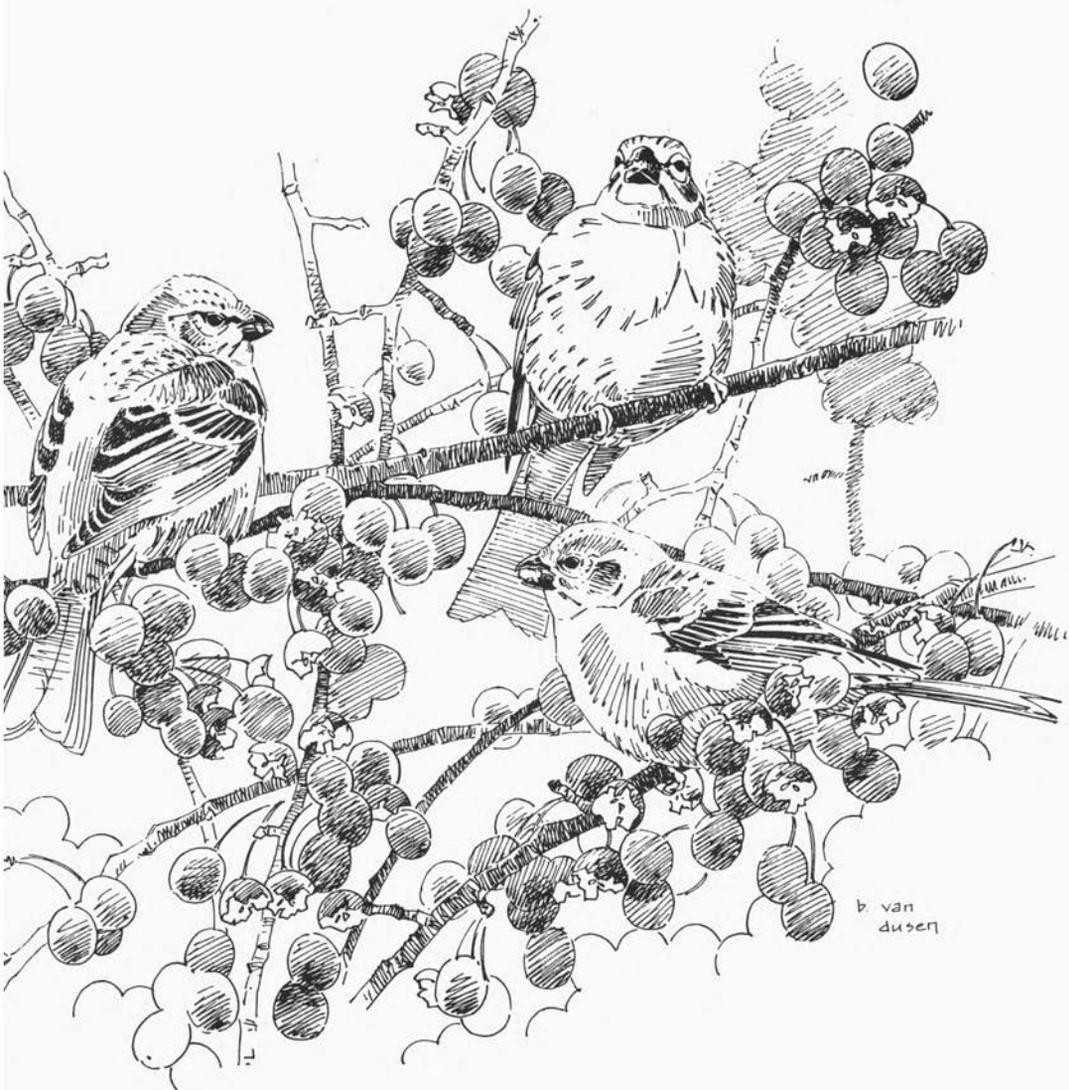


# BIRD OBSERVER



VOL. 27 NO. 6  
DECEMBER 1999



# BIRD OBSERVER

• a bimonthly journal •

To enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds.

VOL. 27, NO. 6 DECEMBER 1999

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## IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT J. GOODRICH, 1926-1999

This issue of *Bird Observer* is dedicated to the memory of Bob Goodrich, who passed away after a long illness at his home in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in September 1999. In the Berkshires there was no one more knowledgeable about things avian than Bob Goodrich, a Berkshire native. He graduated from Pittsfield High School and from the former Berkshire Business College, serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II and later working for the U.S. Postal Service for 28 years. Before that he had worked as an accountant.

Bob possessed what appeared to us mere mortals as a photographic memory — a memory that could quote diagnostic plumage subtleties of various races of Song Sparrow, and then cite the specific journal article from which he had gleaned the information. Bob was intimately acquainted with the original literature, while also being a consummate field naturalist.

Bob preferred to bird alone or with small groups of friends, and he did so virtually every day (although he was a guru on many of Bartlett Hendricks' well-attended annual waterfowl counts in which he participated). If he wasn't scouring flocks of gulls at the Berkshire lakes, examining each one in the hope of finding a rarity, he was holding down the traditional hawkwatching site with Edna Dunbar above Berry Pond in Pittsfield State Forest. We at Berkshire Sanctuaries enjoyed receiving his occasional reports of unusual sightings at our Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary, where he also spent countless hours. Bob was a walking encyclopedia of ornithology. And he always seemed to see a lot more than anyone else did.

Bob was also a private man, but he enjoyed sharing his copious knowledge with those who shared his passion for birds. He acted as mentor to many birders, and he was always a treat to bump into while out in the field. One always came away learning something new about birds after a conversation with him. Bob Goodrich's quiet yet passionate enthusiasm about the natural world, especially birds, and his scholarly grasp of this complex subject is greatly missed.

— René Laubach



## RESISTING THE NORTH POLE'S PULL, or, YES, THERE IS (AVIAN) LIFE WEST OF WORCESTER!

By René Laubach

*(Editor's note: we welcome René Laubach as guest editor of this special issue of Bird Observer, which is devoted to birds and birding in Berkshire County. Thanks to René and all the contributors to this issue for their hard work and their willingness to share what they know about birding the unusual habitats and enticing locations at the western end of Massachusetts.)*

For many birders, and indeed for most citizens of this biotically varied Commonwealth, the Berkshires remain *terra incognita*: a vast, howling wilderness avoided by all but the most foolhardy. Certainly that was once the case for me. Back in 1983, I found myself working in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, fresh from the prairie state of Iowa and ecstatic about the relocation of my wife, Christyna, and me to the East Coast. The lobster boats, the salt marshes, the stone walls — it was all so quintessentially *New England*. One day, however, while thumbing through a Massachusetts Audubon Society publication about the Massachusetts landscape, I chanced upon a 1904 black-and-white scenic photo. In the distance loomed Mount Greylock. Amazement! I had only vaguely imagined the fact, staring up at me from the page, that my new state wasn't flat. This chance encounter changed my outlook immediately and indelibly. Although I knew that today's landscape is almost unrecognizable from that of ninety-five years ago, the fact that my newly adopted little state possessed formidable uplands intrigued me greatly. Little did I know that less than two years hence (it's a long story), my wife and I would relocate to the Berkshire Hills.

As a nonnative New Englander, it has intrigued me that most residents of eastern Massachusetts are far more familiar with what lies to the north — New Hampshire and Maine — than they are with the western part of their own state. Whatever the sociological, economic, and historical reasons for this, it is real, the storied Tanglewood Music Festival notwithstanding. Although our state is a small one geographically, we in the Berkshires sometimes feel that we might as well be in Ohio. By now you might be getting the distinct impression that we Berkshirites (after fifteen years I almost feel like one) have an incurable inferiority complex. Perish the thought! (although it is probably true that we bird the coast far more often than eastern Massachusetts birders point their vehicles westward on the Massachusetts Turnpike or Route 2).

The Berkshires do have much to offer the birder and naturalist, or indeed anyone else, who lives in the more congested parts of our state: hundreds of thousands of acres of forested uplands, the state's highest peak at 3487 feet

(with almost 3000 feet of elevational relief), and limestone-lined valleys that harbor rare plants, to mention just some of the highlights. And better yet, many of the untrammled conservation lands are accessible to the public. Numerous Neotropical migrant birds, especially vireos, wood warblers, thrushes, and flycatchers — those tantalizing species that zip through eastern Massachusetts on their way northward — actually call the Berkshires home. They breed here. Perhaps that is the most compelling avian argument for birding the Berkshires. And in the process, the sheer scenic beauty, outdoor recreation possibilities, and yes, culture, make this little corner of New England a very special place.

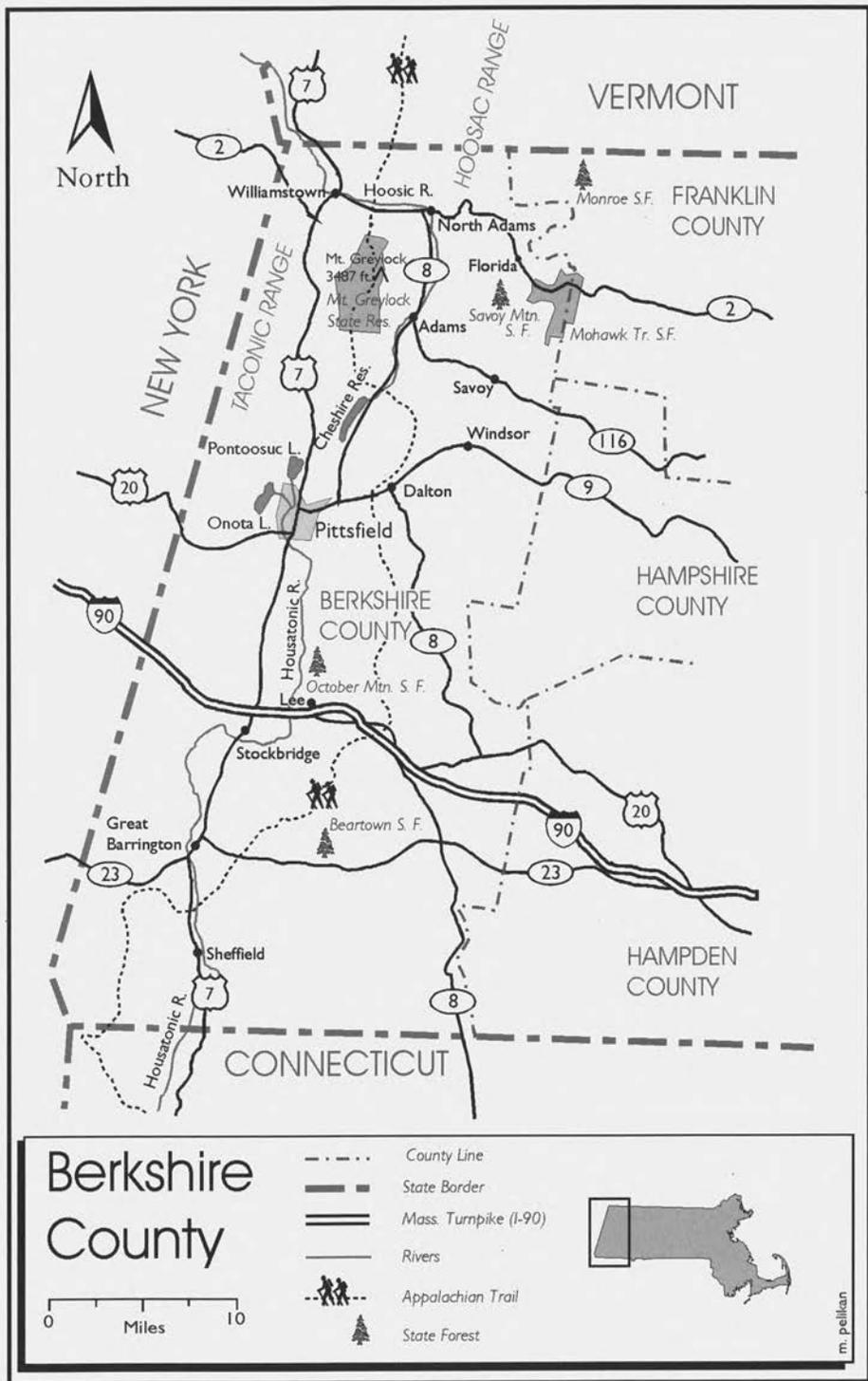
The following articles by some of the area's most active field ornithologists offer a closer look at the status of birds that, while they nest in the Berkshires, are essentially absent from the rest of Massachusetts as breeders. Ron Roncatti relates his extensive experiences with higher-elevation (the average Berkshire elevation is 1500 feet above sea level) species in northern Berkshire County, while David St. James figuratively peers through the cattails at some elusive marsh dwellers. Ed Neumuth explores breeding winter finches in the vast (by Massachusetts standards) October Mountain State Forest, while Don Reid speculates on the dramatic invasion of the neotropical Black Vulture into South Berkshire.

From Black Vultures to Blackpolls, the Berkshires boast an intriguing avifauna. Sure, you can see migrant Swainson's Thrushes and Blackpoll Warblers at Mount Auburn Cemetery, but if you want to see these birds in their Massachusetts breeding habitats, you'll have to venture out our way. Birding the Berkshires may not produce as many ticks on your daily field card as would a visit to, say Plum Island in mid-May, but you'll have a wonderful time doing it. You might even end up agreeing that there is indeed avian life west of Worcester!

— René Laubach, Director  
Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries  
Lenox, Massachusetts



*Mt. Greylock, photograph by Susan Carlson*



## **BOREAL BIRDS IN NORTHERN BERKSHIRE COUNTY AND WESTERN FRANKLIN COUNTY**

By Ronald E. Rancatti

Massachusetts is blessed with a wide array of landscapes to entice the birder, from coastal marshes and offshore islands to boreal forests. It is my good fortune to be a native of the town of Adams in the far northwestern corner of the state. The town of Adams is home to the highest summit in Massachusetts, Mount Greylock, which forms the town's western border. To the east, Adams is bordered by the Hoosac Range and its adjoining upland plateau. This region offers a huge amount of state forestland for the inquisitive birder to explore. For example, Mount Greylock State Reservation covers over 11,000 acres, and Savoy Mountain State Forest over 10,000 acres. Several wildlife management areas offer still more opportunities for outings.

My own desire to know and understand birds began in my teenage years as an on-again, off-again interest that eventually blossomed into a passion. I first began exploring the countless back roads of Berkshire County with my brother in his trusty 1970 Volkswagen "bug." I took note of logged areas, hiking trails, and natural features such as beaver ponds, ravines, and thick spruce stands. Those early days exploring these areas would eventually aid me greatly in my search for boreal birds at the southern limit of their range: species such as Rusty Blackbird, Lincoln's Sparrow, Blackpoll and Mourning warblers, Olive-Sided and Yellow-Bellied flycatchers, and Bicknell's and Swainson's thrushes. In this article I describe some of my experiences with each of these species and share what knowledge I have gained.

### **Mourning Warbler**

Traveling those back roads with my brother in the late 1970s and early 1980s would eventually pay off in my search for the seldom-encountered Mourning Warbler. With the aid of the Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas account of the habitat preferences of this species, I began my surveys of the logged areas I had noted eight or ten years earlier. In these areas the Mourning Warbler proved to be readily found. Most of the locations were at an elevation of at least 1500 feet, usually on a hillside. This is the habitat of choice, but only after the logged area has been reclaimed by an almost impenetrable cover of black raspberry and ferns. In 1989 I located Mourning Warblers in nearly every nearby town. The birds frequently approached after I "pished," allowing a beautiful close-up view. A number of birds were also located by song. Often a Mourning Warbler would be observed singing perhaps twenty feet up in an isolated tree left by loggers. This behavior was unexpected at first, but I soon found it to be commonplace.

The early successional stage that Mourning Warblers prefer, however, is short-lived, and Mourning Warblers will not be found once a location has been cloaked in a thick cover of saplings, so the search for this bird is an ongoing task. Freshly logged areas should be noted, and within a few years after logging ceases, one can expect to find the Mourning Warbler, a species that clearly benefits from humanity's effects on forests through logging.

### **Blackpoll Warbler**

In addition to the Mourning Warbler, extreme northwestern Massachusetts also harbors the much less common Blackpoll Warbler. This species was first found nesting here nearly sixty years ago, and most birders are aware of its presence on Mount Greylock and Saddleball Mountain. Blackpolls can usually be found by walking the Appalachian Trail south from the summit of Mount Greylock to nearby Saddleball Mountain. Following the Appalachian Trail over Saddleball to the junction of the Jones's Nose Trail might yield six to eight Blackpolls on a productive day. Still others can be found along Notch Road heading north from its terminus at Rockwell Road. I walk this portion of Notch Road once each year to keep an eye on their whereabouts. A walk along this road early in the morning in June before traffic appears is highly recommended. It is roughly 1.3 miles to the War Memorial Park sign, which is a good place to stop and return to your car. This stretch of road has readily yielded as many as three singing Blackpoll Warblers.

My only other experience with Blackpoll Warbler away from the Mount Greylock range occurred on a mountaintop in the town of Florida. The story began in the fall of 1992, when I was conducting a hawk migration count at Spruce Hill on the Hoosac Range. At our hawkwatch site 1992 was a good year, but the occasional hawkless moment left me with little to do but daydream. Northeast of our site, a hill with an extensive cover of spruce trees sparked my curiosity. When I examined a topographical map of the area, it indicated that the hill I was examining through my binoculars almost daily was nearly 2800 feet high. The next day, I suggested to my hawkwatching friend Richard Daub that there might be Blackpolls on the hill. In early May 1993 we bushwhacked to the summit of that hill and were pleased to find what looked like suitable habitat for Blackpoll Warbler. Our hunch paid off on June 19, 1993, when Rick and I heard a Blackpoll Warbler here. We wondered whether it was a late migrant or on territory, but on five additional visits made between June 24 and July 9, the bird was not too hard to locate. Without question, this Blackpoll Warbler had staked out a territory, although our efforts to find a female or a nest proved futile.

The hill, nameless on the USGS topographical map, has an unofficial name shared among my friends Rick Daub and the late Bob Goodrich and my family members. I had tried to convey to my family just how rare it was to locate a

Blackpoll Warbler away from Mount Greylock, so naturally, to us the hill is now affectionately known as "Blackpoll Mountain."

Blackpoll Mountain was visited four times in 1994 from June 29 through July 24. Once again the singing male was located each time. Again, a search for a mate or a nest proved futile. In 1995 our first visit to Blackpoll Mountain was not until June 30. The Blackpoll was not found on this first visit, and I felt that perhaps this location was now abandoned. However, the next visit, on July 11, paid off, and it was on this date that I came as close as I ever had to proving breeding here by this species. The male was located atop a spruce holding a food item in its bill. My excitement grew as I expected him to take flight with that food item to its nest. Finally, after I had watched for what seemed like an eternity, he simply ate that little green caterpillar and flew off out of sight. Never was any stronger evidence of breeding to be found at this site, but finding a Blackpoll here three summers in a row convinced me that this species must have nested. It is possible that a nest was too high in the conifers for me to be able to see it.

I visit this hilltop twice during each breeding season, usually once in June and again in July. The Blackpoll Warbler has not been found here since 1996, but I'll keep trying. I have submitted a formal proposal to the United States Geographic Board of Names to designate this now-nameless hill as Blackpoll Mountain.

### Lincoln's Sparrow

Another boreal species I take great pleasure in searching for is Lincoln's Sparrow, first recorded breeding in Massachusetts in the town of Florida on July 11, 1981, when a nest containing three nestlings and one egg was found by David Stemple. A different location in Florida would also reveal the presence of breeding Lincoln's Sparrow in the spring of 1993. My first visit to this very old beaver meadow yielded a singing Lincoln's Sparrow on May 14, 1993. My next visit to this site was on May 28, 1993. The male was easily located, and after consulting the accounts of this species in the New York and Vermont breeding bird atlases, I had a good idea where to look for the nest. My first step was to leave my Newfoundland dog home — a tough decision, because he accompanied me on nearly every birding activity that I was ever involved in, but I knew he might harm the nest by accidentally stepping on it. (I moved around very little and I retraced my steps whenever possible, to minimize the risk that I would do the same.) The search began early in the morning of June 11, but I came up empty. On a return visit on June 18, I found the nest of the Lincoln's Sparrow without much effort. The trick was first to locate one of the pair and just watch its behavior. This allowed me to remain motionless for periods of time. When I had narrowed the possible nesting site to a very small area, I made my move. At this time it appeared that the female had settled down on the nest,

because she had not been seen since I saw her on the ground near an old broken tree trunk. The male was at the near edge of the beaver meadow, bursting occasionally into song. Alert and carefully placing each step, I walked toward the point where I last saw the female. As expected, she flushed from her nest on the ground. The nest was sunken into the moss and grass mat and contained four nestlings. I took a few photographs and then withdrew as quickly as possible. The Vermont state line was only about 200 feet from this nest, running right through the northern edge of this old beaver meadow. But the nest was on the Massachusetts side and hence furnished our second nesting record.

Lincoln's Sparrow was again found at this location in 1994 and 1995. No nest search was conducted in either of these two years because I did not want to jeopardize the birds, but it is possible that they nested again in this beaver meadow. The Lincoln's Sparrow has not been found at this location since.

Located in the town of Windsor is the wonderful Eugene Moran Wildlife Management Area. At this site, Lincoln's Sparrows have picked up the slack created by the absence of birds at the Florida location. From 1996 to 1998 Lincoln's Sparrows were observed here by many birders. On a field trip to the area on June 6, 1998, several other birders and I closely examined some sparrows. We agreed that one of them was a recently fledged Lincoln's, probably indicating another breeding occurrence in Massachusetts; Windsor is the most southerly of the three locations. I was not aware of the presence of this species at the Moran WMA in 1999.

### **Rusty Blackbird**

In addition to Mourning Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow, the Rusty Blackbird is high on my list of favorite boreal species. Taking the advice of Bob Goodrich to be on the lookout for this species as a breeder in the state, I began a search for a nesting pair. I have always had a passion to visit new places, and one place that I had set my sights on was a beaver pond in the town of Monroe, which borders Florida on the east.

A scouting trip to this location in March 1992 left me impressed, so a return visit in May was worked into my busy schedule. The trip to this beaver pond on May 17 was truly magical. Within twenty minutes of our arrival, Richard Daub and I had found the male, the female, and what we felt was surely the nest tree: a small spruce roughly twelve feet tall near the water's edge (a typical choice, according to most accounts of the species). Further observations rewarded us with a view of the female flying to this tree. Looking into the nest to view its contents would have been risky to the nest, but the opportunity to view the birds' behavior from a safe distance was worth returning for on May 12 and May 27. The male was found to be aggressive toward the grackles which would appear (from some other location, since we did not believe they were nesting at this site). The beaver pond was also visited by a Broad-winged Hawk that was

attacked by both Rusty Blackbirds. In between all the excitement, when things were quiet, we observed both male and female foraging around the edge of the open water. It quickly became apparent that this was their typical foraging behavior, finding food by turning over leaves, and we frequently found them walking along logs that beavers had toppled long ago. On our next visit to this site, on June 4, I walked over to the nest tree for the first time since May 17 and found two fledglings on the lower branches of a nearby spruce. The parent birds had spotted me just as I was nearly up to the nest tree, and were very agitated to say the least. After a quick look at the two fledglings, I made a hasty retreat.

On June 18 we found both adult birds but found no sign of the juveniles. We hoped they were doing fine. My last visit to the area was on July 2, but I could not locate a Rusty Blackbird anywhere. In 1993 they returned again but to a different part of this beaver pond complex. The date was May 15, and we located the nest tree in no time. Once again it was in a small spruce near standing water, and this time the nest was low enough to enable us to look at its contents without too much effort. The nest contained three eggs. A brief second visit one week later on May 22 revealed both adult birds. The eventual outcome of this apparent nesting attempt was never learned.

Additional sightings of Rusty Blackbirds during the breeding season include June 15 and June 18, 1994, in Florida. These sightings were made at the same beaver meadow in Florida that hosted the nesting Lincoln's Sparrows. No conclusive evidence of breeding activity by Rusty Blackbirds could be obtained. Other sightings include one in a beaver pond near North Road in Monroe June 3, 1997, and three in a different beaver pond on the same road on June 27, 1998.

### **Olive-sided Flycatcher**

This species can usually be found breeding in the same type of habitat selected by Lincoln's Sparrows and Rusty Blackbirds, but the flycatcher may also occur in other boreal settings that are not ideal for the other two species: areas with tall spruce trees and tiny patches of wet ground or possibly a small stream. The "Tall Spruces" area on Mount Greylock is a prime example of this type of habitat.

Sadly, we may have already lost the Olive-sided Flycatcher as a breeder here in Massachusetts. I have not found any evidence of this species breeding since the summer of 1991, when I discovered two nesting pairs in the town of Hawley. The Tall Spruces area on Mount Greylock was at one time an excellent place to encounter this species. Apparently they have disappeared from Greylock, for there have been no recent reports of which I am aware. The many beaver ponds found in the uplands that I census for other boreal species in May and early June are visited again in late June and early July in hopes of locating this species. But my only sightings now appear to be of migrants, which I find from late May through early June. An Olive-sided Flycatcher located in suitable

habitat in this time period could represent a bird on territory, but I am usually disappointed on follow-up visits.

The Hell's Kitchen Road in Hawley has historically been a productive site for Olive-sided Flycatchers. My records indicate a pair here in July 1987, a single bird on June 13, 1988, and a nesting pair in 1991. Another pair was located in the town of Hawley in 1991 at the Hawley Bog. I studied both nests whenever I had the opportunity. One nest was located in a tall hemlock at the edge of a beaver pond off Hell's Kitchen Road, and the other was found in a much smaller spruce in the Hawley Bog. On a sad note, everything seemed to be going smoothly until on one visit I was shocked to find both nest structures destroyed. It is likely that predation was the cause in both cases. A single Olive-sided did return to the Hell's Kitchen Road area and was observed on June 13 and June 26, 1992, but could not be found on later visits. I will continue to hope to find this species breeding in the area again.

The only other habitat type chosen by this bird for breeding is the type of logged hillsides that Mourning Warblers favor. While other accounts of this habitat selection do exist, I have only seen one instance of this habitat choice, on a logged area of Mount Williams on the Greylock Range. Along with the Olive-sided Flycatcher, five Mourning Warblers were also noted. The outcome of this apparent breeding attempt is not known.

Visitors to the northwestern part of the state should be on the alert for this declining species and should report their findings to allow a clearer picture of the true status of this flycatcher.

### **Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher**

The Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher, first discovered on Greylock by William Brewster on June 28, 1883, is confined mostly to the bogs dotting Saddleball Mountain on the Greylock Range. Other dates by various observers include July 1908, 1933, 1944, June 1961, and June 1972. This species has become rather regular since the 1980s. My first encounter with Yellow-bellied Flycatchers occurred in June 1986 in a spruce bog located roughly one mile from the large Appalachian Trail sign alongside Rockwell Road. There are numerous bogs on this mountain, and the Yellow-bellied has been observed at several of them. I found the species again in 1987 at the same bog. This bird was even found calling from the same tall dead spruce.

At this time I learned that Yellow-bellied Flycatcher had not been confirmed as a nesting species in Massachusetts, although it was generally assumed to nest here. My research of their nesting locations led me on a search for the proof needed to confirm nesting for the first time. This proved to be extremely difficult for several reasons. First, the birds are very quiet at times, and even when they are vocal, they are hard to locate because of the thick forest cover. Second, the nest is one of the best-concealed structures built by any bird

in the area, so one must generally flush the female from the nest in order to find it. No small wonder that this bird has as yet not been confirmed as a breeder! It is a time-consuming task to search for the nest, and the birds do not help in any way with their shy nature. From 1988-1995 I did not find any Yellow-bellied Flycatchers on Saddleball Mountain. However, there may have been sightings by other birders that I am not aware of. Things changed in 1996, when I found not just one but apparently two singing males. The same could be said for the 1997 breeding season. In 1997 I conducted an exhaustive search for a nest but could not locate it. However, I was able to find an old nest among the roots of an upturned tree, which may have been used by the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher the year before. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was located again on Saddleball in 1998 and 1999. I did search for nesting evidence but restricted it to upturned tree roots only for fear of disturbing the birds. Once again nothing was ever found. It seems like it will take a bit of luck to confirm breeding for this species.

Finding a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher during the breeding season away from the Greylock Range is rare, and such birds may well represent very late migrants. I did have an encounter with this flycatcher in Florida on June 16, 1994, but follow-up visits yielded no sign of it.

### Swainson's Thrush

Quite possibly the most common boreal species described in these accounts is Swainson's Thrush, with Mourning Warbler being a close second. Swainson's Thrush is a bit mysterious due to its abundance on the Hoosac Plateau relative to its frequency in the true boreal conditions found on Mount Greylock. Once regarded as a common nester on Greylock, the species is now difficult to locate there. My records indicate a high count of seven on Mount Greylock and Saddleball Mountain in 1998, and many of my daily records show zero Swainson's Thrush on outings to this area. In comparison, high-elevation surveys that I conduct for the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences on nearby Haystack Mountain in Wilmington, Vermont, amplify the scarcity of Swainson's Thrush on Mount Greylock. At 3420 feet, Haystack Mountain is nearly the same height as Greylock (3487 feet), but I nearly always encounter three or four Swainson's Thrushes along my short Haystack survey route. Let's hope we do not lose Swainson's Thrush altogether as a breeding species on Mount Greylock.

A place where one can find numerous Swainson's Thrushes is the town of Monroe, particularly in Monroe State Forest. The highest daily count I have ever tallied came while I walked the dirt roads and footpaths by Dunbar Brook. I refer to this circuit route, which is roughly four miles in length, as the "Dunbar Loop." My initial survey of this loop was conducted on July 5, 1994. I counted an astonishing eighteen Swainson's Thrushes (and my counts tend to be on the conservative side). Things only got better four years later when I returned to

retrace my steps and beat the 1994 count with a total of twenty on the later date of July 12. Swainson's Thrushes choose hemlock-lined ravines like the Dunbar Brook area as well the more traditional spruce-covered areas. In addition to this location, two nearby localities also produce good numbers of Swainson's Thrushes: nearby Spruce Mountain, by way of the Spruce Mountain Trail, and North Road, both located in Monroe. A high count for Spruce Mountain was eight on both July 4, 1989, and July 3, 1999. North Road produced an excellent count of nine on July 13, 1999, and also has a history rich in nesting raptors. As a side note, my records show breeding Red-shouldered, Broad-winged, and Sharp-shinned hawks in 1995 and Northern Goshawk in 1999. Also included are Barred and Saw-whet owls to round out the excellent potential of this location.

But in keeping with the Swainson's Thrush's mysterious nature, it can be said that it will occupy areas which are nearly devoid of coniferous growth. A prime example of this type of behavior occurs on Spruce Mountain (not a very good choice of names). Spruce and hemlock occur in very small patches there. In fact, I have located Swainson's Thrushes in areas where I could not even see a single coniferous tree — not something one would expect from this species.

I truly enjoy listening to the song of Swainson's Thrush, and those who feel the same way should visit this place. It is an outing I would highly recommend for its wide variety of bird life and its true natural beauty. In my experiences with Swainson's Thrushes, I have found that they will sing intensely during the first half of July. In fact, I have made it a point to conduct surveys for them at this time. They often will sing to nearly 11 a.m. The Rowe USGS topographical map would be a great help to anyone who is not familiar with this wonderful area.

### **Bicknell's Thrush**

Once a Mount Greylock specialty, Bicknell's Thrush (formerly a subspecies of Gray-cheeked Thrush) has not been found as a breeder there since 1972. In the 1940s this species was found both on the Mount Greylock summit and somewhere along the Long Ridge which forms Saddleball Mountain. One has to wonder what ever happened to Bicknell's Thrush. Is Swainson's Thrush heading for the same fate? Bicknell's still occurs in the Catskills and at Haystack Mountain, only 20 miles to the northeast. The same survey I conduct at Haystack Mountain I also conduct on Mount Greylock. In addition to my work there, Mount Greylock is also visited by a host of other birders. However, despite all of the attention that this mountain receives, there are no signs that breeding Bicknell's Thrushes have returned here. The summit seems to be so popular with tourists that it makes one wonder if human disturbances forced them out. Or perhaps things are not too rosy on their wintering grounds in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. For whatever reason, 1999 now marks the twenty-seventh anniversary of their disappearance as a breeder from this state. I

will always be on the lookout for this species, especially on my treks along the Appalachian Trail over Saddleball's long ridge, where human disturbance is practically nil. My hopes for the return of this thrush are fading, but they are birds and they do have wings, which means they can show up anywhere.

**Acknowledgements:** Much of the personal accounts I have shared would not have been possible without the guidance and encouragement of Robert Goodrich, to whom this issue is dedicated. The friendship we developed over the past ten years is irreplaceable. Our outings together and lengthy phone conversations talking about birds in all aspects will be sorely missed. His passing in September was a great loss to me and to the birding community.

**Ronald Rancatti**, an Adams native, became interested in birds on a camping trip to Maine's North Woods in 1977. Over time his interests have focused mostly on local breeding songbird populations. His contributions to our knowledge and to the benefit of birds of all types include the development and continued monitoring of a bluebird trail started in 1987 and the placement and monitoring of many kestrel and Saw-whet Owl nesting boxes. He conducts an annual breeding bird survey route and has participated in the Silvio O. Conte NWR migratory stopover study. In 1999 Ron volunteered to assist field biologists from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) to study nesting activities of Bicknell's Thrush on Stratton Mountain; he plans to assist them again in 2000. Since 1992 Ron has also conducted boreal species mapping surveys for VINS on both Mount Greylock and Haystack Mountain. The close of 1999 marks the completion of another full-time hawkwatch at Spruce Hill in North Adams, where Ron has been an official counter annually since the site's first season in 1986.

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## WETLAND SPECIALTIES IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY

By David St. James

### American Bittern

The American Bittern is an extremely secretive heron, the presence of which is usually detected by its less than musical, resonant, gulping "song," which it gives while on its breeding grounds. It is usually silent out of the breeding season, making the overall status of the bird difficult to determine. Largely motionless, cryptically colored, bitterns blend almost perfectly into the cattails and other marsh vegetation, making visual sightings difficult. The bird arrives in the Berkshires in mid-April and stays until the first week of October.

Although never common here, prior to 1960 the bittern was found throughout the state in suitable habitat. From that date, the population has undergone a significant range constriction, most probably due to habitat destruction and disturbance on the breeding grounds. Habitat degradation may also play a major role for wetland bird species, with *Phragmites* and purple loosestrife replacing native vegetation and producing a subsequent shift in associated animal life.

Currently, American Bitterns breed regularly in Massachusetts only in northern Essex County and Berkshire County, although smaller, spotty breeding populations exist in the Sudbury River Valley and in interior Plymouth County. Between 1976 and 1980, only seventeen nests were confirmed during the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas, and since that time very few new sites have been discovered. Massachusetts has, because of this precipitous decline, designated the American Bittern a Species of Special Concern, a status which allows for increased protection.

Though represented by several breeding populations in Berkshire County, the bittern is not common anywhere. In 1979 only eight nests could be confirmed in the county, although since that time additional sites have been located.

The bittern is most consistently recorded in marshes and cattail swamps along the Housatonic and Hoosic River valleys, though it is not restricted to these areas. Perhaps the most reliable spot to locate this species is Brielman's Swamp, part of the Housatonic Valley Wildlife Management Area in Pittsfield. The first swamp one encounters when entering the area has hosted at least one pair a year for at least the last fifty years (it is probable that they have existed here for much longer). Cattail marshes along the Housatonic River to the south of this point also harbor this species. American Bitterns can often be heard in spring by the river on New Lenox Road in Lenox, within the same wildlife management area. A canoe trip from this point downstream to Woods Pond, also

in Lenox, may well produce other sightings (or hearings?). At Tierney Swamp in west Pittsfield, bitterns are regularly recorded along with a rich array of other distinctly wetland birds (moorhen, Sora, King Rail, Pied-billed Grebe). In the Tyringham Valley, Hop Brook flows through wet meadows and cattail marshes that traditionally serve as an oasis for breeding pairs of American Bitterns. In the uplands, one can often hear pumping bitterns at Muddy Pond in Washington, part of the Hinsdale Flats Wildlife Management Area. Higher yet in elevation (1900 feet) are the wet meadows of the Moran Wildlife Management Area in Windsor, where this species has been recorded in recent years. This species is extremely fond of larger cattail marshes, especially when they are adjacent to wet meadows, and should be looked for in this association.

### Common Snipe

The winnowing of the Common Snipe is perhaps one of the most eerie and unusual of the courtship rituals of our native birds. As the bird swoops down in large circles, air passing through the tail feathers creates a weird and ethereal sound unlike that of any other of our bird species. In the Berkshires, migrating snipe arrive in early April through May. Winnowing will occur through this period and occasionally into early summer. Fall migrants arrive back in the county in September and commonly remain until early November. There are several winter records, including a bird that returned to the same site along the Housatonic River in Lenox for several years in the early 1980s.

The Common Snipe has within the last twenty years become increasingly common in wet meadows and along river flood-plains in Berkshire County, although historically it has never been recorded in large numbers in the Berkshires either in migration or as a breeding bird. The species was greatly decimated in the last century and early parts of this century by both market and unregulated sport hunting. E.H. Forbush recounted several instances that illustrate the magnitude of this slaughter. In one example, in a twenty-year period (1867-1887), one Louisiana hunter killed 69,087 snipe with an additional 2772 listed as incidental losses, a figure which did not reflect those birds killed by his companions. Through the first portion of the twentieth century, Massachusetts did not limit bag limits on snipe, nor were there seasonal restrictions, and hunting was extensive. Spring hunts probably discouraged any extensive breeding. By 1941, because of overhunting, severe droughts in the bird's breeding range, and unusually cold periods in the snipe's wintering areas, the hunting season for this bird was closed until 1953, when it was resumed but with increased regulations on the harvest.

Massachusetts lies within the southern fringe of the Common Snipe's breeding range, although records exist of nesting in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. There are several records of breeding in the eastern portion of Massachusetts, but most records date from the nineteenth century. In the

Berkshires, the snipe was not discovered as a breeding species until May 9, 1976, when Gordon Dennis discovered a nest with four eggs at Brielman's Swamp in Pittsfield. This nest was destroyed by high water on May 15. Another nest with four eggs was discovered by Robert Goodrich on May 20, 1976, near this spot, but it was believed that a different pair of birds was responsible. Between 1976 and 1979, another six locations were confirmed as nesting spots in the towns of Stockbridge, Windsor, and Lenox.

Locating this species is easiest in the spring, when migrants mingle with breeding birds. The Housatonic River Valley is the most productive area to find these birds, and observing snipe is easiest at Brielman's Swamp in the Housatonic Valley Wildlife Management Area in Pittsfield, and at the river wetlands on New Lenox Road in the Lenox portion of the wildlife management area. Bartholomew's Cobble in Ashley Falls has recently recorded sizable numbers of breeding birds that are viewable from the area's parking lot. The Housatonic basin is not the only area that hosts this species. Breeding birds have also been recorded along the meadows of Hop Brook in Lee and Tyringham and at Moran Wildlife Management Area and adjacent meadows in the town of Windsor, situated on the Berkshire Plateau, 1000 feet higher in elevation than the river valleys. Currently, one should suspect the presence of snipe in any suitable habitat in the county.

### **Common Moorhen**

The Common Moorhen was known previously as the Florida or Common Gallinule. This species is distinctly southern, with New England being its northernmost breeding outpost. Currently the species is undergoing a regional population contraction and is absent from many areas long frequented. Many researchers have attributed this to habitat loss through the filling of wetlands; however, many areas where the bird was recorded in the past but is no longer found seem to have little changed over the years, suggesting that loss of breeding habitat may be only a partial explanation. Massachusetts has assigned Species of Special Concern status on the bird hoping that this increased protective designation will halt further population decline.

This species commonly arrives on breeding territory by late March or early April and departs by late October, although some November records exist. Migrants are rarely detected. Though never considered common, the moorhen seemed to slowly increase its successful breeding areas in the Berkshires through much of the twentieth century. At the turn of the nineteenth century, only one site was noted (Pontoosuc Lake inlet in Lanesboro), but as time progressed additional sites were discovered in Pittsfield, Lenox, Stockbridge, Cheshire, Great Barrington, and Egremont. The cattail marshes adjacent to the Housatonic River furnished many of these records. Currently, moorhens have retreated from most of the central portion of the county, although as recently as

1978, thirty-seven birds were seen; in 1986 this same Pittsfield marsh produced nineteen individuals. This level of productivity is no longer in evidence. Southern Berkshire wetlands still harbor remnant populations, but numbers are far below those noted as recently as the early 1990s.

In 1999 only one site was felt to have nesting moorhens, although that may well reflect birder coverage rather than actual status of the species. Smilley Mill Pond (Egremont Pond), located in South Egremont at the intersection of Routes 41 and 23, has been the wetland where these birds may be located most consistently. By the early 1990s, five breeding pairs were recorded here, but these numbers have declined since then. In Great Barrington, Fountain Pond, located at the foot of Monument Mountain on Route 7, has had nesting moorhens as recently as 1998, although locating these birds was always difficult. Tierney Swamp, a Pittsfield Conservation Commission property located on Jason Street, has until recently hosted a healthy population of these birds (as noted above). Beavers have raised the water level and may have had a negative effect on the vegetation and cover required by moorhens. Brielman's Swamp on the Housatonic Valley Wildlife Management Area in Pittsfield has historically been a productive area for this species, although moorhens have not been in evidence there for a number of years. There have been several unconfirmed reports of moorhens along the Housatonic River in Lenox south of the Decker Canoe Boat Access site on New Lenox Road.

While habitat loss is probably the most direct reason for this species' decline, habitat degradation may play an equally important role. The moorhen has always been associated with cattail marshes, and these same marshes are being overrun by exotic plant species such as purple loosestrife and phragmites. In suitable habitat, this bird should always be looked for.

**David St. James** works at the Western District of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in Pittsfield. He has birded the region for almost 40 years. He participates in local Christmas Bird Counts and runs a Breeding Bird Census route for the U.S. Geological Survey. A good all-around naturalist, David is well versed in edible plants and is past president of the Hoffmann Bird Club.



## CANADIAN ZONE BREEDERS OF CENTRAL BERKSHIRE

By Edwin J. Neumuth

The habitat that most clearly defines the uniqueness of Berkshire County within Massachusetts is its large tracts of native red spruce and spruce/fir community on side hills and summits, particularly over 1600 feet in elevation. These Canadian-zone wet woodlands most closely approximate the higher-latitude forests favored by northern avifauna that extend their range south into the hills of the Berkshire and Taconic ranges. Among those birds that seem to have a clear affinity for nesting in such a habitat are Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Red and White-winged crossbills, and Evening Grosbeak.

### Golden-crowned Kinglet

The Golden-crowned Kinglet has been described as an uncommon and local nester in Massachusetts and Berkshire County. Its numbers during spring and fall migration vary greatly from year to year. Historically a bird nesting in naturally occurring stands of native conifers, the Golden-crowned Kinglet has adapted to lower-elevation plantations of introduced spruce (especially Norway spruce), which accounts for several breeding records for Eastern Massachusetts. In Berkshire County, however, this winter-hardy kinglet is regular during the nesting season, and with a sharp ear alert for its high-pitched notes and song, and a concerted search in favored locations, you should be able to observe it without a great deal of difficulty.

Perhaps the most consistent numbers of this species occur during the nesting season, since wintering populations and seasonal migrants fluctuate greatly from year to year. Golden-crowned Kinglets are variably migratory, and some nesting populations may remain irregularly as winter residents, augmenting numbers of migrants that arrive from more northerly areas to winter in Massachusetts.

In the Berkshires from late March through April, the habitat choice of this species is much less selective, and birds can be found throughout the county. As breeding season approaches, however, habitat selection becomes much more specific, and the favored location for this kinglet is dense, high-elevation conifer stands. Areas that seem to be consistently productive occur on Mount Greylock, Windsor State Forest, and Notchview Reservation (a Trustees of Reservations property) in Windsor, Florida, and Savoy in the northeastern corner of the county; Dorothy Rice Sanctuary in Peru; and October Mountain State Forest in the town of Washington. The Golden-crowned Kinglet's fall migration, when its numbers are once again inflated, appears to be mid-September through October.

Thirty-one years of records from the Central Berkshire Christmas Bird Count demonstrate how variable winter populations of Golden-crowned Kinglets can be. In the years 1968-1984, Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared in nine out of 17 years, with a maximum number of 11; 13 of the last 14 years of the count have recorded this species, with a maximum number of 64 in 1998, while in 1997, with identical coverage, not a single Golden-crown was seen. Most of these wintering birds are found in close association with spruce habitat and seem to favor foraging at edges where the forest becomes transitional to mixed conifer-hardwood. Look for the Golden-crowned Kinglet in the company of chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches.

### **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

In Berkshire County, the Ruby-crowned Kinglet is a relatively common spring and fall migrant. A few early winter records exist, but survival throughout that season is rather unlikely, in contrast to the Golden-crowned Kinglet. The high Berkshire County hills with associated large stands of red spruce/spruce-fir forest seem to present optimal nesting habitat for this northern kinglet, but we seem to be at the extreme southern edge of its breeding range, for only a few confirmed nesting records exist. The task of finding nesting Ruby-crowns is made more difficult by the preference this bird shows for inaccessible, dense habitat. Fortunately, its song is easily recognized, and singing males in appropriate habitat heard after the first of June should prompt a careful search for evidence of breeding.

The areas of the county that would appear to be most productively searched for evidence of nesting during June and July are similar to those mentioned above for the Golden-crowned Kinglet, and specifically, the most northern of those areas. Nesting has been documented in the town of Savoy (1976) and subsequently suspected on Mount Greylock and Savoy Mountain State Forest in Florida — the northeastern corner of Berkshire County. With more intensive field coverage in this area, a clearer picture of the status of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet as a Berkshire County breeding species will emerge.

### **Evening Grosbeak**

Historically a breeding bird of the Pacific Northwest, the Evening Grosbeak has expanded its wintering and nesting range remarkably over the past century. Initially a winter visitor to Massachusetts, with arrival in October and departure in May, its appearance during the nesting season has gone from occasional in the 1950s and 1960s to somewhat regular in Berkshire County since the mid-1970s.

Interestingly, the winter appearance of Evening Grosbeaks over the past eight years in any sizable flocks has become something of an uncommon event. Using Central Berkshire Christmas Count (CBCC) records as a reflection of winter abundance, this species appeared annually and often in great numbers

(maximum 1682), and was considered among the most common wintering birds in the county. Nothing even remotely approaching this abundance has occurred over the past decade. Because of the high variability in populations of these irruptive northern finches, the appearance of only two individuals on the Central Berkshire CBC in 1988 generated only mild local attention. In the most recent seven years, however, Evening Grosbeak has been unrecorded in three count years, and only a single bird was seen another year. Numbers in the remaining three years have ranged from only 15 to 250.

As one might expect from its classification as a northern finch, Evening Grosbeak favors coniferous forest habitat or mixed forest for nesting. Although a nest has not been located in Massachusetts to date, nesting has been strongly suggested on at least two occasions by the presence of adult birds feeding young — the first of such sightings taking place in Berkshire County in 1980. From June through August of 1983, variable-sized flocks of up to 35 adult birds visited my home in Washington, adjacent to the very appealing habitat of October Mountain State Forest. Although no young were seen, a female with a brood patch was found dead alongside the road early that summer.

The areas of the county referred to under the Golden-crowned Kinglet account seem to offer the most consistent opportunities for viewing this grosbeak during summer. By slowly driving the dirt roads adjacent to the large stands of spruce, single birds and small flocks can occasionally be sighted as they pick up grit from the roadside. Their loud call notes, often given in flight, make them conspicuous as they pass overhead. Their attraction to bird feeders has also been the source of some summer sight records, although over the past few years, bear vandalism at feeders has prompted the removal of feeding stations during the most likely time to observe newly fledged young with adults. As with Berkshire weather, attempting anything close to an accurate prediction for the status of Evening Grosbeak in the years to come is best characterized as guesswork.

### Red Crossbill

The Red Crossbill is perhaps the most nomadic of the northern finches. It has been reported during every month of the year in Berkshire County but seems to be most commonly recorded as an irregular winter visitor associated with the larger tracts of conifer forest. October Mountain State Forest and adjacent Pittsfield Watershed land in the central Berkshire town of Washington have been particularly productive in flight years. Here, if the cone crop is plentiful, the Red Crossbills will often hang upside down from the cone clumps at the tops of spruces, the loud snapping as they pull seeds apart giving away their presence. Their loud, distinct *jip* note, given in flight and during feeding, is another auditory clue to their location. Often, small flocks appear along the higher-elevation spruce-lined roadsides, apparently searching for grit and

possibly road salt, especially after a snowstorm, when Washington Mountain Road has been freshly plowed and sanded. Auto-related mortality can be significant at such times. Small flocks are the general rule, and as much as one would think this species might have an affinity for the high Berkshire Hills, Red Crossbills are surprisingly uncommon. No Berkshire breeding records exist, although this species has nested in Eastern Massachusetts, most commonly along the coastal plain, probably in stands of pitch pine.

### **White-winged Crossbill**

White-winged Crossbills also tend to be highly unpredictable in Massachusetts generally and in Berkshire County specifically. During flight years when these finches move south into our area in winter, they seem to have a relatively close association with the larger conifer stands in the county. Occasionally observed during other seasons as well, especially following a significant winter presence, this species has yet to be confirmed as a breeder in the state. Berkshire County would seem to be the most promising area to look for such an occurrence.

The last major influx of White-winged Crossbills in the Berkshires occurred during the winter of 1989-90. Three adults appeared in the town of Washington on July 30, 1989, and numbers swelled through late summer and fall of that year to occasional sightings of flocks in excess of 100 birds. White-winged Crossbills were present in significant numbers irregularly into the following spring, with the last large flock of adult birds (about sixty) noted in April and individual birds reported as late as June 6. Although that flight would have seemed to be an ideal circumstance favoring nesting early in spring, attempts to prove breeding by this species were unsuccessful. As with the Red Crossbill, looking for birds picking up roadside salt and grit where the paved road penetrates the forest is often a productive way to search for this species. Driving a short distance beyond where you see them and quietly waiting for the birds to return will pay off most of the time. Be alert as well for their song, often given in flight — a loud, dry, varyingly pitched trill.

**Ed Neumuth** practices veterinary medicine in the town of Washington, Berkshire County, where he is a student of the local natural history. He is past president of the Hoffmann Bird Club and compiler for the Central Berkshire Christmas Count, and he conducts a Breeding Bird Survey. He has contributed to the Massachusetts Herpetological and Butterfly Atlas projects.

## SOUTHERN BIRDS IN SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE COUNTY

By Don Reid

About five or six years ago, my friend and colleague Alva Sanborn and I were walking around Ledges Trail at The Trustees of Reservations Bartholomew's Cobble in Ashley Falls, Massachusetts. Alva (who winters in Florida) was spending a great deal of time looking at Turkey Vultures. Since the 1950s, Turkey Vultures in southern Berkshire County have become common summer residents and can often be seen by the hundreds. With several large roost sites on or near Bartholomew's Cobble, Turkey Vultures are certainly not difficult to observe here. In late summer and fall, when the more northern birds begin to migrate south, the numbers in southern Berkshire County can be quite amazing. I jokingly asked Alva if he was in search of a Black Vulture (quite common for him in Florida but extremely rare in our area). I believe there had been only one or two confirmed sightings in Berkshire County. We both laughed — and then, a minute later, saw a Black among the Turkey Vultures.

And so the story of the Black Vulture begins. Black Vultures are now increasing residents in southern Berkshire County. They are most often observed in late spring, summer, and fall, although I do have records of winter individuals. Black Vultures have increased in numbers significantly since 1993; as many as six individuals at one time were observed in the summer of 1999 at the Cobble. (I was personally disappointed to find Black Vultures referred to in a recent issue of *Field Notes*, now *North American Birds*, as "trash birds" in southern Berkshire County and northwestern Connecticut; I wonder how they're describing the increase in Bald Eagles in southern Berkshire?) Black Vultures can sometimes be found in small numbers roosting with Turkey Vultures, but more often they seem to prefer sites near them, not with them. Of course your best chance to see them is always when they are on the wing.

Why Black Vultures, and why now? These simple questions open some interesting avenues of thought about expanding bird populations in general. The Black Vulture is, I believe, an easy case to figure out. For years, field ornithologists have known about a unique relationship between Black Vultures and Turkey Vultures. I have had the good fortune to lead many birding trips across the country and have often witnessed first hand the Black Vulture's parasitic relationship with the Turkey Vulture. Turkey Vultures have sophisticated olfactory capabilities — that is, a terrific sense of smell — not often found in the avian world. These olfactory capabilities have long been known to be a benefit to the Black Vulture, which has no such luck. Black Vultures have taken advantage their relative's ability to find carrion for thousands of years. So why not follow them in their northward expansion? Since Turkey Vulture populations began to explode in southern Berkshire, and

Berkshire County in general, it was only a matter of time before the even hardier Black Vultures showed up.

Black Vultures, although smaller, appear to have more true hawk-like capabilities. They are overall much stronger fliers, with feet and mandibles apparently closer in strength to those of a small hawk. Body bulk is also substantially higher than that of the Turkey Vulture. It is not uncommon to see Black Vultures hunting and feeding on live prey (primarily small rodents) in the fields of the area, behavior rarely observed in Turkey Vultures.

At this time I think it likely that Black Vultures are a nesting species in at least southern Berkshire County, along with their cousins. Bartholomew's Cobble, and all of southern Berkshire County, are hot spots for both vulture species probably due to continuing active agriculture. Mowing and pasturing, for example, offer up a fair share of mushy chow. Also let us not forget we're in the middle of cow country here, and there never seems to be a shortage of calf birthing and all the delectables associated with that process.

Although I personally have the opportunity to see Black Vultures on a fairly regular basis because my office is located at Bartholomew's Cobble, it is still a bird you have to work for due to its intermittent appearances. Many birders are still seeking to pick up this elusive critter. On many occasions I have watched disappointed birders leave the area, only to have a couple of Black Vultures go right over the Bartholomew's Cobble parking lot five minutes after they have left. David St. James, a good friend and one of the best birders I know, is a fine example (or not so fine, depending on how you look at it). Dave has searched for this bird for at least a year with no luck yet. Such is the life of the birder!

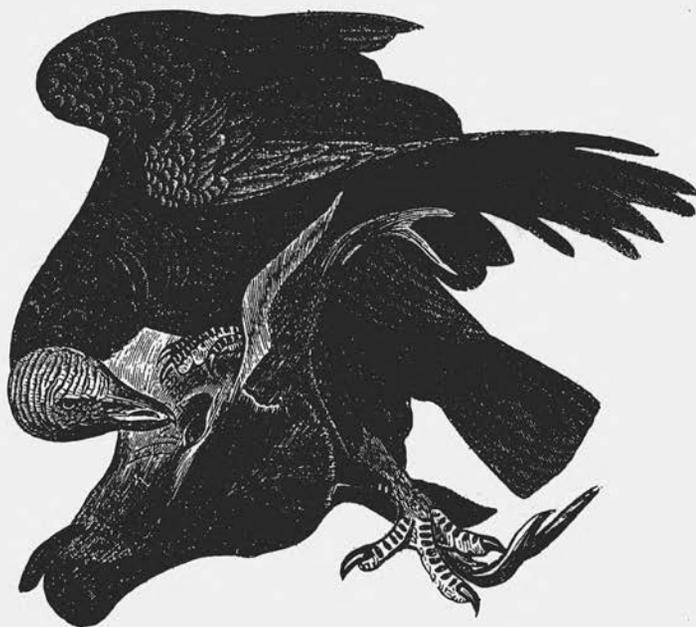
The increase of another southern Berkshire specialty may be a bit more difficult to explain. It was just six years ago that Red-bellied Woodpeckers began to show up irregularly in southern Berkshire County. Four years ago the first nesting pair was confirmed in Sheffield, and now they are perhaps the most common woodpecker species observed in backyards in southern Berkshire.

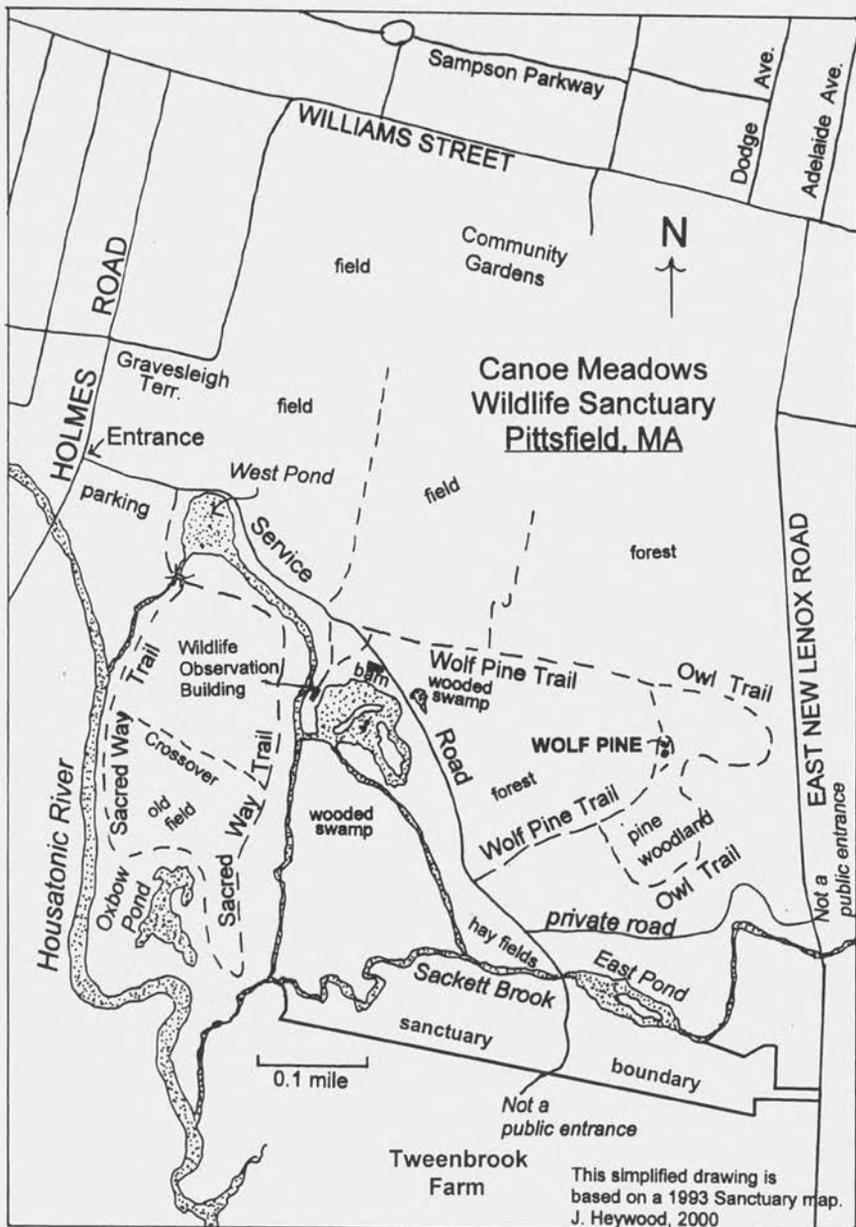
Why a northward dispersal of Red-bellied and not Red-headed woodpeckers? Both are found geographically very close to us. There may be several reasons. In their respective ranges, which overlap extensively, the Red-bellied is a much more urban species. And the Red-headed prefers dense or only somewhat open forest. Southern Berkshire County is rapidly becoming more urban, as is the entire East Coast. Another consideration may be feeding habits. The Red-bellied will regularly come to backyard feeding stations, even feeding on the ground at these sites. The Red-headed is usually much too shy for this type behavior. Perhaps Red-bellied is another hardy species that has learned to take advantage of winter bird-feeding stations. I suspect if it weren't for feeding stations, Northern Cardinals would still be considered hot sightings, just as they were not all that many years ago. (*Editor's note: See, also, "Range Expansion of*

*the Red-Bellied Woodpecker," by Jerome A. Jackson and William E. Davis, Jr., in the February 1998 issue of Bird Observer [26:4-12].)*

There are several other old, tried-but-often-true explanations for the expansion of a species' range. Some birds are doing very well in their natural latitudes and are forced to expand as far north as reasonably possible due to nesting competition. Other species are doing poorly in their historical ranges, and are forced to look for suitable habitat farther north. Whatever the reason, our fine, feathered friends always seem to be on the move. As long as birds have wings and the wind at their back, you can never take anything for granted. When folks come in with reports of some of the wildest sightings, I always tell them just that.

**Don Reid** has been Western Regional Ecologist for The Trustees of Reservations since 1993. His office is located at Bartholomew's Cobble Reservation. Before joining TTOR, Don was a teacher/naturalist at the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary on Cape Cod. Prior to that, he was a naturalist with The Nature Conservancy's Arizona Chapter. Don leads natural-history tours across North America on a free-lance basis. His area of specialty is the southwest, and he freely admits to being a "desert rat at heart."





**Trail Names**

<i>Sacred Way Trail</i>	(Approximate round trip trail mileages from parking lot)	(1.2 mi.)
<i>Wolf Pine Trail</i>		(1.5 mi.)
<i>Owl Trail (as part of Wolf Pine Trail)</i>		(1.7 mi.)
<i>Service Road</i>		(1.5 mi.)

# CANOE MEADOWS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

By René Laubach

## Introduction

This 262-acre Massachusetts Audubon Society sanctuary in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, is a rewarding place for wildlife observation in general and for birding in particular. Bordered by the Housatonic River, a regional migration corridor spawned at several sources north and west of the city, Canoe Meadows is considered by local birders to be one of the most productive birding sites in Berkshire County. The sanctuary, a mere mile from downtown Pittsfield, was established in 1975. Since then, 178 species, of which about 75 are regular nesters, have been recorded here.

Contained within roughly rectangular boundaries are human-built ponds dating from the early 1930s, beaver ponds (beavers recolonized the sanctuary in 1984 after an absence of fifty years), an oxbow pond, old fields, shrub meadows, mixed hardwood forest, and extensive hay fields. North America's largest rodent continues to have a major impact upon the sanctuary's environment, creating habitat for waterfowl and a bountiful variety of other aquatic life including wood turtles and river otters.

There is no office; Canoe Meadows is managed from Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, four miles away in Lenox, as part of the Society's Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries.

## History

Many visitors are intrigued by the name Canoe Meadows. It hearkens back to a time long ago when indigenous peoples established summer hunting and fishing encampments in the wildlife-rich Housatonic Valley. For years the property was owned and managed by the Graves family. Much of Canoe Meadows was the private hunting and fishing preserve of Merle Graves, who supervised the construction of two ponds and a connecting waterway, placed a concrete dam across Sackett Brook, built a hunting lodge, and erected miles of chain link fencing topped by barbwire (which has since been removed). A daughter, Cooley Graves Crane, who passed away in 1998, contemplated residential development for the property in the early 1970s. Instead, to her lasting credit and the great benefit of the community (both human and non-human), she donated the land to Massachusetts Audubon in late 1975.

The Noble family, of abutting Tweenbrook Farm, has leased a portion of the sanctuary for crop production for many years. Hay and feed corn were grown on seventy acres until 1998; only hay production continues. Thankfully,

the ninety-acre farm's development rights were purchased by the Commonwealth in 1998, sparing it from development.

### **Access**

The sanctuary has a three-mile trail network. After leaving your locked vehicle in the small lot, examine the kiosk where a large trail map is posted. Nonmembers are asked to deposit a \$2 admission fee in the money pipe. The sanctuary is open daily, year-round, except Mondays and major holidays, from 7 a.m. to dusk. Staff and volunteers conduct two-hour-long bird walks on Friday mornings spring and fall. Mosquitoes are often troublesome during the summer months, so come suitably attired and armed with insect repellent. For a program schedule and bird checklist, contact Berkshire Sanctuaries at 472 W. Mountain Road, Lenox, MA 01240, by phone at (413) 637-0320, or by email at berkshires@massaudubon.org

### **Sanctuary Birdlife**

The best time of year to bird Canoe Meadows is arguably from late spring to early summer, when passage migrants and territorial breeders mingle to create a rich diversity. Given its riverside location and varied plant communities, however, the sanctuary is productive during any season. You can easily spend half a day here. In winter the variety of avian life here stands in stark contrast to the relatively lifeless uplands.

During breeding season, the songs and calls of familiar garden birds greet visitors as they step from their vehicles. Migrant White-crowned Sparrows are regular during the latter part of October. Carolina Wren is a sporadic resident in spring, summer, and fall, especially following mild winters. Red-winged Blackbirds and occasional Bobolinks sing on the wing in the hayfield bordering the service road. Scan the skies above the fields for resident Red-tailed Hawks, transient Sharp-shinned Hawks, and other diurnal raptors. An adult Golden Eagle was observed in passage high overhead one mid-November day.

### **Sacred Way Trail**

To bird this most productive portion of Canoe Meadows, which usually takes from one to two hours depending upon the level of bird activity, turn right fifty yards beyond the parking lot, and pass a cedar bench, a portable toilet, and a line of four nest boxes occupied during the breeding season by Tree Swallows and House Wrens. Northern Mockingbirds occasionally frequent the shrubbery from late October to late March. Continue past a windbreak of Depression-era red pines from which the songs of Tufted Titmice, nuthatches, and kinglets often originate, and pass through an open gate. Blue-winged Warblers sometimes visit this wet meadow during spring migration, while Eastern Kingbird stays to nest.

Gray dogwood shrubs bordering the pond outlet are often alive with White-throated Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Yellow-rumped and Palm warblers in spring and fall. White-throateds breed on the nearby plateau. Scan West Pond for Mallard, American Black and Wood ducks, Belted Kingfisher, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, and an occasional Osprey searching the pond's shallow waters for prey from mid-April to early May and in early fall. Be alert for transient Solitary Sandpipers during the first half of May, soon followed by Spotted Sandpipers. Postbreeding-dispersal Great Egrets sometimes work the pond shores from late August to early October, and Bald Eagle reports are increasing along the Housatonic; Berkshire County's first confirmed nesting in Sandisfield was cheered in 1999. Note that the trail's low-lying section is inundated regularly during spring and sometimes also during fall storms; if in doubt, call ahead for accessibility status.

The most significant ornithological excitement the sanctuary has generated during recent memory occurred from mid-April through August 1985, and again in 1986 and 1987, when at least three adult-plumaged Yellow-crowned Night-Herons drew birders from far and wide. The herons were seen consuming crayfish in West Pond, but alas, nesting was never confirmed.

Cross the concrete slab bridge, turn right, and follow the path through head-high reed-canary grass along a shrub-lined stream; listen for the sneezy refrains of Willow Flycatchers that nest in the willows and alders of the floodplain. Look-alike Alder Flycatcher breeds here, as well, but generally in the swamplands (listen for it on the other side of the loop). June singing male counts turn up an average of three Willows and one or two Alders. Virginia Rail and American Bittern have been found in spring. Scrutinize dead snags in the swamp to your left during late May for Olive-sided Flycatcher, an uncommon but regular migrant. During breeding season, Common Yellowthroats and Song Sparrows abound. After 150 yards there is a slight rise where the short Cutover Trail connects to the other side of Sacred Way Trail, but continue straight. The Housatonic flows by your right shoulder, while a field of meadowsweet, shrubby oak and white pine flourishes on the opposite side. Here hundreds of bejeweled spiderwebs decorate the shrubs on a dewy morning. The sweet melodies of Yellow Warbler, the most common nester on this section, fill the air from May to early July. June counts average fifteen singing males along this one-mile loop.

American Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Black-and-white Warbler frequent the woodland edge. Tall black cherry trees offer food, nest sites, and song perches for Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Cedar Waxwing, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Red-eyed Vireo. Wood Thrush music adds to the atmosphere, but Veery is the sanctuary's most common spotted thrush. Be alert for Pileated Woodpecker bounding across the open spaces between stands of

timber, while the uncommon Brown Thrasher turns up most often in mid to late May.

The path passes another cedar bench and an enormous black maple, a rare species in these parts. Examine the oxbow pond for Wood Duck and other waterfowl, as well as muskrats and painted turtles. The trail continues through young gray birches and a few hemlocks, then winds to Sackett Brook at the loop's far end, where a formidable beaver dam backs up water near the border with Tweenbrook Farm. Eastern Towhees scratch the ground below trailside shrubs, and Great Crested Flycatchers utter their raucous calls from treetops. Early June may bring a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Locally uncommon species such as Red-bellied Woodpecker (increasing) and Fish Crow have been discovered on occasion, as well as the more unusual Yellow-breasted Chat in May and June and even Bohemian Waxwing in early March. Check the beaver ponds for ducks and geese, and listen for the burry refrains of nesting Warbling Vireos. Round the loop and follow it toward West Pond through birches, black cherry, and scattered white pines. Alder Flycatcher and Swamp Sparrow are easily heard breeders here.

At the intersection with the Crossover Trail, continue straight ahead, often on sections of boardwalk where dogwood, alder, willow, and cranberry viburnum shrubs teem with passerines from late spring to early fall. Watch for Ruby-crowned Kinglet from the end of April to early May and again in mid-October. Especially during flight years, winter finches feast upon the abundant mast crops available some years. Look for Pine Siskin during most any season except summer, while flocks of Common Redpolls eagerly glean seeds from gray birch catkins. Northern Shrike is found nearly every late autumn, and Pine Grosbeak has been recorded in winter. During migration a wide array of warblers passes through. Yellow-rumped Warblers are common from late April to mid-May and from late September through late October. They breed in the Berkshire highlands visible to the east. Less common transients include Wilson's, Northern Parula, and Tennessee warblers. Breeding Swamp Sparrows are sometimes present into December and may overwinter. As you near West Pond, stay alert for the vocalizations of Least Flycatcher and Warbling Vireo and search the pond and channel for Green Heron (early June to mid-October), a presumed nester.

To reach Wolf Pine Trail, return to the service road and turn right. The roadway leading to it is soon canopied by white pines and plantation red pines. Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Downy and Hairy woodpeckers, and red squirrels are usually located without great effort year-round; look for Golden-crowned Kinglet from early October until the beginning of May. In spring listen for Pine Warbler's sweet trill. This uncommon nester predictably favors the tall pines along this straight stretch as far as the junction with Wolf Pine Trail.

## **Beaver Pond, Observation Building, Upper Hayfields**

At the terminus of the pines a path and boardwalk lead right to the Wildlife Observation Building, which overlooks a large pond. Shrubby growth adjacent to the boardwalk has hosted a fine variety of exciting species during migration, including an occasional Mourning Warbler (late May to mid-June). Listen for Purple Finch in June. From the blind, glass the pond for Green and Great Blue herons, Wood and American Black ducks, Green-winged Teal (sporadic in fall), Hooded Merganser in spring, Belted Kingfisher, muskrat, and river otter. One November 9 at dusk, an estimated 150 Wood Ducks were seen coming in to roost. Blue-winged Teal is unusual in spring and fall, but one summer record elicited speculation about possible breeding. Other migrant waterfowl are possible. Flocks of Rusty Blackbirds frequent these wetlands in early April and early to mid-October. American Robins are found most winters in the bottomlands where Eurasian buckthorn, wild grape, Asiatic bittersweet, and the fruits of other natives and exotics are available.

After returning to the service road, make another brief side trip by following a farm road, which begins opposite the path to the blind, two hundred yards between a white pine windbreak and hayfield to a small rise. From here you can scrutinize fields and treelines for open-country birds such as nesting Bobolink, American Kestrel (late March to late September), Field Sparrow, and Indigo Bunting. Retrace your steps to the service road, turn left, and walk by a former carriage barn to where the roadway straddles the swamp. The smaller wooded wetland on the left is a reliable nesting location for Northern Waterthrush. Continue through a moist and shady hemlock wood, a good spot for creepers, kinglets, and thrushes. Soon you will reach the Wolf Pine trailhead on the left. Straight ahead and to the right are hayfields along Sackett Brook, bordered by tall cottonwoods. Red-tailed Hawks frequent the tall trees, often harassed by a multitude of American Crows. You might also chance upon a flock of Wild Turkeys. You can walk as far as the fence and gate marking the boundary between the sanctuary and Tweenbrook Farm (do not enter farm property, though), crossing the brook in the process. Bluebirds have nested in the fenceline boxes, as have Tree Swallows.

### **Wolf Pine Trail**

At the signpost, turn down Wolf Pine Trail, and follow it through mixed hardwoods, white pine, and hemlock that harbor a significantly different bird fauna from that of the Sacred Way Trail. This is usually a fairly quick ramble and can often be birded in one-half to one hour. A rich mix of ferns and mosses add color to the forest floor. Ruffed Grouse, Wood Thrush, Veery, Blue-headed Vireo, Ovenbird, and Black-throated Green and Blackburnian warblers nest here. An active Cooper's Hawk nest was discovered one May, just in time for

the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Birdathon. A short side loop, Owl Trail, wends through pine woodland to the right. Both Great Horned and Barred owls are residents. Continue on Wolf Pine Trail under sizable conifers beneath which a thick layer of resilient needle duff has accumulated. Just before you reach the other Owl Trail intersection, a short detour leads to the massive looming hulk of the eleven-trunked trail namesake, the Wolf Pine. After admiring its evocative form, continue and turn left at the intersection to return to the junction with the service road; turn right back to the parking lot. In spring listen for Winter Wren singing from mossy logs in the boggy woodland.

The Canoe Meadows Community Gardens area off Williams Street also deserves mention. No trails lead to the site. To reach it, turn right onto Holmes Road when exiting the sanctuary, drive a third of a mile to the first intersection (Williams Street), turn right and follow Williams Street for another third of a mile to a driveway on the right (watch for a split-rail fence). It is open during daylight hours in gardening season (usually May 1 through October); at other times a cable bars entry. In late August and September members of the Hoffmann Bird Club conduct their annual Central Berkshire Nighthawk Watch here. During 1999, 2000 birds were tallied. Bobolinks are visible from here, as well. Abundant weed seeds make this an excellent place to find a fine variety of sparrows in September and October, including Savannah, Song, White-crowned, Lincoln's, and the occasional Vesper. To my great surprise and delight, a male Lark Sparrow was observed by many over a two-week period in May 1987.

### **Directions**

Take the Mass Pike (I-90) to exit 2 (Lee). Turn right onto Route 20 (later becomes 7/20) after leaving the toll booths. Travel north for eight miles to Holmes Road at a traffic light and Mobil station. Follow Holmes Road for 2.7 miles to the sanctuary entrance on the right.

Alternately, from Park Square in downtown Pittsfield, follow East Street for 0.3 miles to Elm Street at a traffic light. Turn right onto Elm Street, and follow it for 0.6 miles to Holmes Road on the right. Take Holmes Road across Williams Street at the traffic light (0.5 miles) and 0.35 miles beyond to the sanctuary entrance on the left.

### **Acknowledgments**

I am indebted to the many members of the Hoffmann Bird Club who have contributed sightings over the years, and especially to the late Bob Goodrich. Volunteers who generously lead Canoe Meadows birding walks for the sanctuary and provide regular avian updates include Priscilla Bailey, Sue Cook, and Norma Purdy. Thanks also to former and current Berkshire Sanctuaries staff for their help.

**René Laubach**, director since 1985 of Massachusetts Audubon Society's Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries, grew up in the Great Lakes region. René was previously engaged in museum work for fourteen years. Besides birds, he counts bats and butterflies among his favorite subjects for study. René compiles the Southern Berkshire CBC and NABA Butterfly Counts and leads birding tours for Massachusetts Audubon. He has authored or coauthored five books, including *A Guide to Natural Places in the Berkshire Hills*, and with his wife Christyna, *The Backyard Birdhouse Book, Building Nestboxes and Creating Natural Habitats*. His latest work is *The Audubon Society Guide to National Wildlife Refuges: New England*.

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# BIRD SIGHTINGS

## JULY/AUGUST 1999

### SUMMARY



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

The Summer of 1999 was hot, dry, and sunny. The average temperature was 75.6° in Boston and, predictably, even higher in central and western portions of the state. In Boston the mercury reached over 90° on seven days, two more than average. The worst of the month's heat came around the Fourth of July weekend, when the temperatures were accompanied by high humidity. August was a bit cooler and saw the temperature reach into the 90s only twice. Rainfall totaled 4.83 inches for the two-month period in Boston, with August about 2 inches under normal. Thunderstorm occurrence in the Greater Boston area was typical for the period, with a few more storms than usual reported in the central and western parts of the state. Dense fog was noted along the coast on three days in July, one more than the average. All in all, it was great weather for birding, especially along the coast for the start of the fall shorebird migration. R.H.S.

#### LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The discovery of an adult Pied-billed Grebe with three nearly grown juveniles at Nantucket represented the first confirmed nesting record for that species on the island. Stellwagen Bank remained very productive for seabirds, especially shearwaters, more or less throughout the summer. For the second consecutive year, Cory's Shearwaters were much more numerous than usual north of Cape Cod, a phenomenon that was probably related to the above-average sea surface temperatures. The remains of an **Audubon's Shearwater**, which represented only the second or third specimen collected in the state, were frozen in preparation for accession into a museum to be named later. A huge count of Wilson's Storm-Petrels was recorded during a round-trip ferry cruise between Gloucester and Provincetown that incorporated most of the length of Stellwagen Bank, and reports of Wilson's Storm-Petrels from Rockport and Provincetown represented large totals for shore-based counts. A single Leach's Storm-Petrel at Stellwagen in mid-August was noteworthy because that species is seldom seen over our inshore waters except during or after storms.

Areas of open water remaining in marshes, ponds and rivers continued to dry up as the record-breaking drought wore on during the summer. These conditions proved to be highly favorable throughout the state for large numbers of waterbirds, especially herons and egrets, which exploited the increasingly concentrated supply of frogs and fish in the shrinking pools. This was clearly apparent at the Great Meadows NWR in Concord, and at various inland localities, especially within the Connecticut River Valley. Most noteworthy was a report of nine Snowy Egrets in Longmeadow, a total that represented the highest inland count for that species since the Great Heron/Egret Invasion during the summer of 1948, the event that ultimately led to those species' colonization of New England. In stark contrast, an immature Little Blue Heron flying over the ocean at Stellwagen Bank was out of its element, to say the least. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, a species that is rarely found nesting in the state (though it probably does so annually) was noted in W. Barnstable. The midsummer sighting of several **Black Vultures** in Western Massachusetts fueled further speculation that this stork relative already is, or will soon be, a regular breeder in the state.

Nesting Mute Swans continued to make inroads inland. A pair of Mute Swans produced young in Worcester County, an event that first occurred in the county only two

or three years ago. Within the last several years, Mute Swans have also been found nesting in at least three towns within the Connecticut River watershed (Chicopee, Holyoke, and Southwick). Nine Mutes were reported from Northampton. A single Whooper Swan was present at Plum Island in early July. Gadwalls were found again at Muskeget, a nesting site for that species first found in the summer of 1998. Migrant scoters were noted on schedule at the end of August, Ring-necked Ducks in West Newbury and Southboro were a bit early, and a Greater Scaup over-summered in Marshfield. Other instances of over-summering waterfowl species that are typically here only in spring, fall, and winter included Oldsquaw, Bufflehead, and Common Goldeneye. One of the two Common Goldeneyes was on the Connecticut River, making it doubly noteworthy for being inland. Many of the "winter" ducks that summer locally are cripples from the previous hunting season. Common Merganser is a rare breeder in western Massachusetts. All three sightings of Commons this summer came from potential breeding areas from the Connecticut River west. South Monomoy in Chatham is currently the only known nesting site in the state for Ruddy Duck. A breeding-plumaged drake Ruddy spent most of the summer at Nantucket.

A pair of Ospreys in Westboro, one of only two pairs in the state that are known to nest inland, produced three young. The pair of Cooper's Hawks found nesting this spring at Nantucket (representing the first confirmed breeding record for the island) remained through the summer, though no evidence of fledged young was reported. While Broad-winged Hawk is a fairly common and widespread breeding resident in the state, in summer it is seldom seen in numbers, so a kettle of seven in Mattapoissett that contained at least two adults was noteworthy. Seven reports of Merlins in August represented a higher-than-average total for that month. Only ten years ago, Merlin was rarely seen in the state in August. This increase might be a reflection of the recent documented increase in the numbers of breeding birds in northern New England and adjacent Canada.

A single Clapper Rail at Nantucket may have been one of a pair (or progeny of the pair) that produced young there two years ago, and the observation of a pair of clappers copulating at Plum Island provided the only confirmation of breeding activity in the state this season. Also, a King Rail was seen again at Plum Island throughout most of the summer. This and other King Rails in past years at Plum Island have generated controversy. There is no question that King Rails have occurred there. However, questions remain as to whether more than one has occurred in a given season, whether kings have mated with the local clappers, and whether some of the birds there are actually hybrids. It has been well documented that hybrid pairings between any two species occur most frequently at the geographical margins of one or both of the species' breeding ranges, and the King Rails at Plum Island are at that species' northern-most margin. The secretive nature of both of these species will continue to make this mystery difficult to solve. The presence of two juvenile American Coots in the company of an adult at Nantucket represented a rare nesting record for this species in New England, and only the second for the island. High shorebird counts included 3500 and 5000 Semipalmated Plovers in Chatham and Eastham, respectively, and 1300 Lesser Yellowlegs and over 10,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers in Newburyport Harbor. Shorebird rarities included an **American Avocet**, a **Ruff**, and the **Red-necked Stint** at Plum Island that was first found June 26 (see previous issue). For both Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpiper, there were as many reports from inland localities as there were from the coast.

Two reports of Bonaparte's Gull found inland were noteworthy, as were the season's first **Sabine's Gulls**. The later of the two Sabine's alit briefly on the beach, an event very rarely observed anywhere away from their breeding grounds. A Caspian Tern put in an out-of-season summer appearance in Provincetown. Following their complete abandonment of Plymouth Beach early in the summer, the thousands of Common Terns and handful of Roseate Terns from that colony relocated to other sites. The majority moved to the existing colony at the north end of South Monomoy Island in Chatham, while others dispersed elsewhere. A relatively small colony at Muskeget, (roughly 50

pairs of Common Terns and 5 pairs of Roseate Terns), newly established this late spring and summer, may have comprised some of the Plymouth birds. The appearance of this colony was highly significant for a couple of reasons: it represented the first nesting activity among terns (other than leasts) at that site since the first half of the 20th century; and it was a potentially important step for the recovery of the federally-endangered Roseate Tern as a breeding species in the state. Virtually all of the state's breeding Roseates (under 2000 pairs, representing nearly half of the entire North American population) nest on two islands in Buzzard's Bay — a precarious situation. Local efforts among members of a federally appointed Roseate Tern recovery team have centered around trying to induce the species to establish additional colonies. If more birds are recruited in the next few years at the new Muskeget colony, that site might eventually provide this endangered species with an additional level of security. By the end of July, at South Beach in Chatham, Roseates were already beginning to assemble in staging flocks prior to migration (as they do each year at that time), some coming from breeding colonies outside the state such as that on Great Gull Island in Long Island Sound, New York. By the end of August, the Chatham flocks were approaching their peak numbers. Six pairs of Arctic Terns at Penikese Island represented the largest number of Arctics that had been documented nesting at a single locale in the state for decades. Even though Black Terns nest on fresh water marshes no closer to Massachusetts than central Maine and northern Vermont, an over-summering Black Tern was attracted to the activity at the new Muskeget colony, as one or more usually are each summer at the tern colony at Bird Island in Marion. A sizable flock of Black Terns had collected at the west end of Nantucket by the end of August.

A possible scenario that could have accounted for the discovery of a dead **Atlantic Puffin** at Nantucket in early July is that it became ill or injured during the winter, and lingered locally until it succumbed. The sighting of three (live) puffins off Rockport in mid-August continued a recent late summer/early autumn trend; these sightings have been coming at a time when the birds are typically beginning to disperse from their colonies, the closest of which are in the Gulf of Maine.

A **White-winged Dove** put in a surprise one-day appearance at a feeder in Marshfield. This species has a well-established history of vagrancy (e.g., as far north and east as the Canadian Maritimes), and the frequency of its occurrence in the Bay State has increased slightly in recent years. The presence of one to two Short-eared Owls at Nantucket throughout the summer kept alive the hope that this species still maintains a toe-hold as a breeding species on an island that, only twenty years ago, supported roughly 15 pairs.

S. A. P.

Red-throated Loon				Cory's Shearwater			
8/21	Manomet	2	J. Hoye#	7/17	Stellwagen	1	G. d'Entremont
8/23	Sagamore Beach	1	C. Dalton	8/5	Truro	1	M. Lynch
Common Loon				8/7	Stellwagen	13	R. Heil
7/4	Squantum	1	R. Donovan	8/21	Truro	125	B. Nikula
7/17-24	P.I.	4 max	R. Heil	8/22, 30	P'town (R.P.)	80, 30	B. Nikula
7/31	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#	8/24	off Sandy Neck	40+	J. Trimble#
8/1-31	Falmouth	3 max	R. Farrell	8/25	Rockport (A.P.)	3	J. Soucy#
8/8	Wachusett Res.	1 ad+2 juv	M. Lynch	8/25	Stellwagen	8	W. Petersen#
8/10	Nantucket	3	E. Ray	Greater Shearwater			
8/15	Duxbury B.	3 W pl	D. Furbish	7/17	Stellwagen	225	G. d'Entremont
8/15	Sharon	1	S. Arena	7/18	S. of Tuckernuck	35	S. Perkins
8/21	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil	8/5	Truro	150+	M. Lynch
Pied-billed Grebe				8/10	Stellwagen	600	B. Nikula#
7/6	Brookfield	1	R. Packard	8/15	Rockport (A.P.)	27	R. Heil
7/19-30	Nantucket	1 ad + 3 juv	S. Perkins	8/21	P'town (R.P.)	170	B. Nikula
7/31	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#	8/21	Truro	75	B. Nikula
8/13	DWWS	1 ad	D. Furbish	8/22, 30	P'town (R.P.)	750, 500	B. Nikula
8/15	Easton	1	S. Arena	8/24	off Sandy Neck	700+	J. Trimble#
8/21	Westboro	1	M. Lynch	8/25	Stellwagen	2000	W. Petersen
8/21	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale	8/25	Rockport (A.P.)	75	J. Soucy#
8/27	Winchester	1	R. LaFontaine	8/30	P'town (R.P.)	500	B. Nikula

<b>Sooty Shearwater</b>				7/25-8/31	GMNWR	6-10	S. Perkins
7/18	S. Stellwagen	40+	J. Nichols	7/31	W. Springfield	4	H. Allen
8/5	Truro	10+	M. Lynch	7/31	Acoaxet	48	M. Lynch#
8/17	Stellwagen	50	P. Trimble	8/2-31	Agawam	4	S. Kellogg
8/21	Truro	6	B. Nikula	8/6	Worc. (BMB)	4	J. Liller
8/22, 30	P'town (R.P.)	43, 2	B. Nikula	8/6	Barnstable	18	M. Lynch
8/24	off Sandy Neck	20+	J. Trimble#	8/9-31	Longmeadow	2	H. Allen
8/25	Stellwagen	15	W. Petersen	8/10	Turners Falls	2	H. Allen
<b>Manx Shearwater</b>				8/11, 30	S. Dart. (A.Pd.)	33, 130	LCES (J. Hill)
7/17	Stellwagen	20	G. d'Entremont	8/13	Woburn	1	M. Rines
8/5	Truro	2	M. Lynch	8/17	Rowley	43	J. Berry
8/5	Stellwagen	20+	M. Lynch	8/20	Holden	5	M. Lynch
8/21	Rockport (A.P.)	3	R. Heil	8/21	Randolph	14	G. d'Entremont
8/22, 30	P'town (R.P.)	2, 1	B. Nikula	8/27	Chatham	24	D. Scott
8/24	off Sandy Neck	15+	J. Trimble#	8/28	Falmouth	17	R. Farrell
8/25	Stellwagen	6	W. Petersen	8/29	P.I.	126	BBC (S. Grinley)
<b>Audubon's Shearwater *</b>				8/29	W. Harwich	21	T. Gavin
7/5	Muskeget I.	1 dead	D. Veit	8/31	Rowley	45	J. Berry
<b>large shearwater species</b>				<b>Snowy Egret</b>			
8/30	P'town (R.P.)	4000+	B. Nikula	7/14, 8/17	Rowley	36, 83	J. Berry
<b>Wilson's Storm-Petrel</b>				7/16	P.I.	125+	R. Heil
7/1	Rockport (A.P.)	17	J. Soucy	7/17	Duxbury B.	4	D. Furbish
7/17	Stellwagen	350	G. d'Entremont	7/18	E. Boston (B.I.)	135	S. Zende#
7/18	S. of Tuckermuck	8	S. Perkins	7/21	Longmeadow	9	H. Allen
7/20	Nantucket	10	S. Perkins	7/29	DWWS	7	D. Furbish
8/5	Truro	550+	M. Lynch	7/31	Acoaxet	12	M. Lynch#
8/7	Stellwagen	12,600	R. Heil	8/4	Eastham	8	M. Lynch
8/15	Rockport (A.P.)	1050	R. Heil	8/5	WBWS	4	M. Lynch
8/22	P'town (R.P.)	1300	B. Nikula	8/6-20	GMNWR	2-3	S. Perkins
8/24	off Sandy Neck	300+	J. Trimble#	8/6	Barnstable	5	M. Lynch
8/25	Stellwagen	400	W. Petersen	8/7	Agawam	1	S. Kellogg + v.o.
<b>Leach's Storm-Petrel</b>				8/7	N. Monomoy	100	B. Nikula#
8/17	Stellwagen	1	P. Trimble	8/10	Nantucket	25	E. Ray
<b>Northern Gannet</b>				8/11, 30	S. Dart. (A.Pd.)	35, 6	LCES (J. Hill)
7/13	Rockport (A.P.)	40 imm	J. Soucy	8/22	Squantum	16	G. d'Entremont
7/15	Nantucket	3	S. Perkins	8/28	Falmouth	60	R. Farrell
7/17	Stellwagen	100	H. Bailey#	8/29	P.I.	97	BBC (S. Grinley)
8/5	Truro	135+	M. Lynch	8/29	Easton	1	S. Arena
8/5	Stellwagen	250+	M. Lynch	<b>Little Blue Heron</b>			
8/15	Duxbury B.	11	D. Furbish	7/3, 11	Hingham	2	K. Vespaziani
8/15	Rockport (A.P.)	690	R. Heil	7/6, 8/7	Nantucket	2, 4	E. Ray
8/22, 30	P'town (R.P.)	130, 20	B. Nikula	7/24	P.I.	7	D. Bates
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>				7/31	Hingham	8	C. Dalton
7/15	Newbypt	152	J. Berry	8/1	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher
7/29	DWWS	244	D. Furbish	8/7	Stellwagen	1 imm	R. Heil
7/30	S Hadley	25	H. Allen	8/10-15	Turners Falls	1	M. Fairbrother + v.o.
7/30	S. Quabbin	14	R. Packard	8/11, 30	S. Dart. (A.Pd.)	1	LCES (J. Hill)
7/31	Acoaxet	146	M. Lynch#	8/28	Essex	4	R. Heil
8/10	Holyoke	20	H. Allen	8/29	P.I.	1 imm	P. + F. Vale
8/20	DWWS	685+	D. Furbish#	8/30	Chatham (S.B.)	1 imm.	R. Lockwood#
<b>American Bittern</b>				<b>Tricolored Heron</b>			
7/14	Rowley	1	J. Berry	7/3	P.I.	1	J. Berry
7/18	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	8/3	P.I.	2	S. Grinley
7/29	Newbypt H.	1	M. Lynch#	<b>Green Heron</b>			
8/5	HRWMA	2	T. Pirro	thr	GMNWR	8-15	S. Perkins
8/14	P.I.	1	D. + S. Larson	7/17	DWWS	4	D. Furbish#
8/15	Worcester	1	M. Lynch	7/31	Longmeadow	6	H. Allen
8/31	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins	8/thr	Falmouth	4 max	R. Farrell
<b>Least Bittern</b>				8/5	HRWMA	5	T. Pirro
7/3	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#	8/7	Worcester	21	M. Lynch
8/20	Hingham	1	D. Peacock	8/10	Amherst	11	H. Allen
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>				8/19	HRWMA	10	T. Pirro
7/15	Newbypt	19	J. Berry	8/20	Hingham	6	D. Peacock
8/1	HRWMA	33	T. Pirro	8/24	Eastham	8	W. Petersen#
8/4	Eastham	26	M. Lynch	8/28	Wakefield	4	P. + F. Vale
8/10	Turners Falls	11	H. Allen	<b>Black-crowned Night-Heron</b>			
8/20	Holden	31	M. Lynch	7/3	Wayland	10	E. Taylor
8/22	Worcester	22	M. Lynch	7/11	Worcester	13	M. Lynch#
8/24	GMNWR	88	R. Lockwood	7/13	Newbypt H.	10	M. Lynch#
<b>Great Egret</b>				7/19	Tuckermuck	14	S. Perkins
7/14	Rowley	19	J. Berry	7/21	Longmeadow	1	H. Allen
7/18	E. Boston (B.I.)	13	S. Zende#	7/31	Deerfield	1	R. Packard
7/24	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	8/4	W. Barnstable	40	S. + E. Miller

<b>Black-crowned Night-Heron (continued)</b>				8/20	Holden	4	M. Lynch
8/7	Worcester	6	M. Lynch	8/24	Randolph	7	G. d'Entremont
8/7	W. Springfield	2	S. Kellogg + v.o.	8/25	Marston Mills	3	S. + E. Miller
8/11, 20	GMNWR	22, 25	S. Perkins	8/25	Nantucket	5	E. Ray
8/17	Rowley	3 im	J. Berry	8/28	Ipswich	1	R. Heil
8/22	Longmeadow	1	T. Gagnon	<b>Northern Pintail</b>			
8/23	P.I.	12	S. Grinley	7/17, 20	P.I.	1	R. Heil
<b>Yellow-crowned Night-Heron</b>				8/10	HRWMA	1	T. Pirro
8/4	W. Barnstable	1 ad	S. + E. Miller	<b>Green-winged Teal</b>			
<b>Glossy Ibis</b>				7/20	Tuckermuck	3	S. Perkins
7/4	Squantum	12	R. Donovan	8/11	GMNWR	12	S. Perkins
7/12-8/6	DWWS	1 imm.	D. Furbish#	8/13	Newbypt/P.I.	14	S. Perkins
7/18	E. Boston (B.I.)	6	S. Zende#	8/17	Rowley	22	J. Berry
7/29	P.I.	6	M. Lynch#	8/22	Longmeadow	7	T. Gagnon
8/6-11	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins	8/28	Ipswich	51	R. Heil
8/7	N. Monomoy	3	B. Nikula#	8/28	Lexington	14	M. Rines
8/12	S. Peabody	2	R. Heil	8/29	Easton	8	S. Arena
8/21	S. Hyannis	3	S. Clifton	8/29	P.I.	120+	P. + F. Vale
8/22	Squantum	1	R. Donovan	8/29	Sharon	18	S. Arena
8/23	Chatham (S.B.)	11	G. Ferguson#	<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>			
8/23	S. Monomoy	10	W. Petersen#	8/19	W. Newbury	2	R. Heil
8/28	Lynn	2	R. Heil	8/21	Southboro	1 f	M. Lynch
8/30	S. Dart. (A.Pd.)	4	LCES (J. Hill)	<b>Greater Scaup</b>			
<b>Black Vulture</b>				7/1-8/14	DWWS	1 ad f	D. Furbish
7/17	Mount Everett	1	M. Lynch#	<b>Common Eider</b>			
7/17	Sheffield	3	M. Lynch#	7/3	Cuttyhunk	3 f, 6 yg	R. Farrell#
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>				7/11	Boston H.	10BBC	(P. Stevens)
7/17	S. Egremont	4	M. Lynch#	7/17	Duxbury B.	56	D. Furbish#
7/17	Sheffield	62	M. Lynch#	8/7	P'town	21	R. Heil
7/17	Mount Everett	6	M. Lynch#	8/7	Gloucester	125	R. Heil
7/18	Wakefield	2	F. Vale	<b>Surf Scoter</b>			
7/20	Nantucket	4	B. Perkins	7/11	Falmouth	1 m	R. Farrell
8/3	Attleboro	2 juv in n	M. Rines	7/31	Acoaxet	1 m	M. Lynch#
8/8	Wachusett Res.	2	M. Lynch	8/7	Chatham (S.B.)	5	B. Nikula
8/10	DWWS	4	D. Furbish	8/8	S. Dartmouth	3	R. Farrell#
8/21	Westboro	3	M. Lynch	8/17	Wellfleet	18	R. Heil
8/22	Worcester	5	M. Lynch	8/21	Rockport (A.P.)	8	R. Heil
8/28	Falmouth	2	R. Farrell	<b>White-winged Scoter</b>			
8/29	Mt Wachusett	8	E. Taylor	7/17	Nantucket	4 ad	E. Ray
<b>Mute Swan</b>				7/29, 8/7	Chatham (S.B.)	1, 4	B. Nikula
7/24	Worcester	5 ad + 6 y	M. Lynch#	8/7	P'town	1 f	R. Heil
7/30	Holyoke	2	H. Allen	8/7	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
7/31	Acoaxet	193 ad + 6 juv.	M. Lynch#	8/17	Rockport (A.P.)	13	R. Heil
8/14	Northampton	9	H. Allen	8/27	Manomet	20 migr	W. Petersen
<b>Whooper Swan</b>				<b>Black Scoter</b>			
7/7	P.I.	1 ad	S. Leonard	7/29, 8/7	Chatham (S.B.)	2, 5	B. Nikula
<b>Wood Duck</b>				8/15	Rockport (A.P.)	1 m	R. Heil
7/17	S. Egremont	13	M. Lynch#	8/18	Acoaxet	1 f	M. Williams
7/17	Great Barrington	15	M. Lynch#	<b>Oldsquaw</b>			
8/11	GMNWR	72	S. Perkins	8/8	Newbypt	1 m	D. Furbish
8/16	Melrose	17	P. + F. Vale	<b>Bufflehead</b>			
8/18	W. Yarmouth	45	S. + E. Miller	7/10	Newbypt	1 f	M. Resch
8/18	Wakefield	25	P. + F. Vale	7/31	Acoaxet	1 f	M. Lynch#
8/22	Worcester	83	M. Lynch	<b>Common Goldeneye</b>			
8/22	Longmeadow	77	T. Gagnon	7/19, 8/10	Turners Falls	1	H. Allen
8/28	Wakefield	32	P. + F. Vale	7/31	Acoaxet	1 m	M. Lynch#
8/29	Easton	24	S. Arena	<b>Hooded Merganser</b>			
8/31	Duxbury	184	D. Furbish	7/8	P.I.	1 f	J. Berry
<b>Gadwall</b>				7/10	Plainfield	2	S. Kellogg + v.o.
7/3	Rowley	30	J. Berry	7/19	Turners Falls	1	H. Allen
7/3	Cuttyhunk	1 m, 1 f	R. Farrell#	7/20	Newbypt	1	R. Heil
7/5	Muskeget I.	5 pr	D. Veit	8/4	Northampton	1	H. Allen
7/9, 8/6	P.I.	49, 10	W. Drew#	8/10	Worthington	4	R. Packard
7/14	Rowley	13	J. Berry	8/20	Holden	4 imm	M. Lynch
7/29	DWWS	1 f, 6 juv	D. Furbish	8/22	Worcester	1 imm	M. Lynch
8/14	Newbypt H.	11	M. Lynch	8/29	Easton	1	S. Arena
<b>American Wigeon</b>				<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>			
7/8	P.I.	1 m	J. Berry	7/thr	Falmouth	6 max	R. Farrell
8/28	Lynn	3	R. Heil	7/11	Nahant	1 f	M. Gonsalo#
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>				7/11-17	P.I.	1	R. Heil
7/8	P.I.	2	S. Perkins	8/11, 30	S. Dart. (A.Pd.)	1	LCES (J. Hill)
8/17	Rowley	2	J. Berry	8/19	Ipswich	1 f	J. Berry

Common Merganser				8/28	P.I.	1 imm	R. Heil
7/5 Williamsburg	2	R. Packard		8/29	GMNWR	1	L. Clark
7/6 Windsor	2	R. Rancatti		8/30	Newbury	1 ad	S. Leonard
8/7 Holyoke	1	H. Allen		Northern Goshawk			
Ruddy Duck				7/5,7	Williamsburg	1	R. Packard
7/19 Nantucket	1 br pl	S. Perkins		7/14	Monroe	3	R. Rancatti
8/7 Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell		7/18	Westhampton	1	H. Allen
8/24 Peabody	1 m	R. Heil		7/21	Sherborn	1	R. O'Neill
8/28 Salem	1 m	R. Heil		8/5	Westfield	2	H. Allen
Osprey				8/12	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon
thr Falmouth	6 ad, 5 yg	R. Farrell		8/25	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
thr Westboro	pr + 3 yg	E. Taylor		8/27	Sudbury	1	L. Nachtrab
thr P.I.	pr + 3 yg	v.o.		8/29	GMNWR	1	L. Clark#
7/17 Duxbury B.	5	D. Furbish#		Red-shouldered Hawk			
7/31 Acoaxet	42	M. Lynch#		thr	E. Middleboro	1-4	K. Anderson
7/31 Westport	36	M. Lynch#		7/4	Williamsburg	1	H. Allen
8/6 Eastham	2 ad + 2 yg	M. Lynch		7/10-16	Boxford	1	J. Brown#
thr reports of 1-2 indiv. from 21 locations				7/12	Becket	1	E. Neumuth
Bald Eagle				7/18	Westhampton	1	H. Allen
7/6 Newbypt	1 imm	R. Heil		7/24	Chesterfield	1	R. Packard
7/8 P.I.	1 juv	S. Perkins		8/6	Northampton	2	R. Packard
7/30 Chelmsford	1 ad	R. Rove		8/16	DWWS	4	D. Furbish
8/14 Arlington	1	R. Goldstein		8/20	Holden	1 imm.	M. Lynch
8/31 Groton	1 imm	T. Pirro		8/28	Norwell	1	D. Furbish
Northern Harrier				Broad-winged Hawk			
7/19 Tuckernuck	6	S. Perkins		7/8	Mattapoisett	7	M. LaBossiere
7/28 DWWS	1	D. Furbish		7/11	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
8/4 Eastham	1	M. Lynch		7/17	Mount Everett	1	M. Lynch#
8/5 WBWS	2	M. Lynch		7/18	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#
8/14 P.I.	5	SSBC (M. Emmons)		8/12	Norfolk	2	S. Yanco
8/19 HRWMA	1	T. Pirro		8/19	Stoughton	1	R. Titus
8/20 Northampton	1	T. Gagnon		8/20	Holden	1	M. Lynch
8/25 Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab		8/29	Mt Wachusett	3	E. Taylor
8/29 GMNWR	3	L. Clark#		Red-tailed Hawk			
8/30 S. Dart. (A.Pd.)	3	LCES (J. Hill)		7/17	Sheffield	5	M. Lynch#
Sharp-shinned Hawk				8/7	Worcester	8	M. Lynch
7/8 Worcester	1	M. Lynch#		American Kestrel			
7/12 E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson		7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	1 m	M. Lynch#
7/16-17 Washington	1	E. Neumuth		7/10	P.I.	5	M. Lynch#
7/21 Mendon	1	J. Moffett		7/10	Windsor	2	R. Rancatti
7/25 S. Quabbin	1	M. Lynch#		7/14	Bedford	5	R. Lockwood#
7/31 Mt Watatic	1	R. Heil		7/19	Sheffield	3	M. Lynch#
8/1 Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller		7/22	Hadley	5	R. Packard
8/6 Wayland	1	A. McCarthy#		7/24	Lenox	2	R. Laubach
8/8 Holden	1	M. Lynch		7/29	DWWS	2 f	D. Furbish
8/14 P.I.	1	SSBC (M. Emmons)		7/30	Southwick	2	S. Kellogg
8/23 HRWMA	1	T. Pirro		8/7	Worcester	4	M. Lynch
8/28 Cuttyhunk	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)		8/20	Holden	3	M. Lynch
8/30 Northampton	2	T. Gagnon		8/21	Northampton	4	T. Gagnon
8/30 GMNWR	1	J. Moffett		8/28	Amherst	10	H. Allen
8/30 Maynard	4	L. Nachtrab		8/29	P.I.	8	P. + F. Vale
8/31 Groton	2	T. Pirro		8/29	Maynard	4	L. Nachtrab
Cooper's Hawk				8/29	Mt Wachusett	2	E. Taylor
7/thr Nantucket	pr n	A. Webb + v.o.		8/31	Nantucket	5	E. Ray
7/3 Blandford	1	H. Allen		Merlin			
7/8 Amherst	1	H. Allen		8/11	Northampton	1	H. Allen
7/12 Becket	1	E. Neumuth		8/23	Wellfleet	1	W. Petersen#
7/23 Easton	1	G. d'Entremont		8/25	DWWS	1	D. Furbish
7/27 Lancaster	1	R. Lockwood		8/29	Woburn	1	M. Rines#
7/29 Gill	1	H. Allen		8/29	GMNWR	2	L. Clark#
8/thr N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher		8/29	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon
8/6 DWWS	2	D. Furbish		8/31	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
8/6 E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson		Peregrine Falcon			
8/7 Longmeadow	1	S. Kellogg + v.o.		8/7	Longmeadow	1	S. Kellogg + v.o.
8/10 Huntington	2	R. Packard		8/11	P.I.	1 juv	J. Moffett
8/11 Hadley	1	H. Allen		8/14	Newbypt H.	1 imm	M. Lynch
8/15 Southwick	1	S. Kellogg		8/22	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon
8/16 Wakefield	1 imm	F. Vale		8/28	Chatham (S.B.)	1	S. Moore#
8/18 Athol	1	B Coyle		8/29	Westfield	1	T. Pirro
8/18 Falmouth	1	R. Farrell		8/31	N. Monomoy	1 imm	B. Nikula
8/22 Squantum	1	G. d'Entremont		Ruffed Grouse			
8/23 HRWMA	2	T. Pirro		7/31	Milton	1	G. d'Entremont
8/28 Ipswich	2 imm	R. Heil					

<b>Wild Turkey</b>				7/27, 8/13	Newbypt/P.I.	120, 1250	R. Heil
7/2	Taunton	1	G. d'Entremont	7/29, 8/28	Newbypt H.	159, 927	M. Lynch#
7/4	Hanson	8	W. Petersen#	7/31	Acoaxet	146	M. Lynch#
7/7	Bedford	1	R. Lockwood#	8/4	Chatham (S.B.)	1600	B. Nikula
7/9	P.I.	1	J. Barber	8/5	WBWS	18	M. Lynch
7/14	Worc. (BMB)	5+	J. Liller	8/7	Nahant	400+	L. Pivacek
7/18	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#	8/7	P'town	220	R. Heil
7/20	Westford	16	S. Selesky	8/8	GMNWR	11	D. + S. Larson
7/23	Easton	3	G. d'Entremont	8/9-31	Longmeadow	25 max	H. Allen
7/25	Belmont	1	N. Cohen	8/15	Turners Falls	9	H. Allen
8/1-4	Scituate	9	L. Burbank	8/20	Holden	17	M. Lynch
8/8	Newbury	13	D. Furbish	8/22	E. Boston (B.I.)	100+	P. + F. Vale
8/11	Stow	1	R. Lockwood	8/23	S. Monomoy	900	W. Petersen#
8/13	Southwick	40	S. Kellogg	8/24	Randolph	10	G. d'Entremont
8/16-23	Westwood	17	B. Wicks	8/25	Ipswich	2100	J. Berry
8/19-31	W. Newbury	10	R. Heil	8/26	Chatham (S.B.)	3500	W. Petersen
8/27	Mendon	20	D. Moffett#	8/27	Eastham	5000	W. Petersen#
<b>Northern Bobwhite</b>				8/28	Woburn	14	P. + F. Vale
7/8	DWWS	1	D. Furbish	8/29	Easton	5	S. Arena
7/16	Nantucket	2	E. Ray	8/29	Squantum	400	C. Lee
7/31	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#	<b>Piping Plover</b>			
8/thr	Falmouth	1 max	R. Farrell	7/9, 23	P.I.	24, 31	W. Drew#
8/6	Marston Mills	15	S. + E. Miller	7/15	N. Monomoy	49	B. Nikula
<b>Clapper Rail</b>				7/17	Nantucket	22	E. Ray
7/6	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	7/22	Duxbury B.	3	D. Furbish
7/12	P.I.	2	J. Berry#	7/24	Falmouth	4	R. Farrell
<b>King Rail</b>				7/31	Acoaxet	6 juv	M. Lynch#
7/7-8/1	P.I.	1	S. Leonard + v.o.	8/4	Chatham (S.B.)	85	B. Nikula
<b>Virginia Rail</b>				8/18	Acoaxet	2+	M. Williams
7/3	P.I.	5 ad + 5 yg	M. Lynch#	8/25	Ipswich	14	J. Berry
7/8	W. Boxford	1	J. Berry	<b>Killdeer</b>			
7/9	Hawley	1	R. Packard	7/11	Worcester	35	M. Lynch#
7/9	Plainfield	2	R. Packard	7/20	Lexington	54	M. Rines
7/17	Sheffield	4	R. Packard	8/7	Lincoln	19	E. Taylor
7/17	S. Egremont	3 ad + 3 yg	M. Lynch#	8/8	Paxton	22	M. Lynch
7/18	Ipswich	5+	R. Heil	8/11	Northampton	42	H. Allen
8/20	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	8/12	Ipswich	100	J. Hoye#
<b>Sora</b>				8/20	Hingham	58	D. Peacock
7/12	Hadley	3	H. Allen	8/20	GMNWR	20	S. Perkins#
8/11	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins	8/20	Holden	25	M. Lynch
8/20	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	8/21	Hadley	132	T. Gagnon
8/26-31	Woburn	1	M. Rines	8/28	Lynn	32	R. Heil
8/30	S. Dart. (A.Pd.)	2	LCES (J. Hill)	8/29	Easton	60	S. Arena
8/31	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	<b>American Oystercatcher</b>			
<b>American Coot</b>				7/1-31	N. Monomoy	30 max	B. Nikula
7/19	Tuckernuck	1 ad + 2 juv	S. Perkins	7/16	Nantucket	24	E. Ray
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>				7/18	Winthrop H.	1	S. Zende#
7/3	Chatham (S.B.)	300	H. Ferguson	7/24, 8/24	Falmouth	2	R. Farrell
7/17, 8/22	Duxbury B.	12, 290	D. Furbish#	8/9	Fairhaven	4	M. Boucher
8/4, 28	Chatham (S.B.)	1200, 2300	B. Nikula	8/11, 30 S. Dart. (A.Pd.)		4, 3	LCES (J. Hill)
8/8	P.I.	16	S. Grinley#	8/28	Cuttyhunk	6	BBC (R. Stymeist)
8/8	E. Boston	158	S. Zende#	<b>American Avocet</b>			
8/10	Nantucket	47	E. Ray	7/9-11	P.I.	1	W. Drew + v.o.
8/13	Revere B.	25	P. + F. Vale	<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>			
8/14	GMNWR	3	M. Rines	7/3	P.I.	13	M. Lynch#
8/15	Turners Falls	4	H. Allen	7/14	Lexington	3	M. Rines
8/17	Rowley	18	J. Berry	7/18	Winthrop H.	42	S. Zende#
8/21	Squantum	43	G. d'Entremont	7/21	Nantucket	13	E. Ray
8/25	Ipswich	55	J. Berry	7/29, 8/28	Newbypt H.	164, 367	M. Lynch#
<b>American Golden-Plover</b>				7/31	Acoaxet	3	M. Lynch#
7/3	Chatham (S.B.)	1	H. Ferguson	7/31	Chatham (S.B.)	25	S. Zende#
7/27	S. Monomoy	1	J. Sones#	7/31, 8/21	Squantum	104, 100	G. d'Entremont
8/21	Northampton	3	T. Gagnon	8/6	Eastham	325+	M. Lynch
8/23	S. Monomoy	2	W. Petersen#	8/7, 31	Longmeadow	1, 2	S. Kellogg + v.o.
8/29	Holden	1	M. Lynch	8/8	E. Boston	68	S. Zende#
8/29	Chatham (S.B.)	1 juvD. + S. Larson		8/11	GMNWR	8	S. Perkins
8/31	Nantucket	2	E. Ray	8/15	Turners Falls	8	H. Allen
8/31	GMNWR	1	M. Rines	8/16	N. Monomoy	300	B. Nikula
8/31	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	8/20	Hingham	14	D. Peacock
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>				8/28	Falmouth	25	R. Farrell
7/17, 8/29	Duxbury B.	140, 1065	D. Furbish#	8/28	P.I.	83	M. Lynch
7/24-25	Plymouth	85	E. Neumuth	8/29	Easton	9	S. Arena
7/25, 8/10	Revere	144, 300	P. + F. Vale	8/29	Holden	6	M. Lynch

Lesser Yellowlegs			
7/15, 8/13	Newbypt/P.I.	1300, 430	R. Heil
7/18	E. Boston (B.I.)	31	S. Zende
7/20	Lexington	6	M. Rines
7/23, 8/24	Agawam	1, 2	S. Kellogg
7/23, 8/31	Longmeadow	2, 1	S. Kellogg
7/29, 8/28	Newbypt H.	894, 198	M. Lynch#
7/31	Acoaxet	5	M. Lynch#
8/5	Squantum	51	D. Larson
8/6	Eastham	12	M. Lynch
8/6, 8/26	GMNWR	6, 28	S. Perkins
8/12	S. Peabody	25	R. Heil
8/14	W. Springfield	1	H. Allen
8/15	Turners Falls	2	H. Allen
8/26	Woburn	3	M. Rines
8/29	Easton	26	S. Arena
Solitary Sandpiper			
7/13	Hadley	1	H. Allen
7/14	Lexington	1	M. Rines
7/30	Longmeadow	6	R. Packard
8/5, 19	HRWMA	2, 10	T. Pirro
8/8	Holden	3	M. Lynch
8/8	Paxton	19	M. Lynch
8/11, 26	GMNWR	11, 21	S. Perkins
8/12	S. Peabody	5	R. Heil
8/15	Easton	21	S. Arena
8/15	Sharon	7	S. Arena
8/24	Randolph	13	G. d'Entremont
8/28	Woburn	7	P. + F. Vale
8/29	Easton	13	S. Arena
Willet			
7/3	Rowley	7	J. Berry
7/11	P.I.	37	R. Heil
7/15	N. Monomoy	150	B. Nikula
7/17	Duxbury B.	23	D. Furbish#
7/18	Newbypt	87	R. Heil
7/21	Marion	8-10	M. Maurer
8/1	Duxbury B.	8	D. Furbish
8/4, 28	Chatham (S.B.)	130, 45	B. Nikula
8/4	Eastham	4	M. Lynch
8/11	S. Dart. (A.Pd.)	5	LCES (J. Hill)
Willet ( <i>inornatus</i> )			
7/18	Newbypt	2	R. Heil
8/17	WBWS	2	R. Heil
Spotted Sandpiper			
thr	Falmouth	5 max	R. Farrell
7/14	Lexington	3	M. Rines
7/17	P.I.	7	R. Heil
7/17	Sheffield	7	M. Lynch#
7/18	Winthrop H.	4	S. Zende
7/21	Nantucket	5	E. Ray
7/31	Acoaxet	6	M. Lynch#
8/3, 15	Melrose	2, 3	D. + I. Jewell
8/7	Worcester	6	M. Lynch
8/8	Paxton	6	M. Lynch
8/11	GMNWR	5	S. Perkins
8/12	S. Peabody	10	R. Heil
8/20	Holden	13	M. Lynch
8/21, 28	Wakefield	7	P. + F. Vale
8/26	Woburn	4	M. Rines
8/28	Lynn	4	R. Heil
Upland Sandpiper			
7/2	P.I.	1	S. Spangenberg#
7/7, 28	Bedford	12, 20	R. Lockwood#
7/29	Newbury	1	D. + I. Jewell
7/31	Turners Falls	1	R. Packard
8/14	P.I.	1	M. Lynch
8/28	Lynn	1 migr	R. Heil
8/29	GMNWR	2	M. Rines#
Whimbrel			
7/16	P.I.	2	R. Heil
7/16, 8/10	Nantucket	15, 57	E. Ray
7/17	Duxbury B.	2	D. Furbish#
7/21	Marion	16	M. Maurer
7/24	N. Monomoy	701	W. Harrington
8/1	Newbypt	9+	P. + F. Vale
8/1	S. Dartmouth	16	M. Boucher
8/5	Eastham (F.E.)	200	M. Lynch
8/5	WBWS	150	M. Lynch
8/9	Truro	10	A. Strauss
8/17	Rowley	1	J. Berry
8/18	Falmouth	6	R. Farrell
8/28	Cuttyhunk	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
Hudsonian Godwit			
7/3	Chatham (S.B.)	3	H. Ferguson
7/10	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#
7/13, 8/14	Newbypt H.	1, 20	M. Lynch#
7/29, 8/31	N. Monomoy	40, 15	B. Nikula
8/4	Eastham	5	M. Lynch
8/4, 28	Chatham (S.B.)	105, 35	B. Nikula
8/8	E. Boston	7	S. Zende
8/17	Rowley	6	J. Berry
8/21, 29	P.I.	7	P. + F. Vale
Marbled Godwit			
7/4, 21	N. Monomoy	1, 4	B. Nikula
8/4	Eastham	1	M. Lynch
8/6, 31	N. Monomoy	3, 4	B. Nikula
8/28	Chatham (S.B.)	3	v.o.
8/28	Newbypt H.	1	M. Lynch
8/28	P.I.	1	M. Lynch
Ruddy Turnstone			
7/3, 8/14	P.I.	1, 10	J. Berry, M. Lynch
7/17, 8/15	Duxbury B.	1, 370	D. Furbish#
7/18	Winthrop H.	2	S. Zende
7/24-25	Plymouth	12	E. Neumuth
7/31-8/30	Revere	2	P. + F. Vale
8/1	Newbypt	1	P. + F. Vale
8/5-31	Falmouth	5 max	R. Farrell
8/6	Eastham	10	M. Lynch
8/7	Nahant	2	L. Privacek
8/8	E. Boston	1	S. Zende
8/9	Rockport	30+	P. Akers
8/14	Nahant	4	M. Gonsalo#
8/25	Ipswich	2	J. Berry
8/28	Chatham (S.B.)	75SSBC	(J. Kenneally)
Red Knot			
7/3	Chatham (S.B.)	50	H. Ferguson
7/17, 8/15	Duxbury B.	3, 37	D. Furbish#
7/24-25	Plymouth	16	E. Neumuth
8/4	Chatham (S.B.)	1800	B. Nikula
8/14	Newbypt H.	4	M. Lynch
8/15	Rockport (A.P.)	21	R. Heil
8/15	Longmeadow	1	T. Gagnon
8/24	Eastham	50	W. Petersen#
8/29	Squantum	3	C. Lee
8/30	Revere B.	2	P. + F. Vale
Sanderling			
7/24-25	Plymouth	65	E. Neumuth
7/25	Lynn B.	100+	P. + F. Vale
7/25, 8/13	Revere	34, 600	P. + F. Vale
7/31	Acoaxet	22	M. Lynch#
8/thr	Duxbury B.	431 max	D. Furbish
8/4	Eastham	100+	M. Lynch
8/4, 17	Chatham (S.B.)	3200, 1700	B. Nikula
8/5	Stellwagen	20+	M. Lynch
8/7	Nahant	1000+	L. Privacek
8/8	E. Boston	600	S. Zende
8/14-22	Longmeadow	12 max	H. Allen + v.o.
8/15	Turners Falls	3	H. Allen
8/17	Wellfleet	500	R. Heil
8/25	Ipswich	580	J. Berry
Semipalmated Sandpiper			
7/13, 8/14	Newbypt H.	20, 2237	M. Lynch#
7/16, 8/13	Newbypt/P.I.	4650, 3150	R. Heil
7/17, 8/15	Duxbury B.	400, 2820	D. Furbish#
7/18, 8/15	Longmeadow	4, 100	S. Kellogg

Semipalmated Sandpiper (continued)			
7/21	N. Monomoy	1000	B. Nikula
7/24	Plymouth	550+	E. Neumuth
7/24, 8/21	Squantum	300, 500	G. d'Entremont
7/25	Lynn B.	340+	P. + F. Vale
7/27	Newbypt	10500	R. Heil
7/31	Acoaxet	318	M. Lynch#
7/31, 8/15	Turners Falls	2, 30	R. Packard
8/4	Chatham (S.B.)	1800	B. Nikula
8/6	Eastham	4500	M. Lynch
8/7	Nahant	800+	L. Pivacek
8/8	E. Boston	1200	S. Zende
8/13	Revere B.	400+	P. + F. Vale
8/13, 8/26	Woburn	6, 22	M. Rines
8/23	S. Monomoy	1000	W. Petersen#
8/25	Ipswich	820	J. Berry
Western Sandpiper			
7/17	P.I.	1	B. Volkle#
8/5	Falmouth	1 ad	R. Farrell
8/14	Lynn	3	J. Hoye#
8/27	WBWS	1	W. Petersen#
8/29	P.I.	1	M. Emmons
<b>Red-necked Stint</b>			
7/2	P.I.	1	S. Spangenberg#
Least Sandpiper			
7/3, 8/15	P.I.	90, 760	M. Lynch#
7/4	N. Monomoy	550	B. Nikula
7/6	Nantucket	15	E. Ray
7/17, 8/29	Duxbury B.	300, 80	D. Furbish#
7/18, 8/13	Newbypt	650, 450	R. Heil
7/21, 8/14	Longmeadow	24, 144	H. Allen
7/29, 8/28	Newbypt H.	380, 23	M. Lynch#
7/31	Chatham (S.B.)	200	S. Zende
7/31	Squantum	31	G. d'Entremont
8/5	WBWS	150+	M. Lynch
8/6	Barnstable	12	M. Lynch
8/6	Eastham	150+	M. Lynch
8/6, 26	GMNWR	50, 200	S. Perkins
8/8	Paxton	76	M. Lynch
8/8, 20	Holden	50, 168	M. Lynch
8/13, 28	Woburn	40, 23	M. Rines
8/15	Turners Falls	120	H. Allen
8/28	S. Peabody	50	R. Heil
8/29	Easton	120	S. Arena
White-rumped Sandpiper			
7/17	Chatham (S.B.)	3	B. Nikula#
8/6	Eastham	2+	M. Lynch
8/7	Nahant	3	L. Pivacek
8/7	P'town	4	R. Heil
8/13	Newbypt/P.I.	42	S. Perkins
8/13-26	Woburn	9 max	M. Rines
8/14, 30	P.I.	95, 120	M. Lynch, T. Pirro
8/14, 28	Newbypt H.	12, 12	M. Lynch
8/15	Turners Falls	1	H. Allen
8/17	Rowley	6	J. Berry
8/20	Holden	1	M. Lynch
8/22	Revere B.	9	P. + F. Vale
8/23	S. Monomoy	60	W. Petersen
8/24	Randolph	3	G. d'Entremont
8/25	Ipswich	5	J. Berry
8/29	Duxbury B.	2	D. Furbish
8/29	Squantum	5	C. Lee
Baird's Sandpiper			
8/14	P.I.	1 ad	M. Lynch
8/20	Holden	1 ad	M. Lynch
8/22	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon
8/25	P.I.	2 MAS	(N. Soulette#)
8/29	GMNWR	1	E. Salmela#
8/29	Squantum	1 imm	C. Lee
Pectoral Sandpiper			
7/4	Squantum	1	R. Donovan
7/15	Newbypt	1	R. Heil
7/31	Revere	1	P. + F. Vale
8/6, 31	GMNWR	3, 16	S. Perkins
8/9	WBWS	2	A. Strauss
8/14	Carlisle	1T, + D.	Brownrigg
8/14	Longmeadow	3	T. Gagnon
8/14	Nantucket	3	E. Ray
8/14	P.I.	3	M. Lynch
8/15	Turners Falls	7	H. Allen
8/15-26	Woburn	1	M. Rines
8/21	Northampton	7	T. Gagnon
8/21	Randolph	4	G. d'Entremont
8/22	DWWS	1	D. Furbish
8/29	Easton	5	S. Arena
8/29	Holden	3	M. Lynch
Dunlin			
7/21	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
7/31	Chatham (S.B.)	2	S. Zende
8/5	Squantum	1	D. Larson
Stilt Sandpiper			
7/11-31	P.I.	19 max	7/16 R. Heil
7/31	Squantum	1 ad	G. d'Entremont
8/5	WBWS	1	M. Lynch
8/24	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont
8/28	Ipswich	4	R. Heil
8/28	P.I.	10	M. Lynch
8/29	Woburn	1	D. Oliver#
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			
8/28	P.I.	1 juv	R. Heil
8/29	GMNWR	1	M. Rines#
8/29	Holden	1	M. Lynch
8/29	Chatham (S.B.)	1	D. + S. Larson
8/31	Nantucket	3	J. Stewart
8/31	Longmeadow	1	S. Kellogg
<b>Ruff</b>			
7/9-11	P.I.	1 mB.	Chiasson + v.o.
Short-billed Dowitcher ( <i>hendersoni</i> )			
7/16	P.I.	1	R. Heil
7/18	Newbypt	1	R. Heil
Short-billed Dowitcher			
7/16	Newbypt	220	R. Heil
7/17, 8/15	Duxbury B.	14, 272	D. Furbish
7/17, 8/22	Nantucket	26, 27	S. Perkins, E. Ray
7/17, 8/4	Chatham (S.B.)	1600, 2200	B. Nikula#
7/18, 8/8	E. Boston (B.I.)	5, 131	S. Zende
7/20	P.I.	320	R. Heil
7/23, 8/22	Squantum	24, 18	G. d'Entremont
7/24-25	Plymouth	16	E. Neumuth
7/31	Acoaxet	115	M. Lynch#
7/31, 8/29	Revere	158, 78	P. + F. Vale
8/4	Eastham	660+	M. Lynch
8/11	P.I.	30	S. Perkins
8/24	Randolph	4	G. d'Entremont
8/29	Easton	1	S. Arena
Long-billed Dowitcher			
7/16-31	P.I.	22 max	7/24 R. Heil
8/11	P.I.	32	S. Perkins
8/23	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#
Common Snipe			
8/11	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins
8/15	Easton	1	S. Arena
8/22	DWWS	1	D. Furbish
8/23	S. Monomoy	2	W. Petersen
8/28	Lynn	1	R. Heil
8/29	Easton	1	S. Arena
American Woodcock			
7/8	Peru	1	R. Packard
7/17	Amherst	1	H. Allen
7/17	Sheffield	2	R. Packard
7/24	P.I.	1	D. Bates
8/5, 10	HRWMA	2, 1	T. Pirro
8/8	Amherst	1	H. Allen
Wilson's Phalarope			
7/13	P.I.	1	B. Crowley

Red-necked Phalarope									
8/24	off Sandy Neck	25	J. Trimble#						
phalarope species									
8/10	Stellwagen	20	B. Nikula#						
8/15	Rockport (A.P.)	12	R. Heil						
Parasitic Jaeger									
8/5	Truro	1	M. Lynch						
8/7	Stellwagen	4	R. Heil						
8/15	Dennis	1	S. + E. Miller						
8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	5	R. Heil						
8/22	P'town (R.P.)	5	B. Nikula						
8/25	Rockport (A.P.)	5	J. Soucy#						
8/25	Stellwagen	2	W. Petersen#						
8/26	Chatham (S.B.)	5	W. Petersen#						
8/27	Eastham	2	W. Petersen#						
jaeger species									
8/7	Stellwagen	2	R. Heil						
8/21	Rockport (A.P.)	5	R. Heil						
8/22	P'town (R.P.)	5	B. Nikula						
Laughing Gull									
7/1	Rockport (A.P.)	24	J. Soucy						
7/3	P.I.	2 imm	J. Berry						
7/11	Boston H.	5 BBC	(P. Stevens)						
7/17	Duxbury B.	28	D. Furbish#						
7/20	P.I.	7	R. Heil						
7/31	Revere	3	P. + F. Vale						
7/31	Acoaxet	4	M. Lynch#						
8/5	Stellwagen	200+	M. Lynch						
8/8	Nahant	13	G. Wood						
8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	200	R. Heil						
8/17	Wellfleet	125	R. Heil						
8/21	Squantum	50	G. d'Entremont						
8/25	Ipswich	3	J. Berry						
Little Gull									
7/2	P.I.	1	S. Spangenberg#						
7/3	Newbypt	1	M. Lynch#						
7/15-20	Newbypt/P.I.	2	R. Heil						
7/23-8/71	Nahant	1 ad	L. Pivacek + v.o.						
Black-headed Gull									
7/2	P.I.	1	S. Spangenberg#						
7/15-8/13	Newbypt	3 max	R. Heil						
8/7	Nahant	4	L. Pivacek						
8/13	Wellfleet	1 C.	Pearl, P. Trull						
8/18-19	Chatham (S.B.)	1 ad	B. Nikula#						
8/31	N. Monomoy	1 ad	B. Nikula						
Bonaparte's Gull									
7/12	P.I.	98	J. Berry#						
7/15, 8/13	Newbypt	275, 450	R. Heil						
7/22	Longmeadow	2 H.	Allen, S. Kellogg						
7/24	Nahant	156	D. Larson						
7/29	Newbypt H.	306	M. Lynch#						
8/2	Longmeadow	1	S. Kellogg						
8/7	Nahant	420	L. Pivacek						
8/8	Wachusett Res.	1 juv	M. Lynch						
8/13	Revere B.	260	BBC (P. + F. Vale)						
8/25	Ipswich	220	J. Berry						
8/28	Newbypt H.	309	M. Lynch						
Ring-billed Gull									
7/27	Newbypt	720	R. Heil						
Lesser Black-backed Gull									
7/8-9	P'town (R.P.)	12 yr	P. Champlin						
8/18-29	Chatham (S.B.)	13 W	B. Nikula#						
8/29	Chatham (S.B.)	11 S	B. Nikula#						
Black-legged Kittiwake									
8/21	Rockport (A.P.)	1 imm	R. Heil						
8/22	P'town (R.P.)	2 imm	B. Nikula						
Sabine's Gull									
8/17	Stellwagen	1 br pl	P. Trimble						
8/26	Chatham (S.B.)	1 ad	W. Petersen						
Caspian Tern									
7/8-9	P'town (R.P.)	1	P. Champlin						
Royal Tern									
7/4	Nauset	1	A. McCarthy#						
Roseate Tern									
7/4	Nauset	5	A. McCarthy#						
7/5	Muskeget I.	5 pr	D. Veit						
7/17	Nantucket	30	S. Perkins						
7/18	Newbypt	3 ad	R. Heil						
7/21, 8/28	Falmouth	750, 50	R. Farrell						
7/31	Chatham (S.B.)	300	S. Zende#						
8/7	P'town	150	R. Heil						
8/14	Nahant	2	J. Hoye#						
8/15	Rockport (A.P.)	7	R. Heil						
8/17	Chatham (S.B.)	1100	R. Heil						
8/22	P'town (R.P.)	100	B. Nikula						
8/24	Eastham	1500	W. Petersen#						
8/25	Ipswich	4	J. Berry						
8/26	Chatham (S.B.)	3000	W. Petersen						
Common Tern									
7/5	Muskeget I.	50 pr	D. Veit						
7/17	Nantucket	60	S. Perkins						
7/18	Newbypt	230	R. Heil						
7/21-25	Falmouth	2150	R. Farrell						
7/31	Acoaxet	240	M. Lynch#						
8/1, 29	Duxbury B.	440, 550	D. Furbish						
8/5	Stellwagen	200+	M. Lynch						
8/13	Newbypt	260	R. Heil						
8/17	Chatham (S.B.)	2000	R. Heil						
8/21	Rockport (A.P.)	115	R. Heil						
8/21	Squantum	100	G. d'Entremont						
8/22	P'town (R.P.)	3000	B. Nikula						
8/25	Ipswich	450	J. Berry						
8/25	Rockport (A.P.)	300+	J. Soucy#						
Arctic Tern									
7/thr	Penikese I.	6 pr	fide T. French						
7/4	Orleans	1	J. Hoye#						
7/4	Nauset	1	A. McCarthy#						
7/5	Muskeget I.	1	D. Veit						
7/8-9	P'town (R.P.)	1	P. Champlin						
8/19	Chatham (S.B.)	2 IS	B. Nikula						
8/25	Ipswich	1 ad	J. Berry						
8/27	Chatham (S.B.)	1 IS	J. Sones#						
8/31	Falmouth	2 br pl	E. Giles						
Forster's Tern									
7/24, 8/25	Falmouth	1	R. Farrell						
7/27	Newbypt	2	R. Heil						
8/21	Rockport (A.P.)	3	R. Heil						
8/23	S. Monomoy	4	W. Petersen#						
8/24	Eastham	1	W. Petersen#						
8/29	Chatham (S.B.)	10	B. Nikula#						
8/29	Revere B.	2	P. + F. Vale						
Least Tern									
7/16	P.I.	13	R. Heil						
7/17, 8/29	Duxbury B.	20, 65	D. Furbish						
8/4	Eastham	12	M. Lynch						
8/5	Stellwagen	20	M. Lynch						
8/7	P'town	12	R. Heil						
8/11, 30	S. Dart. (A.Pd.)	73, 6	LCES (J. Hill)						
8/17	WBWS	25	R. Heil						
8/25	Ipswich	150	J. Berry						
8/28	Chatham (S.B.)	15	S. Moore#						
Black Tern									
7/5	Muskeget I.	1	D. Veit						
7/24, 8/28	Falmouth	1, 26	R. Farrell						
8/1, 22	Duxbury B.	1, 1	D. Furbish						
8/12	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil						
8/15	Pittsfield	4	E. Neumuth						
8/21	Squantum	1	G. d'Entremont						
8/21	Truro	6	B. Nikula						
8/22	P'town (R.P.)	4	B. Nikula						
8/23	S. Monomoy	9	W. Petersen						
8/25	Ipswich	4	J. Berry						
8/30	Chatham (S.B.)	14	R. Lockwood#						
8/30	Fairhaven	11	M. LaBossiere						
8/30	P.I.	2	T. Pirro						
8/31	N. Monomoy	10	B. Nikula						

Black Tern (continued)				8/27	Berlin	44	R. Lockwood
8/31 Nantucket	45	M. +M. Wilson		8/28	Mill St., Worcester	64	M. Lynch
Black Skimmer				8/29	Malden	50	C. Sullivan
7/4 Nauset	3	A. McCarthy#		Whip-poor-will			
8/4, 24 Chatham (S.B.)	1, 2	B. Nikula		7/17	Dover	8	E. Taylor
8/15 S. Monomoy	3	B. Nikula#		7/20	Southwick	3	S. Kellogg
<b>Atlantic Puffin</b>				8/1	Montague	3	H. Allen
7/6 Nantucket	1 dead	E. Ray		8/7	Wellfleet	2	BBC (L. Ferraresso)
8/15 Rockport (A.P.)	3	R. Heil		Chimney Swift			
alcid species				7/18	Springfield	20+	M. Lynch#
8/22 P'town (R.P.)	1	B. Nikula		8/3	Maynard	50	L. Nachtrab
<b>White-winged Dove</b> * (details submitted)				8/15	W. Bridgewater	140	S. Arena
7/16 DWWS	1	D. Furbish + v.o.		8/23	W. Newbury	275	R. Heil
Black-billed Cuckoo				8/23	S. Peabody	150	R. Heil
7/1 Washington	2	E. Neumuth		8/24-25	Mt.A.	50-70	R. Stymeist#
7/3 Lenox	1	R. Laubach		8/25	Needham	50+	L. Leka
7/5 Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	2	M. Lynch#		8/28	Worcester	90+	M. Lynch#
7/17 Nantucket	1	S. Perkins		8/29	W. Bridgewater	100	W. Petersen#
7/24 Pittsfield	1	T. Gagnon		8/31	GMNWR	200	S. Perkins
7/25 Athol	1	B. Coyle		Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
8/23 S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#		thr	Falmouth	1-3	R. Farrell
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				7/thr	Boxford	4-6	J. Brown#
7/3 Pepperell	1	M. Resch		7/3	Pepperell	2	M. Resch
7/5 Winchester	1	M. Rines		7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	3	M. Lynch#
Eastern Screech-owl				8/thr	E. Middleboro	1-3	K. Anderson
7/7 Hatfield	1	R. Packard		8/thr	Maynard	4-6	L. Nachtrab
7/9 Stoneham	3	D. + I. Jewell		8/thr	N. Dartmouth	8 max	M. Boucher
7/28 E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson		8/1-31	W. Newbury	10 total	R. Heil
8/7 Mendon	1	D. Moffett		8/5	WBWS	2	M. Lynch
8/18 Lincoln	1	S. Perkins		8/6	Saugus	3	D. + I. Jewell
8/19 Southwick	1	S. Kellogg		8/8	Wakefield	3	P. + F. Vale
8/22 Concord	1	M. Schwoppe		8/16	Lexington	2	M. Rines
8/22 Eastham	1	W. Petersen#		8/20	Groton	2	T. Pirro
8/23-24 Amherst	1	H. Allen		8/29	Worcester	2 migr	M. Lynch
Great Horned Owl				thr	Reports of indiv. from 13 locations		
7/1 Chesterfield	1	R. Packard		Belted Kingfisher			
7/4 Haverhill	2	R. Heil		7/6	Brookfield	6	R. Packard
7/7 Williamsburg	1	R. Packard		8/7	Worcester	5	M. Lynch
7/29 P.I.	1	M. Lynch#		8/20	Holden	4	M. Lynch
7/30-Jan Southwick	2	S. Kellogg		Red-bellied Woodpecker			
8/6 Orleans	1	M. Lynch		7/thr	Bolton	1	R. Lockwood
8/8 Amherst	1	H. Allen		7/7	Concord	2	R. Lockwood
8/19 Petersham	2 juv	D. Chapman		7/18	Springfield	3-4	M. Lynch#
Barred Owl				7/18	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#
7/1 Chesterfield	1	R. Packard		7/26	Lincoln	3	S. Perkins
7/9 Lincoln	2 imm	M. Schwoppe		8/thr	Bolton	1	R. Lockwood
7/12 Amherst	1	H. Allen		8/29	Worc. (BMB)	2	J. Liller
7/13 Hawley	3	R. Packard		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
7/15 Savoy	2	R. Rancatti		7/17	Great Barrington	1	M. Lynch#
7/9, 23 E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson		8/20	Holden	1	M. Lynch
8/5 Amherst	1	H. Allen		Hairy Woodpecker			
8/10 Bolton	1	R. Lockwood		7/3	Mendon	2	D. Moffett
8/28,30 Pelham	2	H. Allen		7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	3	M. Lynch#
Short-eared Owl				7/23	Wakefield	2	F. Vale
7/16, 8/22 Nantucket	2, 1	E. Ray		8/20	Holden	3	M. Lynch
Common Nighthawk				8/21	DWWS	2	D. Furbish
8/12, 20 Northampton	1, 363	T. Gagnon		8/25	Wakefield	2	F. Vale
8/16 Stoughton	8	D. + S. Larson		8/28	Norwell	2	D. Furbish
8/16, 23 Maynard	9, 69	L. Nachtrab		Northern Flicker			
8/16, 24 Mt.A.	1, 363	R. Stymeist#		7/24	Worcester	16	M. Lynch#
8/17 Boston	7	S. Yanco#		8/11	Wakefield	17	F. Vale
8/18, 24 Southwick	1, 2050	S. Kellogg		Pileated Woodpecker			
8/19, 23 HRWMA	83, 24	T. Pirro		7/2	Carlisle	3	C. Floyd
8/23 W. Newbury	86	R. Heil		7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	1	M. Lynch#
8/23, 26 Westminister	24, 126	T. Pirro		7/17	Great Barrington	2 imm	M. Lynch#
8/23, 28 Worcester	2000, 1070	M. Lynch		7/18	Ipswich	1	R. Heil
8/23-28 Northampton	974	T. Gagnon		7/18	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#
8/24 Boylston	100+	W. Miller		8/6	Berlin	2	R. Lockwood
8/25 Ashburnham	40	T. Pirro		8/23	Bolton	1	R. Lockwood
8/25 Ashby, Gardner	23, 20+	T. Pirro		8/29	Holden	1	M. Lynch

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

Until 1999, *Bird Observer* published bird sightings only from the central and eastern part of the state. The addition of western Massachusetts records makes only marginal differences until the breeding season, when the reports of the breeding birds of the Berkshire and Connecticut River Valley ecosystems show the true diversity of the state.

Olive-sided Flycatcher has (uncommonly) bred in western Massachusetts in the recent past, but the report of two birds in Amherst on August 23 falls at the exact time of year when migrants appear, so it is unlikely that these birds were breeders. There was only one other report of Olive-sided Flycatcher, a poorer showing than is normal. Acadian Flycatchers are known to breed in central Massachusetts, especially around Quabbin Reservoir; a singing bird in Estabrook Woods in Carlisle may represent a breeder, or a male attempting to find a mate. The "Traill's" flycatcher pair of Alder and Willow flycatchers show a geographical bias in Massachusetts, with Alder more common in the west and Willow more common in the east. This bias is reflected in the reports. **Western Kingbird** is an uncommon but regular fall migrant, but an individual on Nantucket on August 31 was exceptionally early.

Most vireos reported are regular breeders in the areas from which they were reported, but a Philadelphia Vireo at the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge in Harvard is intriguing. As reported in the previous issue of *Bird Observer*, this is the third year a Philadelphia Vireo has appeared here, and this individual was tape recorded alternating songs between Warbling and Philadelphia vireos. There is no record of hybridism between these two species, nor is there any record of Philadelphia Vireo breeding in the state, so this remains a mystery.

Fish Crows are uncommon in western Massachusetts, so reports from Longmeadow and Northampton are significant. Common Ravens have been reported sporadically from Essex County for the past several years, an area where they are not known to breed. During the breeding season, however, there were no reports of this species. Cliff Swallows are uncommon breeders in eastern Massachusetts. The western part of the state has much more agricultural lands, and hence more barns where Cliff Swallows can build nests under the eaves, and they are therefore much more numerous west of Worcester County.

Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported only from the western part of the state, where they are uncommon but regular breeders; the same can be said of Swainson's Thrushes.

Fall warbler migration begins as early as late July for some species, and most of the warblers reported after this time were migrants, or post-breeding birds dispersing away from breeding territory. Early July birds, however, were probably breeders. Unusual reports include a Cerulean Warbler in Pepperell; this species is an uncommon breeder in the state (particularly at Quabbin Reservoir), and future summer sightings in Pepperell could suggest a new breeding locale. Mourning Warbler is a rare and local breeder in the west, and an individual on July 3 in Florida could be assumed to be a breeder.

Sparrow migration doesn't generally begin until September, so a **Lark Sparrow** on South Beach in Chatham on August 23 and a Dickcissel coming to a feeder in Woburn on August 13 were unusually early. **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** are uncommon but regular fall vagrants to the state, with most occurring in August and September.

An unusual number of Evening Grosbeaks were reported, pretty much evenly split between western and central Massachusetts. M.W.R.

Olive-sided Flycatcher				8/24	Worc. (BMB)	5	J. Liller
8/23	Amherst	2	C. Holzapfel	8/24	Medford	5	M. Rines#
8/24	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller	Acadian Flycatcher			
Eastern Wood-Pewee				7/2	Carlisle	1	C. Floyd
7/4	W. Brookfield	4	M. Lynch#	7/11	Quabbin (G15)	2	S. Hedman#
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland	S.P. 24	M. Lynch#	Acadian Flycatcher (continued)			
7/5	Concord	4	R. Lockwood	7/30	W. Quabbin	1	R. Packard
7/6	Brookfield	4	R. Packard	Alder Flycatcher			
8/23	HRWMA	6	T. Pirro	7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	6	M. Lynch#

7/8	W. Boxford	2-4	J. Berry	7/18	Petersham	14	M. Lynch#
7/9	Hawley	1	R. Packard	American Crow			
7/10	Plainfield	3	S. Kellogg + v.o.	8/28	Framingham	1470	E. Taylor
7/15	Savoy	2	R. Rancatti	Fish Crow			
7/17	Sheffield	1	R. Packard	7/3	Gloucester	2	R. Heil
7/17	Great Barrington	1	M. Lynch#	7/9	Watertown	15	R. Stymeist
7/24	Chesterfield	1	R. Packard	7/29	DWWS	5	D. Furbish
7/24	Lenox	1	R. Laubach	7/30	Longmeadow	2	R. Packard
7/31	Northboro	1	S. Arena	8/19	Marshfield	34	D. Furbish
8/1	HRWMA	2	T. Pirro	8/20	Lenox	1	R. Laubach
Willow Flycatcher				8/20	Hingham	20+	D. Peacock
7/thr	DWWS	6	D. Furbish	8/21	Northampton	3	T. Gagnon
7/6	Brookfield	4	R. Packard	8/22	Eastham	2	W. Petersen#
7/8	P.I.	2	S. Perkins	Common Raven			
7/15	Worc. (BMB)	2	J. Liller	7/17	Mount Everett	1	M. Lynch#
7/24	Milton (F.M.)	2	G. d'Entremont	7/31	Mt Watatic	6	R. Heil
7/31	Deerfield	1	R. Packard	Horned Lark			
8/7	Wakefield	1 ad, 3 imm	P. + F. Vale	7/17	Nantucket	3	S. Perkins
Trail's Flycatcher				8/7	Chatham (S.B.)	4	BBC (L. Ferrarosso)
8/19	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil	8/11	Northampton	6	H. Allen
Least Flycatcher				Purple Martin			
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	13	M. Lynch#	7/5	Andover	1 imm	R. Heil
8/6	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller	7/17	P.I.	92+	R. Heil
8/14	P.I.	2	M. Lynch	7/20	DWWS	109	D. Furbish
8/18	Winchester	1	M. Rines	8/13	Newbypt	3	R. Heil
Eastern Phoebe				8/14	P.I.	4	M. Lynch
8/17	Newton	8	H. Miller	Tree Swallow			
8/29	P.I.	8	P. + F. Vale	7/18	Petersham	200+	M. Lynch#
Great Crested Flycatcher				7/24	P.I.	750+	R. Heil
7/5	Concord	4	R. Lockwood	8/1	S. Dartmouth	1500	M. Boucher
7/23	Melrose	5	D. + I. Jewell	8/10	HRWMA	250-300	T. Pirro
7/28	Wakefield	2	F. Vale	8/13	Newbypt	12000 migr	R. Heil
8/1	HRWMA	4	T. Pirro	8/14	P.I.	5500+	M. Lynch
8/21	Marblehead	2	K. Haley	Northern Rough-winged Swallow			
Western Kingbird				7/8	P.I.	3	S. Perkins
8/31	Nantucket	1	S. Smith + v.o.	7/11	Worcester	9	M. Lynch#
Eastern Kingbird				8/12, 28	S. Peabody	22, 3	R. Heil
7/6	Brookfield	16	R. Packard	8/23	Wakefield	12	P. + F. Vale
7/17	Sheffield	18	M. Lynch#	Bank Swallow			
7/29	P.I.	45	M. Lynch#	7/20	P.I.	45+	R. Heil
8/7	Worcester	62	M. Lynch	8/11	GMNWR	70	S. Perkins
8/15	W. Bridgewater	57	S. Arena	8/13	Newbypt	40	R. Heil
8/26	Uxbridge	20+	J. + D. Moffett	8/20	Groton	50	T. Pirro
White-eyed Vireo				8/20	Nantucket	200	E. Ray
7/3	S. Dartmouth	3	M. Rines	Barn Swallow			
7/31	Acoaxet	1 ad + 6 juv	M. Lynch#	7/17	Sheffield	100+	M. Lynch#
Blue-headed Vireo				7/21	Nantucket	200	E. Ray
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	14	M. Lynch#	7/31	Westport	250+	M. Lynch#
7/17	Great Barrington	2	M. Lynch#	8/8	W. Newbury	75	R. Heil
7/17	Mount Everett	2	M. Lynch#	8/11	GMNWR	90	S. Perkins
7/18	Petersham	7	M. Lynch#	8/13	Newbypt	4500	R. Heil
Yellow-throated Vireo				8/15	W. Bridgewater	110	S. Arena
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	4	M. Lynch#	8/15	GMNWR	500	E. Taylor
7/17	Sheffield	4	M. Lynch#	8/21	Westboro	200+	M. Lynch
7/17	Great Barrington	1	M. Lynch#	8/22	Worcester	103	M. Lynch
7/26	Stow	1	S. Perkins	Cliff Swallow			
7/31	Northboro	1	S. Arena	7/3	Washington	2	S. Kellogg + v.o.
Warbling Vireo				7/3	Williamsburg	12	T. Gagnon
7/11	Wakefield	10	P. + F. Vale	7/10	P.I.	3	M. Lynch#
7/24	Worcester	18	M. Lynch#	7/29	Newbypt H.	1	M. Lynch#
8/29	Woburn	8	M. Rines#	7/31	Deerfield	6	R. Packard
Philadelphia Vireo				8/10, 23	HRWMA	2, 1	T. Pirro
thr	ONWR	1	R. Lockwood	8/23	Northampton	2	T. Gagnon
8/24	Wellfleet	1	W. Petersen#	Red-breasted Nuthatch			
8/25	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews	7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	25	M. Lynch#
8/25	Washington	1	E. Neumuth	7/5	Andover	3	R. Heil
8/30	Chatham	5-6	D. Comeau	7/15	Amherst	12	H. Allen
Red-eyed Vireo				7/15	Boxford	2	R. Heil
7/4	W. Brookfield	6	M. Lynch#	7/25	S. Quabbin	19	M. Lynch#
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	87	M. Lynch#	Red-breasted Nuthatch (continued)			
7/11	Worcester	11	M. Lynch#	7/31	Ashburnham	4	R. Heil
7/17	Mount Everett	13	M. Lynch#	8/17	Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab
7/17	Sheffield	13	M. Lynch#	8/20	Lincoln	4	S. Perkins

8/20	Worcester	2	M. Lynch	8/10	Huntington	8	R. Packard
8/20	Holden	3	M. Lynch	8/11	Stoneham	1	D. + I. Jewell
8/23	S. Monomoy	3	W. Petersen#	8/14	Carlisle	2T. + D.	Brownrigg
8/23	HRWMA	9	T. Pirro	8/16	Lexington	2	M. Rines
8/24	Wellfleet	5	W. Petersen#	8/17	Newton	1	H. Miller
8/24	Medford	2	M. Rines#	8/21	Burlington	1	M. Rines
8/25	Provincetown	5	W. Petersen#	8/25	S. Sandwich	3	S. + E. Miller
8/28	MNWS	3	R. Heil	8/31	Needham	2	J. Samelson
Brown Creeper				Golden-crowned Kinglet			
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	5	M. Lynch#	7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	6	M. Lynch#
7/5	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	7/6	Windsor	1	R. Rancatti
7/7	Concord	3	R. Lockwood	7/9	Plainfield	3	R. Packard
7/18	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	7/10	Adams	4	R. Rancatti
7/31	Milton	1	G. d'Entremont	7/13	Greylock	2	R. Rancatti
8/19	Medford	2	M. Rines	7/14	Monroe	1	R. Rancatti
8/22	Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab	7/15	Savoy	1	R. Packard
8/28	Norwell	3	D. Furbish	7/24	Chesterfield	2	R. Packard
Carolina Wren				Eastern Bluebird			
7/15	Lenox	1	R. Laubach	7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	2	M. Lynch#
7/18-23	Longmeadow	2	v.o.	7/5	Concord	2	R. Lockwood
7/31	Acoaxet	23	M. Lynch#	7/17	Sheffield	7	M. Lynch#
8/6	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil	7/21	Worc. (BMB)	3	J. Liller
8/7	Amherst	1	H. Allen	7/24	Hopkinton	4	E. Taylor
8/10	Mendon	2	D. Moffett	8/thr	DWWS	8 max	D. Furbish+vo
8/14	Longmeadow	2	T. Gagnon	8/10	Ipswich	3	D. + I. Jewell
8/14	Carlisle	3T. + D.	Brownrigg	8/14	Carlisle	2	T. + D. Brownrigg
8/19	Medford	3	M. Rines	8/30	Westport	7	M. Boucher
8/24	Worc. (BMB)	7	J. Liller	Veery			
8/28	Cuttyhunk	9	BBC (R. Stymeist)	7/4	W. Brookfield	7	M. Lynch#
8/28	MNWS	5	R. Heil	7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	22	M. Lynch#
8/29	Braintree	5	G. d'Entremont	7/6	Brookfield	6	R. Packard
8/29	Lexington	3	R. Crissman	7/17	Great Barrington	4	M. Lynch#
House Wren				7/18	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#
7/thr	DWWS	3 pr	D. Furbish#	8/31	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller
7/17	Sheffield	9	M. Lynch#	Swainson's Thrush			
8/16	Lexington	11	M. Rines	7/3	Florida	8	R. Rancatti
8/17	Newton	8	H. Miller	7/6	Windsor	4	R. Rancatti
8/22	Worcester	6	M. Lynch	7/10	Adams	4	R. Rancatti
8/26	Burlington	12	M. Rines	7/13	Greylock	1	R. Rancatti
8/29	Melrose	3	D. + I. Jewell	7/14	Monroe	9	R. Rancatti
Winter Wren				7/15	Savoy	1	R. Rancatti
7/2	Carlisle	2	C. Floyd	Hermit Thrush			
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	5	M. Lynch#	7/thr	E. Middleboro	3 m	K. Anderson
7/5	Concord	4	R. Lockwood	7/2	Carlisle	5	C. Floyd
7/10	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil	7/5	Concord	8	R. Lockwood
7/11	Hudson	1	B. Parker	7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	30	M. Lynch#
7/13	Norwell	2	D. Furbish	7/9	Worc. (BMB)	2 ad, 3 juv	J. Liller
7/15	Boxford	4	R. Heil	7/17	Mount Everett	2	M. Lynch#
7/18	Petersham	5	M. Lynch#	7/18	Petersham	19	M. Lynch#
7/24	Chesterfield	5	R. Packard	7/31	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#
7/31	Milton	2	G. d'Entremont	8/1	Stoughton	1	D. + S. Larson
8/21	Lexington	1	M. Rines	8/20	Holden	1	M. Lynch
Marsh Wren				Wood Thrush			
7/5	Richmond	2	T. Gagnon	7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	3	M. Lynch#
7/6	Brookfield	3	R. Packard	7/5	Concord	4	R. Lockwood
7/10	P.I.	38BBC	(L. dela Flor)	7/11	Merrimac	3-4	J. Berry
7/11	Wakefield	4	P. + F. Vale	7/14	Worc. (BMB)	8	J. Liller
7/16	Marshfield	48	D. Clapp#	7/17	Sheffield	3	M. Lynch#
7/29, 8/28	Newbyppt H.	17, 3	M. Lynch#	7/24	Milton (F.M.)	5	G. d'Entremont
8/6	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins	7/31	Acoaxet	2	M. Lynch#
8/15	Worcester	1	M. Lynch	8/19	Medford	2	M. Rines
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				8/24	MNWS	1	G. Wood
7/thr	Pembroke	2	D. Furbish	8/28	Lexington	1	M. Rines
7/3	Washington	1	S. Kellogg + v.o.	American Robin			
7/24	Milton (F.M.)	4	G. d'Entremont	7/24	Worcester	140+	M. Lynch#
7/25	S. Quabbin	7	M. Lynch#	8/11	Wakefield	180+	F. Vale
8/6	Northampton	3	R. Packard	Gray Catbird			
8/7	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale	7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	57	M. Lynch#
				7/11	Worcester	65	M. Lynch#
				7/17	Sheffield	76	M. Lynch#
				7/24	Milton (F.M.)	40	G. d'Entremont
				7/31	Acoaxet	92	M. Lynch#

<b>Brown Thrasher</b>			
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	2	M. Lynch#
7/11	Worcester	4	M. Lynch#
8/3	Melrose	2	D. + I. Jewell
8/11	Wakefield	4	F. Vale
8/19	Medford	2	M. Rines
8/29	P.I.	6	P. + F. Vale
<b>Cedar Waxwing</b>			
7/thr	DWWS	22 max	D. Furbish
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	38	M. Lynch#
8/11	GMNWR	30	S. Perkins
8/20	Wakefield	18	F. Vale
8/29	P.I.	28	P. + F. Vale
<b>Blue-winged Warbler</b>			
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	4	M. Lynch#
7/14	Lincoln	4	R. Lockwood#
7/23	Braintree	2	K. Vespaziani
7/31	Acoaxet	7	M. Lynch#
8/16	Lexington	3	M. Rines
8/17	Newton	3	H. Miller
8/26	Burlington	2	M. Rines
8/7-8/31	Reports of indiv. from 7 locations		
<b>Golden-winged Warbler</b>			
8/17	Medford	1	D. + I. Jewell
8/19	Wellfleet	1	S. Miller
<b>Tennessee Warbler</b>			
8/28	Lexington	1	M. Rines
<b>Nashville Warbler</b>			
8/18-21	Winchester	1	M. Rines
<b>Northern Parula</b>			
8/18	Winchester	2	M. Rines
8/23	HRWMA	1	T. Pirro
<b>Yellow Warbler</b>			
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	21	M. Lynch#
7/10, 8/14	P.I.	40, 7	M. Lynch#
7/17	Sheffield	16	M. Lynch#
7/24, 8/22	Worcester	13, 4	M. Lynch#
7/24	Milton (F.M.)	6	G. d'Entremont
8/21	Burlington	7	M. Rines
8/22	Worcester	4	M. Lynch
<b>Chestnut-sided Warbler</b>			
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	47	M. Lynch#
7/8	W. Boxford	3 m	J. Berry
7/31	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#
8/11	Stoneham	1	D. + I. Jewell
8/26	Burlington	1	M. Rines
8/26	WBWS	1	S. + E. Miller
8/31	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller
<b>Magnolia Warbler</b>			
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	11	M. Lynch#
7/10	Adams	5	R. Rancatti
7/18	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
8/21-6	Burlington	1	M. Rines
8/23	HRWMA	1	T. Pirro
8/23	Wakefield	1 f	F. Vale
8/28	Cuttyhunk	1BBC	(R. Stymeist)
8/31	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
<b>Cape May Warbler</b>			
8/23	HRWMA	1	T. Pirro
<b>Black-throated Blue Warbler</b>			
7/3	Florida	19	R. Rancatti
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	3	M. Lynch#
7/17	Mount Everett	3	M. Lynch#
7/18	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#
8/10	P.I.	1	D. + I. Jewell
8/24	Medford	1	M. Rines#
8/26	Lexington	1	M. Rines
8/28	Norwell	1 f	D. Furbish
8/29	MNWS	1	G. Wood
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>			
7/4	W. Brookfield	2	M. Lynch#
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	17	M. Lynch#
7/17	Mount Everett	5	M. Lynch#
7/18	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
7/21	Greylock	10	R. Rancatti
8/20	Holden	2	M. Lynch
8/22	Worcester	1	M. Lynch
8/29	Holden	2	M. Lynch
<b>Black-throated Green Warbler</b>			
7/3	Florida	21	R. Rancatti
7/4	W. Brookfield	3	M. Lynch#
7/5	Concord	3	R. Lockwood
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	53	M. Lynch#
7/17	Mount Everett	3	M. Lynch#
7/17	Great Barrington	3	M. Lynch#
7/18	Petersham	14	M. Lynch#
8/31	Nantucket	12	E. Ray
<b>Blackburnian Warbler</b>			
7/3	Florida	10	R. Rancatti
7/3	Washington	10 S.	Kellogg + v.o.
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	4	M. Lynch#
7/10	Adams	13	R. Rancatti
8/23	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen
8/26	Lexington	1	M. Rines
8/27	Cummaquid	1	S. + E. Miller
<b>Pine Warbler</b>			
7/4	W. Brookfield	3	M. Lynch#
7/5	Concord	3	R. Lockwood
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	39	M. Lynch#
7/25	S. Quabbin	11	M. Lynch#
8/thr	E. Middleboro	1-2	K. Anderson
8/1	Stoughton	2	D. + S. Larson
8/8	Wakefield	4	P. + F. Vale
8/29	Holden	6	M. Lynch
<b>Prairie Warbler</b>			
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	5	M. Lynch#
7/23, 8/26	Burlington	1, 2	M. Rines
7/25	S. Quabbin	2	M. Lynch#
8/7	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale
8/19	Medford	1	M. Rines
8/20	Holden	1	M. Lynch
8/23	S. Monomoy	2	W. Petersen
8/29	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller
<b>Palm Warbler</b>			
8/28	Wakefield	1	P. Vale
<b>Blackpoll Warbler</b>			
7/13, 21	Greylock	3	R. Rancatti
8/7	Worcester	4	M. Lynch
8/8	MNWS	1	G. Wood
<b>Cerulean Warbler</b>			
7/18	Pepperell	1	M. Resch
7/25	S. Quabbin	1	M. Lynch#
<b>Black-and-white Warbler</b>			
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	10	M. Lynch#
7/8	W. Boxford	1 f	J. Berry
7/13	Carlisle	1	T. + D. Brownrigg
7/17	Great Barrington	2	M. Lynch#
7/23, 8/21	Burlington	1, 1	M. Rines
7/24	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
7/31	Acoaxet	3	M. Lynch#
8/8	MNWS	2	G. Wood
8/10	P.I.	1	D. + I. Jewell
8/15	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell
8/18	Winchester	3	M. Rines
8/19, 24	Medford	1, 3	M. Rines
<b>American Redstart</b>			
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	6	M. Lynch#
7/31	Acoaxet	19	M. Lynch#
8/8, 29	MNWS	1, 5	G. Wood
8/16, 28	Lexington	2, 6	M. Rines
8/18	Winchester	5	M. Rines
8/21	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale
8/21	Burlington	9	M. Rines
8/23	HRWMA	6	T. Pirro
8/24	Medford	3	M. Rines#
8/24, 29	Worc. (BMB)	2, 1	J. Liller

American Redstart (continued)									
8/28	Norwell	3	D. Furbish	8/20	W. Newbury	1	J. Hoye#		
8/30	Saugus	1	F. Vale#	8/24	Medford	1	M. Rines#		
Ovenbird				Eastern Towhee					
7/2	Carlisle	3	C. Floyd	7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland	S.P. 20	M. Lynch#		
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland	S.P. 41	M. Lynch#	7/21	Worc. (BMB)	22	J. Liller		
7/5	Concord	9	R. Lockwood	8/10	Worc. (BMB)	19	J. Liller		
7/17	Sheffield	4	M. Lynch#	8/11	Wakefield	15	F. Vale		
8/1	Stoughton	1 ad, 3 juv	D. + S. Larson	8/28	Cuttyhunk	26BBC	(R. Stymeist)		
8/12	Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab	Chipping Sparrow					
8/28	Norwell	1	D. Furbish	7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland	S.P. 28	M. Lynch#		
8/31	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	7/17	Sheffield	60+	M. Lynch#		
Northern Waterthrush				8/2	Sudbury	40	S. Perkins		
7/3	Washington	1	S. Kellogg + v.o.	8/17	Wellfleet	335	R. Heil		
7/6	Concord	1	K. Hart	Field Sparrow					
7/11, 8/7	Worcester	1, 4	M. Lynch#	7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland	S.P. 6	M. Lynch#		
7/13	Carlisle	1	T. + D. Brownrigg	7/29	P.I.	6	M. Lynch#		
7/18	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	8/7	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale		
7/30, 8/12	Arlington	1, 3	M. Rines	8/28	Lexington	1	M. Rines		
7/31	Milton	1	G. d'Entremont	Vesper Sparrow					
8/8, 24	MNWS	4, 1	G. Wood	7/22	Hadley	2	R. Packard		
8/16, 21	Lexington	1, 2	M. Rines	7/23	Lancaster	1	R. Lockwood		
8/28	Cuttyhunk	6	BBC (R. Stymeist)	8/11	Northampton	6	H. Allen		
8/1-31	Reports of indiv. from 10 locations			8/17	Newton	1	H. Miller		
Louisiana Waterthrush				Lark Sparrow					
7/2	Carlisle	1	C. Floyd	8/23	Chatham (S.B.)	1	G. Ferguson#		
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland	S.P. 3	M. Lynch#	Savannah Sparrow					
7/6	Concord	1	K. Hart	7/7	Bedford	97	R. Lockwood#		
7/14	Williamsburg	1	R. Packard	8/1	Worcester	50+	M. Lynch		
7/16	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	Grasshopper Sparrow					
7/25	S. Quabbin	2	M. Lynch#	7/7	Bedford	6	R. Lockwood#		
8/4	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller	7/19	Montague	2	H. Allen		
Kentucky Warbler				Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow					
8/25	N. Marshfield	1	D. Furbish	7/16	Nantucket	5	S. Perkins		
Mourning Warbler				7/17	Duxbury B.	3	D. Furbish		
7/3	Florida	1	R. Rancatti	7/24	Falmouth	6	R. Farrell		
8/20	Manomet	1 b T.	Lloyd-Evans	7/29	Newbypt H.	25	M. Lynch#		
Common Yellowthroat				7/29, 8/28	P.I.	38, 4	M. Lynch#		
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland	S.P. 105	M. Lynch#	7/31	Acoaxet	3	M. Lynch#		
7/17	Sheffield	19	M. Lynch#	8/1	Duxbury B.	1	D. Furbish		
7/21	Worc. (BMB)	16	J. Liller	8/5	Falmouth	9	R. Farrell		
7/24	Milton (F.M.)	29	G. d'Entremont	8/6	Barnstable	15	M. Lynch		
7/31	Acoaxet	16	M. Lynch#	8/7	Newburyport	69	R. Lockwood		
8/7	Wakefield	4	P. + F. Vale	8/11, 30	S. Dart. (A.Pd.)	17, 8	LCES (J. Hill)		
8/16	Lexington	3	M. Rines	8/20	Falmouth	4	R. Farrell		
8/21	Burlington	6	M. Rines	8/22	Squantum	2	G. d'Entremont		
8/29	MNWS	3+	G. Wood	8/25	Falmouth	1	R. Farrell		
Wilson's Warbler				Seaside Sparrow					
8/15	Carlisle	1 m T.	+ D. Brownrigg	7/2	P.I.	2	S. Spangenberg		
8/23	S. Monomoy	3	W. Petersen#	8/11	S. Dart. (A.Pd.)	1	LCES (J. Hill)		
8/28	N. Marshfield	2	D. Furbish	Swamp Sparrow					
8/29	MNWS	1	G. Wood	7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland	S.P. 28	M. Lynch#		
Canada Warbler				7/6	Brookfield	32	R. Packard		
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland	S.P. 8	M. Lynch#	White-throated Sparrow					
8/8	Wakefield	1 ad m P.	+ F. Vale	7/thr	Norwell	2	D. Furbish		
8/8	MNWS	1	G. Wood	7/4	Arlington	1 m	J. Stein		
8/16	Carlisle	1 T.	+ D. Brownrigg	7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland	S.P. 6	M. Lynch#		
8/17	Medford	1	D. + I. Jewell	7/7	Concord	1	R. Lockwood		
8/18	Winchester	1	M. Rines	7/8	Burlington	1 m	M. Rines		
8/28	Lexington	1	M. Rines	7/10	Mt.A.	1 imm	R. Stymeist		
Yellow-breasted Chat				7/18	Petersham	5	M. Lynch#		
8/1	Georgetown	1	A. Bennett	8/25	P'town	1	W. Petersen		
8/18	Manomet	3 b T.	Lloyd-Evans	Rose-breasted Grosbeak					
8/28	MNWS	2	R. Heil	7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland	S.P. 11	M. Lynch#		
Scarlet Tanager				7/21	Worc. (BMB)	4	J. Liller		
7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland	S.P. 28	M. Lynch#	7/24	Milton (F.M.)	4	G. d'Entremont		
7/5	Concord	6	R. Lockwood	8/1	HRWMA	4	T. Pirro		
7/8	W. Boxford	2 m	J. Berry	8/6	Worc. (BMB)	4	J. Liller		
7/14	Worc. (BMB)	5	J. Liller	8/16	Lexington	6	M. Rines		
7/17	Sheffield	5	M. Lynch#	8/20	Worcester	1	M. Lynch		
7/18	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#	8/21	Burlington	1	M. Rines		
8/1	Stoughton	1 pr D.	+ S. Larson	8/22	Watertown	1	R. Stymeist#		
8/18	Winchester	1	M. Rines	8/29	P.I.	2 imm	P. + F. Vale		

Indigo Bunting	8/1	S. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher
7/5 Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	6	M. Lynch#		
7/5 Concord	1	R. Lockwood		
7/8 W. Boxford	5	J. Berry		
7/17 Sheffield	3	M. Lynch#		
7/23 Braintree	1 f	K. Vespaziani		
7/31 Milton	1	G. d'Entremont		
8/6 Worc. (BMB)	1 m	J. Liller		
8/14 Carlisle	4T. + D.	Brownrigg		
8/15 GMNWR	6	C. Swanson		
8/29 Worcester	1	M. Lynch		
Dickcissel	7/18	Maynard	1 f	L. Nachtrab
8/13 Woburn	1	M. Rines#		
Bobolink	Baltimore	Oriole		
7/5 Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	6	M. Lynch#		
7/7 Bedford	5	R. Lockwood#		
7/9 Ipswich	200	J. Berry#		
7/11 Worcester	30+	M. Lynch#		
7/20 Burlington	2	M. Rines		
8/5 HRWMA	1	T. Pirro		
8/11, 26 GMNWR	20, 550	S. Perkins		
8/11 P.I.	20	S. Perkins		
8/20 Groton	250	T. Pirro		
8/28 Newbypt H.	3	M. Lynch		
8/29 Holden	3	M. Lynch		
Eastern Meadowlark	7/15	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	4	M. Lynch#
7/thr DWWS	2	D. Furbish#		
7/9 Ipswich	15	J. Berry#		
7/14 Bedford	22	R. Lockwood#		
<b>Yellow-headed Blackbird</b>	7/21	E. Middleboro	1 f	K. Anderson
8/31 P'town (R.P.)	1 imm m	J. Kenneally#		
Common Grackle	7/31	Acoaxet	1 m	M. Lynch#
8/14 Wakefield	2000+	P. + F. Vale		
Brown-headed Cowbird	8/1	HRWMA	4	T. Pirro
8/18 Wakefield	250+	P. + F. Vale		
Orchard Oriole	8/1	S. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher
7/5 Winchester	1 m	M. Rines		
7/14 Lincoln	1	M. Rines#		
7/25 Lexington	1 f	M. Rines		
	8/24	Worc. (BMB)	2	J. Liller
	8/27	W. Newbury	10	R. Heil
	8/28	MNWS	14	R. Heil
	7/31	Wakefield	75-100	imm F. Vale
	8/23	S. Monomoy	7	W. Petersen#
	8/28	Purple Finch		
	7/thr	Boxford	2-3	J. Brown#
	7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	4	M. Lynch#
	7/21	E. Middleboro	1 f	K. Anderson
	7/31	Acoaxet	1 m	M. Lynch#
	8/1	HRWMA	4	T. Pirro
	8/1	S. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher
	8/24	Worc. (BMB)	2	J. Liller
	8/27	W. Newbury	3	R. Heil
	7/31	Ashburnham	1	B. Nikula#
	8/6	Ashburnham	1	J. Trimble
	7/22-23	Ashburnham	1	J. Trimble
	7/9	DWWS	160	D. Furbish
	7/24	Worcester	54	M. Lynch#
	7/1	Pepperell	1	M. Resch
	7/3	Florida	2	R. Rancatti
	7/3	Ashburnham	1	B. Nikula#
	7/5	Barre F.D./Rutland S.P.	5	M. Lynch#
	7/6	Windsor	3	R. Rancatti
	7/10	Adams	2	R. Rancatti
	7/14	Monroe	2	R. Rancatti
	7/17	Russell	3 S.	Kellogg + v.o.
	7/18	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#
	7/24	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
	7/26	Athol	2	B. Coyle

#### Addendum:

##### Sandhill Crane

4/4/99 W. Harwich 1 M. Tuttle, B. Nikula

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

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO BIRD OBSERVER

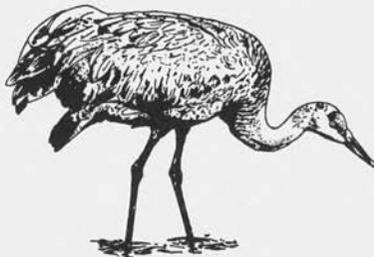
This publication prints monthly compilations of reports of birds seen in Massachusetts and offshore waters. Space does not permit the inclusion of all material submitted. However, bird sightings sent to Bird Observer are archived at the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Our compilers select and summarize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

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

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

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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



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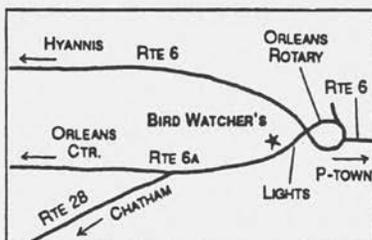
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## ABOUT THE COVER: PINE GROSBEAK

Henry David Thoreau was so impressed with the "dazzling beauty" and melodious song of Pine Grosbeaks that he referred to them as "angels from the north." The scientific name *Pinicola enucleator* aptly describes the species, the generic name meaning "pine-dweller" and the species name meaning "one who takes the kernel out." Even the folk name "mope" describes the sluggish movements and tame demeanor of this plump winter visitor from the north. About the size of an American Robin, Pine Grosbeaks are easily identified by their size, which separates them from the much smaller redpolls, Purple and House finches, and crossbills, and by their color. Males are rosy-pink with white wing-bars, while females and immature birds are largely gray with yellowish to orange heads and rumps. The long (for a grosbeak) forked tail distinguishes them in flight from Evening Grosbeaks, and their slightly undulating flight from robins and other similarly sized birds. They are generally so tame that identification can be made with the aid of a magnifying glass if need be.

Pine Grosbeaks are Holarctic in distribution, present worldwide wherever open coniferous forests exist in northern latitudes. The species is polytypic, with five subspecies breeding in North America alone. Pine Grosbeaks breed in northern open coniferous forests north to the edge of the tundra, from Alaska across Canada to the Great Lakes and northernmost New England, and south through the Rocky Mountains, with local populations in the mountains of California. The northernmost populations may migrate south in winter, but many birds are sedentary, or nomadic and irruptive in times of food scarcity during northern winters. Pine Grosbeaks may venture throughout the midwest and as far south as New Jersey during irruptions. In Massachusetts during an irruptive year, Pine Grosbeaks generally arrive during October or November, disappear, and then reappear during midwinter. Usually the irruptive flocks consist mostly of females and immatures, with few of the magnificent rosy-red males. Pine Grosbeaks are considered rare to uncommon winter visitors to Massachusetts, with irruptions widely separated and correlated with good years for ash-seed, e.g., 1892-93, 1930-31, 1950-51, 1961-62, 1977-78. Recent high counts are of about 400 birds.

The breeding biology of these birds of the northern wilds is poorly known. They are probably monogamous, producing a single brood. They breed in the northern open coniferous forests of larch, hemlock, and wet, mossy bogs. Their song has been described as sweet and melodious, a clear, whistled, continuous musical warble *chee-vli* or *caree* somewhat resembling the song of the Purple Finch, with various flight (*pui pui pui*), contact, and location calls. Males are known to practice courtship feeding. Nests are usually low in shrubs or trees, bulky cups of twigs and roots, lined with rootlets, lichens, hair, and grass. The clutch is from two to five (usually four) bluish-green eggs, speckled, mottled or

blotched brown, black or gray. Incubation is by the female for about two weeks, with the male bringing her food. The fledging period is two to three weeks with both parents feeding the young. In breeding season both parents develop a pair of pouches toward the front of their mouths for carrying food for the young.

In winter Pine Grosbeaks take more than ninety-nine percent vegetable food, sometimes foraging in mixed species flocks with redpolls, crossbills, and waxwings. They eat mostly buds of maple, birch, mountain ash, poplar, and willow, and seeds of evergreens, grasses, and weeds. They frequently forage in orchards and love crab-apples and apples. In summer insects and spiders may make up fifteen percent of their diet. They will eat rose and sunflower seeds, acorns, and dogwood. They tend to be methodical feeders, remaining in an area until they have depleted the food supply, a trait that endears them to birders who can often count on a flock's presence at a particular locality until a weekend makes a viewing junket possible.

Pine Grosbeaks live in remote areas where the threats of pollution are low, and hence are not currently threatened, although clear-cutting of conifer forests is a potential threat. Their irregular movements, remoteness, and tameness are features that make Pine Grosbeaks enigmatic, understudied, and a great potential research project for the adventuresome. These features, together with this bird's beauty, make it worth venturing forth on cold winter days whenever lack of food drives Pine Grosbeaks into our area.

— William E. Davis, Jr.

### ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

**Barry Van Dusen**, a wildlife artist and illustrator based in Princeton, Massachusetts, frequently contributes his insightful bird drawings to *Bird Observer*. Some of Barry's art will be appearing in a two-person show, titled "A Passion for Birds," at Massachusetts Audubon's South Shore Regional Center in Marshfield, Massachusetts, beginning on May 5, 2000. James Coe will be the other artist featured. For more information, call the Center at (781) 837-9400. Beginning in March 2000 and continuing through November, the Burrell Collection in Glasgow, Scotland, will be showing a range of the work Barry began in the fall of 1997 as part of "Project Tiger." In addition to preparing work for a variety of upcoming juried shows, Barry has been working on illustrations to be used with the "Birdsong Identifier," a new product designed to facilitate the identification of bird songs in the field.



*Photograph by Wayne R. Petersen*

This month's mystery photograph depicts a dark-and-white flying seabird. The rather slender (rather than laterally compressed) bill and the striking dark-and-white contrast between the top of the head and neck and the face and throat indicate that the bird is not a gull. Likewise, the wings and tail are not pointed enough to suggest a tern. Indeed, only the Sooty Tern and the Bridled Tern would appear as dark above as the pictured bird; however, both of those species would exhibit a white forehead, white on the outer tail feathers, and a white belly with white undertail coverts. Although the Black Skimmer is similarly patterned, the absence of the distinctive asymmetrical, bicolored bill of that species, as well as the absence of white trailing edges to the wings, serves to eliminate it as a possibility. The extensively white, unbarred pattern to the underwings, unmarked breast and sides, and somewhat rounded wing shape similarly remove all of the jaegers as possibilities.

Having thus narrowed the field, the reader is only left with several species of alcids and shearwaters as viable possibilities. The combination of bill shape and facial pattern at once eliminates Atlantic Puffin, Razorbill, and both Common and Thick-billed murre. Although the Thick-billed Murre in winter is superficially similar to the mystery species, the dark feathering on a winter-plumaged murre's head extends to the base of the bill (see the *At a Glance* photo in the February 1999 issue of *Bird Observer*, Vol. 27, No. 1), not as a sharp demarcation through the eye. Also, Thick-billed Murre in winter are often

extensively dusky on the sides of the throat, or else have a nearly completely dark throat.

With the alcids eliminated as possibilities, the best candidate for the mystery bird's identity is some species of black-and-white shearwater. The smudgy underwing pattern in the pictured shearwater rules out Cory's Shearwater, which has gleaming white wing linings that contrast distinctly with black underwing tips. Similarly, the Greater Shearwater is not a candidate because the mystery shearwater does not exhibit a capped effect created by a pale collar behind the neck, nor does it display a dusky belly patch or have prominent freckling on the axillaries ("wing pits"). This only leaves the two small, black-and-white shearwaters — Manx and Audubon's — as possibilities.

At this point, the choice is reasonably straightforward because of the excellent view provided by the photograph. A careful examination clearly shows that the relatively long tail and vent area are dark. Likewise, the line separating the dark of the cap and the white of the cheek and throat area meet the bill above the gape and actually appear to show the suggestion of some white between the eye and the bill. Also, there is no pale or whitish feathering extending up onto the neck behind the eye, and there is a broad, dark, trailing edge to the underside of the wings, especially beneath the primaries. Collectively, these are features of Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*). The similar Manx Shearwater has a shorter tail with white undertail coverts, a black cap that extends to the base of the lower mandible without giving the pale-faced appearance shown on the pictured bird, cleaner white underwings that are usually less extensively dusky under the primaries, and generally a pale "ear patch" that extends up behind the eye.

The Audubon's Shearwater in the picture was photographed in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, and is of the subspecies *P. l. subalaris*. As a result, its underwing linings are somewhat more heavily patterned than would be the case on Audubon's Shearwaters likely to be seen off the coast of southern New England. In Massachusetts, Audubon's Shearwaters are regular but very uncommon late summer visitors far offshore in the warm waters at the edge of the continental shelf south of Georges Bank.

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## AT A GLANCE

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Photograph by Wayne R. Petersen



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