

# BIRD OBSERVER



VOL. 27 NO. 3

JUNE 1999



# BIRD OBSERVER

• a bimonthly journal •

To enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds.

VOL. 27, NO. 3 JUNE 1999

<b>Editor in Chief</b>	Matthew L. Pelikan	<b>Corporate Officers</b>	
<b>Associate Editor</b>	Marjorie W. Rines	<i>President</i>	Marjorie W. Rines
<b>Production Editor</b>	David M. Larson	<i>Treasurer</i>	Sandon C. Shepard
<b>Department Heads</b>		<i>Clerk</i>	Patricia A. O'Neill
<i>Cover Art</i>	William E. Davis, Jr.	<i>Assistant Clerk</i>	John A. Shetterly
<i>Where to Go Birding</i>	Jim Berry	<b>Board of Directors</b>	
<i>Feature Articles</i>	Marta Hersek	Dorothy R. Arvidson	Alden G. Clayton
<i>Book Reviews</i>	Alden G. Clayton	William E. Davis, Jr.	Glenn d'Entremont
<i>Bird Sightings</i>	Robert H. Stymeist	H. Christian Floyd	Janet L. Heywood
<i>At a Glance</i>	Wayne R. Petersen	Harriet E. Hoffman	Carolyn B. Marsh
<b>Managers</b>		Matthew L. Pelikan	Wayne R. Petersen
<i>Subscription</i>	Carolyn B. Marsh	John H. Shetterly	Robert H. Stymeist
<i>Advertisements</i>	Robert H. Stymeist	<b>Associate Staff</b>	
		Theodore Atkinson	Susan L. Carlson
		Seth Kellogg	David E. Lange
		Simon Perkins	Pamela A. Perry
		Fay Vale	

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$21 for 6 issues, \$40 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 02476-0003

ADVERTISING: full page, \$100; half page, \$55; quarter page, \$35. Send camera-ready copy to Bird Observer Advertising, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003.

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Send reports in writing by the eighth of the next month to: Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 94 Grove Street, Watertown, MA 02472.

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

Matthew L. Pelikan, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003.

E-mail: mpeli74592@aol.com

Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced on one side only on 8½" x 11" paper. If possible, please include a computer disk (Word .doc, or .txt or .rtf formats), or e-mail to the editor as an attached file. 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. Provide tables and figures 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. 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.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *BIRD OBSERVER*, 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02478. PERIODICALS CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, MA.

*BIRD OBSERVER* (USPS 369-850) is published bimonthly, COPYRIGHT © 1999 by Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc., 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02478, 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.

ISSN: 0893-4630

# CONTENTS

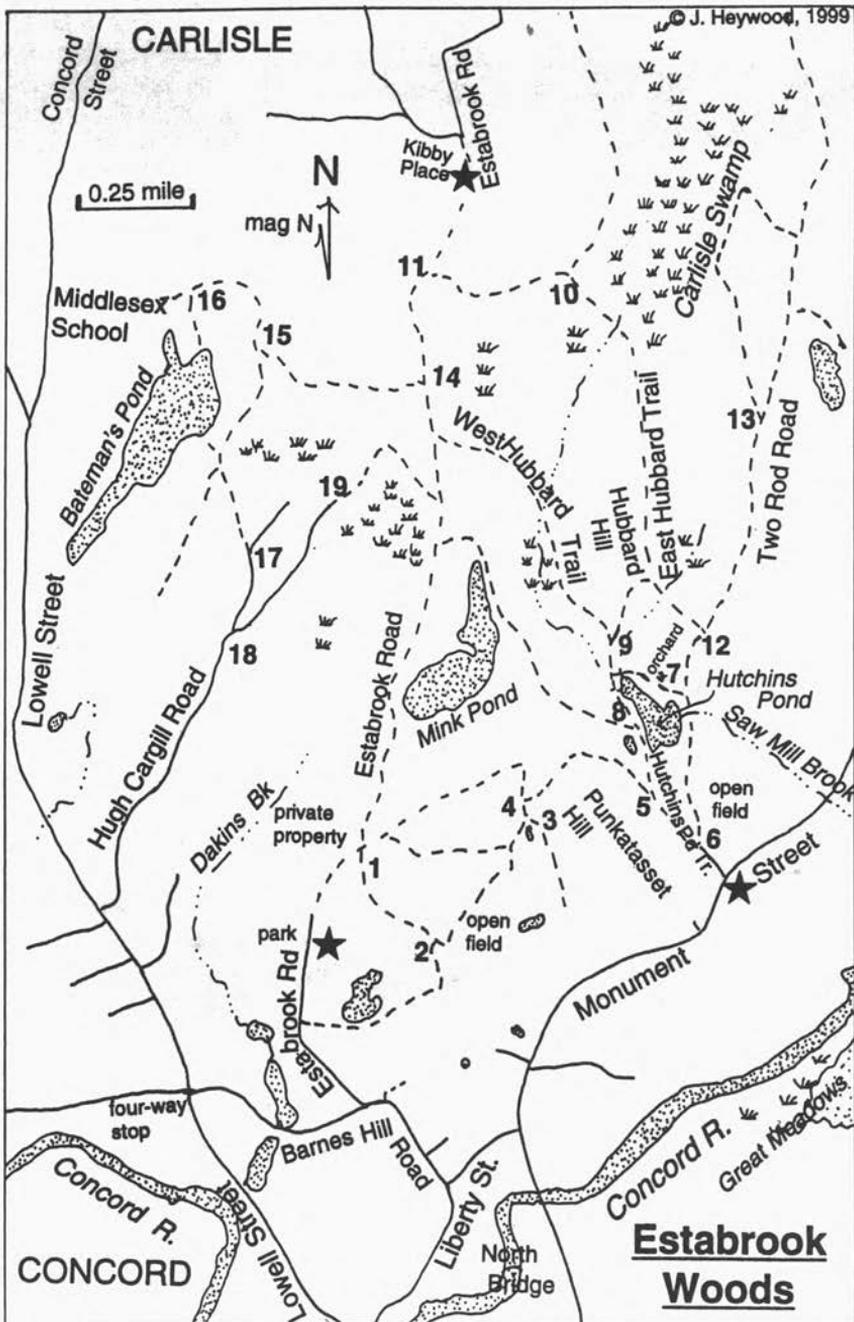
---

EXPLORING ESTABROOK WOODS.....	Ron Lockwood	125
MEMORIES OF MERGANSERS.....	Tudor Richards	133
THE CASE OF THE PURLOINED HAWK EGGS.....	David A. Talman	137
SHARING THE EAGLE.....	Marjorie W. Rines	139
ABOUT BOOKS: Looking Back		
The Books that Made Me a Birder.....	Mark Lynch	142
FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE		
Starlings and Tent Caterpillars.....	Richard W. Hildreth	145
On the Farm.....	Oakes Plimpton	146
NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB: 1999 Request for Proposals:		
Charles Blake Fund Grants.....		147
<i>BIRD OBSERVER</i> : On Becoming a Truly Statewide Journal.....		150
BIRD SIGHTINGS: January/February 1999 Summary.....		151
ABOUT THE COVER: Ovenbird.....	William E. Davis, Jr.	167
ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Barry Van Dusen.....		168
AT A GLANCE.....	Wayne R. Petersen	169
Cover Illustration: Ovenbird by Barry Van Dusen		

-----  
Visit the Bird Observer web site at:

**<http://massbird.org/birdobserver>**  
-----





## EXPLORING ESTABROOK WOODS

by Ron Lockwood

Estabrook Woods, with its wide variety of habitats, is an excellent place to spend a leisurely morning birding. The area totals about five square miles and is covered by an extensive system of trails. Much of the area belongs to Harvard University as part of the Concord Field Station, with smaller sections owned by the town of Concord, the Middlesex School, and private individuals. The canopy is generally dominated by mixed oak species, but there are some areas of mature white pine and hemlock. Black birch and white pine frequently form the understory. Wetter areas have red maple and a few yellow birch. There are three large ponds and various smaller ones, as well as extensive wetland habitat. Finally, open fields border the perimeter in several locations. This rich diversity of habitats is reflected in an abundance of bird life.

There is easy access to Estabrook Woods at a number of points. One is from Monument Street in Concord, about a mile past the Old North Bridge on the northwest side of the road and just east of Punkatasset Hill at what the maps call John's Junction. Another access point, this one from the north side, is in the town of Carlisle at the junction of Estabrook Road and Kibby Place. This is most easily reached by taking Russell Street east from Concord Street in Carlisle and turning right after 0.7 mile onto Bellows Hill Road. Then follow Bellows Hill Road for 0.4 mile and turn right onto Estabrook Road. After another 0.4 mile, the paved portion of Estabrook Road ends at Kibby Place. Estabrook Road continues south as a dirt road into Estabrook Woods. There is a large stone pillar at the beginning of the dirt road. Park along Kibby Place, and walk due south along the dirt road into the woods.

My preferred entrance is from Estabrook Road in Concord. To reach this entrance, take Lowell Street northwest from Concord center for 1.2 miles until you reach a four-way stop. Turn right here onto Barnes Hill Road, go east for 0.4 mile, and take your first left onto Estabrook Road. Drive another 0.4 mile and park when you see a small, signed parking area on the left-hand side of the road. Our tour of Estabrook will start from this parking area and will focus on what one should expect to encounter primarily during migration or the breeding season.

The properties bordering Estabrook Road are all private and so must be birded from the road; however, they can have a good variety of species. The fields to the west and at the end of the road are easily viewed for Eastern Meadowlark, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Northern Mockingbird, Barn Swallow, and Eastern Bluebird. These fields have also hosted a pair of American Kestrels during the summer months, although none have been observed since 1995; this species is still to be expected during migration. To the

west at the far edge of the fields, American Woodcocks display during the spring. Prior to 1995 the road was bordered with a hedgerow that was excellent for Brown Thrasher; unfortunately, this area was cleared, and the thrashers haven't been present since. House Wrens are common along the road, and Carolina Wrens occasionally occur. Wild Turkey is rarely found here, but you might be lucky. Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, American Redstart, Chestnut-sided and Yellow warblers, Warbling and Red-eyed vireos, Eastern Towhee, and Chipping Sparrow are all present during the summer. Eastern Screech-Owl and Great Horned Owl have both been observed in this area. During spring and fall migration, Estabrook Road can be good for warblers, as well as other migrants.

After birding Estabrook Road, enter the woods through the fire lane at the end of the road. You'll pass a beautiful beech tree on your left. Keep your eyes open for Meadowlarks and Bluebirds, also to your left. Occasionally Indigo Buntings are present in this area as well, although this varies from year to year. Once you reach the woods, you are at a crossroads (marked with the numeral one on the map). The main trail, which bisects Estabrook Woods and is also called Estabrook Road, is to the left and can be followed north all the way to Kibby Place in Carlisle. Directly in front of you is another trail heading more or less northeast, and to your right, a trail that heads south. It is this last trail that we will take.

The woods you are entering are part of Harvard University's Concord Field Station, which has been preserved for all time in large part due to the generous efforts of Professor Ernst Mayr of Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology. This area has been good for Northern Saw-whet Owl during the winter and early spring; Great Horned and Barred Owls frequent it, as well. You have a reasonably good chance (as owl-watching goes) of seeing or hearing either of the latter two. During spring and summer, listen for Pine Warblers as you continue to travel south down the trail. This species is fairly common in Estabrook and can usually be found wherever there are mature pines. Listen for Wood Thrush and Winter Wren (present in some years) along the path. Eastern Wood-Pewee, Ovenbird, and Scarlet Tanager are to be expected. Both species of cuckoo have been found on this and the next section of the trail.

If it is spring and you are here early in the morning, listen for the drumming of the Ruffed Grouse. There is a drumming log ahead on the left where a bird has been seen doing the full display. As with many of the gallinaceous species, the display of the Ruffed Grouse is a rare sight. The male struts back and forth with drooped wings, ruffed out neck feathers, and fully fanned tail. Occasionally he stops, settles back on his haunches, and starts to bring his wings forward, appearing to beat them against his chest. He beats slowly at first but accelerates, coming out of his crouch and appearing to stand on his tiptoes by the end. The sound is actually made from air compression, not from contact between the

wings and the breast, and can be heard from a great distance. Usually the grouse flushes from the log, but I have seen the display one time, so you may, as well.

As you continue south along the path, a fenced field will open in front of you, and the path will take a sharp left. There is a second path, marked with the numeral two on the map, which goes off to the right and loops back to Estabrook Road; this also can be productive. If you stay on the present path, you will head northeast with the fields to your right. This is an excellent area for Red-bellied Woodpecker and Northern Flicker. Wood Thrush and occasionally Veery sing on the left as you continue. Listen for Eastern Towhee, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cedar Waxwing, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Common Yellowthroat, Baltimore Oriole, American Robin, and Chipping Sparrow. Watch for Barn and Tree swallows out over the fields. Red-tailed Hawks frequent this area; American Kestrels were formerly summer residents and can still be found during the spring and fall. This is also a good place to look for Ospreys as they migrate along the Concord River to the east. During migration this stretch of trail can be quite productive with a variety of warblers, Blue-headed and other vireos, Fox Sparrow, and to a lesser degree, other sparrows.

The trail winds its way northeast along the fence line until you reach a small pond, labeled with the numeral three on the map, which has bullfrogs in the summer. In the open field near the pond is a stand of mangled birch trees; scan them for woodpeckers. Indigo Buntings are often present here as well. Several trails intersect in the vicinity of the pond. One trail travels west away from the pond, taking you back to the middle fork of the three forks previously mentioned (numeral one on the map) at the entrance to Estabrook Woods. There is a path to the east of the pond that travels south along the fields. This path can be good in migration and affords an excellent view of the fields and of another pond farther south. Instead, follow the path north of the pond back into the woods, and take the first trail to your right (numeral four on the map). If you were to continue along the path instead of taking the right-hand trail, you would also end up back at the middle of the three forks at the entrance.

The right-hand trail winds its way eastward through mixed woodlands. This is an excellent area for Ruffed Grouse, Hermit Thrush, Great Horned Owl, and Barred Owl. One memorable day I found an owl pellet underneath a towering White Pine next to the trail. Looking straight up from it, I spied two Great Horned Owls sitting side by side and looking straight down at me! Hairy Woodpeckers and Ovenbirds are also present, and during spring and fall Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is usually encountered here. Listen for Pine Warblers in the pines to the left of the trail. This trail passes just north of Punkatasset Hill and intersects another major trail just south of Hutchins Pond (numeral five on the map). This is Hutchins Pond Trail. Go right. As you hike to the south here, there will be a large opening in the woods on your right which extends up the hill. Chimney Swifts are usually present during the summer. If you desire, you can

climb to the top of Punkatasset Hill (about 300 feet in elevation), where you will most likely find Red-bellied and Hairy woodpeckers in addition to more common birds. Pileated Woodpeckers have been found in this area, as well.

From the open area, continue southward on Hutchins Pond Trail, which will take you all the way to the Monument Street entrance if you go that far. You will be passing through an area of woodlands interspersed with grassy openings. This is another good spot for Indigo Buntings. As you continue south you will reach a sign (numeral six on the map) stating that you are in Concord's Punkatasset conservation land; make a hard left here. As you go northward on this new trail there will again be fenced fields to the right. Look for Red-winged Blackbirds and Bobolinks. The Bobolinks are usually present early in the summer but tend to disperse as the fields are grazed by cattle. Eastern Kingbirds, Eastern Bluebirds, and Cedar Waxwings are often present, and Yellow and Blue-winged warblers breed along the edges of the field. This is also a good spot for American Woodcock in the evening. As you continue along the fence, you will see a black turnstile ahead of you on the right. This allows access to an overgrown area in the field which has Yellow, Blue-winged, and Black-and-white warblers. After birding this area, return through the turnstile to the trail and continue northward.

You will soon reach Hutchins Pond on your left, which usually isn't very productive but will occasionally have Wood Duck, Mallard, Canada Goose, Belted Kingfisher, or Great Blue Heron. Saw Mill Brook drains from the pond, and in early spring you might hear a Louisiana Waterthrush here. This is also a good place to listen for Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, and Veery. Cooper's Hawk is occasionally seen in this area. During migration, this can be a good spot for warblers. Just north of here, the trail splits again; take the left fork, marked with the numeral seven on the map. We will return to the right fork later. You are now walking along the northeast side of Hutchins Pond. There is a small, overgrown orchard on the right with an easily missed trail going into it. This can be good for Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, and other warblers during migration. Great Crested Flycatcher, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Baltimore Oriole are also present here. Be warned, however, that this area is also frequented by nude-bathing men during the summer. Back on the main trail, you will shortly cross one of the streams that feeds Hutchins Pond. This has been a good area for Pileated Woodpecker and Winter Wren.

Not far beyond the stream, the trail tees back into Hutchins Pond Trail, which leads south to Monument Street. Turn south, and walk back along the west side of Hutchins Pond. Listen here for Brown Creeper, which is present all summer. This is another good area for Hermit Thrush and Veery. In some years Red-breasted Nuthatches are present. In 1995 a pair of Blue-headed Vireos spent the summer here. They were observed carrying food, but a nest was never located. Scarlet Tanager, Pine Warbler, and Eastern Wood-Pewee are usually

present also. A trail (numeral eight on the map) goes to the west near a small pond; it is usually quite birdy and can be excellent in migration. You may choose to take this trail; it follows a ridge to the northwest, passes the north end of a large pond called Mink Pond, and finally intersects Estabrook Road.

Instead, turn around and head north back up Hutchins Pond Trail until it comes to a fork (numeral nine on the map). The right and left forks are East and West Hubbard Trail, respectively, and pass along the east and west sides of Hubbard Hill. Hubbard Hill is about 250 feet in elevation and is forested primarily with black birch understory. Both trails are productive. During the spring and summer one can usually hear Black-throated Green Warblers singing on Hubbard Hill just north of the fork. Ovenbirds are quite common here, as well. West Hubbard Trail heads northwest along the west side of Hubbard Hill. There is an extensive marsh on the west side of the trail not far from the fork. During the summer of 1995 Red-shouldered Hawks successfully bred in this area, producing at least one fledgling. Unfortunately, there has not been a repeat performance to date. Fledgling Barred Owls have also been observed here. In some years the marsh has had Northern Waterthrush. The trail continues north of the marsh into another good area for Winter Wren, Veery, and Hermit Thrush. Eventually this trail runs into Estabrook Road.

East Hubbard Trail skirts the east side of Hubbard Hill and then turns northward, eventually running into the Carlisle Swamp. Pileated Woodpecker is a possibility along the trail, but the real treat is the singing Northern Waterthrushes that are present along the edge of the marsh. Listen for them along the east side of the trail. Scarlet Tanager, Veery, Hermit Thrush, and Wood Thrush are usually present. Great Horned Owls have been seen here, and Ovenbird is common. The trail continues up the west side of the swamp and eventually forks (numeral ten on the map). The right-hand fork goes north into Carlisle, and the left-hand trail heads west until it intersects Estabrook Road. Take the left-hand fork to Estabrook Road and then turn south (numeral eleven on the map).

As you continue south on Estabrook Road, you will hear singing Red-eyed Vireos. There are usually several in this area. Also, this is another spot to listen for Winter Wren. Farther south there will be a marsh on the west side, where Veeries are usually present. However, no Northern Waterthrushes have been found to date. In the spring, watch the trail sides for pink lady's-slipper. Hermit Thrush and Scarlet Tanager are also present along Estabrook Road. Eastern Wood-Pewee is quite common along this road, as well. Past the marsh and on the east side of the trail is Mink Pond. The lower end of the pond can be viewed from a couple of obvious vantage points. Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, and Tree Swallow are usually present. Ring-necked Duck and Hooded Merganser can be found here in the spring, with the former sometimes lingering into May. Spotted Sandpiper can also be found, particularly during late summer. The

section of trail along Mink Pond is also very good during both spring and fall migrations, attracting mixed flocks of warblers. In the past these flocks have included Blue-headed Vireo, Northern Parula, American Redstart, and Black-and-white, Blackpoll, Pine, Yellow-rumped, Palm, Black-throated Blue, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, and Canada warblers. Philadelphia Vireo has occurred during the fall migration, as well.

As you pass the south side of Mink Pond, the property on the west side becomes private. Please don't trespass. This area is one of dense shrubbery and is good for Gray Catbird and Eastern Towhee. In the fall, it is also possible to find Connecticut Warbler here. Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Northern Flicker occur regularly here, and occasionally Pileated Woodpecker can be found here, as well. Continuing along the trail, you will come to the three forks and the fire lane that leads back to the parking area.

There are many variations on the theme set forth so far. Only a couple will be mentioned here. As you explore Estabrook Woods, you will find your own preferred path to bird.

One interesting loop is from the northeast corner of Hutchins Pond. This path is most easily accessed from the Hutchins Pond Trail entrance off Monument Street in Concord. Take the east path at the Punkatasset sign, and follow it to the fork on the east side of Hutchins Pond that is labeled with the numeral seven on the map. This time take the right trail, which is known as Two Rod Road. The orchard will be on your left. Look for Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Baltimore Oriole in this area. Continue north. Just beyond the orchard, there is another fork; keep right (numeral twelve). The left fork cuts over to East Hubbard Trail. This area is mixed woodlands and is excellent for Hermit Thrush and Scarlet Tanager. There are many side trails worth exploring. Eventually, to the left, you will see a side trail (numeral thirteen) that leads through hemlocks to the east side of the Carlisle Swamp and then loops back to Two Rod Road. Along this trail are Pine and Black-throated Green warblers, and from the ledge overlooking the swamp you can hear singing Northern Waterthrushes. Ovenbird is common throughout. After the loop, you will have to return down Two Rod Road, because there is no route across the Carlisle Swamp.

Another detour that is usually well worth the walk is west from Estabrook Road. As you walk south along Estabrook Road from the trail that tees into the road from the Carlisle Swamp (numeral eleven), look for a well-traveled path to your right (numeral fourteen). This path leads to Bateman's Pond and the Middlesex School campus. You will pass through a large stand of white pine, at which point the path tees into a broad path that runs roughly northeast-southwest (numeral fifteen). The property now belongs to Middlesex School. The school graciously allows access to their holdings in Estabrook Woods, but do not enter the campus proper. Unfortunately, the school has plans to develop a section of this property.

If you go right, the trail eventually loops to the left and goes into the Middlesex School campus. There are several side trails along this main trail that are worth exploring. Northern Goshawks have bred in this area. This is also a good spot for both Great Horned and Barred owls. Winter Wren is present some years. This area can be quite good in migration, as well. There is also a side trail, marked with the numeral sixteen, running along the shore of Bateman's Pond, where Belted Kingfisher and ducks can be found. Swallows are common around the pond, and Chimney Swift is usually present.

Backtrack along the main trail to the tee where you entered it (numeral fifteen), then continue on the main trail to the southwest. This area has had both cuckoos in the past. Continue past a small pond on the left-hand side of the trail. You will usually hear an Eastern Phoebe in the vicinity of the pond. Proceed along the path past a well-used side trail to the right, which is worth exploring some other time, until you reach a road. Go right (numeral seventeen). Walk southwest until the road runs into Hugh Cargill Road, which is unmarked but indicated by the numeral eighteen on the map. Take a hard left onto this road, and walk back to the northeast. After a short walk there will be a private residence with a large red barn on the left-hand side of the road. Take the trail that enters the woods to the right of the barn (numeral nineteen). This trail loops back to Estabrook Road and skirts a large wetland on the right. This is the same wetland that is not far north of Mink Pond and was previously described as we traveled south along Estabrook Road. Watch along the left side of the trail for the spot where the early settlers quarried lime. The stone has been worked, leaving several long and deep grooves. A right turn at the tee leads back to the parking area at the Estabrook Road entrance.

The birds you can expect in the vicinity of Middlesex School include Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-eyed Vireo, Veery, Hermit and Wood thrushes, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black-throated Green and Pine warblers, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Scarlet Tanager, and Baltimore Oriole. Occasionally Pileated Woodpecker and Ruffed Grouse are present, as well.

Winter birding in Estabrook is not nearly as interesting as birding during the rest of the year. In addition to the resident species one would expect to find, there are usually a few Brown Creepers and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Golden-crowned Kinglet is quite common. American Tree Sparrows can almost always be found along the edges, and Dark-eyed Juncos can be encountered practically anywhere. As mentioned earlier, Northern Saw-whet Owl has wintered here. Winter finches are found in only the most irruptive years. If there is sufficient snow, the extensive system of trails provides excellent cross-country skiing.

We've come to the end of our walk in Estabrook Woods, having visited fields, forests, and wetlands. There is a great deal more to explore in this extensive area with its varied and remarkable habitats. I hope this sample walk

will entice you to discover your own favorite route. If so, you will be rewarded by hours of great birding!

**Ron Lockwood** has a passion for sparrows and, since moving to Massachusetts, has been a volunteer participant in the Grassland Conservation Program of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. This involves both banding and surveying grassland species at the Devens Reserve Forces Training Area (formerly Fort Devens), and at Hanscom Field. Ron lives in Bolton with his wife, Susan.

---

### HELP PRODUCE *BIRD OBSERVER*

*Bird Observer* is produced by volunteers who enjoy the chance to make a substantial contribution to the Massachusetts birding community. We are currently looking for dedicated, energetic volunteers to fill the following positions:

**Editor-in-chief:** Supervises an editorial board consisting of birders and ornithologists to solicit and edit the journal's contents. Working with department heads, The Editor-in-chief evaluates incoming manuscripts and edits articles for content, clarity, and *Bird Observer* style; reviews records for format and correctness; and cooperates with the Copy Editor and Production Editor to prepare a final version of each issue. The ideal candidate would have considerable knowledge of Massachusetts birds, some editorial experience, a firm grasp of the English language, familiarity with e-mail and word-processing programs, and excellent organizational and interpersonal skills. This is a time-consuming position, demanding from two to fifteen or more hours per week.

**Mailing Manager:** Works with the Production Editor, Subscription Manager, and other volunteers to coordinate the printing and mailing of the journal. The Mailing Manager picks up the issue from the printer, maintains mailing supplies, organizes a team of mailers, and participates in labeling and sorting the issue. Not much time is involved, but this position requires good communication skills and a take-charge attitude.

Interested? To discuss it further, call Marjorie Rines at (781) 643-6128, or e-mail her at <marjrines@mediaone.net>.

---

## MEMORIES OF MERGANSERS

by Tudor Richards

Common and Hooded mergansers are among my favorite birds. The same could very likely also be said of the Red-breasted Merganser, if I were familiar with it on its nesting grounds farther east. Although it's always nice to see this third, very handsome merganser as a common migrant and winter resident along the New Hampshire coast, this duck is surprisingly scarce inland, where most of my many years of birding (even waterbirding) have been spent. Perhaps my oddest inland record of a Red-breasted Merganser is of a single individual (scrutinized through a scope so as not to confuse it with the very similar and much more common Common Merganser) with a mixed flock of fifty-six scoters, on Echo Lake, Franconia Notch, October 15, 1948. Presumably all these birds were fresh from breeding grounds to the north or northwest and had been forced down by bad weather or exhaustion before they could reach the ocean for the winter.

During my later boyhood years in Groton, Massachusetts, an impoundment (called "the Moat") of the Nashua River, half in Groton and half in Pepperell, behind the East Pepperell dam, became my favorite birding place. Scattered dead trees stood in the permanently flooded areas, and an abandoned railroad on the Pepperell side made much of the area accessible by foot and bicycle. One of my greatest thrills occurred on my first visit to the Moat, on April 2, 1932, when I caught sight of a pair of small ducks, the drake showing a lot of white on its head. They soon proved to be, not Buffleheads, as I first thought, but my very first Hooded Mergansers. This was when the species was still recovering from overhunting during the preceding decades and was still only an uncommon migrant in Massachusetts. Since then, I have on occasion purposely looked at that wonderful illustration by Louis Agassiz Fierstein in Eaton's *Birds of New York*, showing a pair of Hooded Mergansers on a pond with scattered dead trees sticking out of the water beyond, because it reminds me of that first experience with the species.

Common Mergansers also frequented the Moat, and on April 21, 1935, I saw a female, despite her large size, enter a hole low down in one of the inundated dead trees. Then, on September 12 of that year, a tight flock of seven Common Mergansers was seen swimming in the same area. This was presumably a family that had been raised there, because it was much too early in the season for them to have been migrants from the north. This seems to have been the first instance of an apparent Massachusetts Common Merganser breeding record since May 1921, when Capt. A. W. McGraw saw a mother and nine young on three occasions on a pond in Huntington, as reported in a footnote in E. H. Forbush's 1925 classic, *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*. Forbush also recounts one even earlier sighting: in June 1907, Lewis E. Forbush, son of the great ornithologist, saw a mother merganser of

undetermined species (but presumably a Common) carrying some of her young on her back on a pond in Worcester County. The episode was reported both in *Game Birds, Wild-fowl and Shorebirds of Massachusetts and Adjacent States* (1916) and in *Birds of Massachusetts*, in which, curiously, Forbush suggested the possibility that the birds were Red-breasted Mergansers.

Exciting as my 1935 merganser experiences were, more exciting things were yet to come. On the strength of these sightings, on June 16 of the following year I took a canoe to the Moat, specifically to look for a possible Common Merganser family, and to my delight soon found a mother merganser with two ducklings, not yet half-grown. The mother, however, was a small duck, in fact a Hooded Merganser. This was even better than what I had hoped for, since it established the first definite breeding record for the state of that species, and the sighting was duly reported in *The Auk* (1936, p. 441) and also mentioned in Griscom and Snyder's *The Birds of Massachusetts. An Annotated and Revised Check List* (1955). At the same time, it was one of the greatest coincidences in my life. Two families of Hoodeds were found there in 1937, one with four and one with two ducklings, and in 1938, two females more or less together, with one and two young, respectively. Such extraordinarily small numbers of ducklings are hard to explain. No other breeding locations of Hooded Mergansers seem to have been discovered in Massachusetts until 1946, and none for Common Mergansers until 1947. I never found another family of the latter species at the Moat.

One interesting aspect of merganser behavior — and, of course, that of various other ducks — is the habit of forming large flocks on large lakes in autumn, when smaller lakes and ponds are frozen or about to freeze. Examples are two records from Spofford Lake, in southwestern New Hampshire, from around dusk on November 21, 1962, and December 2, 1963. On the first occasion, Hooded Mergansers were seen building in numbers from none to sixty or seventy before it got too dark to identify arriving birds. Common Mergansers and the few other duck species present were less numerous, except for Black Ducks, which increased from twenty-four to an estimated 400, complicating observation. On the second occasion, sixty to possibly seventy-five Hooded Mergansers arrived before dark, along with about the same number of Common Mergansers. On this occasion, there were far fewer Black Ducks.

More impressive are the following estimated numbers of Common Mergansers. My first really high count was of roughly 1,000 on Squam Lake, in central New Hampshire, on December 7, 1946. At Lake Umbagog, in northeastern New Hampshire and western Maine, the famous ornithologist William Brewster never stayed late enough in the season to see more than the "two or three hundred" he mentions having seen in late September and October. However, on November 19, 1996, Robert Quinn and I saw roughly 1,000 Common Mergansers more or less together on Lake Umbagog, milling and flying about to an extraordinary degree. Then, in 1997 at about the same time of

year, Umbagog Refuge Manager Paul Casey saw an estimated 2,000, and, accompanied by Quinn and me in mid-November 1998, some 1,600. On these latter two occasions, the birds were more scattered than they had been in 1996. Even so, one can't help wondering about what happens to the fish populations in such cases!

For at least three-quarters of a century, Common Mergansers have raised broods on Squam Lake, where my family has had a summer camp for many years. Mother "shelldrakes," as we used to call them, occasionally with as many as twenty or more young, all in the shallows chasing minnows or trying to steal them from each other, have been a joy to watch over many decades. The largest families have presumably been the products of clutches laid by two or more females in a single nest hole, being incubated by one female and therefore all hatching at the same time. In recent years, the Common Mergansers at Squam Lake, like loons, have been getting tamer, often resting on a raft perhaps two hundred feet beyond the end of our dock. In most summers, we've had only one family, but in 1997 we kept seeing one containing fourteen or fifteen young, as well as an older family with eight or so ducklings. On one occasion, the larger family was on the raft and the other family was close by, as if it were waiting for its turn. A little while after the first family left, the second one did indeed climb onto the raft, lingering there for quite some time.

It is well known that female Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers compete for both nestboxes and natural holes, and this has been brought home to me strongly at least three times. The first was when, as a wildlife biologist, I was counting duck families all over New Hampshire for the Fish and Game Department. On June 16, 1949, while canoeing in Concord from Goodwin Point oxbow to the Merrimack River, I came across a mother Wood Duck with eighteen young, the largest number by far in my experience with that species. To my astonishment, three of the chicks, tagging along at the end of the line, were clearly baby Hooded Mergansers! Sixteen years later, when I was driving across a bridge over the Ashuelot River in Swansey on June 23, two of us spotted a mother Wood Duck with nine ducklings, two of which were Hooded Mergansers. The third occasion was on a recent television nature program that showed still another mother Wood Duck with a number of her own ducklings plus one baby Hooded Merganser. It would appear that in such cases the female "Hoodie" started a clutch but was driven off by a slightly larger "Woodie," or that the Hooded Merganser purposely parasitized the nest of the Wood Duck, which in either case would have incubated all of the eggs. Three incidents from the spring of 1953, involving a hole high up in a tall snag near Turkey Pond, Concord, also illustrate the competition over nest cavities. On April 30, a drake Wood Duck was seen on top of the snag, while his mate looked out of the hole. On May 6, a Pileated Woodpecker was at the hole, which had bits of what appeared to be duck down around it, and on May 30, a Hooded Merganser was there. Unfortunately, it was not possible to determine whether any eggs were

laid in the hole, or whether any young of any species were produced from that snag.

The courtship of Hooded Mergansers is nothing less than spectacular, because during it the drake keeps raising and lowering his striking, black-edged white crest in dramatic fashion as he swims and struts around the female. This is now a common sight in autumn in New Hampshire. What is uncommon, in my experience, is to see a courting drake, with crest raised, stretch out his neck, shake his head, and snap it back into an inverted position as he rises half out of the water and squawks! On October 21, 1987, my brother and I were looking for ducks along the Squam River in Ashland, New Hampshire, when we encountered five drakes courting a single female. The drakes were milling around the female, crests open most of the time, when one of them suddenly put on the full performance, a great show indeed!

A curious incident occurring on or about May 11, 1985, involving a female Hooded Merganser on the beaver pond behind our home in Hopkinton, New Hampshire, is perhaps worth describing. Seen close by at the same time was a mink actively moving in and out of a stone wall at the near edge of the pond. The merganser repeatedly swam very close to the mink and then suddenly scooted off for perhaps 100 feet, quacking continuously as if to distract the mink from ducklings (although none were visible). A drake Mallard also swam close to the mink but didn't really get involved. Then a drake Wood Duck appeared farther out in the pond, attracting the attention of the merganser. The latter bird swam up to and around the one dead tree standing in the water with a nestbox on it and twice flew up to the hole in the box, looking in but not entering. Perhaps she had young in there almost ready to leave, but if so, why did she apparently try to lure the mink out into the pond? In the end, she swam to the far side of the pond and began dabbling and diving, while the mink, which had never seemed to pay attention to her, disappeared. No merganser family was seen there that summer, but one might have been overlooked or left the pond soon after leaving the nestbox. Unfortunately, I forgot to check the box the following winter. So much for the present for mergansers.

*(Well, not quite. The author reports that during the summer of 1999, while this article was being prepared for press, he finally saw his first Red-breasted Merganser family: a mother and seven young in a tidal marsh on Grand Manan Island, Maine.*

— mlp)

**Tudor Richards** has birded for many years in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He was coauthor, with Bob Quinn and the spirit of William Brewster, of "The Birds of Lake Umbagog," which appeared in the June 1998 issue of *Bird Observer*. They are working together on a much more comprehensive examination of the history and status of the Umbagog region's bird life.

## THE CASE OF THE PURLOINED HAWK EGGS

By David A. Talman

Even granting that there is a little larceny (or lunacy) in all of us, who would have stolen two Red-tailed Hawk eggs from a ledge outside a suite of offices of a downtown Worcester law firm? And why?

These two eggs were the third clutch laid by Red-tailed Hawks on the ledge outside my window. The first set of three eggs followed the building of the hawks' first nest there in the winter of 1997. Risking censure by any purists among the readers of this article, I confess I lured the hawks to nest there by placing piles of small sticks on the ledge, thereby making it more convenient for the hawks to build there; it was a bit like the local lumber yard delivering the wood for one's new home. Two of those three eggs successfully turned into adult birds, although the rehabilitation services of the Worcester Science Center were required when the young birds were discovered scurrying and fluttering about in downtown Worcester traffic.

The occasion of this first nesting was greeted with some interest by the local press, and one of the articles about the hawks included some good-natured bantering between a member of my law firm and a member of another law firm in downtown Worcester, where hawks had nested the year before. The latter facetiously threatened suit for alienation of affection, while our firm treated the relocation as the selection of a better law firm by a pair of "clients." I offered to negotiate a settlement with the other firm, and volunteered to bind the settlement agreement with a deposit delivered personally by me. At the time, there were many deposits on my ledge: not only feces, but the corpses of a rat, a mouse, and several pigeons and sparrows.

In 1998, again responding to my now-sophisticated nest-building efforts, the hawks returned to fledge two more young. Again, the young birds had to be rescued and rehabilitated at the Worcester Science Center. The release by the Center was televised locally, and bird lovers from far and wide witnessed the event.

By the spring of 1999 I began to think of myself as some kind of amateur hawk breeder. My nest was so good that the hawks barely worked on it themselves; they moved into it like a young couple into a furnished apartment. The female sat on her eggs through the last two weeks of March and first week of April. And then, in the second week of April, the eggs disappeared — no shells, no nothing. The hawks stayed at the nest for a few days and then abandoned it.

According to Wayne Petersen, a field ornithologist with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the principal causes of Red-tailed Hawk egg predation are raccoons (which cannot climb nine stories of vertical concrete), crows (which

would break the eggs, leaving shells behind), and humans. The possible motivations of humans, he told me, would be to raise the birds in captivity (illegally), to use the eggs in an egg collection, or simply to destroy the eggs to carry out some grievance against the birds. The birds had been universally popular in my firm, and indeed generally popular in the office building in which I work.

The only reasonable conclusion about the disappearance is that the eggs were stolen. It is very unlikely that I will ever find out their fate. I will miss the insistent shrieks of the parents as they coordinated the feeding of their hatchlings, calls that had enlivened my office during the last two springs. Even more, I will miss the chance to watch in awe and fascination as the fledglings exercise their wing muscles to prepare for the day when they will launch themselves, perhaps too confidently, from my ledge to their uncertain future in the sky above.

**David A. Talman** has worked in Worcester since 1957 as a lawyer specializing in civil litigation. He developed a fondness for birds while pursuing his enthusiasm for wilderness paddling: he kayaks frequently both in Massachusetts waters and in such exotic locations as the South Pacific and Tierra del Fuego. He has published several articles on his kayaking experiences in *Appalachia*, the journal of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

*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*

## SHARING THE EAGLE

Marjorie W. Rines

If I went upstairs and looked out the window, I could just barely make out the silhouette, dark and bulky as it perched in the tree across the street from my neighbor's house. I was elated. Once again, as it had been nearly every morning for the past three weeks, the eagle was there.

I live in Arlington, which isn't exactly a hotspot for Bald Eagles. In fact, to my knowledge there have only been two other Bald Eagle sightings in the town in recent years. But this one arrived and stayed, first at Spy Pond for a few hours on January 10, 1999, and then on Mystic Lake, where it could be seen almost daily from February 12 to March 6.

Computers come into the story, too. Arlington has its own birders' "list server" — a group of people who exchange local bird information by e-mail — and the eagle was big news for all of us. It was a joy to see an eagle on our home turf. But as time went on, I realized that my pleasure came not just from seeing the bird, but from sharing it both with the people on the e-mail list and with non-birders in our area. Other birders on the e-mail list felt the same way, and "sharing the eagle" became a subject of our e-mail discussion. The following excerpts from our electronic conversation highlight this very social aspect of birding, as well as the special kind of pleasure that comes from seeing a good bird on your home turf.



*The Arlington eagle –  
digital image by the  
author*

From: Marj. Rines, posted on February 22, 1999

I'm getting a particular kick out of the reaction of folks who didn't know about it and have been introduced by one of us. Renee ran into a guy at the Tufts Boat Club who was not a birder, but was thrilled to be shown. He evidently has started keeping binoculars in his car, and watching the bird regularly. David and Dennis Oliver ran into an MDC ranger, and showed her. I ran into some folks that Diane Hartman sent along on Sunday, and a few minutes later a fisherman came up and just about jumped out of his boots when he was shown the eagle. I loaned him my cell phone and he called home to gather others to watch it.

From: Renee LaFontaine, posted on February 22, 1999

I second Marj's comments about the fun of seeing others' reactions to this eagle. As I was walking along the lakes yesterday, a fellow I sometimes see

walking pulled his car over and exclaimed about how excited he was to have been shown a Bald Eagle. (By whom, I don't know.) And one of my neighbors said he had been stopped while jogging by some woman (Marj?) who offered to show him a Bald Eagle.

From: David Oliver, posted on February 23, 1999

I must share Marj's enthusiasm about the eagle. I got goose bumps when I spotted the eagle flying towards Dennis and myself while we were standing at the Medford Boat Club. I fought to contain my excitement when it perched in perfect view and close by. I've seen quite a few Bald Eagles, but this was exciting so close to home. The bird called a few times as it surveyed the lower lake. A Red-tailed Hawk flew in and landed in the same tree. They glared at each other and then the hawk flew up and swooped down on the eagle. The eagle took off just as Laura and Guy drove up. Sorry I've forgotten your last names. I was too excited.

From: Renee LaFontaine, posted on March 7, 1999

This morning for about 45 minutes Dave and I, our friends Constance and Brian, and Julie and Paul Roberts enjoyed watching the Bald Eagle at his favorite perch in the tree behind the boat club, and then saw him flying high and away towards Horn Pond, with 3 Turkey Vultures cruising above. Sorry, Chris, you were just a little too early. And about 5 others arrived just too late. I guess timing is everything. Thanks to Paul and Julie for their information and other great eagle-watching stories.

March 7 was the last date the eagle was seen on Mystic Lake, but there continued to be scattered (and unconfirmed) reports from nearby. As Renee said, "Perhaps, like Elvis, the sightings will continue. It was glorious while it lasted."

---

## Water attracts the birds like nothing else.



SOLAR SIPPERS cover water; insulated for cool summer water, solar heated against winter ice.

**Free Puddles Water Shop catalog.**

**Free Puddles Water Newsletter.**

Web site at <http://petsforum.com/happybird/>

**HAPPY BIRD, P.O. 86, Weston, MA 02193.**

**781-899-7804**

---

# 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.



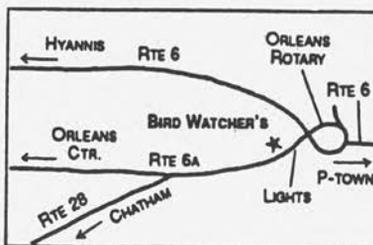
## OTHER BIRD-LOVER ITEMS INCLUDE:

- 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

## ABOUT BOOKS: Looking Back

*(Editor's Note: The coming of the millenium has inspired a cornucopia of "best of" lists, particularly for books. The Modern Library was the trend-setter with its "Hundred Best Novels of the Twentieth Century." Others have followed; a recent issue of Birding featured a comprehensive look at "Bird Books of the Golden Age."*

*Bird Observer plans nothing so ambitious. Nonetheless, because books are such an important source of information and pleasure, we thought that a different type of "looking back" might be enjoyed by our readers. We have invited several of our regular book reviewers to recall some of the bird books that have been important to them — books they learned from, books that were associated with particular aspects of their birding lives, or books they found to be just plain good reading.*

*The first of this series is a reminiscence of the childhood books that inspired Mark Lynch to his lifelong devotion to birds, birding, and bird conservation.)*

— Alden Clayton

### THE BOOKS THAT MADE ME A BIRDER

By Mark Lynch

When I was a child, my life was filled with books. I could read at a very young age and often spent hours simply sitting on our front porch in Watertown reading and enjoying illustrations in the numerous natural history books that our family owned. Exactly where these many books came from I cannot be sure, but many were huge, hardbound tomes from early in the century that I have never seen anywhere else. The line drawings and old photography contained in these books set off many dreams in me of exploring and seeing these creatures in real life. It also helped that my two older brothers were confirmed natural-history addicts, so our house was always filled with large numbers of reptiles, amphibians, fish, and the occasional invertebrate. A good number of these books were about birds, and looking back on my life, I realize what a major impact they had on the development of my present-day interest in natural history and ornithology. Amazingly, I still have all those books, and that surely attests to their great personal significance. The following is a partial list.

*BIRD GUIDE: LAND BIRDS EAST OF THE ROCKIES*, by Chester Reed, Doubleday & Page, 1926. These small guides always seemed to be around the house. Although they neatly fit into your pocket, I honestly cannot say that I ever took them into the field. The illustrations, apparently based on old hand-colored photographs of stuffed specimens, were really not that good when compared with other books available in the 1950s. Still, I learned the basic

species in my neck of the woods, and I really loved the chatty text. These books allowed me to learn the basics at such an early age that when my mother brought me (as a pre-schooler) along to PTA Night for my older brother's class, I identified out loud all the pictures of birds that were hanging around the classroom — Baltimore Oriole, Indigo Bunting, and Scarlet Tanager — much to the teacher's amazement. Mothers live for moments like that.

*GAMEBIRDS, WILD FOWL AND SHOREBIRDS* (1916) and *USEFUL BIRDS AND THEIR PROTECTION* (1907), both by Edward H. Forbush and published by the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture. It may seem a bit surprising that a mere tyke like I was in the mid-fifties would find these two big, rather technical old tomes (one dark forest green, the other maroon) interesting. I would sit on my porch engrossed in reading the old records of shorebirds and even memorizing the names of all the ducks. I loved holding these old volumes and poring over the information and records because they seemed to convey some of the history and tradition of natural history and ornithology. These books undoubtedly contributed both to my love of waterfowl as an adult and my passion (some would say obsession) for keeping records. The small black-and-white drawings were also appealing to a child. In the *Useful Birds* volume, there is an illustration of a row of Cedar Waxwings "passing the cherry," and to this day I eagerly await seeing this behavior in real life.

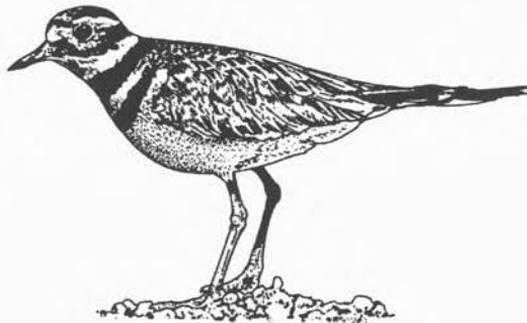
*AN INTRODUCTION TO BIRDS*, by John Kieran. I don't know the publisher, because those pages and the spine are gone on my copy. This large-format book was a favorite of mine. The color illustrations were particularly entrancing to my child's eyes, and today I can clearly see evidence of my having traced certain pictures. I hate to confess this, but my copy also has several holes in the pages where particular illustrations were cut out and kept in several of my natural-history scrapbooks. The idea of cutting up books like this of course gives me the chills today, but as a young child I was intent on keeping all the pictures that I found really fascinating in one convenient volume, thus eliminating the need to riffle through so many heavy books. The end papers of my copy contain the even more personal contribution of some early and very bizarre cartoons I drew in pencil of Woody Woodpecker! The text even today is a joy to read, describing a Ruby-throated Hummingbird as "about as big as a minute."

*NATURE'S WAYS: HOW NATURE TAKES CARE OF ITS OWN*, by Roy Chapman Andrews, Crown Publishers, 1951. Any child who had even a passing interest in dinosaurs in the 1950s knew the name of Roy Chapman Andrews. He was the man who was on the expedition to the Flaming Cliffs of Mongolia when the first dinosaur eggs were found. He wrote several important children's books on dinosaurs, as well as general natural-history books like this one. Each page featured a different topic, usually accompanied by a black-and-white photograph of a sumptuous color illustration by Andre Durenceau. There was something about these paintings and their almost Regionalist style that really drew me in as

a child. As an adult I can still conjure up many of these painted images in my mind at will. I can remember my excitement at seeing my first Manchinee Tree as an adult, the result of the effect that Durenceau's illustration of the blinded woodchopper had on me as a child. That chapter was titled "The tree that blinds." Andrews titled each page with a similar conundrum of a description. Examples included "A bird that never sees what it eats" (American Woodcock), or "His front door is a waterfall!" (Water Ouzel, now known as American Dipper). This book also introduced me to the first extinct creature that wasn't a prehistoric reptile or mammal, "The bird that didn't know what to do" (the Dodo). The idea that humans could cause the extinction of a creature was new to me. A few years later when I received *The Great Auk*, by Alan W. Eckert, for a present, my concern for endangered species became a lifelong mission.

*BIRDS: A GUIDE TO THE MOST FAMILIAR AMERICAN BIRDS*, by Herbert S. Zim, Simon & Schuster, 1949. These books are marvels of economy, yet still attractively and accurately illustrated and crammed with good information. They were also inexpensive and therefore available to a very wide audience. This was my first field guide, and I used it at a very young age to ID Green Heron, Slate-colored Junco, and Black-and-white Warbler. In addition to the volume on birds, I also owned and used the books on mammals, reptiles and amphibians, and fishes. These are the books that really inspired me to go outside and look for these creatures. Though Peterson is given tremendous credit for establishing the field guide form, not nearly enough attention has been given to the importance Herbert Zim and the Golden Guides children's series had for creating the adults that would eventually use the Peterson Field Guides. I still collect these books and still love reading them.

**Mark Lynch** is a teacher and bird monitor at Massachusetts Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary as well as a teacher and docent at the Worcester Art Museum. He also hosts INQUIRY on WICN radio, a talk show of the arts and sciences.



# FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

## STARLINGS AND TENT CATERPILLARS

On June 6, 1997, I visited Cedar Swamp Pond, in Milford, Massachusetts, for a Saturday morning bird trip. When I first arrived and hiked across the dam, I noticed several larvae of the Eastern tent caterpillar, *Malacosma americanum*, crawling across the paved walkway. They were big sixth instar (final larval stage) caterpillars. At this time of year, when caterpillars reach maturity, they lose interest in eating and abandon their favorite food sources and their tents and wander off looking for sites to spin their white, silken cocoons. I made note of this on my daily field card and moved along.

Later in the morning, on the return journey, I passed by the same spot. I noticed two European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), busy on the ground. I stopped to see what they were up to and found that they were busy catching tent caterpillars. I watched the birds at work for about fifteen minutes. A starling would land on the ground near one of the caterpillars, seize it, and rub it vigorously on the pavement. The starling would drop the caterpillar and inspect it, then pick it up and rub it again on the pavement. The process would continue until all of the hairs were worn off of the caterpillar. This was a quick and efficient process. Once the caterpillar was "dehaired," it was either eaten immediately or carried off by the starling. Most were carried off (possibly to a nearby nest). The starling would quickly return and seize another caterpillar.

Unfortunately, I didn't have the presence of mind to count the exact number of caterpillars processed by the two starlings, or to carefully time the events. However, during the approximately fifteen-minute observation period, each of the starlings processed between five and ten caterpillars.

When tent caterpillars are very small, in their early instars, they are sometimes eaten by a variety of bird species. When the caterpillars get bigger, in the later instars, their extreme hairiness renders them safe from most avian predators. Only the cuckoos, which are especially adapted to eating hairy and spiny caterpillars, pose a serious threat. Some birds, such as orioles, do eat some large tent caterpillars, but in order to do so, they skin them, consuming only the inner part. The skinning process is slow and inefficient, probably resulting in few tent caterpillars being consumed.

The starlings seemed to have hit upon a process for dehairing the large caterpillars, which results in many caterpillars being consumed when they are abundant, conspicuous, and easy to catch — one more example of the remarkable ability of starlings to efficiently exploit just any abundant food source.

Two excellent, modern books on tent caterpillars are available. *The World of the Tent-Makers*, by Vincent G. Dethier (University of Massachusetts Press,

1980), follows the life cycle of Eastern tent caterpillars throughout the year. This book contains some fine natural history writing and has some wonderful drawings by Abigail Rorer.

Largely because tent caterpillars are serious forest pests, a very large body of literature has accumulated regarding them. *The Tent Caterpillars*, by Terrence D. Fitzgerald (Cornell University Press, 1995), reviews the vast literature regarding tent caterpillars. This book is a comprehensive reference covering most aspects of the biology, behavioral ecology, and economic significance of these caterpillars (everything you wanted to know, and more). In the chapter on predation, the literature regarding predation of these caterpillars by birds is thoroughly reviewed.

— *Richard W. Hildreth*

### ON THE FARM

One nice thing about working on a farm is that you experience wildlife daily over a long period of time, rather than just on weekends. At "the farm" (Waltham Fields Community Farm at the University of Massachusetts Extension in Waltham), it seemed during the summer of 1998 that Killdeer were sounding a little different from the way they usually do (they do trill from time to time); but I soon noticed that we had a pair of Spotted Sandpipers around. Occasionally, they would fly up into the air like larks and sing! Not too elaborate, but louder and more musical than the usual Spotted Sandpiper call notes. In late June, they began to grow more quiet, which made me wonder if they were nesting. On June 23, while picking peas, we came upon a nest with four eggs, off-white with olive splotchings, about an inch long. The nest was well hidden among the peas. I assumed from the size of the eggs that they were Killdeer eggs, but then we saw the Spotted Sandpiper fly quietly in and out! I hope that we didn't bother them too much; we tried to stay away as much as possible.

Unfortunately, there is a sad ending to the story. The farm manager wanted to plow the peas under after they had finished producing, so I persuaded him to wait for a while. But after about three weeks had passed, and no sandpipers were to be seen, the eggs were still there and were starting to smell. I gave up and gave the manager the go-ahead to finish his plowing.

— *Oakes Plimpton*

## **NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB: 1999 Request for Proposals: Charles Blake Fund Grants**

The Nuttall Ornithological Club solicits proposals for bird-related projects to be conducted in 1999-2000 under the direction of organizations meeting certain qualifications (see below). Selected projects will be supported by grants from the Club's Charles Blake Fund.

Grants will support ornithological research, conservation, and education, with particular emphasis on the birds of New England and the Northeast. The Fund will support grants for research, publication, education, and other worthy ornithology-related efforts. The postmark-date deadline for applications is September 15, 1999. Awards will be announced by October 31, 1999. All funds will be distributed by November 30, 1999.

### **Application Guidelines:**

1.) Applying organizations must be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and must not be private foundations under section 509(a). *In contrast with previous years, applications from individuals will not be considered.*

2.) Three typed copies of a brief proposal must be submitted in the following format:

- Title page: project title and brief abstract; name, address and phone number; proposed starting and completion dates; total amount requested from the Charles Blake Fund.
- Narrative of up to five pages including a) objectives, b) brief review of what is already known or has already been done, c) methods, d) value of the project to ornithology, e) project timetable, including a submission date for the final report, f) detailed budget, including funds applied for or expected from other sources.
- Brief statement of investigator qualifications and a resume.
- Documentary evidence of section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status must be provided with each proposal.

3.) Grants will generally be awarded on an annual basis from total available funds of at least \$15,000 per year. Proposals may request up to that entire amount. Applications for projects expected to last more than one year will be considered, but no commitment beyond the funds available in the present year will be made.

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

- a) contribution to the goals of the Nuttall Ornithological Club
- b) conservation, management, or educational applications
- c) scientific merit
- d) feasibility
- e) qualifications of investigator(s)

5.) Over the first three years of awards from the Blake Fund, during which most grants were made to individuals (we are no longer able to grant to individuals), the mean grant size was \$3,400; and all winning proposals were pertinent to the birds of New England and the Northeast. In the fourth year there were two grants given to support work outside the New England area.

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

Proposals should be addressed to:

David E. Clapp  
Nuttall Ornithological Club  
Chair, Blake Fund Committee  
2090 Main Street  
Marshfield, MA 02050  
southshore@massaudubon.org

---

### **MASSBIRD.ORG: Massachusetts Birding On-Line**

In May 1999, *Bird Observer* announced the journal's sponsorship of a statewide birding web page, Massbird.Org (pronounced "Massbird Dot Org"). While the home page itself is primarily a series of links to existing web sites of interest to Massachusetts birders, *Bird Observer* has also made web space (and even web page design) available at no charge to all bird clubs in the state. Massbird.Org is also host to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee home page. Please visit us at:

**<http://Massbird.Org/>**

If you represent a bird club that would like to create a web site at Massbird.Org, please e-mail us at [Webmaster@Massbird.Org](mailto:Webmaster@Massbird.Org)

---

**EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS HAWK WATCH**  
**Annual Meeting September 10<sup>th</sup>**

The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch will hold its annual meeting on Friday, September 10, at Drumlin Farm in Lincoln at 7 p.m. (social hour starting at 6 p.m.). The meeting is free of charge and open to the public.

This year's featured speaker is Laurie Goodrich of Hawk Mountain. She will give a presentation on "The Private Life of the Broad-winged Hawk." Ms. Goodrich, the author of the monograph on the Broad-winged Hawk in the acclaimed *Birds of North America* series, will be giving us the most up-to-date information on the breeding biology of these elusive birds. The mass migration of this elegant buteo is the highlight of the fall hawkwatch season, yet few of us know much about the lives of these birds on their home territory. So this presentation ought to be of interest to both hawkwatchers and general birders.

EMHW will also be offering a workshop, "Tips and Tricks for Beginning Hawkwatchers" on Monday, September 13, at the West Medford Congregational Church. This workshop will include a survey of the most frequently seen fall hawks, with special emphasis on how to avoid common mistakes in identification.

For directions and additional information on the annual meeting or the workshop, please e-mail hane@ziplink.net or call (781) 648-3794.

**Volunteer Hawkwatchers Sought**

Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch seeks volunteers to hawkwatch this fall. You don't have to be an identification expert to participate; indeed, participating is a great way to develop your skills, because the best way to learn to identify hawks in flight is to look for them as often as possible during migration. We need volunteers to hawkwatch from well-known sites such as Mt. Watatic, Bolton Flats, and Wachusett Mountain, especially on weekdays, or from any location you would like to cover, including your own back yard. Reporting the volume of migrating hawks is more important than identifying them all by species.

For more information on participating in a hawkwatch or on submitting reports of what you see, contact Paul M. Roberts, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155; telephone (781) 483-4263 after 7 p.m.

**EMHW Information Available**

If you are not a member of the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch and would like to receive a copy of the Fall 1998 EMHW Report, complete information on the fall hawkwatch season, fliers on "Where and When to Watch Hawks in Eastern Massachusetts," and a "Guide to Books on Hawks," please write EMHW membership secretary Joe Paluzzi at 362 Elliott Street, Beverly, MA 01915, and enclose a check for \$2 (made out to EMHW) to help defray costs. (You can also get information and join up at the Annual Meeting on September 10th.)

## **BIRD OBSERVER: On Becoming a Truly Statewide Journal**

At the inception of this journal in 1973, records published in *Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts* (as it was then called) included only those from east of Worcester County. More recently, the geographical scope of the magazine grew to include Worcester County. Beginning with this issue, *Bird Observer* will publish records from throughout Massachusetts, reflecting more fully the state's wealth of habitats and diversity of bird life, from the waters off Nantucket to the peaks of the Berkshires.

Massachusetts has the oldest and most complete written ornithological history of any region in North America. The written record began in the 1600s, spanned the years during which John James Audubon roamed the state in the 1800s, and continued through the first half of this century through the efforts of such luminaries as William Brewster, Edward Howe Forbush, Ludlow Griscom, and Samuel Elliot and Aaron Bagg.

The latter two, coauthors of *The Birds of the Connecticut River Valley*, were the undisputed authorities on the birds of Western Massachusetts. That mantle is now carried by Seth Kellogg, who, for the past twenty-one years, has maintained and published the records of the birds of Western Massachusetts in the quarterly publication, *Bird News of Western Massachusetts*. In so doing, Seth has kept the bird records from that region seamlessly intact and has provided an invaluable service to the state's birding community as a whole. Seth will continue to publish *Bird News of Western Massachusetts* as an annual report, and he will also edit western records for inclusion in *Bird Observer*.

Just prior to the creation of *Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts*, a regional summary of bird records appeared under one title, *Records of New England Birds*. With the addition of the western records, which we hope will represent a steadily growing portion of our "records" section, *Bird Observer* becomes the first journal to provide a statewide perspective on the birds of Massachusetts. This unified view of Massachusetts bird life will foster a better understanding of bird distribution and movements within the Commonwealth, and we hope that it will encourage our readers to explore areas of the state with which they are not yet familiar.

— The Editors



# BIRD SIGHTINGS

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999

### SUMMARY



By Seth Kellogg, Marjorie W. Rines, Simon A. Perkins, and Robert H. Stymeist

The generally mild weather of December continued through the end of February: the average temperature for January in Boston was 29.5 degrees, a little above normal, but February's average of 33.6 degrees was 3.3 degrees above normal. The temperature reached 62 degrees in Boston on January 24 — a record high for that date — while the high for February was 58 degrees on the 12th, which tied the old record, set in 1981. A short cold spell, unfortunately, began the birding year; after a very mild Christmas Bird Count season, temperatures plunged to single digits on New Year's Day, and to the month's low of just 2 degrees on January 2. The lowest temperature recorded in Boston in February was 8 degrees, on the 23rd.

Rainfall totaled 5.69 inches in Boston in January, 2.10 inches over normal, with measurable amounts falling 14 days. In February, a total of 3.51 inches fell, a tad less than average for the month. Snowfall for January totaled 16.7 inches, some 4.1 inches more than average; the largest storm dropped 8 inches of snow on the 14th-15th. This storm, with heavy, wet snow and glazing, created serious traffic problems in the region, with hazardous conditions persisting for several days on many roads. In February, only 6.8 inches of snow fell in Boston, 4.7 inches less than normal, and the ground was bare for most of the month. The official winter period of December through February tied with 1936-1937 as the second warmest winter on record at the Blue Hill Observatory. R.H.S.

#### LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

As was the case during November and December, the temperatures throughout this reporting period were above average, and as was also the case in the previous months, bird reports reflected these mild conditions. Several species that typically go unreported in Massachusetts during January or February were present this year, and species that are typically very scarce or entirely absent inland were found far from the coast.

Two sightings of a **Pacific Loon** in Provincetown roughly a month apart probably involved the same individual. Pacific Loon was recently placed on the "official" state list by the MARC. This move reflected newly acquired knowledge about distinguishing Pacific and Arctic Loons, and the realization that Pacific has proven to be, by far, the most likely of the species pair to occur on the Atlantic Seaboard. Indeed, Arctic has yet to be definitively documented in the Western Atlantic. The perennial **Eared Grebe** in East Gloucester was present throughout the reporting period.

A Great Egret in Salisbury in January served as a good example of a bird that lingered late due to the aforementioned mild temperatures. It also provided what was probably the first-ever winter Essex County record; most of the few winter records for the state, as would be expected, are from Cape Cod and the Islands.

Roughly ten years ago, Turkey Vultures became a year-round fixture in the state when they began using winter roosts in Randolph and Westport, though, mysteriously, these same birds remained virtually undetected away from those roosts. With its continued northward range expansion, it seems inevitable that this species will eventually become a regular year-round sight throughout the state. In fact, we may have seen a trend in that direction this winter, when several TVs were reported through late January and early February, north and west of Boston, in towns far from either of the two known roosts.

A **Pink-footed Goose** discovered on a golf course in Dennis in mid-January remained at this site throughout the rest of the winter and into the spring season. If accepted as a bone fide vagrant (as opposed to an escapee) by the MARC, it will represent the first state record. The appearance of the Dennis Pink-footed Goose follows by less than a year the occurrence of a Pink-footed Goose in Connecticut. This latter record has since been accepted by the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut (ARCC), representing the first fully documented record in New England, a decision that was based on exhaustive research conducted by the secretary of the Committee. The information revealed in that research strongly suggests that most, if not all, North American Pink-footed Geese are now likely to be wild birds from Greenland.

The following bullets, based on the information compiled by the ARCC, are excerpted from this writer's discussion regarding the Connecticut Pink-footed Goose in *Field Notes* 52(3): 304.

- Among 150 Canada Geese neck-banded in Greenland in the past few years, six are known to have wintered in Connecticut, some as recently as [1998]. This firmly establishes that at least some geese move between Greenland and New England.
- The flock of Canada Geese in which the Pink-footed was found also contained a Greater White-fronted Goose thought to be of the Greenland form.
- According to sources in Greenland, the number of Pink-footeds that nest in Greenland has greatly increased in recent years.
- The occurrence in North America of free-flying Pink-footed Geese has recently increased, and the records form a clear seasonal pattern. Most have occurred during migration, especially in the spring (e.g., one in Newfoundland, spring 1980; at least three in Quebec, during fall 1988, 1996, and 1997; five in Newfoundland, spring 1995; one in Pennsylvania, spring 1997 and again in 1998; and one in Connecticut, spring 1998).
- Apparently, Pink-footeds are very seldom kept in captivity in North America, and the one New England aviculturist known to have Pink-footeds in his collection [had] accounted for all of them [as of spring 1998].

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** in Hadley, one of two reported in the state, represented the first record for this species in Western Massachusetts in winter, and only the second in the West overall. Most unusual among numerous Snow Goose reports was one on the Southern Berkshires CBC; at least nine others were noted away from the immediate coast. One of the smaller races of Canada Goose, a bird identified as a "Richardson's" Goose (*B. canadensis hutchinsii*), was noted in Concord in mid-February. These smaller, arctic forms will probably attract more attention now that avian taxonomists are considering elevating them (including *minima* and *hutchinsii*) to full species status.

Despite the fact that hundreds of Brant occur as far north in winter as Revere and Nahant, the winter range of this goose ends very abruptly just north of Boston, and it is surprisingly scarce just up the coast in Essex County. Two Brant at Cape Ann in late January, therefore, were noteworthy. Tundra Swans that remained in the state into January following an *en masse* arrival in November/December (see *Bird Observer* 27(2)) included three in Westport and singles in Worcester and Lakeville. Twelve feral Whooper Swans (and/or their wild-born progeny) were still present in Ipswich in mid-December.

Various species of waterfowl took advantage of the mild winter conditions and lingered in ice-free ponds, inland. Examples included a Wood Duck in Worcester, a Gadwall in Gill, Ring-necked Ducks at Wachusett and Quabbin Reservoirs, Lesser Scaup in several locations (including the Connecticut River, where there are fewer than ten January records within the last twenty years), a White-winged Scoter at Wachusett Reservoir, and a Red-breasted Merganser in Southwick (ten January records within the last twenty years in western Massachusetts). Also as a result of the mild winter, waterfowl species such as Wood Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, and Lesser

Scaup were noted moving back into inland lakes and ponds as early as mid-February. A tally of over 200 Lesser Scaup in Lynn represented an unusually high total for Essex County.

A relatively large flock of Gadwalls frequently winters at Eastern Point in Gloucester Harbor despite the fact that the harbor's rocky shoreline represents a rather atypical wintering habitat type for the species. This winter the number of birds at this site peaked at 129; this flock was undoubtedly the largest anywhere so far north in the species' wintering range. The Eurasian Green-winged Teal that was first discovered on the Cape Cod CBC was still present at least through the end of February, and the **Tufted Duck** that returned this past fall to Worcester County for the fifth consecutive year was last reported at Wachusett Reservoir on New Year's day. The number of Harlequin Ducks wintering in the state has continued to increase over about the last ten years; reports bearing this out during this past winter included high counts at Rockport, North Scituate, Orleans, and Nantucket.

Healthy numbers of Northern Harriers were again noted at three traditional grassland sites in Eastern Massachusetts, and singles were noted on three occasions in the Sudbury River Valley, where they are scarce in winter. One or two Golden Eagles usually first appear around Quabbin Reservoir some time in late November or December, and remain for the winter. However, the first and only sighting there this past winter was not noted until February.

The **Gyr Falcon** that was seen at Logan at the end of December 1998 was seen again on New Year's day. One of the most entertaining birds of the winter was a **Crested Caracara** that appeared in Middleboro January 3rd and remained for roughly a week. This species is one of the most sedentary of all North American raptors; even within their home ranges individuals rarely stray more than a few miles. In Florida, for example, while caracaras are fairly common in the central prairies, they are almost never seen on the coast. Given this fact, and the knowledge that there is no proven precedent for genuine vagrancy in this species, it seems a near-certainty that the Middleboro bird was an escapee.

Among four reports of Virginia Rails, two were on the North Shore, and a Sora at Nantucket on New Year's day was noteworthy, as would be any Sora anywhere in the state in January. The mild weather allowed at least four American Coots to survive the winter on a lake in Southwick.

A **Sandhill Crane** was photographed on a beach at Naushon Island in mid-January. Amazingly, a Harp Seal, an arctic and sub-arctic marine mammal, was also clearly visible in the photograph, hauled up on the same beach!

Shorebirds were also conspicuous by their presence, another avian feature of this winter that was undoubtedly related to the relatively mild weather. Examples were many: Black-bellied Plover in Gloucester, Killdeer in Salem, American Oystercatcher at Nantucket, Lesser Yellowlegs in Harwich, Whimbrel in Yarmouthport, Long-billed Dowitcher in Barnstable, and multiple Common Snipe in Newburyport. American Oystercatcher has over-wintered in the state at least once, at Nantucket. The oystercatcher at Nantucket this past February either over-wintered or it returned very early. The Whimbrel in Yarmouthport was very likely the same individual that, during the winter of 1997-1998, represented the first of its species to over-winter in New England. Killdeer in Lynn and Wayland in mid-February either never left, or they returned rather early, and American Woodcock were already displaying by mid-February in Wayland and Lexington.

A single **Great Skua** was identified off Cape Ann during a storm in late February, and an unidentified jaeger was noted at Nantucket on New Year's day. Great Skuas in the Western Atlantic in winter are thought to occur mainly on the Grand Banks; most jaegers are usually south of Florida by January, and many are in the southern Hemisphere.

The only reported Little Gulls were found among the throngs of gulls that converge at the southeast corner at Nantucket each winter. Up to twelve species of gulls have been identified in past years on one winter day at this spot. Single Mew Gulls were reported again this winter from Winthrop and South Boston. Though this species has occurred repeatedly at these two sites for several years, to date, no two observers have observed a

**Mew Gull** at both localities at the same time, on the same day. Only when and if that happens will we know with certainty that two individuals are involved.

A report of a **California Gull** from Easton is pending review by the MARC. If accepted, this would represent the second state record. Two different **Thayer's Gulls** were thoroughly scrutinized at Nantucket and Provincetown. Typically high counts of Iceland Gulls came from this species' traditional centers of local winter abundance at Newburyport, Provincetown, and Nantucket, and singles were noted inland in Agawam and Gill. Reports of Lesser Black-backed Gull included only one away from the coast, in Acton, and the five at Nantucket represented a typical January count for that locale.

By far, the biggest headliner among alcid reports was that of an **Ancient Murrelet** at Rockport. This record, recently accepted by the MARC, represents the third state record for this remarkably intrepid North Pacific seabird. All three have occurred within the last seven years.

An unusually late flurry of Dovekies was noted at Cape Ann between late January and early February, and both Thick-billed Murre and **Atlantic Puffin** were present in above-average numbers throughout the period. For the second consecutive year, the murrees were more numerous than in any year since the highly anomalous winter of 1976-1977, when thousands of Thick-billeds were seen. Numbers of murrees and puffins were also found dead on beaches, though the cause of their deaths was not determined. Nor was it determined whether this rate of mortality was typical in proportion to the higher numbers in the area, or whether most of the living birds were present inshore because they were ill or exhausted.

The only Snowy Owl reported in Massachusetts all winter was seen over a two-day period in Rockport. This was probably the lowest number of Snowies recorded in the state in at least twenty-five years. It was also the first time in that period that Snowies went unrecorded at Logan Airport, the center of the species' winter abundance in the "Lower 48" states. The absence of Snowy Owls, which are known to prey upon Short-eared Owls, may have accounted, in part, for the presence of above-average numbers of Short-eareds at Logan and elsewhere. The Long-eared Owls that returned to the Daniel Webster Sanctuary in Marshfield continued to roost and hunt there throughout the winter.

Seven Red-headed Woodpeckers represented a high winter total, as did a count of four Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in early January at Nantucket. In addition to the typical coastal occurrences of wintering Northern Flickers, there were a total of eight in Western Massachusetts. Among these was an especially hardy individual in the high-elevation town of Washington, in Berkshire County.

S. A. P.

Red-throated Loon			1/4	Manchester	1	J. Berry
1/8 Cape Ann	43	R. Heil	1/7	Plymouth	2	N. Paulson
1/25 S. Boston	18	W. Hutcheson	1/23, 2/28	Nantucket	17, 24	E. Ray
2/21 Westport	25	M. Lynch#	1/23	Eastham (F.E.)	1	D. Furbish#
2/27 Chatham	20	R. Donovan#	1/31	Westport	4	K. Holmes
2/27 Eastham	26	W. Petersen	Horned Grebe			
2/28 P'town (R. P.)	60	B. Nikula	1/2	Quabbin Count	6	v.o.
<b>Pacific Loon</b>			1/13	Plymouth	52	G. Levandoski
1/30 P'town	1	W. Petersen#	1/17	Boston H.	231	TASL (M. Hall#)
2/28 P'town (R. P.)	1	B. Nikula	2/3	P.I.	53	R. Heil
<b>Common Loon</b>			2/6	Bourne	50	W. Petersen#
1/1 S. Quabbin	1	H. Allen	2/19	Cape Ann	86	R. Heil
1/1 Wachusett Res.	1	M. Lynch#	2/21	Westport	212	M. Lynch#
1/2 Quabbin Count	5	v.o.	Red-necked Grebe			
1/9,10 Nantucket	48	BBC (H. Cramer)	1/7	Winthrop B.	50	M. Faherty
1/17 Boston H.	19	TASL (M. Hall#)	1/8, 2/11	Cape Ann	29, 64	R. Heil
2/19 Cape Ann	73	R. Heil	1/8	Marblehead	25	L. Healey
2/21 Westport	26	M. Lynch#	1/17	Boston H.	97	TASL (M. Hall#)
2/21 P.I.	22	P. + F. Vale	1/21	Dennis	30	J. Trimble
2/21 Marshfield	20	G. d'Entremont#	1/21	Barnstable (S.N.)	20	J. Trimble
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>			2/6	Manomet	52	W. Petersen#
1/1, 2/28 Worcester	2, 1	M. Lynch#	2/27	Eastham	22	W. Petersen#
1/2 Nantucket	26	G. d'Entremont#	2/28	P'town (R. P.)	12	B. Nikula
1/2 Arlington	4	M. Rines	<b>Eared Grebe</b>			
1/3 Brockton	1	D. Larson	thr	E. Gloucester	1	J. Soucy + v.o.

<b>Northern Gannet</b>			
1/1-2	P'town (R.P.)	25	J. Trimble#
1/12	S. Welfleet	100	D. + S. Larson
1/17	Orleans	20+	J. Trimble#
1/19	Merrimac R.	2	M. Resch
1/21	Rockport	4	B. Volkle#
1/26	Nantucket	1000+	K. Blackshaw#
1/30	P'town	20	W. Petersen#
2/7	Eastham	14	R. Lockwood#
2/21	Westport	1 ad	M. Lynch#
2/28	Rockport (A.P.)	2	D. Oliver#
<b>Great Cormorant</b>			
1/4	Arlington	2	M. Rines
1/8	Cape Ann	171	R. Heil
1/13	Manomet	50	G. Levandoski
1/17	Boston H.	7	TASL (M. Hall#)
1/27	Newbypt	27	R. Heil
1/30	P'town	75	W. Petersen#
2/11	Cape Ann	208	R. Heil
2/16	N. Truro	45	J. Sones
2/21	N. Scituate	58	G. d'Entremont#
2/21	Westport	30	M. Lynch#
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>			
1/1	Woburn	1	M. Rines
1/4	Arlington	1	M. Rines
1/7	Scituate	1	R. Titus
1/17	Boston H.	1	TASL (M. Hall#)
<b>American Bittern</b>			
1/4, 25	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	G. Wood
1/13	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
1/17	Revere	1	P. + F. Vale
1/22	Rowley	1	J. Berry
2/4	S. Dartmouth (A.Pd)	1	D. Larson#
2/13	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>			
1/3	Arlington	3	M. Rines
1/19	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
1/31	Newbypt	3	R. Heil
2/7	Chatham	2	R. Lockwood#
2/21	Westport	6	M. Lynch#
2/28	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale
2/28	Sudbury	1 pr	R. Crissman
<b>Great Egret</b>			
1/6	Salisbury	1	R. Heil
<b>Black-crowned Night-Heron</b>			
1/23	Orleans	2	D. Furbish#
1/24	E. Boston (B.I.)	1 imm	G. Wood
1/30	Nantucket	22	E. Ray
2/7	Boston (Fens)	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
2/19	Charlestown	1	M. Hall
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>			
1/11	Wellesley	2	S. Carey
1/31	Newbypt	1	P. Roberts
2/3	Westfield	1	S. Kellogg
2/4	S. Dartmouth (A.Pd)	5	D. Larson#
2/4	Westport	50	D. Larson#
2/7	Westboro	1	M. Lynch#
2/8	N. Medfield	2	E. Morrier
2/11	Southwick	6	S. Kellogg
2/13	Oxford	2	P. Meleski
2/15	Lincoln	3	L. Harvey
2/17	W. Gloucester	3	D. Jacques
2/20	Waltham	2	A. Thurston
2/21	Westport	31	M. Lynch#
thr	Reports of indiv. from 18 locations		
<b>Pink-footed Goose *</b>			
1/16-2/20	Dennis	1	R. + E. Fisher + v.o.
<b>Greater White-fronted Goose</b>			
1/1-10	Arlington	1	M. Rines
2/24	Hadley	1	T. Gagnon
<b>Snow Goose</b>			
1/1-31	Brockton	1	R. Titus
1/1	South Berk Count	1	C. Miller
1/1	Sterling	1	M. Lynch#
1/5	P.I.	2	W. Drew#
1/6, 10	Ipswich	1, 2	J. Soucy#
1/8	Littleton	1 imm	M. Resch
1/17	Ipswich	2	D. Chickering#
1/17	Framingham	1 sub ad	K. Hamilton
1/20	Ipswich	3 ad	J. Berry
1/21	Sharon	4	S. Arena
2/10-17	Walpole	1 imm	G. Long
2/15	Newbury	3	P. + F. Vale
2/20	P.I.	4	M. Lynch#
2/21	Westport	1	M. Boucher
2/21	Plymouth	1	T. O'Neil
<b>Canada Goose</b>			
1/1	Worcester	425	M. Lynch#
1/6	Newbypt	1400+	R. Heil
1/17	Boston H.	830	TASL (M. Hall#)
1/17	Framingham	460	K. Hamilton
1/20	Ipswich	550	J. Berry
1/31	Westport	1763	M. Boucher
2/15	Swansea	855	M. Lynch#
2/16	P.I.	635	W. Drew#
<b>"Richardson's" Canada Goose</b>			
2/12	Concord (NAC)	11	S. Perkins#
<b>Brant</b>			
1/11	New Bedford	73	M. Boucher
1/17	Boston H.	1092	TASL (M. Hall#)
1/22	Eastham (F.E.)	350+	J. Trimble
1/22	Salem	35	J. + V. Kousky
1/28	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil
1/31	Duxbury	270	D. Clapp
2/7	Welfleet	65	R. Lockwood#
2/13	Winthrop	150	P. + F. Vale
2/21	Revere	350	P. Duffy
2/28	Nantucket	112	E. Ray
<b>Mute Swan</b>			
1/1	S. Hadley	7	H. Allen
2/15	Westport	91	M. Lynch#
2/15	Swansea	108	M. Lynch#
2/18	N. Scituate	41	R. Titus
2/25	Ipswich	31	J. Berry
<b>Tundra Swan</b>			
1/1	Westport	3	M. Boucher
1/1-12	Worcester	1	F. McMenemy + v.o.
1/8	Lakeville	1 ad	K. Anderson
<b>Whooper Swan</b>			
thr	Ipswich	12 max	J. Berry
<b>Wood Duck</b>			
1/1	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
1/8	Southwick	2	S. Kellogg
1/30	Dennis	4	M. Rines#
2/12	Concord (NAC)	2	S. Perkins#
2/28	Bolton Flats	7	E. Salmela
2/28	Boston	1 pr	B. Mayer
<b>Gadwall</b>			
1/1	Southwick	1	T. Gagnon
1/1	P.I.	26	BBC (L. de la Flor)
1/1	S. Dartmouth	4	M. Boucher
1/10	E. Gloucester	129	M. Lynch#
1/20	Ipswich	5	J. Trimble
1/21, 2/15	Ipswich	7, 14	J. Berry
1/21, 2/5	Gill	1	R. Packard
1/26	Barnstable	18	R. Titus
2/9	Salem	30	R. Heil
2/15	Swansea	30	M. Lynch#
2/21	Westport	12	M. Lynch#
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>			
1/5-2/14	Carver	3 m	B. Volkle + v.o.
2/8	Westport	1 m	M. Boucher
2/15	Swansea	1 m	M. Lynch#
2/15, 2/21	Westport	1 m	M. Lynch#
2/21	Eastham	1 f	B. Nikula#
2/28	Tisbury	1	T. Bachman

American Wigeon				2/15	Cheshire	3	R. Rancatti
1/1 Ipswich	14	R. Heil		2/28	Wakefield	16	P. + F. Vale
1/3 Arlington	31	M. Rines		2/28	Nantucket	26	E. Ray
1/20 Sandwich	15	J. Trimble		<b>Tufted Duck</b>			
1/23 Orleans	23	M. Lynch#		1/1 Wachusett Res.	1 m	M. Lynch#	
2/7 Nantucket	26	E. Ray		<b>Greater Scaup</b>			
2/15 Swansea	157	M. Lynch#		1/1 Wachusett Res.	42	M. Lynch#	
2/21 Westport	70	M. Lynch#		1/2 Quabbin Count	2	v.o.	
<b>American Black Duck</b>				1/17 Boston H.	1031	TASL (M. Hall#)	
1/17 Boston H.	1386	TASL (M. Hall#)		1/22 Eastham	12	J. Trimble	
2/3 P.I.	2800+	R. Heil		1/23 Swampscott	350	C. Leahy	
2/15 Westport	1383	M. Lynch#		1/30 Falmouth	650	R. Lockwood#	
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>				2/7 Nantucket	151	E. Ray	
thr Boston	3	R. Mayer		2/15 Westport	84	M. Lynch#	
1/1-2/7 Nantucket	1	E. Ray		2/17 Turner's Falls	1	H. Allen	
1/3 Cambridge	1	A. West		2/20 Clinton	4	R. Lockwood	
1/17-2/28 Framingham	1 m	K. Hamilton		<b>Lesser Scaup</b>			
1/22, 2/6 Eastham	1, 5	J. Trimble		1/1 W. Newbury	3	D. Chickering#	
1/30 Easton	1 f	S. Arena		1/1 Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	
<b>Northern Pintail</b>				1/7, 2/19 Natick	6, 10	K. Hamilton	
1/2 Quabbin Count	1	v.o.		1/16 Framingham	1	K. Hamilton	
1/3 Arlington	4	M. Rines		1/21 Eastham	8+	R. Heil	
1/4-2/08 Belchertown	1-2	W. Lafley		1/21 Dennis	6	R. Heil	
1/10 Ipswich	12	BBC (J. Nove)		1/21 Turner's Falls	6	R. Packard	
1/12-2/20 Amherst	1	R. Packard		1/30 Winthrop B.	2 m	P. + F. Vale	
1/17 Gloucester	2	L. + S. Hennin		2/6 Gloucester	4	SSBC (R. Fox)	
1/17 Sudbury	6	R. Crissman		2/7 Nantucket	11	E. Ray	
1/30 Nantucket	4	E. Ray		2/12 Lynn	205	R. Heil	
1/30 Barnstable	7	G. d'Entremont#		2/20 Brewster	13	R. Hodson	
2/3 P.I.	36	R. Heil		2/27 Pepperell	12	E. Stromsted	
2/12 Concord (NAC)	15	S. Perkins#		<b>King Eider</b>			
2/15 Westport	149	M. Lynch#		thr Gloucester	2 m	v.o.	
2/23 Wilbraham	2	W. Lafley		1/2-10 Cohasset	1	R. Finch + v.o.	
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>				1/16-2/6 Rockport (H.P.)	1-2	v.o.	
thr Nantucket	12 max	E. Ray		1/17 Boston H.	2	TASL (M. Hall#)	
thr Cambridge	11 max	J. Campbell		2/19 Magnolia	2 m	R. Heil#	
1/21-2/28 Eastham	22 max	v.o.		<b>Common Eider</b>			
1/30 Brewster	6	R. Stymeist#		1/10 Rockport	960	M. Lynch#	
1/30 Barnstable	4	G. d'Entremont#		1/10 E. Gloucester	159	M. Lynch#	
2/3 P.I.	9	R. Heil		1/13 Plymouth B.	1070	G. Levandoski	
2/6 Worcester	6	M. Lynch#		1/17 Boston H.	8663	TASL (M. Hall#)	
2/6 Sandwich	28	P. Kyle		1/19 Merrimac R.	200+	M. Resch	
2/13 Concord (NAC)	9	S. Perkins		2/19 Cape Ann	1390	R. Heil	
2/15 Westport	17	M. Lynch#		2/20 Newbypt area	733	M. Lynch#	
<b>Eurasian Green-winged Teal</b>				2/21 Westport	694	M. Lynch#	
2/28 Eastham	1	G. Martin		<b>Harlequin Duck</b>			
<b>Canvasback</b>				thr Rockport	80 max	v.o.	
1/1-2 Nantucket	100	J. Trimble#		thr E. Orleans	14 max	S. Highley + v.o.	
1/18 Dighton	208	R. Titus		thr Nantucket	30 max	E. Ray	
1/22-25 W. Newbury	2 m	R. Heil		1/3 P.I.	1 pr	D. Davis	
1/29 Dennis	280	S. Spangenberg#		1/10, 2/14 N. Scituate	8, 22	G. D'Entremont	
2/9 Falmouth	50+	B. Good		1/23 Falmouth	3	J. Askildsen	
2/13 Arlington Res.	4	M. Rines		1/31 Duxbury	10	D. Clapp	
2/14 Braintree	12+	S. Carey		2/17 Nauset B.	9	M. Halloran	
2/15 Ipswich	4 m	BBC (J. Berry)		2/21 Westport	2	M. Lynch#	
2/15 Westport	201	M. Lynch#		<b>Surf Scoter</b>			
2/17 Turner's Falls	1	H. Allen		1/8 Cape Ann	126	R. Heil	
2/28 Lakeville	80	K. Rodman		1/9,10 Nantucket	175	BBC (H. Cramer)	
<b>Redhead</b>				1/17 Boston H.	303	TASL (M. Hall#)	
thr Nantucket	20 max	E. Ray		2/6 Scusset B.	80	W. Petersen#	
thr Worcester	1	M. Lynch#		2/19 Cape Ann	58	R. Heil	
1/2 Manomet	1	G. Levandoski		2/21 Westport	9	M. Lynch#	
1/31 Westport	1 m	M. Boucher		<b>White-winged Scoter</b>			
2/9 Falmouth	1	B. Good		1/1 Wachusett Res.	1	M. Lynch#	
2/20 Clinton	1 m	P. Morlock		1/9,10 Nantucket	445	BBC (H. Cramer)	
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>				1/10 E. Gloucester	143	M. Lynch#	
1/1 Arlington	40	R. LaFontaine		1/10 Rockport	210	M. Lynch#	
1/1 Wachusett Res.	120	M. Lynch#		1/17 Boston H.	783	TASL (M. Hall#)	
1/17 Easton	16	S. Arena		2/3 P.I.	1550	R. Heil	
1/18 S. Quabbin	3	M. Lynch		2/7 Cape Ann	300	J. Berry	
1/20 Sandwich	10	J. Trimble		2/21 Westport	26	M. Lynch#	
1/22 Eastham	10	J. Trimble		<b>Black Scoter</b>			
1/22, 2/21 Framingham	22, 72	K. Hamilton		1/17 Boston H.	15	TASL (M. Hall#)	

Black Scoter (continued)				2/20	Newbypt area	83	M. Lynch#
1/17	Orleans	150	J. Trimble#	2/21	Westport	267	M. Lynch#
1/22	Rockport	80	C. Leahy	2/27	Chatham	700	R. Donovan#
2/6	Scusset B.	15	W. Petersen#		Common Merganser		
Oldsquaw				1/1, 2/6	Worcester	15, 35	M. Lynch#
1/16	Nantucket H.	100,000	K. Blackshaw	1/1	Wachusett Res.	35	M. Lynch#
1/16	Rockport (H.P.)	38	BBC (J. Nove)	1/5	Wayland	21	G. Long
1/17	Wellfleet H.	7	R. Farrell#	1/18	S. Quabbin	117	M. Lynch
1/17	Boston H.	7	TASL (M. Hall#)	1/22	Eastham	30	J. Trimble
2/20	Newbypt area	613	M. Lynch#	1/22, 2/21	Framingham	12, 21	K. Hamilton
Bufflehead				1/24, 2/28	Worcester	22, 59	M. Lynch#
1/10	E. Gloucester	254	M. Lynch#	1/27, 2/17	GMNWR	4, 26	R. Lockwood
1/17	Boston H.	1726	TASL (M. Hall#)	2/10	Concord (NAC)	6	S. Perkins#
1/26	Belchertown	2	W. Lafley	2/27	Pepperell	360+	E. Stromsted
1/27	Newbypt	370	R. Heil	Ruddy Duck			
2/13	Wakefield	11	P. + F. Vale	1/4	Wakefield	5	D. Wilkinson
2/15	Westport	540	M. Lynch#	1/7	Natick	24	K. Hamilton
Common Goldeneye				1/8	Gloucester H.	2	R. Heil
1/1	Wachusett Res.	20	M. Lynch#	1/22	Eastham	102	J. Trimble
1/8	Holyoke	90	S. Kellogg	1/23	Swampscott	60	C. Leahy
1/10	Cape Ann	140	M. Lynch#	1/30	Winthrop B.	3	P. + F. Vale
1/17	Boston H.	1427	TASL (M. Hall#)	2/9	Natick	12	K. Hamilton
1/18	Dighton	65	R. Titus	2/12	Lynn	25	R. Lynch
1/22	Framingham	46	K. Hamilton	2/15	Swansea	6	M. Lynch#
1/27	Newbypt	380	R. Heil	2/21	Brookline	12	S. O'Neil
1/27	Quabbin	42	B. Lafley	Bald Eagle			
2/4	Haverhill	170	R. Heil	1/1	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
2/9	Turner's Falls	166	H. Allen	1/4	W. Boylston	3	F. McMenemy
2/18	Nantucket	125	fide E. Ray	1/5	Groton	1 imm	T. Pirro
2/21	Westport	344	M. Lynch#	1/8	Conn River	13	v.o.
2/28	Worcester	28	M. Lynch#	1/8	Housatonic R.	2	v.o.
Barrow's Goldeneye				1/8	Quabbin	34	v.o.
thr	Gloucester	1-2 m	v.o.	1/8, 17	Lakeville	2 ad	K. Holmes
1/1	Essex	1 f	R. Heil	1/9	Fall River	1	T. Kenney
1/7	Scituate	1 f	R. Titus	1/10, 2/12-28	Arlington	1 ad	H. Noyes + v.o.
1/10	Winthrop	1	R. Donovan	1/15	N. Andover	2	J. Hogan#
1/17	Squantum	pr	P. Fitzgerald	1/20	Sandwich	1 imm	L. Ferraresso#
1/18	Salem	2	L. Healey	1/31	Newbypt-W.New.	6	R. Heil
1/18	Barnstable	1	B. Nikula#	2/2	Chilmark	1	V. Laux
1/18	Centerville	1 f	B. Nikula#	2/4	Haverhill	2 ad, 2 imm	R. Heil
1/22	Newbypt	2	G. Leet	2/5	Harwich	1 imm	J. Sones#
1/23	Falmouth	1 m	J. Asklidsen	2/20	Pepperell	1 ad	E. Stromsted
1/25	Barnstable	1 m	H. Ferguson	2/21	Westport	1 imm	M. Lynch#
2/1	Oak Bluffs	2	V. Laux#	2/21	Plymouth	2	T. O'Neil
2/2	S. Boston	2	R. Donovan	2/27	Freetown	1 ad	D. + S. Larson
2/4	Haverhill	1	R. Heil	2/28	Lowell	2	S. Lawler
2/12	N. Scituate	1 f	R. Titus	2/28	Rowley	1 ad	J. Berry
2/18	Nantucket	3	fide E. Ray	Northern Harrier			
2/27	Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted	thr	Cumb. Farms	11 max	2/5 v.o.
Hooded Merganser				thr	Newbypt area	8 max	2/3 R. Heil
1/1	Wachusett Res.	32	M. Lynch#	thr	DWWS	10 max	2/10 D. Furbish
1/7	Framingham	28	K. Hamilton	1/1	Saugus	1	A. Drake
1/16	Plymouth	14	F. + M. Paine	1/5	Wayland	1 m	G. Long
1/23	Orleans	24	D. Furbish#	1/13	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
1/23	Eastham (F.E.)	22	D. Furbish#	1/15	Concord (NAC)	1 imm	S. Perkins#
1/24, 2/28	Worcester	13, 36	M. Lynch#	1/22	Eastham	1	J. Trimble
1/26	Wilbraham	5	W. Lafley	2/19	Sudbury	1	K. Hamilton
2/6	Worcester	28	M. Lynch#	2/21	Westport	2	M. Lynch#
2/7	Nantucket	31	E. Ray	2/27	Chatham	2	R. Donovan#
2/7	Falmouth	12	R. Lockwood#	Sharp-shinned Hawk			
2/9	Framingham	16	K. Hamilton	1/1	Sterling	2	M. Lynch#
2/10	Turner's Falls	3	H. Allen	1/20	DWWS	2	D. Furbish
2/15	Swansea	28	M. Lynch#	1/21	Eastham	3	R. Heil
2/17	GMNWR	12	R. Lockwood	1/27	Newbypt	2	R. Heil
2/24	Melrose	13	D. + I. Jewell	1/30	Lincoln	2	S. Perkins
Red-breasted Merganser				2/14	P.I.	2 imm	T. Carroll
1/1	Southwick	1	T. Gagnon	2/14	Hubbardston	2	M. Lynch#
1/10	E. Gloucester	198	M. Lynch#	2/15	Westport	2	M. Lynch#
1/17	Boston H.	899	TASL (M. Hall#)	thr	Reports of indiv.	from 27 locations	
1/23	P'town	30	M. Lynch#	Cooper's Hawk			
1/30, 2/28	Medford	26, 25	P. + F. Vale	1/9, 10	Nantucket	2BBC	(H. Cramer)
2/13	Winthrop	30	P. + F. Vale	1/21	Orleans	2	R. Heil
2/15	Swansea	30	M. Lynch#	1/31	Cumb Farms	2	R. Finch

Cooper's Hawk (continued)				1/20	DWWS	1	D. Furbish
thr	Reports of indiv. from 28 locations			1/23	Nantucket	2	E. Ray
Northern Goshawk				1/25	Wollaston	1	W. Hutcheson
1/10	Cumb. Farms	1	S. Morytko#	1/30	W. Bridgewater	1	S. Arena
1/16	Templeton	1	T. Pirro	1/30	Easton	1	S. Arena
1/26	Edgartown	1 ad	L McDowell	1/31	P.I.	1	P. Roberts
2/14	IRWS	1	D. Jacques#	1/31	Cumb Farms	1	R. Finch
2/15	Gardner	1 ad	T. Pirro	2/1	Salisbury	1	D. + I. Jewell
2/21	Newbypt	1 ad	W. Petersen	2/6	Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale
2/24	Windsor	1	H. Allen	2/9	Danvers	1	R. Heil
Red-shouldered Hawk				2/11-12	Peabody	1 f	J. Barber
1/2	Weston	1 ad	M. Rines	2/12	Lynn	1	R. Heil
1/3	Sudbury	3	K. Hamilton	2/14	Dennis	1	R. Hodson
1/8	E. Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	2/18	Cohasset	1	R. Titus
1/17	Stow	1 ad	T. Carrolan	2/22	Salem	1	I. Lynch
1/17, 2/6	Westminster	1 ad	T. Pirro	2/27	Eastham	1	W. Petersen
1/20, 2/20	DWWS	1 imm	D. Furbish	2/28	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan
1/26	Williamsburg	1	R. Packard	Peregrine Falcon			
1/27	Brimfield	1	W. Lafley	1/1	Nantucket	2	R. Lockwood#
1/27	Pembroke	2 ad	K. Hamilton	1/20	Boston (Logan)	2	N. Smith
1/30	Easton	1	S. Arena	1/23	Salisbury	1 f imm	P. Roberts#
2/2	Hanover	1	W. Petersen	1/30	Nantucket	2	E. Ray
2/7	Petersham	1 ad	D. Chapman	2/7	Worcester	1	S. + I. Hennin
2/10	Williamsburg	1	R. Packard	2/7	Gloucester	1	P. + F. Vale
2/13	Oxford	2	P. Meleski	2/8	Oak Bluffs	1	J. Cameron
2/15	Middleboro	1	P. O'Neill	2/10	Newbypt H.	1	S. Perkins#
2/16	Wayland	1	G.Long	2/19	P.I.	1	immD. + I. Jewell
2/17	Marshfield	1 ad	G. Levandoski	2/23	Weymouth	1	C. Dalton
2/21	Westport/Dart.	2	E. Nielsen	Gyr Falcon			
Red-tailed Hawk				1/1	Boston (Logan)	1 ad	gray N. Smith
2/6	Worcester	9	M. Lynch#	Ruffed Grouse			
2/7	Westboro	10	M. Lynch#	1/29	Carlisle	1	T. + D. Brownrigg
2/7	DWWS	7	M. Lynch#	2/13	Ware	1	M. Lynch#
2/14	Bolton Flats	7	M. Lynch#	2/13	Oxford	1	P. Meleski
2/15	Ipswich	7	BBC (J. Berry)	2/15	Milton	1	A. Joslin
2/15	Rt. 95	22	P. + F. Vale	2/27	Bedford	2	H. Sears
Rough-legged Hawk				Wild Turkey			
thr	Newbypt area	6 lt max	R. Heil + v.o.	1/2	Halifax	14	M. Maurer
1/5	Cumb. Farms	3	M. Maurer	1/6	Wellesley	3	E. Taylor
1/6-2/7	DWWS	1 lt	D. Furbish#	1/10	E. Middleboro	22	K. Anderson
1/16	Sudbury	1 dk	D. Diggins#	1/16	Hanover	2	T. Young#
1/20	Boston (Logan)	2	N. Smith	1/17	Shelburne	40	M. Lynch
1/31	Newbypt-Sal	6 lt	R. Heil	1/19	Plymouth	5	A. Strauss
2/1-28	Belchertown	1	H. Allen	1/19	Hingham	8	D. Furbish
2/8-18	Windsor	1	W. Lafley	1/26	Danvers	3 m	J. + V. Kousky
2/15	Ipswich	1 dk	BBC (J. Berry)	1/27	Worc. (BMB)	6	J. Liller
2/28	Rowley	2 lt	J. Berry	1/28	Boston	2	C. Brook
Golden Eagle				2/6	Ipswich	20	J. Berry
2/7	Quabbin	1 imm	S. + L. Hennin	2/17	Walpole	11	G.Long
Crested Caracara (details submitted)*				2/21	Sherborn	12	E. Taylor
1/3-9	Cumb. Farm	1	R. Finch + v.o.	2/27	Petersham	21	R. Lockwood#
American Kestrel				Northern Bobwhite			
1/1-2	Agawam	1	J. LaPointe	2/17	Wellfleet	3	M. Halloran
1/9	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#	Virginia Rail			
1/9-2/24	Hadley	1-2	H. Allen	1/8	Rockport	1	R. Heil
1/10	Boston	2	G. Wood	1/16	Middleboro	1	R. Finch
1/10	New Bedford	1	J. Young	1/21	Eastham	2	R. Heil
1/11	E. Middleboro	1 m	K. Anderson	1/23	Swampscott	1	C. Leahy
1/16	Newbury	1	R. Heil	Sora			
1/17	Gardner	1 m	T. Pirro	1/1	Nantucket	1	G. d'Entremont#
1/22	Salisbury	1	G. Leet	American Coot			
1/30	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	1/1	Worcester	20	M. Lynch#
2/6	Easton	1	W. Petersen#	1/2	Arlington	251	M. Rines
2/6, 27	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale	1/9-2/28	Southwick	4	H. Allen
2/11	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	1/13	Lynn	11	I. Lynch
2/15	Westport	2	M. Lynch#	1/23	Nantucket	86	E. Ray
2/22	Salem	1	I. Lynch	1/30	Easton	12	S. Arena
2/28	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan	2/15	Fall River	60	M. Lynch#
2/28	Concord	1	R. Nicholson	2/28	Worcester	15	M. Lynch#
2/28	Rowley	1 m	J. Berry	Sandhill Crane			
Merlin				1/17	Naushon I.	1 ph	G. Leon
1/12	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil	Black-bellied Plover			
1/17	Sharon	1	S. Arena	1/8	Gloucester	3	R. Heil

Black-bellied Plover (continued)				2/27	Salem	2	BBC (I. Lynch)
1/23	Nantucket	5	E. Ray		Great Skua		
2/13	Sandwich	4	G. Levandoski	2/25	Rockport(A.P.)	1	R. Heil
2/27	Chatham	12	R. Donovan#		Jaeger Species		
Killdeer				1/1	Nantucket	1	R. Lockwood#
1/1	Westport	1	D. Mehlman#		Little Gull		
1/8	Salem	1-2	I. Lynch	1/29	Nantucket	3	E. Ray
1/8	W. Harwich	3	J. Trimble		Black-headed Gull		
1/21	Sandwich	3	J. Trimble	thr	Newbypt	3 max	2/10 S. Perkins + v.o.
1/23	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	thr	Winthrop	3 max	S. ZendeH + v.o.
2/12	Lynn	1	R. Heil	thr	Gloucester	1 1W	v.o.
2/17	Wayland	1	N. Patterson	1/1	Nantucket	2	J. Trimble#
2/21	Scituate	1	G. d'Entremont#	1/1-31	Wellfleet H.	1 1W	v.o.
2/21	W. Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale	1/1-31	Yarmouth	1 (ad)	P. Trimble#
American Oystercatcher				1/7	Plymouth	1	N. Paulson
2/13	Nantucket	1	B. Perkins	1/17	Nantucket	2	R. Veit#
Greater Yellowlegs				2/3	P.I.	3	R. Heil
1/1-2	Nantucket	1	J. Trimble,#	2/17	Plymouth	1	B. Good
1/1-2/5	W. Harwich	3	J. Trimble + v.o.	2/21	Westport/Dart.	1	E. Nielsen
1/18-20	Hyannis	5	J. Trimble#		Bonaparte's Gull		
2/3	E. Orleans	1	A. Williams#	1/1	Rockport (A.P.)	25	R. Heil
2/7	W. Tisbury	2	W. Culbert	1/1	Westport	22	M. Boucher
Lesser Yellowlegs				1/6	Newbypt	50	R. Heil
1/1-2/21	W. Harwich	1	J. Trimble	1/7	Scituate	70	R. Titus
Whimbrel				1/17	Nantucket	3000	R. Veit#
1/18	Yarmouthport	1	J. Trimble#		Mew Gull *		
Ruddy Turnstone				1/13-2/2	S. Boston	1 ad	R. Donovan
1/14	Salem	17	I. Lynch		Mew Gull (details submitted) *		
1/14	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil	1/16-2/21	Winthrop B.	1 ad	D. Larson +v.o.
1/29	Nantucket	4	E. Ray		California Gull (details submitted) *		
2/12	N. Scituate	2	R. Titus	1/23	Easton	1 ad W	S. Arena
Sanderling					Thayer's Gull (details submitted) *		
1/5	P.I.	157	W. Drew#	1/3	Nantucket	1	C. Floyd
1/26	Nantucket	140	K. Blackshaw#	2/15	P'town (R.P.)	1	R. Heil#
1/30	Revere B.	60	P. + F. Vale		Iceland Gull		
2/15	Westport	120	M. Lynch#	thr	Newbypt area	37 max	2/3 R. Heil v.o.
2/15	P'town (R.P.)	400	R. Heil#	thr	P'town	22 max	2/15 R. Heil + v.o.
2/24	Falmouth	64	R. Farrell	thr	Nantucket	60 max	1/17 R. Veit + v.o.
2/27	Chatham	200	R. Donovan#	1/1-13	Woburn	1 1W	M. Rines
2/27	Scusset B.	20	C. Dalton	1/7, 2/6	Acton	1 imm	M. Resch
Purple Sandpiper				1/10-2/28	Agawam	1 J.	LaPointe + v.o.
1/7	Salem	35	L. Healey	1/14	Rockport (A.P.)	5	R. Heil
1/17	Boston H.	53	TASL (M. Hall#)	1/21	Sharon	1	S. Arena
1/30	Winthrop B.	3	P. + F. Vale	1/21-2/17	Gill	1	W. Lafley
2/9	Marblehead	14	R. Heil	2/20	Winthrop	2 ad	M. Rines#
2/13	E. Gloucester	22	J. Berry	2/27	Chatham	6	R. Donovan#
2/15	N. Scituate	175	W. Petersen	2/28	Cambridge	1 ad	R. Stymeist
2/21	Duxbury B.	11	D. Furbish#		Lesser Black-backed Gull		
2/21	Westport	32	M. Lynch#	1/1	Cohasset	1	J. Paluzzi#
2/27	Scusset B.	12	C. Dalton	1/1	Nantucket	5 ad	R. Lockwood#
Dunlin				1/7	Scituate	1 ad	R. Titus
1/1	Salisbury B.	12	D. + S. Larson	1/7	Acton	1 1W	M. Resch
1/11	Ipswich	40	G. Leet	1/10	E. Gloucester	1	M. Lynch#
1/17	Boston H.	50	TASL (M. Hall#)	1/28	Gay Head	1	V. Laux#
1/23	Orleans	150	M. Lynch#	2/1-28	S. Harwich	1 ad	v.o.
1/30	P'town (R.P.)	15	SSBC (W. Petersen)	2/13	Boston	1 1W	R. Titus
1/31	Duxbury	225	D. Clapp	2/15	P'town	1 1W	B. Nikula#
2/7	Eastham	1000	B. Nikula#	2/16	Scituate	1 ad	G. Levandoski#
2/17	Wellfleet	12	M. Halloran		Glaucous Gull		
2/21	Westport	140	M. Lynch#	thr	Gloucester	1 imm	J. Soucy + v.o.
2/27	Chatham	600	R. Donovan#	1/1	Gill	1	T. Gagnon
Long-billed Dowitcher				1/1	Nantucket	1	R. Stymeist#
1/18	Hyannisport	2	B. Nikula#	1/1	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil
Common Snipe				1/17-2/17	Plymouth	1	S. Moore + v.o.
1/8	Rochester	1	RETurner	1/22	P'town (R.P.)	1-2	J. Trimble
1/18	Newbypt	8	C. Leahy	1/31	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 ad	N. Warner#
1/21	Sandwich	4	J. Trimble	2/7	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
2/2	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan	2/8-15	Gill	1	W. Lafley
American Woodcock				2/12-17	N. Scituate	1	R. Titus
2/12	Wayland	3	N. Patterson	2/21	Duxbury B.	1 2W	D. Furbish#
2/14	Bourne	1	L. Cocco	2/27	Chatham	2	R. Donovan#
2/15	Lexington	1	N. Dane		Black-legged Kittiwake		
2/20	DWWS	3	SSBC (M. Emmons)	1/6	Newbypt H.	2 ad	R. Heil

<b>Black-legged Kittiwake (continued)</b>			
1/17	Orleans	50+	J. Trimble#
1/28, 2/25	Rockport (A.P.)	58, 130	R. Heil
2/7	Eastham	50	R. Lockwood#
2/27	Chatham	40	R. Donovan#
<b>Dovekie</b>			
1/19	Rockport	9	J. Soucy
1/21	Salisbury	1	BBC (S. Grinley)
1/22	P'town (R.P.)	1	J. Trimble
1/30	Eastham	1	W. Petersen#
2/6	Gloucester	14	P. + F. Vale
2/6	Scusset B.	1	W. Petersen#
2/7	Brewster	1	J. Talin
2/8	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	H. Ferguson
2/16	P'town (R.P.)	1	dead J. Sones
2/17	Duxbury B.	1	G. Levandoski
<b>Common Murre</b>			
1/6	Salisbury	1	R. Heil
1/26	P'town (R.P.)	1	S. Miller
2/6	Rockport (A.P.)	1	SSBC (R. Fox)
2/6	Truro	1	dead J. Trimble
2/7	Gloucester	1	J. Hoye#
2/15	P'town (R.P.)	5	R. Heil#
2/27	Gloucester (H.P.)	1	J. Barber
2/28	P'town (R.P.)	4+	B. Nikula
<b>Thick-billed Murre</b>			
1/14, 2/19	Cape Ann	36,76	R. Heil
1/16	Cohasset	1	C. Dalton
1/19	Merrimac R.	1	M. Resch
1/22	P'town (R.P.)	1	J. Trimble
1/24	Salisbury	1	J. Berry
2/3	Chatham	1	dead A. Williams#
2/5	Newbypt	1	S. Perkins
2/6	P'town H.	2	(1 dead) B. Nikula#
2/6	Manomet	2	W. Petersen#
2/7	Gloucester	10	M. Rines#
2/8	P.I.	1	S. Haydock
2/16	P'town (R.P.)	25	J. Sones
2/28	Salisbury	1	S. Katz#
<b>Razorbill</b>			
1/6	P.I.	6	R. Heil
1/12	S. Welfleet	1000	D. + S. Larson
1/17	Orleans	100+	J. Trimble#
1/17	Truro	220+	J. Trimble#
1/17	Nantucket	44	R. Veit#
1/22	Rockport	60	C. Leahy
1/30	P'town	250	W. Petersen#
2/7	Eastham	578	R. Lockwood#
2/7	M.V.	20+	V. Laux#
2/8	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	dead H. Ferguson
2/16	P'town (R.P.)	1025	J. Sones
2/19	Cape Ann	37	R. Heil
2/27	Chatham	25	R. Donovan#
<b>Black Guillemot</b>			
1/8	Cape Ann	51	R. Heil
1/17	P'town (R.P.)	4	J. Sones, B. Nikula
1/17	Boston H.	7	TASL (M. Hall#)
1/30	P'town	3	W. Petersen#
2/6	Manomet	5	W. Petersen#
2/6	Scusset B.	2	W. Petersen#
2/11, 19	Cape Ann	131, 113	R. Heil
2/13	Boston H.	13	G. Wood#
2/21	Marshfield	10	G. d'Entremont#
<b>Ancient Murrelet (details submitted) *</b>			
2/5	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Frchette
<b>Atlantic Puffin</b>			
1/22	Rockport	1	C. Leahy
2/6	Gloucester	1	S. Leonard#
2/8	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	dead H. Ferguson
2/13	P'town	1 + 1	dead J. Hoye#
2/16	P'town (R.P.)	1	dead J. Sones
2/19	Magnolia	2	R. Heil#
2/21	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	S. Leonard#
<b>Monk Parakeet</b>			
1/11	S. Dartmouth	7	M. Boucher
<b>Barn Owl</b>			
1/1	Nantucket	3	R. Stymeist#
<b>Eastern Screech-Owl</b>			
2/24	Essex	3	J. Berry
2/27	Salem	2	BBC (I. Lynch)
thr	Reports of indiv. from 9 locations		
<b>Great Horned Owl</b>			
1/1	N. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher
1/30	Bridgewater	3	E. Giles#
2/4	DWWS	2	D. Furbish
2/21	Hamilton	2	E. Giles
thr	Reports of indiv. from 12 locations		
<b>Snowy Owl</b>			
1/8-9	Rockport	1	R. Heil + v.o.
<b>Barred Owl</b>			
1/25	Newton	1	T. Young#
2/15	IRWS	1	J. Hoye#
2/15	Ipswich	1	BBC (J. Berry)
2/21	Hamilton	2	E. Giles
<b>Long-eared Owl</b>			
thr	DWWS	10	D. Furbish + v.o.
1/18-2/3	Woburn	3	M. Rines
1/30	Salisbury	1	G. Williams
2/5	Marshfield	6	J. Berry
2/14-20	Lexington	1	J. Andrews + v.o.
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>			
thr	Salisbury	4	max J. Soucy + v.o.
thr	Cumb. Farms	7	max R. Finch + v.o.
thr	DWWS	5	max D. Furbish + v.o.
thr	P.I.	1	v.o.
1/1-2/6	Katama	2+	M. Pelikan#
1/1, 1/20	Boston (Logan)	2, 7	N. Smith
1/17	Penekese I.	4	D. Nash
1/22, 2/14	Rowley	1, 2	J. Berry
1/23, 2/18	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
1/31	Duxbury	2	D. Clapp
2/15	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	D. Larson
<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>			
1/2	Quabbin Count	11	v.o.
1/2	Petersham	2	W. Laffey
1/20	Mattapoisett	1	M. LaBossiere
1/20, 2/6	Gardner	1	T. Pirro
1/22	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
1/23	Nantucket	2	E. Ray
1/30	Cumb. Farms	1	E. Giles#
2/14	Cheshire	1	R. Rancatti
2/15	IRWS	1	J. Hoye#
2/28	Adams	1	R. Rancatti
<b>Belted Kingfisher</b>			
1/1	Worcester	2	M. Lynch#
1/11	Wayland	2	G. Long
1/16	Hadley	2	H. Allen
1/21	Turner's Falls	1	R. Packard
2/6	Rowley	1	J. Berry
2/6	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
2/12	Greenfield	1	R. Packard
2/13	W. Brookfield	1	M. Lynch#
2/17	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood
<b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b>			
thr	Westfield	1	J. Hutchison
1/1-10	Monson	1	M. Costello
1/9-2/10	Brimfield	1	imm T. Clay + v.o.
1/23-2/21	Westport	1	imm R. Stymeist + v.o.
1/30-2/28	Swampscott	1	J. McLaughlin# + v.o.
1/31	Westport	1	M. Boucher
2/14	W. Barnstable	1	C. Bergfors
<b>Red-bellied woodpecker</b>			
1/thr	Sherborn	4	E. Taylor
1/thr	Pepperell	3	G. Coffey
1/10	Fairhaven	2	D. Mehlman#
1/21	Sandwich	2	J. Trimble

Red-bellied woodpecker (continued)			1/13	Amherst	2	H. Allen
1/23 Nantucket	2	E. Ray	1/16	Mt.A.	3	P. + F. Vale
2/10 DWWS	2	D. Furbish	1/23	Westport	8BBC	(R. Stymeist)
2/15 Westport	2	M. Lynch#	1/23	N. Dennis	3	M. Lynch#
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			2/3	Hadley	1	H. Allen
1/1 South Berk Count	1	L. Schultze	2/17	Deerfield	2	H. Allen
1/2 Nantucket	4	G. d'Entremont#	2/19	Wilbraham	1	W. Lafley
1/3-1/13 Mt.A.	1-2	J. Heywood + v.o.	2/24	Belchertown	1	W. Lafley
1/6 Manchester	1	S. Hedman	2/28	Ipswich	4	J. Berry
2/15 Westport	1	M. Lynch#	Pileated Woodpecker			
Hairy Woodpecker			1/2	Stoneham	1 m	D. + I. Jewell
thr Mattapoisett	2	F. Smith	1/3	Sterling	1	J. McGrath
1/15 Concord (NAC)	2	S. Perkins#	1/10	Melrose	1 m	D. + I. Jewell
1/23 N. Dennis	2	M. Lynch#	1/13	Manchester	1	S. Hedman
2/3 Stoneham	2	D. + I. Jewell	2/4	GMNWR	2	L. Ferrarasso
2/15 Boxford (C.P.)	2	P. + F. Vale	2/10	IRWS	1	L. Healey
2/27 IRWS	2	P. + F. Vale	2/13	Templeton	1	T. Pirro
Northern Flicker			2/15	Boxford (C.P.)	1	P. + F. Vale
1/10 Burlington	4	M. Rines	2/21	Hamilton	2	J. McLaughlin
1/12 Washington	1	E. Neumuth	2/22	Manchester	1	S. Hedman

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

The mild weather of November and December was interrupted by a short period of very cold weather at the beginning of January. This short spell, especially since it involved no snowfall, was not enough to dispel the many landbirds that had lingered late into the season. Notable were the increased numbers of the usual hardy overwinterers such as Carolina Wren, which was reported from all over the state; numbers of this species have held steady for the last three years in western Massachusetts after a big drop from high counts in 1994. This period saw the second-highest total of American Robins in western Massachusetts since 1982, and robin numbers in the east were simply astronomical. Eastern Bluebird continued its string of nine consecutive years of good winter numbers, and Hermit Thrushes continued in exceptional numbers through February, especially in southeastern portions of the state. Cedar Waxwing flocks were also large, adding up to the highest total since 1986 in western Massachusetts. Higher than normal numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Gray Catbirds, Eastern Towhees, and Eastern Meadowlarks were also noted.

An impressive total of 12 Orange-crowned Warblers was tallied on the Nantucket CBC on January 2, and Orange-crowns continued to be noted there through February. The numbers of wintering Yellow-rumped Warblers were much higher than those observed in recent years that featured similar weather conditions; the Nantucket CBC reported a remarkable 3,657. For the second winter in a row, an Ovenbird was reported in the state, and a total of six Yellow-breasted Chats were noted during the period. The lack of snow made sparrow-watching feel like it does on a day in October; there were many American Tree, Savannah, and White-throated sparrows, as well as a scattering of less usual species such as Chipping, Clay-colored, Vesper, Lincoln's, and White-crowned. A Lark Sparrow visited a feeder in Salisbury regularly throughout the period, and a Seaside Sparrow, unusual in winter, was found in Newburyport. Fox Sparrow numbers improved slightly relative to the four previous winters in the western sections of the state, and in eastern Massachusetts, nearly twice as many Fox Sparrows were reported as were seen last winter.

Birders in western Massachusetts have not reported more than a single Red-winged Blackbird during any winter between 1995 the present. At least four Dickcissels were reported during the period, but only two Baltimore Orioles were seen, fewer than in previous winters. In interior portions of the state, the largest Snow Bunting flocks usually appear in February in the Connecticut River Valley; an exceptionally large flock of 400 noted in Northampton on February 14 was the highest count of this species in the area since 1990.

R. H. S., S. K.

<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>				1/31	Mt.A.	1	P. + F. Vale
1/1	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher	2/thr	Ipswich	2	J. Berry
1/11-2/6	Wayland	1	G. Long	2/thr	Mattapoisett	2	F. Smith
2/12	WBWS	1	J. Sones	2/15	Boxford (C.P.)	5	P. + F. Vale
2/15	Chilmark	1	A. Keith	2/24	Stoneham	1	D. + I. Jewell
<b>Northern Shrike</b>				2/27	Quabbin (G37)	3	SSBC (D. Ludlow)
1/2	Phillipston	1 imm	T. Pirro	<b>Brown Creeper</b>			
1/5	Wayland	1 imm	G. Long	1/2	Nantucket	2	G. d'Entremont#
1/8	E. Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	1/3	Saugus	2	P. + F. Vale
1/16	Templeton	1 ad	T. Pirro	1/10	Stoneham	5	D. + I. Jewell
1/16	Washington	1	E. Neumuth	1/17	Pepperell	3	G. Coffey
1/19	Lenox	1	R. Laubach	1/23	Medford	5	W. Hutcheson
1/31-2/28	Gloucester	1	G. Levandoski + v.o.	1/25	Winchester	2	M. Rines
2/4-13	DWWS	1	D. Ludlow + vo	2/15	Boxford (C.P.)	3	P. + F. Vale
2/4-27	Windsor	1	R. Rancatti	2/28	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale
2/7	Milton	1	D. Mehlman	<b>Carolina Wren</b>			
2/8-28	Wayland	1	N. Patterson	1/thr	Sherborn	4	E. Taylor
2/12	Concord	1	M. Rines	1/1	Winchester	3	M. Rines
2/19	P.I.	1	D. + I. Jewell	1/1	South Berk Count	1	v.o.
2/21	Salisbury	1	P. + F. Vale	1/2	Quabbin Count	1	v.o.
2/22	W. Acton	2	P. Arrigo#	1/23	Westport	36	BBC (R. Stymeist)
2/28	Cumb. Farms	1 ad	M. Maurer	1/26	Lexington	5	M. Rines
<b>American Crow</b>				1/30	Brewster	8	M. Rines#
1/thr	Framingham	10,000+	E. Taylor	1/8-2/18	Amherst	2	H. Allen
1/31	Lawrence	14,500	J. Hogan#	2/thr	Ipswich	2	J. Berry
2/thr	Framingham	10,000+	E. Taylor	2/1	Greenfield	1	R. Dwelley
2/16	Woburn	12,000+	R. Heil	2/7	Falmouth	4	R. Lockwood#
2/21	Wakefield	1000+	P. + F. Vale	2/7	Truro	10	J. Young
<b>Fish Crow</b>				2/13	Easthampton	1	H. Allen
1/13	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan	2/15	Westport	19	M. Lynch#
1/22	Braintree	12	K. Vespaziani	2/28	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon
1/25	Winchester	1	M. Rines	2/28	Worcester	3	M. Lynch#
1/27	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	G. Leet#	<b>Bewick's Wren (details submitted)</b>			
1/30	Northampton	3	T. Gagnon	1/6	Westport	1	D. Emerson, R. Bowen
1/31	Lawrence	2	J. Hogan#	<b>Winter Wren</b>			
2/18	Scituate	1	R. Titus	1/5	Lexington	1	D. + I. Jewell
<b>Common Raven</b>				1/20	Longmeadow	1	H. Allen
1/16	Templeton	2	T. Pirro	1/23	Westport	4	BBC (R. Stymeist)
2/13	W. Brookfield	1	M. Lynch#	1/23	Medford	2	W. Hutcheson
2/19	Hamilton	1	C. Corley#	1/31	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil
2/27	Quabbin (G37)	2SSBC	(D. Ludlow)	2/13	Eastham (F.H.)	1	P. Hunt#
<b>Horned Lark</b>				2/15	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
thr	Nantucket	104 max	v.o.	2/28	Carlisle	1	T. + D. Brownrigg
1/1	Worcester	25	M. Lynch#	<b>Marsh Wren</b>			
1/1	Salisbury B.	30	D. + S. Larson	1/1	Nantucket	1	R. Stymeist#
1/8	Cumb. Farms	175+	A. Joslin	1/13	Dorchester	2	R. Donovan
1/15	Concord (NAC)	30	S. Perkins#	1/23	Swampscott	1	C. Leahy
1/16, 2/4	Hadley	200, 300	H. Allen	1/27	Newbyp	1	R. Heil
1/17	Wellfleet	45+	J. Trimble#	<b>Golden-crowned Kinglet</b>			
1/17	Sharon	30	S. Arena	1/8	Lenox	6	R. Laubach
1/17	E. Middleboro	60	K. Holmes	1/18	Becket	6	R. Laubach
1/19-2/25	Bedford	26 max	R. Lockwood	1/23	Westport	26	BBC (R. Stymeist)
1/31	Duxbury B.	27	D. Furbish	1/30	Milton	5	A. Joslin
2/4	Groton	21	T. Pirro	2/10	IRWS	5	L. Healey
2/4	Charlton	16	P. Meleski	2/14	Lancaster	5	R. Lockwood
2/6	Scusset B.	15	W. Petersen#	2/15	Boxford (C.P.)	11	P. + F. Vale
2/7	Chatham	44	R. Lockwood#	2/21	Concord	14	R. Lockwood
2/8	Westport	110	M. Boucher	2/27	Quabbin (G37)	10	SSBC (D. Ludlow)
2/22	Newbury	200	J. Berry	<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b>			
2/26	P.I.	30	S. Haydock	1/2	Woburn	1	P. + F. Vale
2/27	Petersham	30	R. Lockwood#	1/3	Avon	2	D. Larson
<b>Tree Swallow</b>				1/23	Westport	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
2/5	Chilmark	1	P. Jackson	1/29	Nantucket	3	E. Ray
<b>Red-breasted Nuthatch</b>				1/30	Dennis	1	R. Stymeist#
1/thr	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	2/24	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell
1/2	Nantucket	5	G. d'Entremont#	2/28	Bolton Flats	1	E. Salmela
1/3	Saugus	1	P. + F. Vale	<b>Eastern Bluebird</b>			
1/13	Manchester	1	S. Hedman	1/6	Acton	5	J. Rice
1/13	Lynn	1	I. Lynch	1/8	E. Middleboro	5	K. Holmes
1/17	Gardner	1	T. Pirro	1/17	W. Newbury	3	R. Heil
1/17	Westminster	1	T. Pirro	1/17	Westminster	3	T. Pirro
1/25	Winchester	2	M. Rines	1/21	Wellfleet	18	R. Heil
1/31	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	1/22	Stockbridge	1	R. Laubach

Eastern Bluebird (continued)				2/15	Rockport	1	M. Fairbrother
1/23	N. Dennis	11	M. Lynch#	Yellow-rumped Warbler			
1/23	Westport	10	BBC (R. Stymeist)	1/thr	W. Newbury	3	R. Heil
1/29	Nantucket	30	E. Ray	1/3	Avon	30	D. Larson
1/30	Stoughton	4	R. Titus	1/16	Squantum	31	M. Rines
1/30	Hadley	5	T. Gagnon	1/21	Wellfleet	230	R. Heil
2/3	Petersham	3	B. Coyle	1/23	Westport	21	BBC (R. Stymeist)
2/4	Haverhill	5	R. Heil	1/30	Dennis	47	M. Rines#
2/5	Amherst	1	H. Allen	2/2	S. Boston	40	R. Donovan
2/8	N. Medfield	3	E. Morrier	2/4	Rockport (H.P.)	3	M. Resch
2/10	IRWS	6	L. Healey	2/6	P.I.	10	BBC (M. Rines)
2/12	Pepperell	15	E. Stromsted	2/21	Westport	70	M. Lynch#
2/13	W. Brookfield	1 m	M. Lynch#	2/21	Squantum	42	R. Stymeist
2/13	Milton	6	D. Good	2/23	Ipswich	50	J. Berry
2/21	DWWS	5	G. d'Entremont#	Pine Warbler			
2/28	Bolton Flats	11	E. Salmela	1/21	Wellfleet	4	R. Heil
Hermit Thrush				1/23	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
1/1	South Berk Count	1	C. Miller	2/12	Essex	1 m	J. Berry
1/7	Lexington	2	M. Rines	2/15	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
1/8	Rockport	2	R. Heil	2/15	Marstons Mills	1	J. Liller
1/10	Easton	2	R. Titus	Palm Warbler			
1/11	Pepperell	1	M. Resch	1/1	Newbury	1	R. Heil
1/23	Westport	8	BBC (R. Stymeist)	1/1-2/21	N. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher
1/30	Dennis	6	M. Rines#	1/17	Edgartown	1	V. Laux#
1/31	Woburn	1	P. + F. Vale	1/20	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw#
2/3	Pepperell	1	M. Resch	1/31	Westport	2	K. Holmes
2/15	Westport	9	M. Lynch#	2/23	Wellfleet	1	M. Lynch#
2/26	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#	Ovenbird			
American Robin				1/22	Norfolk	1	W. Atwater
1/12	W. Newbury	175+	R. Heil	Yellow-breasted Chat			
1/17	Cohasset	258	R. Titus	1/2	Falmouth	3	D. Clapp
1/18	S Quabbin	283	M. Lynch	1/9-10	Rockport	1	P. Akers
1/21	Groton	5500	T. Pirro	1/10	E. Gloucester	1	M. Lynch#
1/21	Wellfleet	220+	R. Heil	1/30	Dennis	1	R. Stymeist#
1/31	S. Dart.-Westport	1000+	K. Holmes	<b>Western Tanager</b>			
2/thr	N. Dartmouth	220 max	M. Boucher	1/1-16	E. Orleans	1	v.o.
2/10	DWWS	1200	D. Furbish	1/2	Marshfield	1	D. Clapp
2/15	Boston (Fens)	470	K. Hudson	1/2-17	S. Wellfleet	1	v.o.
2/28	Worcester	450+	M. Lynch#	2/7	Orleans	1	R. Lockwood#
Gray Catbird				Eastern Towhee			
1/1	Medford	1	M. Rines	thr	Mattapoisett	2-3	F. Smith
1/1	Nantucket	1	J. Trimble#	thr	Manchester	1 f	C. Corley
1/2	Lakeville	1	K. Holmes	1/1	S. Dartmouth	2 m	M. Boucher
1/8	Rockport	1	R. Heil	1/10	Fairhaven	2	J. Young#
1/12	Lexington	1	B. Volkle	1/11	Barnstable	2 m	D. Wilkinson#
1/18	Woburn	1	M. Rines	1/30	Dennis	1	M. Rines#
1/21	Eastham	5	R. Heil	2/7	Falmouth	6	R. Lockwood#
1/23	Falmouth	2	G. d'Entremont#	2/15	Westport	15	M. Lynch#
1/23	Westport	9	BBC (R. Stymeist)	American Tree Sparrow			
1/30	Dennis	5	R. Stymeist#	1/3	Avon	60	D. Larson
2/7	Falmouth	2	R. Lockwood#	1/13	Dorchester	80	R. Donovan
Brown Thrasher				1/15	Concord (NAC)	75	S. Perkins#
1/26	Rockport	1	D. + I. Jewell	1/17	W. Bridgewater	80	S. Arena
2/18	Concord	1	E. Idman	2/7	Cumb. Farms	225	M. Lynch#
American Pipit				2/13	W. Brookfield	30	M. Lynch#
1/thr	N. Dartmouth	27 max	M. Boucher	2/14	Bolton Flats	67	R. Lockwood
1/2	Bridgewater	50	K. Holmes	2/20	Clinton	45	R. Lockwood
1/8	Scituate	1	G. Levandoski	Chipping Sparrow			
Cedar Waxwing				1/1	Medford	3	M. Rines
1/1	W. Newbury	300+	R. Heil	1/9	Everett	1	P. + F. Vale
1/4	Natick	86	G. + L. Long	1/25	Falmouth	3	P. Kyle
1/10	Bolton Flats	100+	F. + M. Howes	Clay-colored Sparrow			
1/18	Gloucester	22	P. + F. Vale	1/6	Cumb. Farms	1	R. Farrell#
1/23	Wellfleet	20	M. Lynch#	1/10	Fairhaven	1	J. Young
1/28	Adams	300	R. Rancatti	1/31	Cumb. Farms	1	R. Finch
1/31	Ipswich	50+	J. Berry	Field Sparrow			
2/12	Hanson	50	W. Petersen	1/2	Quabbin Count	1	v.o.
2/23	Wellfleet	20	M. Lynch#	1/18	Lakeville	3	R. Titus
Orange-crowned Warbler				2/6	Lincoln	1	S. Perkins
1/1	Nantucket	2	R. Stymeist#	2/7	Middleboro	3	B. Zuzavich
1/20	Wellfleet	1	B. Stevens#	2/13	Truro	3	P. Hunt#
2/3	S. Dart. (A.Pd.)	1	R. Farrell	2/15	Westport	22	M. Lynch#
2/10	Nantucket	1	E. Ray				

Vesper Sparrow				1/10	Westport	40	J. Young
1/21	Orleans	1	R. Heil	1/10	Nantucket	172	E. Ray
1/23	Cumb. Farms	2	R. Finch#	1/13	Hadley	200	H. Allen
2/21	Westport	5	M. Boucher	1/17	Boston H.	300TASL (M. Hall#)	
<b>Lark Sparrow</b>				1/17	Cohasset	110	R. Titus
1/1-2/4	Salisbury	1	D. Davis + v.o.	1/17	Sharon	110	S. Arena
<b>Savannah Sparrow</b>				1/21, 2/4	Groton	25, 300	T. Pirro
1/2	Nantucket	11	R. Lockwood#	1/22	P'town (R.P.)	375+	J. Trimble
1/15	Concord (NAC)	7	S. Perkins#	1/31, 2/27	Pepperell	110, 125 E.	Stromsted
1/17	W. Bridgewater	25	S. Arena	1/31	Stow	30	D. Glorioso
1/31	W. Newbury	1	J. Berry	2/6	Gardner	30	T. Roberts
2/7	Cumb. Farms	98	M. Lynch#	2/14	Northampton	400	T. Gagnon
2/21	Westport	15	M. Boucher	2/17	Duxbury B.	17	G. Levandoski
<b>Ipswich Sparrow</b>				2/20	Windsor	170	T. Gagnon
1/21	Wellfleet	1	R. Heil	2/27	Chatham	85	R. Donovan#
1/31	Duxbury B.	3	D. Furbish	2/27	Scusset B.	20	C. Dalton
2/26	P.I.	4	R. Heil	<b>Dickcissel</b>			
2/27	Chatham	10	R. Donovan#	1/4-10	Marshfield	1	D. Clapp + v.o.
<b>Seaside Sparrow</b>				1/5	Sudbury	1 m	K. Hamilton
1/27	Newbypt	1	R. Heil	1/21	Gloucester	1	C. Leahy
<b>Fox Sparrow</b>				2/2-13	N. Truro	1	G. Ellison + v.o.
thr	Mattapoisett	2	F. Smith	<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>			
1/2	Quabbin Count	1	v.o.	1/1-2	Nantucket	55	J. Trimble#
1/11, 1/17, 2/5	Williamsburg	1, 2, 1	R. Packard	1/3	Brockton	30	D. Larson
1/17	Stow	1	T. Carrolan	1/4	Fairhaven	100	M. Boucher
1/20, 2/15	Wayland	1	A. McCarthy#	1/6, 2/10	DWWS	220, 230	D. Furbish#
1/21	Eastham	2	R. Heil	1/18	Dighton	28	R. Titus
1/23	Westport	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)	1/20	Longmeadow	36	H. Allen
1/24-28	Cambridge	1	H. Hofheinz#	1/20	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
1/25-2/25	DWWS	1-2	D. Furbish	1/23	Lynnfield	100	H. Wiggin
1/30-31	Dedham	1	E. Cutler	2/1	S. Peabody	17	R. Heil
2/22-29	Westfield	1	J. Weeks	2/7	Boston	29	BBC (R. Stymeist)
<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>				2/13	Wayland	10	E. Taylor
1/10, 1/31	Cumb. Farms	1	R. Finch	2/13	E. Dennis	14 m	J. O'Neil
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>				2/15	Hadley	5	H. Allen
1/1	Nantucket	5	G. d'Entremont#	2/15	Truro	50	R. Heil
1/21	GMNWR	3	R. Lockwood	2/15	Duxbury	50	S. Perkins
1/23	Barnstable	2	G. d'Entremont#	2/19	Sudbury	85 m	K. Hamilton
1/23	Carver	1	M. Lynch#	2/21	Salisbury	200	W. Petersen
1/30	Dennis	1	R. Stymeist#	2/22	Woburn	100	A. Rooney
1/31	Lexington	1	M. Rines	<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>			
2/7	Cumb. Farms	18	M. Lynch#	1/3	Orleans	4	G. d'Entremont#
2/7	DWWS	2	M. Lynch#	1/29	Nantucket	8	E. Ray
2/20	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	1/31	Cumb Farms	8	R. Finch
<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>				2/10	DWWS	17	D. Furbish
2/thr	Mattapoisett	19	F. Smith	2/15	Duxbury B.	1	D. Furbish
2/7	Falmouth	15	R. Lockwood#	2/15	P'town	1	R. Heil#
2/15	Westport	148	M. Lynch#	2/19	Wayland	1	N. Patterson
<b>White-crowned Sparrow</b>				2/20	E. Boston (B.I.)	4	R. Stymeist#
1/1	Nantucket	3	R. Stymeist#	2/27	Chatham	1	R. Donovan#
1/1	Woburn	1	M. Rines	2/28	Rowley	5	J. Berry
1/6-2/7	Cumb. Farms	12	max R. Finch + v.o.	<b>Yellow-headed Blackbird</b>			
1/7	Cohasset	1	R. Titus	thr	Nantucket	1 m	E. Andrews + v.o.
1/8	Westport	3	A. Strauss#	<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>			
1/11	DWWS	2	D. Wilkinson#	1/2	Quabbin Count	2	v.o.
2/13	Truro	2	P. Hunt#	1/2	Stoneham	1	P. + F. Vale
<b>Lapland Longspur</b>				1/3	Brockton	6	D. Larson
1/1	Newbury	2	D. Chickering#	1/4-11	Wayland	1	G. Long
1/1	Salisbury B.	8	D. + S. Larson	1/10	Cumb. Farms	1	J. Hoye#
1/10	Boston	4	G. Wood	1/17	Williamsburg	1	R. Packard
1/17	Sharon	1	S. Arena	1/23	Lynnfield	1	H. Wiggin
1/29	Bourne	3	R. Titus	1/26	Lexington	1 f	M. Rines
2/1, 2/25	Bedford	1, 22	R. Lockwood	2/3	GMNWR	29	G. Wood
2/4	Mattapoisett	6	F. Smith	2/10	DWWS	29	D. Furbish
2/5	Hadley	1	H. Allen	2/11	Woburn	1	D. + I. Jewell
2/7	Cumb. Farms	1	M. Lynch#	<b>Common Grackle</b>			
2/15	P'town	3	R. Heil#	1/18	Woburn	6	M. Rines
2/22	Newbury	10	J. Berry	1/18	Gloucester H.	1	P. + F. Vale
2/27	Chatham	40	R. Donovan#	1/21	Sandwich	2	J. Trimble
<b>Snow Bunting</b>				1/23	Lynnfield	5	H. Wiggin
1/4	Fairhaven	65	M. Boucher	2/thr	N. Dartmouth	150 max	M. Boucher
1/6	Ipswich	20	R. Hodson	2/1	W. Newbury	2	R. Heil
1/9	P.I.	20+	D. Chickering#	2/19	Sudbury	2	K. Hamilton

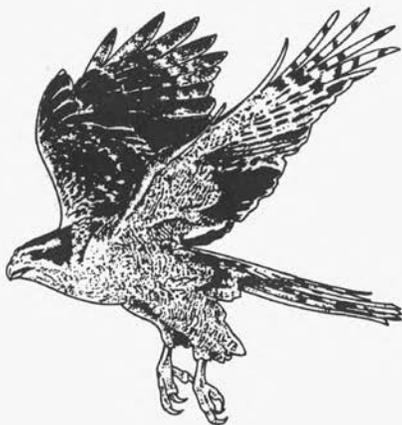
Common Grackle (continued)			1/10	Windsor	4	T. Gagnon	
2/20	DWWS	8	D. Furbish	1/12	Lenox	1	R. Laubach
2/20	Wakefield	5	P. + F. Vale	1/26	Adams	5	R. Rancatti
2/21	W. Newbury	20	P. + F. Vale	2/10	Athol	1	B. Coyle
2/28	Worcester	6	M. Lynch#	2/18	Nantucket	3	fide E. Ray
Brown-headed Cowbird				2/24	Windsor	22	H. Allen
1/1-2	Nantucket	12	J. Trimble#	White-winged Crossbill			
1/14	Rowley	20+	R. Heil	1/10	Windsor	2	T. Gagnon
1/22	Groveland	23	L. Cooper#	1/17	Windsor	3	M. Lynch
2/4	Woburn	75	M. Rines	2/24	Savoy	2	H. Allen
2/6, 20	DWWS	2, 9	D. Furbish	2/24	Windsor	2	H. Allen
2/7	WBWS	2	R. Lockwood#	Common Redpoll			
2/21	Westport/Dart.	150	E. Nielsen	1/1	South Berk Count	6	v.o.
2/21	W. Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale	Pine Siskin			
Baltimore Oriole				1/10	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
1/1, 17	Vineyard Haven	1	E. + M. Sibert	2/20	Windsor	3	T. Gagnon
1/10	Plymouth	1 f	R. Holmes	American Goldfinch			
<b>Bullock's Oriole</b>				1/10	Wellfleet	100	B. Nikula
1/1	Westport	1 f	M. Boucher	Evening Grosbeak			
1/1	Sterling	1	M. Lynch#	1/18	Cohasset	4	R. Titus
1/11	Nantucket	1 f	B. Vineau	2/13	Byfield	1 m	S. Haydock
Purple Finch				2/20, 27	Windsor	21, 4	T. Gagnon
1/3	Becket	2	R. Laubach	2/24	Savoy	9	H. Allen

### HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO BIRD OBSERVER

This publication prints monthly compilations of reports of birds seen in Massachusetts 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.

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Marjorie W. Rines, Secretary, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773.



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 Reservoir
lt	light (phase)	Res.	Reservoir
m	male	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
max	maximum	S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
migr	migrating	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
n	nesting	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
ph	photographed	Stellw.	Stellwagen Bank
pl	plumage	Worc.	Worcester
pr	pair	Barre F.D.	Barre Falls Dam, Barre, Rutland, Oakham
S	summer (1S = first summer)	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
thr	throughout	BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester
vid	videotaped	CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
v.o.	various observers	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
W	winter (2W = second winter)	DWMA	Delaney Wildlife Management Area
w/	with		Stowe, Bolton, Harvard
yg	young	DWWS	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary
#	additional observers	EMHW	Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum, Boston	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	HRWMA	High Ridge Wildlife Management Area,
A.Pd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth		Gardner-Westminster
Arl.	Arlington	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
B.	Beach	LBS	Local Bird Survey
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	LCES	Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	MARC	Massachusetts Avian Records Committee
Cambr.	Cambridge	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich	MBO	Manomet Observatory
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	MBWMA	Martin Burns Wildlife Management Area,
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford		Newbury
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms,	MDFW	MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
	Middleboro-Halifax	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest
F.E.	First Encounter Beach,	NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord
	Eastham	NBC	Needham Bird Club
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	NEHW	New England Hawk Watch
F.M.	Fowl Meadow, Milton	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin	TASL	Take A Second Look Harbor Census
G45	Gate 45, Quabbin	USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
H.P.	Halibut Point, Rockport	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
		WMWS	Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary

\* Indicates a species on the review list of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC). Because these sightings are generally published before the MARC votes, they normally have not been approved by the MARC. The editors publish records which are supported by details, multiple observers, or both.

## ABOUT THE COVER: OVENBIRD

The haunting springtime *teacher-teacher-teacher* emanating from moist woodlands is a familiar sound to every birdwatcher. The Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) gets its common name from its dome-shaped nest, built on the ground, which bears a superficial resemblance to an old-fashioned Dutch oven. Its genus name, *Seiurus*, is Greek for "shaking tail"; this better describes the behavior of the Ovenbird's congeners, the waterthrushes, although Ovenbirds also sometimes bob their tails. Its species name, *aurocapillus*, means "golden-haired" and refers to the distinctive orange crown-stripe that is responsible for several folknames for this delightful warbler: "golden-crowned wagtail" and "golden-crowned thrush." The Ovenbird is a large, ground-dwelling warbler, olive above and white below; the underparts are heavily spotted and streaked with black. Smaller size, an orange or rufous crown stripe edged with black, and a white eye-ring serve to distinguish this species from the thrushes, and the lack of an eye-stripe distinguishes the Ovenbird from the waterthrushes. Ovenbird sexes are similar in plumage, but immature birds duller colored.

Three subspecies are generally recognized: *S. a. cinereus* (a grayish subspecies of the West), *S. a. furvior* (a darker subspecies from Newfoundland), and *S. a. aurocapillus* (in the northern and eastern parts of the species' range).

The Ovenbird's breeding range covers much of northeastern and northern North America, from eastern British Columbia to Newfoundland and south to northern Georgia and eastern Oklahoma. Ovenbirds are nocturnal migrants; the sexes migrate separately, the males arriving on the breeding grounds earlier than females. The population east of the Appalachians migrates mostly along the Mississippi flyway to winter in Mexico and Central America. Ovenbirds east of the Appalachians migrate along the Atlantic flyway and winter in Florida and the Caribbean. In Massachusetts, Ovenbirds are common breeding birds, arriving during the last week of April or in early May. They begin to depart in July and are less numerous in the fall migration than in the spring. A few birds have been reported during the winter.

Ovenbirds are seasonally monogamous and usually produce a single brood. They sometimes mate with the same partners in successive years. Their breeding habitat is mature or secondary deciduous or mixed coniferous-deciduous woodlands and forests. Males are highly territorial and defend their territories by aggressive displays and song, sometimes counter-singing (singing during or immediately after another bird's song) with males in adjacent territories. Both sexes vocalize on the wintering grounds, but only the males are vocal on the breeding territory. The *teacher-teacher* song, often repeated a dozen times with increasing amplitude, serves both to attract mates and advertise and defend the male's territory. The displays include an aerial display characterized by hovering, labored, flight with tail and wings spread, during which an "attenuated" flight song is uttered. Thirteen calls have been identified, including

a variety of *sip*, *chep*, *chirp*, and *chitter* notes. Chases and other aggressive (agonistic) interactions occur between males at territorial boundaries.

Choosing the nest site and building the domed nest of grass, leaves, and stems, often lined with deer hair, are strictly the domain of the female. The usual clutch is four white eggs, spotted and speckled with browns of varying hues. The female alone incubates, but during incubation the male may feed the female. She may give a distraction, or injury-feigning, display if the nest is approached by a potential predator. After about 12-14 days, the eggs hatch. Eight to ten days later, the parents divide the brood, with the male remaining on territory. Both parents feed the young at the nest. Ovenbirds walk rather than hop and glean insects and larvae from the forest floor, although they will sometimes forage in shrubs and may probe, hover, and hawk for invertebrates.

As ground-nesting birds, Ovenbirds are preyed upon by snakes, squirrels, skunks, raccoons, and weasels, and adults are taken by a variety of hawks and owls. Ovenbirds require large tracts of continuous forest or woodlands for successful breeding and have suffered badly from forest fragmentation. The fragmentation of a forest produces an increasing percentage of forest edge habitat. An "edge effect" results, in which predators that specialize in forest edge (Blue Jays, for example), and nest parasites such as the Brown-headed Cowbird, have increasingly devastating effects. These threats are largely absent from forest interiors. The hazards of migration, including collisions with human-made structures such as radio towers and buildings, are compounded by habitat destruction of the Ovenbird's wintering ground in the Caribbean and in South and Central America. Reforestation in the Northeast may explain Breeding Bird Survey indications that Ovenbird populations increased in the eastern United States, and particularly in eastern Canada, from 1965-1978. However, more recent data indicate overall declines in numbers, probably resulting from forest fragmentation. We certainly hope that conservation and proper management of large forest tracts will continue to make the sound of *teacher-teacher* a hallmark of spring.

— William E. Davis, Jr.

### ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

The insightful bird drawings of Barry Van Dusen, an artist and illustrator based in Princeton, Massachusetts, frequently appear on the cover of *Bird Observer*. Barry will be a featured artist at the Midwest Birding Symposium in Lakeside, Ohio, September 16-19. At Wisconsin Birds in Art, a juried show beginning September 11 in Wassau, Wisconsin, Barry will be showing an oil painting of Wood Ducks illuminated by evening light at Milford, Massachusetts — the first time Barry has placed a work in this medium in this prestigious show. Birders and aspiring bird artists will have an opportunity to learn directly from Barry when he participates in a "Nature Journaling" workshop to be given at Massachusetts Audubon's Wachusett Meadow Sanctuary on October 2; call the Sanctuary at (978) 464-2712 for more information.

A glance at April's mystery species reveals an all-black bird with dark eyes, a heavy bill, and relatively thick legs. The fact that its eyes are dark and its tail is relatively short and unkeeled helps remove adult male Common Grackle and Rusty Blackbird, as well as the rare (in Massachusetts) Brewer's Blackbird, as identification possibilities. Although juvenile grackles and Rusty Blackbirds also have dark eyes, as do female Brewer's Blackbirds, the large size of the mystery bird's bill and the length and shape of its tail serve to remove them as identification possibilities. The bill shape is also wrong for a Brown-headed Cowbird, which, even in a black-and-white photograph, would show a contrast between a brown head and black body. And finally, the absence of speckles on the plumage, or a pale bar on the greater wing coverts, eliminates European Starling and Red-winged Blackbird as candidates, respectively.

Having removed all of the regularly occurring Massachusetts blackbirds as identification possibilities, the obvious remaining choice is between the American Crow, Fish Crow, and Common Raven. These three corvid species, all of which are black in any plumage, range in descending size from the 24-inch Common Raven to the 16-inch Fish Crow. In addition to their great overall size, ravens possess massive bills, shaggy feathering on their throats, and broad, wedge-shaped tails. Clearly, the corvid in the photo is not a Common Raven.



*Photograph by Hal Harrison*

The choice thus becomes one between American Crow and Fish Crow. American Crows range from 17-21 inches in length, while Fish Crows range from 16-20 inches. Obviously, with so much overlap in size, this is not an entirely reliable method for separating these two otherwise similar species, especially in a photograph! Structurally, Fish Crows are somewhat more delicate than American Crows,

particularly their bills, and their tails are proportionally longer than those of American Crows. But once again, these features can be difficult to assess from a single photograph. The bottom line: it probably is not possible to say with certainty what the mystery crow is from the photograph provided — an unfortunate reality, not a dirty trick. As most birders know, Fish Crows are best identified by their single, nasal, *cah* or *aah-aah* call notes, or by several other somewhat less distinctive vocalizations. In addition, they are rather pointed-winged in flight, and their wing beats tend to be rapid and stiff, not deep and rowing as those of an American Crow. Furthermore, Fish Crows tend to be more buoyant on the wing than American Crows, often gliding, sailing, and soaring in swirling flocks when present in large numbers. In some respects the differences between the flight behavior of American Crows and Fish Crows can be compared with the flight differences between Herring Gulls and Ring-billed Gulls.

Since the crow in the photograph is neither flying or calling, it is best left simply as a crow species. That's the safest thing to do when trying to make an identification like this. Hopefully this exercise will stimulate readers to watch American Crows more carefully in the future, specifically with a mind toward learning the nuances of differentiating them from Fish Crows.

The bird in the photograph is actually an American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) — a widespread and abundant species throughout Massachusetts at all times of year. The Fish Crow, while present throughout the year, is much less common and is generally most common in southeastern parts of the state in summer and around large dumps or in residential areas in Greater Boston during the winter.

***Rip Ryder Ferry***  
**Monomoy and South Beach**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Licensed Captain Keith Lincoln**  
**Daily trips for birding and sightseeing**  
**(508)587-4540 • (508)945-5450**

## AT A GLANCE

---

Photograph by W.H. Drury



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)  
P.O. BOX 236  
ARLINGTON, MA 02476-0003**

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

Barbara Howell  
2 Orchard Lane  
Vayland, MA 01778-1908

Dec 99

## **CONTENTS**

---

EXPLORING ESTABROOK WOODS.....	Ron Lockwood	125
MEMORIES OF MERGANSERS.....	Tudor Richards	133
THE CASE OF THE PURLOINED HAWK EGGS.....	David A. Talman	137
SHARING THE EAGLE .....	Marjorie W. Rines	139
ABOUT BOOKS: Looking Back		
The Books that Made Me a Birder .....	Mark Lynch	142
FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE		
Starlings and Tent Caterpillars.....	Richard W. Hildreth	145
On the Farm .....	Oakes Plimpton	146
NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB: 1999 Request for Proposals:		
Charles Blake Fund Grants .....		147
<i>BIRD OBSERVER</i> : On Becoming a Truly Statewide Journal.....		150
BIRD SIGHTINGS: January/February 1999 Summary .....		151
ABOUT THE COVER: Ovenbird.....	William E. Davis, Jr.	167
ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Barry Van Dusen .....		168
AT A GLANCE .....	Wayne R. Petersen	169
Cover Illustration: Ovenbird by Barry Van Dusen		