reports of other grebes were seasonally scarce. Offshore counts indicated that shearwaters were generally present, especially true of Cory's Shearwater south of Martha's Vineyard. Land-based shearwater sightings were during storms on October 6-7 and October 22. The usual species were present in varying numbers with the most unusual sighting being 20 Northern Fulmars in Eastham October 22. Only two Leach's Storm-Petrels were reported, a further indication of the lack of storms with substantial northeast winds. Northern Gannets built up to typically good numbers by the end of the month.

As is usual, the few American Bittern reports indicated a strong coastal influence. Egrets were reported in appreciable numbers until midmonth, but were very scarce after that. The usual early fall heron stragglers were observed, highlighted by two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons with a group of Black-crowns in Yarmouth. The waterfowl migration proceeded pretty much on schedule with various species concentrating at favored species-specific locations. The two Greater White-fronted Goose reports may have been the same individual. A widespread movement of Snow Geese was observed on October 18. Particularly noteworthy were the number of Wood Ducks in West Newbury and Concord and an impressive count of Green-winged Teal at Plum Island. A fair number of Blue-winged Teal lingered into October. Unusual reports included four Eurasian Wigeons and two Tufted Ducks. The Tufted Ducks appeared rather early and most likely reflected the influx in Massachusetts and Rhode Island the previous winter. Only one Redhead was reported. For the second consecutive fall Ruddy Ducks were numerous and widespread. The sea ducks were fairly routine with only modest numbers due to the lack of coastal storms.

The raptor scene was notably unremarkable with almost no significant counts of migrants. The surge of Cooper's Hawk reports continued unabated and provides compelling evidence for its recovery in the northeast. A Broad-winged Hawk in Arlington was marginally on the late side, and an adult light phase Swainson's Hawk at Cumberland Farms represented the season's rarity. Peregrine Falcons had a good fall with a remarkable 25 at Gay Head on the 16th. Highlights among the rail group were a Yellow Rail and a Common Moorhen. American Coot were widespread and numerous. October shorebirds were remarkable in being so routine with almost nothing unusual. Slightly on the late side were Piping Plover and Solitary, Stilt, and Buff-breasted sandpipers. Both American Golden-Plover and Pectoral Sandpiper were seasonally scarce. Only a handful of phalaropes were reported, and the few reported and identified as to species were Red Phalaropes. The paucity of jaeger reports provided further testament to the lack of strong coastal storms. The highlight among this group was a spectacular Long-tailed Jaeger south of Martha's Vineyard. Reports of only two each for Little and Common Black-headed gulls were paltry. Bonaparte's Gulls were well reported from the usual strongholds at Lynn and Newburyport, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seasonally normal. Only a few kittiwakes were noted, mostly late in the month. Caspian Terns were equally distributed inland and along the coast, and the Royal Terns on Martha's Vineyard were notably late.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos exhibited a fine late movement but only one Black-billed Cuckoo was reported. Owl reports, other than the commoner species, were notably scarce. Both Common Nighthawk and Chimney Swift were slightly tardy. A *Selasphorus hummingbird* was noted in Sandwich, one of the locales for last fall's minor "irruption." Only a single Red-headed Woodpecker was reported. Buried in the numerous Red-bellied Woodpecker reports were reports from both South Monomoy and Cuttyhunk Island on the same day (October 9). The presence of these individuals at known coastal migration traps provides documentation for migratory tendencies in the burgeoning population at the northeastern limits of its range. Not surprisingly Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers reached peak numbers at the same time.

R. A. F.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
Red-throated Loon				Leach's Storm-Petrel			
7	Marshfield	26	BBC (D. F. Oliver)	22	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula
8	Lakeville	1	W. Petersen#	28	Eastham (F.E.)	1	A. Hirschkop
22	Rockport (H.P.)	7	M. Lynch#	Northern Gannet			
27	P.I.	30	S. Arena#	7-8	Nantucket	45	T. Maloney
Common Loon				22	P'town (R.P.)	500+	R. Lockwood
8	Lakeville	3	W. Petersen	22	Eastham (F.E.)	1000+	B. Nikula
21	W. Bridgewater	2	S. Arena#	22	Rockport (H.P.)	140	E. Nielsen#
22	Rockport (H.P.)	34	M. Lynch#	29	P.I.	400	E. Nielsen
27	Wellfleet	15	R. Stymeist#	Great Cormorant			
27	P.I.	20	S. Arena#	14	Lakeville	4	S. Arena#
29	Acton	1	M. Resch	22	Rockport (H.P.)	32	S. Perkins#
Pied-billed Grebe				Double-crested Cormorant			
thr	Arlington	5	K. Hartel	7	Salisbury	1000+	H. Wiggin#
7, 29	Westport	7, 14	M. Lynch#	8	DWWS	850	S. Arena#
14, 26	Lakeville	21, 48	S. Arena	8	P.I.	600+	P. + F. Vale
15	W. Newbury	6	R. Lockwood	14	Rowley	600+	J. Berry
27	Framingham	8	K. Hamilton	15	Orleans	500+	E. Stromsted
26	Braintree	15	S. Carey	21	S. Boston	500+	M. Hall
28	Wakefield	6	P. + F. Vale	22	Lynn. Nahant	423, 623	D. F. Oliver
29	GMNWR	7	R. Lockwood	American Bittern			
Horned Grebe				1, 15	GMNWR	1	P. Roberts
8	Lakeville	7	W. Petersen#	4, 26	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)
18	Wareham	3	M. LaBossiere	6	Bolton Flats	1	J. Center
27	Wellfleet	14	R. Stymeist#	27	P.I.	7	S. Arena#
29	Waltham	8	F. Bouchard	28	Westport	1	S. Arena#
Red-necked Grebe				29	Eastham (F.H.)	3	G. d'Entremont#
22	Rockport (H.P.)	4	M. Lynch#	Great Blue Heron			
28	Marshfield	1	D. Clapp	thr	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	24 max	LCES (J. Hill)
31	Attleboro	1	G. Valade	thr	P.I.	36 max	W. Drew#
Northern Fulmar				10	Eastham (F.H.)	76	J. Sones#
6	P'town (R.P.)	1	J. Hoyer#	13	Sandwich	40	S. + E. Miller
22	Eastham (F.E.)	20	B. Nikula	27	Wellfleet	24	R. Stymeist#
22	Rockport	1	M. Lynch#	Great Egret			
26	16 m E of Stellw.	1	R. Stymeist#	4, 26	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	33, 2	LCES (J. Hill)
Cory's Shearwater				9	Westport	43	M. Boucher
6	P'town (R.P.)	2	J. Hoyer#	14	P.I.	40	M. Lynch#
7-8	Nantucket	110	T. Maloney	14	Rowley	22	J. Berry
11	Off Noman's	300+	V. Laux	Snowy Egret			
22	Eastham (F.E.)	8	B. Nikula	1	Ipswich/Essex	32	J. Berry
26	E. of Stellwagen	1	R. Stymeist	4, 13	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	65, 18	LCES (J. Hill)
Greater Shearwater				14	Rowley	9	J. Berry
6	Provincetown	100	J. Hoyer#	14	P.I.	113	M. Lynch#
8	Jeffries Ledge	45	J. Hoyer#	30	Salem	1	L. Healey
11/	Off Noman's	50+	V. Laux	Little Blue Heron			
22	Rockport (H.P.)	3	M. Lynch#	25	S. Yarmouth	1 imm	S. + E. Miller
26	16 m E. of Stellw.	375	M. Rines#	Cattle Egret			
29	Eastham (F.E.)	75	S. Arena#	26	Rockport	2	J. Young
Sooty Shearwater				Green Heron			
9	Provincetown	1	P. Svingen	6	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	T. Aversa
22	Eastham (F.E.)	3	B. Nikula	7-9	Wayland	2	K. Hamilton
Manx Shearwater				8	Marshfield	1	S. Arena#
7-8	Nantucket	2	T. Maloney	Black-crowned Night-Heron			
29	Eastham (F.E.)	3	S. Arena#	3	Yarmouth	33	C. Cook
29	Provincetown	3	S. Arena#	7	Westport	5	M. Lynch#
large shearwater species				10	Eastham (F.H.)	20	J. Sones
22	Eastham (F.E.)	120	B. Nikula	26	Provincetown	2 ad	R. Stymeist#
22	Provincetown	5	B. Nikula	29	Eastham (F.H.)	5	G. d'Entremont#

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	29	Ipswich	2 m	S. Perkins#
3 Yarmouth	2	C. Cook		
Whooper Swan				
15, 22 Ipswich	3 ad, 4 ad	J. Berry		
Mute Swan				
thr Arlington	5	M. Pelikan		
15 Westport	131	E. Nielsen		
22 Ipswich	12	J. Berry		
Greater White-fronted Goose				
7 Bridgewater	1 ad	W. Petersen#		
26 Rochester	1	M. LaBossiere		
Snow Goose				
6 Bolton Flats	42	J. Center		
18 Scusset	77	T. Lloyd-Evans		
18 Littleton	30	J. Mitchell		
18 P.I.	315	W. Drew#		
18 Worc. (BMB)	240	G. Anderson#		
18 Wareham	70	M. LaBossiere		
22 Danvers	165	J. Berry		
Brant				
28 Marshfield	7	D. Clapp		
29 Duxbury B.	3	D. Clapp		
Canada Goose				
15 W. Newbury	2000	J. Berry		
21 Ipswich	510	J. Berry		
22 Danvers	600	J. Berry		
29 Westport	350	M. Lynch#		
Wood Duck				
9 S. Monomoy	10	B. Nikula#		
14 Middleboro	16	S. Arena#		
15 GMNWR	300	P. Roberts		
22 W. Newbury	181	S. Perkins#		
29 Boston	22	T. Aversa		
Green-winged Teal				
thr P.I.	1745 max 10/11	W. Drew#		
3 Wakefield	58	P. + F. Vale		
8 GMNWR	55	D. F. Oliver		
9 S. Monomoy	40	B. Nikula#		
29 Arlington Res.	53	D. F. Oliver		
American Black Duck				
thr P.I.	1000 max 10/18	W. Drew#		
9 S. Monomoy	300	B. Nikula#		
26 S. Dart. (A.Pd)	185+	LCES (J. Hill)		
29 Westport	200+	M. Lynch#		
Northern Pintail				
9 S. Monomoy	200	B. Nikula#		
13 S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	LCES (J. Hill)		
15 GMNWR	7	P. Roberts		
15-29 Arlington	2	M. Pelikan		
24 P.I.	55	W. Drew#		
Blue-winged Teal				
1 Randolph	7	G. d'Entremont		
3, 24 P.I.	2, 5	W. Drew#		
9 S. Monomoy	8	B. Nikula		
14 Acoaxet	6	J. Hoye#		
15 Ipswich	2	J. Berry		
17 Arlington Res.	2	M. Pelikan		
Northern Shoveler				
7 Eastham	1	R. Forster		
9 S. Monomoy	60	H. Ferguson		
14 P.I.	7	R. Forster		
25 Arlington Res.	2 f	M. Pelikan		
27 Marstons Mills	1	G. Martin		
Gadwall				
9 S. Monomoy	40	B. Nikula#		
15 GMNWR	15	BBC (D. Lange)		
29 Ipswich	120	S. Perkins#		
29 Waltham	17	D. F. Oliver		
Eurasian Wigeon				
9 W. Barnstable	1 m	C. Bergfors		
11 P.I.	1 m	P. Svingen		
American Wigeon				
thr P.I.	50 max 10/11	W. Drew#		
thr Cambridge (F.P.)	43 max	J. Barton		
7, 29 Westport	56, 30	M. Lynch#		
9 S. Monomoy	75	H. Ferguson		
15 GMNWR	75	P. Roberts		
15 Ipswich	36	J. Berry		
29 Waltham	73	D. F. Oliver		
Canvasback				
13-31 Cambridge (F.P.)	39 max	J. Barton		
29 Waltham	6	F. Bouchard		
Redhead				
26 Lakeville	1	S. Arena		
Ring-necked Duck				
thr Cambridge (F.P.)	271 max	J. Barton		
14, 22, 26 Lakeville	300, 600, 125	S. Arena		
15, 21 Southboro	160, 94	M. Lynch#		
29 W. Newbury	480	E. Nielsen		
Tufted Duck				
14-29 Lakeville	1 m	T. Aversa + v.o.		
29 Sterling	1 m	B. Volkle		
Greater Scaup				
7, 29 Westport	8, 35	M. Lynch#		
9 S. Monomoy	40	H. Ferguson		
10-31 Camb. (F.P.)	16 max 10/27	J. Barton		
14, 26 Lakeville	160, 95	S. Arena#		
25 Nantucket	193	F. Bouchard		
Lesser Scaup				
8 Lakeville	55	W. Petersen		
8, 22 Pembroke	6, 35	W. Petersen		
11-31 Camb. (F.P.)	4 max 10/22	J. Barton		
15 W. Newbury	2	J. Berry		
15 Westport	17	E. Nielsen		
Common Eider				
7 Westport	26	M. Lynch#		
29 Rockport	75	S. Perkins#		
Harlequin Duck				
22 Rockport (H.P.)	4	M. Lynch#		
Oldsquaw				
22 Rockport (H.P.P)	16	M. Lynch#		
26 Provincetown	45	R. Stymeist		
Black Scoter				
6 Rockport	300	N. Nash		
19 Camb. (F.P.)	7	J. Center		
27 Wellfleet	60+	R. Stymeist		
25 Nantucket	380	F. Bouchard		
30 Wayland	15	K. Hamilton		
Surf Scoter				
2 Westport	85	M. Boucher		
6 Rockport	750	N. Nash		
8 Lakeville	2	W. Petersen		
21 S. Boston	30	M. Hall		
21 Barnstable (S.N.)	300	S. Arena#		
26 Gardner	1	T. Pirrou		
White-winged Scoter				
6 Rockport	250	N. Nash		
Common Goldeneye				
26 Lakeville	1 m	S. Arena		
29 Waltham	1 f	F. Bouchard		
29 Acton	1	M. Resch		
Bufflehead				
14 Lakeville	10	S. Arena#		
29 Westport	6	M. Lynch#		
Hooded Merganser				
15 Ipswich	3	J. Berry		
22 Hingham	10	S. Carey		
26 Braintree	20	S. Carey		
31 Westford	16	E. Stromsted		
Common Merganser				
21 Lincoln	3	M. Pelikan		

Red-breasted Merganser	7	DWWS	1	W. Petersen#
6 Rockport	75	N. Nash		
27 Wellfleet	2000	R. Stymeist#		
29 Westport	60+	M. Lynch#		
Ruddy Duck				
thr Camb. (F.P.)	141	J. Barton		
7, 29 Westport	11, 50	M. Lynch#		
8, 22 Pembroke	6, 100	W. Petersen		
9 S. Monomoy	20	B. Nikula#		
10, 20 Melrose	8, 61	D. + I. Jewell		
14 W. Newbury	300	R. Forster#		
14, 22 Rockland	22, 40	S. Shapiro		
15 Framingham	120	M. Lynch#		
21 Lincoln	40+	M. Pelikan		
22 Lakeville	62	S. Arena#		
26 Braintree	300	S. Carey		
27 Southboro	100	E. Taylor		
29 W. Newbury	320	E. Nielsen		
29 Waltham	56	D. F. Oliver		
Turkey Vulture				
8 Wayland	3	G. Long		
15 Westwood	5	E. Nielsen		
17 Maynard	6	L. Nachtrab		
29 Westport	23	M. Lynch#		
Osprey				
3, 24 W. Newbury	3, 1	S. Haydock		
8 Maynard	3	L. Nachtrab		
9 GMNWR	2	S. Carey		
14, 22 Lakeville	2, 1	S. Arena#		
24 Lincoln	2	S. Perkins#		
29 Arlington	2	K. Hartel		
29 Middleboro	1	C. Ralph		
30 Wayland	3	K. Hamilton		
30 Natick	1	E. Taylor		
Bald Eagle				
8 Maynard	1 imm	L. Nachtrab		
14 Lakeville	5	S. Arena#		
18 GMNWR	1 imm	D. + I. Jewell		
22 N. Attleboro	1 imm	G. Valade		
22 Rockport	1 imm	M. Lynch#		
29 Newbypt H.	1 imm	R. Forster		
Northern Harrier				
thr P.I.	7 max	W. Drew#		
9 S. Monomoy	5+	B. Nikula#		
14 Cumb. Farms	3	S. Arena#		
14 Nantucket	10	S. Perkins#		
20 DWWS	5	D. Clapp		
25 Provincetown	3	R. Stymeist		
29 Westport	4	M. Lynch#		
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
3 Truro	20+	M. Murphy#		
9 Westport	9	M. Boucher		
9 Cuttyhunk	5	E. Nielsen		
17 Maynard	3	L. Nachtrab		
29 Worc. (BMB)	3	B. Rasku		
thr Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 16 locations				
Cooper's Hawk				
8 Marshfield	4	S. Arena#		
9 S. Monomoy	2	H. Ferguson		
14 Lakeville	2	S. Arena#		
16 W. Roxbury	3	N. Komar		
20 Truro	2	T. Aversa#		
29 Middleboro	2	C. Ralph#		
thr Reports of individuals from 19 locations				
Northern Goshawk				
25 Wellfleet	1	R. Stymeist		
29 Truro	1	G. d'Entremont#		
Red-shouldered Hawk				
thr Sherborn	2	E. Taylor		
1, 6 E. Boxford	1	J. Brown#		
1 Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#		
7				
8 Marshfield				
8 Lakeville				
9 Barre				
14 Brookfield				
16, 22 W. Roxbury	1, 1	N. Komar		
Broad-winged Hawk				
15 Arlington	1	K. Hartel		
Swainson's Hawk				
31 Cumb. Farms	1 lt ad	T. Aversa + v.o.		
Red-tailed Hawk				
1 Harvard	9	M. Lynch#		
29 Westport	6	M. Lynch#		
American Kestrel				
8 Bolton Flats	14	BBC (S. Moore)		
Merlin				
3, 11, 18 P.I.	1, 2, 2	W. Drew#		
4 Nantucket	4	J. Hoye#		
6 WBWS	2	J. Hoye#		
14-15 Nantucket	4	S. Perkins#		
29 Westport	2	M. Lynch#		
thr Reports of individuals from 13 locations				
Peregrine Falcon				
7, 27 P.I.	1, 2	S. Arena#		
8 Truro	2	E. Salmela		
8 Chatham (S.B.)	4+	B. Nikula#		
8 Monomoy	2	B. Nikula#		
9 S. Monomoy	3+	B. Nikula#		
14 Nantucket	10	S. Perkins#		
14 GMNWR	2	P. Roberts		
15 Quincy	2	N. Smith		
16 Gay Head	25	V. Laux#		
24 Noman's	3	T. French		
24 Provincetown	2	R. Stymeist		
thr Reports of individuals from 10 locations				
Ruffed Grouse				
19 Rockport	1	J. Young		
26 S. Carver	1 dead	S. Arena#		
Wild Turkey				
5 E. Boxford	7	J. Brown#		
20 Concord	4	D. Hogan		
22 Rockport (H.P.)	1	S. Perkins#		
31 Carver	1	S. Armstrong		
Northern Bobwhite				
7 Middleboro	2	W. Petersen#		
11 W. Roxbury	3	T. Aversa		
13 Eastham (F.H.,)	25	T. Aversa		
13 Barnstable	8	K. Anderson		
Yellow Rail				
19 Yarmouthport	1	S. Miller		
Virginia Rail				
1 Bolton Flats	2	M. Lynch#		
7 Eastham (F.H.)	1	R. Forster		
8 Marshfield	1	S. Arena#		
19 Yarmouthport	4	S. + E. Miller		
Sora				
1 Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#		
1, 14 GMNWR	3, 2	P. Roberts		
4-18 Worc. (BMB)	1-2	fide C. Phillips		
7 Eastham (F.H.)	3	R. Forster		
Common Moorhen				
9 S. Monomoy	2	H. Ferguson		
American Coot				
thr Camb. (F.P.)	45 max	J. Barton		
7, 29 Westport	8, 120+	M. Lynch#		
14, 26 Lakeville	23, 190	S. Arena		
22 Danvers	64	J. Berry		
26 Braintree	100	S. Carey		
29 Waltham	123	D. F. Oliver		
29 Arlington	58	K. Hartel		
29 W. Newbury	70	R. Forster#		

Black-bellied Plover			
1	Ipswich/Essex	150	J. Berry
3	N. Monomoy	650	B. Nikula
13, 26	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	77, 13	LCES (J. Hill)
14	Nantucket	80	S. Perkins#
26	Provincetown	110	R. Stymeist#
29	P.I.	35	E. Nielsen
29	Duxbury B.	16	D. Clapp
American Golden-Plover			
7	P.I.	3	S. Arena#
20	Sandwich	1	S. + E. Miller
22	Eastham (F.E.)	4	SSBC (Fox)
29	Duxbury B.	2	D. Clapp
29	P.I.	1	J. Center
Semipalmated Plover			
1	Randolph	15	G. d'Entremont#
6	Lexington	5	M. Pelikan
8	Chatham (S.B.)	80	B. Nikula
14	Nantucket	22	S. Perkins#
19	Westport	19	E. Nielsen
22	P.I.	1	R. Forster
29	Duxbury B.	1	D. Clapp
Piping Plover			
1	M.V.	1	A. Keith#
8	Chatham (S.B.)	3	B. Nikula#
Killdeer			
1	Lincoln	36	BBC (J. Nove)
1	Easton	29	SSBC (Grant)
7	Arlington Res.	37	M. Rines
7	Bridgewater	80	W. Petersen#
8	Bolton Flats	35	BBC (S. Moore)
30	Sudbury	37	K. Hamilton
American Oystercatcher			
8	Monomoy	85+	R. Forster#
24	Nantucket	2	F. Bouchard
Greater Yellowlegs			
14, 22	Lakeville	6, 15	S. Arena
22	Eastham (F.E.)	150	SSBC (Fox)
22	Newbypt H.	135	S. Perkins#
29	P.I.	90	E. Nielsen
29	Lakeville	10	C. Ralph
Lesser Yellowlegs			
14, 29	P.I.	2, 1	M. Lynch#, E. Nielsen
15	Arlington Res.	1	M. Pelikan
21-22	Lakeville	1	S. Arena##
Solitary Sandpiper			
10	WBWS	1	P. Svingen
18	S. Yarmouth	1	S. + E. Miller
Willet			
30	P.I.	2	D. + I. Jewell
Spotted Sandpiper			
20	Arlington Res.	1	M. Pelikan
Whimbrel			
1	Ipswich	1	J. Berry
3	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
Hudsonian Godwit			
3	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
8	WBWS	2	P. Svingen
29	P.I.	2 imm	M. Pelikan
Marbled Godwit			
8-9	Monomoy	7	B. Nikula#
Ruddy Turnstone			
5	Nantucket	10	J. Hoye#
Red Knot			
3	N. Monomoy	230	B. Nikula
29	P.I.	110	E. Nielsen
Sanderling			
3	N. Monomoy	800	B. Nikula
6	Provincetown	50	J. Hoye#
27	P.I.	300	S. Arena#
29	Eastham	40	S. Arena#
Semipalmated Sandpiper			
7	P.I.	20	S. Arena#
8	Pembroke	1	W. Petersen
14	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins#
29	Duxbury B.	1	D. Clapp
Western Sandpiper			
8	Salisbury	1	BBC (W. Drummond)
8	Chatham (S.B.)	15	B. Nikula#
29	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
Least Sandpiper			
7	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
13	WBWS	1	T. Aversa
White-rumped Sandpiper			
8	Chatham (S.B.)	30	B. Nikula#
22	Newburyport	30	S. Perkins#
29	Newburyport	5	R. Forster
Pectoral Sandpiper			
9, 29	Newbury	5, 5	J. Center
8	S. Monomoy	25	J. Sones#
13	Provincetown	4	T. Aversa
27	P.I.	16	S. Arena#
Purple Sandpiper			
22	Rockport (H.P.)	2	S. Sweet#
27	Salisbury	2	S. Arena#
Dunlin			
3	N. Monomoy	700	B. Nikula
24	P.I.	370	W. Drew#
26	Lakeville	1	S. Arena#
29	Newburyport	500	R. Forster
29	Eastham	675	S. Arena#
Stilt Sandpiper (details submitted)			
7	Eastham	1	R. Forster
15	M.V.	1	A. Keith
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			
1	Randolph	1 imm	G. d'Entremont#
Short-billed Dowitcher			
8	Chatham (S.B.)	15	B. Nikula
21	P.I.	2	R. Lockwood
Long-billed Dowitcher			
22	Pembroke	1	W. Petersen
22, 29	P.I.	2, 19	R. Forster#
Common Snipe			
1	Randolph	1	G. d'Entremont
5	Rochester	2	M. LaBossiere
14	Marstons Mills	10	S. + E. Miller
American Woodcock			
12	Wayland	1	N. Patterson
13	Newton	1	H. Miller
22	Middleboro	1	G. d'Entremont#
23	Sudbury	1	S. Arena
28	Lexington	1	C. Floyd
Red Phalarope			
29	Eastham (F.E.)	3	W. Petersen#
Phalarope species			
22	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula
22	Rockport (H.P.)	1	E. Nielsen#
29	Eastham (F.E.)	6	S. Arena#
Pomarine Jaeger			
5	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#
11	M.V.	10+	V. Laux
29	Eastham (F.E.)	3	W. Petersen#
Parasitic Jaeger			
11	M.V.	1	V. Laux
27	Truro	1 dk	J. Young
26	M.V.	1	A. Keith
28	Marshfield	2	D. Clapp
Long-tailed Jaeger			
18	8-10 mi S of Noman's	1 ad	V. Laux
Jaeger species			
22	Eastham (F.E.)	7	B. Nikula
Laughing Gull			

7-29	Westport	130	1	M. Lynch#	27	P.I.	1	T. Aversa#
16	Off Noman's	2000		V. Laux	28	Fall River	1 dead	S. Arena#
21	Lynn	25		J. Quigley	Barn Owl			
25	Wellfleet	80+		R. Stymeist	14	Martha's Vineyard	2	D. Clapp#
Little Gull					Eastern Screech-Owl			
4	Lynn	1	juv	J. Quigley	thr	Mt. A.	4	J. Heywood#
22	Eastham (F.E.)	1	imm	B. Nikula	15	P.I.	10	J. Hoye#
Common Black-headed Gull					Great Horned Owl			
29	Salisbury	1		R. Lockwood	6	Wareham	2	M. LaBossiere
29	Winthrop	1	ad	M. Pelikan	7	Topsfield	2	J. MacDougall
Bonaparte's Gull					9	S. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula#
thr	Lynn	1000+		J. Quigley	13	Bolton	2	S. + L. Hennin
21-22	Lakeville	1	1W	S. Arena#	20	Eastham	2	T. Aversa
22	Newbypt H.	450		E. Nielsen#	22	Hamilton	4	J. Hoye#
Herring x Great Black-backed Gull					Barred Owl			
25	Lynn	1	ad	J. Quigley	13	Westborough	1	dead S. Arena#
Lesser Black-backed Gull					22	MNWS	1	L. Healey
1	Harvard	1	ad	M. Lynch#	22	Hamilton	2	J. Hoye#
2	Nantucket	1		J. Hoye#	Northern Saw-whet Owl			
8	N. Monomoy	2	ad	B. Nikula#	8	Salisbury	1	P. + F. Vale
9	S. Monomoy	2	ad	B. Nikula#	Common Nighthawk			
8-26	Gardner	1		L. Hennin	13	Newton	3	M. Lynch#
16	Off Noman's	1		V. Laux	Chimney Swift			
13-27	Lynn	1	ad	J. Quigley	14	Acushnet	2	M. LaBossiere
Black-legged Kittiwake					<i>Selasphorus</i> hummingbird			
6	P'own (R.P.)	10		J. Hoye#	29	Sandwich	1	M. Kasprzyk
22	Eastham (F.E.)	10		B. Nikula	Belted Kingfisher			
22	Rockport	10		M. Lynch#	1	Marlboro	4	S. Moore
26	16 mi E. of R.P.	7		R. Stymeist#	26	Lakeville	4	S. Arena#
28	Westport	8		S. Arena#	22	Pepperell	3	E. Stromsted
Caspian Tern					Red-headed Woodpecker			
1	Randolph	1	G. d'Entremont#		7	P.I.	1	imm T. Aversa#
6	S. Carver	3		J. Shaw	Red-bellied Woodpecker			
8	S. Boston	3		M. Hall	thr	Sherbourn	2	E. Taylor
14	Lakeville	1	ad	S. Arena#	1	Boxford	3	J. Berry
29	Westport	1		M. Lynch#	8	Boston (F.Pk)	2+	T. Aversa
Royal Tern					9	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#
11	Squibnocket	2		G. Daniels#	9	Cuttyhunk	2	E. Nielsen
Common Tern					10	Concord	4	R. Lockwood
26	Provincetown	28		R. Stymeist	14, 15	Ipswich	3	J. Berry
27	Truro	100+		J. Young	15	S. Orleans	2	K. McGinley
Forster's Tern					thr	Reports of individuals from 17 locations		
7	Westport	11		M. Lynch#	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
8	Chatham (S.B.)	6		B. Nikula#	4	Waltham	2	C. Ralph
29	Newburyport	1		M. Pelikan	9	Cuttyhunk	2	E. Nielsen
Razorbill					9	Newton	2	H. Miller
6	Rockport	1		N. Nash	1-16	Reports of individuals from 9 locations		
26	Squibnocket	14		G. Daniels	Hairy Woodpecker			
Black Guillemot					13	Bedford	3	M. Rines
27	Rockport (H.P.)	1		S. Arena#	25	Marshfield	2	D. Clapp
Monk Parakeet					Northern Flicker			
2	Taunton	2	at nest	M. Donovan	8	Cuttyhunk	17	E. Nielsen
Black-billed Cuckoo					Pileated Woodpecker			
8	Salisbury	1	BBC (W. Drummond)		1	Boxford	3	J. Berry
Yellow-billed Cuckoo					1	Marlboro	1	S. Moore
8	Salisbury	1	BBC (W. Drummond)		1	Harvard	1	M. Lynch#
9	Hyde Park	1		S. Arena#	20	IRWS	1	L. Healey
22	Rockport (H.P.)	1		S. Perkins#	26	Beverly	1	J. Young

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

A **Vermilion Flycatcher**, probably an immature male or female, was discovered on Plum Island on October 14 and remained through October 15, to be seen by hundreds of observers. This sighting represents only the third report of this species in Massachusetts. Coincidentally the first report was also of a bird on Plum Island 41 years ago almost to the day (October 22, 1954). The second report was from Barnstable October 7, 1961. Unfortunately details on the observation of either of these earlier birds were not available, and these sightings were not accepted by the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee. Details submitted on this 1995 report have not been considered by the MARC yet.

A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, another rare and irregular fall vagrant appeared at the Cumberland Farms fields in Middleboro on October 29 where it remained through the beginning of November. The presence of Northern Rough-winged Swallows beyond September is most unusual, so the reports of birds in Lexington and Wayland are very interesting.

Northern Wheatears were found on both Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, and large numbers of Eastern Bluebirds were reported from a wide area. Two **Bohemian Waxwings** were well observed at Halibut Point in Rockport on October 22, the earliest arrival date recorded in Massachusetts, perhaps signaling another flight year. Also of note was the number of Northern Shrike reports, especially so early. In normal flight years birds start to appear during the last week of October.

Twenty-six warbler species were noted during the month. Among the highlights were 11 Orange-crowned, 3 Connecticut, and 1 Mourning warbler, and 11 Yellow-breasted Chats. Uncommon but regular fall visitors included 8 Blue Grosbeaks, 14 Dickcissels, and 11 Clay-colored, 6 Lark, 5 Grasshopper and 6 Fox sparrows. More unusual reports included a **Harris' Sparrow** at the Provincetown airport and 2 **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** in Westport. As for winter finches, a good flight of Purple Finches was noted as compared to recent Octobers where virtually none were reported. A scattering of Pine Siskin reports and widespread reports of Evening Grosbeaks lead us to believe in a good winter for these species.

R. H. S.

Eastern Wood-Pewee	7	P.I.	1	T. Aversa#	Red-breasted Nuthatch	9	Cuttyhunk	11	E. Nielsen
Eastern Phoebe	1	Lincoln	15	BBC (J. Nove)	14-15	Nantucket	18	S. Perkins#	
	3	Ipswich	10	D. + I. Jewell	22	P.I.	12	R. Forster#	
	8	ONWR	10	R. Lockwood	White-breasted Nuthatch	15	Nantucket	4	S. Perkins#
	9	Cuttyhunk	21	E. Nielsen	Brown Creeper	9	Cuttyhunk	7	E. Nielsen
	27	P'town, Truro	2, 1	R. Stymeist	15	Arlington	5	K. Hartel	
	29	Brookline	1	T. Aversa	Carolina Wren	1	Boxford (C.P.)	1	J. Berry
Vermilion Flycatcher	14-15	P.I.	1	R. Forster + v.o.	3	Brookline	1	H. Wiggin#	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	29-31	Cumb. Farms	1	S. Shapiro + v.o.	7	Westport	9	M. Lynch#	
Horned Lark	1	Quincy	12	G. d'Entremont#	9	Cuttyhunk	12	E. Nielsen	
	8	Bolton Flats	40	E. Nielsen	14-15	Nantucket	9	S. Perkins#	
	22	Rockport (H.P.)	3	E. Nielsen#	14	Lexington	2	M. Pelikan	
	29	Salisbury	20+	R. Lockwood	15	Arlington	2	K. Hartel	
Tree Swallow	7	Westport	500+	M. Lynch#	20-31	Natick	2	E. Taylor	
	8	Truro	1000	E. Salmela#	21	Southboro	1	M. Lynch#	
	8	S. Monomoy	10,000	J. Sones#	21	Belmont	2	M. Pelikan	
	15	Nantucket	300	S. Perkins#	21	Worc. (BMB)	3	B. Rasku	
	26	Wellfleet	40	R. Stymeist	House Wren	9	Cuttyhunk	7	E. Nielsen
	29	Eastham	10	G. d'Entremont#	24	W. Roxbury	2	T. Aversa	
	29	Truro	9	G. d'Entremont#	Winter Wren	8	DWWS	1	S. Arena#
N. Rough-winged Swallow	6	Lexington	6	R. Forster	13	Salisbury	1	J. Hoye#	
	7, 8	Wayland	21, 47	K. Hamilton	15	Boston (F.Pk)	2	T. Aversa	
Cliff Swallow	10/1	M.V.	1	A. Keith#	22	P.I.	1	R. Forster	
Barn Swallow	13-28	Wayland	1-3	K. Hamilton#	24	W. Roxbury	2	T. Aversa	
Blue Jay	9	Cuttyhunk	1800	E. Nielsen	25	Cotuit	1	S. + E. Miller	
	9	Westport	350+	M. Boucher	26	Wellesley	1	R. Forster	
	14	Provincetown	150	B. Nikula#	31	Malden	1	D. + I. Jewell	
Fish Crow	17, 27	Hanson	1, 1	W. Petersen	Marsh Wren	8	Marshfield	5	S. Arena#
	2, 30	N. Attleboro	1, 2	G. Valade	13	Eastham (F.H.)	1	T. Aversa	
	26	Wellesley	1	R. Forster	25	Wayland	2	N. Patterson	
	31	Attleboro	2	G. Valade	28	Westport	2	T. Aversa#	
Common Raven	27	Groton	3	T. Pirrou	Golden-crowned Kinglet	6	Provincetown	12	J. Hoye#
Black-capped Chickadee	29	Salisbury	12 migr	R. Forster#	7-8	Nantucket	30	T. Maloney	
Tufted Titmouse	9	Chatham	75+	P. Trull	8	Nahant	20	M. Rines	
	14	Provincetown	12 migr	B. Nikula#	9	Cuttyhunk	120	E. Nielsen	
					27	Milton	15	J. Hoye#	
					Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	DWWS	6	S. Arena#
					8	Nahant	9	M. Rines	
					9	Cuttyhunk	76	E. Nielsen	
					13	P.I.	8	J. Hoye#	

15	Nantucket	6	S. Perkins#	29	Salisbury	1	immR. Lockwood
15	Ipswich	6	J. Berry	29	Topsfield	1	J. Brown#
15	Malden	15	P. + F. Vale	29-31	Cumb. Farms	1	S. Shapiro
16	Boston (F.Pk)	11	T. Aversa	30	Westwood	1	N. Komar
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				European Starling			
7	P.I.	1	T. Aversa#	28	Methuen "millions"		J. Hogan
14	Salisbury	1	H. Wiggin#	White-eyed Vireo			
14	Provincetown	1	B. Nikula#	1	Belmont	1	S. Perkins
Northern Wheatear				9	Cuttyhunk	1	E. Nielsen
1	M.V. (Katama)	1	C. Floyd#	14	P.I.	1	M. Rines
5	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#	Solitary Vireo			
Eastern Bluebird				7-8	Nantucket	2	T. Maloney
thr	E. Boxford	4-12	J. Brown#	7	Bedford	2	M. Rines
thr	Sherborn	20	E. Taylor	9	Cuttyhunk	5	E. Nielsen
8	Wayland	12	G. Long	7	P.I.	4	T. Aversa#
14	Cumb. Farms	12	S. Arena#	24	W. Roxbury	3	T. Aversa
26	Acushnet	14	M. LaBossiere	24	Melrose	2	D. + I. Jewell
26	Provincetown	13	R. Stymeist	26	Rockport	1	J. Young
29	Pepperell	21	E. Stromsted	Yellow-throated Vireo			
31	Mattapoisett	20+	F. Smith	7	P.I.	1	T. Aversa#
Gray-cheeked Thrush				8	Stow	1	BBC (S. Moore)
4	Boston (F.Pk)	2	T. Aversa	Warbling Vireo			
13	E. Boxford	1	J. Brown#	2	Gay Head	1	A. Keith#
Swainson's Thrush				Philadelphia Vireo			
4	Boston (F.Pk.)	1	T. Aversa	11	Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller
5	Worc. (BMB)	1	F. McMenemy	Red-eyed Vireo			
7	P.I.	1	T. Aversa	7	P.I.	15	T. Aversa#
13	N. Attleboro	1	G. Valade	9	Cuttyhunk	6	E. Nielsen
15	Belmont	1	M. Rines	10	Falmouth	4	T. Aversa
16, 22	W. Roxbury	1, 1	N. Komar	15	Nantucket	3	T. Maloney#
Hermit Thrush				16	Truro	1	S. + E. Miller
13	Salisbury	4	J. Hoye#	17	MNWS	1	T. Aversa
22	Worc. (BMB)	19	B. Rasku	22	Rockport (H.P.)	1	S. Perkins#
26	Truro	6	R. Stymeist	Blue-winged Warbler			
27	Wellfleet	6	R. Stymeist	1	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#
Wood Thrush				7	P.I.	1	T. Aversa
10-18	Boxford	1	J. Brown#	8	Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted
American Robin				Tennessee Warbler			
12	DWWS	876	D. Clapp	7	DWWS	1	BBC (D. Oliver)
18	N. Dartmouth	300	M. Boucher	Orange-crowned Warbler			
22	W. Roxbury	500+	N. Komar	5	Nantucket	1	N. Brooks
Gray Catbird				7	Needham	1	J. Hoye
9	Cuttyhunk	47	E. Nielsen	9	Cuttyhunk	1	E. Nielsen
10	Falmouth	40	T. Aversa	10	Woods Hole	1	T. Aversa
15	Dartmouth	14	E. Nielsen	14	Westport	1	S. + L. Hennin
15	Nantucket	15	S. Perkins#	19	Barnstable	1	M. Tuttle
19	Boston (F.Pk)	2	T. Aversa	22	N. Attleboro	1	G. Valade
Brown Thrasher				22	Brookline	1	T. Aversa
8	Wayland	1	M. Pelikan	22	Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller
9	Cuttyhunk	3	E. Nielsen	24	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa
15	Dartmouth	1	E. Nielsen	29	Wellfleet	1	G. d'Entremont
17	Nahant	1	T. Aversa	Nashville Warbler			
24	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa	1	Waltham	1	C. Ralph
27	P.I.	2	T. Aversa	3	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#
American Pipit				7	Newton	1	J. Hoye#
9	Bolton Flats	20	E. Salmela	10	Wellesley	1	R. Forster
14	Nantucket	20	S. Perkins#	18	Boston	2	T. Aversa
15	P.I.	30	J. Hoye#	24	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa
15	W. Newbury	20+	J. Berry	27	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell
21	Concord (NAC)	40	M. Pelikan	29	Brookline	1	T. Aversa
29-31	Middleboro	75	S. Shapiro	Northern Parula			
Bohemian Waxwing (details submitted)				3	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#
22	Rockport (H.P.)	2	M. Lynch#	7	P.I.	2	T. Aversa#
Northern Shrike				10	Falmouth	1	T. Aversa
13	E. Orleans	1 ad	K. McGinley	15	Arlington	1	M. Pelikan
18, 26	Rockport (2 loc.)	1, 1	J. Young	23	Boston (F.Pk)	1	T. Aversa
24	P.I.	1	W. Tatro	Yellow Warbler			
25, 29	Newton	1	H. Miller	6	Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted
25	Salisbury	1 ad	R. Stymeist	13	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	3	LCES (J. Hill)
26	Provincetown	1 imm	R. Stymeist	Chestnut-sided Warbler			
28	Uxbridge	1	C. Ralph	7	Bedford	1	M. Rines

Magnolia Warbler				Mourning Warbler			
4	Boston (F.Pk)	2	T. Aversa	1	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#
5	Nantucket	2	J. Hoye#	Common Yellowthroat			
12	Wellesley	1	R. Forster	9	Cuttyhunk	8	E. Nielsen
14	Westwood	5	E. Nielsen	13	Salisbury	5	J. Hoye#
15	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins#	Wilson's Warbler			
17	P.I.	1	T. Aversa	3	Nahant	1	T. Aversa
Cape May Warbler				6	Newton	1	M. Rines
1	W. Newbury	1	BBC (S. Grinley)	9	Cuttyhunk	1	E. Nielsen
15	Nantucket	5	S. Perkins#	Yellow-breasted Chat			
Black-throated Blue Warbler				3	MNWS	1	T. Aversa
3	MNWS	7	T. Aversa	5-13	Newton	1	H. Miller
9	Cuttyhunk	5	E. Nielsen	8	Westport	1	S. + L. Hennin
15	Boston (F.Pk)	2	T. Aversa	8	Eastham	1	E. Salmela
18	Waltham	1	C. Ralph	9	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood
Yellow-rumped Warbler				10	Falmouth	3	T. Aversa
7, 17	P.I.	300, 200	T. Aversa	19	Barnstable	1	M. Tuttle
9	Westport	750	M. Boucher	20	Rockport	1	J. Young
9	Cuttyhunk	300+	E. Nielsen	Scarlet Tanager			
14	Provincetown	250	B. Nikula#	1	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#
14	Nantucket	200	S. Perkins#	1	GMNWR	1	P. Van Mobek
15	Arlington	100	K. Hartel	1	Camb. (F.P.)	1	S. Perkins
22	Worc. (BMB)	90	B. Rasku	9	Princeton	1	M. Pelikan
Black-throated Green Warbler				9	Newton	1	H. Miller
7	P.I.	9	T. Aversa#	25	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews
22	Brookline	3	T. Aversa	Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
26	Boston (F.Pk)	1	T. Aversa	6	Provincetown	1	J. Hoye#
Pine Warbler				7-8	Nantucket	1	T. Maloney
1-17	Mattapoisett	18+	F. Smith	31	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan
1	Nantucket	12	J. Hoye#	Blue Grosbeak			
Prairie Warbler				3-5	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#
9	Cuttyhunk	3	E. Nielsen	6	Newton	1	M. Rines
22	P.I.	1	R. Forster#	9	N. Attleboro	1	G. Valade
27	Truro	1	J. Young	9	Truro	3	H. D'Entremont
Palm Warbler				14	S. Dartmouth	1	J. Hoye#
3	Nantucket	35	J. Hoye#	30	Beverly	1	G. Lect#
4	Lexington	25	M. Rines	30	Truro	2	S. Arena##
8	Framingham	65	K. Hamilton	Indigo Bunting			
8	Bolton Flats	60	E. Nielsen	7-8	Nantucket	12	T. Maloney
Bay-breasted Warbler				19	Wellesley	1	J. Hoye
1	W. Newbury	1	BBC (S. Grinley)	21	Belmont	2	M. Pelikan
3	MNWS	1	T. Aversa	27	Truro	3	J. Young
Blackpoll Warbler				Dickcissel			
1	Grafton	18 b	M. Blazis	1	Salisbury	2	P. + F. Vale
1	Easton	15	G. d'Entremont#	5	Nantucket	3	J. Hoye#
4	Boston (F.Pk)	7	T. Aversa	6	Cumb. Farms	1	T. Aversa
23, 31	Waltham	4, 1	C. Ralph	7	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
29	Boston	1	T. Aversa	7	Wayland	1	S. + L. Hennin
Black-and-white Warbler				9	Belmont	1	C. Floyd
1	Truro	1	J. Young	12	DWWS	1	D. Clapp
7	P.I.	2	T. Aversa#	13	Wellfleet	1	T. Aversa
8	DWWS	1	S. Arena#	21	Marshfield	1	D. Clapp
9	Boston (F.Pk)	1	T. Aversa	24-27	Truro	1	R. Stymeist#
15	Newton	1	R. Forster	26	Provincetown	1	R. Stymeist#
22	Brookline	1	T. Aversa	Rufous-sided Towhee			
American Redstart				9	Cuttyhunk	27	E. Nielsen
2	Nantucket	10	J. Hoye#	15	Dartmouth	16	E. Nielsen
7	Nahant	1	M. Pelikan	22	Rockport	3	E. Nielsen
10	Falmouth	1	T. Aversa	24	W. Roxbury	2	T. Aversa
15	Edgartown	1	A. Keith	American Tree Sparrow			
20	P.I.	1	C. Cook	27	Salisbury	6	S. Arena#
Ovenbird				30	GMNWR	2	C. Floyd
9	Salisbury	1	R. Lockwood	Chipping Sparrow			
20	Boston	1	T. Raymond	9	Cuttyhunk	60	E. Nielsen
Northern Waterthrush				17	Mattapoisett	26	F. Smith
7	Arlington	1	M. Rines	19	Concord (NAC)	15	R. Walton
15	Edgartown	1	A. Keith	20	P.I.	15	C. Cook
Connecticut Warbler				Clay-colored Sparrow			
2	Grafton	1 b	M. Blazis	5	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#
4	Nantucket	1	J. Hoye#	7-8	Harwich	1	R. Forster#
10	Wayland	1	G. Long	9	Westport	1	M. Boucher

10	Sandwich	1	T. Aversa	7, 9	N. Attleboro	3, 1	G. Valade
13	Truro	1	T. Aversa	8	Wayland	4	G. Long
14	P.I.	1	R. Forster#	8	Bolton Flats	3	E. Nielsen
14	Newton	1	BBC (C. Hepburn)	15	Newton	3	M. Lynch#
19	GMNWR	1	C. Cook	31	Cumb. Farms	1	T. Aversa
22	P.I.	2	C. Floyd	Swamp Sparrow			
31	Cumb. Farms	1	T. Aversa	thr	Wayland	35 max	10/11 N. Patterson
Field Sparrow				1	Bolton Flats	102	M. Lynch#
1	Dartmouth	20	E. Nielsen	11	DWWS	125	D. Clapp
11	W. Roxbury	15	T. Aversa	15	Dartmouth	28	E. Nielsen
20	Truro	20	T. Aversa#	15	W. Newbury	77	J. MacDougall
22	P.I.	17	R. Forster#	17, 22	N. Attleboro	43, 128	G. Valade
Vesper Sparrow				22	Truro	37	G. d'Entremont#
6	Lexington	1	M. Pelikan	White-throated Sparrow			
6, 8	N. Attleboro	3, 1	G. Valade	8	DWWS	65	S. Arena#
7	Westport	1	M. Lynch#	9	Cuttyhunk	180	E. Nielsen
8	ONWR	1	R. Lockwood	14	Ipswich	50	J. Berry
8, 21	Wayland	1, 1	G. Long	White-crowned Sparrow			
9	Wellfleet	2	S. + L. Hennin	1	Nantucket	6	J. Hoye#
9	Truro	1	H. D'Entremont	7	Middleboro	8	W. Petersen#
15	W. Bridgewater	1	S. Arena#	7	Woburn	6	M. Rines
20	DWWS	1	D. Clapp	7	W. Newbury	6	S. + L. Hennin
22	P.I.	1	S. Perkins#	8	Bolton Flats	15	E. Nielsen
Lark Sparrow				9	Westport	6	M. Boucher
7	Eastham	1	B. Bieda	14	S. Dartmouth	6	J. Hoye#
9	Cuttyhunk	1	T. Raymond#	15	P.I.	5-6	J. Berry
10	Salisbury	1	H. D'Entremont	20	GMNWR	10	C. Beauregard
12	Duxbury B.	1	D. Clapp	Harris' Sparrow			
21	Wellfleet	1	G. Martin	14-22	Provincetown	1	B. Nikula + v.o.
24	Provincetown	1	R. Stymeist	Dark-eyed Junco			
Savannah Sparrow				9	Cuttyhunk	390	E. Nielsen
6, 22	N. Attleboro	47, 30	G. Valade	14-15	Nantucket	155	S. Perkins#
7	Middleboro	80	W. Petersen#	15	Boston (F.Pk)	120	T. Aversa
8	DWWS	70	S. Arena#	20	P.I.	150+	C. Cook
8	Wayland	80	G. Long	Lapland Longspur			
8	Framingham	120	K. Hamilton	1	Nantucket	2	B. Wicks
19	Concord (NAC)	75	R. Walton	3	N. Monomoy	13	B. Nikula
"Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow				3	Concord (NAC)	1	T. Aversa
22	P.I.	2	R. Forster#	7	Westport	2	M. Lynch#
26	Barnstable	1	S. Arena	14	Wayland	2	M. Pelikan
Grasshopper Sparrow				14	P.I.	14	R. Forster
6	Cumb. Farms	1	T. Aversa	Snow Bunting			
8	Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted	30	Marblehead	100	L. Healey
9	Wayland	1	K. Hamilton	30	P.I.	80	D. + I. Jewell
14	Provincetown	1	J. Sones#	30	Quincy	22	N. Smith
20	Truro	1	T. Aversa	31	Attleboro	40	G. Valade
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				Bobolink			
4, 13	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	7, 10	LCES (J. Hill)	1	W. Quincy	6	G. d'Entremont#
7	Eastham (F.H.)	14	R. Forster	2	GMNWR	40	R. Lockwood
8	Marshfield	7	S. Arena#	5	Wayland	17	S. Arena#
14	Newbury	12	M. Rines	7	Westport	12	M. Lynch#
14	P.I.	15	R. Forster#	8	DWWS	5	S. Arena#
29	Duxbury B.	3	D. Clapp	10	Sandwich	24	T. Aversa
Seaside Sparrow				14	Nantucket	30	S. Perkins#
10	Eastham (F.H.)	2	J. Sones	25	Truro	1	R. Stymeist
14	P.I.	3	R. Forster#	Red-winged Blackbird			
Fox Sparrow				1	GMNWR	100+	M. Hall
9	Bolton Flats	1	E. Salmela	29	Ipswich	300	S. Perkins#
17	Nahant	1	T. Aversa	Eastern Meadowlark			
20	IRWS	1	L. Healy	14	P.I.	22	J. Brown#
24	Lexington	1	M. Rines	20	Cummaquid	9	S. + E. Miller
24	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell	31	Cumb. Farms	52	T. Aversa
27	Groton	1	T. Pirrou	Yellow-headed Blackbird			
Song Sparrow				7, 29	Westport	1 m, 1	M. Lynch#
1	Bolton Flats	65	M. Lynch#	Rusty Blackbird			
7	Middleboro	150	W. Petersen#	4	Lexington	25	M. Rines
9	Cuttyhunk	48	E. Nielsen	8	GMNWR	115	D. F. Oliver
13	DWWS	160	D. Clapp	9	Bolton Flats	200	E. Salmela
20	P.I.	75	C. Cook	13	Provincetown	17	T. Aversa
Lincoln's Sparrow				14	Provincetown	50	B. Nikula
5	Belmont	4	C. Cook	14	Warren	20+	M. Lynch#

16	Bedford	75	M. Rines	31	Cumb. Farms	1	T. Aversa
27	Framingham	80	K. Hamilton	Pine Grosbeak			
Common	Grackle			29	Pepperell	5	E. Stromsted
1, 31	Framingham	2000,20	E. Taylor	Purple Finch			
12	Wakefield	1400	P. + F. Vale	1	Nantucket	12	J. Hoye#
21	Pepperell	1000	E. Stromsted	9	Cuttyhunk	16	E. Nielsen
28	Methuen	"millions"	J. Hogan#	12	Worc. (BMB)	10	F. McMenemy
29	Westport	20,000	M. Lynch#	14	Wayland	7	G. Long
31	Bridgewater	1500	T. Aversa	26	Wellesley	10	R. Forster
Brown-headed	Cowbird			Pine Siskin			
7	Middleboro	350	W. Petersen#	18	Westport	1	F. Thurber
8	Concord (NAC)	230	M. Pelikan	22	Rockport (H.P.)	2	M. Lynch#
19	N. Dartmouth	150	M. Boucher	25	Provincetown	1	R. Stymeist#
Northern	Oriole			Evening Grosbeak			
8	DWWS	1	S. Arena#	24	Lincoln	3	S. Perkins#
9	Cuttyhunk	1	E. Nielsen	25, 27	Eastham (2 loc.)	3, 2	R. Stymeist
9	Westport	1	M. Boucher	27	Wayland	2	A. Hirschkop
13	Truro	2	T. Aversa	27	Rockport (H.P.)	17	T. Aversa
15	Nantucket	3	S. Perkins#	30	Natick	6	T. Malcolm
26	Rockport	1	J. Young	30	Waltham	10	T. Browne
28	Pepperell	1	E. Stomsted	30	Bolton	20	S. + L. Hennin

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

This publication prints monthly compilations of reports of birds seen in the ten counties of eastern Massachusetts (Worcester County and east) and offshore waters. Space does not permit the inclusion of all material submitted. However, bird sightings sent to *Bird Observer* are archived at the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Our compilers select and summarize for publication sightings that provide a snapshot of birdlife during the reporting period. These sightings include early and late dates for migratory species, maximum counts of migrants and some common birds, and species found beyond their normal ranges.

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month. Send to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 94 Grove Street, Watertown, MA 02172. Please organize reports by month and by species in current A.O.U. checklist order. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, number of observers, and information relevant to age, sex, morph, etc.

Reports of difficult identifications, vagrants, rarities, or species unusual as to place, time, or prior nesting activity in Massachusetts also should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Wayne Petersen, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773. Include, in addition to the above information, time of day and light available, weather conditions, the optics used and approximate distance from the bird, length of observation, observer's prior experience with the species, and field guide or other references used. Provide a description of the bird based solely on personal observation. Comment on the distinguishing field marks (observed and unobserved), vocalizations, activity, general behavior, habitat, and other birds present. Include with your report copies of any field notes and sketches.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad	adult	H.	Harbor
alt	alternate	I.	Island
b	banded	L.	Ledge
br	breeding	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
dk	dark (phase)	Mt.A.	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
f	female	Nant.	Nantucket
fl	fledged	Newbypt	Newburyport
imm	immature	P.I.	Plum Island
ind	individuals	Pd	Pond
juv	juvenile	P'town	Provincetown
loc	location	Quab.	Quabbin
lt	light (phase)	Res.	Reservoir
m	male	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
max	maximum	S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
mi	mile	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
migr	migrating	S.F.	State Forest
n	nesting	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
ph	photographed	S.P.	State Park
pl	plumage	Stellw.	Stellwagen Bank
pr	pair	Worc.	Worcester
S	summer (1S = first summer)	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
thr	throughout	BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester
v.o.	various observers	CBC	Christmas Bird Count
W	winter (2W = second winter)	CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
w/	with	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
yg	young	DWWS	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary
#	additional observers	EMHW	Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	HRWMA	High Ridge Wildlife Management Area, Gardner-Westminster
A.Pd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
Arl.	Arlington	LCES	Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies
B.	Beach	MARC	Massachusetts Avian Records Committee
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	MBO	Manomet Observatory
Buzz.	Buzzards Bay	MBWMA	Martin Burns Wildlife Management Area, Newbury
Cambr.	Cambridge	MDFW	MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms, Middleboro-Halifax	NBC	Needham Bird Club
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	NEHW	New England Hawk Watch
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
F.M.	Fowl Meadow	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	TASL	Take A Second Look Harbor Census
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston	USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
G45	Gate 45, Quabbin	WMWS	Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary

ABOUT THE COVER: COMMON REDPOLL

Henry David Thoreau wrote of this tame winter visitor from the far north, "What a rich contrast! Tropical colors, crimson breasts, on cold white snow! Such etherealness, such delicacy in their forms, such ripeness in their colors, in this stern and barren season!" The Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) is easily distinguished from all other small finches except the Hoary Redpoll by its red cap or poll and black chin. Males have the blush of red on the breast which so impressed Thoreau. Juvenile birds have streaked breasts and lack the distinctive head markings of adults. Hoary Redpolls are generally lighter in coloration, lack streaking on their rumps, and have smaller bills (for details see the American Birding Association journal *Birding*, 1995, 27:446-457). Common Redpolls are circumpolar in distribution, and four subspecies are currently recognized worldwide.

The breeding range of the Common Redpoll in the Western Hemisphere extends from Alaska across northern Canada to Greenland. They move south in winter. They are generally nomadic though a few banding returns indicate a limited or sporadic winter site fidelity. The Common Redpoll is an irruptive species with biennial or triennial invasions as far south as Virginia and Ohio. These irruptions are probably associated with seed crop failure in the north. In Massachusetts there have been major invasions during nine winters since the



Common Redpolls

Illustration by Barry W. Van Dusen

mid-1930s, the most recent in 1993-1994. Invasions usually begin in late November or December, and birds may linger until March or even April. They form flocks, usually of less than 100 birds, although flocks of more than 2000 were reported in the 1940s. They may form mixed species flocks with siskins, goldfinches, and Tree Sparrows, and frequent weedy fields and coastal dunes. They often come to thistle feeders and recent FeederWatch data from the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology suggest that they prefer rural feeder locations to urban ones, and may aggregate into large flocks at preferred feeding locations. Common Redpolls are generally tame, but flocks at feeders can be "nervous" and swirl into their characteristic rapid, undulating, bouncing flight pattern at the slightest perceived threat.

Common Redpolls are probably a monogamous species, although many aspects of their life histories remain obscure. They produce one or occasionally two broods in the brief arctic summers characterized by nearly continuous daylight. They breed on the open tundra with scattered trees and shrubs and are not aggressively territorial. Their song has been described as a rippling trill and twittering, and they have a metallic, rattling *chit-chit-chit* flight call. Their courtship displays are not well known, but reportedly the female droops her wings, twittering, while the male bows stiffly. They also have a variety of display flights. Redpolls have a rigid social system with males dominant in winter and females gaining dominance by the breeding season.

The nest is usually placed three to six feet high in a tree or shrub. The nest is a platform of sticks with a cup of finely woven plant materials lined with feathers, often from ptarmigans, which presumably provide insulation against the cold arctic spring. The usual clutch is four or five purple marked blue-green eggs. The nine or ten days of incubation is done mostly by the female, which is fed on the nest by the male. The female does most of the brooding after the eggs hatch and until the young fledge in about twelve days. The adults feed the young insects as well as seeds and may forage for more than eighteen hours during the long arctic days.

Redpolls are primarily seed-eating ground foragers, but in winter they forage extensively on birch seeds, often shaking the seeds from catkins and then retrieving them on the ground. They are adapted for rapid foraging and possess an esophageal diverticulum, a seed storage pouch in the neck region, which they can stuff with seeds and retrieve later from the protection of a conifer bow. They can assume a fluffed up nearly spherical shape which retards heat loss, a major problem for small arctic birds. They are preyed upon by raptors, but their main enemy is the periodic failure of seed crops, and the generally harsh condition of their arctic tundra homeland, which periodically drives them into our area—to our great delight.

W. E. Davis, Jr.

ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

We are fortunate in having Barry Van Dusen as a regular contributor to cover art. Barry's skill as a wildlife artist continues to be recognized both nationally and internationally. In 1994 Barry was the only new person selected to exhibit with the Society of Wildlife Artists at their annual show in London at the Mall Galleries. Most recently he was elected as a full member to this international society. Recently completed or soon-to-be-completed projects include identification plates of gulls and terns for an upcoming field guide to North American birds that will be published by Simon and Schuster and a pocket guide to backyard birds, to be published by the Massachusetts Audubon Society (due to be released in the spring of 1996). Readers can see exhibits of Barry's work when he is the featured artist at the Great Meadows Wildlife Art Show in Concord, Massachusetts, on April 27, 1996. He is also doing a one-man exhibition at the New England Wildflower Society, Garden in the Woods, in Framingham, Massachusetts, from June 3-June 30, 1996. Barry can also be reached at 13 Radford Road, Princeton, Massachusetts 01541.

M. Steele

AT A GLANCE *December 1995* _____ *Wayne R. Petersen*

One of the more frequent problems associated with bird identification arises when a relatively familiar or easy-to-identify species presents itself in an unfamiliar or unusual way. Such is the case with December's mystery photo.

The most obvious thing about the bird in the photograph is that it clearly is a swimming bird. This significantly narrows the field of possibilities, many of which can immediately be eliminated. For example, uniformly dark swimmers such as cormorants and coots can be ruled out simply on the basis of color pattern. The long, narrow pointed wing shape removes waterfowl (i.e., ducks, geese, and swans) from the running. Terns, which sometimes rest on the water, possess notched or deeply forked tails. Loons, grebes, and alcids, whose wing shape is also quite different, can be excluded by the pictured bird's conspicuous white upper tail coverts at the base of a fairly long and rounded tail.

The most obvious remaining possibilities are a tubenose (i.e., a procellariiform) of some sort, a Northern Gannet, a jaeger, or a gull. Although immature gannets may show some white upper tail coverts, their tails are slender and pointed, and they do not exhibit the capped appearance of the

swimmer in the picture. Gulls can be similarly eliminated because of the mystery bird's narrow wing shape and especially by the dark trailing wing edges contrasting with white wing linings. Gulls typically have white trailing wing edges, not dark.

This leaves only tubenoses and jaegers as choices. As noted in October's mystery bird description, jaegers have dark underwings, except subadult birds which have barred wing linings and, when seen from beneath, ordinarily display a white flash near the base of the primaries. Having reduced the possibilities to the Order *Procellariiformes*, the choices narrow quickly. Despite the appearance of a white rump, the combination of white under the long, slender wings and the light throat and neck patterns at once remove the storm-petrels as alternatives, just as the white upper tail coverts rule out the Northern Fulmar and Sooty and Manx shearwaters.

We can now choose between Cory's and Greater shearwater. The pictured shearwater clearly has a dark cap contrasting with a white face and neck, not a uniformly dusky head, face, and neck, and there is the suggestion of a pale collar behind the head. These features, along with the obvious white upper tail coverts, positively identify the mystery bird as a Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*).

The Greater Shearwater is a common summer and fall visitor to the pelagic waters off Massachusetts. The shearwater in the picture was attending a chum slick behind a birding boat off Block Island, Rhode Island.



Greater Shearwater

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen

Spring Workshops

Spring Migration Workshop - The Fervor and the Phenomenon

Spring bird migration is one of the annual marvels of the temperate zone. Each year hundreds of thousands of birds race northward in May to breed in New England and eastern Canada. Besides responding to variations in wind, weather, and ever-changing habitat conditions, these migrants use a variety of navigation, orientation, and topographical cues to ensure the success of their journey.

In this workshop, spring migration will be discussed in broad biological and evolutionary terms, and more specifically how the dynamics of migration affect birds seen in Massachusetts in mid-May. The workshop comprises an evening lecture and a field trip to Essex County. Leader: Wayne R. Petersen.

Seminar: Friday, May 10, 1996 (7:00-9:00 P.M.)

Field Trip: Saturday, May 11, 1996.

All day. Essex County.

Cost: \$35

Grassland Workshop - Their Birds, Beasts, and Conservation

New England grasslands and a number of their inhabitants are rapidly declining in the face of ecological succession, changes in land use practices, and human development. Currently, several grassland birds are among the rarest and local breeding bird species in the region. One species, the Heath Hen, is already extinct. Nevertheless, Massachusetts has an interesting variety of grassland species, as well as some spectacular concentrations of grassland birds.

In this workshop various types of New England grassland habitats will be described, their characteristic species identified, and their conservation discussed. A field trip to one of Massachusetts' premiere grassland habitats will allow participants to observe firsthand some of the greatest grassland bird concentrations in the state. Leader: Wayne R. Petersen.

Seminar: Friday, May 31, 1996 (7:00-9:00 P.M.)

Field Trip: Saturday, June 1, 1996.

All day. Westover Air Force Base.

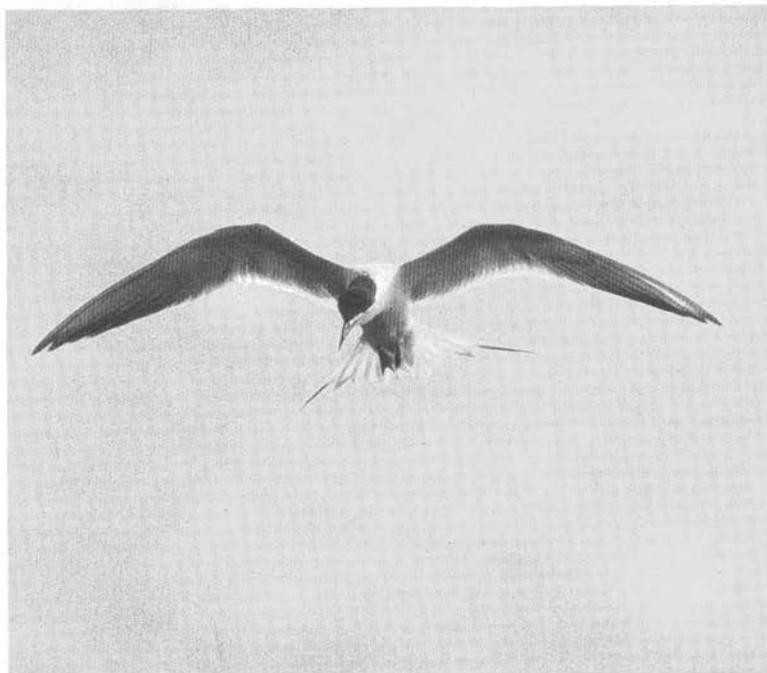
Cost: \$35.

These workshops are cosponsored by *Bird Observer* and the Needham Bird Club. Seminar sessions will be held in Needham, MA. Directions to the seminars will be sent to registrants. Details about the field trips will be announced at the seminars preceding them. If you have questions, please call 617-666-8934 (evenings). Workshops limited to 20 participants. Preregistration is required.

To register, send your name, address, and phone numbers with your check (payable to *Bird Observer*) to Bird Observer Workshops, c/o H. D'Entremont, 45 Montrose Street, Somerville, MA 02143.

AT A GLANCE

Photo by Simon Perkins



Can you identify this bird?

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

We give avid birders something few binocular and telescope stores can.

Help.

We at the F.C. Meichsner Co. don't just talk to our customers about optical equipment. We listen to them, too.

And when you've been listening to people for 72 years, you can't help but learn a thing or two.

Like what birders want in a pair of binoculars—and what they don't.

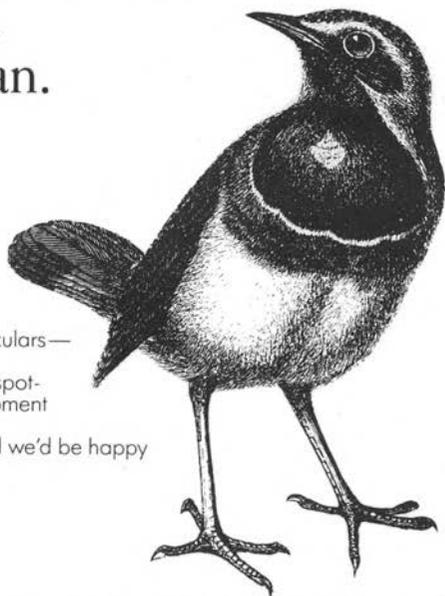
So when you're about ready for a new spotting scope, binoculars, or repairs on equipment you already own, give us a call.

We accept most major credit cards, and we'd be happy to let you do most of the talking.



F.C. Meichsner Co.

182 Lincoln St., Boston, MA 02111
(617) 426-7092



**BIRD OBSERVER (USPS 369-850)
462 TRAPELO ROAD
BELMONT, MA 02178**

**SECOND CLASS
POSTAGE PAID
AT
BOSTON, MA**

Dec 97

DON'T MISS OUT

Spring Workshops

Spring Migration Workshop:

The Fervor and the Phenomenon

Grassland Workshop:

Their Birds, Beasts, and Conservation

See page 66.

CONTENTS

CUMBERLAND FARMS FIELDS	Kathleen S. Anderson	4
THE IMPACT OF BIRD FEEDING ON WINTERING BIRDS	Herb Wilson	17
ON COLLECTING VAGRANTS	John C. Kricher	24
THE IDENTIFICATION GUIDE SERIES: AN OVERVIEW	Mark Lynch	29
FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE		
Cooper's Hawk and Great Horned Owl Encounter	Christopher Phillips and Paul Ricard	36
Fall Shorebird Migration in Central Massachusetts	Robert C. Bradbury	38
BIRD SIGHTINGS: SEPTEMBER 1995 SUMMARY		40
BIRD SIGHTINGS: OCTOBER 1995 SUMMARY		50
ABOUT THE COVER: Common Redpoll	W. E. Davis, Jr.	62
ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Barry W. Van Dusen	M. Steele	64
AT A GLANCE	Wayne R. Petersen	64
Cover Illustration: Common Redpoll by Barry W. Van Dusen		
