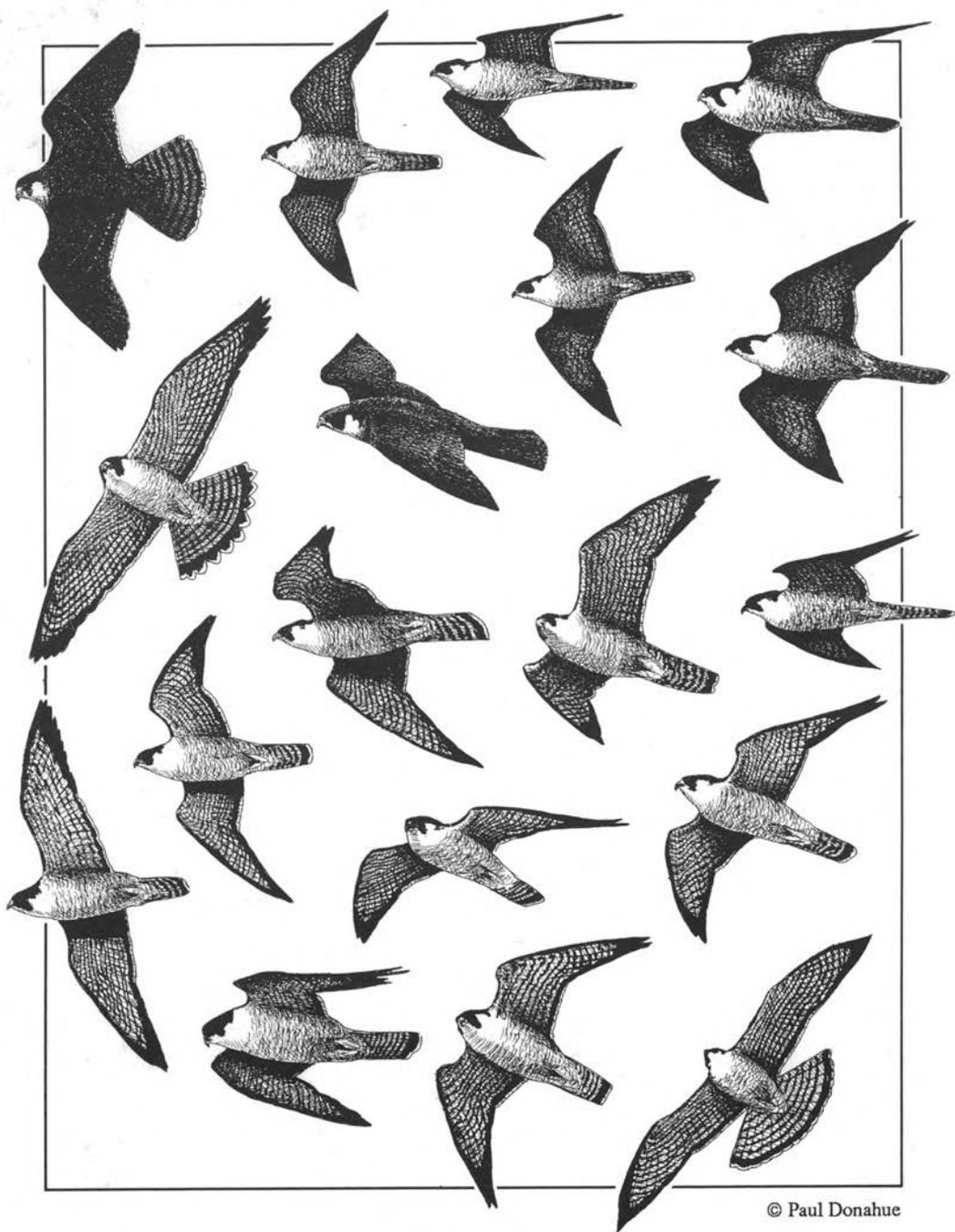


BIRD OBSERVER



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ABOUT BOOK REVIEWS

The number and variety of bird books are almost as wondrous as the number and variety of bird species. In the current edition of *Books in Print*, almost 500 titles alone begin with the words "birds" or "birding." There are countless books in print with other titles and many more volumes no longer in print. How can *Bird Observer* possibly select just a few of the new or old books to tell our readers about?

Perhaps the most important reason for reading (and owning) books is as an information source about bird identification, behavior, and habitats. We will sample from among the many publications on these subjects, selecting ones that offer important information of particular interest to *Bird Observer* readers. Another appeal for many of us is simply the pleasure of good reading on such subjects as bird species, birding personalities, or birding places around the world. We hope to share with our readers some of the adventures, excitement, and discoveries found in books about birds and birding.

Alden Clayton, Department Head, Book Reviews

WHERE TO WATCH BIRDS IN FRAMINGHAM

by Richard A. Forster

One of the most rewarding aspects of birdwatching is monitoring birds on a local basis, be it a yard, a park, a town, or other similar land area. Although the expectations are not nearly as great as a trip to the coast or to a birding hot spot, the discovery of an unusual find is equally as rewarding if not more so. More importantly, the observer becomes well acquainted with the local avifauna and can better assess the reasons for increases or declines of local populations, a major concern for ornithologists and conservationists.

This article will not concentrate on all the birding possibilities in Framingham, Massachusetts. Rather, it will concentrate on a few localities and species of interest that may entice birders to visit the area. I will focus primarily on Callahan State Park (in the northwest portion of town) and the wintering ducks of the Sudbury River. Framingham also has the largest and most accessible crow roost in the state, and observers who have not witnessed this truly phenomenal event have a glaring void in their ornithological experience.

Crow Roost

The precise location of the crow roost has varied in the past decade but is generally in the vicinity of Natick Mall or Shopper's World, large shopping malls located on Route 9 in the Natick and Framingham area. The roost begins forming by mid-October to late October and begins breaking up by early March at the commencement of breeding season. The best time to view the roost is from December through February. The best place to watch the roost is the north side of the Bradlees parking lot adjacent to McDonald's on Route 30. This has been the preferred roosting area for the past few years. Even if the crows do not roost here, a quick glimpse over the vast parking expanses will enable you to locate crows, and you can adjust your location accordingly.

The crows should be on hand by about 3:30 P.M. They utilize a number of staging areas nearby, and there is much movement of flocks from area to area. They become quieter and more sedentary as darkness approaches. Interspersed among the familiar "caws" of American Crows is the distinctive nasal "ka" of Fish Crows. The actual numbers of birds and the species composition of the roost are conjectural, but reliable estimates begin at about 5000 birds with as many as twenty percent being Fish Crows.

For the adventurous a morning visit would provide a different perspective. Arrive by 6:15 A.M. The crows should depart soon thereafter. At this time the crows are extremely vocal, allowing the observer to single out individuals or small groups of Fish Crows. If you are a few minutes late, the crow roost will

seem to be a myth, with only the odd crow remaining to scrounge through the dumpsters.

Callahan State Park

The most consistent location for interesting birds is Callahan State Park, located on Millwood Street on the western side of town. The park can be reached by driving west on Route 9 from the Speen Street intersection in Natick to the Route 30 West exit (2.8 miles). At the end of the lengthy exit ramp, take a right at the stoplight on Edgell Road, and proceed one mile to Belknap Road. Turn left on Belknap Road for 1.1 miles, and take a right on Millwood Street. The parking lot is located 0.6 mile along the road on the left, and is open year-round from dawn to dusk. Alternatively, the park can be approached from Route 20 by going west from Wayland center for 3.5 miles and taking a left at Nobscot Road, a well-marked turn for Framingham. After 2.5 miles, turn right at the stoplight in Nobscot center on Edmands Road. Turn left after 0.5 mile on Winch Street, and proceed 1.4 miles (going diagonally across the stop sign at Grove Street) to the parking lot. The character of the park has been substantially altered since the mid-1980s by the construction of a large dike, but its integrity has been maintained.

Birding Callahan is most rewarding in the fall, but visits at other seasons are not without merit. The area consists of a well-wooded stream bisecting extensive fields bordering a mixed upland woodland. Spring migrants are not noteworthy, but coupled with as many as seventy-five breeding residents, a visit in this season can be fruitful. The most interesting species breeding in the fields are Savannah Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, and Bobolink, while Willow Flycatcher and Warbling Vireo can be found in the trees along the stream. The upper field may host Blue-winged and Chestnut-sided warblers, Brown Thrasher, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Field Sparrow. The uplands, with well-marked trails, have typical woodland breeding species including Black-and-white and Black-throated Green warblers, Ovenbird, Veery, and Wood Thrush. Both Northern Goshawk and Broad-winged Hawk have bred frequently in this area, while Turkey Vulture and Red-shouldered Hawk are not infrequent sights. This diversity, coupled with the occasional migrant (e.g., both Olive-sided Flycatcher and Mourning Warbler on the same day) illustrate the area's potential.

Summer birding is as rewarding as in any area I have encountered in eastern Massachusetts. Most of the aforementioned species can be seen with appropriate effort. But it is the fall season that provides the best incentive to visit the park. Usually some of the fields are planted with crops. It is these areas with their accompanying weeds that are the focus of fall birding, with sparrows providing the major attraction. Lincoln's Sparrow is found from early September to mid-

October. As many as twenty-one individuals have been found in one day in early October. Also present in varying numbers are all the regularly occurring sparrows including Song and Savannah sparrows in profusion. White-crowned Sparrow is present in appropriate seasons, and Grasshopper Sparrow has been seen on several occasions.

Areas to check most intensely are the cultivated fields and the wooded stream. Warblers in surprising variety can be found with diligent searching. In a one-week period the park has produced Western Kingbird, Sedge Wren, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Connecticut Warbler. It is best to check these areas in early morning when the sun glistens on the eastward-facing slope. The fall is a good time to keep your eyes on the sky because the expansive vistas allow for good hawkwatching.

Winter provides little of interest. Canada Geese are found in numbers both in the fields and on the golf course across the street, and Snow and "Blue" Geese have been found. American Tree Sparrow is usually present in flocks, and other tardy sparrows are occasionally found. Northern Shrike is sometimes seen perched prominently in the treetops.

Sudbury River

The Sudbury River, which meanders through Framingham, can provide very interesting birding during the winter. Much of the river remains open even during periods of hard freeze, and a surprising variety of waterfowl can be found. A logical starting place to search for waterfowl is the Framingham/Wayland line at Potter Road in Framingham. To reach Potter Road, proceed west from Wayland center on Route 20 for 2.2 miles, and take a left on Landham Road. Travel down Landham Road (becomes Elm Street in Framingham) 1.6 miles to Potter Road, and take a left. The road crosses over the Sudbury River. Scan the river here for mergansers, Wood Duck, and other species that may accompany the ubiquitous Mallards.

Turn around and return to Elm Street, and take a left. After 0.3 mile, Little Farms Road is on your left. Proceed to the end, and scan the river here. Return to Elm Street, and take a left to Saxonville center (stoplight, 0.6 mile). Go straight, and take your second left on Mechanic Street, which brings you to Danforth Street that crosses over the river. Waterfowl can be found here, and the sloping riverbanks may host interesting landbirds. Turn around and retrace your route to Saxonville center via Mechanic Street avoiding the one-way block of Danforth Street, and go left at the stoplight on Central Street. Proceed straight through the second stoplight for one mile to Wickford Street on your right. Where the road passes over the river, stop and check the numerous ducks here. A local resident feeds the ducks, and virtually any freshwater duck can be found among the Mallards. This is also a good location to look for species such as

Pied-billed Grebe, Ring-necked Duck, mergansers, and others.

Turn around and return to Central Street. Turn right and go 0.3 mile to a small pumping station on your left and park here or on the adjacent Haynes Road. Cross the road and proceed onto the footbridge over the river. Looking to the left provides a good view of a section of the river that usually freezes only during the most severe weather. Hooded and Common mergansers and Ring-necked Duck are often recorded here. Continue on Central Street until it intersects with Edgell Road (one mile). Turn left and follow the signs to Route 9 west. Once on Route 9, go 0.8 mile to the stoplight at Temple Street, and turn left. Go to the end of Temple Street, and turn right on Salem End Road. After 0.1 mile, reservoirs will appear on both sides of the road. The right-hand section often attracts waterfowl, especially Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Common Merganser. Be alert for other waterfowl species, Great Blue Heron, and Belted Kingfisher.

Just beyond the reservoir on the right is a pumping station with a spruce grove. This area has proved to be one of the most reliable locations in eastern Massachusetts in recent years for Boreal Chickadee as well as Red-breasted Nuthatch and Golden-crowned Kinglet. However, selective clearing and damage from Hurricane Bob in 1991 have significantly reduced the density of trees and present a stern test for future attractiveness for these species.

From here continue out Salem End Road, bearing right at two intersections (Parker Road and Gates Street), and follow the signs (poorly marked) back to Route 9. There is a large reservoir here on Route 9. The reservoir hosts good numbers of Ruddy Ducks in October and November and, after periods of rain, is worth checking for other species of diving ducks, Common Loon, and similar birds.

For the past twenty years local birders have conducted a half-day town count in January. The total number of species recorded for these years now exceeds 100, with a great majority of birds found in the areas mentioned in this article. Local birding is not without its own rewards, humble though they may be.

RICHARD A. FORSTER is a frequent contributor to *Bird Observer*. The focus of much of Dick's work has been the Sudbury River Valley and Essex County in Massachusetts.

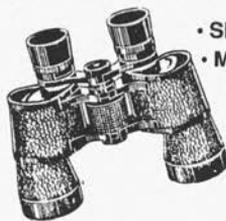
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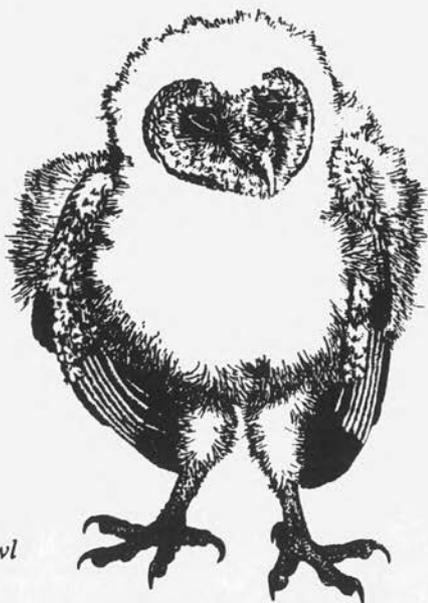
BARN OWLS NESTING ON NANTUCKET

by Edith F. Andrews

Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) have nested successfully on Nantucket since 1987, when Granger Frost provided housing on his property on Madket Road. In 1985 he placed a nest box in an old barn. This was not occupied until July 1987, when Frost discovered a nest with six eggs. All hatched and were subsequently banded.

In 1988 the owls again nested successfully and raised two broods in the barn box with a total of nine young banded. In 1989 Frost placed a nest box in the attic of his house. Almost immediately, this was occupied by a pair of Barn Owls. The barn and house nests raised two broods each, with a total of twenty young banded. In 1990 two broods were raised in the house box and one in the barn box, with a total of fourteen young banded. In summary, through 1990 forty-nine young and one adult were banded, and in early April 1991 both nest sites were again occupied.

On April 24, 1991, I received a call from the owner of a houseboat moored in Polpis Harbor. As he boarded the boat, he saw what looked to be an owl go under the bed. The owner discovered a nest with two young and one egg situated below an open window that had blown out during the winter. He was anxious to get the boat ready for summer occupancy and hoped we could move the owls to another location. We were not sure whether human disturbance had caused the owls to desert the nest, but a check on May 2 found three live owlets and four eggs. The nest was obviously still in use, although no parent was in sight. The



Young Barn Owl

Sketch by Scott Hecker

nest consisted of mouse fur piled on a throw rug, and two dead voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) were off to one side.

We decided to move the owlets to a nest box on the shore of Medowie Creek and hoped that the parents would find them. A call to Donal O'Brien in New York City resulted in permission to place the box on his property. What is more, he offered to have a platform and box made at his expense and to give the project "top priority." Meanwhile the owner of the houseboat was given permission to tie up to a pier near the nest box.

We arranged to move the baby owls to their new home on shore at 7:00 P.M. on May 10. When the owner and a friend entered the houseboat, they found four baby owls and two eggs. There was no sign of either parent. The babies were placed in a canvas bag and covered with a soft towel. The eggs were placed in a cloth bag, and the rug with the nest on it was placed in a cardboard box. (The owner of the houseboat kindly donated the rug to the cause.) The rug went into the nest box first, then the eggs, and then the four young, which were still too young to band. The nest box was closed, the ladder removed, and we stood around enjoying the evening, discussing the situation and hoping that the parents would find their young. The boat owners were anxious to start cleaning up the mess in the houseboat. Excrement and owl pellets were everywhere. Soon after they entered the houseboat, the call came that an owl was on board. The owl was captured and found to be wearing a band. We read the number, took measurements, and found a brood patch. We then climbed up to the nest box and put her in. She made no attempt to fly out but went right to the young and stood there with them. We could not have asked for a better ending. A subsequent check of the band number showed that the parent was banded as a nestling in the house box on October 15, 1989.

The next day, I received a call from the caretaker of a house in Quaise. He found two Barn Owls inside the house in which he had left a window partly open, hoping the squirrels that had gotten in would leave without chewing the window frames. He had already replaced quite a few window frames from squirrel damage. I made a careful examination of the house looking for signs of nesting but found no evidence of eggs or young. From the number of pellets and the amount of excrement, it seemed that the owls had been occupying the house for about a week. Incidentally, the house was reconstructed from an old barn and has a big open space with a high ceiling, rafters, and a balcony along one side. When we entered the house, the owls flew around overhead from one rafter to another, finally settling in an upstairs bedroom.

We arranged to return later with dip net, mist net, and banding equipment to capture the owls and move them to the owl house of a nearby friend. This nest box is located in woods in Squam and has never been occupied by owls. We were unable to contact the owners as they were off-island, but we decided to

release the owls there anyway in the hope that they would find the nest box. The owls were still in the bedroom and, by blocking the doorway, we were able to capture them with the dip net. We found that both of these birds were wearing bands and that they were male and female. The male was banded as a nestling in Frost's barn box on July 15, 1990, and the female was banded as a nestling in the house box on October 13, 1990. We were unable to put the owls directly into the owl house because we did not have a ladder to get up to the entrance. When released, the birds flew off into the woods and were immediately mobbed by crows.

On May 16 I received a call from the owner of a boat in Polpis Harbor in which a pair of Barn Owls were attempting to nest. The boat had drifted ashore during the winter and was marooned on a sandbar. When the tide and wind changed, the boat tipped from port to starboard. There was evidence of a nest on a coil of rope under a bench seat on the port side. Pellets, whitewash, and eggs were scattered across the deck. The boat was aground on a sandbar, but at very high tide and in a strong wind it would roll, causing some eggs to be broken.

The next day, at low tide, we walked to the boat. As we approached, one owl flew off. Another owl was under the seat, standing on the coil of rope. The owl did not move, and we left quickly so as not to disturb it but not before noticing that it was wearing a band. There was no sign of young in the nest. The next day Frost and a friend were able to capture this owl and read the band number. It was banded as a nestling in the house box on June 19, 1990. After reading the band number, the owl was released on the boat and remained under the seat. Only one owl was seen on this day.

We decided to transfer this owl to our home in Madaket where there is a nest box mounted on a shed. Actually the nest box is a well-built doghouse that was found at the dump. By reducing the size of the entrance and turning it around, the doghouse was deemed suitable as a Barn Owl nest box. On May 22, at low tide, we met in Polpis Harbor with the necessary gear for capture and quietly approached the boat, only to find it empty.

On June 7 we visited the Medowie Creek nest box where we found four young owlets, old enough to be banded. They were banded, weighed, measured, and returned to the nest box. At a later date adults were observed flying in and out of the box. Thus, the move from houseboat to nest box on shore was considered a success.

As of August 1991, sixty-five Barn Owls have been banded on Nantucket. With the advent of the nest boxes, the species continues to make a strong comeback on the island.

EDITH F. ANDREWS is an ornithologist with the Maria Mitchell Science Center in Nantucket, Massachusetts. She is a coauthor of *Birding Nantucket* and has been a birdbander for many years.



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RARE BIRD ALERT AT OUTERMOST HOUSE

by Nan Turner Waldron

Note. The following pages are reprinted with permission from Nan Turner Waldron's Journey to Outermost House, published June 1991 by Butterfly & Wheel Publishing, Bethlehem, Connecticut; 112 pages; 16 color photos by the author and 28 black-and-white photos and sketches; \$12.95. This book is available at your bookstore (distributed by Parnassus Imprints, 21 Canal Road, Box 335, Orleans, MA 02653). Copies signed by the author can be obtained from Butterfly & Wheel Publishing, 145 Flanders Road, Bethlehem, CT 06751 (add \$4 for shipping and handling).

Nauset Marsh and the outer beach are known to Massachusetts birders for the oystercatchers, terns, and skimmers of summer, for the hundreds of migrants that stop over in spring and fall, and for the occasional spectacular vagrant. Those whose memories reach back beyond the great storm of 1978 will also recall Outermost House, the tiny house that stood on the sands of Nauset Spit at Eastham, a long mile south of Coast Guard Beach. Built as a working retreat in 1925 by author, editor, and lecturer Henry Beston and immortalized in his 1928 book, *The Outermost House*, this dwelling was designated a National Literary Landmark on October 11, 1964. In 1959 Beston had transferred the property to Massachusetts Audubon Society to be "a refuge and observation station for all good naturalists," with the condition that "there are to be no changes or building on to the house." Thus, Beston's two-room cottage, accessible only by foot or by four-wheel-drive vehicle in an area apt to be awash during high-course tides, remained small (sixteen by twenty-one feet) but could tightly accommodate four congenial folk. There was no electricity: a three-burner stove, light, and refrigerator were run on bottled gas. The well water, supplied by hand pump, was often salty. Every year from late May to mid-October the Society rented Outermost House for two-week periods to hardy members of naturalist inclination, i.e., to people "comfortable in the natural world and experienced in living on its terms." Such a one was Nan Waldron.

In the sixteen years after Henry gave it to Massachusetts Audubon, Nan Waldron "lived in Outermost House a year of weeks, made up of Septembers and Octobers, Aprils and Mays." What it was like to live there, close to the wild shore, is what her book is about. It is a good read—lively and informative, personal but perceptive, and mildly philosophical about nature. Well illustrated by the author's photos—Waldron is an exceptional interpretive photographer—the book offers an aesthetic tribute to the Nauset coast as well as an affectionate acknowledgment of Beston and the house he built.

Although Outermost House is gone, carried off in the great blizzard of

1978, *Beston's volume is still in book stores, issued by Viking-Penguin in paperback as recently as 1988, and the Nauset site still attracts his many admirers. In summer hundreds of visitors ascend Fort Hill to view the ever-changing sweep of the Nauset vista. And the untamed Nauset marsh and shore continue to beckon birders.*

Dorothy R. Arvidson

Nauset never lacked for entertainment. Inside the house or outside, it was always hard to concentrate on reading or writing because there was so much going on which shouldn't be missed. One day a Peregrine, taking less than ten seconds, streaked past the house, low over the grasses, then wheeled back to make a swipe at a tide pool; an explosion of flight and feathers ensued. Now, who would risk missing the next show after a performance like that! So, I filled hours, even days, waiting at a window, on the porch, near the house.

Nauset has always been famous for the number of birds which could be seen there during migration weeks in the spring and fall. The house attracted all kinds of birds. Being way out on the spit, it was one of the few features in that landscape which offered the birds refuge from wind, rain, or sun as well as a plentiful supply of food. It was a great place for insects, and the little birds would scurry in and out from under the house like the "return balls" I played with as a child. And the birds of prey knew a good hunting ground when they saw it; the harrier and the Short-eared Owl would swoop through the yard hoping to surprise one of the smaller birds in the open. Their sudden appearance always startled me. The birds escaped; I wouldn't have.

Once while I was sitting quietly on the porch, a handsome Palm Warbler, who was hunting flies under my chair, hopped to the shelf at my elbow and eyed me quizzically, taking my measure, creature to creature. It wasn't the first time. Once, while I hid in the tall marsh grasses, three Sharp-tailed Sparrows had patiently examined me. Years ago I had had a fondness for Dr. Doolittle and became intrigued with remote possibilities. Now that I have read Michael Road's *Talking With Nature*, perhaps I should omit "remote." In any case, it was just such a mood which enveloped me when I had my first encounter with a "rare bird" whose visit to Henry's "Eastham Sands" became one of my favorite tales from Outermost House.

An October northeast storm had begun to build. The air was filled with spray carried in the wind, and I could hear the thunder of the huge rollers as they piled onto the beach. The marsh was being swept by soggy winds, and the entire scene was a frothy gray—not cold, just heavy and rough. My husband had gone out to look at the surf while I tried to decide whether to curl up with a book or to brave the elements.

Suddenly Ted was yelling from the dune as he raced toward the end of the house where his fishing gear was stored. "The stripers are in!" he shouted. "Right in the waves!" and he was gone.

I grabbed my cameras and ran for the beach—never mind proper lighting, never mind the water. What a sight! There were three excited fishermen, Ted, Dave Getchell and his friend, "Old John," who were out every day, wading into the turmoil where the silver stripers streaked through the waves. The strike was made, and the contest began. I raced back and forth snapping pictures, in and out of the shallows, trying to avoid being hit by a breaker, up on the sand, then into the water. Then I slipped in the liquid sand and collapsed sideways holding my hands over my head to save the film. I headed for the house.

Another outfit solved my problem—I wasn't so sure about the cameras. The little house reeked of wet boots and clothing draped over the chairs. Towels spread on the table served as a drying rack for the cameras after I carefully cleaned them with fresh water. They looked in good shape. Despite all the excitement it was a gloomy day, and rain began just as I finished drying one of the cameras. I could hear it washing down the windows on the north side of the house. Then something landed on the porch.

I listened.

Whatever it was flipped around for a few seconds out of my sight. Then it popped up on the window sill outside, a wet pathetic looking bird. But what bird?



Outermost House

Photo by Nan Turner Waldron

I didn't move.

It was trying to catch flies. Smaller than a robin. A thrush, not one I knew. Then I thought I saw blue—blue! But it wasn't right for a bluebird.

Swish and it was gone. What had spooked it? Was someone calling from outside in the storm? From the marsh road?

I went to the window. There in the wet wind was one huge figure in a yellow slicker (Wallace Bailey wasn't hard to identify) and another person, whom I later learned was staying in a cottage nearby and upon seeing the bird had gone out to call Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary where Wallace was director. I couldn't make out what he was saying so I went to the door.

"A wheatear has been reported. Have you seen it?"

"Does it have any blue on it?"

"Yes."

"You just scared it away. It was right here on the porch."

Wow! A wheatear! Detoured on his flight from Greenland to Europe. I'd never seen one!

I pulled my rainshirt over my head, grabbed the dry camera, and joined the search. FOUND, one wheatear perched on a post a short distance south of the Outermost House. I snapped pictures for the record; the sighting was "authenticated" by Wallace, and the two men trudged back to their cars parked at Coast Guard beach, back to civilization where the "rare bird alert" could be sounded. And then the fun began.

If you readers have never joined a group of avid birders intent upon a sighting for their yearly/life list, let me acquaint you with the symptoms of the Rare Bird Alert syndrome. The various Audubon societies have a special phone service for daily recorded reports of bird sightings. A rare bird confirmation is quickly added to the recording and, in addition, key birders are notified to spread the word. That night of October fourth, the news had gone out. The bird became an instant priority.

While we slept the night away, others cancelled conferences, appointments, and luncheons; checked maps; called airlines or bus terminals; coordinated pickups; packed their cars, drove all night or stayed in motels; and of course studied the field guides, discussed plumage and behavior, and readied equipment: scope, binoculars, camera, tape recorder, reference books, note pad and pencils, and the all important LIST.

The day broke—exploded would be a better word, considering the events—clear and warm, ushering in a spell of glorious weather. A rosy hue was just beginning to spread across the sky when I heard what I thought must be whispering somewhere outside.

"Somebody lives here."

"No, they don't."

"Maybe it isn't the Outermost House."

Obviously it was too dark to read the sign in front of the house at the edge of the road. Whoever they were, they must have driven for hours last night to have hiked all the way out here before dawn. They must be really determined to see this bird.

I dressed quickly and went out—I love the predawn hours anyway. Three people were circling the house—no, make that six, or better yet, once I could see down the road, an open-ended twelve. We were about to be inundated by the greats of the birding world.

The night before I had joked with Ted about whether the fleetest of the BBC (Brookline Bird Club) would be the first to arrive. Not that it mattered, for eventually everybody came. Searchers were everywhere—on the marsh road, around the buildings, scanning the dunes—calling, checking, signalling, persisting. When I found the wheatear I hated to disturb his peace, but that bird performed for weeks, much to everyone's delight. The birders, on the other hand, performed for me.

The report broadcast on the Rare Bird Alert had stated that the wheatear had been seen near the Outermost House. That translated into encyclopedic fact: the bird was HERE! Some groups were so intent upon arriving at the Outermost House that they marched up the road almost as if they had blinders on—right past the favorite perch of the wheatear on the roof of a cottage located a good half mile before this house. I marched them back. As birder of residence, despite the lack of any previous acquaintance with wheatears, I felt inordinately responsible for the success of this entire affair, including the safety of the bird. I became the local custodian for the oral Wheatear Journal, updated hourly and daily. Actually, it was great fun meeting birders. I admired them. For one thing, almost all came on foot, not an easy hike. And they listened politely to my lectures about the fragile terrain, the need for the wheatear to remain undisturbed, the concern for the survival of our native birds, the protection of the marshes then being filled at alarming speed, and the resource value of insects upon which the wheatear was feeding. It has been my experience that birders have been at the forefront of environmental concern, and I have been proud to be counted in their numbers. But after ten days of dawn to dusk patrol, my enthusiasm flagged—for crowds, not for the bird. I pleaded with the gods of the Nawsets to discourage the public by sending great rains. Now I can't remember whether or not it worked. But maybe the bird understood—it departed.

When no one else was around, I had loved watching the wheatear. It was so beautiful in the soft sunlight. I would sit on the sand a few yards away from his perch. He would dash out to catch a moth or cricket, return to his post, tear off the wings and legs and eat. Bird from another land, are these insects familiar to

you? Do you have to improvise or taste-test? What sands were home to you and are you homesick? Can you determine your direction from our unfamiliar heavens? Perhaps you are a vanguard exploring new territory because yours is being destroyed—your last chance to live. Perhaps storm winds caught you as they catch us all. The odds for survival were changed by forces beyond your control. If so, you adapted gracefully within your instinct's pattern. We humans think we are in control. We think your survival matters little in the scheme of things.

You are alone, wandering and feeding, moving among species similar but strange, different from the ones which have filled your life. How have you made your peaceful adjustment, your connection for your survival?

Are you living "by voices we shall never hear"?
Could I, given time, hear them?
Could I wander alone through the winds,
Gathering old connections,
Like a minstrel interpreting old harmonies?
You may be commonplace to some
But if you are gone,
Who will come to Nauset's golden grass
To open a mind to wondering?

NAN TURNER WALDRON spent childhood summers on a farm in the north woods of Maine that led to an addiction to wild places. She became in adult life an active conservationist, a naturalist and birdwatcher, and a nature photographer. For the past twelve years she has communicated to groups throughout New England her enthusiasm for nature by a warmly received annual series of lectures, illustrated by her own photographs screened from twin slide projectors. Born in Malden, Nan graduated from Wheaton College and attended Columbia University School of Engineering. Nan and husband Ted made their home, while their four children grew up, in Sharon, where both served on the advisory board of the Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary. In 1974 Nan's work (public programs, bird walks, and lectures) in support of conservation was recognized by Massachusetts Audubon Society with an Audubon A award, and for ten years as a full-time volunteer, she organized and directed the cataloging of the Natural History Services' slide and print photographic library. Although Sharon is home, Nan and Ted spend off-season months on Cape Cod and Nantucket, pay annual winter visits to Sanibel and Jekyll islands, and spend several weeks in spring and summer in the north woods of Maine.

HOW DO CAROLINA WRENS SURVIVE NEW ENGLAND WINTERS?

by William E. Davis, Jr.

The Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) has expanded its range into Massachusetts during this century and in recent years has become common in the southeastern part of the state. These wrens are largely nonmigratory. They have followed a pattern where they expanded their range for several years and then experienced widespread extermination during severe winters (Bent 1948). Griscom and Snyder documented this periodicity (1955), and stated that the Carolina Wren was at its maximum abundance in Massachusetts in 1954.

More recently Root (1988) suggested that temperature is the parameter most strongly associated with both distribution and abundance of this species. She stated that Carolina Wrens are absent when January's average minimum temperatures drop below 10 degrees F, and their occurrence is irregular below 20 degrees F. Robbins et al. (1986) documented declines in eastern populations during the severe winters of 1976-1977 and 1977-1978, but suggested that Carolina Wrens can survive periods of cold weather if they can find food. In Indiana, even under severe conditions, some wrens survived at feeding stations (Tamar 1978).

Forster (1990) linked the increase of Carolina Wrens in Massachusetts to feeding stations where peanut hearts seem to be a preferred food item. The range expansion of the Tufted Titmouse into Massachusetts has been linked to the increase in feeders for winter birds and hence an increased availability of both animal (suet) and plant (seeds) food (Kricher 1981). Winter feeding by man most likely caused the increase in Blue Jays in North America between 1962 and 1971 (Bock and Lepthien 1976). Clearly, inclement weather conditions, such as ice storms or protracted cold, limit the survival of Carolina Wrens in northern climes, but feeding stations are linked to their ability to survive these harsh conditions.

In recent years the Carolina Wren population in southeastern Massachusetts increased substantially. For example, at least one Carolina Wren has been seen on the Taunton-Middleboro Christmas Bird Count over the past fifteen years, with double figures reported for the past seven years, including an enormous 112 and forty-six reported for the past two counts. The number of party hours was similar in these fifteen years of Christmas counts. Because the most reliable parameter for standardizing count data is party hours (Kricher 1981), the increase in the Carolina Wren population appears to be real. During this period, southeastern Massachusetts experienced some episodes of prolonged extreme cold and heavy snow accumulations. The record-breaking cold of December 1989 appeared not to have a major impact on the Carolina Wren population of

Massachusetts (Forster 1990).

Why are these birds surviving? People have been providing large quantities of bird food for at least three decades. Why do we see a sudden increase in the Carolina Wren population? One possible answer is that the birds have developed the inclination to shift from a largely insectivorous diet in the summer to a more plant-dependent (bird seed) diet in the winter. A shift of this kind could be learned behavior. It would more likely be a genetically controlled predisposition toward a dietary shift in which the birds that possessed this trait would survive and pass it on to their offspring, while those without this trait would not survive the harsh winter conditions.

The Carolina Wren is a largely insectivorous bird. The contents of 291 stomachs of wrens from the southeastern United States, taken in every month of the year, showed about ninety-four percent animal materials, mostly insects. The six percent plant materials were mostly tree and shrub seeds including bayberry, poison ivy, and sumac (Beal et al. 1916). The proportion of plant food rises to eleven percent in winter and falls to one percent in summer (Martin et al. 1951).

Many of our local resident birds substantially change the proportion of plant food eaten during the winter months. For example, the Black-capped Chickadee eats fifty-three percent plant food in winter but only nine percent in summer, the Tufted Titmouse seventy-eight percent in winter and eighteen percent in summer, and the White-breasted Nuthatch sixty-eight percent in winter and zero percent in summer (Martin et al. 1951). Perhaps the successful range expansion of the Tufted Titmouse resulted from its ability to change diets in the winter and take advantage of the bird seed at feeding stations.

We may be witnessing a shift in dietary flexibility in the local Carolina Wren population, a shift that permits their exploitation of feeding station food. If some birds can survive even the most severe winters because they can utilize feeding stations, they would constitute a nuclear breeding population for replacing winter losses.

I first noticed a Carolina Wren at my feeders in Foxboro, Massachusetts, in October 1980. In December I trapped and banded presumably the same bird, using birdseed as bait. I saw the banded bird again at my feeders a week later. I recorded Carolina Wrens at my feeders during most winters since then, and in an attempt to document their use of feeder food, I made notes on their foraging behavior during the winters of 1987-1991. Some typical notes suggest that my Carolina Wrens forage on natural substrate (presumably for spider and insect food), eat suet, and eat birdseed, including sunflower seeds and cracked corn.

12/27/87 Carolina Wren foraging in leaves, lifting and probing beneath them, almost leaf-tossing

1/7/88 Twice in five minutes disappeared into feeder, foraged

heavily under the suet feeder (scraps?), and "nuthatched" around lilac limbs, picking at bark and bill wiping

1/17/88 Wren foraging at base of forsythias and on snow with freshly spread birdseed

2/14/88 Carolina Wren picking at seeds on snow at base of forsythias; Carolina Wren actively eating suet fragments directly under lilac suet sock, as Downy Woodpecker feeds on suet

1/3/89 Carolina Wren on ground ate seven or eight seeds (?); I could see it swallow them in about ten second intervals, foraging like the House Sparrows it was with

1/6/89 Same as above but twenty to thirty pecks in roughly thirty seconds

1/12/89 Carolina Wren pecking through dusting of snow to seeds on ground; flew to sunflower seed feeder and pecked several times and flew off with sunflower seed (?); pecked on ground repeatedly and swallowed; flew to feeder and swallowed two identifiable fragments of cracked corn (among other swallowings of items too small to see)

1/30/89 Foraging with juncos, two Carolina Wrens eating seeds (multiple swallows) on ground under lilacs

2/9/90 Two Carolina Wrens under feeders, rapidly eating seeds of variable size (could see them swallow); one flew off with a sunflower seed

2/11/90 Carolina Wren in one of the Potter trap feeders; made multiple probes, swallowing frequently; must be seeds. Although it was very difficult to identify many tiny objects which the Carolina Wrens ate, they were likely eating small seeds such as millet.

The evidence supporting this suggested linkage between feeder food and Carolina Wren survival is of course only anecdotal, and the hypothesis of increased dietary plasticity is sheer speculation. But some Carolina Wrens utilize bird feeder food in winter, and the hypothesis warrants investigation. It would be interesting, for example, to know what percentage of the Carolina Wrens in southeastern Massachusetts include bird feeders in their territories or shift territories in the winter to include them. Are they as sedentary at the northern limits of their range as they typically are farther south? It would also be interesting to compare survival rates between birds that have access to bird

feeders and those that do not.

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**BOOK REVIEW: A SEASON AT
THE POINT: THE BIRDS AND BIRDERS OF CAPE MAY**

by John C. Kricher

Season at the Point: The Birds and Birders of Cape May by Jack Connor, illustrations by Don Almquist. 1991. New York: The Atlantic Monthly Press. 290 pages; numerous black-and-white illustrations. \$21.95 clothbound.

The season is fall, and the place is Cape May Point, the southernmost tip of New Jersey. Most birders know that this combination of time and place means hawks, frequently by the thousands. Ever since 1937, when Witmer Stone published his eloquent two volume *Bird Studies at Old Cape May*, the birding world has been informed that the narrow peninsula of Cape May acts as a funnel, concentrating masses of raptors on days following the passage of an autumn cold front. In Stone's time, birders were not numerous at Cape May. It was not binoculars but guns that took aim at the Broadwings, Sharpshins, and Peregrines. Fortunately, that era is past. Today not only thousands of hawks but thousands of birders come every fall to Cape May, the latter to bear witness to the migrational peregrinations of the former. We all know that birding has gone big time, and Cape May Point is to birding what Las Vegas is to gambling: you just have to go there, or you have not been.

Jack Connor, a New Jersey-based author (*The Complete Birder*, 1988, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company) and Cape May groupie since he first met Pete Dunne in 1978, has taken on the task of chronicling one full season's passage at Cape May Point. Connor arrives in August, while Victorian Cape May is still crowded with summer vacationers. In September and October the birders come; and he, along with myriads of other birders, scans the sky from the hawk counting platform at the lighthouse, walks the railroad track at the Beanery, and birds the dense patches of shrubs, fields, and hedgerows of Higbee's Beach. Even through November, when most of the birds and virtually all of the birders have left, Connor remains, hoping to see the last hawk of the season.

As the book's subtitle suggests, Connor has really written two books, skillfully and delightfully blended together. He tells the story of Cape May's migrant birds, especially the hawks, but also the owls and passerines. By extensively interviewing the personalities to whom Cape May is "home turf," Connor shares with his readers a solid treatment of Cape May's ornithology. We learn, for instance, that the vast majority of accipiters in the skies above Cape May Point are juveniles. Apparently they come to Cape May but once in their lives, during their first migration. We learn that in spite of the small area of Cape May Point, the actual pattern of hawk migration remains largely a

mystery. Do the hawk counters count the same birds over and over, birds that have flown off the coast, only to have circled back overhead? Connor succinctly summarizes much information from recent research on migration patterns, banding studies, and other aspects of basic ornithology, with particular attention given to raptors.

But Connor is most enthralled by the human sources of his information. The real strength of this book is its emphasis on people even more than on birds. Connor introduces us to Frank Nicoletti, the "Iron Man" of hawk counters, who never missed a day on the hawk counting platform, who put in more than a thousand hours in each of his three seasons as hawk counter, who could confidently separate a Cooper's from a Sharpie even if the bird was so high as to be but a pinprick, but who lost his job because he was too noncommunicative with visiting birders.

We meet Clay Sutton and his wife Pat, two of the finest field biologists in New Jersey. Clay was rather insulted not to be offered the job as first hawk counter when the count was initiated. Instead, the job went to a "kid" by the name of Peter Dunne. On the first day of the hawk count, Clay saw a Peregrine come in low over the ocean. He laughed, knowing the new kid on the hawk watch would miss it. But Pete did not. Sutton and Dunne have been close friends ever since, and, along with David Sibley, published *Hawks in Flight* (1988, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company), a book largely researched at Cape May Point. Connor amusingly takes us to a lecture on hawk identification given by Pete and Clay. They argue over how many trays of slides are appropriate. Sutton prefers four trays, about four hundred slides! Dunne likes the idea of about eight slides total. Sutton prevails, and as the talk goes on well past its allotted hour, more and more members of the audience drift off to a world populated more by dreams than by hawks.

We meet Al Nicholson, the curmudgeon of Cape May, a naturalist, artist, and environmental activist who regularly engages in battle with the County Mosquito Commission (about spraying and ditching salt marshes), and who hates what Cape May has become. He believes that birders get the wrong message about conservation from visiting Cape May. He thinks the hawk count and banding operations ought to stop. Nicholson is not much for compromise. Once he was Clay Sutton's mentor, but the two had a falling out and are barely cordial today.

We meet Paul Kerlinger, the outspoken director of the Cape May Bird Observatory, who is usually too busy addressing envelopes, answering the phone, or selling T-shirts to do the one thing he does extremely well—ornithological research (Kerlinger authored *Flight Strategies of Migrating Hawks*, 1989, Chicago: University of Chicago Press). Kerlinger's passion for research, his knowledge of raptors, and his frustrations at the multiple demands

on his time, are conveyed in Kerlinger's own words, as Connor made a point of being Paul's "shadow" for most of the season. Kerlinger muses that the good hawk flights may be nothing more than a consequence of the birds' hesitation to cross water when there are strong tail winds. Kerlinger argues that the birds do not have the option of turning back if they become exhausted. Therefore, on days of strong northwest winds, they bottle up in the skies over Cape May Point. Kerlinger thinks that on days of easy, warm, south winds the hawks may cross quickly at elevations as high as three thousand feet. The point here, of course, is that if Kerlinger is right, the really good flights would appear to be essentially nondetectable from the hawk counting platform. That would put quite a wrinkle in the justification for conducting a daily hawk count, a program that Kerlinger directs! One high point of the season for Kerlinger came when a Golden Eagle was lured to one of the banding stations and subsequently captured. It is a very rare event at Cape May to capture an eagle. Kerlinger picked up his radio and nonchalantly called the hawk counting platform, dryly reporting, "Houston, this is Tranquillity Base. The Eagle has landed."

We meet many others as well. There is Jeff Bouton, the official hawk counter, who seems to take personal guilt in the fact that the year's hawk count, 43,534, is among the lowest ever. There were 20,000 fewer Sharpshins than average and 7000 fewer American Kestrels. Whatever the cause for these declines, they are probably not related to Bouton. But try to tell him that.

There is Richard Crossley, the British birder who disdains hawks and watches warblers, confidently identifying them as mere silhouettes on the wing. According to the "Brit," Americans put far too much faith in field guides and not nearly enough in eyes and brains. He claims the British are far advanced over Americans as field birders, and only David Sibley really measures up to British standards.

There is Katy Duffy, who bands owls and has documented the migration of Barn, Long-eared, and Saw-whet owls at Cape May. Connor joins Duffy for a celebration of champagne and cake in honor of having banded her thousandth owl in her eight years at the Point. The celebration was necessarily brief, as Duffy had to go out and check her nets.

And then there is Pete Dunne, the golden boy of Cape May, initiator of the World Series of Birding, who, Connor claims, is arguably the second most familiar name in birding (RTP is still numero uno). Dunne, a former carpet installer (who once listed his occupation on a tax return as "professional ne'er-do-well") came to southern New Jersey in 1976, to eventually become Dunne the ubiquitous wordsmith of birding (*Tales of a Low Rent Birder*, 1986, New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, plus innumerable articles in virtually every birding periodical in the United States, including *Bird Observer*, Vol. 9, No. 4, August 1981). The "Dunne Era" so much correlates with the emergence

of Cape May as a modern birding mecca that the Point's recent history is divided into two periods, "BP" and "AP" (Before Pete and After Pete). Though Connor obviously has great respect and admiration for Dunne, he is in no way deferential toward him. Dunne is but one of several people who are the central characters in this book. He is not the star. Connor points out that Dunne, though indisputably a fine writer, lecturer, and photographer (and birder), has an ego that occasionally flies as high as some of the Peregrines that cross over Cape May. The first meeting between Dunne and Maurice Broun (of Hawk Mountain) is an example of Pete's occasional tendency toward arrogance in handling people. Maurice Broun had come to Cape May at the invitation of Bill Clark, who then directed the hawk-banding program, to see for himself that both the banding and counting operations were being well run. Maurice tried to come incognito. When Dunne saw Broun and introduced himself, Broun did not give his right name. Dunne then pretended not to recognize Broun, and asked if Broun had ever been to Hawk Mountain. He then told the unsuspecting Broun, in very purple prose, about how he admired a man named Maurice Broun, "the best hawkwatcher in the world, the Keeper of the Flame at Hawk Mountain, the man he'd most like to meet." Later, when Broun tried to introduce himself to Dunne, Pete brushed him aside with a dismissive wave, saying, "Oh, sit down, Maurice. I knew who you were." Dunne's current concern is over the precipitous decline in numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks at Cape May. He speculates that passerine declines caused by forest fragmentation and outright habitat loss could be responsible.

If you cannot go to Cape May, read *Season At The Point*. Even if you can go, get it and take it with you. Connor has crafted a brilliant book. The birders he profiles are not just any birders. They are not taken from the masses who come for New Jersey Audubon's annual autumn weekend. They are the few, the dedicated, who freely devote one fourth or more of their year, usually at next to no pay, to learning about the birds of autumn. They do not always agree with one another. Clay Sutton still has an extreme aversion to watching hawks captured, handled, and banded. Al Nicholson thinks Pete Dunne has ruined Cape May. But their passion and, underlying it all, their friendships and mutual respect, come through clearly. They share a very special experience, which Connor manages to capture in prose.

The book is free of typos, illustrated with attractive black-and-white sketches, and has a map on the endpapers. There is a brief guide to hawk identification at the end of the book. Unfortunately, there is no index, and a book with so much good discussion of science ought to have one.

As a postscript to the Cape May story, the New Jersey Audubon Society had hoped to construct a new building on Bayshore Road near Higbee's Beach to house the Cape May Bird Observatory, which currently is much too confined,

with severely limited space. To that end there was a proposal to purchase an old twenty-acre farm, to be the new site of the observatory. On July 30, 1991, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported that the local planning board had rejected the proposed building, claiming that the influx of birders would present too much of a nuisance to local residents.

JOHN C. KRICHER is Jennings Professor of Natural Sciences at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, and the author of several books about nature. John is originally from Pennsylvania and has done much birding at Cape May Point and surrounding areas. A frequent contributor to *Bird Observer*, he also serves as department head for feature articles and field notes. His most recent book, *A Field Guide to Tropical Forests Coloring Book*, was published in September 1991 by Houghton Mifflin.

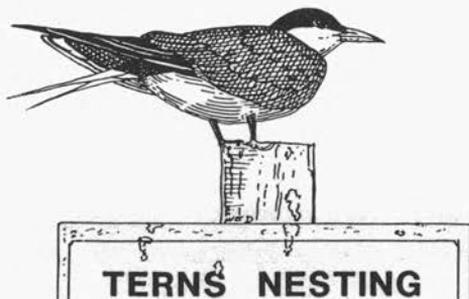
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FIELD RECORDS

MAY 1991

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

May 1991 was exceptionally warm, sunny, and dry. The temperature averaged 63.3 degrees, 4.8 degrees above normal. This month tied with May 1918 as the second warmest May on record. The high in Boston was 91 degrees on May 28, and the temperature reached 90 degrees on May 24. The low mark for the month was 44 degrees on May 19. This was the fourth month in a row significantly above normal. Rainfall totaled only 0.92 inch, 2.60 inches less than average. Sunshine totaled 75% of possible, 17 percentage points higher than normal. The winds were out of the southwest on May 11, 13, 16, 17, 19, and 20. R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

An immature **Brown Pelican** was seen and described from East Orleans. A Least Bittern was reported from West Harwich on May 8, slightly on the early side, and a Tricolored Heron was seen in Fairhaven. An adult **Reddish Egret** was seen and photographed at the Massachusetts Audubon Society Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, only the second record for Massachusetts. Cattle Egrets are becoming less common in the state since they stopped breeding on House Island in Manchester, but they were seen in five locations this spring, including inland in Auburn. At least one adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was noted in the Newburyport-Plum Island area. G. W. G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1991
Red-throated Loon				
5, 14	Revere, P.I.	1, 5	I. Giriunas, D. Chickering	
25	M. V.	1	S. Perkins#	
Common Loon				
14, 19	P.I., Mt. A.	4, 1	D. Chickering, BBC (O. Komar)	
25-26, 30	M. V., Lynn	20, 1	S. Perkins#, J. Quigley	
Pied-billed Grebe				
18	Salem	1	I. Lynch#	
Red-necked Grebe				
9, 27	N. Scituate, Nahant	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, R. Stymeist#	
Sooty Shearwater				
18, 25	Nantucket, M. V.	2, 40	S. Perkins#	
28, 31	Provincetown	6, 9	S. Perkins, K. Jones	
Greater Shearwater				
18	M. V.	1	BBC (D. Davis)	
Northern Gannet				
7	N. Monomoy	300	B. Nikula	
17, 31	Nantucket, Provincetown (R.P.)	150, 4	S. Perkins, K. Jones	
Brown Pelican				
12	E. Orleans	1 imm	J. Dowal + S. Thibodeau	
Great Cormorant				
1, 9	Cohasset, N. Scituate	2, 5	G. d'Entremont#	
12, 18	Haverhill, Lakeville	1, 1	I. Giriunas#, W. Petersen	
27	Newburyport	1 imm	J. Berry	
Double-crested Cormorant				
7, 9	E. Middleboro, Halifax	2, 57	K. Anderson	
American Bittern				
9-18, 18	E. Middleboro, Newbypt	1, 1	K. Anderson, H. Wiggin	
23	Milford	1	T. Aversa	
Least Bittern				
8, 14	W. Harwich, P.I.	1, 1	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
Great Blue Heron				
thr	P.I.	6 max	v. o.	
5	Quabbin (G45)	9 nests	M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1991
Great Egret				
18, 21	Lakeville, Marshfield	1, 1	W. Petersen#, T. Aversa	
22, 25	E. Boston, P.I.	2, 7	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Snowy Egret				
thr	Squantum	17 max 5/18	G. d'Entremont# + v. o.	
5, 7	Essex, E. Boston	20, 44	BBC (J. Berry), T. Aversa	
18, 25	M. V.. P.I.	6, 22	BBC (D. Davis), M. Lynch#	
Little Blue Heron				
1, 1-9	N. Scituate, Squantum	1, 1	D. Brown#, G. d'Entremont#	
16	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher	
Tricolored Heron				
18	Fairhaven	1	M. Boucher#	
Reddish Egret (details)				
12	WBWS	1 ad ph	S. Haley, R. Prescott	
Cattle Egret				
thr	Ipswich	8 max	J. Berry	
3, 5	Nantucket, Beverly	1, 9	E. Andrews# + v.o, I. Giriunas	
6, 22	Auburn, Rowley	6, 2	M. Blazis, H. Coolidge#	
Green-backed Heron				
4, 25	Canton, P.I.	1, 9	G. d'Entremont#, M. Lynch#	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
5, 7	Milton, Squantum	3, 3	G. d'Entremont#	
22	Mt. A., Boston	3, 4	R. Stymeist#, H. Coolidge#	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
18, 19	Newburyport	1 ad	BBC (W. Drummond) + v. o.	
27	P.I.	1 ad	J. Berry	
Glossy Ibis				
thr, 5	Revere, Ipswich	5 max 5/3, 17	J. Berry	
7, 18	E. Boston, Topsfield	10, 15	T. Aversa, P. + F. Vale	
19	P.I.	12	T. Young	

SWANS THROUGH GALLIFORMES

A lone Snow Goose was seen in the company of Canada Geese in Sherborn through midmonth, and a male King Eider was seen at Manomet on May 2. A single flock of roughly 12,000 White-winged Scoters was observed staging on Nantucket.

Ospreys are spreading northward in Massachusetts, with nests in Ipswich and five nests in the Duxbury-Marshfield area. Bald Eagles were seen at five locations, and observers saw Sharp-shinned Hawks and Merlins migrating along the coast on May 5. The Boston Peregrine Falcons fledged three young, and eight other individuals were seen at five locations. One of two Peregrines on Bird Island in Marion, when trapped, was found to have been banded the previous year in Greenland. G. W. G.

Mute Swan				
thr	N. Scituate, P.I.	40 max 5/18, 2	G. d'Entremont#, v. o.	
15	Mattapoisett, Wareham	7, 33	B. Blodgett	
Snow Goose				
5-15	Sherborn	1	E. Taylor	
Brant				
5-14, 5	Newburyport, Lynn	400 max 5/5, 1250	S. Perkins + v. o., I. Giriunas	
11, 15	Orleans, Revere	65, 440	K. Jones, T. Aversa	
23	P.I.	1	G. d'Entremont#	
Wood Duck				
18	E. Middleboro	1 f + 11 yg	K. Anderson	
21	Marshfield	1 f + 14 yg	T. Aversa	
26	GMNWR	1 f + 12 yg	T. Aversa	
Green-winged Teal				
thr	Nantucket	10 max 5/23	J. Papale	
5, 25	Halifax, M.V.	pr, 2	K. Anderson, S. Perkins	
Blue-winged Teal				
2	Wayland, Middleboro	4, 4	S. Perkins#, K. Ryan	
13-27	E. Middleboro	5 max 5/18	K. Anderson	
Gadwall				
thr	P.I.	38 max 5/30	W. Drew	
American Wigeon				
14	P.I.	1	D. Chickering	
Greater Scaup				
5, 11-18	Braintree, Newburyport	10, 1 or 2	R. Abrams#	
Common Eider				
9, 12	N. Scituate, Gloucester	300, 60	G. d'Entremont#, J. + J. Nove	
26	Chatham	250	M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
King Eider 2	Manomet	1 imm m	T. Lloyd-Evans
Harlequin Duck 1-9, 2 18, 22	N. Scituate, Manomet Nahant	3 m max 5/3, 1 m 1 m	G. d'Entremont#, T. Lloyd-Evans W. Petersen, T. Aversa
Oldsquaw 1-18	Newburyport	500 max 5/2	G. d'Entremont + v. o.
Black Scoter 1, 5 10, 22	Cohasset, Winthrop P.I.	5, 2 8, 23	G. d'Entremont#, I. Giriunas T. Aversa#
Surf Scoter 5, 23 2, 22	Winthrop, P.I. Marshfield, Nahant	2, 1 m 1 m, 10	I. Giriunas, D. Brown# T. Aversa
White-winged Scoter 9, 23 19, 22	N. Scituate, P.I. Nantucket, Nahant	25, 75 12000, 250	G. d'Entremont# S. Perkins, T. Aversa
Common Goldeneye 18 21	Newburyport, N. Scituate Ipswich	1, 1 1 f	W. Petersen, G. d'Entremont# R. Stymest#
Bufflehead thr 5	P.I. Braintree, Lynnfield	27 max 5/3 26, 6	W. Drew + v. o. R. Abrams, I. Giriunas
Red-breasted Merganser 2, 8 9, 22	N. Monomoy, Ipswich (C.B.) N. Scituate, Squantum	700, 60 15, 2 f	B. Nikula, D. Rimmer# G. d'Entremont#
Turkey Vulture 2, 3 16, 22 26, 30	Middleboro, Nantucket Wellfleet, Newbury Bourne, S. Dartmouth	1, 4 4, 3 6, 7	K. Ryan, J. Papale R. Abrams, H. Wiggin# S. Perkins, M. Boucher
Reports of 1-3 individuals (10 total) from 6 locations.			
Osprey thr 8, 22 17-19	Duxbury/Marshfield S. Dartmouth (A.Pd.) M.V.	5 nests 7, 8 21 total	D. Clapp LCES BBC (D. Davis)
Reports of 1 or 2 individuals (12 total) from 8 locations.			
Bald Eagle thr 5 6, 11 14	M. V. N. Truro, W. Newbury Nantucket, Quabbin N. Truro	2 imm 1 imm, 1 1 imm, 2 (nest) 1 imm	V. Laux B. Nikula#, D. Chickering J. Papale, BBC (M. Lynch) K. Jones
Northern Harrier thr 3 5-23 8, 20	N. Truro P.I., Ipswich (C.B.) E. Middleboro DWWS	6 5, 4 1-3 1 m + 2 f, pr	B. Nikula# W. Drew#, D. Rimmer# K. Anderson D. Clapp
Sharp-shinned Hawk 5, 8 8, 11 4-27	N. Truro, P.I. Squantum, Quabbin	64 in 4.5 hr, 5 2, 2	B. Nikula, T. Young G. d'Entremont, BBC (M. Lynch)
Reports of individuals from 9 locations.			
Cooper's Hawk 1 12, 28 1-21	Concord N. Truro, Marblehead	1 ad courting display + 1 imm 1, 1	S. Perkins# B. Nikula#, G. d'Entremont#
Reports of individuals from 10 locations.			
Northern Goshawk thr thr	Boxford, Lincoln Holliston	2 pr, pr pr	J. MacDougall#, W. Petersen + v. o. T. Aversa
Red-shouldered Hawk thr, 19 5, 8 3-31	E. Middleboro Quabbin (G45), N. Dartmouth	pr, 3 2, 2	K. Anderson M. Lynch#, M. Boucher
Reports of individuals from 4 locations.			
Broad-winged Hawk thr 8, 11 3-27	Newburyport N. Dartmouth, Petersham	pr 2, 2	v. o. M. Boucher, M. Lynch#
Reports of individuals from 9 locations.			
American Kestrel 3, 10	Ipswich (C.B.), Wakefield	3, pr	D. Rimmer#, P. + F. Vale
Merlin 2-14 2, 5 5-14	P.I. Chatham, N. Truro	7 total 2, 5 in 4.5 hr	v. o. B. Nikula#
Reports of individuals from 5 locations.			
Peregrine Falcon thr	Boston	pr + 3 yg	fide J. Berry

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1991
Peregrine Falcon (continued)				
2, 23; 9	N. Monomoy; Nantucket	1, 1; 1	B. Nikula; J. Papale#	
8, 18	P.I.	1, 1	T. Young, D. Chickering	
8	Chatham, Marion (Bird I.)	1, 2	K. Jones, I. Nisbet	
Ruffed Grouse				
5, 26	Hamilton, Carlisle	5 (drumming), 1 ad + 2 yg	J. Berry, I. Giriunas	
15-18	Reports of individuals from 3 locations.			
Wild Turkey				
2, 14-25	Bridgewater, Sherborn	1, 1	K. Ryan, E. Taylor	
16, 19	Boxford (C.P.), Middleboro	1, 6	G. d'Entremont, K. Holmes#	
20	Bedford	1	L. Anderson	
Northern Bobwhite				
thr	Plymouth	3	G. d'Entremont	
18, 21	M.V., DWWS	18, 4	BBC (D. Davis), T. Aversa	

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

A Clapper Rail was reported from South Dartmouth, and single Common Moorhens were noted at Nantucket and Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary in Marshfield. Three reports of **Sandhill Cranes** from Cape Cod and another from Marshfield, all within a one week span, may have been the same bird.

Piping Plovers were in healthy numbers at Crane Beach in Ipswich and at Allens Pond in South Dartmouth. A **Bar-tailed Godwit** in basic plumage was described from North Monomoy, and single **Curlew Sandpipers** in breeding plumage were seen at Plymouth Beach and at North Monomoy.

An adult **Franklin's Gull** in breeding plumage was seen on two days at Race Point in Provincetown. An immature **Glaucous Gull** was noted on May 18 at Nantucket where a **Glaucous x Herring** hybrid was seen and photographed the same day. **Caspian Terns** were noted at four locations. When two migrant **Peregrine Falcons** tarried and began killing the resident terns at Bird Island in Buzzards Bay, most of the terns deserted the island and dispersed to feed in the waters around Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. By month's end the falcons were gone and the terns had returned.

Late alcids included **Razorbills** at Provincetown, one **Razorbill** in breeding plumage at Stellwagen Bank, and four **Black Guillemots** at North Scituate. G. W. G.

Clapper Rail				
12	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	M. Boucher	
Virginia Rail				
2-17, 22-23	Wayland, GMNWR	4, 5	W. Petersen# + v. o.	
14-22	Lynnfield	6 max 5/14	BBC (W. Van Cor) + v. o.	
7-27	Reports of 1 or 2 from 5 locations.			
Sora				
9-18	E. Middleboro	1-2	K. Anderson	
14-22	Lynnfield	1-3	G. d'Entremont# + v. o.	
2-25	Reports of individuals from 6 locations.			
Common Moorhen				
1, 30	DWWS, Nantucket	1, 1	D. Clapp, E. Ray	
American Coot				
7	Marshfield	2	D. Clapp	
Sandhill Crane				
3, 4	Eastham, Provincetown	1, 1	B. Nikula#, J. Samdahl#	
8	DWWS, Harwich	1, 1	D. Clapp, T. Noonan	
Black-bellied Plover				
thr	N. Monomoy	800 max	B. Nikula	
5-27	Newburyport	1000 max 5/27	J. Berry + v. o.	
16, 23	Squantum, Boston	148, 140	R. Abrams, B. Blodget	
Lesser Golden-Plover				
14, 16	Newbypt, Winthrop	1, 1 ad	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
16		1 ad		
Semipalmated Plover				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	100 max 5/23	D. Rimmer#	
10, 16-31	Squantum, N. Monomoy	50, 15 max	R. Abrams, B. Nikula	
Piping Plover				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	25 max 5/31	D. Rimmer#	
8-31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	11 max 5/30	M. Boucher + v. o.	
9, 27	Nantucket, Plymouth	3 pr, 2	M. Litchfield#, G. Gove	
American Oystercatcher				
thr	N. Monomoy	26 max	B. Nikula	
7, 13	Revere, Orleans	1, 6	T. Aversa, K. Jones	
14	Mattapoisett, Fairhaven	2 pr, 2 pr	B. Blodget	
Greater Yellowlegs				
thr	Halifax	13 max 5/5	K. Anderson	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1991
Greater Yellowlegs 5	(continued) Newburyport, Squantum	375, 85	S. Perkins, R. Abrams	
Lesser Yellowlegs 2, 13 5	Halifax, E. Middleboro Newburyport	6, 7 20	K. Anderson S. Perkins	
Solitary Sandpiper 2 12 11, 15 2-23	Middleboro, Halifax P.I., Arlington Petersham, Topsfield Reports of 1-3 from 16 locations.	8, 6 9, 12 3, 7	K. Ryan, K. Anderson S. Perkins, M. Rines BBC (M. Lynch), T. Aversa	
Willet thr 8-30 3-5, 17	N. Monomoy S. Dart. (Allens Pd) P.I., M.V.	40 max 15 max 5/8 3-6, 5	B. Nikula LCES W. Drew#, BBC (D. Davis)	
Willet (western race) 31	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#	
Spotted Sandpiper 2 2, 9 13-17	Concord, W. Bridgewater Wayland, Mt. A. E. Middleboro	1, 1 1, 2 5 or 6	J. Hoye, K. Ryan G. Gove, S. + S. Denison K. Anderson + v. o.	
Upland Sandpiper thr 4, 14 17, 23	E. Middleboro Nahant, P.I. M.V., E. Boston	2 or 3 1, 1 1, 2	K. Anderson + v. o. SSBC (D. Clapp), D. Chickering V. Laux, B. Blodget	
Whimbrel 7	N. Truro	1	K. Jones	
Bar-tailed Godwit 19	N. Monomoy	1 basic pl	B. Nikula#	
Ruddy Turnstone thr 16-27	N. Monomoy, Ipswich (C.B.) Squantum	300 max, 1-3 40 max 5/16	B. Nikula#, D. Rimmer# R. Abrams + v. o.	
Red Knot thr	N. Monomoy	40 max	B. Nikula	
Sanderling thr 18	N. Monomoy, Ipswich (C.B.) Nahant, M. V.	2000 max, 1-12 350, 26	B. Nikula, D. Rimmer# W. Petersen, BBC (D. Davis)	
Semipalmated Sandpiper thr 14-30, 18	N. Monomoy, Ipswich (C.B.) P.I., M. V.	1200 max, 10-100 285 max 5/30, 25	B. Nikula, D. Rimmer# v.o., BBC (D. Davis)	
Least Sandpiper 1-27, 2-23 5-25 8-22, 18	N. Monomoy, Halifax Newburyport-P.I. S. Dart. (Allens Pd), Nantucket	300 max, 27 max 5/5 2000 max 5/15 38 max, 30	B. Nikula, K. Anderson R. Abrams + v. o. LCES, J. Papale#	
White-rumped Sandpiper thr 11-30 29, 30	N. Monomoy Newburyport-P.I. Squantum, Ipswich (C.B.)	200 max 5/31 15 max 1, 4	B. Nikula v. o. T. Aversa, D. Rimmer#	
Pectoral Sandpiper 14, 30	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 2	D. Chickering, M. Boucher	
Purple Sandpiper 1-18, 15 13, 14	N. Scituate, P.I. Mattapoisett, Fairhaven	82 max, 20 1, 2	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa B. Blodget	
Dunlin thr 2-25	N. Monomoy Newburyport-P.I.	1000 max 500 max 5/14	B. Nikula D. Chickering + v. o.	
Curlew Sandpiper 26, 27	N. Monomoy, Plymouth	1 br pl, 1 br pl	G. Gove# + v. o.	
Stilt Sandpiper 22-30	P.I.	1 br pl	v. o.	
Ruff 1-4, 18	Newburyport, DWWS	1 black (from Apr), 1 f	v.o., D. Clapp	
Short-billed Dowitcher 7-31 11, 16-29 22-25	N. Monomoy Newburyport, Squantum Ipswich (C.B.)	40 max 9, 65 max 5/19 21 max 5/25	B. Nikula S. Perkins#, T. Aversa + v. o. D. Rimmer#	
Common Snipe 1, 8	Quincy, Bolton	3, 1	G. d'Entremont#, T. Aversa#	
American Woodcock thr 10, 16	Plymouth Groveland, P.I.	3 ad + 2 yg, ad + 5 yg	G. d'Entremont T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont	
Wilson's Phalarope 2-31	P.I.	1 or 2	v. o.	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1991
Wilson's Phalarope (continued)				
2, 18	Halifax, Rowley	1, 1 f	K. Ryan#, M. Argue#	
18-22	DWWS	1 or 2	D. Clapp	
Parasitic Jaeger				
16, 25	Stellwagen	4 ad, 1 ad lt	R. Stymeist#, K. Jones	
jaeger species				
18	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins	
Laughing Gull				
11, 16	Newburyport, Lynn	1 ad, 1	W. Petersen#, J. Quigley	
26	Orleans, Chatham	100, 150	M. Lynch#	
Franklin's Gull				
28, 30	Provincetown (R.P.)	1 ad br pl	S. Perkins#, K. Jones	
Little Gull				
2-23	Newburyport	1 or 2	D. Brown# + v. o.	
7, 13-27	N. Monomoy, M. V.	1 imm, 1 imm	B. Nikula, V. Laux	
Bonaparte's Gull				
2-11	Newburyport	500 max 5/2	G. d'Entremont# + v.o.	
27	Quincy	8	G. d'Entremont#	
Iceland Gull				
1-7, 12	Provincetown	2, 1 ad	K. Jones, V. Laux	
2; 18, 27	M. V.; Nantucket	1; 5 imm, 1	V. Laux; S. Perkins#, J. Papale	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
9	Bolton	1 (3S)	C. Quinlan	
Glaucous Gull				
18	Nantucket	1 (1S)	S. Perkins#	
Glaucous x Herring Gull				
18	Nantucket	1 (1S)	S. Perkins#	
Caspian Tern				
1, 8	Plymouth, Ipswich (C.B.)	1, 2	J. Atwood#, D. Rimmer#	
14, 18	Newburyport	1, 1	M. Lynch#, D. F. Oliver#	
25	Stellwagen	1	K. Jones	
Roseate Tern				
8, 17-19	Chatham, Nantucket	8, 300	K. Jones, S. Perkins#	
22	Lynn	1	H. Wiggins#	
Common Tern				
1, 8	Cohasset, Chatham	30, 400	G. d'Entremont, K. Jones	
12, 15	P.I., Nantucket	26, 55	D. Chickering, J. Papale	
26	Orleans, Chatham	200, 100	M. Lynch#	
Arctic Tern				
11; 14, 23-31	Orleans; M. V.	1; 1, 1	K. Jones; V. Laux	
Forster's Tern				
26-28, 31	M. V., N. Monomoy	1 basic pl, 1 basic pl	V. Laux#, B. Nikula#	
Least Tern				
6, 8-31	M. V., Squantum	42, 4 max	V. Laux, G. d'Entremont	
8-22	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	100 max 5/30	M. Boucher + v. o.	
14-30	P.I.	14 max 5/24	W. Drew#	
Black Tern				
11, 12; 13	M.V.; N. Monomoy	1, 1; 1	V. Laux	
27	Concord	1	M. Boucher	
Black Skimmer				
4, 13	Eastham	1, 1	S. Shapiro, J. Cameron#	
5-31	Orleans	1-3	K. Jones + v. o.	
Razorbill				
1, 25	Provincetown, Stellwagen	1, 1 br pl	K. Jones	
Black Guillemot				
9	N. Scituate	4	G. d'Entremont	

CUCKOOS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Black-billed Cuckoos were widely scattered and eight Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported. Four pairs of Barn Owls nested on Nantucket, including one pair that attempted nesting on a barge and another on a boat. The barge "nest" was successfully moved ashore to a nest box, but the boat "nest" was unsuccessful with the eggs already broken when discovered. Of the seven Eastern Screech Owls reported, four were red, two gray, and one unspecified. A Snowy Owl on May 5 was very late departing Cape Cod. Banded Owls were scattered across the region. At least three Northern Saw-whet Owls were heard calling at the Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth, where a high count of 46 Whip-poor-wills was tallied on an evening census on May 23. The Red-headed Woodpecker at World's End in Hingham continued from December until May 1. It attained its adult plumage by mid-April. Another Red-headed Woodpecker was seen in Northboro. A Pileated Woodpecker was reported from Mount Auburn Cemetery.

Small numbers of Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied flycatchers were reported. Sixty migrating Eastern

Kingbirds were counted at Plum Island May 12. Fish Crows showed a strong flight with an unprecedented 19 at Provincetown, 6 in North Truro and one on Plum Island. A Common Raven was reported from Byfield. Carolina Wrens continue to expand their range with birds being regularly seen in Worcester County. Two late Ruby-crowned Kinglets were observed: one on Plum Island on May 27 and another singing at Marblehead Neck May 28. Five American Pipits were reported, mostly from coastal locations. G. d'E.

Black-billed Cuckoo			
12, 14	N. Truro, Georgetown	2, 2	B. Nikula#, M. Lynch#
14-31	Reports of 17 individuals from 14 locations.		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			
15, 21	N. Middleboro, Boxford	1, 2	K. Holmes, R. Stymeist#
18, 21	E. Middleboro, Needham	1, 1	SSBC (K. Anderson), D. Case
25; 25, 27	Concord; Westford, ONWR	1; 1, 1	G. d'Entremont; M. Lynch
Barn Owl			
thr, 17	Nantucket, M. V.	4 n pr, 1	fide E. Andrews, BBC (D. Davis)
Eastern Screech Owl			
thr	Salem, Easton	2 (1 red), 2 red after 5/25	I. Lynch, K. Ryan#
1-27, 13-14	Mt. A., Lynn	2 after 5/22, 1	v. o., J. Quigley
Great Horned Owl			
	Reports of individuals from 11 locations (young from 4).		
Snowy Owl			
5	E. Orleans	1	S. Thompson
Barred Owl			
	Reports of seven individuals from six locations.		
Northern Saw-whet Owl			
thr	Plymouth (MSSF)	3 max	G. d'Entremont#
1, 18	Sudbury, Petersham	1, 1	Mrs. Dietrich, M. Lynch#
Common Nighthawk			
10	IRWS	2	T. Aversa#
12, 14	Norfolk, Worcester	34 migr, 1	K. Ryan, M. Lynch#
21-31	Salem	1-3	I. Lynch#
23, 25	E. Middleboro, Mt. A.	2, 5	K. Anderson, R. Stymeist
Whip-poor-will			
thr	Plymouth (MSSF)	46 max 5/23	G. d'Entremont#
16, 17	Ipswich, Nantucket	3, 25+	J. Berry, S. Perkins
18	M. V., W. Newbury	3, 4	BBC (D. Davis), R. Stymeist
Chimney Swift			
2, 6; 3	Newbypt, Milton; Holliston	20, 16; 16	G.d'Entremont#; J. Hoye
11, 12	Nantucket, P.I.	3, 25 migr	J. Papale, S. Perkins#
Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
9-31	Manomet	17 b	MBO
	Reports of 1-3 individuals (total 19) at nine locations.		
Red-headed Woodpecker			
1, 17	Hingham, Northboro	1 ad, 1 ad	G. d'Entremont#, B. Volkle
Red-bellied Woodpecker			
6, 18-19	W. Newbury, M. V.	1, 12	H. Wiggin#, BBC (D. Davis)
21, 22	Byfield, Mt. A.	pr, 1 m	T. French, M. Rines
26, 29	Middlesex Fells, Norwell	pr, 1	M. Rines, K. Holmes
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
4, 7	Manchester, Worcester (BMB)	2, 1	BBC (G. Holtz), M. Lynch#
Pileated Woodpecker			
5	Lincoln	3	BBC (J. & J. Nove)
12, 16	Mt. A., Boxford	1, 1	W. Drummond#, G. d'Entremont#
19	Milton, Newton	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, O. Komar
Olive-sided Flycatcher			
18, 19	P. I., Mt. A.	1, 1	A. + B. Delorey, L. Taylor#
19, 31	Westminster, P.I.	1, 1	D. Lange, M. Rines
Eastern Wood-Pewee			
19-23, 22-23	Mt. A., Nantucket	3 max, 1	v. o., J. Papale
22, 24	Nahant, E. Middleboro	2, 1	M. Argue#, K. Anderson
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher			
27-28, 29	MNWS, Manomet	1, 1 b	v. o., MBO
Alder Flycatcher			
19, 24	P.I., Boston (Franklin Park)	1, 1	T. Young, T. Aversa
27	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
Acadian Flycatcher			
20, 22	S. Dartmouth, Quincy	2, 1	M. Boucher, G. d'Entremont
30, 31	Manomet	1 b, 1 b	MBO
Willow Flycatcher			
19-31, 19	Milton (F.M.), Wayland	1+, 1	G.d'Entremont, R.Forster
22, 26	Lynnfield, GMNWR	4 m, 3	H. Wiggin#, T. Aversa

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1991
Least Flycatcher				
5	Quabbin (G40), (G45)	20-24, 7	J. Gordon#, M. Lynch#	
11, 16	Georgetown, Groveland	3, 5	H. Wiggins#, G. d'Entremont#	
Eastern Phoebe				
thr, 4	Mt. A., Quabbin (G40)	3 max, 4	v. o., G. d'Entremont#	
5, 27	Medfield, ONWR	4, 7	J. Hoye, M. Lynch#	
Great Crested Flycatcher				
8-23; 11, 19	Mt. A.; Squantum, Milton	4 max; 3, 3	v. o.; G. d'Entremont	
7, 18-19	Worcester, M. V.	2, 4	M. Lynch#, BBC (D. Davis)	
Eastern Kingbird				
3-23; 12, 25	Mt. A.; P.I.	8 max; 60, 21	v.o.; S.Perkins#, M.Lynch#	
Horned Lark				
14	WBWS	1 m singing	T. Aversa	
Purple Martin				
thr, 8, 11	P.I., N. Truro, Nant.	50 max, 3, 1	v.o., B. Nikula#, J. Papale	
Tree Swallow				
8, 9	DWWS, Duxbury	40 pr, 100 pr	D. Clapp	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
5, 15	Ipswich, New Bedford	5, 2 pr	J. Berry, B. Blodgett	
Reports of 1-3 individuals (18 total) from 10 locations.				
Bank Swallow				
2, 5	Wayland, New Braintree	20, 40+	S. Perkins#, M. Lynch#	
17-19, 25	M.V., Bolton Flats	30, 25	BBC (D.Davis), G.d'Entremont	
Cliff Swallow				
2, 9	Wayland, DWWS	2, 5	S. Perkins, G. d'Entremont	
18, 27	Marshfield, Newbury	5, 15+	G. d'Entremont, J. Berry	
Barn Swallow				
2, 12	Wayland, P.I.	70, 110 migr	S. Perkins#	
swallow species				
12	P.I.	600-800 migr	S. Perkins + J. Maloney	
Blue Jay				
12, 22	P.I., Squantum	325 migr, 25 migr	S.Perkins#, G. d'Entremont	
Fish Crow				
thr, 1	Mt. A., Cohasset	8 max, 8	v. o., G. d'Entremont#	
5, 8; 12	Truro, P'town; Boxford	6, 19+; 2	B. Nikula#; R. Stymeist	
19, 21	P.I., Bedford	1, 2	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen	
Common Raven (no details)				
10	Byfield	1	R. McHale	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
4, 11	Quab. (G40), Petersham	9, 6	G. d'Entremont#, M. Lynch#	
Reports of 1 or 2 individuals (11 total) from 8 locations.				
Brown Creeper				
4, 9	Quab. (G40), Middleboro	4, 1 n	G. d'Entremont#, K. Holmes	
23, 25	GMNWR, Concord	2, 4	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont#	
Carolina Wren				
thr, 18-19	Worcester, M. V.	2, 8	M. Lynch#, BBC (D. Davis)	
12, 27	Gloucester, Milton	3, 4	BBC (J. Nove), G. d'Entremont	
House Wren				
thr, 18-19	Worcester, M. V.	7 max, 3	M. Lynch#, BBC (D. Davis)	
5, 6	Waltham, Milton	4, 3	L. Taylor, G. d'Entremont	
Winter Wren				
Reports of 1 or 2 individuals (12 total) from 9 locations.				
Marsh Wren				
7, 14-31	Wayland, P.I.	4, 16 max 5/25	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
16, 23	Lynnfield, GMNWR	5, 8	G. d'Entremont#, M. Lynch#	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
1, 18	Hingham, Lakeville	1, 2 m	G. d'Entremont#, W. Petersen#	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
1-15, 1	Mt. A., Hingham	8 max, 3	v. o., G. d'Entremont#	
27, 28	P.I., MNWS	1, 1 singing	R. Stymeist#, G. d'Entremont#	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
5, 12	Quabbin (G45), Boxford	8, 8	M. Lynch#, J. MacDougall#	
Eastern Bluebird				
2	Marshfield	4 pr in boxes	D. Clapp	
Reports of 1-4 individuals (20 total) from 11 locations.				
Veery				
1, 2-19	E. Middleboro, Mt. A.	2, 5 max 5/10	K. Anderson, v. o.	
19, 27	Milton (F. M.), ONWR	2, 13	BBC (G.d'Entremont), M. Lynch#	
Gray-cheeked Thrush				
14-15, 14	Mt. A., Newburyport	2, 1	v. o., M. Lynch#	
16, 18	MNWS, M. V.	1, 1	P. + F. Vale, BBC (D. Davis)	
Swainson's Thrush				

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1991
9-19, 14 17, 18	Mt. A., Newburyport Boston, MNWS	6 max 5/15, 5 4, 4	v. o., M. Lynch# T. Aversa, W. Petersen#	
Hermit Thrush thr, 1-9 5, 12 18, 27	Plymouth, Mt. A. Quabbin (G45), Boxford Petersham, ONWR	4 max, 3 max 5, 4 m 5+, 4	G. d'Entremont#, v. o. M. Lynch#, J. MacDougall# M. Lynch#	
Wood Thrush thr, 5-15 19, 25	Worcester (BMB), Mt. A. Milton (F. M.), Carlisle	8 max, 5 max 4, 4	M. Lynch#, v. o. G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
Reports of 1-3 individuals (14 total) from 10 locations.				
Gray Catbird thr, 10-16 8; 14, 19	Worcester, MBO Quincy; P.I.	18 max, 94 b 14; 54, 35+	M. Lynch#, MBO G. d'Entremont; M. Lynch#	
Brown Thrasher thr; 2, 6 13, 18	Worcester; P.I., Squantum Halifax, Weston	5 max; 5, 2 1, 2	M. Lynch#; G. d'Entremont K. Anderson, BBC (B. Howell)	
American Pipit 1, 7 13, 15	Worcester (BMB), P.I. Ipswich (C.B.), Nantucket	1, 1 2, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa D. Rimmer#, J. Papale	

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

This spring was especially warm and sunny, and the foliage was two weeks earlier than normal. Migration moved quickly through the area, and little lingering was documented. A total of 35 warbler species was recorded during the month, one more than last May. In Groveland all the "winged" warblers were found in close proximity to Uptack Road. Other unusual warbler reports included Orange-crowned, 2 Yellow-throated, a Cerulean, 3 Prothonotary, 5 Kentucky, 2 Hooded, and 6 Yellow-breasted Chats.

On May 12 a huge landbird flight in Massachusetts was witnessed by two observers from the salt pannes area of Plum Island. The flight was composed mostly of warblers (1500-2000), swallows (600-800), Blue Jays, Eastern Kingbirds, Bobolinks, and American Goldfinches. In the first 2.5 hours from 6:15 A.M. to 8:45 A.M. birds were moving north along the immediate coast from ground level to a height that put them virtually out of sight. The wind veered from southwest to west and increased from 15 mph to 20-25 mph. By 9:00 A.M. almost all the high level flight was over, and the birds that remained were moving north through low vegetation. These birds were almost entirely warblers that came through in loose flocks of 10-20 birds at 5-15 minute intervals and continued at least until 10:30 A.M. Throughout the flight, the observers were impressed by the speed with which all the migrants were moving over or through the dunes. Before 9:00 A.M. few, if any, individuals paused longer than a few minutes before continuing on. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was also included in the big flight!

Other highlights included 3 Summer Tanagers and reports of Blue Grosbeaks from five locations, including one bird in Worcester that remained throughout the spring at Broad Meadow Brook. A Clay-colored Sparrow was well described from Marblehead Neck, and Lincoln's Sparrows were reported from a number of locations.

Finally, in Annisquam twelve pairs of House Finches took up residence behind the shutters of a house which had been closed for the season. During the month, the 24 birds fledged 23 young, with 4 young still in nest and a total of 17 eggs still being incubated.

R. H. S.

White-eyed Vireo 8, 14; 12 18, 26	Mt. A.; N. Dartmouth Nahant, Acoaxet	1, 1; 3 1, 3	S. Denison#, J. Hoye; M. Boucher W. Petersen#, M. Lynch#
Solitary Vireo 1-15, 22; 3	Mt. A.; Milton	15 max 5/2, 1; 8	A. Dasinger + v. o.; R. Abrams
Yellow-throated Vireo 7, 9-14 10-31 15 23	Wayland, Mt. A. Boxford, Groveland Easton, N. Middleboro ONWR	1, 1 or 2 2 m, pr at nest 1, 1 3	G. Gove, v. o. v. o. K. Ryan, K. Holmes T. Aversa
Warbling Vireo 4, 7 9-31 29	N. Middleboro, Wayland Cambridge (Charles River) W. Roxbury	1, 6 6-8 8	K. Holmes, G. d'Entremont R. Styemeist T. Aversa
Philadelphia Vireo 16, 23 27	Princeton, ONWR P.I.	1, 1 1	M. Boucher#, T. Aversa J. Berry# + v. o.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1991
Red-eyed Vireo				
5, 7-31	Quabbin (G45), Worc. (BMB)	1, 6 max 5/15	M. Lynch#	
10-31, 18	Mt. A., W. Newbury	6 max 5/19, 4	v. o., BBC (W. Drummond)	
25, 27	Carlisle, ONWR	8, 32	M. Lynch#	
Blue-winged Warbler				
4, 5	Mt. A., Waltham	2, 1	v. o., L. Taylor	
7	Easton, Bridgewater	1, 2	K. Ryan, K. Holmes	
14, 18	Groveland, Weston	7, 5	M. Lynch#, B. Howell	
21	ONWR	18	M. Lynch#	
Golden-winged Warbler				
2, 10-31	Mt. A., Groveland	1, pr	N. Hill, M. Rines + v. o.	
25, 27	Byfield, ONWR	1, 1	P. Iarrobino, M. Lynch#	
"Brewster's" Warbler				
11-31, 27	Groveland, ONWR	1, 1	v. o., M. Lynch#	
"Lawrence's" Warbler				
9, 18-31	Mt. A., Groveland	1, 1	v. o.	
Tennessee Warbler				
11-22; 10, 15	Mt. A., Worcester (BMB)	7 max 5/16; 1, 3	v. o.; M. Lynch#	
16, 18	Boston (F.Pk), P.I.	4, 2	T. Aversa, BBC (W. Drummond)	
Orange-crowned Warbler				
19	P.I.	1	T. Young	
Nashville Warbler				
1-15, 31	Mt. A.	8 max 5/2, 1	v. o., R. Stymeist#	
1, 3	Quabbin (G40), Ipswich	4, 1	T. Aversa, J. Berry	
5, 18	Quabbin (G45), W. Newbury	8, 4	M. Lynch#, BBC (W. Drummond)	
27, 28	Princeton, Worcester	1, 1	M. Boucher, D. Brown#	
Northern Parula				
1-22, 5	Mt. A., Quabbin (G45)	16 max 5/9, 1	v. o., M. Lynch#	
8, 9	Squantum, Marshfield	3, 3	G. d'Entremont#	
9, 12	Boston (F.Pk), P.I.	8, 45	T. Aversa, S. Perkins#	
12, 16; 15	P'town; Nahant	8, 10; 8	B. Nikula; T. Aversa	
Yellow Warbler				
2, 2-22	Wayland, Mt. A.	3, 5 max 5/19	J. Hoye, v. o.	
8	Quincy	8	G. d'Entremont	
12, 18	P.I.	85, 25	S. Perkins#, BBC (W. Drummond)	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
5, 8-15	Quabbin (G45), Mt. A.	1, 5 max 5/9	M. Lynch#, v. o.	
9, 10	Bridgewater, Milton	1, 5	K. Holmes, G. d'Entremont	
18, 27	P.I., ONWR	16, 12	BBC (W. Drummond), M. Lynch#	
Magnolia Warbler				
thr	Manomet	total 45 b (13 b on 5/16)	MBO	
7, 8-19	Worcester, Mt. A.	1, 6 max 5/9	M. Lynch#, v. o.	
11-31, 12	Boston (F.Pk), P.I.	4 max 5/18, 26	T. Aversa, S. Perkins#	
16, 18	P'town, Nahant	10, 18	B. Nikula, T. Aversa	
Cape May Warbler				
8-15, 10	Mt. A., Brookline	4 max, 1	v. o., H. Wiggin	
11, 15	P.I., Worcester	2, 1	D. Chickering, M. Lynch#	
19, 23	Nantucket, Mt. A.	1, 1	B. Vigneau#, R. Stymeist#	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
2-17	Mt. A.	50 max 5/9	H. Ferguson + v. o.	
2, 12	P.I.	1, 50	G. d'Entremont, S. Perkins#	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
1-19	Mt. A.	75 max 5/2	v. o.	
1-22	Worcester (BMB)	18 max 5/1	M. Lynch#	
4	IRWS, Quabbin (G40)	10, 35	P. + F. Vale, G. d'Entremont	
9, 12	Nantucket, P'town	38 b, 25	E. Andrews, B. Nikula	
12	P.I.	400+	S. Perkins#	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
1, 2-30	Quabbin (G40), Boston (F.Pk)	5, 3 max 5/9	T. Aversa	
5-22	Mt. A.	20 max 5/9	v. o.	
4, 8	Bridgewater, Marshfield	2, 4	K. Holmes, D. Clapp	
10, 12	Milton, P.I.	6, 27	G. d'Entremont, S. Perkins#	
Blackburnian Warbler				
1, 4, 8-23	Mt. A.	1, 1, 4 max 5/10	v. o.	
10	Milton, Boxford	1, 5	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
12, 15	P.I., Nahant	6, 6	S. Perkins#, T. Aversa	
16, 31	P'town, Boston (F.Pk)	5, 1	B. Nikula, T. Aversa	
Yellow-throated Warbler				
16-19, 17	M. V. (Chilmark), E. Orleans	1, 1	T. Rivers + v. o., T. + S. Talin	
Pine Warbler				
5, 12	Lincoln, E. Middleboro	9, 4 m	BBC (J. Nove), K. Anderson	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1991
Prairie Warbler				
4	Bridgewater, Middleboro	4, 2	K. Holmes	
6, 8	Mt. A., Holliston	1, 2	J. Hoye, T. Aversa	
10, 11	Milton, Nantucket	6, 5+	G. d'Entremont, J. Papale#	
17, 28	Plymouth, Groveland	7, 8	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
Palm Warbler				
1, 1-8	Hingham, Mt. A.	3, 2+	G. d'Entremont, v. o.	
4, 8	Wayland, Squantum	3, 1	E. Taylor, G. d'Entremont	
Bay-breasted Warbler				
5, 12-22	Mt. A.	1, 6 max 5/15	v. o.	
7	Worcester (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#	
10, 12	Milton, E. Middleboro	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, K. Anderson	
14	Nantucket, P.I.	1, 8	E. Andrews, M. Lynch#	
16	Manomet, Boston (F.Pk)	2 b, 4	MBO, T. Aversa	
Blackpoll Warbler				
10, 12-31	Norwell, Mt. A.	1, 20 max 5/21	K. Holmes, v. o.	
13, 14	Ipswich, P.I.	1, 2	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
15-20, 16	Nantucket, P'town	4 max, 25	E. Andrews, B. Nikula	
16-31, 22	Boston (F.Pk), Nahant	7 max 5/24, 7	T. Aversa	
Cerulean Warbler				
16	P'town	1	G. Martin	
Black-and-white Warbler				
1-17, 1	Mt. A., Worcester (BMB)	20 max 5/2, 1	v. o., M. Lynch#	
5, 7	Quabbin (G45), Nahant	8, 12	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa#	
9, 10	Boston (F.Pk), Newbury	10, 10	T. Aversa, BBC (W. Drummond)	
10, 11	Milton, P'town	7, 10	G. d'Entremont#, B. Nikula	
12, 27	P.I., ONWR	75+, 7	S. Perkins#, M. Lynch#	
American Redstart				
5, 7-15	Quab. (G45), Worc. (BMB)	4, 7 max 5/15	M. Lynch#	
7, 8-31	Bridgewater, Mt. A.	2, 12 max 5/15	K. Holmes, v. o.	
11-31, 12	Boston (F.Pk), P.I.	11 max 5/16, 20	T. Aversa, S. Perkins#	
22, 25	Nahant, P.I.	10, 32	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Prothonotary Warbler				
2, 11	P.I., P'town	1, 1	P. Files#, K. Jones#	
19, 22-31	Middleboro, GMNWR	1, 1	K. Holmes#, W. Petersen + v. o.	
Worm-eating Warbler				
9	Manomet, Bridgewater	1 b, 1	MBO, K. Holmes	
9-10, 10	Mt. A., Milton (Blue Hills)	3, 3	v. o., G. d'Entremont	
10, 19	Boxford, Milton	1, 1	T. Aversa#, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Ovenbird				
2, 2-22	Boston (F.Pk), Mt. A.	1, 15 max 5/9	T. Aversa, v. o.	
4	Bridgewater, Middleboro	4, 4	K. Holmes	
5	Hamilton, Quabbin (G45)	16, 14	J. Berry#, M. Lynch#	
10, 12	Milton, Boxford	16, 42	G. d'Entremont, J. Berry#	
Northern Waterthrush				
5-9, 8-15	Easton, Mt. A.	1, 3 max 5/9	K. Ryan, v. o.	
15	MNWS, Nahant	3, 4	T. Aversa	
26	Holliston	5	J. Hoye	
Louisiana Waterthrush				
thr	Boxford	5 max 5/12	v. o.	
25-28	Concord (Estabrook Woods)	1	G. d'Entremont#	
Kentucky Warbler				
7	Brookline, Mt. A.	1, 1	H. Wiggin#, A. Dasinger	
17-20, 20-22	Marshfield, Concord	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, K. Harte	
30	Boston (F.Pk)	1	T. Aversa	
Mourning Warbler				
27, 28	Squantum, MNWS	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#	
29	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa	
Common Yellowthroat				
2, 4	Ipswich, Belmont	1, 1	J. Berry, L. Taylor	
5, 7-31	Halifax, Worcester (BMB)	1, 19 max 5/7	K. Anderson, M. Lynch#	
8, 8-22	N. Dartmouth, Mt. A.	6, 18 max 5/9	M. Boucher, v. o.	
12	Boxford, P.I.	15+, 40	J. Berry, S. Perkins#	
14, 16	Manomet	16 b, 16 b	MBO	
27	ONWR	36	M. Lynch#	
Hooded Warbler				
11, 15	Marshfield, Nantucket	1, 1 f b	G. d'Entremont#, E. Andrews#	
Wilson's Warbler				
8-23, 11-18	Mt. A., P.I.	2 max, 2-6	v. o., D. Chickering	
Canada Warbler				
8, 11	Manomet, Petersham	1 b, 2	MBO, M. Lynch#	
12, 14-23	Boxford, Mt. A.	1, 6 max 5/19	J. Berry#, v. o.	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1991
Canada Warbler (continued)				
18	P.I., Boston (F.Pk)	3, 4	D. Chickering, T. Aversa	
22	Nahant, Quincy	4, 6	T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont	
Yellow-breasted Chat				
8, 15, 14	Manomet; P'town	1 b, 1 b; 1	MBO; B. Nikula	
18, 18-31	Nahant, Newbury	1, 1	W. Petersen#, T. Laquidara + v. o.	
29	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa	
warbler species				
12	P.I.	1500-2000	S. Perkins + T. Maloney	
Summer Tanager				
3, 18-20	Nantucket	1 m, 1 f	P. Gardner, E. Andrews#	
9	Eastham	1	K. Jones	
Scarlet Tanager				
7	MNWS, Middleboro	1, 1	T. Aversa, K. Holmes	
7-31, 9-26	Worcester (BMB), Mt. A.	8 max 5/15, 8 max 5/19	M. Lynch#, v. o.	
12, 13	Boxford, Topsfield	16, 5	J. Berry#	
27, 29	ONWR, Annisquam	13, 1	M. Lynch#, H. Wiggin	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
2, 5	Ipswich, Quabbin (G45)	1, 1	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
7-31, 9-25	Worcester (BMB), Mt. A.	6 max 5/10, 7 max 5/10	M. Lynch#, v. o.	
Blue Grosbeak				
2-4, 5-13	Harvard, Vineyard Haven	1, 1	A. Banford, G. Daniels	
9, 10	Eastham, Nantucket	1, 3	K. Jones, J. Papale#	
23-31	Worcester (BMB)	1	fide McMenemy# + v. o.	
Indigo Bunting				
2-12; 3, 15-28	Nantucket; Mt. A.	2 max; 1, 3 max	E. Andrews; v. o.	
19, 29	Newbury, W. Roxbury	3, 2	D. Chickering, T. Aversa	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
thr	Worcester (BMB), Plymouth (MSSF)	14 max 5/7, 7 max	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont#	
Clay-colored Sparrow				
15	MNWS	1 (details on file)	T. Aversa	
Field Sparrow				
thr	Worcester (BMB)	9 max 5/9	M. Lynch#	
Vesper Sparrow				
11	IRWS, P'town	1, 1	J. Nove#, K. Jones	
Savannah Sparrow				
5, 9	Lincoln, E. Middleboro	7, 30+	J. Nove#, K. Anderson	
Grasshopper Sparrow				
17-31, 18	Falmouth, M. V.	4-5, 4	J. Berry# + v. o., BBC (D. Davis)	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
8, 30	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	12, 4	LCES (J. Hill), M. Boucher	
14-31, 22	P.I., E. Boston	15+ max 5/25, 14	v. o., T. Aversa	
Seaside Sparrow				
18-31	P.I.	5 max 5/27	v. o.	
Song Sparrow				
thr	Worcester (BMB)	15 max	M. Lynch#	
5, 12	Lincoln, Gloucester	16, 19	BBC (J. Nove)	
Lincoln's Sparrow				
4	Mt. A.	1	C. Floyd#	
8	P.I., ONWR	1, 1	T. Young, T. Aversa	
10-14, 16-24	P.I., Boston (F.Pk)	1+, 3 total	v. o., T. Aversa	
18, 20	MNWS, Manomet	1, 1 b	W. Petersen#, MBO	
21, 22	Wayland, Lynnfield	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, H. Wiggin#	
Swamp Sparrow				
16, 23	Lynnfield, GMNWR	10, 8	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
White-throated Sparrow				
1-17, 2	Mt. A., Boston (F.Pk)	150 max 5/2, 130	v. o., T. Aversa	
10	Milton, Manomet	19, 50 b	G. d'Entremont, MBO	
White-crowned Sparrow				
2, 9, 13	Mt. A.	1, 1, 1	v. o.	
10	Manomet, P.I.	1 b, 1	MBO, M. Rines	
17, 18	Boston (F.Pk), Nantucket	1, 1	T. Aversa, B. Perkins#	
24	Brookline	1	H. Wiggin	
Dark-eyed Junco				
5	Hamilton, Lincoln	1, 1	BBC (J. Berry), BBC (J. Nove)	
Bobolink				
2, 12	DWWS, P.I.	1, 130 migr	D. Clapp, S. Perkins#	
13	E. Middleboro, Framingham	12, 20	K. Anderson, J. Hoye	
15, 22	Newbury, E. Boston	40, 32	R. Stymeist#, T. Aversa	
Red-winged Blackbird				
12	P.I.	60 f migr	S. Perkins#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
Eastern Meadowlark			
8	DWWS	6+	D. Clapp
Yellow-headed Blackbird			
12, 16-26	P.I., Chatham	1 m, 1	S. Perkins#, P. Trull + v. o.
27	Boston (Castle I.)	1	J. Costelle
Rusty Blackbird			
7	Wayland	5	D. Brown#
Orchard Oriole			
1, 3-11	Brookline, Arlington	1, 2	H. Wiggin, M. Rines
8-14, 9-20	Wayland, Mt. A.	1-3, 1-3	G. Gove#, v. o.
10-31, 12	Cambridge, Boston (Fenway)	3 max, 1	R. Stymeist#, K. Hudson
13-14, 14	Manomet, WBWS	4 b, 1	MBO, T. Aversa
16	S. Dartmouth, Milton	1, 1	M. Boucher, R. Abrams
17, 27	Boston (F.Pk), MNWS	1, 1	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist
Northern Oriole			
2-31, 7	Mt. A., Wayland	10 max 5/17, 6	v. o., G. d'Entremont#
8-31	Worcester (BMB)	14 max 5/15	M. Lynch#
9-31	Boston (F.Pk)	16 max 5/16	T. Aversa
12, 19	P.I., Holliston	10, 13	S. Perkins#, J. Hoye
Purple Finch			
2-7, 2-9	Nantucket, Mt. A.	2 or 3, 4 max 5/2	E. Andrews, v. o.
8, 11	Worcester (BMB), P'town	3, 9	M. Lynch#, K. Jones
House Finch			
thr	Annisquam (one house)	68	H. Wiggin
Red Crossbill			
5	Quabbin (G40)	2	E. Nielsen#
Pine Siskin			
2, 14	Nantucket, P'town	1, 1	E. Andrews, B. Nikula
8, 12	Mt. A., Gloucester	1, 1	W. Petersen#, J. Nove#
American Goldfinch			
12	P.I.	225 migr	S. Perkins + T. Maloney
Evening Grosbeak			
2-19; 2	Nantucket; Mt. A.	10+; 4	E. Andrews + J. Papale; A. Dasinger
5, 12	P'town, N. Truro	1, 1	B. Nikula
12, 18	Boxford, P'town	2 pr, 3	J. Berry#, S. Moore#

CORRIGENDA TO MARCH AND APRIL 1991 FIELD RECORDS (VOL. 19, NO. 4)

Greater Scaup (page 206)			
3, 17	S. Hanson	450, 375	W. Petersen
should read			
Ring-necked Duck (page 205)			
3, 17	S. Hanson	450, 375	W. Petersen
Whip-poor-will (page 218)			
28	W. Tisbury, Nantucket	6, 22	V. Laux, J. Papale
should read			
28	W. Tisbury, Nantucket	6, 2	V. Laux, J. Papale

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD REPORTS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

This publication prints monthly compilations of reports of birds seen in eastern Massachusetts. Space does not permit the inclusion of all material submitted. However, field reports sent to *Bird Observer* are archived at Massachusetts Audubon Society. Our compilers select and summarize for publication sightings that document early and late dates for migratory species, maximum counts of migrants, high or low numbers of some common birds, and species found beyond their normal ranges.

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the next month. Send to Bird Reports, Robert H. Stymeist, 98 Boylston Street, Watertown, MA 02172. Organize reports by month and by species in current A.O.U. checklist order. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, number of observers, and information relevant to age, sex, morph, etc.

Reports of difficult identifications, vagrants, and rarities should include, in addition to the above information, time of day and light available, wind and weather conditions, the optics used and approximate distance from the bird, length of observation, the observer's prior experience with the species, and field guide or other reference used. Provide a description of the bird based solely on personal observation. Comment on the distinguishing field marks (observed and unobserved), vocalizations, activity, general behavior, the habitat in the immediate vicinity, and other birds present. Include with your report documentation such as copies of the observer's field notes and sketches.

FIELD RECORDS

JUNE 1991



by Glenn d'Entremont and Robert H. Stymeist

June 1991 was the warmest June since 1983. The temperature for the month averaged 70 degrees, 2 degrees above normal, the fifth month in a row with temperatures above normal. The high was 97 degrees on June 28, which tied the record set in 1901 for that date. The temperature hit 90 degrees or higher on seven days—more than double the June average of three days. The low was 50 degrees on June 5. Most of the month's warmer weather was accompanied by relatively low humidity, but the heat wave near the end of the month brought a taste of midsummer weather.

Rainfall totaled 2.89 inches in Boston, 0.3 inch less than average. Sunshine totaled 71 percent of daylight hours, the sunniest June since 1983. Thunderstorms were noted on five days. A storm on June 12 had strong winds; in Westwood a small tornado injured three people and tore roofing from an industrial building. Hail three quarters of an inch in diameter fell in the area. Similar conditions were also reported in the Hough's Neck area of Quincy.

R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH MOORHENS

Late summering waterbird species included Red-throated Loon, Great Cormorant, Brant, Bufflehead, and Red-breasted Merganser. Very few pelagics were noted from Stellwagen Bank, although significantly higher than usual numbers of Wilson's Storm-Petrels were reported. There was an unusually high inshore concentration of Sooty Shearwaters feeding on bait fish at the mouth of Menemsha Pond on Martha's Vineyard. Only one Least Bittern was reported from Bolton Flats and none were found on Plum Island! In Norfolk 75 Great Blue Heron nests were counted, and at Gate 45 in Quabbin eight nests with 21 young were seen.

Three young Hooded Mergansers were observed without parents at Bolton Flats, and good numbers of Wood Duck families were recorded. A pair of Ospreys, nesting for the first time in Essex County since the early 19th century, were unsuccessful. The young reportedly died from exposure during an early June storm. In Boston a just fledged young Peregrine Falcon flew into a skyscraper window and died. R.H.S. and G.d'E.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1991
Red-throated Loon 4	E. Gloucester (Bass Rocks)	1	T. Aversa	
Common Loon 9	Dunstable	1	R. Stymeist	
Sooty Shearwater 1, 3-4	Provincetown, M. V.	6, 300+	K. Jones, V. Laux	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel 28, 29	Stellwagen Bank	800+, 250	K. Jones, R. Stymeist#	
Northern Gannet 1, 4	Stellwagen, Rockport (A.P.)	4, 26 imm	K. Jones, T. Aversa	
Great Cormorant 2	Plymouth Beach	1	M. Lynch + S. Carroll	
American Bittern 1-12	East Middleboro	2 max	K. Anderson	
1-16, 22	Bolton Flats, Phillipston	1, 1	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen	
Least Bittern 9-16	Bolton Flats	1	K. Mills (fide M. Lynch)	
Great Blue Heron 14, 24	Lakeville, GMNWR	3, 9	B. Sorrie#, T. Aversa	
22, 25	Quab.(G45), Norfolk	8 n w/21 yg, 75+	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Great Egret thr	Manchester (Kettle I.)	27 pr	S. Perkins, T. Maloney	
Snowy Egret thr	Manchester (Kettle I.)	150 pr	S. Perkins, T. Maloney	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1991
Little Blue Heron thr 16	Manchester (Kettle I.) S. Dartmouth (Allens Pond)	22 pr 1 ad	S. Perkins, T. Maloney T. Raymond	
Tricolored Heron 11	M. V.	1	V. Laux	
Green-backed Heron thr, 20 24	P.I., N. Middleboro Milton (F.M.)	1-2, 1 1	v. o., K. Holmes G. d'Entremont	
Black-crowned Night-Heron thr	Manchester (Kettle I.)	100 pr	S. Perkins, T. Maloney	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 23	P.I.	1 imm	R. Stymeist	
Glossy Ibis thr 15	Manchester (Kettle I.) Westport	12-14 pr 1	S. Perkins, T. Maloney W. Petersen	
Brant thr	P.I.	2	v. o.	
Wood Duck 9-23, 24	Wakefield, GMNWR	22 ad + 18 yg, 60 P. Vale#, T. Aversa		
	Several reports of adults with young.			
Blue-winged Teal 9, 16	Middleboro	pr, 1 m	W. Petersen#	
Gadwall thr, 15	P.I., Acoaxet	19-44, 1	v. o., W. Petersen	
American Wigeon 15	Boston (Franklin Park)	1 m	T. Aversa	
Common Eider 1, 7	Gloucester, Cuttyhunk	100, 1 pr w/8 yg	G. Gove, B. Blodget	
Oldsquaw 4	E. Gloucester	1 m	T. Aversa	
Bufflehead 7-14, 11-17	P.I., Dorchester	1, 1 f	v. o., R. Donovan	
Hooded Merganser 16	Bolton Flats	3 yg	M. Lynch & S. Carroll	
Red-breasted Merganser 2, 14	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	7, 1	LCES (J. Hill)	
Turkey Vulture	Reports of 1-6 individuals (13 total) from six locations.			
Osprey 2, 10 14, 25	P.I., Essex S. Dart. (Allens Pd), Norfolk	1 ad, pr w/1 yg 8, pr	J. Berry, BBC (J. Berry) J. Hill, B. Blodget	
Northern Harrier 6, 13 9	E. Middleboro, DWWS W. Newbury	1, pr 1	K. Anderson, D. Clapp S. Carroll#	
Cooper's Hawk 8, 9 15, 30	Wachusett Meadows, Easton DWWS, Quabbin (Ware)	1, 1 1, 1	M. Lynch#, K. Ryan D. Clapp#, W. Petersen#	
Northern Goshawk 5, 9	Holliston, E. Middleboro	1, 1-2	T. Aversa, W. Petersen	
Red-shouldered Hawk	Reports of 1-2 adults, one w/young, (13 total) from 7 locations.			
Broad-winged Hawk 8-29, 8	Wakefield, Wachusett Meadows	1, 2	F. + P. Vale, M. Lynch#	
Merlin 4	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch + S. Carroll	
Peregrine Falcon 7	Dorchester	1	G. d'Entremont	
Ruffed Grouse 1, 21	Ipswich, E. Middleboro	1 or 2 drumming, 2	J. Berry, K. Anderson	
Wild Turkey 1, 20	Middleboro, N. Middleboro	1 f, 2	K. Holmes#, K. Holmes	
Northern Bobwhite thr, 20 25, 29	Plymouth, N. Middleboro Sherborn, W. Roxbury	4 max, 1 2, 4 singing m	G d'Entremont#, K. Holmes E. Taylor, T. Aversa	
Virginia Rail 1-26, 4 22	E. Middleboro, Bolton Flats Phillipston	1, 4 2 or 3	K. Anderson, M. Lynch# W. Petersen	
Sora 6	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	
Common Moorhen 3, 23	Nantucket (2 locations)	1, 1	E. Ray, D. Braun	

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Late migratory shorebirds were still in our area early in the month, and some nonbreeding birds lingered until late in the month. The appearance of three Hudsonian Godwits on June 25 at North Monomoy may have represented some of the first southbound migrants!

The expanded closure of the beach at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island no doubt contributed to the nesting success of Piping Plover. Seven pairs were reported from the Refuge and 11 or 12 pairs were noted from nearby Crane Beach in Ipswich.

Unusual shorebirds included a breeding-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper present on Plymouth Beach and a Marbled Godwit on North Monomoy.

A Glaucous Gull was carefully studied on Breeds Pond in Lynn on June 17. The observer described, "A wholly whitish bird without any secondary bar or tail band; seen flapping wings while bathing, no brownish on wings or body. Pale bill with darkish tip. Bird was in direct comparison with Great Black-backed and Herring gulls, size larger than Herring Gulls. Head structure more Glaucous than Iceland. Field marks are general; bird was in the middle of the pond."

An adult Forster's Tern was noted along the Neponset River in Dorchester, and Black Skimmers were breeding on New Island in Orleans.

The gypsy moth infestation in communities north and west of Boston resulted in more reports of both cuckoo species. At Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth, Northern Saw-whet Owls were heard and a high count of 52 Whip-poor-wills was tallied on an evening census. Red-bellied Woodpeckers successfully nested in the Middlesex Fells in Medford with fledged young on June 15. R. H. S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1991
Black-bellied Plover				
thr	N. Monomoy	300 max 6/2	B. Nikula + v. o.	
1	Newburyport, Plymouth B.	400+, 53	A. Dasinger, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Semipalmated Plover				
1, 19	Newburyport, N. Monomoy	6, 5	A. Dasinger, B. Nikula	
Piping Plover				
thr	P.I., Ipswich (C.B.)	7 pr, 11 or 12 pr	W. Drew#, D. Rimmer#	
thr	S. Dartmouth, Cuttyhunk	8 max, 7 pr	T. Raymond, B. Blodget	
thr	Fairhaven, Plymouth	1 pr, 3 max	B. Blodget, v. o.	
American Oystercatcher				
thr, 3	N. Monomoy, Fairhaven	30 max, 2	B. Nikula, B. Blodget	
5, 7	Wareham, Cuttyhunk	2, 3	B. Blodget	
10, 18	Eastham, Mattapoissett	12, 6	J. Brown#, B. Blodget	
Greater Yellowlegs				
6	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
15, 25	Wakefield, N. Monomoy	1, 8	P. + F. Vale, B. Nikula	
Willet				
thr	N. Monomoy, P.I.	80 max 6/25, 12 max	v. o.	
1; 2, 14	Plymouth; S. Dartmouth	2; 7, 21	BBC (G. d'Entremont); LCES (J. Hill)	
Spotted Sandpiper				
thr, 1	E. Middleboro, Newburyport	6 max 6/12, 3	K. Anderson, A. Dasinger	
Upland Sandpiper				
thr	E. Middleboro, Newburyport	6 max, 3 max	K. Anderson, v. o.	
Whimbrel				
22, 23	Annisquam	2, 1	H. Wiggin	
Hudsonian Godwit				
25	N. Monomoy	3	B. Nikula	
Marbled Godwit				
19, 25	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
Ruddy Turnstone				
thr, 1	N. Monomoy, Plymouth	220 max 6/2, 25	B. Nikula, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Red Knot				
thr	N. Monomoy	160 max	B. Nikula	
4, 23	Swansea, P.I.	4, 1	B. Blodget, R. Stymeist	
Sanderling				
1, 2	Plymouth, N. Monomoy	20, 800	BBC (G. d'Entremont), B. Nikula	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
thr	N. Monomoy	800 max 6/2	B. Nikula	
1	Plymouth, Newburyport	150, 100	BBC (G. d'Entremont), A. Dasinger	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
1-19, 1	N. Monomoy, Orleans	150 max 6/6, 11	B. Nikula, K. Jones	
1, 2	Newburyport, Plymouth	10, 10	A. Dasinger, M. Lynch#	
Dunlin				
2, 19	N. Monomoy	40, 4	B. Nikula	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1991
Curlew Sandpiper				
1 (from 5/27)	Plymouth	1	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
1	Newburyport, Plymouth	45, 45	A. Dasinger, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
2, 19, 25	N. Monomoy	20, 8, 30	B. Nikula	
23, 26, 29	P.I.	2, 6, 24	R. Stymeist, T. Aversa, G. Gove	
American Woodcock				
9, 24	Littleton, Milton (F.M.)	1, 3	R. Stymeist#, G. d'Entremont	
Wilson's Phalarope				
thr	P.I.	5 max 6/29	v. o.	
Pomarine Jaeger				
12	P'town	1	C. Leahy	
Common Black-headed Gull				
9, 25	E. Boston, Lynn	1, 1	J. Quigley	
Bonaparte's Gull				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	13-36	D. Rimmer#	
19	Lynn (Flax Pd)	11	J. Quigley	
Ring-billed Gull				
5, 26	Ipswich (C.B.), Lynn	300+, 94	D. Rimmer#, J. Quigley	
Glaucous Gull (details)				
17	Lynn (Breeds Pd)	1	J. Quigley	
Black-legged Kittiwake				
1, 4	Stellwagen Bank, Rockport	1 imm, 1 ad	K. Jones, T. Aversa	
Roseate Tern				
thr	Plymouth, Nauset	15 pr, 20 pr	fide S. Hecker	
thr, 4	Marion (Bird I.), Fairhaven	1728 pr, 40	fide S. Hecker, B. Blodget	
Common Tern				
thr	Plymouth, Nauset	2308 pr, 3222 pr	fide S. Hecker	
thr, 3	Marion (Bird I.), Fairhaven	1780 pr, 23 pr	fide S. Hecker, B. Blodget	
Arctic Tern				
thr	Plymouth, Nauset	3 pr, 4 pr	fide S. Hecker	
Forster's Tern (details)				
8	Dorchester	1 ad	R. Donovan	
Least Tern				
thr	Nauset, Hyannis	605 pr, 257 pr	fide S. Hecker	
thr	W. Dennis, Plymouth	185 pr, 145 pr	fide S. Hecker	
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	110+ pr	D. Rimmer#	
Black Tern				
1, 14	Plymouth B., Plymouth	1, 2	BBC (G. d'Entremont), S. Arena	
Black Skimmer				
thr	Orleans (Nauset)	6 pr	fide S. Hecker	
Black-billed Cuckoo				
Reports of 27 individuals from 18 locations.				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
Reports of 13 individuals from 10 locations.				
Eastern Screech-Owl				
1-15	Easton	pr + 3 yg	K. Ryan	
Great Horned Owl				
1, 2	Weston (2 locations)	1, 3	D. Morimoto	
Barred Owl				
3	Easton	1	K. Ryan	
Short-eared Owl				
2, 29	Nantucket (Eel Point)	1	E. Andrews#	
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
6	Plymouth (MSSF)	2	G. d'Entremont	
Common Nighthawk				
thr, 6	Salem, Framingham	2, 1	I. Lynch, E. Taylor	
10	Ipswich, Brookline	1, 1	J. Berry#, H. Wiggin	
Whip-poor-will				
6, 20	Plymouth (MSSF)	42, 41	G. d'Entremont#	
4, 18	Clinton, Yarmouthport	2, 1	M. Lynch#, K. Hamilton	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
thr, 1	E. Middleboro, Middleboro	3, 1	K. Anderson, K. Holmes	
9, 20	N. Andover, N. Middleboro	1, 2	R. Stymeist#, K. Holmes	
Belted Kingfisher				
22	Quabbin (G45)	3	M. Lynch#	
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
thr	Medford (Middlesex Fells)	pr at nest + 2 yg	fledged 6/15 M. Rines#	
16	Boxford	pr	R. Hopping	
Northern Flicker				
8, 15	S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB)	15, 16	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
15, 16	Millis, Norfolk	6, 5	P. Iarrobino	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1991
Pileated Woodpecker				
16, 22	Bolton Flats, Quabbin (G45)	1, 3	M. Lynch#	
25, 26	Acton, Boxford	1, 1	C. Seeckts, T. Aversa	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

A good flight of passerines, especially flycatchers, was noted the first few days of June. At Plum Island five different Olive-sided Flycatchers, three Yellow-bellied, one Acadian, and two Alder flycatchers were tallied on June 1. Other late migrants on Plum island included at least four Mourning Warblers.

Perhaps the appearance of a **Loggerhead Shrike** in Newbury was the most unusual record for the month. This extremely rare coastal spring migrant was present at least on June 8 and 9 in the Pine Island sections of the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Other unusual reports were of a singing Hooded Warbler at Willowdale State Forest in Ipswich, the persistent singing Prothonotary Warbler at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Concord, and the male Blue Grosbeak at Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester, the latter two species holdovers from May.

At Uptack Road in South Groveland, both "winged" warblers and both hybrids continued to be seen in close proximity to the road. On June 8, several birders conducted a survey of breeding birds covering 9 miles along power lines and running through South Groveland from Route 125 to Bear Hill Road. One observer conducted another survey in Millis-Medway and in Norfolk. Power line habitat is especially good for Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Prairie, Yellow, and Chestnut-sided warblers, Field Sparrows, Rufous-sided Towhees, and Indigo Buntings. Unfortunately, the numbers of Brown-headed Cowbirds have also increased along these power lines. A breeding bird survey was also conducted at the new Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Worcester on June 15. The results of each of these surveys are in the records. R. H. S.

Olive-sided Flycatcher				
1	P'town, P.I.	1, 5	B. Nikula, A. Dasinger + v. o.	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
8, 15	S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB)	15, 14	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
15, 22	SRV, Quabbin (G45)	4, 11	BBC (B. Howell), M. Lynch#	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
1	P.I.	3	A. Dasinger + v. o.	
Acadian Flycatcher				
1, 14	P.I., Norwell	1, 1	A. Dasinger, D. Clapp	
22	Quabbin (G45)	3	M. Lynch#	
Alder Flycatcher				
1	P'town, P.I.	1, 2	B. Nikula, A. Dasinger	
2-9, 8	Newbury, N. Andover	1, 1	v. o., R. Stymeist#	
24	Milton	1	G. d'Entremont	
Willow Flycatcher				
2, 9-23	P.I., Wakefield	7 m, 3	J. Berry, P. + F. Vale	
15	W. Roxbury, Worc. (BMB)	4, 2	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
16	Bolton Flats, Middleboro	9, 2	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen	
23, 24	Milton (F.M.), GMNWR	4, 4	BBC (D. + D. Oliver), T. Aversa	
Least Flycatcher				
2, 22	Weston, Quabbin (G45)	1, 9	D. Morimoto, M. Lynch#	
Great Crested Flycatcher				
7, 8	Annisquam, S. Groveland	1, 15	H. Wiggin, R. Stymeist#	
15, 27	Worc. (BMB), Boston (F.Pk)	3, 4	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Eastern Kingbird				
thr, 8	P.I., S. Groveland	28 max 6/30, 17	v. o., R. Stymeist#	
15	Worc. (BMB), Millis	6, 7	M. Lynch#, P. Iarrobino	
Horned Lark				
1, 2	Nantucket, Wareham	3, 2	E. Andrews, B. Blodget	
Purple Martin				
thr	P.I.	30+ max	v. o.	
Tree Swallow				
14	DWWS	60 pr, 115 yg b	D. Clapp	
N. Rough-winged Swallow				
28	S. Carver	pr + 7 yg	K. Anderson	
Bank Swallow				
1, 2	P.I., Tyngsboro	50, 20	A. Dasinger, P. + F. Vale	
14	Scituate	110 pr nesting	D. Clapp	
Cliff Swallow				
14	Marshfield	33 pr nesting	D. Clapp	
Blue Jay				
8, 15	S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB)	30, 23	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1991
Fish Crow thr 2, 21	Mt. A., Yarmouthport Newbury, Wellfleet	8, 3-9 1, 2	R. Stymeist, K. Hamilton J. Berry, B. Nikula	
Common Raven 22	Quabbin (G40), (G45)	2, 6	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
Black-capped Chickadee 8, 15 24	S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB) Milton (F.M.)	25, 26 26	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch# G. d'Entremont	
Tufted Titmouse 8, 15	S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB)	13, 31	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch 9 14, 18	Groton, Harvard Lincoln, Wayland	1, 1 4, 1 ad + 1 yg	L. Taylor# W. Petersen, T. Hart	
Brown Creeper 20, 21	N. Middleboro, E. Middleboro	1 ad + 2 yg, 2 ad + 2 yg	K. Holmes, K. Anderson	
Carolina Wren 9 15, 23	Weston, Easton Worc. (BMB), Annisquam	1, pr + 5 yg 3, 1	D. Morimoto, K. Ryan M. Lynch#, H. Wiggin	
House Wren 8, 15	S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB)	7, 6	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
Winter Wren 8, 15	Princeton, SRV	1, 1	M. Lynch#, BBC (B. Howell)	
Marsh Wren thr	P.I., GMNWR	10+ max, 6 max	v. o.	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 22	Sandwich, Quabbin (G45)	1, 6	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
Eastern Bluebird	Reports of 17 pairs from 10 locations.			
Veery thr, 8 15, 16 22, 24	Sherborn, S. Groveland Worc. (BMB), Norfolk Quabbin (G45), Milton (F.M.)	5, 3 5, 2 20, 7	E. Taylor, R. Stymeist# M. Lynch#, P. Iarrobino M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
Swainson's Thrush 3	Boston (F.Pk)	1 m	T. Aversa	
Hermit Thrush thr 22	Dover-Sherborn Quabbin (G45)	5 or 6 7	E. Taylor M. Lynch#	
Wood Thrush 8, 15 22, 23	S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB) Quabbin (G45), Milton (F.M.)	8, 10 11, 20	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch# M. Lynch#, BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
American Robin 8, 9 15	S. Groveland, Annisquam Worc. (BMB), Millis	30, 25 33, 10	R. Stymeist#, H. Wiggin M. Lynch#, P. Iarrobino	
Gray Catbird 8, 9 9, 15 21, 24	S. Groveland, Annisquam P.I., Worc. (BMB) Boston (F.Pk), Milton (F.M.)	48, 14 36, 33 20, 44	R. Stymeist#, H. Wiggin M. Lynch# T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont	
Brown Thrasher thr, 8 15, 29	P.I., S. Groveland Worc. (BMB), W. Roxbury	12 max, 5 10, 6	v. o., R. Stymeist# M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Cedar Waxwing 8	S. Groveland	26	R. Stymeist#	
Loggerhead Shrike 8-9	Newbury	1	H. Weissberg + v. o.	
White-eyed Vireo 1-16, 15	Newbury, Westport	1, 1	v. o., W. Petersen	
Solitary Vireo 6, 9 10	Weston, Groton Lakeville	1, 1 1	D. Morimoto, R. Stymeist# B. Sorrie	
Yellow-throated Vireo 8, 11 16, 22	Princeton, Boxford Bolton Flats, Quabbin (G45)	1, pr nesting 1, 2	M. Lynch#, A. Caperton M. Lynch#	
Warbling Vireo 6, 15 16, 24	Cambridge, Worc. (BMB) Bolton Flats, Milton (F.M.)	4 pr, 2 4, 2	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch# M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
Red-eyed Vireo 2, 8 15, 22 23	Ipswich, S. Groveland Worc. (BMB), Quabbin (G45) Milton (F.M.)	10+, 19 3, 32 12	J. Berry, R. Stymeist# M. Lynch# BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
Blue-winged Warbler thr, 2 8, 15	Sherborn, Waltham S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB)	4, 3 m 38, 3	E. Taylor, L. Taylor R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1991
Blue-winged Warbler (continued)				
15, 16	Millis, Norfolk	3, 2	P. Iarrobino	
Golden-winged Warbler				
thr	Groveland	pr	v. o.	
"Brewster's" Warbler				
thr, 14	Groveland, Lincoln	1, 1	v. o., W. Petersen	
"Lawrence's" Warbler				
thr, 15-30	Groveland, Milton	1, 1	v. o., P. O'Neill + v. o.	
Northern Parula				
15	Osterville, Barnstable	1, 1	B. Nikula#	
Yellow Warbler				
thr	P.I., Milton (F.M.)	33 max 6/9, 28 max 6/24	M. Lynch# + v. o., G. d'Entremont	
8, 15	S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB)	59, 13	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
15, 16	Millis, Norfolk	5, 6	P. Iarrobino	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
8, 22	S. Groveland, Quabbin (G45)	41, 10	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch#	
Magnolia Warbler				
1	Weston	1	D. Morimoto	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
1, 22	Weston, Quabbin (G45)	1, 1	D. Morimoto, M. Lynch#	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
8, 9	Princeton, Dunstable	2, 2 pr	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
22	Quabbin (G45)	10	M. Lynch#	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
9	Harvard, Groton	2, 1	L. Taylor#	
16, 22	Bolton, Mashpee	1, 1	L. Taylor#, B. Nikula	
Blackburnian Warbler				
1, 22	P.I., Quabbin (G45)	5, 8	P. + F. Vale, M. Lynch#	
Pine Warbler				
1, 22	Plymouth, Quabbin (G45)	10, 5	BBC (G. d'Entremont), M. Lynch#	
Prairie Warbler				
8	S. Groveland, Newbury	42, 4	R. Stymeist#, J. Berry	
15, 16	Millis, Norfolk	5, 7	P. Iarrobino	
Blackpoll Warbler				
1, 24-27	Boston (F.Pk)	3, 1 m singing	T. Aversa	
1, 9	Weston, P.I.	2, 1	D. Morimoto, M. Lynch#	
Cerulean Warbler				
29	Princeton	1 m	B. Van Dusen	
Black-and-white Warbler				
8, 9	S. Groveland, Groton	15, 2	R. Stymeist#, L. Taylor#	
American Redstart				
1, 9, 23	P.I.	30, 13, 1 fledged yg	v. o.	
8, 22	S. Groveland, Quabbin (G45)	5, 23	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
Worm-eating Warbler				
6	Weston	1 m singing	D. Morimoto	
Prothonotary Warbler				
thr	GMNWR	1 m	v. o.	
Ovenbird				
thr, 6	Sherborn, E. Middleboro	3, 9	E. Taylor, K. Anderson	
8, 15	S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB)	18, 3	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
16, 22	Norfolk, Quabbin (G45)	3, 33	P. Iarrobino, M. Lynch#	
Northern Waterthrush				
5, 6	Holliston, E. Middleboro	7, 3	T. Aversa, K. Anderson	
14	Lakeville	1	B. Sorrie	
Mourning Warbler				
1, 2	P.I.	4, 3	A. Dasinger, J. Berry + v. o.	
2, 6, 9	Newbury, Mt. A., Weston	1 or 2, 1, 1	J. Berry#, R. Stymeist#, D. Morimoto	
Common Yellowthroat				
8, 9	S. Groveland, P.I.	78, 36	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
15	Worc. (BMB), P.I.	44, 7	M. Lynch#, P. Iarrobino	
22, 24	Quabbin (G45), Milton (F.M.)	22, 72	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
29	West Roxbury (landfill)	40	T. Aversa	
Hooded Warbler				
1-2	Ipswich (Willowdale S.F.)	1 m	J. Berry	
Wilson's Warbler				
1	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale	
Canada Warbler				
1, 14	P.I., Lakeville	3, 2+ m	A. Dasinger, B. Sorrie#	
Yellow-breasted Chat				
1-8	Newbury	1 or 2	v. o.	
Scarlet Tanager				
thr, 8	Sherborn, S. Groveland	15, 25	E. Taylor, R. Stymeist#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1991
Scarlet Tanager (continued)				
15	Worc. (BMB), Millis	5, 3	M. Lynch#, P. Iarrobino	
22, 24	Quabbin (G45), Milton (F.M.)	17, 4	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
Northern Cardinal				
8, 15	S. Groveland, Millis	5, 5	R. Stymeist#, P. Iarrobino	
15	Worc. (BMB)	9	M. Lynch#	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
thr, 8	Sherborn, S. Groveland	15, 13	E. Taylor, R. Stymeist#	
15, 24	Worc. (BMB), Milton (F.M.)	5, 6	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
Blue Grosbeak				
thr	Worc. (BMB)	1 from 5/23	v. o.	
Indigo Bunting				
1, 3	Bridgewater, Boston (F.Pk)	2, 2	K. Holmes, T. Aversa	
7, 8	Ipswich, S. Groveland	4, 11	J. Berry, R. Stymeist#	
15	W. Roxbury, Worc. (BMB)	7, 4	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
thr, 8	Sherborn, Newbury	8, 8	E. Taylor, J. Berry	
8, 15	S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB)	66, 17	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
15, 16	Millis, Norfolk	3, 4	P. Iarrobino	
Field Sparrow				
8, 15	S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB)	65, 11	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
15, 16	Millis, Norfolk	8, 13	P. Iarrobino	
Vesper Sparrow				
1, 14	Plymouth, P'town	1, 2	BBC (G. d'Entremont), K. Jones	
Lark Sparrow				
5	Dorchester	1 ad (details)	R. Donovan	
Grasshopper Sparrow				
thr	Falmouth (Crane)	4+	v. o.	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
thr	P.I.	11 max 6/9	v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	39 max 6/14	LCES (J. Hill)	
Seaside Sparrow				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5 max	LCES (J. Hill)	
Song Sparrow				
2, 8	Annisquam, S. Groveland	12, 25	H. Wiggin, R. Stymeist	
15	Worc. (BMB), Millis	29, 6	M. Lynch#, P. Iarrobino	
16	Norfolk, Bolton Flats	2, 15	P. Iarrobino, M. Lynch#	
24	Milton (F.M.)	47	G. d'Entremont	
Swamp Sparrow				
thr, 24	Sherborn, Milton (F.M.)	12, 7	E. Taylor, G. d'Entremont	
White-throated Sparrow				
8, 20	Princeton, Wellfleet	3, 1	M. Lynch#, K. Jones	
21	Boston (Fenway)	1 singing	K. Hudson	
Dark-eyed Junco				
8	Princeton	1	M. Lynch#	
Bobolink				
7, 9	P'town, E. Boston	6 mig, 1	K. Jones, T. Aversa	
Common Grackle				
8, 15	S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB)	54, 37	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
30	Framingham (roost)	500	E. Taylor	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
8, 15	S. Groveland, Millis	46, 13	R. Stymeist#, P. Iarrobino	
15	Worc. (BMB)	14 + 2 yg fed by	Eastern Phoebe M. Lynch#	
Orchard Oriole				
1, 7	Halifax, Boston (F.Pk)	1, pr at nest	K. Holmes, T. Aversa	
8, 15	S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB)	1 m, 1 f with food	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
30	Lexington	1 imm m	L. Taylor	
Northern Oriole				
8, 15	S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB)	55, 11	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
15, 16	Millis, Norfolk	8, 1	P. Iarrobino	
Pine Siskin				
8	Princeton	4	M. Lynch#	
Evening Grosbeak				
14-18	Nantucket	1 f	E. Andrews#	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

ABOUT THE COVER: PEREGRINE FALCON

This past June I was driving to Logan Airport in Boston. Just before leaving the Central Artery to enter the Callahan Tunnel, I glanced up at the Custom House clock tower and saw the silhouette of a perched Peregrine Falcon against the sky, motionless like some fantastic gargoyle on a French cathedral. It reminded me of forty years ago when, as a boy, I watched Peregrines on Harvard University's Memorial Hall near Harvard Yard. They disappeared soon after and were gradually followed into oblivion by most of the population of the eastern race of the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), victims of chlorinated hydrocarbon chemical exposures. They had nested in about one dozen aeries in Massachusetts through the 1930s. Fortunately, the arctic breeding Peregrines have substantially recovered in recent years. The gargoyle bird on the Custom House is the product of the captive breeding and reintroduction program pioneered by Tom Cade at Cornell University.

The Peregrine is a spectacular bird and was the favored falcon of noblemen and kings for many centuries. There are nearly twenty subspecies, and the species has a worldwide distribution that is more extensive than any other avian species. Peregrines are considered by many to be the fastest flyers of any birds, occasionally achieving speeds of up to 200 mph in stoop dives. They are the consummate flyers and hunters, preying mostly on shorebirds, waterfowl, and a variety of other birds. They attack their prey in direct chases, usually ending with the Peregrine overtaking and grasping the victim in its talons, or in spectacular stoop dives in which the prey is usually captured by either grasping or by a direct strike on the head or back with open talons. They have been known to kill birds considerably larger than themselves with these stoops. Undoubtedly, gravity is used to accelerate the falcon and thus markedly increase the force with which it strikes. Northern Harriers, Snowy Owls, and Red-tailed Hawks are among the reported victims.

Spectacular flight also plays a role in Peregrine courtship. Courtship may take several weeks and typically involves a variety of courtship flights. The birds may tumble together from great heights or swoop down on each other. The tercel (male) may display by diving or plunging on tucked wings; by doing loops, rolls, and zigzags; or by soaring in tight circles. A variety of vocalizations may accompany the display flights, including one that sounds something like the swinging of a rusty gate. The tercel often delivers food to the female, typically dropping the prey to her while flying above her.

Most Peregrine Falcons nest in aeries on cliff shelves. The nest is a mere scrape in the debris on the shelf, and the usual clutch size is three or four red and brown spotted cream-colored eggs. Both sexes incubate, but the tercel is the first to hunt, and he brings his kill to the female. Peregrine eggs hatch in about a

month, and the young birds are flying in about five to six weeks.

Peregrine identification usually should not be a problem. They are mid- to large-sized falcons, with the male much smaller than the female. The immature birds are brown above, while adults are blue-gray. Both adults and immature birds appear heavily streaked below, but adults have a striking white chest and throat. All Peregrines have a distinctive black mustache stripe. At a great distance both sexes usually appear uniformly dark. They have the typical pointed falcon wings but appear chunky. Their flight is distinctive, with shallow and rapid strokes, similar to those of cormorants and Common Loons. They often alternate a burst of wingbeats with short glides. They look entirely different, however, when soaring because their wings are blunt and their tails are widely spread. Soaring Peregrines can be easily confused with Broad-winged Hawks.

Now that the effects of pesticides on Peregrine reproductive success have diminished, Peregrines are more common during fall migration, sweeping across the marshes and dunes of Cape Cod and the offshore islands, to and from their arctic breeding grounds. Once again birders have an opportunity to view this majestic species in wild settings or on the man-made cliffs of our major cities.

W. E. D.

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

For the second consecutive issue and fifth overall, Paul Donahue has contributed artwork for *Bird Observer's* cover. Paul is given to peregrinations himself, typically spending several months each year in Peru where he studies canopy birds in Manu Lodge in Manu National Park. In addition to his tropical studies, Paul specializes in studying and painting shorebirds and raptors. After a fall of hawkwatching in South Harpswell, Maine, Paul usually spends the winter in Machias, Maine, to paint birds until returning to Peru in the spring. His address is P.O. Box 554, Machias, ME 04654.

The plate of the Peregrine cover originally appeared in, "The Art of Paul Donahue," in the Fall 1987 issue of *American Birds*. *Bird Observer* wishes to thank Susan Roney Drennan, editor-in-chief of *American Birds*, for graciously permitting us to reproduce Paul's work. *American Birds* is published by the National Audubon Society. Subscription information may be obtained by writing to *American Birds*, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

Photographs that might otherwise be rejected for At A Glance are occasionally valuable for illustrating less traditional approaches to bird identification. This column has repeatedly emphasized the risks in making identifications based solely on single characteristics, and often noted that structural and behavioral features can be as useful as plumage coloration and pattern in making precise identifications.

This month's photograph allows the thoughtful reader to apply pointers provided in *Bird Observer's* August 1991 Stilt Sandpiper analysis. The pictured shorebird is clearly a species whose semiaquatic feeding style immediately removes any of the plovers as candidates. Plovers are typically terrestrial feeders who seek their prey visually rather than by the tactile probing characteristic of most of the more streamlined sandpipers. Unfortunately, the feeding bird's head is submerged, so we cannot gain any clues from its bill structure or head pattern. Nonetheless, the bird's body shape is clearly visible, and, as was suggested for the Stilt Sandpiper, shape can be a very useful clue in identification. Most noteworthy is the length of the bird's folded wings, the tips of which are long enough to cross beyond the tail. Only two sandpipers, Baird's Sandpiper and White-rumped Sandpiper, present such an appearance, thereby considerably reducing our choices.

Further examination of the photograph reveals that the scapulars, secondary wing coverts, and tertial feathers show broad, pale fringes to the feathers, producing a scalloped look that is very characteristic of juvenile shorebirds. More importantly, however, is the presence of some dusky spots along the sides beneath the folded wing. These spots, which are lacking in Baird's Sandpiper, indicate that the pictured bird is a White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) in juvenile plumage.

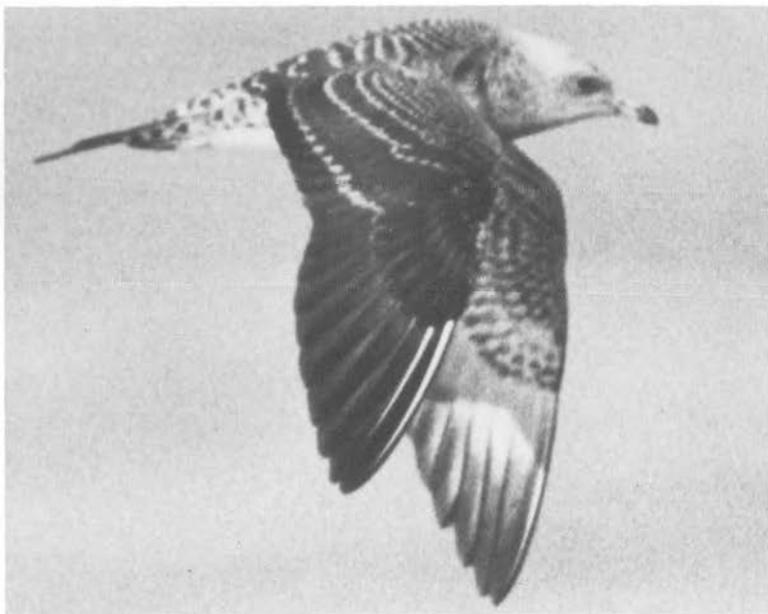


White-rumped Sandpiper

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen

AT A GLANCE

Photo by Jack Murray



Can you identify this bird?

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Cover Illustration: Peregrine Falcon by Paul Donahue
Courtesy of Susan Roney Drennan, Editor-in-Chief, *American Birds*
