

# Bird Observer

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 4

AUGUST 2019

PLATE 63.

PLATE 6301.



Drawn from life by G. G. Anderson F.R.S.F.Z.S.

Re-illustrated by English Allan Sorenson

*American White Pelican*  
PELECANUS AMERICATUS, AND.  
HALL AUDUBON

# HOT BIRDS

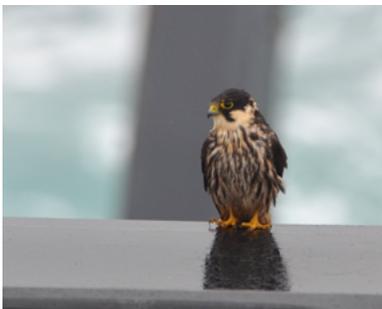
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A birding group led by David Clapp discovered a **Curlew Sandpiper** on Monomoy May 19. Birders giving chase were able to relocate it in the area through at least May 30. Bob Stymeist took the photo on the right.



Ted Gilliland perfectly timed his trip to Martha's Vineyard, spotting a **Swallow-tailed Kite** from Gay Head on May 21 (his photo on the left), then no fewer than *\*three\** Mississippi Kites the following day, and that was not all!

As if he hadn't already had a great enough birding trip to Martha's Vineyard, Ted Gilliland followed up his Swallow-tailed Kite and Mississippi Kites with a **Loggerhead Shrike** on May 24 (his photo on the right). Massachusetts had not had a documented Loggerhead Shrike record since 2012, until this spring. Then it had a second one just 10 days later, half the state away! Peter Gagarin discovered the latter bird at the Turners Falls Airport.



While conducting seabird surveys far offshore, Allison Black photographed a falcon that landed on the boat while they were roughly 65 miles offshore from Nomans Land (near Martha's Vineyard). She posted her photos on FaceBook, where it was recognized as a **Eurasian Hobby!** Apparently the second record for Massachusetts, but possibly only the fourth ever in the Lower 48; it was clearly the rarest bird in our state for this period, but was never detected on-shore, so Allison was the only one lucky enough to see it. That's her photo on the left.

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# Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal—to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds  
**VOL. 47, NO. 4 AUGUST 2019**

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BIRD OBSERVER, P.O. Box 236, Arlington MA 02476-0003. PERIODICALS CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON MA.

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# Birding the Squantum Section of Quincy, Massachusetts

*Vin Zollo*

Squantum is the northernmost section of the city of Quincy, Massachusetts. It is a peninsula bordered on the north by Boston Harbor, on the east by Moon Island, on the south by Quincy Bay, and on the west by the Neponset River and the Dorchester section of Boston. Mostly urbanized, Squantum is a mix of traditional neighborhood streets and a more recent and ever-expanding large development in Marina Bay consisting of condominiums, town houses, and the largest marina in the Northeast. Despite the hustle and bustle, this area provides year-round birding opportunities. The natural, more “wild” attractions of Squantum include salt marshes, ocean bays, exposed mudflats, sand spits, an estuarine river, and patches of wooded city parks for landbird migrants. There’s much human activity, and birders may field a lot of questions about what they’re looking at. This is a great opportunity to share information about bird sightings, spread knowledge about local nature, and in turn, learn more about the area from people who live here.



## History

Only minutes south of Boston, the city of Quincy has a rich history. Referred to by some as the city of presidents, it is the birthplace of the second and sixth presidents of the United States, John Adams and John Quincy Adams, and is home to Adams National Historic Park. Quincy is the birthplace of John Hancock, the first signer of the Declaration of Independence and first American governor of Massachusetts, and it is the site of the Granite Railway, America’s first commercial railway.

Squantum derives its name from the Native American guide and interpreter, Tisquantum or Squanto, who brought the Plymouth Colony commander Myles Standish to visit Chief Chickatawbut of the Massachusetts tribe at his ruling seat on Moswetuset Hummock in Squantum in 1621. Moswetuset is believed to be the origin for the name of the Massachusetts tribe.

Additionally, Squantum played a role in aviation dating back to the first part of the twentieth century. Squantum Point was a site for early airshows. The original civilian airfield— where Amelia Earhart was employed as chief pilot—dates back to 1910; it later became Naval Air Station Squantum, an active military base from 1923–1953.

## Logistics

Squantum is a well-defined, relatively compact area—2.7 square miles—that starts at the intersection of East Squantum Street and Quincy Shore Drive. You can cover all of the featured birding locations within Squantum in as little as 2–3 hours or more extensively in 5–6 hours, depending on your pace. A good understanding of the tides will help you locate more birds, and if you have a vehicle you can optimize your

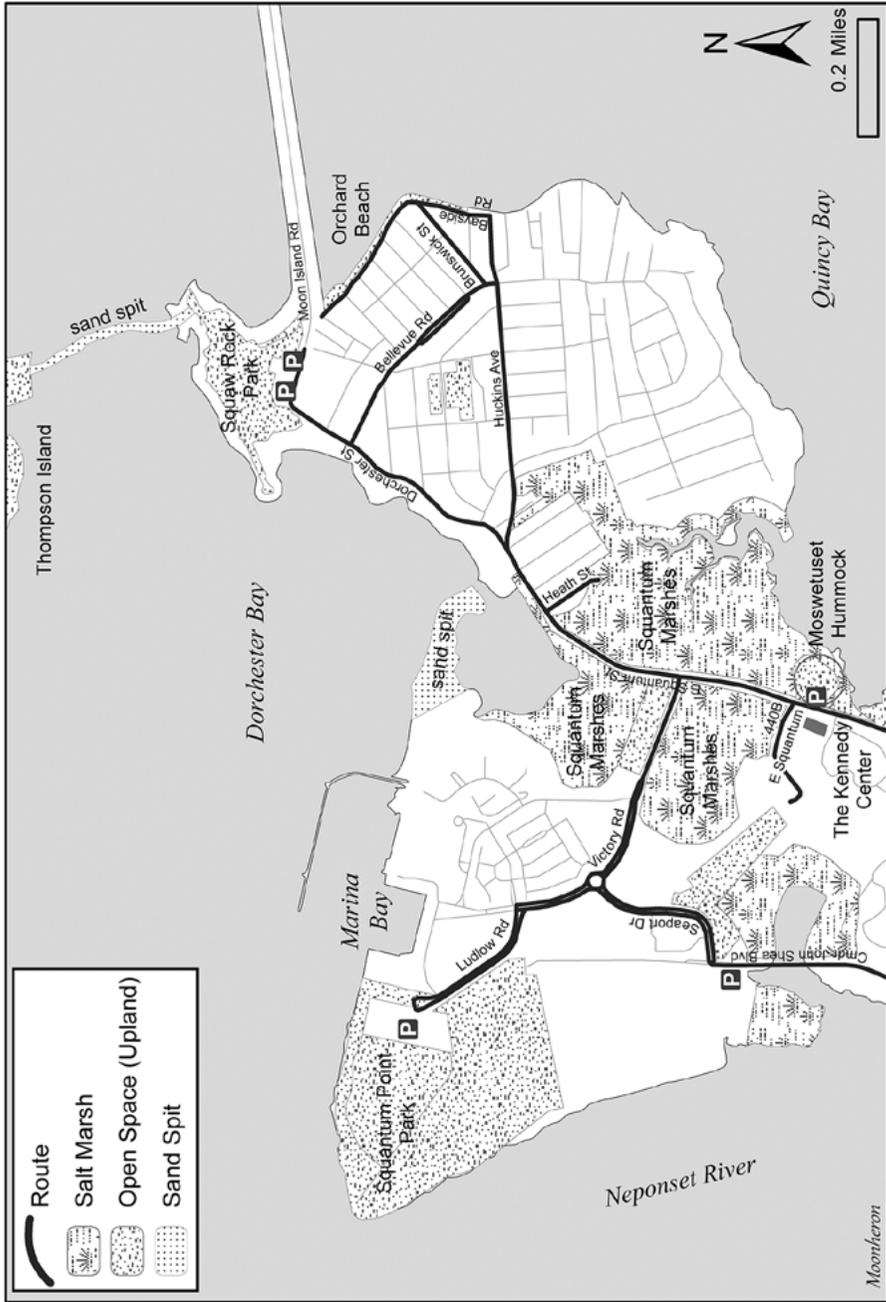


Fig. 1. Overview map of Squantum.

birding success by moving from location to location to adapt to changing tides. Specific tide details will be discussed in site descriptions. A spotting scope can enhance your views of waterfowl and shorebirds. If you prefer a guided tour, the South Shore Bird Club (<<https://southshorebirdclub.wixsite.com/ssbc>>) offers a few trips every year.

Driving directions: From Interstate 93, take Exit 12: MA - 3A S/Gallivan Blvd. Continue straight onto Hancock Street/Neponset Avenue for approximately one mile, keeping left on Quincy Shore Drive. Turn left onto East Squantum Street just before Wollaston Beach.

Arrive by public transportation with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), stopping at the nearby North Quincy Station. MBTA bus #211 makes stops in Squantum.

There are no public bathroom facilities in Squantum, so plan ahead. Dunkin' at the corner of East Squantum Street and Quincy Shore Drive has a bathroom. Or try your luck at one of the restaurants at Marina Bay's Victory Road waterfront.

### **Moswetuset Hummock**

As its name suggests, the Hummock is a small, elevated, mostly oak-treed city park that looks out over Quincy Bay and an adjacent salt marsh. It is located along the main causeway at the beginning of Squantum and is next to the north end of Wollaston Beach. The parking lot is directly across the street from the Kennedy Center building at 440 East Squantum Street. (See Figure 1. Overview Map of Squantum.)

The main trail follows the outside edges of the hummock and affords fine views. Morning light can be in your face when looking out into Quincy Bay, so if possible, visit midday or in the afternoon. Scan the salt marsh for Great and Snowy egrets and Glossy Ibis (uncommon) at higher tides. There is an active Osprey platform in the marsh. Other birds include resident American Black Ducks and summering Willets, Least Terns, and Barn and Tree swallows. In winter, check elevated perches at dusk for a Snowy Owl during flight years.

Look south to Quincy Bay. High tide is best for views of wintering seafoal from mid-October through mid-April. Expect American Black Ducks, Common Eiders, Surf and White-winged scoters, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, Red-breasted Mergansers, Common and Red-throated loons, and Horned Grebes. Less common are Greater Scaup and Long-tailed Ducks. The occasional dabbling duck can be spotted among the Black Ducks, especially after a quick, early winter freeze of inland bodies of water.

Low tide reveals extensive mudflats that can attract a variety of shorebirds and wading birds, with peak numbers from July to mid-September. A rising tide is best because it will push birds closer toward you. There should be Semipalmated Plovers, Semipalmated Sandpipers, and Greater Yellowlegs; fewer Black-bellied Plovers, Least Sandpipers, Spotted Sandpipers, White-rumped Sandpipers (uncommon), Short-billed Dowitchers, and Lesser Yellowlegs. Look carefully through these flocks because Western Sandpiper is found annually in small numbers. Post-breeding Laughing Gulls



Squantum pans next to Kennedy Center. All photographs by the author unless otherwise indicated.

forage along the water's edge from July through October in addition to the resident Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed gulls. Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Snowy Egrets also work the shallows, adding height and color to the feeding scene.

The waters around Squantum seem to be a major staging area for migrating Double-crested Cormorants, where it's not uncommon to see a few thousand in the fall. Flocks of one hundred or more regularly depart for points south or southwest, especially early in the morning. Moswetuset Hummock is one of several vantage points around Squantum where one can witness large feeding frenzies during October, as masses of Double-crested Cormorants herd baitfish in the surrounding bays, which also attracts gulls, terns, and fish-eating waterfowl, particularly Red-throated Loons. Among the masses of gulls and terns, look for Bonaparte's Gulls keying in to these feeding aggregations. The majority of the terns are Common Terns, but a Forster's Tern or two are possible with a thorough search.

The wooded part of Moswetuset Hummock can host passerines during migration. This is a classic "boom or bust" type of spot, but frequent visits can yield results. April migrants such as Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned kinglets, Hermit Thrushes, Brown Creepers, Eastern Phoebe, and Northern Flickers can be viewed well before the foliage pops.

### **Squantum Marshes**

The Squantum Marshes are patches of salt marsh along East Squantum Street. (See Figure 1). The first and most frequently birded of these is on the north side of East Squantum Street adjacent to the Kennedy Center. This marsh features salt pans or pools that host a wide variety of shorebirds, wading birds, and waterfowl in season. It is most productive from spring through fall. The ideal conditions here are during a high tide, preferably in the morning when the light is at your back. This is *the* location in



Stilt Sandpiper and Dunlin at Squantum pans next to Kennedy Center.

Squamung during high tide because shorebirds get pushed out of their feeding areas on the incoming tide and congregate in these salt pans.

Park either at the Moswetuset Hummock lot across the street or alongside the marsh on the side road, 440B East Squantum Street, which is the north entrance to the Kennedy Center. This side road is a good place to begin birding. The largest pool touches the edge of the road, and a vehicle can make a nice blind as you initially scan. To get a more commanding view of all the pools and the marsh as a whole, walk along the sidewalk on the main road, East Squantum Street. Killdeer and Willets breed here. Other regular shorebirds include Semipalmated Plover, Least and Semipalmated sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Greater and Lesser yellowlegs. Less frequent, but regular are Pectoral, White-rumped, and Stilt sandpipers, as well as Dunlin (October). This marsh is one of only a few places in the Boston area that regularly host Stilt Sandpipers. The pools here are their favored habitat. Be on the lookout for Whimbrels, Western Sandpipers, and Long-billed Dowitchers, all rare but annual. Wilson's Phalarope is possible, with a few sightings in the past decade.

All of this shorebird activity attracts the attention of avian predators. The sudden flushing of the flocks is a sure sign that a predator is about. Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, and Cooper's Hawks are the main pursuers and can totally clear the area of all shorebirds, a spectacular sight, but it can also cut your birding visit short.

A dawn visit between July and mid-September can be quite rewarding. Up to 75 Great and Snowy egrets and a few Great Blue Herons congregate in the pans at daybreak, which makes for a spectacular up-close but short-lived encounter. Most of these birds disperse to more productive feeding spots within about 15 minutes. Keep an eye on the sky as well because Black-crowned Night Herons fly over with some regularity as they head to their daytime roost.

This section of salt marsh hosts two breeding birds of conservation concern.



Green-winged Teal at Squantum pans next to Kennedy Center.

American Black Ducks are often overlooked as breeders in the area. Lucky observers can encounter black duck hens with ducklings in tow mostly during the month of May. This species has declined sharply as a breeding bird in Massachusetts over the past 25 years, especially away from coastal areas.

Saltmarsh Sparrows also nest here, perhaps six pairs. Scan carefully—a scope is useful—for teed-up Saltmarsh Sparrows in the marsh. Patience is required because these secretive birds move around a lot and many times dive into the vegetation and disappear. This salt marsh specialist nests only on the Atlantic Coast from Maine to Virginia and is at center stage in the discussion about the impact of climate change on birds. Leading authorities predict successful nestings of these salt marsh denizens will diminish as sea levels continue to rise (Gorman 2018). I have not personally noticed a change in numbers at this particular spot, but one can't help to think about their fate as time goes by.

Barn Swallows nest in an abandoned storage building next to the marsh and are a welcome distraction as they hunt low over this open area. Squantum is not known for numbers or variety of dabbling ducks. Along with Mallard and American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal is the only regular dabbler during migration in these pools. On occasion, Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shovelers drop in for a brief stay. A few Least Terns hover over the pools in the summer. This state-listed species of special concern likely nests nearby on one of the Boston Harbor islands. Glossy Ibises occasionally feed in the marshes in spring and summer. A number of exciting rarities have been spotted over the years, including Baird's Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Clapper Rail, Tricolored Heron, and White-faced Ibis. Odonate aficionados will notice the seaside dragonlet (*Erythrodiplax berenice*) skimming low over the salt pans. This small dragonfly is the only North American species that can breed in seawater.

Directly behind the Kennedy Center are a small patch of phragmites marsh, an old weedy baseball field, and some early successional brushy habitat that hold some interesting birds in spring and fall migrations. Look for Wilson's Snipe in early April. A small section of the old ballfield is tidal and can be wet, but a walk through it can be productive, with Song, White-throated, Swamp, and Savannah sparrows and the possibility of Field, White-crowned, or Lincoln's sparrows. Autumn migration days may feature many Yellow-rumped Warblers and others such as Palm Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Blackpoll Warbler. This is the right habitat to hope for an uncommon Orange-crowned Warbler. Listen for Willow Flycatcher; a pair regularly breeds in the brushy area behind the old ballfield.

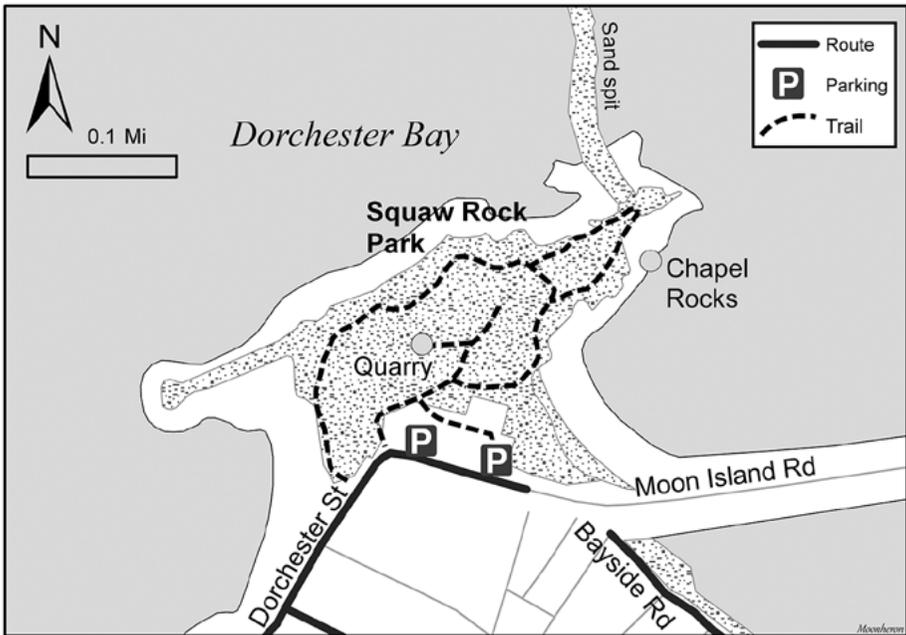
Return to East Squantum Street and either walk or drive for 0.4 mile, then turn right onto Heath Street, and continue to the end of the cul-de-sac to view another section of salt marsh with an osprey platform. If the tide is high, it's worth checking the marsh, boat docks, and walkways that jut out into the marsh for birds; bypass this area at low tide. Before returning to East Squantum Street, park on Heath Street and cross the main road to scan north at the seawall into the waters of Dorchester Bay. The large condominium buildings of Marina Bay are in view across the bay with the Boston skyline in the background.

This small embayment has nice birds and views, but is best with morning light and on a lower tide when the mudflats and sand spit are exposed. A spotting scope is useful for scrutinizing shorebirds and waterfowl. American Oystercatchers—local breeders—and Black-bellied Plovers frequent the sand spit, as do Laughing Gulls between July and October. The spit is one of a few places in the area to try for Caspian Terns in September. Semipalmated Plovers, Least and Semipalmated sandpipers, and Greater Yellowlegs regularly feed on the mudflats. Less common shorebirds such as Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderlings, Dunlins (October), White-rumped Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Western Sandpipers (rare), Short-billed Dowitchers, and Willets round out the possibilities. Common and Least terns feed along this stretch of water during the summer months. Keep an eye out for Black Skimmers, which are rare but can occur in some years. It is thought that juvenile birds disperse from breeding grounds to the south and feed in these shallow bays in late summer. Black-headed Gull and Red Knot are a couple of rarities that have shown up in recent years.

This is another favored spot for wading birds such as Great and Snowy egrets and Great Blue Herons. Flocks of Brant, sometimes numbering in the hundreds, use this area; peak numbers occur during spring and fall migrations. The seawall is another vantage point from which to view the feeding frenzies of cormorants, gulls, terns, and fish-eating waterfowl.

### **Squaw Rock Park**

Squaw Rock Park is Squantum's best migrant trap, another classic "boom or bust" kind of place during migration. Birders know it as Squaw Rock, but it also goes by Nickerson Beach or Chapel Rocks. Continue driving along East Squantum Street and go left when the road forks; it becomes Dorchester Street, hugging the seawall. In about 0.6 mile, just before the road curves right, you'll approach a wooded area on the left



**Fig. 2.** Map of Squaw Rock Park.

and then a set of low cinder block buildings (a former Cold War Nike missile site). You can park along the road in front of the Mollie Hirshberg Learning Center or turn left into the parking lot for the Robert I. Nickerson VFW Post 382. A trail skirts the edge of the park, and several less-traveled trails crisscross the center. It's easy to find your way around this small property. (See Figure 2. Map of Squaw Rock Park.)

More than thirty species of warblers have been seen at Squaw Rock Park. May has the highest diversity, with Common Yellowthroats, American Redstarts, Northern Parulas, and Black-and-white, Magnolia, Yellow, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, and Wilson's warblers among the most frequently encountered. Flycatchers such as Eastern Wood-Pewee, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Eastern Kingbird are expected. Yellow-bellied and Alder flycatchers are rare but possible in late May through early June. Yellow-billed and Black-billed cuckoos, as well as Red-eyed, Blue-headed, Warbling, and Philadelphia (uncommon; September) vireos pass through, as do Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned kinglets, and Hermit and Swainson's thrushes. During fall migration, be on the lookout for Field, Fox, White-crowned, White-throated, Lincoln's, and Swamp sparrows.

The habitat of this city park is mostly wooded with a few patches of open early successional growth, and a tiny, inactive quarry. Because this patch of green is surrounded by development and is situated at the coast, almost anything is possible. Kentucky Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Ash-throated Flycatcher are just a few of the many rare birds recorded here.



Bay-breasted Warbler at Squaw Rock.

A tiny, long-defunct quarry sits roughly in the middle of the park. The vegetation is lower here and makes a nice semi-open area from which to watch for migrants. Black-crowned Night Herons sometimes roost in the trees on the edge of the quarry. Northern Rough-winged Swallows have nested here. This is also a good spot to find Eastern Screech Owls.

A midsummer visit isn't as rewarding as during migrations, but expect Gray Catbirds, Northern Cardinals, Yellow Warblers, American Goldfinches, Cedar Waxwings, Chimney Swifts, Northern Mockingbirds, Carolina and House wrens, American Crows, Downy Woodpeckers, Blue Jays, and Cooper's Hawks. Sometimes you can find Spotted Sandpipers along the shoreline.

The elevations at Squaw Rock provide several vantage points for looking at Boston Harbor, with fantastic views of the Boston skyline and some of the Harbor Islands, as well as commanding views of October feeding frenzies and of wintering waterfowl. Directly north is Thompson Island, part of the Boston Harbor National Recreation Area. Between these two land masses there is a prominent sand spit that attracts gulls, terns, cormorants, and shorebirds on a rising tide. This is a consistent spot for American Oystercatchers and Black-bellied Plovers in season. It is also one of the best places in the state to see Caspian Terns in September.

### **Orchard Beach**

Orchard Beach is a tiny public beach in a quieter section of Squantum that looks out onto Quincy Bay. Tide isn't as critical here, but morning light is unfavorable. From Squaw Rock Park, head back on Dorchester Street for 0.2 mile, take a left onto Bellevue Road, continue for 0.4 mile, and turn left onto Huckins Avenue. In 0.1 mile, turn left onto Bayside Road, then park along the seawall. Orchard Beach is another good location to witness feeding frenzies.



Orchard Beach

At high tide, check the large rock formation on the right that juts out into the water from the end of the beach. This is a favorite daytime roosting or resting spot for American Oystercatchers and Laughing Gulls. Look for the occasional Forster's Tern mixed in with the Common Terns.

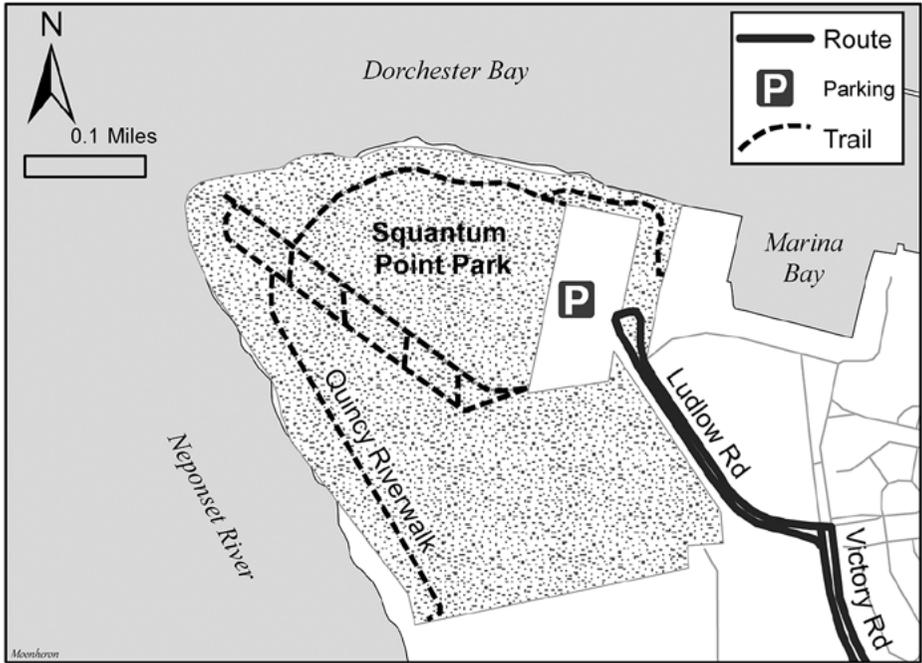
Lower tides bring in shorebirds and roosting gulls and terns. Black-bellied and Semipalmated plovers, as well as a few Ruddy Turnstones favor this area. A scan of the waters can yield impressive numbers of Red-throated Loons during migration as well as a few Long-tailed Ducks in winter and early spring. Search for Northern Gannets; curiously, some gannets regularly come into the protected bays during a tight window of time in early April. Brown Pelican, Royal Tern, and Parasitic Jaeger are a few of the rarities seen at Orchard Beach.

To return to East Squantum Street, take the first left (0.1 mile) from Bayside Road onto Brunswick Street. Drive 0.2 mile to the end, and take a left on Bellevue Road, then an immediate right onto Huckins Avenue. Take Huckins Avenue for 0.4 mile, and turn left at the end to get back on the main causeway.

### **Marina Bay and Squantum Point Park**

Most of the birding opportunities in Marina Bay, or New Squantum, center around Squantum Point Park. If you are going to begin your birding trip here, take Victory Road, which is the first left off of East Squantum Street after passing the Kennedy Center. Coming from Squaw Rock, take a right onto Victory Road. Proceed for 0.4 mile to a rotary, continue on Victory Road for another 0.2 mile, then take the first left onto Ludlow Road, which has no street sign. Continue on Ludlow Road for 0.2 mile, then turn left at the entrance to Squantum Point Park into a large parking lot. The first hour of parking is free, but there is a fee if you stay longer.

This state park, run by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and



**Fig. 3.** Map of Squantum Point Park.

Recreation, is approximately 50 acres, consisting of mostly wet, early successional forest and the maintained grassy strip of the former airport runway. The Neponset River flanks the west side of the property and flows into Dorchester Bay. (See Figure 3. Map of Squantum Point Park.) Two entry points at either end of the parking lot lead to the loop walkway around the old airstrip. An early morning visit is preferable because this is a favorite place for dog walkers.

At the north tip of the paved loop is Squantum Point, which provides an open view of estuarine waters. This is a consistent location during the cold months for Red-throated Loons as well as a place to look for a rare Barrow's Goldeneye or King Eider. Check the sandbars on the lower tides for American Oystercatchers and Caspian Terns in season.

In spring, a few American Woodcocks display at dusk in the open areas. Listen also for Virginia Rail, which has been known to nest in the remnant cattail marsh on the west edge of the runway loop. Expect breeding Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Cedar Waxwings, and a pair or two of Willow Flycatchers.

The remaining patches of thicket habitat attract a variety of fall and early winter migrants. Chief among them are Yellow-rumped, Palm, and Blackpoll warblers, several species of sparrows, Hermit Thrush, and Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned kinglets. Look for Lincoln's, White-crowned, American Tree, and Fox sparrows on the weedy edges of the old runway. Check for late-season migrants such as Orange-crowned Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats, which are rare, but there is favorable habitat here.



Marina Bay spit looking from across Heath Street

A Boreal Chickadee in 2010 delighted birders and also led to the discovery of a rare Le Conte's Sparrow. One can encounter American Robins during fall and winter as they go to and from their roosts at dawn or dusk. This concentration of birds attracts the attention of birds of prey, most notably Cooper's Hawks and the occasional Merlin.

The recently-completed Quincy Riverwalk offers access to the west side of Squantum Point Park as well as the northwest corner of loop around the old airstrip. Don't forget to cover the south end of the loop. Look at the abandoned runway through the vegetation along the chain link fence. Shorebirds, wading birds, and dabbling ducks may be in there when it is flooded. Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shovelers sometimes drop in, and it is an alternative spot to check for Glossy Ibis.

### **Commander Shea Boulevard**

Retrace your route from Squantum Point Park and head down Ludlow Road, then turn right onto Victory Road. At the rotary, take the first right onto Seaport Drive. Follow it 0.3 mile to the end, and take a left onto Commander Shea Boulevard. Almost immediately there is a small parking area on the right with a kiosk for the Quincy Riverwalk. The Commander Shea Boulevard area features small sections of salt marsh and nice views of the Neponset River. If you would prefer a longer walk, you can combine birding this area with Squantum Point Park because the riverwalk connects the two properties. Refer to the kiosk map for more details.

Follow the trail along the marsh toward the Neponset River. Scan for waterfowl and shorebirds and the occasional Caspian Tern flying over the water. This area is also an alternative feeding and roosting site for Greater Yellowlegs. Watch for Black-crowned Night Herons flying by at dawn or dusk. Uncommon and secretive, Nelson's



Squantum Point Park thicket. Photograph by Peter Oehlkers.

Sparrows may be in the adjacent salt marsh from late September to mid-October. Check the creek opposite the parking area for American Black Ducks and Belted Kingfishers.

For passerine migrants, walk south along Commander Shea Boulevard for about 0.2 mile. At the wooded area, there is a path on the east side of the road that winds through young forest and the edge of the salt marsh. 🐦

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*Vin Zollo lives in Walpole, Massachusetts, with his wife and two kids and works on the property staff at Mass Audubon's Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary in Sharon, Massachusetts. His longtime passion for the environment was ignited 25 years ago during a Winter Raptors trip led by Blue Hills Trailside Museum director Norman Smith. Bird-related activities include leading bird trips for Mass Audubon and the South Shore Bird Club, field trip coordinator for the South Shore Bird Club, overseeing Moose Hill's Bird-a-thon team, and raptor banding (currently studying migration of Northern Saw-whet Owls). His other interests include sports, exploring new places, and learning about Odonates.*

# Great Black-backed Gull 2AK Grows Up A Photographic Journal

*Dave Adrien*



**Fig. 1.** (left) The start of a gull's life. **Fig. 2.** (right) June 12, 2019—2AK returns as an adult. All photographs by the author.

“Almost anyone can recognize a gull as such.” (Howell and Dunn 2007)

To nonbirders, a gull is usually just a “sea gull.” For birders, identifying gulls is more nuanced and more challenging. First, there many species to learn to identify, and then there is the task of learning each species’ plumages at ages from juvenile to adult. Every field guide depicts gulls at various ages, but they all have one caveat—variability. Descriptions frequently include words and phrases such as “typically,” “exceptions,” “approximate,” “varying degrees,” and “possible hybrids.” And that is without factoring in a variety of environmental conditions and just plain wear and tear between molts.

Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*) take up to four years to reach maturity. For the past five years, I have photographed Great Black-backed Gull 2AK from pipping in 2015 (Figure 1) to young adulthood in 2019 (Figure 2). L. William Clark and I have put together a short photographic study of Great Black-backed Gulls, focusing on 2AK, that I’ve excerpted here to help readers identify the plumage stages of Great Black-backed Gulls. For the full presentation, go to <[www.gullsofappledore.wordpress.com](http://www.gullsofappledore.wordpress.com)>

The Great Black-backed Gull is the largest gull in the world and is common along the Atlantic coast from Labrador and Baffin Island to North Carolina. It measures 25–31 inches in length, with males larger than females. The wingspan is 57–65 inches. Whether you place this gull under the heading of dumpster diver, predator, or “consummate kleptoparasite” (Dunne and Karlson 2018), this accomplished camp raider is indeed the dominant “King of the Beach.” Other species keep a respectable distance, especially when food is available.



**Fig. 3.** (left) These downy chicks will become fierce predators. **Fig. 4.** (right) “Teenagers” on the beach, 2015.

These downy chicks don’t look fierce (Figure 3), but they grow at a rapid rate. They hatch in June and fledge by August. Figure 4 shows some “teenagers” in July.

Gull 2AK was banded as a chick on May 5, 2015, at the Appledore Island Migration Station (AIMS). Here he is in juvenal plumage at Sandy Point State Reservation on Plum Island in September 2015 (Figure 5). Juvenal plumage is quite different from adult plumage. Notice 2AK’s large black bill, dark eye, and head and underparts that are streaked gray brown. The blackish brown mantle, scapulars, and wing coverts are edged in white, which create a bold checkered pattern, but the coverts may appear more barred than checkered (Good 1998). Juvenile 2AK departed Plum Island for parts unknown on September 12, 2015. He returned on July 11, 2016, just



**Fig. 5.** 2AK in juvenal plumage, September 2015.



**Fig. 6.** 2AK as a first-year bird in July 2016.

about one year after he hatched. (See Figure 6.) As an immature or first-year bird, 2AK has a dark eye, a whitish head, a whitish chest that is finely streaked, and checkered wing coverts (Sibley 2014). Good (1998) notes that in first-year plumage, the back is grayer brown and the checkered pattern is less bold than in juvenal plumage. According to Dunne and Karlson (2018) a first-year bird's "upperparts appear cut from coarsely patterned gray granite."

Figure 6 shows 2AK transitioning from first-winter to first-summer plumages, which are similar; the head and chest may become a little whiter in first-summer birds (Good 1998). A first-winter bird still has an entirely black bill. In first-summer birds, the bill may turn pinkish at the base and there is sometimes a pale horn tip (Howell and Dun 2007). The eye is dark.

I photographed 2AK for the last time at Plum Island on September 7, 2016, before he disappeared for the winter. I didn't find him again until July 28, 2017 (Figure 7). A second-year Great Black-backed Gull is still an immature bird. There's not much difference between first-year and second-year plumages other than the head and chest are whiter with less streaking (Sibley 2014, Dunne and Karlson 2018) and the coverts are less checkered (Good 1998). Notice 2AK's bill: the base is now pink, with a subterminal black band and a pale tip (Good 1998).

In 2018, 2AK showed up at Plum Island on June 25. As a third-year or subadult bird, his plumage begins to resemble that of an adult Great Black-backed Gull. (See Figure 8.) 2AK's head and underparts are white and his back is almost entirely black, with a brown lower wing panel (Dunne and Karlson 2018). His bill is almost entirely pink except for a thin black band and a bit of orange near the tip. According to Good (1998) bills of third-year birds can differ in color from yellow to cream to pink with varying amounts of red or orange near the tip.

When I saw 2AK back at Plum Island on June 12, 2019, it was the moment I was waiting for. I have now captured the complete life history of this gull from fledging to



**Fig. 7.** In 2017, 2AK as a second-year bird, with plumage similar to that of the previous year.



**Fig. 8.** As a third-year or subadult bird in 2018, 2AK is beginning to look like an adult.



**Fig. 9.** This is 2AK in adult plumage, June 12, 2019.

adulthood, albeit young adulthood (Figure 9). An adult Great Black-backed Gull has a black back and is the darkest gull that occurs regularly in the United States (Sibley 2014). It has a white head, underparts, and rump. The iris varies from yellow to grayish with a red orbital ring. The legs are pale pink and the bill is yellow with a red spot near the tip. 2AK's bill retains some of the black band from his subadult stage, but otherwise he looks like an adult. 🐦

Thank you to L. William Clark for his assistance with the 2AK project.

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*Dave Adrien* retired from the lumber business in June 2014 and has been a full-time birder since. Most weekdays he can generally be found somewhere on Plum island.

**Editor's Note:**

Here's a note about gull age classes in order to explain the differences between "year" and "cycle." A first spring bird in juvenal plumage is a second year bird, since "year" refers to the calendar year, while "cycle" refers to molt. The first cycle in large northern gulls begins with hatching in the spring or summer, proceeds through a first prejuvenal (PJ) molt into juvenal plumage (basic 1 or B1), followed by a prealternate molt (PA1) in late summer or early fall through the winter (first winter,). The second cycle begins in the following spring with a prebasic molt (PB2), followed with the second prealternate molt (PA2). The third cycle begins with the third prebasic molt (PB3) in the spring, followed by a prealternate molt (PA3) in the late summer. The length of a prebasic molt usually coincides with the time required to replace a set of primaries, which can be up to six months in large gulls. The length of time required for these molts, interruptions of molts, differences in the feather tracts molted in different cycles, bleaching and wear, and environmental factors all combine to explain the complexity of characterizing gull appearance.

*David M. Larson*



2AK with a fish.

## A Year List? Pshaw, That's Nothing. Try David Ludlow's Lists!

*David Clapp and Marsha C. Salett*



David Ludlow in 2003 at Ipswich River. Photograph courtesy of Mass Audubon.

*[Editor's Note: When David Clapp wrote about David Ludlow's bird lists, I had to find out more about the person behind them. One fine Sunday afternoon in May, David Ludlow and I sat in one of the blinds at Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary, where we spent a couple of hours watching the swallows and talking, and he shared his experiences and philosophy of birding with me. I hope combining this interview with David Clapp's article will give readers a sense of how extraordinary an accomplishment Ludlow's lists are. MCSJ]*

Every January 1, many of us start a new birding year list, or yard list, or county list. It starts with the best of intentions and lots of cold-weather wandering. Some years it persists, and other years it fades with time; the summer doldrums often strike a death knell to the best of lists. Or, maybe we persist, and reach a number of species that gives us a sense of satisfaction for that year. But few, if any of us, even come close to David Ludlow's birding accomplishment—which will make you smile and shake your head with envy and admiration at the time and commitment he puts into his monthly bird lists.

That's right: monthly bird lists. Ludlow has seen 100 species a month in Massachusetts for 14 of the last 16 years—more than 168 months—and is still going strong. (The two missing years were not unsuccessful; he didn't attempt the project.) One hundred species in May or October is easy; it can be done in one long day of birding. But 100 species in December, January, February, March, and even April

presents a challenge. Massachusetts offers the opportunity, but it takes birding skills and local knowledge, along with willingness and dedication, to achieve such numbers.

David Ludlow is a naturalist, largely self-taught and now widely experienced. He has been a core member of Mass Audubon's statewide Herpetological and Butterfly Atlases, contributing more records to the Herp Atlas than anyone else, according to Mass Audubon's Wayne Petersen. Ludlow's expertise covers flora, especially ferns, as well as fauna, including birds, of course.

Property Manager for Mass Audubon's South Shore Sanctuaries (Daniel Webster, North River, and North Hill Marsh), Ludlow is involved in ecological management of the properties as well as building and site upkeep. Former sanctuary director David Clapp offered Ludlow a property manager's position in 1987 and he has worked for South Shore Sanctuaries ever since. "I didn't know I had a dream job until I got this one," Ludlow said. He has attended or led the Friday morning bird walk for the South Shore Sanctuaries for about 30 years, beginning with the first walk that Clapp initiated in May 1986, and continuing the tradition during current sanctuary director Sue MacCallum's tenure since 2006. That's more than thirty years of 48–51 walks per year, depending on winter weather. In addition, Ludlow has led walks for the South Shore Bird Club.

You'd think that such an active and avid birder as Ludlow would have started birding at a young age, but although he watched the birds at the feeders at his parents' house as a kid, it wasn't a passion. When he graduated high school, he went to work as a sawyer at DeMoranville's Sawmill in Hanover, Massachusetts. He never even heard of keeping a life list until he read an article in the weekly newspaper "The Mariner" about Marshfield birder Warren Harrington. This inspired him to start his life list, which he did on April 17, 1984. He was working at the sawmill that day, noticed a robin, and began his list.

Ludlow met Harrington at a slideshow program sponsored at the North River Sanctuary. Harrington invited Ludlow to join a bird club century run—to see 100 birds in a single day—on the North Shore. "I didn't know anyone on the trip or what I was doing, I was that new to birding." He got 35 life birds that day. Harrington became Ludlow's mentor. Over the years, Ludlow traveled with him to four continents: North America (including Central America), South America, Europe, and Africa.

In 1990, Ludlow had his first successful year of 100 species per month, but it wasn't until 2003 that he decided to make this a yearly project. What drives him to continue this feat month after month, year after year? "The point is to get out the door—it's not the list. It's the joy of being out birding and seeing what you don't expect." As an example, he described recently watching a chickadee pull apart a ball of fluff, adding more and more bits to its mouth until it couldn't hold any more and dropped all of the fluff. Then the chickadee flew down and started pulling apart the fluff again until again it picked up one more mouthful of fluff than it could hold, and lost it all once more. Fascinated, he wanted to see what the chickadee would do and watched it repeat the process several times.

Admittedly, the list does give him a reason to get out there and bird. Then he

added, “You really don’t need a list to go birding. There’s no right or wrong way about birding. Anyway you do it is fine.”

There is neither method nor madness in Ludlow’s approach to achieving 100 species every month, no hard and fast plan. Mostly, he birds the South Shore and Cape Cod with an occasional foray up to the North Shore or out to western Massachusetts. He doesn’t have a single favorite patch; he likes to change things up. Birding many different habitats is key to his success.

If there’s a good bird somewhere, Ludlow will start there. Or else he’ll go for volume first. In winter, this means a day trip to Provincetown for ducks and alcids. It may entail a pelagic trip during warmer weather. Although most birders consider May the month to find the most species, Ludlow thinks October is the better birding month because with juveniles migrating, too, there are more individuals around. The shorebirds linger when they are migrating south as opposed to being in a hurry to get north in May. There are also more sparrows in October. The toughest months are February and March.

Most months, he starts with the South Shore Sanctuaries’ Friday morning bird walks and sees what he finds before he plans the rest of the monthly birding. These weekly walks provide birding opportunities for rarities as well as common species. It has rained on many Friday mornings this spring of 2019, which has been good for finding uncommon birds. “David’s rainy-day rarities” is how one regular Friday birder describes them. On May 17, the rainy-day rarity that surprised the group was a King Rail—the first one Ludlow has ever seen at Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary.

The King Rail was not the “best” rail, he ever found on Friday morning birding. That accolade goes to a Yellow Rail seen in Scituate behind what used to be PJ’s Country House Restaurant. A group of 18 birders was standing around at a flood tide when Ludlow noticed a bird run down the dike. He got it in his scope. It was a Yellow Rail standing at the edge of the water and it didn’t fly away, so everyone saw it well. It was a life bird for all but two of the participants. Ludlow explained, “I really enjoy other people’s reactions to new stuff and when they get really good looks at the birds.”

Was there ever a month that Ludlow didn’t think he’d make the 100-species quota? He recalled that the winter of 2015 was particularly snowy and in February he got to 99 with only a day or two left. He decided to try for an Eastern Screech Owl, but had no luck. Instead, he found a Great Horned Owl—and kept the streak alive.

Species diversity and numbers have changed since Ludlow began compiling his monthly lists. In 1990, his baseline year, he saw American Kestrels every single month. To see a Wild Turkey, he had to make a special trip to Quabbin Reservoir in western Massachusetts. Today, it’s the opposite—turkeys are everywhere and kestrels make the list only a few months per year. Ludlow noted that bobwhites and pheasants have basically disappeared. Red-bellied Woodpeckers are now common in Massachusetts and Blue Grosbeaks are becoming regular.

Although Ludlow keeps written records of his lists, he does not analyze the data. “David Clapp likes to look at the numbers,” he said. Fair enough. In the rest of this

article, Clapp analyzes Ludlow's lists to show you that seeing 100 birds per month every year is not easy. Clapp divides Ludlow's lists into three categories:

- Birds seen only once, twice, or three times per year
- Birds seen 11-12 months per year
- Birds seen in all 12 months per year

Surprisingly, Ludlow averages only 32 species seen in every month and 52 species seen 11 or 12 times per year. That leaves a lot of work in our winter months to reach the century mark. The number of species that Ludlow sees on average in only one, two, or three months is stunningly high. The most was 95 and the average is 88—that makes 88 species from the usual Massachusetts annual list that you cannot count on seeing 70% or more during the course of the year.

Factor in that our May migrants and many of our summer breeders—Purple Martin and Orchard Oriole for example—are here but briefly and then they are simply not available. Blackburnian Warblers and many of their kin show up in May and then again in September and October, but rarely after that. The need to visit special habitats also plays a role in annual lists; pelagic birds are not usually available away from the coast and often you need to get offshore to see them. Many of our pelagic species are warm weather birds and don't really help with the monthly list during the slowest months.

Then there are the western Massachusetts birds, starting with Pileated Woodpecker and moving west to the Cerulean Warblers and the winter finches; these are much more common in the central and western parts of the state than in the coastal towns.

The numbers are what you might expect, with January and February averaging under 110 species and May through October above 130. May is usually in the 160s but Ludlow has had several in the 170s and even one above 190.

Ludlow always has a few rare birds included in the year lists. There have to be, in order to make the 100-species list work. Some of his one-time-wonders included Yellow-billed Loon, Ross's and Slaty-backed gulls, Sage Thrasher, and Black-backed Woodpecker. And each year must include many of the near-annuals to Massachusetts: American White Pelican, Long-tailed Jaeger, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cave Swallow, Gull-billed Tern, Pine Grosbeak, and Townsend's Solitaire.

Ludlow's achievement is a decent accomplishment in a single year, but for 14 years and running, it is truly remarkable. Give it a try—just for one year—and you will learn a lot about your neighborhood, the local countryside, and your threshold for challenges and success. Go for it. 🐦

And congratulations to David Ludlow.

*David Clapp has had two overlapping careers, one of 35 years with Mass Audubon as a sanctuary director, mostly on the South Shore, and a second as a tour leader, primarily for the Smithsonian Institution's travel program. He currently works with the famous Tanzanian guide Joseph Ndunguru to operate a small-group safari company operating mostly in Tanzania.*

*Marsha C. Salett is editor of Bird Observer.*

# PHOTO ESSAY

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## Piping Plovers at Sandy Point

*Sandy Selesky*





Piping Plovers at Sandy Point Beach, summer 2018. All photographs by Sandy Selesky.



# MUSINGS FROM THE BLIND BIRDER

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## A Bird of One's Own

*Martha Steele*

Moving slowly along a quiet road in the Hill Country of Texas, my husband Bob and I heard an unfamiliar song coming from a tree adjacent to the road. We stopped to try to find the bird and identify the source of the song. The bird was singing nonstop a song I had never heard, but not moving and not responding to Bob's spishes. Bob was rummaging through his considerable memory forged over decades of birding in North America and beyond, trying to think what the bird might be. The bird teased and challenged us to identify him without revealing himself from behind foliage. Bob said, "Let's try Bell's Vireo." While Bob continued to search visually, I pulled out my iPhone, double-tapped on the Sibley eGuide to North American Birds app, and entered Bell's Vireo in the search menu. I played the first song, to which we both exclaimed "That's it!" As if to share in our excitement, the bird flew across the road and sat in plain view, continuing its song to ward off the intruder that had just come from my cell phone. "Bell's Vireo, indeed," said Bob, very pleased with himself, as well he should have been.

Later that day, we checked into our lodging in Concan to continue our Texas Hill Country exploration. At the same time, the leader of an organized birding tour was also checking in on behalf of his clients. Over the next several days, we would cross paths with the tour group while we birded on our own. Invariably, of course, we never saw as many species as the tour group did, nor were we always visiting the same places. But the juxtaposition of our birding more casually against the more intense organized birding tour highlighted differences between finding or identifying birds on your own while traveling versus participating as a member of a group led by experienced and locally knowledgeable guides.

For example, we will never forget that Bell's Vireo on a rural Hill Country road because, without any visual information, Bob was able to figure out what species the bird was. Had we been with a leader of an organized birding tour, at the bird's song the leader would have immediately called out Bell's Vireo. We would have stopped, we would have tried to see the bird, and then we would have moved on. I doubt it would have been a memorable bird, especially since Bell's Vireo is common in that part of the world. It would in the end be one of several Bell's Vireos that we would hear on that trip. But that first one? I will not forget Bob's joy at getting it right, and then the bird reacting to the tape by finally showing itself for Bob to enjoy.

We would go on and have similar success at key birds in the region, finding them on our own, and listening and observing at our own pace. The satisfaction at identifying a mystery bird and taking the time to enjoy it may perhaps be a reason to prefer birding

on one's own while traveling versus following a leader calling out the birds. On the other hand, birding tours offer many benefits, not the least of which is the likely opportunities to see more bird species than one would see on one's own, especially when visiting a region completely new to the birder. Experienced guides know where to find target species and can quickly identify what just sang. Importantly, tours often result in shared memories with like-minded participants, some of whom may become lifelong friends and future traveling partners. It is also nice not to have to concern yourself with logistics or decision-making while on organized tours.

Still, it is hard to dismiss the deep gratification and contentment that results from finding and identifying a bird on your own, particularly when you travel to areas with unfamiliar species. Like any skill, identifying birds takes practice and lots of time in the field. The more you are in the field, and the more you work on identifying birds on your own, the more skilled a birder you will become. Bob's guess of what we were listening to in Texas was based on years of field experience. When faced with a song that he had heard only at limited times in his birding life and a recalcitrant bird unwilling to show itself, he could have considered the habitat; the vertical position in the tree stand the bird appeared to be in; the quality of the song (certainly not a flycatcher, for example); the tempo and duration of the singing; the geographic location; or even the time of day. I was by far the less experienced birder, and Bell's Vireo was nowhere near the tip of my tongue.

Over the past several years, I have been working hard at learning bird songs and other vocalizations to improve my birding skills even if I can no longer see any birds. In the process, I have felt great satisfaction, even pride, at being able to identify the singing bird on my own. It is just so wonderful to walk down a road or trail, hear a bird sing, and immediately identify what it is, thereby connecting with the individual bird, visualizing what it looks like, where it is in its surroundings, and what it might be doing.

We all can take pride in whatever we do well, and for those of you reading this publication, identifying and learning about birds is something you strive to do well. Birding with other more experienced birders is often crucial to improving your skills but ultimately, applying what you learn and working to identify birds on your own will likely provide the most satisfying experience. I very much enjoy going on birding tours for all the reasons I stated earlier and more, but fundamentally, the majority of my most memorable birds are those I experienced either alone or with my husband or other birding friends rather than in larger, leader-led groups. There is just no substitute for the sense of accomplishment you feel when you work hard to identify a mystery bird all on your own. 🐦

*Martha Steele, a former editor of Bird Observer, has been progressively losing vision due to retinitis pigmentosa and is legally blind. Thanks to a cochlear implant, she is now learning to identify birds from their songs and calls. Martha lives with her husband, Bob Stymeist, in Arlington. Martha can be reached at <marthajs@verizon.net>*

# GLEANINGS

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## A Leaf of Another Color

*David M. Larson*

Human eyes have three types of retinal cones for detecting what we call “visible light.” Many animals have a wider spectrum of detection, with their visible light extending from the ultraviolet to the infrared, and they have more types of cones for detecting these wavelengths. In the article by Tedore and Nilsson (2019), the authors examine the wavelengths related to the tetrachromatic vision of most terrestrial-foraging birds.

These birds have four types of cones in the retina for detecting colors: red (L), green (M), and blue (S), as in humans, and ultraviolet (UV). Generally speaking, L cones are sensitive in the 600–700nm wavelengths, M cones in the 500–600nm range, and S-cones in the 400–500nm range. Bird taxa have two types of UV-detecting cones: U cones have a peak sensitivity at about 370nm, and V cones at about 410nm. While there have been many studies showing that UV detectors correlate and probably have co-evolved with flower color signals, the utility of UV imaging in more mundane life experiences is unknown. The authors used a multispectral camera, which mimicked the basic spectral sensitivity curves for the four avian cone types, including variants, to image three basic habitats: open rangeland and deciduous forest fragments in Sweden, old-growth wet sclerophyll scrub with open canopy in Australia, and old-growth tropical and subtropical rain forests in Australia. They found that the contrast between upper and lower leaf surfaces was exaggerated in the UV in comparison to the visible wavelengths. Lower leaf surfaces were dark in the UV channels, increasing contrast in the environment and enhancing structural detail.

Interestingly, the green channel (peak 540nm) was quite unhelpful in distinguishing leaf contrast. This is the result of similar reflectance and transmission of green light in leaves. In contrast, for UV light, reflectance is much higher than transmission. Since the primary light sources in forests are from above, the reflection of UV light from the upper surfaces outweighs the reflection from the lower surface. Tedore and Nilsson found that leaves reflect more than 25 times as much UV light (300–400nm) as they transmit, while they and others have shown that the ratios for L, M, and S ranges are in the 0.7–1.5 range. The utility of sharpened contrast and detail in leaves is obvious for birds and other animals that need to forage, hide, and live in a leafy environment.

The authors also tested for an effect of habitat type in the optimal tuning of UV- and blue-sensitive detectors. It is important to note that these birds have UV cone

types that are matched with specific blue cones: U cones with a peak sensitivity at ~370nm are matched with S(U) cones at 460nm, and V cones with a peak sensitivity at ~410nm are paired with S(V) cones at 470nm. In terms of leaf contrast, the V-cone was particularly useful in rain forest and wet sclerophyll habitats, while the S(U)-cone was useful in all habitats. Carrying out a one-by-one substitution of U, V, S(U), and S(V) wavelength detectors gave largely intermediate values. The U, S(U) combination found in birds was advantageous for leaf color contrast detection in deciduous and wet sclerophyll habitats. It is possible that changing environmental conditions over evolutionary history explain the repeated differential expression of these cones over time.

The authors optically modelled the system, randomizing up to 12 different habitat and environmental variables in repeated calculations. Using just diffuse reflections and transmittance, modeling did not show conditions where the V cone would show higher leaf contrast than the U cone. When they added specular reflections—reflections of sky or canopy from waxy leaf cuticle—the optical model showed that the V-cones showed higher leaf contrast than the U-cones when the specular light came from overlying leaves. Canopies more than 80% closed shifted the spectrum of light from the upper surface but not lower surface of leaves. At over 80% canopy coverage, leaf contrast was higher above 400nm. At less than 80% canopy, leaf contrast was higher below 400nm, suggesting that V-cones, with long UV wavelengths, would be more effective in very dense forest while U cones, with short UV wavelengths, would be more effective in more open forest.

The authors conclude that the shorter wavelengths—violet and ultraviolet—likely provide a useful discriminator in birds (and probably in other taxa with UV-sensitive visual sensors) for visualizing forest structure. Further, the optical model suggests that the evolution and persistence of cones with different sensitivities to ultraviolet is adaptive during changing environmental conditions. Overall, the utility of UV-sensitive cones goes beyond detection of specialized plants and seems integral to daily life in terrestrial foraging birds. 🐦

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# FIELD NOTE

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## Purple Gallinules Attempt to Kleptoparasitize an Anhinga

William E. Davis, Jr.



**Fig. 1.** The Anhinga pounds the captured fish against a branch. All photos by the author

On January 31, 2019, during a visit to Everglades National Park, I witnessed an attempted kleptoparasitism of an adult male Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) by two Purple Gallinules (*Porphyrio martinica*). I was on Anhinga Trail watching an Anhinga swimming among the lily pads when I saw it catch a sunfish-shaped fish about eight inches long. Carrying the fish, the Anhinga climbed out of the water onto a branch of an emergent shrub (Figure 1) where it proceeded to bash the fish against the branch. After several minutes, a Purple

Gallinule approached by walking across the lily pads (Figure 2). The gallinule then swam over to just below the Anhinga, flapped out of the water, and lunged at the fish with its bill, attempting to grab the fish from the Anhinga. The Anhinga held firm, thwarting the attempt. The gallinule remained in the area when, several minutes later, a second Purple Gallinule arrived and hopped up onto the branch facing the Anhinga. This second gallinule then lunged at the Anhinga and attempted to grab the fish with its beak. The Anhinga pulled the fish away and for a moment the two birds were in contact with wings flapping. The Anhinga then dropped the fish into the water and dove to retrieve it, and the gallinules departed, ending the episode. This sequence appears to be an example of an attempt at interspecific kleptoparasitism (food stealing).

Interspecific kleptoparasitism is found in many families of birds including the shorebirds (Davis and Jackson 2007, Davis 2016), is common in other groups such as the gulls (Laridae), and is essentially a way of life in some such as jaegers (Laridae) and frigatebirds (Fregatidae). I found no reports of interspecific kleptoparasitism in the *Birds of North America (BNA)* accounts of the Purple Gallinule (West and Hess 2002) or closely related Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) (Bannor and Kiviat 2002). However, there is a reference in the BNA account of the American Coot (*Fulica americana*) to Coot's interspecific kleptoparasitism of waterfowl among which they feed (Brisbin and Mowbray 2002).

The question is: why would the Purple Gallinules attempt to steal a fish from an Anhinga? The answer may lie in the foraging habits and general temperament of Purple Gallinules. The species forages primarily on vegetation, especially the flowers, seeds, and fruits of aquatic plants. However, they do take animal material such as arthropods, annelids, mollusks, and small fish that may constitute more than half of



**Fig. 2.** The Anhinga is approached by the first of two Purple Gallinules.

their dietary intake in spring and summer (West and Hess 2002). They are often highly kleptoparasitic within their own species, especially within family groups. One such instance was reported where the young and adults of a family of Purple Gallinules chased and squabbled over frogs that had been caught, pulling the frogs to pieces in the process as all family members struggled to obtain a piece. Also included in the BNA account were instances of Purple Gallinules taking Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), and Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) chicks, and an Anhinga egg. A Purple Gallinule carrying a heron chick had to fly to avoid being kleptoparasitized by another Purple Gallinule. Purple Gallinules are highly territorial during breeding season, with parents and juveniles participating in territorial defense. Actual fighting is common in some populations where in one instance approximately two-thirds of territorial disputes involved actual fighting. Purple Gallinules are clearly aggressive birds, and it seems likely that the attempted kleptoparasitism of an Anhinga's fish as reported here was an attempt to acquire food. 🦆

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# ABOUT BOOKS

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## A Mash Note to Migration

Mark Lynch

*A Season on the Wind: Inside the World of Spring Migration.* Kenn Kaufman. 2019. Boston, Massachusetts: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

“Last night they were on the move.” (p. 1)

A confession: sometimes I audibly groan when we drive up to some out of the way favorite birding spot and find a group of birders already there. It’s not that birders aren’t fine and interesting people. (Well, most of you are.) But as I have gotten older I find myself cherishing my time spent quietly with Sheila, by ourselves, out of doors. “Alone time” in nature has become a precious commodity as we slide deeper into the Anthropocene. Here in Massachusetts, our preserved open spaces have become increasingly hemmed in by suburbia, and every trail now has a constant parade of joggers, bicyclists, and dog walkers all trying to get some quality time outside. There are few places left to be alone. We are loving our green spaces to death. So the idea of spending quality birding time on a boardwalk, in Ohio, at the peak of spring migration, cheek to jowl with hundreds of birders elicits a kneejerk response from me similar to that of being offered a plate of calves brains in aspic. Thanks, but, really, *no thanks!* It is a tribute to Kenn Kaufman’s writing that I am now considering doing exactly that, by finally attending the Biggest Week in American Birding.

They were a multitude of independent invaders, linked by nothing but an intense awareness, taking to the sky, swarming north. (p. 1)

*A Season on the Wind* is a very personal account of spring migration written by well-known field guide author, illustrator, photographer, and birder Kenn Kaufman. Kaufman covers all the basics of avian migration in North America, with cameo mentions of such world-famous migration hot spots such as Beidaihe, China; Veracruz, Mexico; and even Central Park, New York City. But the story always returns to Kaufman’s home hot spot: the northwestern coast of Ohio. He had been living in Arizona and how he ended up in Ohio is a story of love and birds. Kaufman had just gone through a tough divorce when he met Kimberly from Ohio. It is no exaggeration to describe it as falling head over heels for each other. They thought about where to live together and decided on Kimberly’s home state of Ohio, where the shores of Lake Erie offered the promise of endless fallouts of spring migrants.

Reading *A Season on the Wind* you realize how few birding books focus on the Midwest, not only the birds of that area, but also its history and culture. Unless you have lived there, for many birders Ohio is terra incognita, and reading Kaufman’s accounts of birds’ movements there is fascinating. I found myself constantly comparing notes with my experiences of the seasons and migration here in Massachusetts. There

are similarities, of course, but also real differences because of the way that Lake Erie channels migrants.

Kaufman begins in January and February. Though he had also been born in the Midwest and experienced hard winters there, after Arizona, the frigid temps and icy winds along Lake Erie make birding difficult even for him. The lake offers a few rewards for birders in this season, however. There are congregations of waterfowl on open stretches of the lake and large flocks of Horned Larks on the marshes to enjoy. Kenn and Kimberly are shown a Bald Eagle roost on private land. Near dusk they watch as more than 80 Bald Eagles fly back to roost in this one spot. They leave in the dark, still seeing eagles flying in the car's headlights.



Migration in coastal Ohio really begins with flocks of crows moving along the shore. This starts local birders dreaming of mid-May and the fallouts of Neotropical migrants to come. But there are plenty of other migrants to enjoy as the months pass: waterfowl, Bonaparte's Gulls, shorebirds, and other passerines. Of interest to Massachusetts birders is what Kaufman says about Trumpeter Swans in the state. Though no one is sure of their historical status in the area, in the 1990s the state wildlife agency decided to reintroduce the Trumpeter to northwestern Ohio, a move Kauffman describes as "controversial" (p. 88). The Trumpeters have thrived but now behave more like Mute Swans:

We see them standing around on roadsides in farm country, looking even more slow-witted than golf-course geese or city-park-pond ducks. They're wilderness icons no longer. (p. 88)

This may explain the apparent tameness of the last two Trumpeters seen in Massachusetts.

It may be April, but the hard-core birders have only one thing on their mind:

That feeling—knowing what's coming, waiting for it to arrive—is intoxicating. We dream about the spring rush at other times of the year, impatient for it to come again. (p. 49)

Even when the first Yellow-rumped Warblers, White Crowned, and Fox sparrows start moving through, that is not enough for those who have seen the legendary fallouts of mid-May:

We know it's coming. We should be savoring this early surge. But we're so distracted by looking ahead. (p. 189)

This is what *A Season on the Wind* does well. It gets inside the minds of birders addicted to spring migration and gives voice to their thoughts. It's the stuff we all feel but rarely talk about. Kaufman is always searching for the right words to convey the deep emotions that May brings to him. He wants the average person to marvel at the

fact that a tiny bit of feathers can fly from South America nonstop for days and end up in that bush in front of you on its way to Canada. And it then flies back again in fall. And it is a beautiful bird to boot. You feel that Kaufman won't be satisfied until your jaw drops and you are left speechless.

Which brings us to the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, now nationally recognized as one of the best places to get close views of migrants. *A Season on the Wind* contains a detailed history of this vast wetland area. It was first saved from destruction by local duck hunters, who had a long history of hunting the marshes. Birders soon recognized that tromping through the coastal vegetation revealed outstanding numbers and varieties of migrants, particularly in spring. To prevent the birders from destroying the very habitat they were enjoying, the famous boardwalk was built, and Magee Marsh became a premier birding destination during May migration.

Then came the Biggest Week in American Birding, a ten-day bird festival created by Kenn and Kimberly centered around Magee Marsh. It was wildly successful almost from the start. Bigger venues for meetings had to be arranged, alternative birding spots had to be promoted to relieve crowds at the boardwalk, buses to get the overflow birders to those spots had to be coordinated, and guides had to be hired to work the boardwalk and anywhere else people congregated. It was the "Hey! Kids! Let's put on a show!" trope from the old movies, but this time for and by birders. Now birders from around the world congregate annually in northwestern Ohio. During the Biggest Week, it's not unusual to find hundreds of birders, hard-core and neophyte, shoulder to shoulder, enjoying close views of a Cape May or (with luck!) a Kirtland's. Birding organizations from around the world also lend their support, even if it's just to serve as one of the many gold-capped guides. Lectures and events are added every year. The Biggest Week now even has a birder's prom. The Biggest Week also brings loads of money into the local economy, and local and state politicians now recognize the importance of attracting birders to their state.

Behind all the hoopla of planning a mega-event like this is the idea of creating, at least for a moment, Kenn and Kimberly's vision of a perfect place to bird.

For me the Magee Marsh boardwalk in late April and May is the scene of a gigantic party. A party where all the people talk quietly, move gently, and share knowledge about the natural world. For me it's a deeply soul-satisfying experience to be there. But I know it's not for everyone. (p. 204)

The Biggest Week in American Birding is like one of the transcendentalist communes from the nineteenth century in which earnest true believers tried to organize a more perfect society. Kaufmann is adamant about the meeting the challenge of promoting racial, sexual, and socio-economic diversity in birding and the role that the Biggest Week can play in creating a more diverse birding population:

People of color are part of the public face of the Biggest Week in American Birding, and we hope the message comes through loud and clear: everyone is welcome here. (p. 236)

Issues of diversity are so rarely talked about among birders that it is refreshing to read Kaufmann just come out and state his beliefs plainly.

There are several secondary stories that run through *A Season on the Wind*. One of the most interesting is when Kimberly Kaufmann and the American Bird Conservancy try to prevent a wind farm being erected at the nearby Camp Perry Military Reservation. An entire review could be written about everything Kenn and Kimberly found out about how wind farms are sited and how environmentalists have often not been honest about the impacts of the turbines on birds and other creatures like bats. At one point, while attempting to gather information, they meet with the heads and lawyers of the large Blue Creek Wind Farm in central Ohio owned by the energy giant Iberdrola. Kimberly wanted to look at their data on bird collisions, something they were supposed to keep. After a lot of huddled whispering back and forth among the wind farm lawyers, Kimberly and the Bird Conservancy were told they could be given a list of species that collided with the turbines, but not the numbers because the total mortality figures “contained trade secrets” (p. 172).

But more than forty species made the list each year including scarce migratory songbirds like golden-winged and black-throated blue warblers.  
(p. 173-4)

Kimberly still demanded to see the complete figures, but as of this writing they have yet to get them. It seems dealing with wind farm companies is not that different from dealing with other large energy companies. It is hoped that in the future Kimberly Kaufman will write a book on her experiences.

As migration starts to wind down in the last week of May, Kaufman steps outside at night to listen to the small number of migrants still passing overhead. It is at this point in *A Season on the Wind* that Kaufman experiences what many of us have as the noisy and colorful migration season of May turns to the breeding season of June: there is a sense of loss. We miss that sense of giddy expectation that any species might show up in the next tree or bush. Migration for birders is about surprise and spectacle. Beneath this there is a feeling of mortality and the sense that maybe we won't get the chance to experience this magic again. After all, who knows what the next winter may bring? *A Season on the Wind* is a fine book about the science of migration. What makes this book unique and worth reading is Kaufman's exploration of how birders think about migration.

I'm filled with a desperate longing to stop the passage of time—to back it up a few days to the heart of the bird festival, and then live in the moment, to live in *that* moment, forever. To be in that perfect time when I'm with my lovely Kimberly and all our friends are around, all of us celebrating the dazzling peak of spring migration. (p. 265) 

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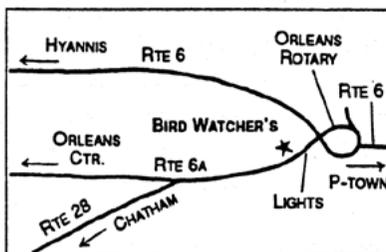
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# BIRD SIGHTINGS

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## March–April 2019

*Neil Hayward and Robert H. Stymeist*

They say meteorological spring starts on March 1, but this year the month came in like a lion with a weekend storm bringing over a foot of snow to Boston. Despite the unseasonably cold weather and the subzero wind chills in the first eight days of the month, the average temperature for March ended up near average at 39 degrees. A high temperature of 70 degrees on the last day of the month coincided with a peak gust of 53 mph from the south. Rainfall in March totaled 2.95 inches, 1.37 inches below normal. Snowfall in Boston was 13.5 inches with most of that—12.6 inches—noted on the first weekend of the month.

The start of April was similarly unrepresentative of the coming month: a sunny start was followed by exceptionally dismal weather with 21 days of measurable precipitation, the highest for any month since recordkeeping began in 1872. The previous record was 19 days set in April 1912 and December 2007. Although the rain may have felt relentless, the actual amount did not break the April record: the total for the month was 6.52 inches, well below the high of 9.57 inches that fell in Boston in 2004. The temperature averaged 52 degrees, 4 degrees above normal. The high temperature of 77 degrees was recorded on April 19 during a stretch of warm weather from April 13–21 that averaged 68.6 degrees.

R. Stymeist

## GEESE THROUGH HERONS

A **Ross's Goose** was photographed on the western bank of the Connecticut River in mid-March. This has been a good winter for this diminutive goose, with records in January and February in Marblehead and Plum Island, respectively. In contrast, despite being reported in three counties in March, this has been a poor winter for **Greater White-fronted Goose**. The species was unrecorded in April for the first time since 2012.

Brant is a familiar visitor to our winter shores. The pale-bellied *hrota* subspecies breeds on Baffin Island and neighboring eastern Nunavut Province and winters on the Atlantic Coast south to the Carolinas. The less familiar *nigricans* or “Black Brant” breeds in northwestern Canada and Alaska and winters on the Pacific coast and is a rare visitor to Massachusetts. Black Brant has a much darker belly than *hrota* with a more prominent white neck collar. This year up to two birds were photographed between April 18–19 at Plymouth Beach. While currently a subspecies, Black Brant may be a future candidate for full species status. Genetic analysis suggests that *hrota* and *nigricans* are more distinct from each other than, for example, Ross's and Snow geese.

Flocks of adult **Tundra Swans** were reported in mid-March from Bridgewater and Turners Falls. The latter consisted of 19 birds, which appears to be a new high count for the spring. Historically, this species has been more numerous in the fall, with a high of 29 birds in Brimfield on November 20, 2010.

The Eurasian subspecies of Green-winged Teal, *Anas crecca crecca*, is annual to the state, typically appearing between January and April. This year the first sighting wasn't until March 17, when a single bird was photographed at Nine Acre Corner in Concord. Four days later a bird appeared in Harwich, Cape Cod. Considered by some authorities to be a separate species—Common Teal—the Eurasian form does interbreed with the American form, *A. c. carolinensis*,

and such intergrades are about as common here as the pure Eurasian form. Indeed, the same flock of Green-winged Teal in Concord that harbored the Eurasian form also held an intergrade.

This winter was a good one for unusual duck hybrids with most holding on until the beginning of this period. The Mallard x Northern Pintail hybrid, a first for Suffolk County, continued in Brookline until the first day of March and the male Bufflehead x Common Goldeneye hybrid was last seen in Orleans on March 3. Also on March 3, a Common x Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid was found in Newburyport Harbor.

For many species, spring migration this year was early to exceptionally early and this was particularly so for the goatsuckers (see Figure 1). Common Nighthawks are rarely reported in April, and this year's dual report of singles on Nantucket and Manomet on April 24 are the earliest records this century, beating the 2017 date of April 28. Historically, though, this species has been reported as early as March 14 in 1925 and 1966 (Veit and Petersen, 1998). Two Eastern Whip-poor-wills in Middleton on April 4 are also the earliest this century, beating the 2002 record of April 13 by over a week. With a previous early record of April 12, 1957, (Veit and Petersen, 1998) this year's record may also set a new state early date. Chimney Swifts arrived on April 15, three days earlier than average this century, and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds appeared the next day, eight days earlier than their average.

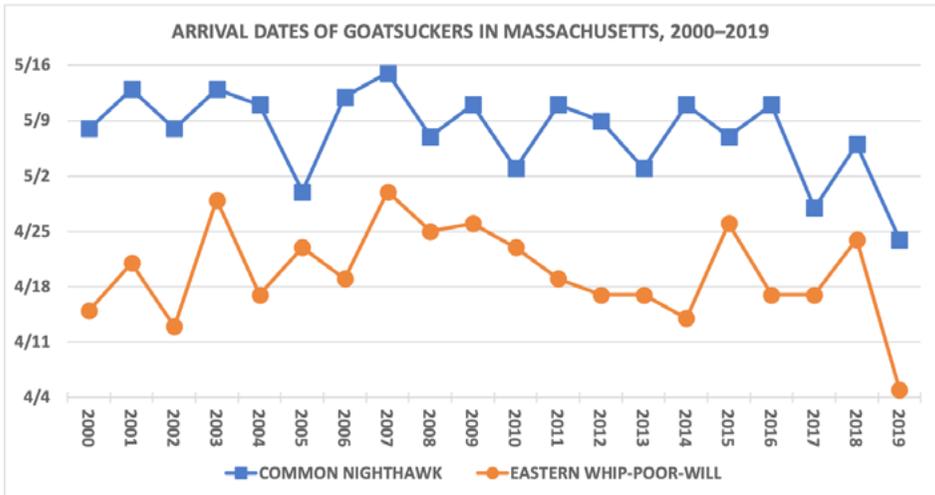
**Common Gallinules** were reported from four counties in April, which is well above average for the start of the breeding season. Common Gallinule is a rare breeder and uncommon migrant in the state, typically appearing around May 2. Sandhill Cranes were widely reported around the state, consistent with the recent range expansion of this species into the Northeast.

Most species of shorebird arrived early this year. On April 10, Semipalmated Plovers appeared 17 days ahead of the average arrival date this century. Other early-returning shorebird species included: Willet (9 days early on April 6), Solitary Sandpiper (7 days early on April 7), Spotted Sandpiper (6 days early on April 11), and Whimbrel (15 days early April 17). American Oystercatcher (March 15) and Pectoral Sandpiper (March 31), in contrast, were late by about a week.

A female **Ruff**, or Reeve, a nationally rare shorebird from Eurasia, was found at Newbury on March 30. Ruff is almost annual with spring birds typically appearing between mid-April and mid-May. This year's bird may have been the earliest record for the state, with only one other documented March record at Ipswich on March 31, 1999. Unusual for the period was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, a shorebird that we normally see only on its return fall migration. In fact, there are only three previous records for spring birds: Newburyport, May 12–13, 1971, Bolton, April 28, 1984, and Monomoy, May 10, 2005. As does the Ruff, this year's Buff-breasted sets a new early date for the species in the state. A Marbled Godwit at Eastham on April 23–25 is the first April record for 12 years.

A spring pelagic trip out of Gloucester to Stellwagen Bank on March 9 produced two Dovekies and two Thick-billed Murres, together with double-digit numbers of Razorbills and Black Guillemots in offshore waters. A single Atlantic Puffin buzzed past Andrews Point on April 26, the first April sighting since 2013.

The larid highlight of the period was an adult **California Gull** found at Turners Falls on March 17. This is only the sixth record for the state, and the first since a second-winter bird was recorded on Nantucket on January 1, 2006. Like the Nantucket bird, this one was also a one-day wonder. California Gull was first recorded in Massachusetts in Newburyport on April 24, 1988, among a field of Herring and Ring-billed gulls. The more expected larid rarities were all hosted by Cape Cod. Up to three adult **Black-headed Gulls** were at Hyannis, and two adult **Little Gulls**



**Figure 1.** Arrival dates of Common Nighthawk and Eastern Whip-poor-will in Massachusetts, 2000–2019. Data from eBird.org.

and an adult **Mew Gull** were at Provincetown. A hybrid Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull (“Nelson’s Gull”) was seen at Cohasset, the third record for this taxon in Norfolk County this century.

Caspian Terns are regular but uncommon spring migrants through Massachusetts. A bird at Turners Falls on April 9 is the second earliest record for the state, after an April 6 record in 2002. The average arrival date this century is April 20. A Roseate Tern at Provincetown on April 14 appears to be the earliest record for the state, almost three weeks ahead of the average arrival date of May 3.

A **Little Egret** was found at Plum Island on April 25, thirty years after the first US record was discovered at the same location. Since then, Little Egret has been an irregular vagrant up and down the East Coast, although this is the first record for Massachusetts since June 2014. Two days after this year’s Plum Island sighting a Little Egret (presumably the same bird) was spotted at Gilsland Farm Audubon Center near Portland, Maine, an area that has hosted this species since 2011. Little Egrets are thought to have crossed the Atlantic at sub-Saharan latitudes, helped by northeast trade winds. The first continental records were in 1954 from Trinidad and subsequently Newfoundland. This southerly route across the Atlantic, followed by migration north, is similar to the route proposed for Cattle Egrets in their colonization of the Americas. Little Egrets banded in Spain have been recovered from islands in the Caribbean supporting such a model.

Great and Snowy egrets returned to the state about a day earlier than average, while a Least Bittern at Topsfield on April 23 was almost two weeks early.

*N. Hayward*

Snow Goose				3/17	Quabog IBA	105	M. Lynch#
3/3	Nantucket	4	T. Pastuszek#	Northern Pintail			
3/15	Sunderland	39 3blue	J. Rose + v.o.	3/1	Acoaxet	11	M. Lynch#
3/16	Northampton	87 3blue	S. Williams	3/3-3/17	Longmeadow	19 max	F. Morello
3/16-3/24	Bolton Flats	16 max	J. Bourget + v.o.	3/20	PI	22	S. Miller#
<b>Ross's Goose</b>				Green-winged Teal			
3/14-3/16	Easthampton	1 ph	S. Rasmussen + v.o.	3/17	Concord (NAC)	65	E. Nielsen
<b>Greater White-fronted Goose</b>				3/17	Bolton Flats	60	N. Dowling
3/16-3/21	Hadley area	2 ph	J. Oliverio + v.o.	3/31	W. Newbury	200	G. d'Entremont#
3/19-3/25	New Braintree	1 ph	B. Robo + v.o.	4/13	Topsfield	122	J. Berry#
3/23-3/24	Turners Falls	1 ph	S. Surner + v.o.	<b>Green-winged Teal (Eurasian)</b>			
Brant				3/17	Concord (NAC)	1	E. Nielsen#
3/17	Cohasset	154	D. Burton#	3/21-3/28	W. Harwich	1	P. Crosson#
3/20	Winthrop	115	P. + F. Vale	Canvasback			
3/30	Somerset	9	J. Eckerson#	3/3	Turners Falls	1	S. Surner + v.o.
4/11	PI	130	D. Adrien	4/7	Nantucket	18	T. Pastuszek#
4/18	Plymouth B.	645	S. Williams	4/7	Chestnut Hill	1	H. Miller
<b>Brant (Black)</b>				Redhead			
4/18-4/19	Plymouth B.	2 ph	max S. Williams + v.o.	3/1-3/28	Cheshire	1	J. Pierce, K. Hanson + v.o.
<b>Cackling Goose</b>				3/1	Edgemere	1 ad	C. Cook
3/1	Boston (FPk)	1 ph	S. Jones#	3/1	Shrewsbury	1	J. Shea + v.o.
3/1	Seekonk	1 ph	A. Eckerson#	3/12	Turners Falls	1	T. Gagnon + v.o.
3/15-3/19	Amherst area	1 ph	S. Williams + v.o.	Ring-necked Duck			
3/16	Turners Falls area	3 max ph	J. Layfield + v.o.	3/12-4/29	Cheshire	110 max	W. Haugh
3/16	Westfield	1 ph	D. Holmes	3/16	W. Bridgewater	105	G. d'Entremont#
3/16-3/21	Rochester	1 ph	C. Molander#	3/18-4/30	Orange	435 max	G. Watkevitch + v.o.
3/16-3/17	Lancaster	1 ph	B. Robo + v.o.	<b>Tufted Duck</b>			
Mute Swan				3/9-4/12	Nantucket	1 m ph	T. Pastuszek#
thr	Turners Falls	23	v.o.	Greater Scaup			
3/1	Acoaxet	66	M. Lynch#	3/1	Acoaxet	12	M. Lynch#
3/18	Worcester	19	M. Lynch#	3/9	Mattapoisett	551	M. Lynch#
4/19	Westboro	24	M. Lynch#	4/8	Wachusett Res.	10	M. Lynch#
<b>Tundra Swan</b>				4/13	Pittsfield	8	K. Dietlin
3/11-3/12	Turners Falls	19 ad ph	A. Haro + v.o.	Lesser Scaup			
3/16	Bridgewater	3 ad ph	M. Iliiff	3/19	Gloucester (EP)	12	M. Watson
Wood Duck				4/13	Turners Falls	21	J. Smith
3/15	Turners Falls	56	J. Rose	4/15-4/19	Pittsfield	5	J. Pierce
3/17	Middleton	74	L. Wagner	<b>King Eider</b>			
3/18	Hyde Park	22	J. Young	3/1	Hyannis	1 f ph	P. Trimble
3/20	Northampton	138	L. Therrien	3/1-4/16	PI	1 m ph	T. Wetmore + v.o.
3/20	Lancaster	84	M. Lynch#	3/9-3/20	Bourne	1 m	C. Molander#
3/28	GMNWR	22	A. Bragg#	3/9	Gloucester H.	1 m ph	C. Cook#
Blue-winged Teal				3/11, 3/28	P'town (RP)	1 imm m ph	P. Flood#
3/4	Marshfield	2	D. Peacock	4/7-4/11	Duxbury B.	1 m ph	R. Bowes
3/9	Barnstable	2	G. d'Entremont#	Common Eider			
3/13-4/4	E. Boston (BI)	2	S. Jones + v.o.	3/1	Westport	248	M. Lynch#
4/15	Sheffield	2	J. Pierce	3/9	Bourne	3000	C. Molander
4/15	Quabbin Pk	2	L. Therrien	Common Eider ( <i>borealis</i> )			
4/19	IRWS	4	J. MacDougall	3/21-3/24	Sandwich	2 1m+1f ph	W. Sweet + v.o.
Northern Shoveler				3/30	Chatham	1 imm m ph	S. Williams + v.o.
3/1	Nantucket	5	R. Ouren	Harlequin Duck			
3/17	Bolton Flats	3	N. Dowling	3/1	Scituate	19	K. Rawdon#
3/19	E. Boston (BI)	4	P. Peterson	3/8	Rockport (HPt)	60	B. Hillman
4/11	PI	15	T. Wetmore	3/17	Cohasset	14	D. Burton#
4/26	N. Adams	10	C. Johnson, C. Jones	4/25	Eastham	2	K. Burke
Gadwall				Surf Scoter			
3/7	Quincy	16	P. Peterson	3/1	Westport	46	M. Lynch#
3/9	Mattapoisett	21	M. Lynch#	3/9	Mattapoisett	7	M. Lynch#
3/24	PI	112	R. Heil	3/27-4/14	Wachusett Res.	1	B. Robo#
3/26	E. Boston (BI)	5	S. Jones	4/6	E. Gloucester	55	J. Berry#
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>				4/8-4/9	Turners Falls	2 max	C. Stern + v.o.
3/3-3/21	Sandwich	1 f ph	v.o.	White-winged Scoter			
3/30-4/14	Somerset	1 m ph	J. Eckerson# + v.o.	3/1	Acoaxet	250	M. Lynch#
American Wigeon				4/6	E. Gloucester	40	J. Berry#
3/3-4/7	Longmeadow	33 max	J. Spanswick + v.o.	4/24	Pittsfield	2	R. Wendell
3/16	Plymouth B.	26	L. Schibley	4/30	Quabbin Pk	2	L. Therrien
3/31	PI	11	R. Heil	Black Scoter			
Mallard x Northern Pintail (hybrid)				4/6	Rockport	165	J. Berry#
3/1	Brookline	1 m ph	M. Iliiff	4/15	Brookfield	5	R. Jenkins
American Black Duck				4/15	Richmond	2	J. Pierce + v.o.
3/1	Acoaxet	510	M. Lynch#	4/15	Woburn (HP)	2	M. Rines
3/1	Westport	225	M. Lynch#	4/28	Ipswich (CB)	135	J. Berry
3/9	Mattapoisett	245	M. Lynch#				

<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>				<b>Horned Grebe</b>			
4/3	Gardner	6	T. Pirro	4/6	Manchester	100	D. Peloquin
4/6	E. Gloucester	80	J. Berry#	4/24	MBO	125	E. Lipton
4/8	Turners Falls	4	J. Smith + v.o.	4/30	Pittsfield	14	Z. Adams
4/26	Nbpt	800	J. Berry	4/30	Turners Falls	9	T. Gilliland + v.o.
4/27	Ashby	4	J. Forbes	<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>			
4/30	Pittsfield	11	G. Hurley + v.o.	4/7	Marblehead	14	J. Smith
<b>Bufflehead</b>				4/8	Cheshire	1	K. Hanson
3/1	Westport	146	M. Lynch#	4/13-4/15	Turners Falls	22	J. Layfield + v.o.
3/9	Mattapoisset	528	M. Lynch#	4/24	MBO	55	E. Lipton
4/6	E. Gloucester	95	J. Berry#	<b>Common Nighthawk</b>			
4/8	Wachusett Res.	18	M. Lynch#	4/24	Nantucket	1	T. Pastuszak#
4/30	Pittsfield	27	Z. Adams+S. Townsend	4/24-4/25	MBO	1	Alan Kneidel#
<b>Bufflehead X Common Goldeneye (hybrid)</b>				4/27	N. Truro	2	N. Bloom#
3/3	Orleans	1 m ph	K. Schopp	<b>Eastern Whip-poor-will</b>			
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>				4/4	Middleton	2	L. Wagner
3/thr	Turners Falls	165 max	J. Eckerson# + v.o.	4/19	Boston (RKG)	1 ph	K. Noba
3/1	Westport	296	M. Lynch#	4/21-4/25	Quabbin Pk	2 max	L. Therrien
3/9	Mattapoisset	103	M. Lynch#	4/23	PI	1	M. Stone
3/16	Wachusett Res.	48	M. Lynch#	4/27-4/29	MSSF	1	B. Vigorito
<b>Common X Barrow's Goldeneye (hybrid)</b>				<b>Chimney Swift</b>			
3/13	Nbpt H.	1 m ph	T. Gilliland	4/15	Sudbury	1	B. Harris
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>				4/18	MtA	1	P. Gilmore
3/1	Westport	1 m	M. Lynch#	4/23	Lowell	80	L. de la Flor
3/13	Sharon	1	W. Sweet	<b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</b>			
3/14	Turners Falls	1 f	T. Gagnon#	4/16	Plymouth	1	A. Kneidel
3/17	Cohasset	2 1m+1f	D. Burton#	4/19	Falmouth	1	P. Fang
3/17	Plymouth	2	J. Forbes	4/19	Milton	1	R. Mussey
3/23-4/10	Orange	2 1m+1f	J. Johnstone + v.o.	4/24	PI	2	T. Mara#
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>				<b>Clapper Rail</b>			
3/thr	Turners Falls	34 max	J. Eckerson# + v.o.	4/7-4/24	W. Harwich	2 max	P. Crosson + v.o.
3/17	Quabog IBA	89	M. Lynch#	4/9-4/14	Brewster	1	S. Finnegan
3/18	Sharon	173	W. Sweet	4/30	Fairhaven	6	H. Zimmerlin
3/20	PI	25	T. Wetmore	<b>Virginia Rail</b>			
<b>Common Merganser</b>				3/21-3/24	Stockbridge	2 max	K. Hanson, J. Jew
3/1-4/12	Turners Falls	170 max	J. Eckerson# + v.o.	4/23	Quabog IBA	6	M. Lynch#
3/1	Westport	152	M. Lynch#	4/23	Topsfield	4	J. Berry
3/15	Medford	530	P. Roberts	4/24	Marshfield	4	D. Peacock
3/23	Stoughton	22	G. d'Entremont#	4/28	GMNWR	7	B. Lee
4/5	W. Newbury	36	P. + F. Vale	4/29	Monson	3	M. Lynch#
<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>				<b>Sora</b>			
3/1	Acoaxet	66	M. Lynch#	4/7-4/30	Indiv. reported from	9	locations
4/6	E. Gloucester	60	J. Berry#	4/13	Stow	2	N. Tepper
4/8-4/10	Turners Falls	4 max	J. Smith + v.o.	4/23	Brookfield	2	R. Jenkins
4/15	Pittsfield	4	J. Pierce	4/28	GMNWR	2	B. Lee
4/27	P'town (RP)	2000	B. Nikula#	<b>Common Gallinule</b>			
<b>Ruddy Duck</b>				4/10	Bolton Flats	1	J. Hoye#
3/16	Pembroke	9	SSBC (W. Petersen)	4/15-4/19	Hatfield	2 max	ph D. Peake-Jones+v.o.
4/9	Shutesbury	8	K. Yakola, I. Brovsky	4/23-4/29	Pittsfield	2 max	ph Hanson+Townsend#
4/28	W. Newbury	10	P. + F. Vale	4/24	Marshfield	1	D. Peacock
4/30	Chestnut Hill	9	R. Doherty	4/27-4/30	Longmeadow	1 ph	S. Burk + v.o.
<b>Northern Bobwhite</b>				4/29	Lee	1	J. Pierce, Z. Adams
4/23	Eastham (FH)	2	M. Waters#	<b>American Coot</b>			
<b>Ring-necked Pheasant</b>				3/1-3/26	Brookline	1	J. Weinberg + v.o.
thr	Inv. reported from	6	locations	3/12	Longmeadow	1	L. Richardson + v.o.
4/20	S. Dartmouth	2	M. Iliff	3/24-4/13	PI	2 max	T. Wetmore+v.o.
<b>Ruffed Grouse</b>				4/7	Richmond	1	S. Townsend#
4/6	Royalston	1 f	G. d'Entremont#	4/21	GMNWR	1	J. Young
4/7	W. Barnstable	3	S. Matheny	4/29	Pittsfield	1	S. Townsend + v.o.
4/7	Mashpee	2	K. Miller#	<b>Sandhill Crane</b>			
4/7	Holden	1	M. Lynch#	3/14-4/29	Lancaster	7 max	B. Robo + v.o.
4/15	Florence	1	M. McKittrick	3/14	Uxbridge	2	S. Williams#
4/22	Monterey	3	P. Banducci	3/16	Newbury	2	C. Bergin
<b>Wild Turkey</b>				3/19	Lancaster	7	E. Kittredge
3/9	Great Barrington	67	J. Pierce	3/23	E. Bridgewater	4	E. Giles
3/24	JBCC	67	P. Trimble	3/23	Lenox	2	G. Dimmig, Z. Adams+v.o.
4/9	Ipswich	18	J. Berry#	3/23-4/28	Burrage Pd WMA	2	J. Offermann + v.o.
4/12	Rutland	51	M. Lynch#	3/24-3/30	Worthington	2	B. Finney
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>				3/30	Royalston	10	E. LeBlanc#
4/18-4/30	Indiv. reported from	20	locations	3/30-4/14	Hardwick	2	C. Buelow + v.o.
4/14-4/17	PI	2	D. Adrien + v.o.	4/4	Quabbin Pk	2	L. Therrien
4/21	Fairhaven	2	C. Longworth	4/6	Harwich	2	B. Nikula
4/30	Woburn (HP)	2	M. Rines	4/12	Barre	3	J. Smith

Sandhill Crane (continued)				3/31	Concord	9	W. Hutcheson
4/12	P'town (RP)	2	S. Paul	4/7-4/18	Lancaster	61	max K. Bourinot# + v.o.
4/28	New Braintree	2	M. Lynch#	4/7	Burrage Pd WMA	24	J. Carlisle
American Oystercatcher				4/13	Fairhaven	7	C. Longworth
3/15	Yarmouth	1	D. Taylor	4/15	Sheffield	6	J. Pierce
3/20, 4/3	Winthrop	1,11	P. + F. Vale	Spotted Sandpiper			
3/29	BHI (Sarah I.)	2	D. Peacock	4/11	GMNWR	1	K. Dia#
4/14	Quincy	3	C. Whitebread#	4/15	Quabbin Pk	3	L. Therrien
4/21	Hingham	4	G. d'Entremont	4/15	Cheshire	2	L. Waters
Black-bellied Plover				4/15	Westboro	2	T. Spahr
4/23	BHI (Snake I.)	8	T. Martin	4/26	Medfield	4	E. Nielsen
4/27	Essex	16	M. Watson	Solitary Sandpiper			
4/27	PI	5	G. d'Entremont#	4/7	Hardwick	1	M. Lynch#
American Golden-Plover				4/12	Topsfield	4	L. Ferraresso
4/19	P'town (RP)	1	T. Bradford	4/14	Arlington Res.	1	B. Lee#
4/28-4/30	Orange Airport	1	J. Johnstone + v.o.	Lesser Yellowlegs			
Semipalmated Plover				3/22-3/23	Ipswich	2	N. Dubrow
4/10	Hyannis	1	S. Matheny	4/5	PI	3	T. Wetmore
4/13	PI	1	J. Kovner#	4/12	Hatfield	4	M. McKittrick + v.o.
Piping Plover				Willet			
3/15, 4/27	P'town (RP)	1,15	T. Bradford, P. Flood#	4/6	PI	2	B. Rusnica#
4/10	Scituate	11	B. Howard	4/14	Chatham	1	M. Kaufman
4/11	PI	24	D. Adrien	4/30	Nbpt H.	8	R. Heil
Killdeer				Greater Yellowlegs			
3/26	Ipswich	110	J. Berry#	3/14	Fairhaven	6	A. Morgan#
3/27	Acton	20	D. McDermott	3/15	Sunderland	1	J. Rose
3/28	Nantucket	16	S. Kardell	4/17	Plymouth	16	D. Furbish
4/5	Deerfield	36	D. Maxcy	4/22	Fairhaven	18	S. Walas
4/12	Lancaster	37	M. Lynch#	4/28	Essex	23	J. Nelson
Upland Sandpiper				Parasitic Jaeger			
4/17	Westover AFB	1	W. Laffley	4/20, 4/27	P'town (RP)	1,7	M. Harris, P. Flood#
4/18-4/20	Chicopee	3	max L.&A. Richardson+v.o.	4/27	Westport	2	M. Iliff
4/25	Concord	2	W. Hutcheson	Dovekie			
Whimbrel				3/9	Stellwagen Bank	2	max ph v.o.
4/17	Nantucket	3	L. Buck	Common Murre			
4/17	W. Harwich	1	M. Plato#	3/3, 3/9	Gloucester (Jodrey)	1	M.Goetschkes& S.Grinley
Marbled Godwit				3/11, 4/27	P'town (RP)	14,2	P. Flood#
4/23-4/25	Eastham (FH)	1	M. Waters#	4/26	Rockport (AP)	18	R. Heil
Ruddy Turnstone				Thick-billed Murre			
3/1	Scituate	8	K. Rawdon#	3/9	Stellwagen Bank	2	R. Buchsbaum
3/11	Fairhaven	21	J. Sweeney	3/26	PI	1	T. Wetmore#
3/17	Revere B.	5	P. Peterson	Razorbill			
<b>Ruff</b>				3/9	Gloucester waters	27	C. Cook
3/30-4/3	Newbury	1	f phM. Watson + v.o.	3/11	P'town (RP)	145	P. Flood#
Sanderling				3/14	PI	5	T. Wetmore
4/28	Ipswich (CB)	150	J. Berry	3/16	Rockport (AP)	9	N. Dowling
Dunlin				Black Guillemot			
3/16	Plymouth B.	177	L. Schibley	3/9	Gloucester waters	27	Seabird Cruise
3/24	PI	180	T. Wetmore	3/9	Stellwagen Bank	24	J. Smith#
3/31	Duxbury B.	458	R. Bowes	4/26	Rockport (AP)	2	R. Heil
4/12-4/13	Hatfield	1	S. Surner + v.o.	<b>Atlantic Puffin</b>			
4/28	Ipswich (CB)	60	J. Berry	4/26	Rockport (AP)	1	R. Heil
Purple Sandpiper				Bonaparte's Gull			
3/1	Scituate	30	K. Rawdon#	4/15	Pittsfield	10	J. Pierce
3/13	Gloucester	20	MAS (D. Larson)	4/18	Turners Falls	44	M. Fairbrother + v.o.
4/18	PI	25	C. Marchant	4/23	Wachusett Res.	32	J. Lawson#
4/30	MBO	3	T. Lloyd-Evans#	4/27	P'town (RP)	1200	P. Flood#
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				<b>Black-headed Gull</b>			
4/25	MV	1	ph L. McDowell	3/1-4/13	Hyannis	3	max ad ph P.Trimble
Pectoral Sandpiper				<b>Little Gull</b>			
3/31	Lancaster	1	N. Tepper	4/27-4/28	P'town (RP)	2	ad ph B. Nikula#
4/15-4/20	Sheffield	2	J. Pierce + v.o.	Laughing Gull			
4/25	Fairhaven	2	C. Molander	3/30, 4/27	P'town (RP)	5,850	P. Flood
Short-billed Dowitcher				4/11	Jamaica Plain	1	T. Bradford
4/30	Wareham	2	C. Molander	4/20	Plymouth	25	P. + F. Vale
American Woodcock				4/21	Kingston	120	A. Kneidel
3/19	PI	5	R. John	<b>Mew Gull</b>			
3/20	Burlington	12	M. Rines	4/7	P'town (RP)	1	ad ph P. Flood
3/25	Burrage Pd WMA	10	T. Bradford#	<b>California Gull</b>			
4/2	Amherst	21	S. Zhang	3/17	Turners Falls	1	ad ph D. Sibley
Wilson's Snipe				Herring X Glaucous Gull (hybrid)			
3/22	Ipswich	11	N. Dubrow	3/17	Cohasset	1	D. Burton#
3/30-4/7	Orange	5	G. Watkevitch				

Iceland Gull				4/14	GMNWR	2	W. Hutcheson
3/1-3/24	Turners Falls	7 max	J. Eckerson# + v.o.	4/23	Brookfield	2	R. Jenkins
3/2	W. Newbury	5	A. Steenstrup	4/24	Bolton Flats	4	J. Johnson
3/3	Lowell	2	D. McDermott	Least Bittern			
3/9	Gloucester H.	2	C. Cook#	4/23	Topsfield	1	J. Berry
3/10	P'town (RP)	40	B. Nikula#	4/24	Marshfield	1 au	D. Peacock
3/15	BHI (Deer I.)	7	L. Holmes	Great Blue Heron			
4/1-4/30	P'town (RP)	30 max	B. Nikula#	3/30	Lynnfield	21 n	P. + F. Vale
4/14	Stellwagen Bank	2	D. Spector	4/7	Richmond	18	G. Ward
Lesser Black-backed Gull				4/28	Burrage Pd WMA60		N. Marchessault
thr	Indiv. reported from 14 locations			Great Egret			
4/28	P'town (RP)	5	B. Nikula#	3/15	Harwich	1	S. Finnegan
Glaucous Gull				3/16	E. Boston (BI)	1	S. Riley#
3/3	Lowell	1	D. McDermott	3/26	Essex	8	S. Grinley#
4/13	W. Newbury	1 imm	K. Wilmarth	3/29	BHI (Sarah I.)	28	D. Peacock
4/14	Stellwagen Bank	1	D. Spector	4/21	Hingham	25	G. d'Entremont
4/14	PI	1	D. Williams#	4/25	PI	14	P. + F. Vale
4/24	MBO	1	E. Lipton	Little Egret			
Caspian Tern				4/25	PI	1 ph	M. Watson, A. Bean + v.o.
4/9, 4/14	Turners Falls	1,5	D. Sibley, J. Smith	Snowy Egret			
4/12	Pittsfield area	3	K. Hanson + v.o.	3/26-3/31	Essex	1	S. Grinley + v.o.
4/24	Carver	4 ph	E. Vacchino	3/31	Duxbury	2	E. Duane
4/24	PI	1	T. Mara#	4/1	W. Harwich	4	M. Heintz
4/27	Burrage Pd WMA	3	B. Vigorito	4/14	E. Boston (BI)	3	A. McDermott
Roseate Tern				4/21	Ipswich	27	D. Walters
4/14	P'town (RP)	1	P. Flood	4/28	Essex	15	J. Nelson
4/27	Westport	6	M. Iliff	Little Blue Heron			
Common Tern				4/12	Cohasset	1	B. Howard
4/25	Burrage Pd WMA	1	P. McGovern	4/15, 4/27	Gloucester	1,2	S. Hedman, C. Lapite
4/27	Westport	57	M. Iliff	4/20	W. Harwich	1	D. Gray
4/28	PI	1	W. Tatro#	Tricolored Heron			
4/30	Wareham	2	C. Molander	4/23	W. Harwich	1	L. Briggs
Red-throated Loon				4/24	Westport	1	M. Iliff
4/9	Southwick	1	D. Holmes	Cattle Egret			
4/21	N. Truro	130	B. Nikula	4/23	Dartmouth	1 ph	B. Glover
4/27	P'town (RP)	115	P. Flood#	4/24	Harwich	1	W. Forward#
4/27	Westport	46	M. Iliff	4/24	Fairhaven	1	M. Iliff#
4/28	N. Scituate	26	G. d'Entremont	4/26-4/29	Nantucket	2	A. Hansen
Pacific Loon				4/27	Essex/Ipswich	1 ph	S. Grinley#
3/10-4/21	P'town (RP)	2 max ph	v.o.	4/27-4/29	Norfolk	1	M. Noisoux + v.o.
Common Loon				4/30	Orleans	1	J. Harris#
3/9	Mattapoisett	9	M. Lynch#	Green Heron			
4/6	Rockport	35	J. Berry#	4/12	Williamstown	1	M. Morales
4/13	Wachusett Res.	14	M. Lynch#	4/13	Chestnut Hill	1	M. Kaufman
4/24	Westport	52	A. Eckerson	4/13	Sturbridge	1	E. Dalton
Sooty Shearwater				4/20	Westwood	2	E. Nielsen
4/27	P'town (RP)	154	P. Flood#	4/22	W. Roxbury (MP)	2 1pr	M. Iliff
Manx Shearwater				4/24	Northboro	2	S. Beattie
4/1, 4/7	Revere B.	1,13	P. Peterson, V. Zollo#	4/26	Medfield	3	E. Nielsen
4/9	Nahant	4	L. Pivacek	Black-crowned Night-Heron			
4/14, 4/27	P'town (RP)	1,9	B. Nikula, P. Flood#	3/18	Gloucester (EP)	1	P. Hackett
4/20	Quincy	5	D. Burton	3/29	BHI (Sarah I.)	6	D. Peacock
Northern Gannet				3/30	Dorchester	6	P. Peterson
4/25	MBO	148	M. Gray	4/17	Watertown	13 max	T. Michel
4/27	P'town (RP)	950	P. Flood#	4/24	Nbpt	3	S. Grinley#
4/27	Westport	843	M. Iliff	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron			
Double-crested Cormorant				4/6	Quincy	1	J. Jacobik
4/13	Turners Falls	55	J. Smith	4/16	Barnstable	1	J. Rapp
4/23	Barre	51	HawkCount (J. Emerton)	4/21	Edgartown	1	R. Price
4/25	Medford	138	M. Rines	Glossy Ibis			
4/27	Pittsfield	74	R. Wendell	3/25	Rowley	1	M. Goetschkes#
Great Cormorant				4/20	Bolton Flats	26	J. Bourget
3/1	Westport	27	M. Lynch#	4/21	Ipswich	57	D. Walters
3/9	Gloucester	9	P. + F. Vale	4/22	Wakefield	14	B. Lee
3/10	Medford	7	J. Kovner	4/25	PI	19	P. + F. Vale#
4/23-4/24	Manomet	4	M. Gray + v.o.	4/28	Newbury	23	P. + F. Vale
American Bittern							
4/7-4/30	Indiv. reported from 17 locations						

## VULTURES THROUGH DICKCISSEL

Parking lot 1 at Plum Island is one of a number of traditional hawkwatch sites where volunteers monitor spring raptor migration. This year hawkwatchers reported good numbers of Turkey Vultures from mid-March. During the month of April, 132 Northern Harriers and 48 Sharp-shinned Hawks were tallied passing over Plum Island. American Kestrel is perhaps the most anticipated species at this coastal hawkwatch, where this year a total of 341 were logged. Broad-winged Hawk migration was well under way in the state in mid-April, although numbers are typically much lower than in the fall. The hawkwatch at Barre Falls, in Central Massachusetts, tallied over one hundred Broadwinged on April 23. Other noteworthy reports included sightings of **Golden Eagle** in Barre, Newbury, and Ipswich. Photographs of the Ipswich and Newbury birds suggest they were the same individual. A pair of Bald Eagles took up residency in Brewster. This was the first documented nest found on Cape Cod since the last known breeding Bald Eagles in Sandwich in 1905.

Barred Owls continued to be reported from many locations during the day with sightings from over 40 localities. There were reports of nesting Great Horned Owls in several towns. The last reported Snowy Owl was a bird at Logan Airport on April 16.

March and April signal the start of migration, although this year's birders were frustrated with the weather; there was only one weekend during the period free from precipitation. Swallows started showing up in small numbers in mid-March and were back in full force by mid-April. By late March the woods were alive with the songs of Winter Wrens and Brown Creepers, soon joined by the Eastern Phoebes and Blue-headed Vireos. Spring had arrived!

The first migrant fallouts of the season occurred on the mornings of April 9 and April 14 with numerous reports from across the state of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes, Chipping and Savannah sparrows, and Pine and Palm warblers. At Plum Island on April 9 there were 37 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 76 Northern Flickers, 27 Eastern Phoebes, and 8 Winter Wrens. A warm spell from April 13–24 held many migrants in place as a cold front lingered to our south. A major fallout on the evening of April 23 opened the floodgates with birders across the state reporting significant movement. The banding station on Plum Island was busy with 12 Blue-headed Vireos and 14 Hermit Thrushes, while Manomet processed 30 Chipping Sparrows and two male **Summer Tanagers**. Other high counts noted on April 24 included 93 Chipping Sparrows in Blackstone, 50 Savannah Sparrows in Westport, 45 Purple Finches in Deerfield, and a big push of Yellow-rumped Warblers, with 200 individuals reported from Plum Island and 135 from Deerfield. Rarities that day included **Golden-winged Warblers** from Orleans and Longmeadow, a **Summer Tanager** at Plum Island, a Blue Grosbeak at Mount Auburn Cemetery, and an early Cape May Warbler photographed in Brookline.

The mega highlight of the period was a state first: a **Black-whiskered Vireo** at the Edgartown Golf Club on Martha's Vineyard on April 21. This is the seventh record north of Florida and only the second north of Virginia, after a bird last year at Sakonnet Point, Rhode Island, on May 21. Intriguingly, since Edgartown is only 35 miles as the vireo flies from Sakonnet Point, this may be the same returning individual.

*R. Stymeist*

## References

Veit, R. R., and W. R. Petersen. 1993. *Birds of Massachusetts*. Lincoln, Mass. Massachusetts Audubon Society.

<b>Black Vulture</b>					<b>Eastern Screech-Owl</b>			
3/thr	Cape Ann	1	P. Peterson + v.o.		3/12	Arlington	1	R Stymeist
3/14	Easthampton	5	D. McLain		3/20	Lancaster	2	M. Lynch#
3/24	Norfolk	5	D. Williams		<b>Great Horned Owl</b>			
3/24	Ipswich (CB)	3	N. Dubrow#		3/19	Stoughton	2	G. d'Entremont
3/29	S. Deerfield	12	D. Selman		3/20	Lancaster	3	M. Lynch#
4/3	Millbury	5	D. Miles		3/29	Jamaica Plain	2 1pr n	S. Jones#
4/19	N. Truro	1	J. Sweeney		4/5	Cambr. (FP)	2	J. Trimble
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>					4/19	Rowley	2 1ad+1juv	P. + F. Vale
3/18	Lowell	58	D. McDermott		4/23	Georgetown	3 1ad+2juv	J. McLaughlin
4/4-4/29	PI	28	Hawkcount (P. Roberts)		4/28	Burrage Pd WMA	2	N. Marchessault
4/11	PI	17	Hawkcount (T. Mara)		<b>Snowy Owl</b>			
4/17	N. Truro	61	D. Manchester		3/1-4/6			Indiv. reported from 6 locations
<b>Osprey</b>					3/3	Duxbury B.	2	R. Bowes
3/11	Milton	1	S. Baird		3/12	PI	2	T. Wetmore
4/5-4/29	PI	16	Hawkcount (P. Roberts)		3/17	Chatham	2	B. Nikula#
4/19	S. Dart. (APD)	10	A. Eckerson#		3/19	Boston (Logan)	1 d	MassDOT
<b>Bald Eagle</b>					4/5	Salisbury	1	J. Nathan
3/14	Medford	8	P. Roberts		4/16	Boston (Logan)	1	H. Johnson#
3/16	Turners Falls	10	C. Lawlor#		<b>Barred Owl</b>			
3/24	PI	4	Hawkcount (P. Roberts)		thr			Indiv. reported from 33 locations
4/20	Brewster	2 1pr n	v.o.		3/1	New Braintree	2	W. Howes
4/23	Barre	5	HawkCount (J. Emerton)		3/2	Leicester	3	J. Lawson#
<b>Northern Harrier</b>					4/7	Mashpee	2	M. Keleher
3/3	Cumb. Farms	6	A. Kneidel		4/7	Hamilton	2	J. Berry
4/thr	PI	132	Hawkcount (P. Roberts)		4/11	Pepperell	2	M. Resch
4/10	Turners Falls	4	J. Smith		4/21	Concord	2	C. Winstanley
4/11	PI	40	Hawkcount (T. Mara)		4/21	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>					4/28	Wompatuck SP	2	BBC (G. d'Entremont)
4/13-4/29	PI	48	Hawkcount (P. Roberts)		<b>Long-eared Owl</b>			
4/23-4/24	Barre Falls	18	Hawkcount (D. Schilling)		thr	Suffolk County	11 max	Anon.
4/28	PI	16	Hawkcount (B. Rusnica)		3/3	Saugus	2	C. Cook#
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>					<b>Short-eared Owl</b>			
3/1	Westport	2	M. Lynch#		3/9	DWWS	1	G. d'Entremont#
4/17	N. Truro	6	D. Manchester		3/14	E. Bridgewater	1	J. Carlisle
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>					3/19	Ipswich (CB)	1	J. Berry#
3/9	Windsor	1 ph	S. Townsend#		3/24	PI	3	P. Miliotis
4/5	Gloucester	1	P. Brown		3/24	Duxbury B.	1	J. McDonald
4/23	Barre	2	HawkCount (J. Emerton)		3/25	Burrage Pd WMA	1	S. Jones#
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>					<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>			
3/16	Pembroke	2	SSBC (W. Petersen)		3/3	Wayland	1	A. McCarthy#
3/19	Topsfield	2 1pr	A. Prazar		3/5	Great Barrington	1	C. Blake
3/20	Newton	2 1pr	K. Sejkora		3/12	Nantucket	6	N. Tepper
3/20	W. Roxbury (MP)	2	G. Fenton		3/21	Boston (RKG)	1	I. Vicari#
3/24, 4/24	PI	1,1	Hawkcount (P. Roberts)		<b>Belted Kingfisher</b>			
3/30	Dighton	7	J. Eckerson		3/30	Somerset	2	J. Eckerson#
4/1	Carlisle	2 1pr	A. Ankers		4/9	Easton	2 1pr	K. Ryan
4/6	Petersham	2	G. d'Entremont#		4/17	Plymouth	3	D. Furbish
4/17	N. Truro	4	D. Manchester		4/20	New Braintree	3	W. Howes
4/19	Canton	2	W. Lackey		<b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b>			
4/28	Boxford (CP)	2	P. Brown		4/12	Ipswich	1	A. Steenstrup
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>					4/14	Pepperell	1	M. Resch
4/15	N. Dighton	4	J. Eckerson		<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>			
4/17	Boston	5	T. Kimbis		3/13	Wellfleet	2	P. Trimble
4/19	Southwick	57	HawkCount (S. Kellogg)		4/8	Scituate	6	D. Peacock
4/20	Wompatuck SP	5	J. Offermann		4/9	PI	37	R. Heil
4/23	Barre	116	HawkCount (J. Emerton)		4/10	Boston (McW)	3	S. Jones
4/23	Granville	18	HawkCount (S. Kellogg)		4/21	Petersham	12	M. Lynch#
4/24, 4/28	PI	1,1	Hawkcount (T. Mara)		4/24	Quabbin Pk	12	L. Therrien
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>					<b>Hairy Woodpecker</b>			
4/23	Barre	8	HawkCount (J. Emerton)		4/6	PI	4	N. Landry
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>					4/14	Orange	4	M. Lynch#
3/1	Westport	1 lt	M. Lynch#		4/21	Wompatuck SP	4	G. d'Entremont
3/3	Cumb. Farms	5	A. Kneidel		<b>Northern Flicker</b>			
3/9	Westport	1	D. Tobias		4/9	PI	76	R. Heil
3/11	Holland	1	J. Athearn		4/14	Cape Ann	92	B. Harris
3/16-3/24	PI	2	T. Wetmore + v.o.		4/21	Petersham	14	M. Lynch#
4/19	PI	1	Hawkcount (P. Roberts)		<b>Pileated Woodpecker</b>			
<b>Golden Eagle</b>					3/17	S. Hamilton	4	D. Walters
3/20	Newbury	1 ph	A. Bean		4/21	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#
3/24-3/25	Ipswich	1 ph	J. Sender + v.o.		4/23	Topsfield	3	J. Berry
4/23	Barre	1	HawkCount (J. Emerton)		4/27	Quabog IBA	2	M. Lynch#

Pileated Woodpecker (continued)				3/19	Needham	45		M. Iloff
4/28	Wompatuck SP	2	1pr	BBC (G. d'Entremont)				R. Heil
American Kestrel				3/30	Danvers	35		G. d'Entremont
3/29-4/9	Hadley	4	max	L. Beltran	4/2	MSSF	75	J. Smith
4/thr	PI	341		Hawkcount (P. Roberts)	4/15	Turners Falls	12	
4/15	Hanscom	20		M. Rines	Common Raven			
4/17	N. Truro	19		D. Manchester	3/11	MtA	2	R. Stymeist
4/19	PI	61		Hawkcount (P. Roberts)	3/17	Medford	3	C. Cook
4/22	Leicester	6		M. Lynch#	3/18	PI	3	B. Berg
4/23	Barre	4		HawkCount (J. Emerton)	3/30	Royalston	6	E. LeBlanc#
4/24	DWWS	7		P. Fang	4/11	Sharon	5	K. Ryan
4/25	Danvers	9		R. Heil	Horned Lark			
Merlin					3/1-4/14	Northampton	80	max S. Surner + v.o.
thr	Indiv. reported from	13	locations		3/3	Saugus	100	C. Cook#
4/4-4/29	PI	60		Hawkcount (P. Roberts)	3/21	PI	16	S. Miller
4/4	Easthampton	2		D. Allard	3/27	Acton	20	D. McDermott
4/29	PI	10		Hawkcount (P. Roberts)	Purple Martin			
Peregrine Falcon					4/12, 4/30	PI	2,23	S. McGrath#, R. Heil
3/10	Brockton	2	1pr	K. Ryan	4/12, 4/16	Norfolk	1,7	N. Crosby, D. Williams
3/18	Woburn	2	1pr	J. Nathan	Tree Swallow			
4/17-4/28	PI	4		Hawkcount (P. Roberts)	3/12-3/15	Longmeadow	30	max K. Oscar + v.o.
Least Flycatcher					3/28	Lakeville	110	M. Sylvia
4/24	Great Barrington	1		G. & C. Ward	4/4	GMNWR	250	A. Bragg#
4/29	Sheffield	2		M. Caron	4/14	Seekonk	65	J. Eckerson#
Eastern Phoebe					4/22	Lowell	100	L. de la Flor
4/7	Hardwick	29		M. Lynch#	4/23	Topsfield	150	J. Berry
4/9	PI	27		R. Heil	4/27	Quabog IBA	280	M. Lynch#
4/14	Nahant	12		C. Dalton	4/28	Northfield	160	G. Watkevich
4/14	Amherst	11		L. Therrien	4/30	PI	450	R. Heil
4/29	Monson	18		M. Lynch#	Northern Rough-winged Swallow			
Great Crested Flycatcher					3/12	Longmeadow	2	B. Finney
4/24	Dover	1		E. Nielsen	4/14	Uxbridge	12	M. Ess-Why
4/24	MBO	1		E. Lipton	4/17	Plymouth	10	D. Furbish
4/25	Easthampton	1		D. Allard	4/21	Gloucester (EP)	23	R. Heil
4/29	Ipswich	1		J. Berry	Bank Swallow			
Eastern Kingbird					4/13	Turners Falls	1	J. Smith
4/4	PI	1		T. Wetmore	4/20	Sheffield	3	K. Schopp
4/19-4/21	S. Dartmouth	1		B. King#	4/29	Manomet	3	L. Schibley
4/24	Marshfield	2		D. Peacock	Cliff Swallow			
4/28	Burrage Pd WMA	2		N. Marchessault	4/5	Wayland	1	B. Harris
Northern Shrike					4/12	Hatfield	1	M. McKittrick
3/1-4/11	Indiv. reported from	12	locations		4/24-4/25	Rowe	16	C. Hyytinen, M. Silver
White-eyed Vireo					Barn Swallow			
4/20-4/21	Dartmouth	1		B. King	3/18	Blackstone	4	D. Miles
4/23	Falmouth	1		W. Sweet	3/31	Westminster	1	T. Pirro
4/29	Nantucket	1		T. Pastuszak	4/20	Richmond	30	K. Hanson
Yellow-throated Vireo					4/30	PI	55	R. Heil
4/24-4/29	PI	1		A. Perko + v.o.	Red-breasted Nuthatch			
3/16	Turners Falls	10		C. Lawlor#	3/2	Montague	25	J. Eckerson
4/25	Gloucester (EP)	1		J. Nelson	3/9	Sharon	25	P. Peterson
4/25	Reading	1		P. Humphries	3/9	Mashpee	4	G. d'Entremont#
4/29	Amherst	1		M. McKittrick	3/21	Plymouth	5	E. Vacchino#
Blue-headed Vireo					4/2	Ipswich	5	P. + F. Vale
4/12	Peabody	2		C. Martone	4/14	MtA	4	C. Cook
4/21	Petersham	9		M. Lynch#	Brown Creeper			
4/24	PI	12		P. + F. Vale	3/30	Taunton	9	A. Kneidel
4/24	Deerfield	11		D. Sibley	4/7	Hardwick	5	M. Lynch#
4/24	MNWS	6		L. Ferrareso	4/12-4/25	PI	24	b B. Fleder#
Warbling Vireo					4/14	Boston (McW)	7	P. Peterson
4/20	New Salem	1		R. & S. Cloutier	4/14	Sudbury	6	J. Forbes
4/28	Concord	3		D. Swain	4/17	P'town	12	B. Nikula#
4/29	Cohasset	2		S. Avery	4/28	Wompatuck SP	8	BBC (G. d'Entremont)
Red-eyed Vireo					House Wren			
4/21	Quincy	1		A. Trautmann	4/22	Scituate	8	D. Peacock
4/23	Falmouth	1		W. Sweet	4/23	N. Dighton	3	M. Eckerson
4/24-4/30	P'town	2	max	v.o.	4/24	Blackstone	10	M. Lynch#
4/27	MtA	1		M. Peirce	4/29	Monson	14	M. Lynch#
Black-whiskered Vireo*					4/30	Belmont	5	R. Stymeist
4/21	Edgartown	1	ph	K. Magnuson	Winter Wren			
Fish Crow					3/12	Dedham	2	J. Young
3/2	Worc.	20		M. Lynch#	3/31	Boxford	2	m J. Berry#
3/12	Dedham	25		J. Young	4/9	PI	8	R. Heil
3/18	Hyde Park	40		J. Young	4/13	Lexington (DM)	2	C. Cook
					4/18	N. Dighton	2	J. Eckerson

Winter Wren (continued)				3/13	Scituate	14	D. Peacock
4/20	Wompatuck SP	5	J. Offermann	3/13	W. Newbury	13	C. Decker
4/22, 4/24	PI	1,1 b	B. Flemer#	3/22	Hinsdale	12	C. Tanguay
4/28	HRWMA	2	T. Pirro	3/23	Ipswich	40	N. Smith
Marsh Wren				3/29	Marshfield	11	K. Rawdon#
3/9, 4/28	GMNWR	1,6	M. Gooley, B. Lee	4/6	Royalston	60	E. LeBlanc
3/30	Somerset	1	J. Eckerson#	4/18	Winchendon	16	J. Nyman
4/28	PI	8	M. Goetschkes#	4/19	Wompatuck SP	14	D. Furbish#
Carolina Wren				4/19	Hinsdale	10	K. Dietlin
3/1	Acoaxet	10	M. Lynch#	4/27	Scituate	18	D. Peacock
4/9	PI	3	R. Heil	4/30	Plympton	13	T. Lloyd-Evans
4/24	Blackstone	17	M. Lynch#	Purple Finch			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				3/3	Jamaica Plain	6	L. Nichols
4/13	Yarmouth	1	P. Trimble	4/8	Uxbridge	12	N. Demers
4/13	PI	1	S. Miller	4/9-4/15	Granville	15	D. Holmes
4/14	Sheffield	4	J. Pierce#	4/12	Peabody	9	C. Martone
4/20	Wompatuck SP	11	J. Offermann	4/14	Seekonk	5	J. Eckerson#
4/20	N. Dighton	6	M. Eckerson	4/18	Milton	15	P. Peterson
4/20	P'town	5	B. Nikula#	4/19	Hinsdale	20	K. Dietlin
4/21-4/24	Quabbin Pk	14 max	L. Therrien	4/22	PI	8	T. Wetmore
4/21	GMNWR	8	C. Cook	4/24	Deerfield	45	D. Sibley
Golden-crowned Kinglet				Common Redpoll			
4/7-4/17	PI	30 b	B. Flemer#	3/1-4/23	Worthington	25 max	S. Lewis
4/10	Cambr. (FP)	12	R. Jilek	3/2	Ipswich (CB)	17	H. Levy#
4/10	Boston (McW)	11	S. Jones	3/4-3/24	Montague	30 max	J. Jorgensen#+v.o.
4/19	P'town	24	W. Klockner	3/9	Groton	114	T. Murray
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				3/16	Worcester	20	E. Kittredge + v.o.
4/7-4/24	PI	37 b	B. Flemer#	3/18	Lowell	45	D. McDermott#
4/14	Cape Ann	36	B. Harris	Red Crossbill			
4/14	Quincy	9	C. Whitebread#	3/14	Lexington (DM)	22	K. Hartel#
4/14	MtA	7	C. Cook	3/21	Plymouth	10	E. Vaccino#
4/17	P'town	12	B. Nikula#	3/28-4/5	Ipswich	20 max	G. d'Entremont#+v.o.
Eastern Bluebird				4/12	Dennis 12 Type	10	M. J. Foti
3/9	Westport	8	D. Tobias	4/17	Westwood11 Type	10	E. Nielsen
3/15	Hardwick	8	W. Howes	4/20	Boston	6	R. Schain
3/19	IRWS	7	J. Smith	Pine Siskin			
4/7	Hardwick	10	M. Lynch#	3/2	Easton	10	K. Ryan
Veery				3/12-3/21	Montague	25 max	J. Jorgensen#+v.o.
4/25	MBO	1 ad bT.	Lloyd-Evans#	3/13	Sharon	12	W. Sweet
Hermit Thrush				4/2	Boxford	7	T. Martin
4/9	PI	71	R. Heil	4/9	Granville	45	D. Holmes
4/12-4/25	PI	19 b	B. Flemer#	Lapland Longspur			
4/14	Boston (McW)	12	S. Jones#	3/1-3/15	Northampton	5	J. Oliverio, A. Hulsev#+v.o.
4/21	Petersham	11	M. Lynch#	3/1-3/2	Ashley Falls	1	G. Hurley + v.o.
Wood Thrush				3/6	Salisbury	4	C. Morgan
4/22-4/23	Boston (RKG)	1	A. Laquidara + v.o.	3/12	Newbury	6	T. Wetmore
4/23	Boylston	2	G. Deyo	Snow Bunting			
Varied Thrush				3/1-3/2	Northampton	100 max	L. Therrien+v.o.
3/13-3/30	Nantucket	1	T. Pastuszak#	3/1	Salisbury	17	M. Watson
Gray Catbird				3/3-3/20	Wachusett Res.	25 max	J. Forbes + v.o.
3/2	Woburn (HP)	2	J. Thomas	3/6-3/14	Montague	44 max	S. Griesemer
4/21	Westport	3	J. Eckerson#	3/12	PI	45	T. Wetmore
4/21	Westboro	2	A. de Blocq	3/20	Winthrop B.	42	P. + F. Vale
4/28	Burrage Pd WMA	5	N. Marchessault	3/20	Boston (Logan)	15	N. Dorian
Brown Thrasher				Eastern Towhee			
4/24	Blackstone	2	M. Lynch#	4/14	Seekonk	6	J. Eckerson#
4/29	Hanscom	2	M. Rines	4/21-4/24	Quabbin Pk	31	L. Therrien
4/30	PI	6	R. Heil	4/22	PI	33	T. Wetmore
Bohemian Waxwing				4/28	Hardwick	17	M. Lynch#
3/14	Deerfield	1 ph	D. Sibley	4/29	Monson	18	M. Lynch#
4/9	E. Boston (BI)	3	DCR (S. Riley)	American Tree Sparrow			
Cedar Waxwing				3/thr-4/19	Pittsfield	12 max	S. Townsend
3/7	Turners Falls	165	J. Rose	3/19	Ipswich (CB)	4	J. Berry#
4/13	Wachusett Res.	4	M. Lynch#	3/24	New Braintree	3	M. Lynch#
American Pipit				4/21	Cumb. Farms	3	J. Sweeney
3/14	Lancaster	1	B. Robo	Chipping Sparrow			
4/4	Topsfield	2	A. Sanford#	3/1	Medford	1	A. Trautmann
4/12	Lancaster	16	M. Lynch#	3/12	Brewster	1	D. Clapp#
4/13	Fairhaven	3	C. Longworth	4/14	MtA	20	C. Cook
Evening Grosbeak				4/14	Medfield	14	J. Bock
3/1-4/6	Windsor	44 max	K. Simon	4/14	Boston (McW)	12	S. Jones#
3/11	Wellfleet	20	S. Matheny	4/20	N. Dighton	14	M. Eckerson
3/13	Ware R. IBA	25	M. Lynch#	4/21-4/24	Quabbin Pk	58 max	L. Therrien

Chipping Sparrow (continued)			4/23	Shutesbury	7	K. Weir	
4/24	Blackstone	93	M. Lynch#	4/28	Wayland	2	A. Loveless
4/24	MBO	30	E. Lipton				
4/29	Monson	58	M. Lynch#	3/3	Cumb. Farms	11	A. Kneidel
Clay-colored Sparrow				3/16-3/17	Easthampton	10	B. Finney + v.o.
4/9-4/16	Medford	1 ph	B. Burke	3/24	New Braintree	7	M. Lynch#
Field Sparrow				4/28	Amesbury	10	H. Burns
3/1	Westport	5	M. Lynch#				
4/9	Stow	3	N. Tepper	4/21	Dartmouth	1	S. Walas
4/11	Sharon	3	W. Sweet	4/22-4/28	Hadley	1	A. Hulseley + v.o.
4/14	Lancaster	6	G. d'Entremont	4/23	Boston (AA)	1	P. Peterson
4/20	PI	7	T. Wetmore	4/24	Blackstone	1 m	M. Lynch#
4/21	Abington	5	D. O'Brien				
Vesper Sparrow				Baltimore Oriole			
3/1	Ashley Falls	1	C. Blake	4/17	Shrewsbury	1	T. Andrews
4/9	Hadley (Honeypot)	3	L. Therrien	4/19	Northampton	1	D. Oakley
4/12	PI	1	T. Wetmore	4/21	Westport	2	B. King#
4/12	Boston (FPk)	1	S. Baird	4/21	Merrimac	1	B. + B. Buxton
4/14	Medfield	1	J. Bock				
4/22	Fairhaven	1	S. Walas	Brown-headed Cowbird			
4/27-4/29	W. Roxbury (MP)	2	R. Doherty + v.o.	3/14	Uxbridge	20	S. Williams#
Savannah Sparrow				3/16-3/20	Northampton	20	maxS. Williams+v.o.
3/4	Cumb. Farms	21	J. Sweeney	3/30	Concord	22	C. + C. Winstanley
3/29	PI	10	P. Hackett	4/7	Rutland	40	M. Lynch#
4/14	Northampton	46	A. Hulseley				
4/14	E. Boston (BI)	26	B. Burke	Rusty Blackbird			
4/17	Newbury	17	T. Martin	3/15	Pittsfield	50	K. Hanson#
4/24	Westboro	50	T. Spahr	3/16	Milford	20	N. Demers
Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow				3/31	Wayland	31	B. Harris
3/18	Duxbury B.	4	R. Bowes	4/14	Lynnfield	323	C. Martone
3/19	PI	2	T. Wetmore	4/18	W. Roxbury (MP)	22	J. Young
4/18	Eastham	1	K. Burke	4/23	IRWS	30	C. Lapite
4/24	Westport	1	M. Iliif	4/30	Lexington	20	C. Floyd
Saltmarsh Sparrow				Common Grackle			
4/18	Nantucket	2	S. Kardell	3/16-3/20	Northampton	625	maxS. Williams+v.o.
4/23	Salisbury	1	P. Laufer	3/16	Sterling	150	M. Lynch#
Seaside Sparrow				3/20	Lancaster	900	J. Hoye#
4/18-4/23	Eastham (FH)	1	J. Harris#	3/24	Bolton Flats	2000	C. Cook#
4/29	PI	1	T. Wetmore				
Fox Sparrow				Ovenbird			
3/15	Pittsfield	7	K. Hanson#	4/20	N. Dighton	1	M. Eckerson
3/18	Hyde Park	5	J. Young	4/21, 4/28	Wompatuck SP	1,11	G. d'Entremont
3/26	Montague	6	J. Moran	4/21	W. Newbury	1	E. Labato
3/30	Southampton	6	K. Carragher	4/23	N. Dighton	5	M. Eckerson
4/3	Rockport (HPt)	7	W. Freedberg	4/28	Burrage Pd WMA	6	N. Marchessault
4/9	PI	18	R. Heil				
Lincoln's Sparrow				Worm-eating Warbler			
4/23	Boston (AA)	1	P. Peterson	4/18, 4/29	Nantucket	1,1	S. Kardell, T. Pastuszak
4/24	Boston (McW)	1	S. Jones#	4/21-4/24	Westport	1	B. King + v.o.
4/29	Amherst	1	M. McKittrick				
Swamp Sparrow				Louisiana Waterthrush			
3/1, 4/28	Burrage Pd WMA	3,45	J. Sweeney, N. Marchessault	4/8-4/13	W. Boylston	1	B. Robo
3/3	Boston (AA)	1	M. Kaufman	4/10	Hadley	1	M. Locher
4/14	Amherst	11	L. Therrien	4/11	Gill	1	J. Smith
4/15	Lexington	14	C. Cook	4/14	Ashby	2	G. d'Entremont
4/17	W. Roxbury (MP)	10	P. Peterson	4/14	Lowell	2	K. Poetzl
4/20	Quabog IBA	34	M. Lynch#	4/14	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#
4/21	GMNWR	24	C. Cook	4/19	Wompatuck SP	3	D. Furbish#
4/24	W. Newbury	8	P. + F. Vale				
White-crowned Sparrow				Northern Waterthrush			
3/1	Ashley Falls	2	C. Blake	4/17	Fall River	1	L. Abbey
3/1-3/2	Northampton	2	L. Therrien + v.o.	4/17	IRWS	1	S. Babbitt
3/20-3/28	Nantucket	4	T. Pastuszak#	4/19	Sharon	3	W. Sweet
3/30	Cumb. Farms	3	L. Schibley#	4/20	Dighton	3	M. Eckerson#
Dark-eyed Junco				4/21	Middleboro	5	H. + J. Levesque
4/7	Hardwick	56	M. Lynch#	4/28	Burrage Pd WMA	8	N. Marchessault
4/8	PI	1000	T. Wetmore#				
4/9	Salisbury	80	P. + F. Vale	<b>Golden-winged Warbler</b>			
4/9	Granville	55	D. Holmes	4/24	Orleans	1 ph	N. Tepper
4/17	P'town	40	B. Nikula#	4/24	Longmeadow	1	M. Moore
4/19	Shelburne Falls	75	E. DeVoto				
Bobolink				Blue-winged Warbler			
4/22-4/27	Wayland	1 ph	K. Quackenbush+v.o.	4/21	Westport	1	J. Eckerson#
				4/24	Deerfield	1	D. Sibley
				4/25	Waltham	1	J. Forbes
				Black-and-white Warbler			
				4/17	Fall River	1	L. Abbey
				4/19	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
				4/19	Boston (FPk)	1	R. Mayer
				4/21-4/24	Quabbin Pk	23 max	L. Therrien
				4/24-4/25	PI	6 b	B. Flemer#
				4/24	MBO	2 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#

Black-and-white Warbler (continued)	4/30	PI	1	R. Heil
4/28 Burrage Pd WMA11	N. Marchessault	Pine Warbler	3/30	Taunton 7
<b>Prothonotary Warbler</b>			4/7	Hardwick 9
4/27 P'town 1	M. Forist#		4/13	Wachusett Res. 32
Orange-crowned Warbler			4/21	Wompatuck SP 24
3/9 Harwich 1	A. Curtis		4/24	Quabbin Pk 21
4/25-4/30 MtA 1	S. Williams + v.o.		4/25	Boxford 20
4/28 Boxford (CP) 1	A. Steenstrup#	Yellow-rumped Warbler	4/21	Petersham 162
4/29 MBO 1	m bT. Lloyd-Evans#		4/21-4/24	PI 90 b
Nashville Warbler			4/24	PI 200
4/21 Northampton 1	F. Bowrys		4/24	Deerfield 135
4/24 Westport 1	A. Eckerson		4/24	MBO 14 b
4/25 IRWS 1	W. Tatro		4/25	IRWS 300
<b>Kentucky Warbler</b>			4/25	P'town 50
4/27 PI 1 b	B. Flemer#		4/28	Northfield 92
4/28-4/29 P'town 1 ph	M. Forist#		4/28	DWMA 50
Common Yellowthroat		<b>Yellow-throated Warbler</b>	4/23-4/25	WBWS 1 ph
4/21 Westport 2	A. Eckerson#		4/23	Chestnut Hill 1 ph
4/21 Great Barrington 1	D. Abrams		4/24	Brewster 1
4/21 GMNWR 1	W. Hutcheson		4/26-4/28	Nantucket 1 ph
Hooded Warbler			4/29	Wenham 1
4/17 P'town 1	B. Nikula#	Prairie Warbler	4/23	Falmouth 1
4/21 MNWS 1 f	J. Offermann#		4/24	Westboro 1
4/21 Nantucket 1	S. Kardell		4/27	Williamstown 1
4/23 MBO 1	E. Lipton	Black-throated Green Warbler	4/13	Wellfleet 2
4/24-4/30 Falmouth 1	G. Hirth#		4/19	Barre 1
4/24 Westport 1	A. Eckerson		4/24	Ipswich 5
4/28 N. Truro 1	J. Young		4/28	HRWMA 4
4/30 Yarmouth 1	S. Finnegan#	<b>Summer Tanager</b>	4/24-4/29	Nantucket 2 ph
4/30 Belmont 1 f	R. Stymeist		4/24-4/29	PI 1 ph
American Redstart			4/25	MBO 2 m b
4/25 Quabbin Pk 1	L. Therrien		4/30	Hyde Park 1 ph
Cape May Warbler		Scarlet Tanager	4/19	Bolton 1
4/24 Brookline 1 ph	J. Weinberg		4/21	Bourne 1
Northern Parula			4/23	PI 1
4/14 Plymouth 1	D. Furbish	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4/11	Nantucket 1
4/19 Florence 1	K. Webler		4/18	Brewster 1
4/19 Canton 1	W. Lackey		4/21	Ipswich 1 m
4/21 Edgartown 3	L. Johnson	Blue Grosbeak	4/21	Eastham (FH) 1
Bay-breasted Warbler			4/22	MBO 1
4/21 Westport 1	B. King#		4/22	Manomet 1
Blackburnian Warbler			4/23	Nantucket 2
4/25 Nantucket 1	T. Pastuszek#		4/24	MtA 1
Yellow Warbler			4/27-4/30	P'town 2 max
4/14 MtA 1	K. Noboa#		4/27-4/30	DWMA 1
4/19 Brookline 1	J. Weinberg		4/28	E. Bridgewater 1
4/19 Boston 1	M. Sinclair	Indigo Bunting	4/21	Eastham (FH) 2
4/28 Burrage Pd WMA15	N. Marchessault		4/21	Gloucester (EP) 1
Black-throated Blue Warbler			4/21	Wompatuck SP 1
4/25 Andover 1	J. Kamerud		4/25	Nantucket 5
4/25 PI 1 b	B. Flemer#	Dickcissel	3/1-3/21	Gloucester 1
4/29 N. Dighton 1	M. Eckerson		3/2	Acton 1
Palm Warbler			3/21	Essex 1
3/31 Belchertown 3	L. Therrien			
4/2 Hardwick 4	W. Howes			
4/9 Wakefield 14	D. Williams			
4/12 Arlington Res. 15	J. Thomas			
4/14-4/25 PI 37 b	B. Flemer#			
4/17 IRWS 45	S. Babbitt#			
4/24 MBO 2 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#			
4/28 Boxford (CP) 24	P. Brown			
Palm Warbler (Western)				
4/25 Danvers 1	R. Heil			
4/28 Ludlow 1 ph	T. Gilliland			
4/29 P'town 1 ph	N. Villone			

# BYGONE BIRDS

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## Historical Highlights for March–April

*Neil Hayward*

### 5 YEARS AGO



#### *March–April 2014*

At least two **Pink-footed Geese** were present in Western Massachusetts in March and a **Barnacle Goose** spent 11 days in Mendon. A **Ross's Goose** was found on Nantucket on April 4. A **Tundra Swan** spent a week in Sheffield. A **White Ibis** was spotted flying over Concord on April 4. There were probably five individual **Swallow-tailed Kites** reported during the period from Cape Cod and Wareham. **Ruffs** were reported from Newburyport Harbor and Nantucket. A **Western Tanager** was photographed in Auburn, and two **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were in West Bridgewater and at Cumberland Farms.

Best sighting: **Zone-tailed Hawk**, Chappaquiddick Island, April 25. This was a first record for Massachusetts, and only the third east of the Mississippi River.

### 10 YEARS AGO



#### *March–April 2009*

A flock of 17 **Greater White-fronted Geese** at the Bear Creek Sanctuary in Saugus in March beat the previous state high count of six. An **American White Pelican** was seen in Westport on April 15. An early **Black-necked Stilt** was at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary on April 25. Nantucket hosted a **Black-backed Woodpecker** at the end of April. Passerine highlights included: a **Townsend's Warbler** at Chestnut Hill Reservoir in Brighton from April 14–19, a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** in South Natick on April 18–19, a **Painted Bunting** at a feeder in Whately on the last day of April, and a **Varied Thrush** in Palmer.

Best sighting: an “invasion” of **Ross's Geese**. Prior to 2009 there had only been three records, all single birds. This year there were seven birds in Ipswich on March 15, eight birds in Easthampton the next day, two in Haverhill on March 19, and a single bird on Plum Island on March 22.

## 20 YEARS AGO



### March–April 1999

Record high numbers of American Kestrels were counted migrating past Plum Island with 297 recorded on April 7. A male **Ruff** was found in Ipswich on the early date of March 31. A total of 343 Common Snipe in two fields in West Bridgewater represented the second-highest count ever recorded in the state. A **Lark Sparrow** that had been visiting a feeder in Salisbury during the winter remained until April 3. Another feeder bird—a **Yellow-headed Blackbird**—continued in Nantucket throughout March.

Best sighting: the state's first **Pink-footed Goose** that was found in Dennis in mid-January continued until April 11.

## 40 YEARS AGO



### March–April 1979

**Cattle Egrets** were reported from Martha's Vineyard and seven locations on Cape Cod at the end of March. A Whimbrel of the white-rumped, European subspecies, *phaeopus*, was on Nantucket between April 29–30. An adult **Mew (Common) Gull** was found in a flock of 250+ Ring-billed Gulls in East Bridgewater on April 1. At least six **Great Gray Owls** lingered into early March, including a bird at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield that stayed until March 28. A **Boreal Chickadee** was found at Essex on April 25. The **Varied Thrush** from the previous period remained at a Chelmsford feeder until March 4 and an immature **Harris's Sparrow** spent five weeks in Peabody.

Best sighting: some 2,000 Red-necked Grebes were packed along the bay shore between Wellfleet and Provincetown on April 4 and set a high-count record for New England and perhaps the entire country. 🐦

## ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOS checklist, 7th edition, 58th Supplement, as published in *Auk* 2017, vol. 134(3):751-773 (see <<http://checklist.aou.org/>>).

Locations			PG	Public Garden, Boston
AA	Arnold Arboretum, Boston	PI		Plum Island
ABC	Allen Bird Club	Pk		Park
AP	Andrews Point, Rockport	Pont.		Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro
APd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth	POP		Point of Pines, Revere
AthBC	Athol Bird Club	PR		Pinnacle Rock, Malden
B.	Beach	P'town		Provincetown
Barre FD	Barre Falls Dam	R.		River
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	Res.		Reservoir
BHI	Boston Harbor Islands	RKG		Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston
BI	Belle Isle, E. Boston	RP		Race Point, Provincetown
BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester	SB		South Beach, Chatham
BNC	Boston Nature Center, Mattapan	SN		Sandy Neck, Barnstable
BR	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	SP		State Park
BRI Co. seas	Bristol County, offshore	SRV		Sudbury River Valley
Cambr.	Cambridge	SSBC		South Shore Bird Club
CB	Crane Beach, Ipswich	TASL	Take A Second Look, Boston Harbor	Census
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club	WBWS		Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
CGB	Coast Guard Beach, Eastham	WE		World's End, Hingham
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	WMA		Wildlife Management Area
CP	Crooked Pond, Boxford	WMWS	Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary	
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms, Middleboro	Wompatuck SP	Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate, Norwell	
DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary	Worc.		Worcester
DM	Dunback Meadow	WSF		Willowdale State Forest, Ipswich
DWMA	Delaney WMA, Stow, Bolton, Harvard			
DWWS	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary	Other Abbreviations		
EP	Eastern Point, Gloucester	*	first state record (pending MARC review)	
FE	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	!	subject to MARC review	
FH	Fort Hill, Eastham	ad	adult	
FP	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	au	heard / recorded	
FPk	Franklin Park, Boston	b	banded	
G#	Gate #, Quabbin Res.	br	breeding	
GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge	cy	cycle (3cy = 3rd cycle)	
H.	Harbor	d	dead	
HCB	Herring Cove Beach, Provincetown	dk	dark (morph)	
HP	Horn Pond, Woburn	f	female	
HPt	Halibut Point, Rockport	fl	fledgling	
HRWMA	High Ridge WMA, Gardner	imm	immature	
I.	Island	inj	injured	
IBA	Important Bird Area	juv	juvenile	
IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary	lt	light (morph)	
JBBC	Joint Base Cape Cod	m	male	
L.	Ledge	MARC	Massachusetts Avian Records Committee	
MAS	Mass Audubon	max	maximum	
MBO	Bird Observatory, Manomet	migr	migrating	
MBWMA	Martin Burns WMA, Newbury	n	nesting	
McD	McLaughlin Woods	nfc	nocturnal flight call	
MI	Morris Island	ph	photographed	
MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary	pl	plumage	
MP	Millennium Park, W. Roxbury	pr	pair	
MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth	r	rescued	
MtA	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambr.	S	summer (1S = first summer)	
MV	Martha's Vineyard	subad	subadult	
NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord	v.o.	various observers	
Nbpt	Newburyport	W	winter (2W = second winter)	
ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge	yg	young	
Pd	Pond	#	additional observers	

### HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO BIRD OBSERVER

Sightings for any given month should be reported to Bird Observer by the eighth of the following month. Reports should include: name and phone number of observer, name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). Reports can be emailed to [sightings@birdobserver.org](mailto:sightings@birdobserver.org) or submitted online at <<http://www.birdobserver.org/Contact-Us/Submit-Sightings>>, or sent by mail to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 36 Lewis Avenue, Arlington MA 02474-3206.

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 Sean Williams, 18 Parkman Street, Westborough MA 01581, or by email to [seanbirder@gmail.com](mailto:seanbirder@gmail.com).

# ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

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## Edgar Allan Slothman

Edgar Allan Slothman is the pop art persona of Connecticut's award-winning ad agency creative/art director, Don Carter. Inspired by Andy Warhol and Charley Harper — a life-long love of birds and art come together in his graphic reinterpretations of Audubon's classic Birds of America prints. Don has also illustrated seven children's books, created two interstitial series for Disney Junior and is a creative director with Adams & Knight, an integrated marketing and communications firm in Avon.

To see the rest of the Audubon 2.0 series, go to <[slothman.cargocollective.com](http://slothman.cargocollective.com)> 



American White Pelican by John James Audubon

# ABOUT THE COVER

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## American White Pelican

The American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) is a spectacular bird; a flock of these pelicans flying or soaring is a sight to remember. They alternately flap and glide in a synchronous manner, and usually fly in a long line, often in a V formation at the front. Flocks also soar on sunny days, sometimes to great heights. They are highly gregarious while nesting, foraging, loafing, and during migration.

American White Pelicans (White Pelicans) are unmistakable among North American birds. They are large and white-bodied with black primaries and outer secondaries that are in sharp contrast in flight to the white body and the rest of the wings. The bill is huge and bright orange as are the legs and feet. In the breeding season, adults also develop a conspicuous horny, plate-like structure on the top of the bill. Juvenile birds are similar to adults in appearance, but are tinged light gray on the wings and neck. White Pelicans show little or no geographic variation and no subspecies have been described.

DNA studies have thrown the Pelicaniformes into a muddle, suggesting that the Pelicanidae, which includes all of the world's pelicans, is more closely related to the New World vultures and storks than to other members of the former Pelicaniformes such as the frigatebirds, gannets, and cormorants. Sibley and Alquist's DNA studies (1990) led them to group the Pelicaniformes with the grebes, ibises, spoonbills, New World vultures, storks, penguins, albatrosses, and petrels to form the huge order Ciconiiformes. Subsequent studies however have reshuffled the families and orders to group the Pelicanidae with the herons, ibises and spoonbills, and two African single-species families: the Hamerkop (Scopidae) and the Shoebill (Balaenicipitidae). How's that for confusing? These nomenclatural problems are not settled and clearly need to be further sorted out.

White Pelicans breed in scattered colonies across southwest Canada and the northwestern quadrant of the United States as far south as northern California and Colorado. They are migratory except for a year-round colony in Texas and two in Mexico. They winter from California and western Arizona south along the coast to Baja California and El Salvador, or from west Texas east to Florida and south through central and eastern Mexico to the Yucatan. In Massachusetts, up to the middle of the twentieth century American White pelicans were rare, with only a handful of reports. In recent decades however, sightings have been nearly annual along the coast, particularly on Cape Cod and the Islands and at Plum Island on the North Shore.

White Pelicans are monogamous colonial breeders. Courtship and pairing occurs several weeks after arrival on the breeding grounds, which are mostly on low-lying islands. Courtship flights may follow or precede birds strutting single file with heads erect and bills down. Courtship displays include bowing with neck arched, wings elevated at the shoulders, pouch extended, and head swaying. They are generally silent even during courtship. Groups of newly-paired pelicans select a territory and nest site

near other birds at the same stage of the nesting cycle, creating dense synchronized subcolonies that form the greater colony. Pelicans are territorial in the immediate vicinity of their nest, which both birds defend with bill jabbing; they give threat displays with head and bill forward, sometimes with the bill pouch extended ventrally. White Pelicans often share nesting islands with cormorants, gulls, and other birds.

The nests are usually on flat or gently sloping surfaces on the breeding island, usually in sparse vegetation, but occasionally among bushes or trees. The nest is a shallow depression with a rim of gravel or vegetation. Neither parent develops a brood patch, but both incubate the clutch of two chalky white eggs by covering them with the webs between their toes. Incubating birds may extend wings, probably for cooling, and may also flutter the gular pouch to aid in evaporative cooling. The young hatch in about one month. Their eyes are closed for the first day and they are naked, and although they can raise their heads, they are helpless. The chick that hatches first is usually more aggressive, gets most of the food, attacks and pecks the second chick, and drives it to the edge of the nest where it usually starves to death, a victim of siblicide. The surviving chick usually stays in the nest for two to three weeks. When the parents of a sub-colony begin to leave the nests unattended, the chicks wander and form crèches, where all of the young from the colony stay for about a month. Initially, young birds may leave the crèche to be brooded by the parents at night. The parents feed the chicks by regurgitating small fish. As chicks get older, they feed directly from the adult's pouch and eventually feed by reaching down the parent's throat. Both parents continue to feed the surviving chick until it leaves the colony after 10–11 weeks, about a week after its first flight.

White Pelicans feed mostly on fish that range in size from small schooling fish to large bottom feeders. While swimming or floating, they forage in shallow water by dipping their long bills into the water and scooping up fish in their large, flexible pouches. They raise their bills to facilitate swallowing. They are generally diurnal foragers, locating prey by sight, but also forage at night during the breeding season, when tactile location of prey becomes important. They often forage cooperatively, with flocks using coordinated movements, sometimes swimming and circling schools of fish or driving them into shallow water with bills dipping and wings flapping. They often synchronize their bill dipping. They never forage by plunge-diving as Brown Pelicans do.

Nesting White Pelicans are preyed upon by foxes and coyotes, nests are raided by gulls, and young are taken by hawks, eagles, and owls. Human disturbance can be a major problem, often causing colony abandonment. Nesting birds, for example, are often dispersed by the close approach of motorboats. When a disturbed adult leaves the nest, it may result in gull predation or, in hot weather, heat-related damage to eggs or chicks. Habitat loss is also a problem. White Pelican populations declined through the 1950s but have subsequently increased. Protective legislation and public awareness have helped to stabilize White Pelican populations, so there is hope for the continued presence of this most interesting species. 🐦

*William E. Davis, Jr.*

# AT A GLANCE

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June 2019



WAYNE R. PETERSEN

There are groups of birds that some birders try to avoid because they don't enjoy looking at them, feel they are too difficult to identify, or don't get to see them often enough to become familiar with them. In no particular order these groups include female ducks, jaegers, shorebirds, gulls, immature hummingbirds, small flycatchers, and certain fall warblers. Even though most birders seem to have problematic or nemesis species earmarked in their field guide, with a little practice most birds or species groups are usually not as difficult as they are often perceived to be.

Shorebirds regularly appear high on the above roster of species thought to be difficult to distinguish. Even acknowledging that individual perception often translates to personal reality, many shorebirds are not too tedious to identify in the field once a few basic facts are learned. Most readers will realize that this issue's mystery species includes shorebirds of two different species, with plovers and sandpipers representing two possibilities. Plovers (Family *Charadriidae*) characteristically have short, stout bills; tend to have short necks and somewhat angular heads; often have banded underparts; and seldom forage by wading. By contrast, many sandpipers (Family *Scolopacidae*) have slim, pointed bills that are variably straight or curved; have rounder, less angular heads than plovers; and often forage by wading in shallow water. Thus, the long legs, slim pointed bills, and wading behavior of the pictured birds suggest that they are sandpipers rather than plovers.

With sandpipers in mind, another less obvious clue is that the legs appear pale, not dark. In actuality, the long legs on both species are bright lemon yellow—practically a definitive clue that the two birds are yellowlegs in the Genus *Tringa*. Given the dramatic size difference between the two shorebirds, it is equally reasonable to assume

that the left pictured bird is a Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) and the bird on the right is a Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*). The primary object lesson in this month's column is distinguishing between these two look-alike species, much like distinguishing between Short-billed and Long-billed dowitcher, or Downy and Hairy woodpecker.

The Greater Yellowlegs is a tall, lanky, long-necked shorebird with a notably long, slim bill that often has a gentle, but noticeably upturned aspect. The smaller Lesser Yellowlegs, in contrast, has a straight bill and also has a relatively shorter neck than the Greater. More importantly, the longer bill of the Greater Yellowlegs is clearly longer than the depth of its head from front to back. The bill of the Lesser Yellowlegs is very nearly similar to the depth of the head from front to back. In addition to overall body size, this difference in the ratio between bill length and head depth is one of the most consistent features differentiating these two otherwise similar species.

The heavy dark chevrons on the sides and flanks of the larger adult Greater Yellowlegs are also different from the uniform fine speckling on the back and the somewhat uniform gray wash on the breast of the juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs. Even an adult Lesser Yellowlegs in a changing plumage comparable to that of the Greater Yellowlegs would never show the extensive bold chevrons on the sides and flanks exhibited by the Greater Yellowlegs.

In addition to the bill and plumage features described above, the behavior of the two species is different. When foraging, Greater Yellowlegs typically exhibit animated neck-pumping and often run actively through shallow water in pursuit of small fish or tiny shrimp. Greater Yellowlegs also regularly forage in small groups where all members of the flock chase small fish at the same time, thus making them readily identifiable at a great distance. These behaviors are seldom noted in the more delicate and sedate foraging of Lesser Yellowlegs, which sometimes stand in one place and gently probe the mud in front of them, unlike the more frenetic behavior of Greater Yellowlegs.

Lesser Yellowlegs are significantly earlier migrants than Greater Yellowlegs, the vanguard often appearing by July 4 with migration peaking by the third week of July. Sometimes called "winter yellowlegs," Greater Yellowlegs peak considerably later in the summer, with a few individuals regularly lingering along the Massachusetts coast until early winter. Finally, the strident three to four-note *Dear; Dear; Dear* call of the Greater Yellowlegs is very different from the shorter, more mellow and Short-billed Dowitcher-like *Cu-Cu, Cu-Cu* of the Lesser Yellowlegs.

The author photographed these Greater and Lesser yellowlegs on August 27, 2009, at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, South Wellfleet, Massachusetts. 

Wayne R. Petersen

# AT A GLANCE

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WAYNE R. PETERSEN

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

## MORE HOT BIRDS

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In an unbelievable flycatcher double feature, Nancy Maciolek Blake found a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher AND a Tropical Kingbird, both on June 14, both at Mass Audubon's Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary, and at one time both in the same tree! The Scissor-tail only remained in location for one day after its discovery, but word about Nancy's eBird report spread quickly enough that many birders saw it before it left. The Kingbird was far more cooperative, continuing to be seen through at least July 4. Sean Williams took the photos on the right.



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**VOL. 47, NO 4, AUGUST 2019**

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