

# BIRD OBSERVER



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# BIRD OBSERVER

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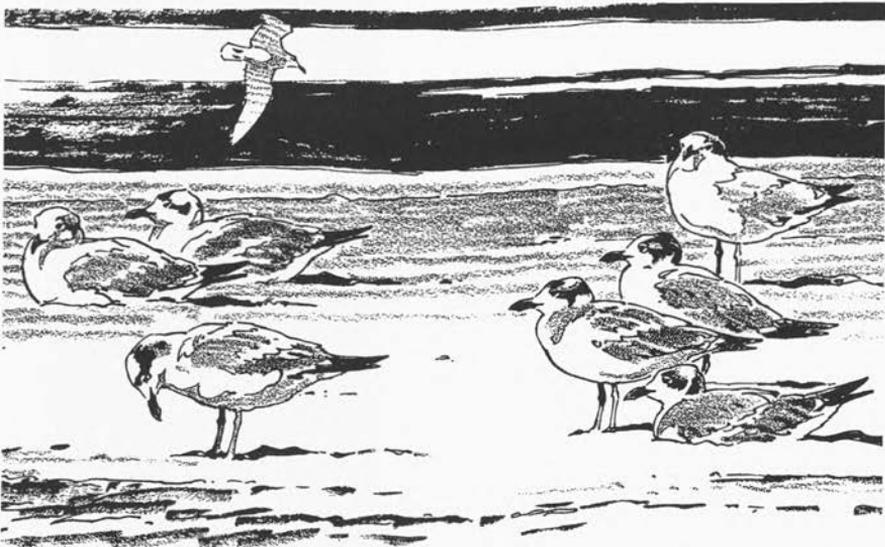
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*Laughing Gulls*

*Barry W. Van Dusen*

## FINDING BIRDS IN IPSWICH

by Jim Berry

Essex County, Massachusetts, is one of the best birding areas in the eastern United States, and Ipswich is one of the real highlights of the region. Ipswich has extensive salt marshes, a small amount of rocky shoreline, and just about every sort of upland habitat short of mountains: farms, orchards, duck ponds, a beautiful river, fresh marshes, wooded swamps, deciduous, coniferous, and mixed forests, and various fallow fields and meadows. Doubtless it is the variety of habitats, combined with the amount of coverage by birders venturing back and forth between Cape Ann and Plum Island, that makes Ipswich such a birding attraction.

No one article can cover all these habitats, especially since many desirable spots are on private property inaccessible to the public, but I will mention the more popular ones and lay out for the visiting birder an itinerary which can be covered in a day or less, depending on the season, weather, and time available.

**Crane Beach and Castle Hill.** I could not begin this account anywhere else. Ipswich Beach, renamed after the Crane plumbing magnate who acquired the land in 1910 and eventually donated it to The Trustees of Reservations for permanent protection, is, for the naturalist, the undisputed highlight of Ipswich. Crane Beach Reservation is not just a beach but includes the entire ecosystem of Castle Neck, which is some five miles long and over half a mile wide in some places. This biologically valuable peninsula lies between the mouths of the Ipswich River on the northwest and the Essex River on the southeast. It comprises the beach on the outside, the salt marsh and tidal flats of the Castle Neck River on the inside, and seemingly endless (but thickly vegetated) sand dunes in between.

To reach Crane Beach, take Argilla Road east from Route 133/1A at the South Green in Ipswich to the beach parking lot at the end of the road, a distance of 4.1 miles. From about Memorial Day to two weeks after Labor Day, be prepared to pay a stiff parking fee, especially on weekends, unless you come after 6 P.M.; the rest of the year the charge is less. For those who prefer to bird on foot rather than by car, the beach and the dunes can easily fill up a whole day and, if time permits, are worthwhile.

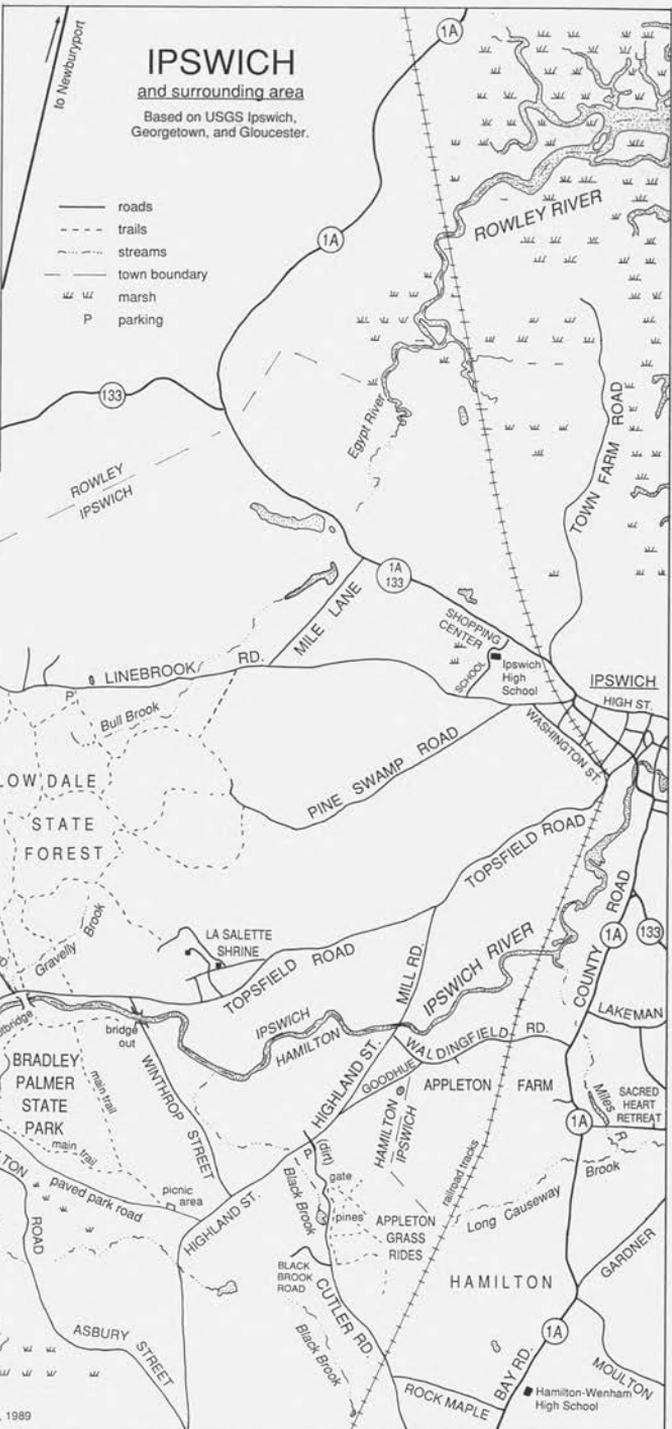
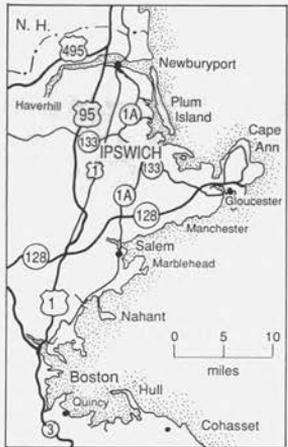
Be warned, however, that deer ticks are prevalent in this entire area. Many of these ticks carry Lyme disease, a serious problem in many areas of the United States. There is no chance of picking them up in unvegetated areas like the beach, but if you go into the dunes, be sure to check your clothing and exposed skin for these tiny ticks at the end of the day and remove them. The deer ticks are much smaller than the more familiar common dog ticks. However, they are

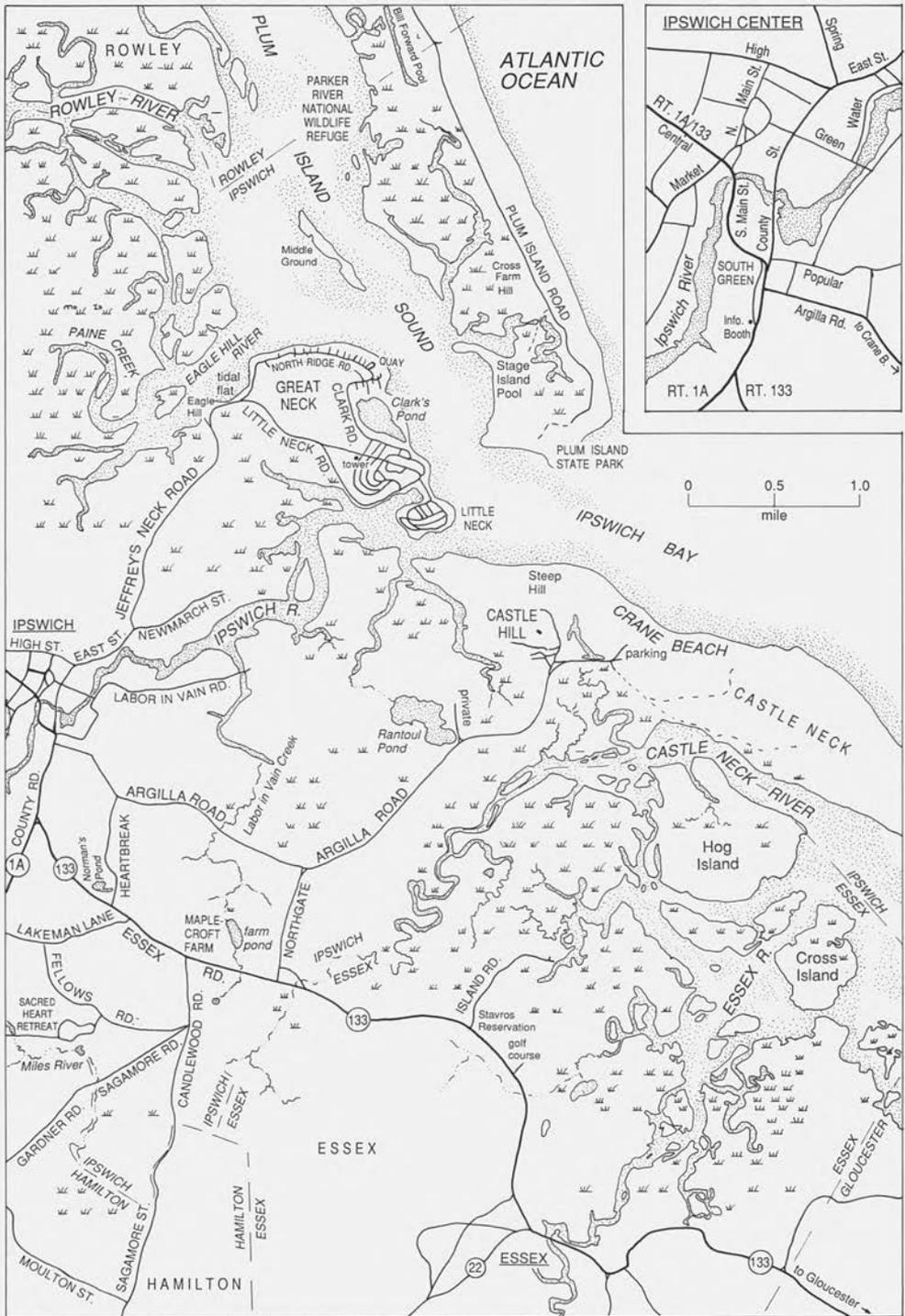
visible when engorged with blood. It takes twenty-four hours or so for the bacteria to enter the host's body after the tick attaches itself, so daily checks should be adequate. For more information, see "A Tick-list for Birders" in *Bird Observer* 17(2): 78-80, April 1989.

Notable breeding songbirds here are Bank Swallows, which nest in small colonies anywhere there is a vertical bank in the dunes, Gray Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, Yellow Warblers, and Rufous-sided Towhees. Less common are Pine Warblers, which occasionally nest in the extensive pitch pines not far to the southeast ("down" the beach) from the parking lot. There may also be a few pairs of White-eyed Vireos in the thick undergrowth behind the seaside dunes in either direction from the parking lot. Whip-poor-wills used to summer near the parking lot but have not been heard here since the 1970s.

Breeding waterbirds are Least Terns, which usually form several colonies at various spots behind the high-tide line, and Piping Plovers, which nest in small numbers either with the terns or at other beach locations where the large crowds of people offer the least interference. In recent years The Trustees of Reservations, a nonprofit land-preservation trust that owns the reservation, has employed a biologist, David Rimmer, who has taken commendable measures to protect these threatened species. Starting in 1987, David began "exclosing" the plover nests to keep predators like skunks and foxes from getting the eggs. Reproductive success mushroomed, and in 1988 fully nine pairs produced twenty young. In 1989, fourteen pairs fledged thirty-seven young! Green-backed Herons nest singly in a few of the thickets in the dunes; I have been lucky enough to find two of their nests so far.

Fall and winter birds of the beach and dunes include Snow Buntings (especially in the parking lot in late fall), Lapland Longspurs, Horned Larks, "Ipswich" Sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and sometimes Snowy Owls, Short-eared Owls, Merlins, and Northern Harriers. Various loons, grebes, and ducks are commonly seen off the beach in winter except for those species associated with rocks, of which there are almost none along Crane Beach. The dunes catch their share of migrating landbirds in spring and fall, but the area is not sufficiently censused to determine how good a migrant trap Castle Neck is. White-tailed deer are plentiful (albeit tick-laden) all over the reservation, and the lone observer will once in a while be rewarded with a close encounter with a red fox. Castle Hill, a half-mile walk to the northwest of the parking lot, is good for many landbirds as well as for great views of the surrounding landscapes and seascapes. The pine stand on the west side of the hill is a reliable spot for Great Horned Owls. Twice I have seen Yellow-billed Cuckoos on Castle Hill in summer, and Black-billed Cuckoos have nested in the thickets in the sand dunes. The best birds I have recorded at Crane Beach are a Wilson's Plover (on Memorial Day 1974), a pair of Black Skimmers (July 1975), a Caspian Tern





(June 1984), and a Sandhill Crane in the marsh off the north end of the beach (September 1988). Occasionally Whimbrels and Roseate Terns can be seen on the beach, as can numerous other shorebirds at low tide.

**Rantoul Pond.** This large pond on privately owned land lies between Argilla Road and the marshes of the Ipswich River estuary and has no public access. It cannot be visited without permission of the property owners, though the front of it can be seen from the road. The pond is on the left as you approach Crane Beach, about half a mile before the parking lot. It was formed decades ago by damming a small creek and is frequented in migration by several species of diving and puddle ducks, especially American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, and Hooded Merganser in the fall. Mute Swans have nested here for years; Tundra Swans or a Eurasian Wigeon may drop in for a while in late fall. In early fall Black-crowned Night-Herons often roost here. This is the only place where I regularly see American Black Ducks diving for food.

**Maplecroft Farm area.** The quadrangle bounded by Argilla, Heartbreak, Essex (Route 133), and Northgate roads is primarily pasture land and is one of the best places in Ipswich for Turkey Vultures, Rough-legged Hawks, and Red-tailed Hawks, the former in summer, the second in winter, and the latter year-round. Canada Geese graze in the fields and are occasionally joined by a stray Snow Goose. The fields closest to Route 133 at Maplecroft Farm sometimes have Cattle Egrets in summer. Any of the pastures can contain, at appropriate times, Glossy Ibises, Black-bellied Plovers, Killdeers, Dunlins, Pectoral Sandpipers, and Horned Larks. A number of rarities have been found here, too: Gyrfalcon, White-faced Ibis, Buff-breasted and Curlew sandpipers, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. But the specialty of the house, in my opinion, is Lesser Golden-Plover. Every November, even into December, you can often find several immatures with the large flocks of immature Black-bellied Plovers by looking into the pastures from Essex Road. These flocks are regular and provide a superb opportunity for studying the respective field marks of these sibling species. Be sure to take a scope, however, for the birds are often well back from the road. There are places you can pull over on Essex, Northgate, and Argilla roads—the latter with difficulty. However, these pastures are private property and must be viewed from the road unless permission is obtained from the property owners. The one exception is a privately owned, cultivated field off Northgate Road—a small pulloff indicates its location—leading down to a shallow pond that was created in the early 1980s by damming a small stream. [At this writing, the owner does not mind birders walking this field to view the pond as long as no fences are crossed.] This is an excellent pond for puddle ducks. Its grassy edges attract a variety of shorebirds, including a famous Black-necked Stilt in May 1983. Great Egrets and Glossy Ibises are regular visitors. The field itself, after the fall harvest, can be a bonanza, especially when muddy.

Water Pipits often share it with Horned Larks, and Common Snipes love the place. One day in April 1987 I counted a minimum of one hundred and fifty snipes.

Just to the west of the Heartbreak/Essex Road intersection is Norman's Pond, a productive little duck pond during migration. Permission should be obtained from the owners of the Norman residence, a brown house on Essex Road fronted with evergreens, to view the pond from the driveway. Regular visitors are American Black Ducks, Mallards, American Wigeons, Northern Shovelers, Gadwalls, Wood Ducks, and Green-winged Teal; less frequently there are Hooded Mergansers, various other diving ducks, and once in while a Eurasian Wigeon. Rusty Blackbirds sometimes congregate in the trees here in autumn, and Willow Flycatchers breed here, as they do in many Ipswich wetlands.

**Appleton Farm.** Appleton Farm, about two miles south of Ipswich center on Route 1A, is one of the scenic highlights of Ipswich, especially if one rides the commuter train. The tracks run right through the middle of the farm. Both Cattle Egrets and Glossy Ibises can sometimes be seen from the train, especially in summer. Fortunately, both species can also be seen from Route 1A, which is wide enough to permit easy pullover, or from Waldingfield Road on the north side of the farm, or from Mill Road (Highland) on the west side. This farm is probably the best place in either Ipswich or Essex to observe Cattle Egrets, which are at the northeast limit of their range here. My personal high count is sixty-one on August 28, 1983. This high number is explained partly by postbreeding wandering [see "The Ipswich Cattle Egrets" in *Bird Observer*, October 1985, 13(5): 258-59]. Do not attempt to drive through the farm as it is not open to the public.

**Appleton Farms Grass Rides.** Immediately to the south of the main farm, in the town of Hamilton, lies a 164-acre tract of mixed woodland known as the "Appleton Farms Grass Rides." This extensive forest, much of it swampy, is crisscrossed by wide trails. It was donated to The Trustees of Reservations by the Appleton family and is open to the public, though off-limits to off-road vehicles and horses. This is an excellent place for Ruffed Grouse, for they are regular here and are easily heard drumming in April and May. One morning in 1978 I recorded five grouse, including a close look at one in the act of drumming. Be sure to come at dawn for the best chance of seeing and hearing grouse. Pileated Woodpeckers also occur here, and I suspect Pine Siskins may breed some years.

The tract is accessible from the north end of Cutler Road, which goes southeast (left) from Mill Road about a half mile south of the intersection of Mill Road (which becomes Highland Street in Hamilton) and Waldingfield Road. There is a small parking lot at that intersection (i.e., Cutler Road and

Highland Street), but parking along this dirt road is very limited, and large groups are out of the question. There is a gate where you can enter the forest a few hundred yards down Cutler Road. From late May on, be prepared to do battle with some of the best trained mosquito armies to be found anywhere. The swamps that produce them, however, also entice a delightful array of migrating and breeding birds.

Another feature of the Grass Rides is its several stands of thick evergreens, which harbor not only grouse, but owls. In addition to the more common Eastern Screech-Owls and Great Horned Owls, which can be heard in the neighborhood, these groves often harbor one or a combination of Barred, Long-eared, and Northern Saw-whet owls. Barred Owls are the most regular, but singles of the other two species have been found several times [see "Finding Owls in the Grass Rides" in *Bird Observer*, October 1986, 14(5): 217-22]. Thus the Grass Rides is one of the best owl spots anywhere, especially in winter. Be advised, however, that if there is snow on the ground, there may be hordes of cross-country skiers using the reservation. Parking is at a premium, and the police will ticket cars parked along the dirt road. Use the aforementioned parking lot, and get there early.

**Jeffrey's Neck.** "The Neck" is thickly inhabited at its bulbous end, and this includes birds. Here you will find Ipswich's only rocky shoreline and some of the birds associated with that habitat, as well as extensive salt marshes, tidal flats, and the best duck pond this side of Plum Island. In fact, Clark's Pond is only a few hundred yards from Stage Island Pool at the south end of Plum Island—the observation tower there is easily visible from various parts of the Neck. It is not unusual for birds to wander back and forth between the two ponds, which is something to keep in mind when you are in Ipswich but do not have the time to drive the twelve-plus miles to Newburyport and another ten or so to get down to Stage Island Pool.

To reach the Neck from the south, follow County Street (not County Road) where it splits from Route 1A/133 at the South Green. (Consult the map, because street signs can be hard to find in Ipswich.) From the north, follow High Street, marked East Street where it joins County Street. The two streets merge and become Jeffrey's Neck Road, which brings you to Eagle Hill about halfway out on the Neck. On the left, just after the big curve at Eagle Hill, is a good tidal flat for shorebirds, especially at midtide. Diving ducks are common here at high tide. Stay on the main road, eschewing all forks to the left, until you come to the isthmus between Great Neck and Little Neck, where you can park and look out over the sound to the south end of Plum Island. From this point, the Ipswich River flows in from the right, behind Little Neck. This estuary is like a waterfowl crossroads and virtually any littoral species can be seen here. In addition, the pelagic Parasitic Jaeger sometimes comes here in late summer to

harass the terns. These jaegers can also be seen from the north end of Crane Beach and from the sound end of Plum Island. At low tide it is easy to walk out on the rocks at the base of Little Neck, where Ruddy Turnstones, Red Knots, Willets, and Laughing Gulls are all possible in late summer. In winter this same area has produced Brants, Common and Barrow's goldeneyes, large mixed flocks of scoters, Iceland Gulls, and occasionally a Snowy Owl. It is also an infallible hangout for Common Loons. Later, starting about the vernal equinox, a flock of Brants invariably arrives everyday at low tide to feed off the rocks at the left (northern) end of the isthmus. As is the case with the spring Brants in Newburyport Harbor, these Ipswich birds, which may be part of that larger aggregation, usually remain for a month or more before moving on to the tundra. Almost any sea duck can occur here, and views are always excellent because of the relative narrowness of Plum Island Sound. An added attraction in the winter is the regular presence of harbor seals on the rocks at the base of the red channel marker at low tide or on one of the several sandbars in the area.

**Clark's Pond.** From here follow the map to Clark's Pond, which is only about a half mile away. This man-made pond can be observed, though with some difficulty, from one or two places as one drives along Clark Road. Just be careful not to trespass on the developed lots. It may be better to observe from the road at the north end of the pond. Although it is bushy here, some viewing spots are available. In summer Mute Swans and Gadwalls nest here, and sometimes bitterns of either species, as well as Virginia Rails and Soras. Purple Martins and Cliff Swallows may nest on Great Neck and often feed over the pond. Later in summer hundreds or even thousands of swallows (mostly Tree and Bank) gather on the weeds, wires, and trees, as they do next door on Plum Island. If the summer is dry, the pond's shallow water can be filled with egrets and herons. Late-summer and fall bonanzas seen here in years past include Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Sandhill Crane, and a flamingo (1965) afflicted with a severe case of wanderlust. One of the more unusual phenomena I have witnessed here has happened on two different Labor Days: a large congregation of immature Purple Martins (as many as two hundred) positioned on the top of the nearby water tower, at a time when one expects this species to be long gone. In both instances the weather was unsettled. Until the pond freezes, it is a haven for Gadwalls, which often number over one hundred. Hooded Mergansers are also very regular in the fall, and up to thirty have been recorded. Any puddle duck is likely, and there is often a Pied-billed Grebe or two. When Bonaparte's Gulls are on the pond, look carefully for a Common Black-headed Gull or a Little Gull, as both have visited here from Plum Island.

To leave the Neck, continue around the north side on Colby Road, which quickly becomes North Ridge Road before it rejoins Jeffrey's Neck Road a mile to the west. On Quay Road, a short little dead end near the beginning of North

Ridge, there is a pier by the yacht club which offers a perfect spot from which to observe the waterfowl and shorebirds of Plum Island Sound. This is not a summer stop, but it is fine the rest of the year.

**Ipswich Shopping Center.** This ornithologically famous shopping center is located 0.6 mile from the intersection of 133/1A and Linebrook Road, just past the high school. It was built right over a freshwater marsh in true "developer" style but ironically provides birdwatchers one of the best places in the state to study the behavior of Virginia Rails and Soras. The parking lot gives easy access to the marsh. The reason for the presence of the rails is that no matter how cold it gets, the water running through this marsh from under the shopping center never completely freezes, thus attracting a few rails to spend the entire winter. When there is considerable open water, they can be impossible to find, but if one comes during a prolonged cold spell or after a heavy snowfall, and there is only a narrow stream of open water, you are almost guaranteed seeing Virginia Rails. One January day a few years ago I had six of them along with two Soras. Snipes and Swamp Sparrows also winter here, and every bird in the neighborhood comes here for water; so, needless to say, it is a popular place on the Christmas Bird Count. Both rail species probably nest here—both were present in spring 1988—and Willow Flycatchers definitely do. The trees between the shopping center and the adjacent high school usually have Warbling Vireos, another common nesting bird in many parts of Ipswich. Once or twice Cliff Swallows have nested in the rafters of the canopy over the shopping center sidewalk, in full view of the shoppers below.

**Willowdale State Forest.** This extensive mixed forest, which with its white pine and variety of hardwoods is typical of the forests of Essex County, has a distinctly more northern flavor than the rest of Ipswich. It does not have the eastern hemlock habitat of Boxford State Forest, but it is riddled with swampland and is also regularly logged, which gives it an exciting variety of both habitats and breeding species. If you like censusing summer populations and do not mind socializing with mosquitoes, this is the place for you.

Many Canadian-zone birds are regular here. Ovenbirds are the most common warblers, followed by Black-throated Green Warblers and Common Yellowthroats; the latter are common even in deep woods because of the swamps. Other nesting birds are Ruffed Grouse, Great Crested Flycatchers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Veerys, Hermit Thrushes, Pine, Black-and-White, Canada, Nashville, and Blackburnian warblers (the latter two rarely), Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Purple Finches. Some possible breeders are Broad-winged Hawks, Winter Wrens, Northern Waterthrushes, and White-throated Sparrows. Nearby La Salette Shrine has cutover fields in which I have found nests of American Woodcocks and both Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers. It also has a small stand of Norway spruce, in one of which I found the

nest of a pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets in June 1987 and again in 1989. Over the years I have come to bird this forest more than any other part of Ipswich. And just across Topsfield Road is the equally extensive Bradley Palmer State Park with a habitat similar to Willowdale's.

To enter Willowdale State Forest, take either Linebrook Road or Topsfield Road, both of which connect with Route 1. The forest headquarters are in a small unmarked building on Linebrook Road, 1.1 miles west of the intersection with Mile Lane and the same distance east of Route 1. Several trails, all wide enough for state vehicles to drive on, penetrate the forest from this vicinity; parking is no problem, although there are no parking lots as such. Access from Topsfield Road is best at the Ipswich-Topsfield town line, 1.1 miles west of the La Salette Shrine and 1.9 miles east of Route 1. This pulloff next to the Ipswich River is one place along Topsfield Road where canoeists park. A brook flows into the river from the north here. To the left (west) of the brook is an old dirt road one can use to drive into the forest. To the right (east) of the brook is a trail (bridle path) that quickly brings you within hearing range of most of the species mentioned above. At this spot there is also a footbridge over the Ipswich River, providing an entry point into the northern trails of Bradley Palmer State Park.

**JIM BERRY** expanded his original piece on Ipswich, which appeared in *Bird Observer* in December 1979, to provide the updated article printed here. A recognized authority on the breeding birds of Ipswich, Jim worked on the first North American breeding-bird atlas project in Montgomery County, Maryland, in 1971-72 and has since contributed to the atlas projects in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Ohio, and Wyoming. In addition to this work on breeding bird censuses, Jim's favorite birding activities are compiling the Newburyport Christmas Bird Count and contributing nesting records to Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology. At other times, he does personnel work in the Federal Aviation Administration and serves on the Ipswich Conservation Commission.

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## AN HONOR WITHOUT PROFIT

by Richard K. Walton

**eponymy** *n* The derivation of a name of a city, country, era, institution, or other place or thing from the name of a person.

Gruson in his *Words for Birds* gives seven categories for the origins of common bird names: appearance (Black-capped Chickadee), eponymy (Henslow's Sparrow), echoics (Whooping Crane), habitat (Marsh Wren), behavior (woodpecker), food (oystercatcher), and region (California Condor). The second category comprises people and places memorialized in bird names. Many of our most famous ornithologists as well as a fair number of obscure friends and relations have been so honored. A majority of these names were given during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the pioneering era of North American ornithology. While some of these tributes are kept alive in our everyday birding language, others have slipped into oblivion. Recognition or obscurity may ultimately hinge on the names we use for birds.

There is no more famous name in the birding culture than that of John James Audubon. His epic *The Birds of America* was responsible for putting American science, art, and even literature on the international map. This work was created, produced, promoted, and sold largely by Audubon himself. In the years since his death in 1851, the Audubon legend has been the inspiration for a multitude of ornithological pursuits and causes, both professional and amateur. Audubon painted some five hundred birds in *Birds of America* and described these in his five-volume *Ornithological Biographies*. Many of the names given by Audubon honored men and women of his era. These names and their subsequent revisions and deletions provide interesting examples of taxonomic history.

If Audubon were to return to his old birding haunts to join a contemporary tour in search of May migrants, he would, at the very least, be puzzled. Many of the bird names he was accustomed to are no longer in use. A look through the first hundred plates of his *Birds of America* indicates the enormity of these changes. Half of the birds depicted are assigned names different from those used in present-day standard common nomenclature. The reasons for the changes are numerous. The disparity between Audubon's names and current names occurs in part because Audubon was either misinformed or mistaken about the birds in question. Many other name changes were the result of taxonomic and nomenclature revisions subsequent to *Birds of America*.

Today's birder, armed with a knapsack full of field guides, is well equipped to deal with the plumage variations of individual species. Learning the different sex, seasonal, and age characteristics is part of the game. Because Audubon was

literally writing the book on American birds, he was in the difficult position of trying to sort out most of these variations for the first time. It is not surprising that he and many of his contemporaries made the same mistakes that are made by the beginning student of birds today. Audubon, however, was in a position to name, describe, and publish the birds with the conviction that he had discovered a new species. Examples of mistakes in this category are Vigors Vireo (Havell Plate XXX), Rathbone Warbler (Havell Plate LXV), and Le Petit Caporal (Havell Plate LXXV). Because these were actually forms of the Pine Warbler, Yellow Warbler, and Merlin that had been previously described and named, Audubon's nomenclature was expunged. Those honored by Audubon received short shrift, ornithologically speaking.

As for the English naturalist Nicholas A. Vigors, Audubon would not have cared in the least. Audubon met Vigors, the presiding secretary of the Zoological Society of London, in 1828. Initially Vigors assisted Audubon with his project and introduced him to influential naturalists. The relationship may have begun to sour when Audubon repaid Vigors' kindness by refusing to write for the *Zoological Journal*. Audubon felt any such writing would be the subject of abuse. Five years later in a letter to his son Victor, Audubon remarked that despite the fact that "such fellows as Vigors should mortify us," they needed to push on with their great project.

The Rathbone family was a different matter. They were among Audubon's most ardent supporters in England. In his account which accompanied the plate of this bird, he made clear his indebtedness to the Rathbone family. Audubon thanked them "for all the unmerited kindness and unlooked-for friendship which I have received from the RATHBONES of Liverpool...."

Le Petit Caporal is a reference to Napoleon. Audubon said that he wished he could find a new species of eagle with which to properly honor "le Grande" but that this little hawk would have to do. Audubon had not always been so impressed by the Napoleonic adventures. At the age of eighteen Audubon fled France, using false documents to avoid conscription into Napoleon's army. The names of Vigors, Rathbone, and Le Petit Caporal quickly found their way to the nomenclature graveyard.

Another group of birds depicted and named by Audubon, the names of which are not in common use today, are species for which there have been no subsequent records. In addition to specters such as Carbonated Warbler (Havell Plate LX) and Blue Mountain Warbler and Small-headed Flycatcher (Havell Plate CCCCXXXIV), Audubon honored two gentlemen with species that have proved particularly elusive. Audubon named Cuvier's Regulus (Havell Plate LV) in honor of Georges Cuvier. Cuvier, the pioneering paleontologist and taxonomist, was a leading light in natural history during the first part of the nineteenth century. Audubon was Cuvier's guest in Paris and at Versailles in the

autumn of 1828. Cuvier was impressed with Audubon's work, subscribed to *Birds of America*, and promoted Audubon within the French scientific community. Although Cuvier's reputation is secure on other grounds, Cuvier's Kinglet added little to the Frenchman's fame. All that remains is Audubon's description of a bird he apparently collected in Pennsylvania in 1812. This species was never again seen, and some ornithologists now feel that the bird was simply an aberrant Golden-crowned Kinglet. Townsend's Bunting (Havell Plate CCCC), however, remains something of an enigma. John Kirk Townsend was an American naturalist from Philadelphia. In May 1833 Townsend collected the bird in question and sent it to Audubon. Working from this specimen, Audubon named (after its discoverer), described, and pictured this unique bird. The skin still exists and resides at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. Present-day opinion suggests that this may be either a hybrid (Dickcissel x Blue Grosbeak) or a Dickcissel with abnormal pigmentation. Everyone seems to agree that no such species exists in today's avifauna.

Although Audubon may in some sense be held accountable for difficulties with the birds described above, there is another group of birds included in *The Birds of America*, whose names are things of the past as a result of events over which Audubon had no control. Taxonomic and nomenclature changes have resulted in the deletion of these names. Gone with the names are the honors so carefully bestowed by Audubon.

Names for North American birds are controlled by the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.) Committees on Nomenclature and Classification. Their policies, guidelines, and lists can be found in the *Check-list of North American Birds* as well as in various supplements published in *The Auk*. The *Check-list* has been through six editions, the first appearing in 1886, the most recent in 1983. Both Latin names and standard common names are published in the *Check-list*. Frequently, changes in common names simply reflect the present committee's commitment to uniformity and clarity; at other times these changes reflect corresponding changes in the Latin nomenclature. Changes in the Latin names usually indicate that ornithologists are convinced they have learned something new about the organism and its relationship to other birds. Sometimes a single species is determined actually to be two species or, conversely, two or more species are combined into a single species. In the vernacular these processes are referred to, respectively, as splitting and lumping. Both actions may result in the delisting of names that honor individuals.

Audubon honored Thomas Stewart Traill with Traill's Flycatcher (Havell Plate XLV). Traill, a Scottish zoologist, was another European who assisted Audubon. Traill provided introductions, scheduled lectures, and promoted shows for Audubon and his paintings. For more than a century the name of Traill was part of birders' language. By the late 1960s, however, there were

enough data available on various aspects of the morphology and behavior of these flycatchers to support the separation into two species. What had previously been thought to be subspecies were actually two species that are reproductively isolated. In 1973 as part of the thirty-second supplement to the *Check-list*, the A.O.U. split this species and gave the names of Willow Flycatcher and Alder Flycatcher as the standard common nomenclature. Gone was the common name, Traill's Flycatcher. Fortunately, in this case, all was not lost. The Latin name for the Willow Flycatcher, *Empidonax traillii*, maintains the original reference.

Audubon himself was the victim of delisting in the same 1973 supplement. The John Townsend whom Audubon had honored returned the favor in 1837. One of the new species discovered by Townsend on a trip to the Pacific Northwest was a warbler he named Audubon's Warbler (Havell Plate CCCXCV). Unfortunately, two forms, Myrtle Warbler and Audubon's Warbler, were later lumped when evidence was presented that these birds readily interbreed and produce a viable population. In their attempt to find a name suitable for both forms, the Committee on Nomenclature decided on Yellow-rumped Warbler. Thus, Audubon suffered the same fate as so many he had sought to honor. The American woodsman's name is still honored with the Audubon's Shearwater.

At least a dozen other names, given by Audubon and honoring individuals, have been expunged for one or another of the reasons given above. Havell Plate CCCXVII holds the dubious distinction of having had four birds delisted: Maria's Woodpecker, Phillip's Woodpecker, Harris's Woodpecker, and Audubon's Woodpecker. These birds are all forms of the Hairy Woodpecker. Certainly such duplication of names is not in the interest of a workable nomenclature; however, this has not been the reason for many delistings. Names such as Baird, Bullock, Coues, Sennett, Wied, and Wilson have found their way to the wastebin in the service of uniformity. As the *Check-list* committee has reminded us, "progress in systematic ornithology often dictates changes in scientific names...[and] some changes in English names help to avoid confusion and promote uniformity." The question arises, however: Will all common-name references to men and women gradually be laundered? There seems to be some inexorable process at work leading toward a list of names admirable for its uniformity, but lacking all references to our ornithological past. Will we end up with a nomenclature in which all mention of significant personages lies buried in the technical language? A few of those whom Audubon memorialized are still a part of our everyday birding language: Bachman, Bewick, Henslow, Lincoln, Swainson, and Townsend. For the time being at least, these names are oft spoken reminders of our traditions and our past.

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RICHARD K. WALTON, Concord naturalist, writer, teacher, and lecturer, is the author of *Birds of the Sudbury River Valley—An Historical Perspective* (1984), *Bird Finding in New England* (1988), and *Birding by Ear* (1989). Currently, Dick is working on the Massachusetts Butterfly Project and preparing a guide to western bird song identification for Houghton Mifflin, *Birding by Ear (Western)*.

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## THE ETHICS OF NATURE WATCHING

by Verdie J. Abel

For many years the reputation of law-abiding and conservation-minded hunters and fishermen has been marred by the acts of individual "ugly" sportsmen who litter, hunt or fish out of season, cross private property, and commit other violations of civil and ethical law. In recent years, however, a new species of outdoorsman has emerged—one who does not take to the woods and fields to hunt or fish, but to pursue instead a hobby of watching and photographing birds, flowers, and other wildlife.

As an increasing number of nature lovers take to the out-of-doors in search of "life" birds and rare flowers, an astonishing number of violations against man and nature have been reported. Just as hunters are criticized for crossing fences and committing other violations to get at a trophy deer, so should birdwatchers who cross private boundaries to get a rare bird for their life list be regarded as equally at fault. Many nature lovers are under the misconception that since their hobby is a nonconsumptive use of the nation's wildlife resources, it is acceptable to bend the rules a bit in order to fulfill a lifelong dream of seeing a rare bird or photographing a rare flower.

A perfect example of this happened in 1987 when a Long-billed Curlew was found on Coast Guard Beach in Eastham, within the boundaries of the Cape Cod National Seashore. Following the announcement of the discovery, dozens of birdwatchers from all over New England crowded into the area to get a glimpse of the western shorebird. Unfortunately, people were found crossing National Park Service fences, trampling marsh grass, and, worst of all, crossing into posted tern and Piping Plover nesting areas. How much more abusive can someone be than to deliberately cross a boundary that protects a federally endangered species such as Piping Plover?

Another less dramatic example of thoughtless behavior occurred in the winter of 1988-89 when a LeConte's Sparrow was discovered in an agricultural field on the North Shore. I was leading a birding trip to the area at the time and decided to learn the whereabouts of the bird to see if it was possible to enter the property where it had been found. Word was that the sparrow was in a plowed field near Newburyport and that the owner had agreed to let people look for the bird. Upon arriving at the field, I was astonished to find two dozen or so other vehicles belonging to more than fifty people who were combing the field to find the poor creature. Suddenly someone found the lone bird in a clump of weeds, and the birdwatchers quickly crowded around within ten feet of the tiny bird, totally surrounding it. Not only was the unfortunate LeConte's hundreds of miles out of its normal range, it was surrounded by dozens of obsessed nature

lovers, slowly moving closer to get a better look, leaving the confused bird no escape. After I determined for myself that it was the LeConte's Sparrow and after everyone in my group had a chance to see the bird quickly, I left the area bewildered, hoping never to be part of such a scene again.

Birdwatchers and photographers are not alone in violating ethical principles; scientists and naturalists are also guilty upon occasion. Simply being part of a research project or an employee of a public or private environmental agency does not give that person the right to cross onto private property or enter posted areas without permission. Not only is the law broken, but a precedent is also set, giving program participants and other witnesses the idea that such infractions are permissible.

Examples of such unethical activities include occasions when naturalists or birdwatchers intentionally scare birds to see field marks or flush a bird simply to allow "a better look." This approach to birdwatching sometimes involves chasing birds, clapping hands, or even throwing lit firecrackers in order to flush a bird. Certain birds, such as shorebirds, are especially vulnerable to disturbance during their migration when energy reserves are essential for long-distance flight. A loss of vital energy reserves through repeated disturbance in the spring may affect the success of the nesting season. Although aggressively pursuing birds does not violate any man-made laws (unless an endangered or protected species is involved), it may cross the line from acceptable birdwatching to unethical obsession.

The playing of bird-call tapes during the breeding season is a common practice. Playing the call of a screech owl or the territorial song of a breeding male may attract songbirds very close, allowing a good view of specific field marks. Unfortunately, this practice also takes the breeding bird away from its nest of eggs or nestlings, thereby jeopardizing the offspring, leaving them subject to predation or unregulated temperatures. Young birds often cannot regulate their body temperature and may die as a result. This practice of drawing birds from their nests is especially dangerous to owls, which nest in the middle of the winter. Bird lovers who call owls during this time of the year should be cautious not to occupy the parent bird's attention any longer than necessary.

As ethical, conservation-minded citizens, nature lovers must obey a few simple rules to maintain a good reputation and merit respect:

1. Always consider the welfare of the plants and wildlife first. No life bird is worth the needless loss of another life.

2. Obey all postings and respect fenced areas. Just because you don't see the nesting birds or rare plants does not mean they don't exist. A shoe can crush an endangered plant no matter whose foot is in it.

3. Avoid disturbance of roosting birds or resting animals. The energy they use escaping is needed for completion of the migratory journey or a successful nesting season.

4. Avoid the use of tape players to attract birds during the breeding season, and use tapes cautiously at other times.

5. Respect the rights of landowners. Should you wish to enter private property, get the owner's permission.

**VERDIE J. ABEL** was a ranger/naturalist at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary at the time he wrote this article. He is now teaching in the Biological Sciences Department at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, where he is continuing his graduate work in wildlife ecology. Verdie is an enthusiastic birdwatcher and is interested in the history of wildlife conservation. This article first appeared in *Cape Cod Driflines* [July 1989, 4(2): 17] and is reprinted here slightly modified with permission of the author and the publisher.

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## THE LARK SPARROW IN MASSACHUSETTS

by Richard A. Forster

Field sketches by Julie Zickefoose

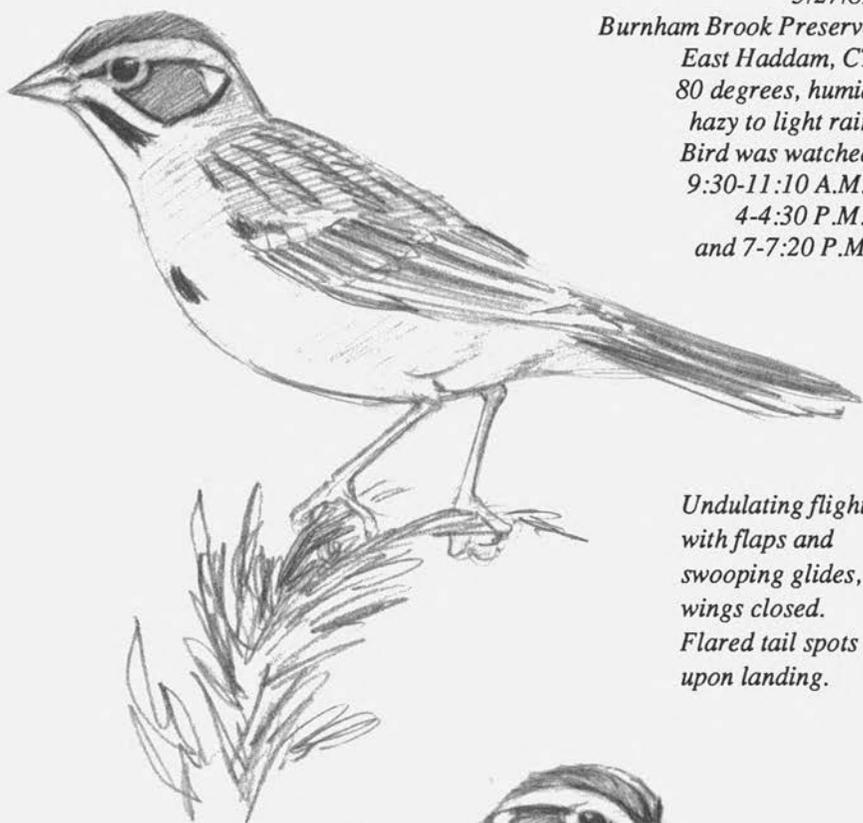
Most recreational birdwatchers and all but a handful of hard-core birders in the state show disdain for an interesting group known as sparrows, a.k.a. "little brown jobs." The lack of passion for this group can be attributed to their generally drab coloration, somewhat secretive and retiring nature, and lack of virtuosity as songsters. (But I have never heard a Bachman's Sparrow.) Perhaps only a dedicated scientist like Margaret Morse Nice could truly appreciate the daily comings and goings of a Song Sparrow.

However, as is often true, there are exceptions to every rule. One can but marvel at a crisply plumaged adult light morph White-throated Sparrow or the strikingly patterned black-and-white head, pearl gray breast, and attentive upright posture of an adult White-crowned Sparrow. Ranking slightly below these exalted exemplars of sparrowdom is the Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). The bold chestnut-and-white head and facial pattern is striking and distinctive. The underparts are not typically sparrowlike, being devoid of streaks. Rather they are whitish with a prominent black spot or "stickpin." When flushed, the Lark Sparrow is likewise easily recognized by the towhee-like white-bordered black tail that contrasts with the brown back. Immatures are patterned similarly to adults, but the bright chestnut head markings tend to be reddish brown. Like most sparrows, including the clear-breasted ones, the Lark Sparrow, immediately after leaving the nest, has a juvenile plumage that endures for up to a month, wherein it is streaked below. Since the duration of this plumage is short, it is unlikely to be encountered in Massachusetts. But a word of caution: I once found a bird of this plumage in the state. With the obscured facial pattern and streaked underparts, this bird looks remarkably like a Vesper Sparrow. Indeed, I changed my identification of the one I saw three or four times. While on the ground, a juvenile Lark Sparrow has a Black-throated Blue Warbler-like white spot on the wing. This feature is also shared by the adult and is illustrated in most field guides but never mentioned. When in doubt, flush the bird, and the distinctive white-cornered tail will cement the identification. Also the call note of the Lark Sparrow is relatively distinctive. It is a sharp, metallic "chink," reminiscent of the notes of both the White-crowned Sparrow or the Blue Grosbeak. If this call note is heard before mid-September, the observer can be fairly safe in assuming it is a Lark Sparrow.

The Lark Sparrow occurs in Massachusetts almost exclusively as a fall migrant with the majority of the annual records occurring coastally. Unlike most

5/27/89

*Burnham Brook Preserve  
East Haddam, CT  
80 degrees, humid  
hazy to light rain  
Bird was watched  
9:30-11:10 A.M.,  
4-4:30 P.M.,  
and 7-7:20 P.M.*

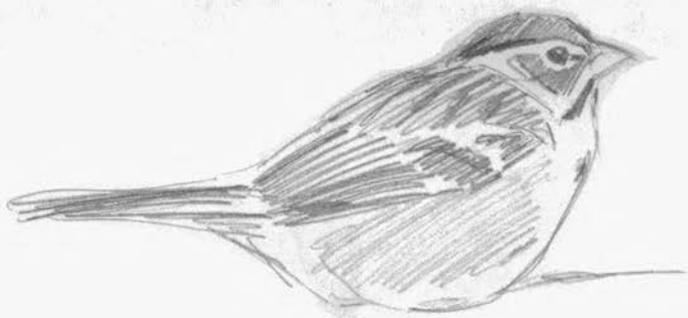


*Undulating flight  
with flaps and  
swooping glides,  
wings closed.  
Flared tail spots  
upon landing.*

*Ran in short bursts,  
was not seen  
to hop or scratch.*



*This sketch was made at a distance of 55 feet using Zeiss 8x30 binoculars.*



*7 P.M. It's cold and the  
bird's puffed up now.  
7:20 P.M. Went to roost(?)*



sparrows whose period of abundance is from mid-September to mid-October, the Lark Sparrow is most likely to appear in the last week of August and the first week of September. In any given year fully fifty percent of reports are likely to fall in this abbreviated period. Early migrants have occurred in the waning days of July, and stragglers appear in October almost every year.

Coastal observers can be most optimistic about seeing this handsome Westerner. These birds prefer sparsely vegetated open areas—roadside edges, weedy margins of parking lots, occasionally dunes, and edges of agricultural fields. Unfortunately, the frequency of this species in Massachusetts has diminished markedly from highs in the 1960s. At that time it was possible to see as many in a day as are now seen each fall.

The Lark Sparrow is very rare in winter, with most reports from feeders. Surprisingly, in this season it is recorded almost as frequently inland as at the coast. Spring reports of migrants are as unlikely as winter occurrences.

The field sketches by artist Julie Zickefoose that accompany this article are of an individual that appeared on May 27, 1989, at East Haddam, Connecticut. Because of the rarity of a spring sighting in that state, Zickefoose has submitted these sketches and her report for review by the Rare Records Committee of the Connecticut Ornithological Association.

**RICHARD A. FORSTER**, a lifelong naturalist, began his study of birds in childhood. He is a professional field ornithologist, a writer, author, and lecturer, and has led natural history tours worldwide. A familiar figure in the Sudbury River Valley and Essex County, areas to which he is devoted, he is a recognized authority on Massachusetts bird life and New England bird records.

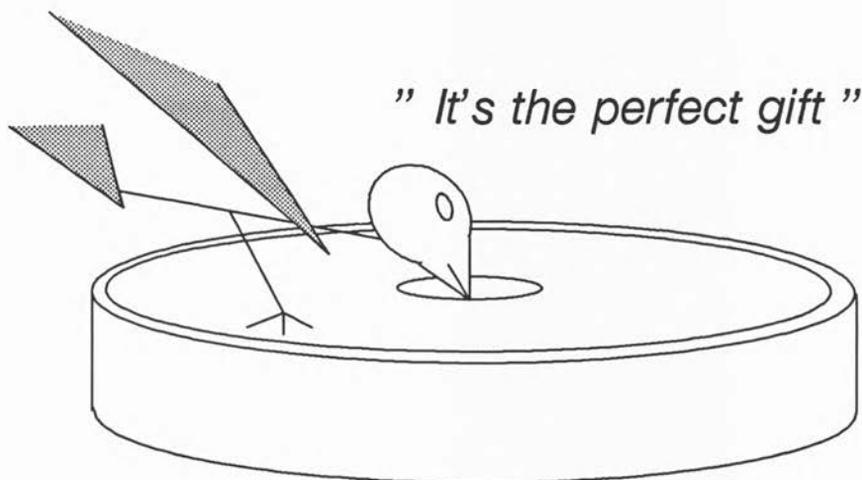
**JULIE ZICKEFOOSE** combines daily field sketching with serious birdwatching in her profession as a wildlife artist and writer. Her work has appeared in *American Birds*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Bird Observer*, and other publications. About the Lark Sparrow sketches, she says, "For these field sketches, as for all those made of birds whose identification might be questionable, I was careful not to 'pollute' them by consulting any reference—rather I stayed with the bird all morning, drawing it so as to fix its features in my mind. Even a quick peek at a book can ruin an otherwise objective drawing session!"



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White Ibis  
 Middleboro, MA  
 March 24, 1989  
 Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



# FIELD RECORDS

## MARCH 1989

by George W. Gove and Robert H. Stymeist

Although the average temperature of 37.3 degrees was just 1.1 degree below normal, March 1989 was a month of temperature extremes. For the first fourteen days the temperature was below freezing, the longest such stretch in this month since the first sixteen days of March 1960. At the other end of the temperature scale, March 28 saw the mercury rise to a sizzling 81 degrees, the second hottest reading on record for so early in the year, trailing only the 83 degrees recorded on March 21, 1921. Rainfall totaled 3.67 inches in Boston, 1.03 inches less than normal, but still the most in any month since November 1988. Snowfall was only 3.2 inches, 4.3 inches less than normal. The seasonal total was just 15.1 inches, 24.8 inches below normal, and the fourth least snowfall in ninety-nine years. Sleet was recorded on three days, and thunder was heard on three days, triple the past average for March. Southwest winds during the period March 13-15 brought large numbers of early migrants into our area, and migration fever was with us again. R.H.S.

### LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

The Boston Harbor waterfowl monitoring program continued in March. The survey on March 12 covered the area from East Point in Nahant to the Weir River in Hingham. In the field records these observations are shown as reports from Boston Harbor with MAS/TASL listed as the observers. A few highlights of the March 12 census were 70 Horned Grebes, 12 Northern Gannets, 2579 Brants, 2254 American Black Ducks, 1734 Greater Scaups, and 5535 Common Eiders.

The first migrant Pied-billed Grebes appeared this month, and Red-necked Grebes numbered 135 at Hull, a traditional spring gathering point. A flock of Great Cormorants was observed at Cliff Pond in Brewster, presumably feeding on recently stocked trout. Early heron reports included Great Egrets in Bristol County and at Fort Hill in Eastham and Snowy Egrets from Hingham and Hull. Two Great Egrets were photographed at Quabbin Reservoir on March 28, a very unusual location for this species at any time of the year.

The highlight of the month was the report of an adult **White Ibis** in the flooded fields of Cumberland Farms in Middleboro-Halifax on March 21. This species is found in the southeastern United States and is an irregular vagrant in Massachusetts, appearing very infrequently. The sighting of one White Ibis was unusual, but on March 23 observers spotted an adult White Ibis in a field less than a mile from the location of the original sighting. When these observers went to the site of the first reports, they found birders watching an adult White Ibis that had apparently been under observation during the entire time they had been watching the bird in the other field. Two White Ibis! Two days later both White Ibises were seen in the same field.

**Tundra Swans** were reported from Great Meadows on March 15, and two adults were found in Middleboro-Halifax on March 18 and 19. Birders looking for the Tundra Swans found the White Ibis in the same fields on March 21. Over 5200 Snow Geese were migrating over Quabbin on March 28 during the heat wave, and 110 birds were noted over Sudbury on March 29. A "Richardson's" Canada Goose was seen with a flock of Canada Geese at Nine Acre Corner in Concord. Wood Ducks were in evidence, especially by month's end when 46 were seen at the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary. A Eurasian Green-winged Teal was noted in West Harwich. R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1989
Red-throated Loon				
16, 26	Marshfield, Winthrop	2, 1	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
Common Loon				
thr	Ipswich (Crane Beach)	3-18	D. Rimmer	
thr	PRNWR	27 max 3/14	D. Chickering + v. o.	
5, 12	Cape Ann, Salisbury	9, 6	J. Berry#, M. Lynch#	
16, 25	W. Tisbury, N. Scituate	11, 5	D. Rimmer, D. Brown#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1989
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>				
18	Waltham, New Braintree	1, 2	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch#	
19	Holliston, Arlington	1, 1	R. Hildreth, L. Taylor	
22	P.I., DWWS	1, 1	W. Drew#, T. Aversa	
25, 26	Plymouth, Lincoln	2, 1	T. Prince, S. Perkins	
<b>Horned Grebe</b>				
12	Boston Harbor	70	MAS/TASL	
16, 18	W. Tisbury, Falmouth	2, 9	D. Rimmer, BBC (J. Bryant)	
21, 25	Dennis (Corp. B.), Lakeville	20+, 1	B. Nikula, W. Petersen	
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>				
thr	Hull	135 max 3/14, 3/27	P. Thayer + v. o.	
5, 12	Cape Ann, Boston Harbor	8, 31	J. Berry#, MAS/TASL	
21	Winthrop, Dennis	26, 22+	T. Aversa, B. Nikula	
<b>Northern Gannet</b>				
12	Boston Harbor	12	MAS/TASL	
21	Nantucket	100	M. Hall	
<b>Great Cormorant</b>				
thr	Lakeville	1 or 2 ad	W. Petersen + v. o.	
2, 4	N. Scituate, Cape Ann	150, 50	R. Forster, BBC (R. Vernon)	
25	Brewster (Cliff Pd)	125	B. Nikula#	
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>				
12	Boston Harbor	22	MAS/TASL	
18, 29	Falmouth, Newburyport	4, 11	BBC (J. Bryant), T. Aversa	
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>				
4, 6	Plymouth, Hull	4, 4	W. Petersen, P. Thayer	
11, 26	Westport, Acoaxet	7, 28	R. Stymeist#, G. Gove#	
<b>Great Egret</b>				
26	Dartmouth, Acoaxet	1, 1	R. Forster	
28, 29	Quabbin (G43), Eastham (F.H.)	2, 1	C. Quinlan, fide R. Prescott	
<b>Snowy Egret</b>				
27, 30	Hingham, Hull	1, 1	K. Ward, P. Thayer	
<b>Black-crowned Night-Heron</b>				
19	Brookline	2	D. F. Oliver	
<b>White Ibis</b>				
21-29	Middeboro-Halifax	1 ad 3/21-3/22; 2 ad 3/23-29	T. Aversa, M. Paine + v. o.; W. Drew# + v. o.	
<b>Tundra Swan</b>				
15	GMNWR	6	M. Noland, R. Walton	
18-19	Middleboro-Halifax	2 ad	W. Petersen# + v. o.	
<b>Mute Swan</b>				
10, 11	Cape Ann, Acoaxet	14, 210	D. Chickering, R. Stymeist#	
16, 27	W. Tisbury, N. Scituate	10, 24	D. Rimmer, P. Thayer	
<b>Greater White-fronted Goose (from Nov.)</b>				
11	New Bedford	2 (Greenland race)	L. Taylor#	
<b>Snow Goose</b>				
15-25	Middleboro-Halifax	1-3	K. Anderson + v. o.	
28	Quabbin (G43)	5200	C. Quinlan	
29	Sudbury, Quabbin	110, 200	W. Petersen#, D. Small#	
<b>"Blue" Snow Goose</b>				
1-11	Framingham	1 ad (from Feb.)	R. Forster	
24-25	W. Bridgewater	2	K. Ryan + v. o.	
29	Sudbury	1	W. Petersen#	
<b>Brant</b>				
4	Plymouth	300	W. Petersen	
12	Boston Harbor	2579	MAS/TASL	
20, 21-31	Quincy, Ipswich	700, 30-80	E. Taylor, D. Rimmer	
<b>Canada Goose</b>				
11	New Bedford, Westport	450+, 900+	R. Stymeist#	
15, 17	Halifax, E. Middleboro	175, 100+	K. Anderson	
18	Waltham, Adamsville	100, 400+	R. Stymeist, B. Sorrie#	
18	Halifax, Lakeville	225, 250	W. Petersen	
<b>"Richardson's" Canada Goose</b>				
15-24	Concord (Nine Acre Corner)	1	R. Forster + v. o.	
<b>Wood Duck</b>				
17, 18	GMNWR, Milford	10, 16	T. Aversa, R. Hildreth	
18, 19	Quabbin (G41), New Braintree	10, 6	M. Lynch#	
19, 21	E. Middleboro, Halifax	2, 4	K. Anderson, T. Aversa	
25, 29	Quabbin (G40), IRWS	6, 46	M. Lynch#, R. Heil	
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>				
17	Arlington, Scituate	4, 6	R. Stymeist, D. Clapp	
18	Middleboro, Quabbin (G41)	20, 19	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1989
Green-winged Teal (continued)				
21	Halifax, Bridgewater	120, 21	T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont	
22	Wayland, P.I.	12, 75	R. Forster, W. Drew#	
"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal				
24-25	West Harwich	1	R. Comeau#	
American Black Duck				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	206 max	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr	PRNWR	485 max 3/2	W. Drew# + v. o.	
12	Boston Harbor	2254	MAS/TASL	
18, 25	Middleboro	500, 300	W. Petersen	
Mallard				
12	Boston Harbor	228	MAS/TASL	
23, 25	Quabbin (G40), New Braintree	48, 60+	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
Northern Pintail				
11, 18	Westport, S. Hanson	12, 1	L. Taylor#, W. Petersen	
18	Falmouth, Middleboro	20, 20	BBC (J. Bryant), W. Petersen	
18, 22	P.I.	6, 27	J. Center#, T. Aversa	
25	Newbypt, Middleboro	8, 35+	H. Wiggins#, W. Petersen	
Blue-winged Teal				
22, 23	Marshfield, Quabbin (G40)	2, 2	D. Clapp, G. d'Entremont	
25, 29	Middleboro, P.I.	1, 3	W. Petersen, T. Aversa	
Northern Shoveler				
11, 18-31	Middleboro, P.I.	2, 2	R. Stymeist, BBC (J. Center) + v. o.	
28	Bolton	1	C. Quinlan	
Gadwall				
22	P.I.	17	W. Drew#	
American Wigeon				
4, 11	Belmont, New Bedford	30, 24	R. Stymeist, L. Taylor#	
18	Mt. A., Waltham	2, 12	R. Stymeist	
18, 19	P.I., Arlington	14, 19	BBC (J. Center), L. Taylor	
21, 25	Wayland, Plymouth	17, 19	R. Forster, G. d'Entremont#	
Canvasback				
4, 11, 25	Lakeville	150, 360, 5	W. Petersen, D. Davis#, W. Petersen	
11, 18	Acoaxet	24, 95	R. Stymeist#, B. Sorrie#	
19-22, 29	Marlboro, Athol	3 or 4, 1	R. Graefe, D. Small	
Ring-necked Duck				
7, 11	Framingham, Lakeville	6, 20	G. Gove, BBC (D. Davis)	
18; 18, 25	W. Bridgewater; S. Hanson	15; 60, 200	W. Petersen	
21, 25	Wayland, W. Newbury	11, 100	R. Forster, M. Argue#	
25, 26	Holliston, Halifax	104, 15	R. Hildreth, J. Young	
27, 29	Holden, Athol	49, 68	M. Lynch#, D. Small	
Greater Scaup				
5, 11	Newbypt, Lakeville	8 or 9, 120	J. Berry, BBC (D. Davis)	
12	Boston Harbor	1734	MAS/TASL	
16, 18	W. Tisbury, Falmouth	200+, 400+	D. Rimmer, BBC (J. Bryant)	
18	Acoaxet, Newburyport	100+, 200	B. Sorrie#, D. Chickering	
Lesser Scaup				
4, 22	Plymouth (Billington Sea)	7, 11	W. Petersen, T. Aversa#	
22, 25	P.I., Manomet	5, 2	W. Drew#, G. d'Entremont#	
26	Lakeville	5	M. Lynch#	
Common Eider				
12	Boston Harbor	5535	MAS/TASL	
19	Chatham	10,000+	B. Nikula	
King Eider				
12	Nahant	1 f	R. Stymeist, T. Estes	
Harlequin Duck				
thr	Manomet Point	3-5	S. Hess#	
thr	N. Scituate	3	v. o.	
2, 4	Squibnocket, Cape Ann	38, 7	V. Laux, BBC (R. Vernon)	
Oldsquaw				
14, 18	Newburyport	19, 65	D. Chickering	
21	Nantucket	200,000	M. Hall	
Black Scoter				
2, 12	P.I., Nahant	8, 2	W. Drew#, T. Estes#	
Surf Scoter				
21	Nantucket	500	M. Hall	
White-winged Scoter				
3, 11	P.I.	1000+, 100+	BBC (R. McHale), D. Chickering	
12, 21	Boston Harbor, Nantucket	154, 1000+	MAS/TASL, M. Hall	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1989
Common Goldeneye				
thr	Ipswich (Crane Beach)	10-30	D. Rimmer	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	23 max	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr	Newbypt (Merrimack R.)	600+ max 3/5	J. Berry + v. o.	
2, 10, 22	PRNWR	40, 80, 150	W. Drew#	
11, 12	Lakeville, Boston H.	250, 1453	BBC (D. Davis), MAS/TASL	
Barrow's Goldeneye				
1-18	Newburyport	1-3	v. o.	
Bufflehead				
12	Boston Harbor	2350	MAS/TASL	
Hooded Merganser				
11, 17	Lakeville, Stoneham	8, 5	BBC (D. Davis), T. Aversa	
18	Belmont, Falmouth	12, 5	R. Stymeist, BBC (J. Bryant)	
18	Halifax, Quabbin (G41)	7, 10	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
19, 22, 29	GMNWR, P.I., Petersham	2, 4, 28	D. F. Oliver, W. Drew#, D. Small	
Common Merganser				
11, 12	Lakeville, Newbypt	47, 15	BBC (D. Davis), BBC (I. Giriunas)	
15, 19	Wayland (Heards Pd)	85, 140	R. Forster	
17, 18	Stoneham, Arlington	37, 64	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist	
Red-breasted Merganser				
thr	Ipswich, S. Dart.	5-16, 43 max	D. Rimmer, LCES (J. Hill)	
12	Boston Harbor	1361	MAS/TASL	
12, 16	Salisbury, W. Tisbury	75+, 25+	M. Lynch#, D. Rimmer	
19, 21	Chatham, Nantucket	430, 1000	B. Nikula, M. Hall	
Ruddy Duck				
18, 19	Belmont, Arlington	2, 5	R. Stymeist, L. Taylor#	

#### VULTURES THROUGH LARKS

Turkey Vultures are on the increase in eastern Massachusetts, and there were reports of Turkey Vultures from many locations. Ospreys were first reported on March 25, right on time. A maximum of 10 Bald Eagles was counted in the Newburyport area, where up to 10 Northern Harriers were also noted. All three species of accipiters were reported, and Red-shouldered Hawks were seen moving throughout the month with a pair on territory in East Middleboro by midmonth. Red-tailed Hawks (a.k.a. "interstate buzzard") along the region's major highways were counted on March 9 and 11. Rough-legged Hawks were present until March 26, and an adult Golden Eagle was seen at Quabbin. Wild Turkeys were seen and heard in Boxford State Forest.

A Clapper Rail was noted at Allens Pond in South Dartmouth, and up to 225 American Coots were present at the Billington Sea in Plymouth through most of the month. Piping Plovers returned to coastal beaches by March 5, the earliest date in *Bird Observer* field records, and they were seen at eight locations during the month. There were many reports of migrating flocks of Killdeers, and an American Oystercatcher was reported from Nantucket on March 21. One observer reported 2 Willets on Plum Island on March 25, an extremely early date. On the early date of March 31, an Upland Sandpiper was reported from Halifax. Not since the same date in 1962 has such an early arrival of Upland Sandpiper been reported.

Common Black-headed Gulls were noted in Boston and Newburyport harbors, and a bird demonstrating the characteristics of a Thayer's Gull was reported from Provincetown, possibly the same bird that was seen there in January. Lesser Black-backed Gulls also were noted, including two reports from inland locations.

Screech-owl reports included a red-phase bird in Worcester and one found dead in Lakeville. Snowy Owls were present through March 28, and a Long-eared Owl was noted in Essex. People who went to see the White Ibis in Halifax in the late afternoon were treated to views of up to six Short-eared Owls couring the fields.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers were still present in Marshfield and in South Dartmouth, and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was noted at Plum Island on March 29. Eastern Phoebe were noted in numbers by the end of the month.

G.W.G.

#### Turkey Vulture

2, 23	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 1	LCES (J. Hill)
4, 11	Bridgewater, S. Dartmouth	1, 2	W. Petersen, R. Stymeist#
15, 29	Milton	4, 8	B. Wicks, N. Smith
18, 26	Quabbin (G41), Barre	4, 5	M. Lynch#
26, 29	Fall River, Sudbury	3, 3	E. Nielsen#, W. Petersen#
11-28	Reports of individuals from 12 locations.		
Osprey			
25, 26	Acoaxet	1, 5	J. + G. Fernandez, G. Gove#
25, 28	Lakeville	1, pr at nest	W. Petersen, T. Aversa

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1989
Bald Eagle				
4-18	Newburyport area	10 max 3/15 (1 ad + 9 imm)	R. Heil + v. o.	
11	Westport, Concord	1 ad, 1 ad	L. Taylor#, C. Storrs	
6, 11	Lakeville	1 ad, 1 ad	fide K. Anderson, K. Holmes	
19, 26	Quabbin (G43), N. Middleboro	10, 1 ad	M. Lynch#, K. Holmes	
Northern Harrier				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1 or 2	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr	Newburyport-P.I.	10 max 3/29	T. Aversa + v. o.	
16, 21	M.V., Nantucket	2, 10	D. Rimmer, M. Hall	
25	W. Bridgewater	3	W. Petersen	
28	E. Middleboro	3	K. Holmes	
28	Sudbury, Concord	2 m, 1 m	W. Petersen#	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
3, 27	Needham, Sudbury	1, 2	W. Petersen	
19, 24	Belmont, Easton	1, 1	D. F. Oliver, M. Ryan	
26, 27	Lakeville, Holden	1, 2	M. Lynch#	
Cooper's Hawk				
16, 22	DWWS, Bridgewater	1, 1	D. Brown#, W. Petersen	
26	Acoaxet	2	E. Nielsen#	
Northern Goshawk				
4, 19	Middleboro	1 ad, 1	T. + J. Cameron, D. F. Oliver	
6, 18	Concord, Quabbin (G41)	1, 1	G. Moretti, M. Lynch#	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
1, 2	Hanson, Easton	1 ad, 1	W. Petersen, K. Ryan	
11-31	E. Middleboro	1 or 2	K. Anderson	
12; 16, 25	Bridgewater; DWWS	1; 1, 1	G. d'Entremont#	
18, 22	Quabbin, DWWS	4, 2	H. Wiggin#, T. Aversa	
22, 28	Lakeville, Sudbury	2, 1	K. Ryan, W. Petersen	
Red-tailed Hawk				
9	Rt. 495 (Bridgewater-Hopkinton)	7	K. Anderson	
11	Rt. 2 (Concord-Gardner)	5	G. d'Entremont#	
11	Rt. 495 (Harvard-Raynham)	10	G. d'Entremont#	
11	Rt. 128 (Concord-Milton)	8	L. Taylor#	
11	Rt. 24 (Milton-Fall River)	9	R. Stymeist#	
11	Middleboro-Lakeville	13	BBC (D. Davis)	
21	Nantucket	8	M. Hall	
Rough-legged Hawk				
2-26	P.I.	4 max 3/2	W. Drew# + v. o.	
4-19	Middleboro	1	v. o.	
Golden Eagle				
19	Quabbin (G43)	1 ad	M. Lynch#	
American Kestrel				
4-26	Newburyport area	5 max 3/5	BBC (R. McHale)	
29	Ipswich, Halifax	9, 21	D. Rimmer, T. Aversa	
Peregrine Falcon				
11, 15	Bolton, Eastham	1, 1	E. Salmela, A. Thomas	
16, 19	M. V., Nantucket	1, 1 ad	D. Rimmer, M. Litchfield	
15, 25	Boston	2, 1	E. Taylor	
Ruffed Grouse				
13, 26	Milton	3, 2	G. d'Entremont, T. + J. Cameron	
22, 24	Easton, N. Middleboro	2, 1	K. Ryan, K. Holmes	
Wild Turkey				
7	Petersham, Belchertown	22, 12	W. Drew#	
11, 18	New Salem, Barre	12, 14	D. F. Oliver, M. Lynch	
29	Boxford (C.P.)	2	R. Hamburger	
Northern Bobwhite				
4, 12	Middleboro, Halifax	4, 25	W. Petersen	
Clapper Rail				
9	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
American Coot				
4-25	Plymouth (Billington Sea)	225 max 3/22	T. Aversa + v. o.	
Black-bellied Plover				
31	Ipswich	1	D. Rimmer	
Piping Plover				
5, 20-31	Chatham, Ipswich	2, 2-4	fide R. Prescott, D. Rimmer	
22, 25	P.I., Westport	1, 3	W. Drew#, J. + G. Fernandez	
26, 27	Acoaxet, Duxbury	3, 3	R. Forster, F. Bygate	
28	Scituate	2	S. Hecker	
29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	6	LCES (J. Hill)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1989
Killdeer				
11, 12	Uxbridge, Newbypt	1, 1	R. Hildreth, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
18, 19	Belmont, Middleboro	36, 60	R. Stymeist#	
20, 21	Braintree, Halifax	19, 46	G. d'Entremont#, T. Aversa	
17-20	Reports of 3-40 birds from many locations.			
American Oystercatcher				
21	Nantucket	1	M. Hall	
Greater Yellowlegs				
18, 29	Westport, Norwell	1, 1	B. Sorrie#, D. Clapp	
29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
18	Westport	1	B. Sorrie#	
29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
Willet				
25	P.I.	2	F. Burrill	
Upland Sandpiper				
31	Halifax	1	S. Kellogg	
Sanderling				
24, 31	Ipswich	2, 4	D. Rimmer	
Purple Sandpiper				
12, 14	Boston Harbor, P.I.	21, 14	MAS/TASL, D. Chickering	
22, 25	N. Scituate, Westport	320, 25	T. Aversa, J. + G. Fernandez	
Dunlin				
14, 29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	47, 61	LCES (J. Hill)	
18, 31	Westport, Ipswich	200, 66	B. Sorrie#, D. Rimmer	
Common Snipe				
12	Newburyport	3	I. Giriunas	
19-26	Halifax-Middleboro	28 max 3/22	G. d'Entremont# + v. o.	
29	Marshfield	26	D. Clapp	
American Woodcock				
10-31, 14-22	Essex, Hopkinton	2-4, 1 or 2	D. Rimmer, J. Gordon#	
17, 19	Marshfield, P.I.	4, 3	D. Clapp, A. + B. Delorey	
19, 21	Nantucket, Middleboro	12, 8	M. Litchfield, R. Stymeist#	
25, 26	Milton, N. Middleboro	6, 4	T. + J. Cameron, K. Holmes	
28	Canton	11	T. Aversa	
Laughing Gull				
19	Chatham	1	B. Nikula	
Common Black-headed Gull				
10, 12	Winthrop, Boston Harbor	6, 8	D. Chickering, MAS/TASL	
5, 15	Newburyport, E. Boston	3, 5	BBC (R. McHale), J. Quigley#	
22	Quincy	1 ad	T. Aversa	
Bonaparte's Gull				
2	Newburyport	19	J. Quigley#	
Ring-billed Gull				
3, 20	Lynn, Hull	155, 120	J. Quigley#, P. Thayer	
Thayer's Gull				
5	Provincetown	1 ad	D. Ludlow	
Iceland Gull				
3, 12	Hull, Boston Harbor	1 ad, 2	P. Thayer, MAS/TASL	
4-17	Newburyport Harbor	7 max 3/17	J. Quigley# + v. o.	
4, 10	Lakeville, Gloucester	1 (1W), 3	W. Petersen, D. Chickering	
19, 20	Quabbin (G43), Ipswich	1, 1	M. Lynch#, D. Rimmer	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
12	Boston Harbor	1	MAS/TASL	
17, 21	E. Boston	1 imm, 1	J. Young, T. Aversa	
21, 30	Wayland, Concord	1, 1	R. Forster, W. Petersen#	
Glaucous Gull				
4	Lakeville	1 (1W)	W. Petersen	
Black Guillemot				
4, 5	Cape Ann	5, 5	BBC (R. Vernon), J. Berry#	
5	Newburyport	1	BBC (R. McHale)	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
2, 3	Ipswich, Worcester	1, 1 (red)	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
4	Lakeville, Newburyport	1 (dead), 1	W. Petersen, D. F. Oliver	
11	Middleboro-Lakeville	3	BBC (D. Davis)	
12	Easton	1	M. Ryan	
Great Horned Owl				
thr	Milton	2	fide G. d'Entremont	
4	Bridgewater, Middleboro, Lakeville	2, 1, 1	W. Petersen	
4-12	Belmont	1	J. Heywood, L. Taylor#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1989
9, 11	Cambridge, Middleboro	1, 5	R. Stymeist#, K. Holmes	
26, 29	Holliston, Newburyport	2, 2	R. Hildreth, T. Aversa	
Snowy Owl				
9	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
11, 12	P.I., Boston Harbor	1, 1	D. Chickering, MAS/TASL	
14, 28	Eastham, Chatham	1, 1	fide R. Prescott	
Barred Owl				
5, 11	Holliston, N. Middleboro	1, 3	J. Gordon#, K. Holmes	
21-22, 28	DFWS, Canton (F.M.)	1, 1	fide W. Petersen, T. Aversa	
30	Boxford (C.P.)	1	J. Berry#	
Long-eared Owl				
5	Essex	2	J. Berry	
Short-eared Owl				
3, 8	P. I., Taunton	1, 1	D. Chickering, fide W. Petersen	
9-29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
12-23	Halifax-Middleboro	6 max 3/22	D. Clapp + v. o.	
15, 26	E. Boston	1, 1	L. Rogers, T. Aversa	
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
4-19	P.I.	2 max	v. o.	
2	Hamilton	1 calling	J. Berry	
Belted Kingfisher				
12, 18	Newburyport, Quabbin (G41)	2, 3	BBC (I. Giriunas), M. Lynch#	
20, 26	Hull, Holliston	1, 2	P. Thayer, R. Hildreth	
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
thr	S. Dartmouth (LCES)	1 ad m	LCES (J. Hill)	
15, 16	Mashpee, DWWS	1, 1 (from Dec.)	P. Trimble, D. Brown#	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
29	P.I.	1 m	T. Aversa	
Northern Flicker				
1, 14	E. Middleboro, Raynham	1, 1	K. Anderson	
11	Middleboro	9	BBC (D. Davis)	
Pileated Woodpecker				
17, 19	Norwell, Quabbin (G43)	1, 1	D. Clapp, M. Lynch#	
23, 27	Quabbin (G40), Holden	2, 1	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
28, 29	Quabbin, Boxford (C.P.)	4, 2	C. Quinlan, R. Hamburger	
Eastern Phoebe				
18	Quabbin, Mt. A., SRV	2, 3, 2	H. Wiggin#, R. Stymeist#, E. Nielsen	
19, 28	Middleboro, Sudbury	3, 5	L. Taylor#, W. Petersen	
28, 29	P.I., IRWS	21, 16	S. Perkins, R. Heil	
29	Newburyport area	13	T. Aversa	
Horned Lark				
thr	Ipswich	2-14	D. Rimmer	
4, 5	Salisbury, Newbury	20, 150	D. F. Oliver, BBC (R. McHale)	
18, 29	Middleboro, Newbury	150, 250	W. Petersen, T. Aversa	

#### SWALLOWS THROUGH FINCHES

The first Tree Swallows of the season arrived on March 18, following a southwest wind, and others were noted from Wayland and Quabbin on March 21 and 23. The American Crow roost in Framingham-Natick numbered over 3000 birds at the beginning of the month and dropped to about 150 by March 18. Good numbers of Carolina Wrens were reported with many individuals noted from new areas. Six Winter Wrens from as many locations were reported during the month.

The many reports of Eastern Bluebirds were encouraging. A total of 71 birds was reported from 22 locations, up from the 9 birds noted in March 1988. Perhaps the relatively mild winter with little snow saved quite a few bluebirds that wintered just south of Massachusetts.

A Bohemian Waxwing was found in Hardwick among a flock of over 100 Cedars. American Robins had a general arrival on March 18 with thousands of birds noted that day from across the state. March 18 also saw large numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds reported. Four Water Pipits were seen in Halifax-Middleboro, and small flocks of Fox Sparrows were widely reported on March 18 as well. Winter finch reports were confined to the Quabbin area. Purple Finches were noted in two locations.

R.H.S.

Tree Swallow			
18	S. Hanson, Middleboro	25, 10	W. Petersen
21, 23	Wayland, Quabbin (G40)	4, 2	R. Forster, G. d'Entremont#

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1989
American Crow				
5, 18	Framingham-Natick	3000, 150	E. Taylor	
11	Bridgewater	100	G. d'Entremont	
Fish Crow				
18	E. Middleboro	1	W. Petersen	
Common Raven				
11	Hardwick	1	M. Lynch#	
Black-capped Chickadee				
11, 23	Petersham, Quabbin (G40)	55+, 26	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
17, 18	Norwell, Quabbin (G41)	3, 13	D.Clapp, M. Lynch#	
White-breasted Nuthatch				
25	Quabbin (G40)	15+	M. Lynch#	
Brown Creeper				
19, 29	Quabbin (G43), P.I.	5, 5	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Carolina Wren				
thr, 2-8	Ipswich, Easton	1, 1 or 2	J. Berry, K. Ryan	
5-31, 5	E. Orleans, Acoaxet	1, 6	E. Williams#, J. Gordon#	
6-31, 11	E. Middleboro, Dartmouth	1, 16	K. Anderson, R. Stymeist#	
16, 18	Marshfield, Bridgewater	3, 4	G. d'Entremont#, W. Petersen	
18, 20	Milton, Randolph	2, 1	G. d'Entremont#	
20, 27	Lexington, Reading	1, 1	D. Dillavou, F. Burrill	
28, 29	Newton, IRWS	1, 1	O. Komar, R. Heil	
Winter Wren				
4, 11	Lakeville, Petersham	1, 1	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
25, 26	Plymouth, Hanson	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, J. Young	
26, 29	Stoneham, Brookline	1, 1	T. Aversa, R. Hamburger	
Marsh Wren				
28	Wayland	1	B. Howell	
Eastern Bluebird				
4, 5	Hardwick, WMWS	1, 5	M. Lynch#, J. Choiniere	
5	Acoaxet, Dartmouth	3, 1	J. Gordon, G. Gove	
5	S. Wellfleet, Lincoln	4, 1	R. Prescott, fide P. Swift	
9, 11	Westboro, Middleboro	3, 4	C. Quinlan, R. Stymeist#	
13, 14	Otis AFB, Sherborn	2, 2	P. Trimble, J. Miller	
17, 18	Medford, Raynham	2, 2	P. Roberts, K. Ryan	
18	DWWS, S. Hanson	1, 1	D.Clapp#, W. Petersen	
18	Quabbin (G41), Oakham	2, 2	M. Lynch, S. Carroll	
26, 27	IRWS, Holden	1, 3	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
25, 29	Quabbin (G40), Petersham	8, 3	D. Small, M. Lynch#	
29	Marshfield, Milton	5, 7	D.Clapp, N. Smith	
Hermit Thrush				
11	S. Dartmouth	4	R. Stymeist#	
American Robin				
4, 16	Halifax, Wayland	50, 3 (first)	W. Petersen, R. Forster	
18	Mt. A., Quabbin	302, 600	R. Stymeist, H. Wiggin#	
18	Hardwick-New Braintree	1200	M. Lynch#	
18	SRV, Middleboro	general arrival	R. Forster, W. Petersen	
Gray Catbird				
11	E. Orleans, S. Dartmouth	1, 1	A. Williams, R. Stymeist#	
26, 29	IRWS	1, 2	P. Westrom#, R. Heil	
Brown Thrasher				
11	S. Dartmouth	1	R. Stymeist	
Water Pipit				
18	Halifax	4	W. Petersen	
Bohemian Waxwing				
11	Hardwick	1	M. Lynch#	
Cedar Waxwing				
4, 4-11	Halifax, Hardwick	200, 125 max	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
Northern Shrike				
11-18	P.I.	1	v. o.	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
5, 9	P.I., S. Dartmouth	5, 14	BBC (R. McHale), LCES (J. Hill)	
16, 25	W. Tisbury, Norwood	10+, 10	D. Rimmer, J. Young	
Pine Warbler				
18, 23	Holliston, Plymouth	1, 1	R. Hildreth, G. d'Entremont	
26	E. Middleboro	3 or 4 singing	K. Anderson	
Common Yellowthroat				
11	Milford	1	R. Hildreth	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1989
Rufous-sided Towhee				
11	S. Dartmouth	6	R. Stymeist#	
American Tree Sparrow				
4	Halifax	500	W. Petersen#	
Field Sparrow				
4	Halifax	15	W. Petersen#	
Vesper Sparrow				
4	Halifax	6	W. Petersen#	
Savannah Sparrow				
4	Halifax	20	W. Petersen#	
"Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow				
18, 23	Salisbury, S. Dart.	1, 1	D. Chickering, LCES (J. Hill)	
Fox Sparrow				
14, 18	Milton, Mt. A.	1, 10	J. Cameron, R. Stymeist	
18	Hopkinton, Sudbury	1, 7	J. Gordon#, G. Gove#	
18	Hardwick, Quabbin (G41)	3, 6	M. Lynch#	
19, 19-23	Reading, Brookline	1, 1 or 2	F. Burrill, B. Rielly#	
25, 27	Norwood, Holden	4, 17	J. Young, M. Lynch#	
25-31	Reports of 1-3 individuals from many locations.			
Song Sparrow				
18	Dorchester, Sudbury	25, 25	G. d'Entremont#, G. Gove#	
25, 27	Quabbin (G40), Holden	35, 38	M. Lynch, S. Carroll	
Swamp Sparrow				
27, 31	GMNWR, W. Newton	1, 1	D. Dillavou, T. Kuklinski	
White-crowned Sparrow				
17	Marshfield	1	D. Clapp	
Dark-eyed Junco				
18	Mt. A., Quabbin	75, 300	R. Stymeist, H. Wiggin#	
Lapland Longspur				
1-29	Newburyport	12 max	v. o.	
12-18	Middleboro	12 max	v. o.	
Snow Bunting				
thr	Ipswich (Crane Beach)	8-25	D. Rimmer	
5, 29	Newburyport	25, 5	BBC (R. McHale), T. Aversa	
14, 29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	25, 7	LCES (J. Hill)	
23, 26	Quabbin (G40), N. Monomoy	50, 40+	G. d'Entremont#, L. Roscoe#	
Red-winged Blackbird				
3, 4	Weymouth, Lakeville	1, 4	W. Petersen	
4	S. Natick, N. Braintree	3, 15	E. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
11, 12	Middleboro, Newbypt	56, 50	BBC (D. Davis), BBC (I. Giriunas)	
18	Mt. A., Hardwick	49, 250+	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch#	
Eastern Meadowlark				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	21 max	LCES (J. Hill)	
1, 21; 26	Halifax	7, 15+; 29	K. Anderson; R. Forster	
16, 18	W. Tisbury, Sudbury	2, 8	D. Rimmer, G. Gove#	
25	Hardwick, Newbury	9, 1	M. Lynch#, M. Argue#	
31	Newton	1	O. Komar	
Rusty Blackbird				
18	Mt. A., Hardwick	2, 2	R. Stymeist, H. Wiggin#	
20, 21	Braintree, Wayland	3, 30	G. d'Entremont#, R. Forster	
Common Grackle				
2, 4	Foxboro, Lakeville	1, 1	M. Kasprzyk, W. Petersen	
4, 16	S. Natick, N. Middleboro	1, 1	D. F. Oliver, K. Holmes	
18	Natick, Hardwick	3500+, 110	E. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
18	Bridgewater, Hardwick	50, 50	E. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
Purple Finch				
5, 8	Essex, Easton	4, 4	J. Berry, K. Ryan	
Red Crossbill				
25	Quabbin (G41)	1 m singing	M. Lynch#	
Pine Siskin				
18	Quabbin (G41)	1	M. Lynch#	
Evening Grosbeak				
7, 10-25	Petersham, Hardwick	15, 30 max 3/25	W. Drew#, M. Lynch#	

## BIRD OBSERVER FIELD RECORDS

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

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

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

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### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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



# FIELD RECORDS

## APRIL 1989

by George W. Gove and Robert H. Stymeist

April 1989 was a bit on the cool side; the temperature averaged 45.9 degrees, 2.8 degrees below normal. No individual temperature records were broken, though the month's high of 66 degrees on April 27 tied with 1873 and 1888 for the lowest April maximum of record. The temperature of 31 degrees on April 23 was the third latest freeze in fifty-four years of official records at Logan Airport. Precipitation totaled 3.58 inches; the most in any twenty-four hours was 1.36 inches on April 15-16. Fog was more frequent than usual, and no thunder was heard. Southwest winds were recorded on April 3, 7, and 29. R.H.S.

### LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

The April 2 Massachusetts Audubon Society/Take A Second Look (MAS/TASL) waterfowl census in Boston Harbor (East Point in Nahant to the Weir River in Hingham) included counts of 169 Horned Grebes, 57 Red-necked Grebes, 14 Snowy Egrets, 70 Black-crowned Night-Herons, 1987 Brants, 1241 American Black Ducks, 2946 Common Eiders, 565 Common Goldeneyes, 2227 Buffleheads, and 1890 Red-breasted Mergansers. In Hull, 200 Red-necked Grebes were noted on April 3; these numbers declined as the month progressed. A **Western Grebe** was seen in Hull for four days.

At the Westboro Great Blue Heron rookery, 23 active nests were noted. Tricolored Herons were seen in Scituate. In Ipswich 126 Glossy Ibises were seen feeding in a field on April 18. Later the same day, 120 were observed flying over Essex, and even later 55 were seen roosting on an island off Manchester. An immature **White Ibis** was seen in Weymouth; this bird had brown in the feathers and therefore was not one of the adult White Ibises seen during March in the Middleboro-Halifax area.

A adult "Blue" Snow Goose was seen with other Snow Geese in Sudbury, and "Eurasian" Green-winged Teals were noted in three locations with one continuing throughout the month in West Harwich. Three Harlequin Ducks noted in Scituate were holdovers from winter, as was a male seen in Winthrop. G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1989
<b>Common Loon</b>				
thr	Ipswich	1-16	D. Rimmer	
2, 18	Newburyport, P.I.	6, 10	BBC (S. Bolton), T. Aversa	
9, 25-30	Lakeville, Stoneham	1, 1 br pl	W. Petersen, T. Aversa	
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>				
1	Westboro, Quabbin (G41)	3, 1	E. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
4, 8	W. Newbury, Lexington	2, 2	T. Aversa, J. Heywood#	
16	Concord (Nine Acre Corner)	2	M. Hall	
Reports of individuals from 8 locations.				
<b>Horned Grebe</b>				
2, 9	Boston Harbor, N. Scituate	169, 30	MAS/TASL, G. d'Entremont	
11, 24	Hull-Scituate, Winthrop	51, 1 br pl	R. Forster, T. Aversa	
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>				
2; 3, 27	Boston Harbor; Hull	57; 200, 15	MAS/TASL; P. Thayer	
11	Hull-Scituate	243	R. Forster	
<b>Western Grebe</b>				
9-12	Hull	1	T. + J. Cameron + v. o.	
<b>Northern Gannet</b>				
9, 11	Provincetown, Hull	75, 1	B. Nikula, P. Thayer	
<b>Great Cormorant</b>				
2, 9	Boston Harbor, N. Scituate	36, 35	MAS/TASL, G. d'Entremont	
2; 2, 9	Whitman; Lakeville	1; 2, 3	W. Petersen	
11	N. Scituate	53	T. Aversa	
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>				
2	Boston Harbor	62	MAS/TASL	
18, 23	P.I., Canton	150, 151	R. Stymeist#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1989
Double-crested Cormorant (continued)				
27	W. Bridgewater	75	K. Anderson	
American Bittern				
2-30, 8	P.I., Athol	1 or 2, 1	J. Center + v.o., E. Taylor	
29	Bolton	2 calling	R. Stymeist#	
Reports of individuals from 5 locations.				
Great Blue Heron				
2, 5	Boston Harbor, E. Boston	6, 30	MAS/TASL, D. Swanson	
9, 14	Newton, Westboro	3, 23 nests	O. Komar, S. Selesky	
19	PRNWR, Westport	6, 6	W. Drew#, R. Stymeist#	
30	Taunton	5 ad	B. Sorrie#	
Reports of individuals from 7 locations.				
Great Egret				
2, 5	Ipswich, E. Boston	1, 1	J. Berry, D. Swanson	
14, 18	Westport, Essex	6, 4	R. Stymeist#	
18-28	Middleboro	1	R. + B. Ekstrom + v. o.	
19, 27	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	8, 7	LCES (J. Hill)	
Snowy Egret				
2, 2-23	Boston Harbor, Essex	14, 17 max 4/18	MAS/TASL, R. Stymeist# + v. o.	
3, 14	Hull	2, 12	P. Thayer	
18, 19-30	P.I., Ipswich	7, 3-5	R. Stymeist#, D. Rimmer	
Little Blue Heron				
7	Wayland	1 imm	R. Walton	
9, 22	P.I., Essex	1 ad, 2 ad	G. Gove#	
24, 27	E. Boston, S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 1	T. Aversa, LCES (J. Hill)	
Tricolored Heron				
8-23	N. Scituate	1 ad	J. Flaherty + v. o.	
9-20	Scituate (Third Cliff)	1 or 2	S. Shapiro + v. o.	
Cattle Egret				
18-30	Ipswich	19 max 4/29	G. Gove# + v. o.	
5; 23, 24	Fitchburg; Chatham	1; 1, 1 dead	P. Debonis; B. Nikula#	
Green-backed Heron				
10, 26	Randolph, Wayland	1, 1	S. Higginbotham, R. Forster	
29	Mt. A.	1	v. o.	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
2, 19	Boston Harbor, PRNWR	70, 60	MAS/TASL, W. Drew#	
17, 30	P.I., Brookline	2, 6	J. Brown, R. Stymeist#	
Glossy Ibis				
11, 16	P.I., Essex	7, 39	M. Argue#, W. Petersen	
18	Ipswich	126	R. Stymeist#	
24, 28	E. Boston, Essex	14, 22	T. Aversa, D. Rimmer	
White Ibis				
17	Weymouth (Grape I.)	1 imm	D. Breen (fide D. Clapp)	
Mute Swan				
thr	Hanson, P.I.	2 nests, 2-5	W. Petersen, v. o.	
14-30	Ipswich	2	D. Rimmer	
Snow Goose				
2-30	Newburyport-P.I.	13 max 4/17	R. Heil + v. o.	
4, 5	Ipswich, Sudbury	55, 67	D. Rimmer, R. Forster	
18	Rutland	125	B. Sorrie#	
"Blue" Snow Goose				
5	Sudbury	1 ad	R. Forster	
Brant				
thr	Ipswich	15-110	D. Rimmer	
2, 12	Boston Harbor, Eastham	1987, 380	MAS/TASL, T. Aversa	
7, 29	Quincy	780, 575	E. Taylor	
22-30	Newburyport	225 max 4/30	v. o.	
Canada Goose				
thr	P.I., Ipswich	300 max, 400 max	v. o.	
Wood Duck				
1, 2	New Braintree, Bolton	23, 15	M. Lynch#	
11, 29	IRWS, Natick	6, 3	J. Brown, E. Taylor	
Green-winged Teal				
thr	Middleboro	250 max 4/8	W. Petersen	
thr	Newburyport-P.I.	270 max 4/4	W. Drew# + v. o.	
"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal				
thr	W. Harwich	1 m	v. o.	
9, 17	Provincetown, Ipswich	1 m, 1 m	B. Nikula, R. Heil	
American Black Duck				
2	Boston Harbor	1241	MAS/TASL	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1989
American Black Duck (continued)				
4, 19	PRNWR	100, 410	W. Drew#	
Mallard				
1, 2	New Braintree, Boston Harbor	84, 119	M. Lynch#, MAS/TASL	
Northern Pintail				
4, 19	PRNWR	20, 2	W. Drew#	
15, 18	Ipswich	8, 8	R. Stymeist#	
Blue-winged Teal				
thr	P.I.	30 max 4/22	v. o.	
28, 30	Topsfield, Halifax	13, 6	T. Aversa, W. Petersen	
Northern Shoveler				
2	Winthrop	1	MAS/TASL	
6, 17	Dartmouth, Middleboro	2 m, 2	J. Hill, W. Petersen	
9-29	P.I.	7 max 4/23	D. Chickering + v. o.	
Gadwall				
2-30	P.I.	16 max 4/19	W. Drew# + v. o.	
22	Ipswich	14	R. Stymeist#	
American Wigeon				
1, 5	New Braintree, Arlington	2, 13	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
22, 23	Mt.A., Topsfield	pr, pr	v. o., T. Prince	
Canvasback				
2, 10	Lakeville, Randolph	25, 4	W. Petersen, S. Higginbotham	
Redhead				
10	Randolph	2	S. Higginbotham	
Ring-necked Duck				
1, 2	Westboro, W. Newbury	40, 80	E. Taylor, BBC (S. Bolton)	
2, 23; 2	S. Hanson; Lakeville	25, 2; 50	W. Petersen	
9, 25	W. Newbury, Lynnfield	200, 2	R. Forster, T. Aversa	
Greater Scaup				
2, 9	Boston Harbor, Lakeville	497, 150	MAS/TASL, W. Petersen	
9, 22	Newburyport	110, 2	M. Lynch#	
Lesser Scaup				
2, 9; 24	Lakeville; W. Newbury	10, 8; 2	W. Petersen; R. Forster	
Common Eider				
2	Boston Harbor	2946	MAS/TASL	
Harlequin Duck				
9, 25	N. Scituate	3, 3	J. Flaherty, R. Abrams	
24	Winthrop	1 m	T. Aversa	
Oldsquaw				
9-23	Newburyport	800 max 4/9	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
Black Scoter				
2	Boston Harbor	1	MAS/TASL	
Surf Scoter				
2, 15	Boston Harbor, N. Monomoy	11, 75	MAS/TASL, B. Nikula#	
24	Hull	10	P. Thayer	
White-winged Scoter				
2	Boston Harbor	67	MAS/TASL	
22, 29	P.I., N. Scituate	700, 75	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
Common Goldeneye				
2	Boston Harbor	565	MAS/TASL	
9, 23	Newburyport	175, 2	M. Lynch#	
Barrow's Goldeneye				
9	Newburyport	1 m	M. Lynch#	
Bufflehead				
2	Boston Harbor	2227	MAS/TASL	
11, 19, 27	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	33, 30, 17	LCES (J. Hill)	
29	E. Orleans	10	A. Williams	
Hooded Merganser				
1, 2	Quabbin (G41, G37)	2, 24	M. Lynch#	
2, 9	Halifax, Petersham	9, 10	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
Common Merganser				
thr	Stoneham	32 max 4/2	T. Aversa	
2; 5, 23	Squantum; Arlington	145; 34, 7	MAS/TASL; T. Aversa	
9, 17	Danvers, W. Newbury	14, 14	J. Brown	
Red-breasted Merganser				
thr	Ipswich	10-160	D. Rimmer	
2, 9	Boston Harbor, P'town	1890, 1500	MAS/TASL, B. Nikula	
12	N. Truro	1700	T. Aversa	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1989
Ruddy Duck thr 2, 10	Arlington W. Newbury, Randolph	28 max 4/2 6, 40	T. Aversa + v. o. BBC (S. Bolton), S. Higginbotham	

#### VULTURES THROUGH ALCIDS

Turkey Vultures were seen at many locations with one flock of 29 birds in Barre. A pair of Cooper's Hawks was found nesting in Middleboro—an exciting event for the nest finder. Broad-winged Hawks put in a good appearance on April 29, especially on Cape Cod.

Piping Plovers seem to be holding their own on North Monomoy, where a maximum of 35 was counted. More surprising was a count of 24 at Crane Beach in Ipswich. American Oystercatchers returned to North Monomoy in their usual numbers. This was a good year for Common Snipes with a maximum of 300 in Middleboro and 150 in Newbury.

Little and Common Black-headed gulls were present in Newburyport, and Common Black-headed Gulls were also noted in Boston Harbor. A Lesser Black-backed Gull remained at Nine Acre Corner in Concord for at least the first week of April. Three Caspian Terns were noted at three locations this month, and Common Terns appeared on April 27 with 40 pair present at Bird Island in Buzzards Bay. Black Guillemots in breeding plumage were noted at Marblehead on April 18. G.W.G.

#### Turkey Vulture

2-22	Mt. Watic	15 max 4/21	EMHW
1, 2	Hardwick, Quabbin (G37)	3, 4	M. Lynch#
9	Barre, Westminster	29, 7	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#
9, 15	Provincetown, Princeton	6, 7	B. Nikula, S. Selesky
23	Milton	6	R. Stymeist#

Reports of from 1-5 birds from 22 locations.

#### Osprey

thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	4 or 5	LCES (J. Hill)
2	Lakeville, Nantucket	pr at nest, 1 at nest	W. Petersen, M. Litchfield
17	Wachusett Mt.	23	EMHW
19	Westport	62	R. Stymeist#

Reports of from 1-3 birds from 10 locations.

#### Bald Eagle

1, 2	Quabbin (G41), (G37)	1 ad + 5 imm, 1 imm	M. Lynch#
2, 9	Lakeville	1 ad + 1 imm, 1 ad	W. Petersen
26	S. Carver	1 imm	A. Mason

#### Northern Harrier

1-29	P.I.	8 max 4/24	R. Forster + v. o.
14-28, 28	Ipswich, Mt. A.	1, 1	D. Rimmer, BBC (K. Griffis)
21-28	Reports of individuals from 4 locations.		

#### Sharp-shinned Hawk

2, 23	Middleboro, N. Scituate	3, 5 in 45 min	W. Petersen
17; 21, 29	Wachusett Mt.; Mt. Watic	37; 51, 163	EMHW
20, 29	Hull, E. Boston	12, 40	P. Thayer, S. Zende
29	P.I.	57	EMHW

Reports of individuals from 10 locations.

#### Cooper's Hawk

9, 29	Middleboro	1 ad, pr nesting	W. Petersen
9, 29	Westminster, N. Truro	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, B. Nikula

Reports of individuals from 10 locations.

#### Northern Goshawk

thr, 3	Boxford, Hingham	pr nesting, 1 f	J. Berry#, R. Fox
8, 30	Hanover, Belmont	1, 1 imm	W. Petersen, J. Heywood#

#### Red-shouldered Hawk

thr	E. Middleboro	pr nesting	K. Anderson
2, 8	Middleboro, Easton	4, 2	W. Petersen, K. Ryan
9, 15	Westminster, Boxford	2, 2	R. Stymeist#, J. Heywood#

Reports of individuals from 10 locations.

#### Broad-winged Hawk

15, 17	Quabbin (G40), Princeton	1, 3	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#
20, 29	Sudbury, Mt. A.	8, 3	R. Stymeist#, J. Gordon#
29	E. Boston, N. Truro	20, 60	S. Zende, W. Swift#
17-29	Reports of 1-3 birds from 12 locations.		

#### Red-tailed Hawk

thr	Ipswich	2 or 3	D. Rimmer
2, 23	Otis AFB, Falmouth	2, 2	P. Trimble

#### Rough-legged Hawk

9, 29	GMNWR, E. Boston	1, 1	BBC (D. + D. Oliver), S. Zende
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DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1989
American Kestrel thr 2; 2, 23 22, 23; 27; 28, 29	Marlboro, Ipswich N. Middleboro Boston Harbor; Otis AFB P.I.	1 or 2, 1-4 pr 6; 3, 8 33, 24; 250; 20, 22	R. Graefe, D. Rimmer K. Holmes MAS/TASL; P. Trimble EMHW; J. Clifford; EMHW	
Merlin 2, 5 15, 18 24, 27 25, 29	Boston Harbor, Sudbury P.I. P.I. Essex, N. Truro	1, 1 1, 1 1, 7 1, 1	MAS/TASL, R. Forster M. Argue#, T. Aversa R. Forster, J. Clifford T. Aversa, B. Nikula	
Peregrine Falcon thr 2, 27 16, 23	Boston (Customs House) P.I. E. Boston, Ipswich	2 1, 3 1, 1 ad	v. o. J. Center, J. Clifford N. Smith, M. Lynch#	
Ring-necked Pheasant 2, 17-30 19	IRWS, Quincy S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 2 4	H. Wiggin#, G. d'Entremont LCES (J. Hill)	
Ruffed Grouse 11, 15	Ipswich, Boxford	1, 3 drumming	J. Berry, R. Stymeist#	
Wild Turkey 2, 15 22	Barre, Quabbin (G40) Boxford	16, 1 1	M. Lynch# J. Berry#	
Northern Bobwhite 2, 22 5, 12 23, 24	Waltham, Middleboro DWWS, Eastham Halifax, Centerville	5, 5 12, 15 8, 16	L. Taylor#, G. d'Entremont T. Aversa W. Petersen, P. Trimble	
King Rail 27, 28	Rockland	1	fide W. Petersen	
Virginia Rail 17, 29 27, 28 29	Hamilton, IRWS Needham, Wayland Whitman	1, 2 1, 3 or 4 2	R. Heil D. Case, R. Forster W. Petersen	
Sora 21, 29	GMNWR, DWWS	1, 1	D. Morimoto, G. d'Entremont	
Common Moorhen 30	N. Scituate	1 dead	T. + J. Cameron	
American Coot 5, 11 12	Arlington, Scituate Plymouth	2, 1 100	T. Aversa T. Aversa	
Black-bellied Plover thr 15, 26 22-29	Ipswich N. Monomoy Newburyport	1-3 50, 100 6-10	D. Rimmer B. Nikula H. Wiggin + v. o.	
Lesser Golden-Plover 15, 21	N. Monomoy, Ipswich	1, 1	B. Nikula#, T. Leverich	
Piping Plover thr 2-24 2 11, 27	Ipswich (Crane Beach) N. Monomoy Nantucket, P.I. S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	4-24 35 max 4/15 3, 1 1, 6	D. Rimmer B. Nikula M. Litchfield, BBC (S. Bolton) LCES (J. Hill)	
Killdeer 1, 2 2, 4 5, 8	New Braintree, Bolton Otis AFB, Concord Arlington, Athol	10, 15 14, 21 8, 6	M. Lynch# P. Trimble, W. Petersen T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
American Oystercatcher 2, 15 2, 20 19, 27	N. Monomoy Nantucket, M.V. S. Dart. (Allens Pd), Fairhaven	11, 28 3, 6 3, 2	B. Nikula M. Litchfield, D. Rimmer LCES (J. Hill), B. Blodget	
Greater Yellowlegs 2-29 19, 27; 28	Newburyport S. Dart. (Allens Pd); Chatham	190 max 4/25 30, 7; 48	T. Aversa + v. o. LCES (J. Hill); B. Nikula	
Lesser Yellowlegs 9-29 23, 29	Newburyport Bridgewater	15 max 4/23 1, 3	R. Stymeist# + v. o. W. Petersen	
Willet 24, 27 30	P. I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Chatham	1, 3 49	R. Forster, LCES (J. Hill) B. Nikula	
Spotted Sandpiper 17, 29	Arlington, Newburyport	1, 1	T. Aversa, H. Wiggin#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1989
Upland Sandpiper				
18, 23	Newburyport, Ipswich	1, 1	K. Young#, M. Lynch#	
23, 28; 23	Otis AFB; E. Boston	2, 3; 1	P. Trimble; N. Smith	
25, 26	Essex, Concord	3, 1	T. Aversa, R. Walton	
29	Middleboro, Halifax	6, 2	T. + J. Cameron, W. Petersen	
Sanderling				
thr	Ipswich	3-14	D. Rimmer	
15, 26	N. Monomoy	300, 300	B. Nikula	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
29	Bridgewater	7	W. Petersen	
Purple Sandpiper				
11, 22	N. Scituate, P.I.	1, 2	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Dunlin				
thr	Ipswich	11-45	D. Rimmer	
9-25	Newburyport	37 max 4/25	T. Aversa + v. o.	
15, 26	N. Monomoy	400, 200	B. Nikula	
Ruff				
22-25	Newburyport	1	fide R. Stymeist	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
29	Newburyport	1	D. Chickering	
Common Snipe				
1-17	Middleboro	300 max 4/17	W. Petersen	
2	Newbury	150	S. Perkins	
15, 18	Ipswich, Newburyport	45, 55	R. Stymeist#	
17	Essex, Newbury	75, 55	R. Heil, J. Brown	
American Woodcock				
thr	Ipswich	2-4	D. Rimmer	
2, 8	Bolton, Bridgewater	10, 4	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen	
21	P.I.	1	R. Stymeist#	
Laughing Gull				
1, 2	Newburyport, Winthrop	1, 1	H. Wiggin#, MAS/TASL	
19	New Bedford	28	R. Stymeist#	
Little Gull				
16-30	Newburyport	1-3, 3 ad br pl 4/22	v. o.	
Common Black-headed Gull				
9-23	Newburyport	3 or 4 (3 ad)	v. o.	
2-28	Boston Harbor	1 or 2	v. o.	
Bonaparte's Gull				
9, 23	Newburyport	20, 38	M. Lynch#	
Ring-billed Gull				
2	Arlington	135	L. Taylor#	
22, 24	Squantum, Lynn	250, 275	G. d'Entremont, J. Quigley	
Iceland Gull				
2, 19	N. Truro, Chatham	1, 1	B. Nikula	
9	Newburyport	1	M. Lynch#	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
1-8	Concord (Nine Acre Corner)	1	R. Forster + v. o.	
Black-legged Kittiwake				
16	Rockport	60	W. Petersen	
Caspian Tern				
15	Carver	1	fide W. Petersen	
25, 27	Scituate, Plymouth	1, 1	R. Abrams, B. Howell	
Common Tern				
27	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), Marion	2, 40 pr	LCES (J. Hill), B. Blodget	
Dovekie				
24	Orleans	1 dead	E. Williams	
Black Guillemot				
18	Marblehead	3 br pl	R. Heil	

#### OWLS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS

A Common Barn-Owl was found roosting in an abandoned building on Deer Island during the final Boston Harbor Census of the season. A late Snowy Owl was still present at Logan airport on April 16, and another was at Race Point in Provincetown on April 20. On April 22, a Long-eared Owl was found in Hellcat Swamp where it remained all day for everyone to see and admire. The first Whip-poor-wills were back at Myles Standish State Forest on April 27.

Swallows arrived on schedule, and Purple Martins were investigating their boxes at Plum Island by the end of the month. About 600 American Crows were counted at the Framingham-Natick roost on April 21,

down from the 3000+ counted there before the nesting season. Three Fish Crow nests were found at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Watertown, and Common Ravens were located at various spots in the Quabbin area.

Winter Wrens were well reported during the month. Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned kinglets peaked on April 18, after a southeast wind. Large numbers were seen at Mount Auburn Cemetery and Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary.

R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1989
Common Barn-Owl				
2	Winthrop (Deer I.)	1	MAS/TASL	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
8, 20-30	Arlington, Mt. A.	2, 1	L. Taylor#, C. Jackson + v. o.	
23-30	Brookline	1	B. Rielly#	
Great Horned Owl				
thr, 5	Ipswich, E. Middleboro	2, 1	J. Berry, K. Anderson	
8	Bridgewater, Middleboro	4, 2	W. Petersen	
12, 15	Hanover, Quabbin (G41)	1, 1	R. Fox, M. Lynch#	
25	Braintree	1	G. d'Entremont	
Snowy Owl				
16, 20	Boston (Logan), P'town	1, 1	N. Smith, K. Jones#	
Barned Owl				
1, 8	E. Middleboro	1, 1	W. Petersen + v. o.	
15, 30	Middleboro	1, 1	D. Briggs	
6, 15	Easton, Boxford	2, 1	K. Ryan, J. Heywood	
Long-eared Owl				
22	P.I. (Hellcat)	1	W. Rasku + v. o.	
Short-eared Owl				
2, 8	Winthrop, Middleboro	1, 1	MAS/TASL, W. Petersen	
9, 26	Minot, N. Monomoy	1, 1	J. Flaherty, B. Nikula	
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
2	Nantucket (Shimmo)	2	M. Litchfield	
Whip-poor-will				
27	Plymouth (Myles Standish)	2	G. d'Entremont#	
Chimney Swift				
26, 29; 26	IRWS; Watertown	1, 6; 1	R. Heil; K. Griffis	
27	Lawrence	1	V. Yurkunas	
28	Milton, Wellesley	2, 3	B. Abrams, R. Forster	
Belted Kingfisher				
thr	Mt. A.	pr nesting	A. Bennett + v. o.	
Reports of 1-3 individuals from many locations.				
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
29	Topsfield (B. Palmer)	1	BBC (J. Berry)	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
9, 10-22	Westminster, Quincy	1, 2	P. Westrom#, D. Brown#	
17, 18	Quabbin (G40), Mt. A.	1, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
18	MNWS, Newbury	8, 1	R. Heil, D. Chickering	
23, 25	S. Dartmouth, P.I.	1, 1	SSBC (K. Anderson), T. Aversa	
29	E. Orleans, MNWS	1, 1	A. + E. Williams, R. Heil	
Downy Woodpecker				
9	Braintree (Pond Meadow)	7	G. d'Entremont	
Hairy Woodpecker				
15	Boxford (State Forest)	4	R. Stymeist#	
Northern Flicker				
18	P.I.	40	J. Heywood#	
18, 22	Mt. A.	28, 40	R. Stymeist, J. Clancy	
Pileated Woodpecker				
thr	Milton, Westford	1, 2	T. + J. Cameron, S. + D. Selesky	
2, 21	Quabbin (G37), Petersham	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
9, 15	IRWS, Boxford	2, 2	J. Brown, R. Stymeist#	
26, 29	Wayland, Topsfield	1, 2	M. Hall, BBC (J. Berry)	
Eastern Phoebe				
1, 15, 17	Quabbin (G41)	12, 3, 9	M. Lynch#	
2; 15, 17	Quabbin (G37); (G40)	9; 6, 5	M. Lynch#	
8, 9	Athol, P.I.	14, 11	E. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
14, 18; 14	Mt. A.; Needham	6, 7; 4	C. Jackson#; D. Case	
15, 27	Boxford, Westminster	16, 27	R. Stymeist#, J. Heywood#	
Other reports of 1-6 individuals from many locations.				
Eastern Kingbird				
29	MNWS	1	J. Smith	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1989
Horned Lark				
1, 2	Quabbin (G37), Ipswich	34, 9	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
2; 2, 23	Bridgewater; Otis AFB	50; 6, 34	W. Petersen; P. Trimble	
Purple Martin				
19	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
23, 29	P.I.	3, 6	D. Chickering + v. o.	
24	Ipswich	2	R. Forster	
28, 29	IRWS, Hanson	1, 4	R. Heil, W. Petersen	
Tree Swallow				
1, 5, 10	Wayland (Hearde Pd)	30, 70, 300	R. Forster	
1; 2, 22	Westboro; P.I.	100; 4, 100+	E. Taylor; D. Chickering + v. o.	
2, 7	Quabbin (G37), (G41)	29, 70+	M. Lynch#	
5, 23; 8	Ipswich; GMNWR	1, 200+; 125+	J. Berry; R. Stymeist#	
9, 15	S. Hanson, Carver	250+, 60+	W. Petersen, D. Briggs#	
22, 28	Lynnfield, IRWS	450+, 270+	R. Stymeist#, R. Heil	
8-30	Reports from a wide area.			
N. Rough-winged Swallow				
9, 10	S. Hanson, Hull	2, 1	W. Petersen, P. Thayer	
15; 15, 22	Stoneham; Lynnfield	2; 2, 8	T. Aversa; R. Stymeist#	
21, 22	Old Furnace, Mt. A.	2, 2	M. Lynch#, R. Peterson#	
23, 30; 23	Ipswich; Waltham	4, 4; 2	J. Berry; R. Stymeist#	
29	Whitman, Woburn	1, 2	W. Petersen#, M. Hall	
Bank Swallow				
19, 21	Wayland, New Braintree	3, 2	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
28, 29	IRWS, P.I.	15, 2	R. Heil, H. Wiggin#	
Cliff Swallow				
7, 19	Wayland, Wayland (Hearde Pd)	1, 1	R. Forster	
22, 28	W. Newbury, IRWS	1, 1	G. Gove#, R. Heil	
Barn Swallow				
9	W. Newbury, Westminster	1, 1	R. Forster, R. Stymeist	
9, 17	Concord, P.I.	1, 1	R. Stymeist, R. Heil	
18; 19, 23	Hyannis; Wayland	2; 4, 30	P. Trimble; R. Forster	
22, 28	Lynnfield, IRWS	22, 23	R. Stymeist#, R. Heil	
20-30	Reports of 1-4 individuals from many areas.			
American Crow				
21	Framingham-Natick	600 (roost)	E. Taylor	
Fish Crow				
thr	Mt. A.	6-8 (3 nests 4/30)	R. Stymeist + v. o.	
1, 2, 12	W. Newton	1, 1, 1	T. Kuklinski	
9	Waltham	2	R. Stymeist	
11-30, 17	Hanson, Middleboro	2, 1	W. Petersen, D. Briggs	
27	Boston (Franklin Park)	2	T. Aversa	
Common Raven				
1, 15	Quabbin (G41), (G40)	2, 2	M. Lynch#	
15, 21	Barre, Petersham	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
Black-capped Chickadee				
thr	Quabbin (G41)	54 max 4/1	M. Lynch#	
2	Quabbin (G37)	39	M. Lynch#	
21	Petersham	32	M. Lynch#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
thr	Quabbin (G41)	12 max 4/1	M. Lynch#	
2	Quabbin (G37)	6	M. Lynch#	
2, 8	IRWS, Boxford	2, 1	H. Wiggin#, G. d'Entremont	
17, 21	Quabbin (G40), Petersham	6, 3	M. Lynch#	
White-breasted Nuthatch				
1, 2	Quabbin (G41), (G37)	5, 7	M. Lynch#	
Brown Creeper				
thr	Boxford, Quabbin (G41)	4-6, 2-6	R. Stymeist + v. o., M. Lynch#	
Carolina Wren				
thr	Ipswich, E. Orleans	1, 1	J. Berry, E. Williams	
2	Randolph	1	G. d'Entremont	
6, 14	Easton	1, 2	K. Ryan	
12-30	Needham	1	D. Case	
19	S. Dart., Westport	15, 8	R. Stymeist, J. Heywood	
30	Brookline	3	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
House Wren				
30	Brookline	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Winter Wren				
thr	Boxford (C.P.)	3 singing m	v. o.	
2, 17	Quabbin (G37), (G40)	2, 2	M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1989
Winter Wren (continued)				
2	Princeton (Wachusett Mt.)	1	J. Gordon#	
8	Milton	1 or 2	G. d'Entremont	
9	N. Scituate, Braintree	1, 1	G. d'Entremont	
10, 17	Quincy, Westminister	1, 1	D. Morimoto, R. Stymeist#	
17, 18	Hamilton, MNWS	2, 4	R. Heil	
20, 22	Sudbury, Petersham	1, 3	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
22	Melrose	1	C. Jackson	
23	Milton, P.I.	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, D. Chickering	
28, 29	Weston, P'town	1, 1	D. Morimoto, B. Nikula	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
1, 7, 15	Quabbin (G41)	5, 1, 4	M. Lynch#	
5; 9, 22	Ipswich; P.I.	5; 30, 2	J. Berry; M. Lynch#	
14, 18	Mt. A.	25, 35	C. Jackson, R. Stymeist	
17, 18	Hamilton, MNWS	15, 80	R. Heil	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
2	Concord, IRWS	1, 2	R. Forster, L. Taylor#	
5, 8	Bridgewater, Melrose	1, 1	K. Holmes, C. Jackson	
9-30	P.I.	28 max 4/29	D. Chickering + v. o.	
9-30	Mt. A.	65+ max 4/18	R. Stymeist + v. o.	
18, 21	MNWS, Petersham	50, 36	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	
22, 28, 29	Provincetown	8, 15, 60	B. Nikula	
25, 28	Milton, IRWS	35, 22	R. Stymeist#, R. Heil	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
9, 12	Braintree, Needham	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, D. Case	
14, 26	Mt. A., IRWS	1, 4	C. Jackson, R. Heil	
28, 29; 29	P'town; Waltham	1, 2+; 1	B. Nikula#; L. Taylor	
30	Milton, Brookline	1, 1	P. O'Neill, R. Stymeist	

#### THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS

Bluebirds were well reported; over 60 individuals were seen across eastern Massachusetts, compared with 25 birds in April 1988. These sightings follow good numbers noted in March 1989 and give us hope for a successful breeding year in the state. On April 18, over 70 Hermit Thrushes were tallied at Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary—23 individuals were in view at one time. A well-described Loggerhead Shrike was reported from Athol on April 6.

Very discouraging was the observation of a European Starling evicting a Northern Flicker from a tree hole at Quabbin. Most starlings at Quabbin are seen flying over, and nesting there has been rare.

Early spring migrants included a White-eyed Vireo and a Black-and-white Warbler after a southwest wind on April 8 and a Northern Parula, a Northern Waterthrush, and a Hooded Warbler after a southeast wind on April 18. A total of eleven species of warblers was reported this April, two less than in April 1988, but more than the seven seen in April 1987. R.H.S.

#### Eastern Bluebird

thr	Westminister (High Ridge)	14 max 4/17	R. Stymeist# + v. o.
thr	E. Middleboro, Quabbin (G41)	3+ pr, pr	K. Anderson, M. Lynch#
1, 3	Peabody, Saugus	2, 2	R. Heil, F. Duffy
7, 8; 8	Easton, Raynham; Athol	1, 2; 8	K. Ryan; M. Lynch#
9, 10	Topsfield, Acton	1, 2	J. Brown, S. Whitcomb
12, 15	Sudbury, Milton	1, 1	R. Forster, E. Taylor
16, 17	Waltham, Quabbin (G40)	2, 8	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#
18, 20	Rutland, Danvers	1, 1	B. Sorrie, J. Brown
20, 23	Mansfield, Falmouth	1, 2	K. Ryan, P. Trimble
27, 28	Braintree, IRWS	2, 2	M. Brown, R. Heil
Hermit Thrush			
2, 9	E. Middleboro, W. Newbury	1, 1	K. Anderson#, R. Forster
12, 15	Eastham, Boxford	2, 5	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist#
15, 17	Quabbin (G40), (G41)	5, 5	M. Lynch#
18	Mt. A., MNWS	9, 70	A. Bennett#, R. Heil
22	Wachusett Reservoir	5	S. Selesky
23	Falmouth; Milton, Waltham	3; 9, 7	P. Trimble; R. Stymeist#
18-30	Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from many areas.		
American Robin			
1	Hardwick-New Braintree	800+	M. Lynch#
2, 23	Otis AFB	95, 120	P. Trimble
8, 16	Athol, P.I.	70+, 56	M. Lynch#, S. Moore

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1989
Gray Catbird				
19	S. Dartmouth	2	R. Stymeist#	
28	IRWS, Wayland	2, 1	R. Heil, R. Forster	
Brown Thrasher				
18, 19	MNWS, S. Dartmouth	2, 1	R. Heil, R. Stymeist#	
26, 29	Waltham, P.I.	2, 1	L. Taylor, D. Chickering	
Water Pipit				
4, 28	Halifax, Topsfield	1, 1	R. Forster#, T. Aversa	
Cedar Waxwing				
8-9	Ipswich	25-30	J. Berry#	
Loggerhead Shrike				
6	Athol	1	S. Price + v. o.	
European Starling				
15	Quabbin (G40)	1 at nest hole	M. Lynch#	
White-eyed Vireo				
9	Acoaxet	1	H. D'Entremont	
Solitary Vireo				
19, 21	Quabbin (G40), Petersham	2, 3	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
22	Mt. A., Boxford	1, 2	J. Sisson, J. Berry#	
29, 30	P'town, Brookline	3, 9	B. Nikula, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Northern Parula				
19	Mt. A.	1	C. Jackson	
Yellow Warbler				
28	S. Dartmouth	1	J. Hill	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
thr	Ipswich (Crane Beach)	3-14	D. Rimmer	
2	Middleboro	1	SSBC (W. Petersen)	
9, 29; 15	P'town; Quabbin (G40)	30, 50; 1	B. Nikula; M. Lynch#	
18	Mt. A., Middleboro	5, 4	R. Stymeist, K. Holmes	
18, 26	Wayland (Heards Pd)	12, 80	R. Forster	
18-30	Reports from a wide area.			
Black-throated Green Warbler				
28, 29	IRWS, Boxford	1, 1	R. Heil, K. Griffiths#	
Pine Warbler				
thr, 2	E. Middleboro, Falmouth	2 or 3, 2	K. Anderson, P. Trimble	
7	Pembroke, Framingham	4, 1	W. Thomas, R. Forster	
7, 8	Lincoln, Easton	1, 3	L. Balcanoff, K. Ryan	
10	Sandwich, Ipswich	4, 1	K. Anderson, D. Rimmer	
14, 15	N. Middleboro, Boxford	3, 2	K. Holmes, J. Heywood#	
19	Fall River (Watuppa)	27	R. Stymeist#	
23	Falmouth (Crane Wildlife Mgmt. Area)	20	P. Trimble	
15-30	Reports of 1-5 individuals from a wide area.			
Palm Warbler				
9; 15, 17	Westminster; Quabbin (G40)	2; 1, 3	R. Stymeist#; M. Lynch#	
18	Mt. A., IRWS, S. Boston	1, 23, 4	A. Bennett, T. Aversa, M. Hall	
21, 22	Petersham, Boxford	10, 9	M. Lynch#, J. Berry#	
26, 29	Wayland, P'town	23, 15	R. Walton, B. Nikula#	
22-30	Many other reports of 1 or 2 individuals.			
Black-and-white Warbler				
9, 22	P.I., Easton	1, 2	J. Hepburn#, K. Ryan	
28	Wayland, Wellesley	1, 1	R. Forster	
29	Waltham, IRWS	2, 3	L. Taylor, R. Heil	
29, 30	Boston, Middleboro	2, 1	T. Aversa, W. Petersen	
Northern Waterthrush				
19, 28	Fall River, IRWS	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, R. Heil	
29, 29-30	Woburn, Mt. A.	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, M. Hall	
29-30	Brookline (Halls Pd)	2	R. Stymeist#	
Louisiana Waterthrush				
9-30	Boxford (C.P.)	2+	v. o.	
14-15, 15-17	Quincy, Quabbin (G41)	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
18, 21	MNWS, Petersham	2, 1	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	
Common Yellowthroat				
7, 30	Saugus, Middleboro	1, 1	C. Jackson, W. Petersen	
Hooded Warbler				
22-25	Mt. A.	1 f	v. o.	

BUNTINGS THROUGH FINCHES

Interesting spring feeder birds included a male Indigo Bunting in Manchester and a Northern Oriole in Wenham. Unusual for spring was a report of a male Lark Bunting in Orleans. American Tree Sparrows lingered through April 24, and Fox Sparrows were found in seven locations.

Purple Finches returned after their absence this past winter and were noted at fourteen locations. Only one Pine Siskin was reported. Evening Grosbeaks were seen at several locations in Worcester County. R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1989
Indigo Bunting 9-10	Manchester	1 m	Mrs. Cutler	
Lark Bunting 28-30	Orleans	1 m	L. Brown, E. J. Fisk	
Rufous-sided Towhee 17, 18	S. Hanson, Middleboro	1, 1	W. Petersen, D. Briggs	
19	Fall River, S. Dartmouth	10, 8	J. Heywood#, R. Stymeist#	
23, 27	Waltham, Quincy	3, 3	R. Stymeist#, G. d'Entremont	
29, 30	Acton, P.I.	1, 3	R. Forster, G. d'Entremont#	
American Tree Sparrow 9	Topsfield, Westminster	1, 4	J. Brown, P. Westrom#	
13	Newton, Wellesley	6, 1	O. Komar, R. Forster	
21, 24	Quincy, Lexington	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, C. Floyd	
Chipping Sparrow 4, 9	Brookline, Westminster	1, 3	H. Wiggin, R. Stymeist#	
21, 22	Old Furnace, Weston	1, 3	M. Lynch#, D. Morimoto	
Field Sparrow 7, 8	Holden, Athol	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
11, 13	Canton (F.M.), Brookline	1, 1	T. Aversa, H. Wiggin#	
23	Otis AFB	4	P. Trimble	
Vesper Sparrow 10, 17	Westminster (2 locations)	1, 1	R. Stymeist#	
21, 22	Newburyport, Easton	1, 2	T. Leverich#, K. Ryan	
Savannah Sparrow 1, 29; 2, 20	Newton; Bolton Flats	1, 13; 8, 34	O. Komar#; M. Lynch#	
22, 24	Middleboro, Mt. A.	25, 8	G. d'Entremont, A. Bennett	
Fox Sparrow 1, 2	Quabbin (G41), (G37)	6, 1	M. Lynch#	
2, 5	P.I., Cambridge (F.P.)	5, 1	S. Perkins, T. Aversa	
7; 18, 22	Pembroke; Mt. A.	1; 1, 1	W. Thomas; R. Stymeist#	
20	ONWR	1	M. Lynch#	
Song Sparrow thr	Ipswich (Crane Beach)	1-34	D. Rimmer	
9	P.I.	54	M. Lynch#	
Swamp Sparrow 4, 5	Needham, Cambridge	2, 1	D. Case, T. Aversa	
18, 20	GMNWR, Bolton Flats	6, 6	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
White-throated Sparrow 29	Milton, P'town	15, 50+	E. Taylor, B. Nikula	
Dark-eyed Junco 1, 7, 17	Quabbin (G41)	27, 22, 12	M. Lynch#	
Lapland Longspur 1, 23	Middleboro, Otis AFB	15, 2	W. Petersen, P. Trimble	
Snow Bunting 3, 22	Ipswich (Crane B.), Ipswich	10, 1	D. Rimmer, G. Gove	
23	S. Dartmouth	1	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
Red-winged Blackbird 2, 8, 22	Bolton Flats, Athol, P.I.	75+, 60+, 25+	M. Lynch#	
Eastern Meadowlark 1; 2, 17	New Braintree; Marlboro	3; 5, 7	M. Lynch#; R. Graefe	
7, 8	DWWS, Athol	14, 5	D. Clapp, M. Lynch#	
23, 30	W. Newbury, Taunton	4, 5	M. Lynch#, B. Sorrie#	
Yellow-headed Blackbird 29	P.I.	1 f	E. Salmela	
Rusty Blackbird 1, 2	Middleboro, IRWS	3, 17	W. Petersen, L. Taylor#	
7, 9	Stoneham, Wenham	3, 2-4	T. Aversa, J. Berry	
10, 17	Westminster (High Ridge)	17, 7	R. Stymeist#	
14, 29	Wayland, P'town	25, 4	R. Forster, B. Nikula	
Brown-headed Cowbird 1, 8	New Braintree, Athol	30+, 20+	M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1989
Northern Oriole 20-30	Wenham	1	B. Barnard	
Purple Finch 2, 15, 17	Quabbin (G37), (G41), (G40)	1, 1, 2	M. Lynch#	
1, 8	E. Middleboro, Hanson	2, 1	K. Anderson, W. Petersen	
9; 10, 17	Wenham; Westminster	1; 3, 5	J. Berry; R. Stymeist#	
11, 15	Canton (F.M.), Boxford	1, 2	T. Aversa, J. Heywood#	
18	Mt. A., Rutland (2 locations)	1, 2	R. Stymeist#, B. Sorrie	
21, 25	Petersham, P.I.	2, 5	M. Lynch#	
House Finch 15	Quabbin (G40)	pr	M. Lynch#	
Pine Siskin 11	Brookline	1	H. Wiggan	
Evening Grosbeak 1, 7, 15, 17	Quabbin (G41)	2, 1, 8, 11	M. Lynch#	
2, 8	Quabbin (G37), Athol	4, 10	M. Lynch#	
10; 15, 17	Westminster; Quabbin (G40)	27; 4, 2	R. Stymeist#; M. Lynch#	
21	Petersham, Middleboro	1, 1	M. Lynch#, D. Briggs	

CORRIGENDUM TO DEC./JAN./FEB. FIELD RECORDS (VOL. 17, NO. 3)

Tufted Duck (page 142) 12/17-2/28	Sandwich area	1 m	CBC (E. Nielsen#) + v. o.
should read 12/17-2/28	Sandwich area	1 m	CBC (B. Sorrie, E. Nielsen#) + v. o.

*Calling all birders*

**MASSACHUSETTS BIRDERS' MEETING**

Sponsored by the Massachusetts Audubon Society  
in conjunction with  
the Allen Bird Club of Springfield and  
the Hampshire Bird Club of Amherst

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18, 1989**

8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

at the Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary  
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Please join us for a  
day of bird-related information,  
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A buffet lunch will be provided.

To register, send a check in the amount of \$15 payable to  
Massachusetts Audubon Society, c/o Conservation Department,  
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For further information, call 617-259-9500, ext. 7401 or ext. 7407.



## Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch

The fall 1989 hawk migration should give birders in the state excellent opportunities to see significant numbers of hawks in good variety. The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch (EMHW) will attempt to monitor portions of this flight.

The EMHW will maintain a consecutive-day watch on the summit of Wachusett Mountain in Princeton from September 1 through October 9, continuing on all weekends through November 26 if the number of volunteer observers permits. Help is especially critical for weekdays at Wachusett from September 18 through October 9, the period when accipiters and some of the larger buteos are best seen.

The EMHW will also conduct coordinated hawkwatches on the weekends of September 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, and October 28-29. Volunteers are needed to report the level of hawk migration activity from any site on any of the coordinated weekend dates. Select a site near your home or contact the EMHW coordinator for recommendations as to the best sites available for coverage.

You don't have to be an expert to participate and report. Reporting the number of hawks seen—not identifying every one of them—is the critical requirement. If you would like, the EMHW coordinator can team you with a more experienced hawkwatcher at any of a number of sites across the eastern half of the state, from Cape Cod to the Connecticut River.

Volunteers are needed for all dates. We also appreciate any hawkwatch reports for any other dates or sites in eastern Massachusetts or Rhode Island, with special emphasis on the second and third weeks of September.

If you would like to participate or require more information, please contact:

Paul Roberts, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155.

Telephone: 617-483-4263 (after 8:00 P.M.).

If you would like more information on hawkwatching in eastern Massachusetts, including a copy of the Fall 1988 Eastern Hawk Watch Report, please write to Paul Roberts at the address above and include \$1.50 to help defray costs. The information packet includes two fliers: "Why People Watch Hawks" and "Where to Watch Hawks in Eastern Massachusetts."

Additional materials are also available from Paul at the address above. These include a six-page silhouette guide to the hawks of the northeast (\$1.70), a sixteen-page silhouette guide to the hawks of North America (\$2.65), and a sixteen-page *Beginner's Guide to Hawkwatching* (\$1.25). All prices include postage; checks should be made payable to the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch.

## ABOUT THE COVER: Least Sandpiper

The Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) is the smallest of the North American peep, just smaller than the Semipalmated Sandpiper with which it frequently associates. It can be separated from the latter by its generally browner coloration, more slender bill, and by its yellowish or greenish legs. Juvenile birds in fresh plumage are more brightly colored than adults. Bright rufous edges to the feathers of the crown and upperparts create a bright orange-brown glow, and there is a creamy white, incomplete V pattern on the sides of the back. This bright plumage rapidly wears and fades, and by late October most Least Sandpipers are in drab winter dress.

These birds are foraging generalists, usually picking rather than probing, and eating a wide variety of insect, crustacean, and even plant foods. They may twitter when foraging and when flushed utter a "kreeep" or a long "screeeee." They frequent beaches, particularly in spring, and during migration in May are found on the open mudflats of Newburyport Harbor by the thousands. However, this species often forages out of the water, on the muddy edges of pools or in marsh grass—tame little brown sandpipers that roam the *Spartina* edges of the shallow pannes at Plum Island.

Least Sandpipers generally arrive in our area from the first week in May on the way to their tundra breeding grounds (Alaska east to Newfoundland and south to Nova Scotia), and stragglers linger through early June. On July 12, 1979, a freshly dead downy chick was found on Monomoy, establishing the first known breeding record for Least Sandpiper in the Lower Forty-eight (reported by Kathleen S. Anderson in *American Birds*, November 1980, 34: 867). The adults arrive back in Massachusetts from early July through early August, followed shortly by the brightly colored juveniles, which become prevalent by the third week of August. The birds stop over to fatten up for the flight to their wintering grounds in southern United States, Central America, and the northern half of South America. But some of these tiny birds also fly nonstop from Canada to South America.

This species is monogamous. The males sing and display both on the ground and in elaborate flights with alternating bursts of rapid wingbeating and gliding, rising sometimes to thirty meters or more and singing continuously. The male also does most of the incubating of the clutch of four eggs and most of the caring for the downy young. The adults forage in communal feeding areas away from the breeding territory.

This widespread and common sandpiper currently poses no conservation problems. It is part of the superspecies that includes the Old World stints, several of which it closely resembles in some plumages, particularly if leg color is not clear, providing a significant challenge to birders who think they may be viewing a vagrant stint in their scopes.

William E. Davis, Jr.

## MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

**BARRY W. VAN DUSEN** is a wildlife artist who lives in Princeton, Massachusetts, with his wife Lisa, not far from Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary. He is a native of Maine who grew up in the Sebago Lake area and early in childhood developed an interest in natural history. Since high school, this interest has become increasingly focused on birds. An artistic talent, apparent early in life, was encouraged by his parents (father was an engineering designer). In high school Barry decided to become an artist. To that end, he completed a four-year study in visual design at Southeastern Massachusetts University, a broad program founded on a traditional art education.

Ten years ago, Barry began his independent professional career, starting as a commercial artist. He has done major illustrations for Genrad, Digital, Scandinavian Design, and American Optical companies. However, in recent years, he has turned his attention to natural history subjects, especially birds. For Massachusetts Audubon Society he has illustrated and created brochures and posters and produced the artwork for field guides, books, and for the society's publication *Sanctuary*. Some of these pictures have, in turn, appeared in the pages of *Audubon*, *Wildbird*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Bird Observer*. He illustrated Richard Walton's book *Bird Finding in New England* (published by Godine) and has produced the artwork for two forthcoming books, *A Naturalist's Guide to New England* by Christopher Leahy and *Birding Cape Cod*, a manuscript produced by the Cape Cod Bird Club. He is currently illustrating a pocket guide to the natural history of Belize.

Barry is dedicated to field sketching, preferring to work from life whenever possible, and keeps several sketchbooks active at any one time. He has gained inspiration from the works of Eric Ennion, John Busby, and Lars Jonsson—all advocates of working directly from the living bird. Many of Barry's field sketches were featured in the April 1989 issue of *Habitat: Journal of the Maine Audubon Society*, and his painting of Laughing Gulls adorned the cover.

The pen-and-ink drawing of fresh-plumaged young Least Sandpipers on our cover was produced from a field sketch made in early September of 1987 at Bourne on Cape Cod and is the second cover the artist has contributed to *Bird Observer*.

Barry's pictures have been exhibited at galleries throughout New England. In October 1989, his work will be on view at Maine Audubon Society in Falmouth, Maine. If you would like to be notified of future exhibits, please drop a note to him at 13 Radford Road, Princeton, MA 01541.

Dorothy R. Arvidson

The shorebird depicted as June's mystery species is at once recognizable as one of the three species of phalaropes. Collectively, phalaropes are recognizable in nonbreeding plumage by their distinctive dusky eye patches and their frequent habit of swimming when foraging rather than walking on mudflats or sand. This swimming trait is especially characteristic of Red-necked and Red phalaropes. In Massachusetts only Wilson's Phalarope is likely to be seen regularly foraging on land, where it can then be readily distinguished by its very long straight thin bill, pale gray eye patch, slender neck, yellowish legs, unpatterned dark wings, and white rump patch in flight.

The stout bill, blackish eye patch, and rather short thick neck of the pictured phalarope eliminate Wilson's Phalarope. Having narrowed the options, it is necessary to concentrate on the structure of the bill and the coloration and pattern of the mystery bird's back. Clearly, the bill is thick at the base, tapering gradually to a blunt tip. The fresh unpatterned mantle and scapular feathers on the upper parts fail to show any broad white fringes or dark central streaks, thereby giving the back an even, light gray appearance quite devoid of any streaking other than the dark areas of retained juvenile plumage on the lower neck. This combination of characteristics clearly indicates that the bird in the photograph is a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) molting from juvenal into basic (winter) plumage.

A Red-necked Phalarope in corresponding plumage would possess a nearly uniformly thin needle-like bill with a pointed tip, and its upperparts would show a streaked appearance due to a combination of dark central streaks and broad white fringes on the back and scapular feathers. Also, the Red-necked Phalarope normally has a smaller headed appearance and a slimmer neck than the chunky-looking Red Phalarope. A caveat on the back pattern of Red Phalaropes concerns juveniles in late summer, which often display a somewhat blotchy appearance as the pale gray basic feathers of winter grow in and contrast with the dark-centered and buffy-fringed feathers of the juvenal plumage. This feather contrast can be misconstrued as the streaked pattern of similarly aged Red-necked Phalaropes. Bill shape and overall structure should serve to distinguish such individuals. Most pelagic phalaropes seen in Massachusetts are well along into their basic molt, making the identification of juveniles a little



easier. Observers are reminded that under many pelagic conditions specific phalarope identification is often impossible and that some individuals are not safely distinguished in the field unless excellent views are obtained.

The exceptional view of the Red Phalarope in the picture was obtained by Alan Bennett as the bird swam in a pool at the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge on October 15, 1988.

## AT A GLANCE

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Photo by A. H. Morgan (Courtesy of MAS)



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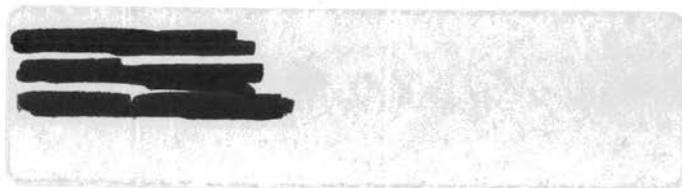
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