

Bird Observer

VOLUME 43, NUMBER 2

APRIL 2015



Strong, punchy,
contrasting colors
make these males really
stand out in
the landscape

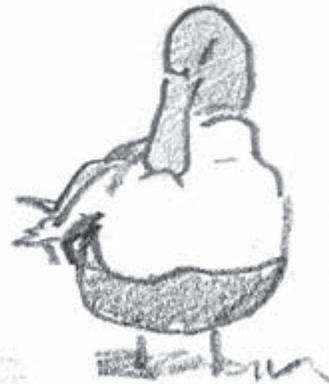


Showed us.

Holz Reserve

Mar 11,

2009



HOT BIRDS



On January 6, Paul Peterson reported a **Black-backed Woodpecker** at Forest Hills Cemetery in Boston. It was seen regularly through the end of January. Eduardo del Solar took the photo on the left.



On March 1, Suzanne Sullivan was scanning King's Beach on the Swampscott/Lynn line and spotted a **Mew Gull** (Kamchatka) among the Ring-billed Gulls. She took the photo above. More Mew Gulls were reported subsequently at the same location.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BIRDING AND BOTANIZING THE HAWLEY BOG	<i>Robert Wood</i>	81
REMEMBERING HERMAN D'ENTREMONT	<i>Glenn d'Entremont</i>	87
A GOOD DAY AT CAPE ANN	<i>Herman D'Entremont</i>	89
A COMMEMORATION OF BIRDERS AT MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY	<i>Regina Harrison</i>	92
<i>BIRDS OF THE WORLD: A NEW EXHIBIT AT THE HARVARD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY</i>	<i>Maude Baldwin</i>	98
PHOTO ESSAY <i>Birds of the World</i>		104
FIELD NOTES		
A Hawk in Pigeon's Clothing	<i>David Sibley</i>	106
A Barn Owl in Concord	<i>Cole Winstanley and Jalen Winstanley</i>	107
MUSINGS FROM THE BLIND BIRDER		
Song of Spring	<i>Martha Steele</i>	111
GLEANINGS		
Serendipity and Science	<i>David M. Larson</i>	114
ABOUT BOOKS		
Making it Big	<i>Mark Lynch</i>	117
BIRD SIGHTINGS		
November/December 2014		122
ABOUT THE COVER: Northern Shoveler	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i>	135
ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Barry Van Dusen		136
AT A GLANCE		
February 2015	<i>Wayne R. Petersen</i>	137

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Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal—to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds
VOL. 43, NO. 2 APRIL 2015

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Birding and Botanizing the Hawley Bog

Robert Wood

Hawley Bog in the town of Hawley in western Franklin County is not what one might call a prime birding location. With a few exceptions, one can expect the usual array of birds found in the higher elevations of Berkshire County. What is almost unique about this location is the bog itself, a 63-acre northern sphagnum-heath bog in its natural state. It is owned and maintained by the Nature Conservancy along with the Five Colleges Consortium (University of Massachusetts, Smith, Amherst, Hampshire, and Mount Holyoke). It serves these institutions as an outdoor classroom. It is open to the public, although my understanding is that permission is required for organized, large group visits. For further details check the Nature Conservancy website (<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/massachusetts/placesweprotect/hawley-bog-preserve.xml>).

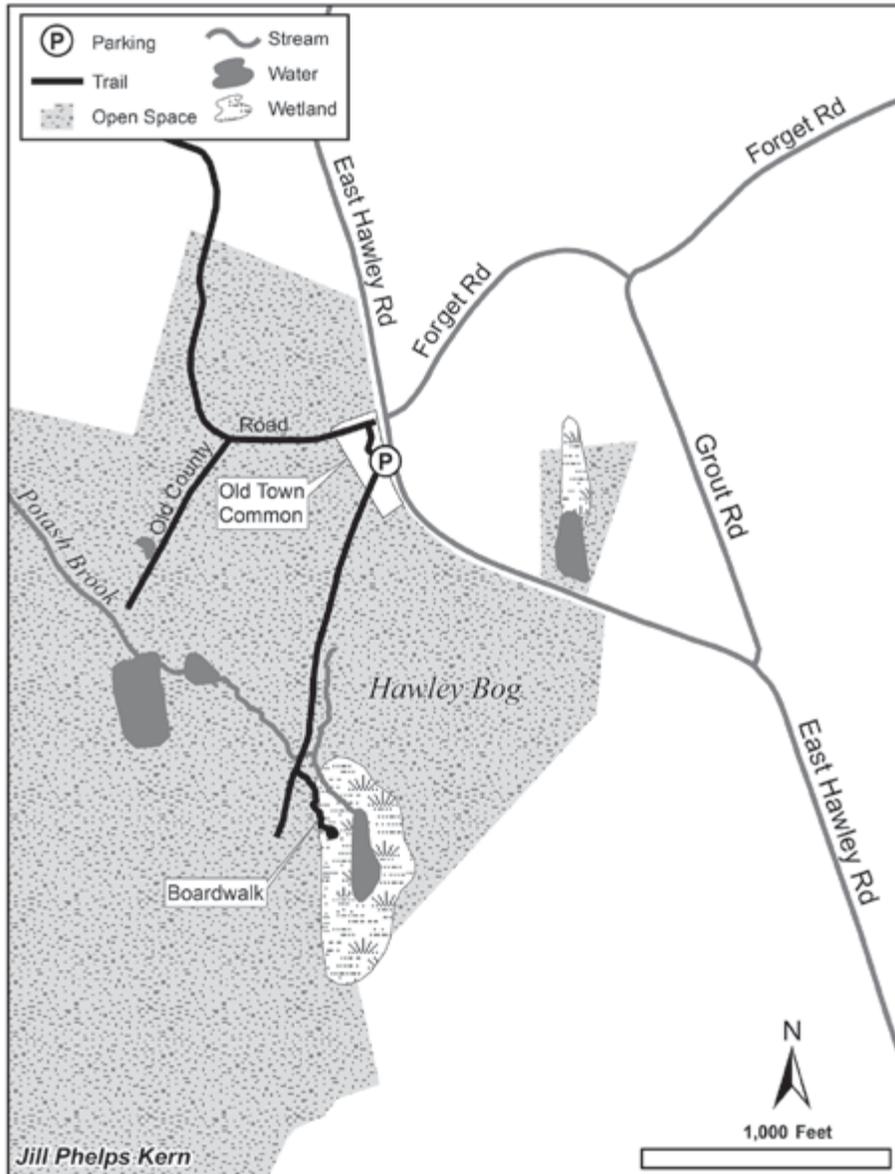


Besides being a lovely place to explore, the bog offers great opportunities for botanizing as well as birding and butterflying. Here one may find a group of plant life that is unique to acid bogs—in this case the highest-elevation acid bog in the Commonwealth.

Although somewhat remote and not wheelchair accessible, the bog itself is easy to reach from the parking area. After walking a short distance through a mixed wood, one will come to a well-constructed boardwalk that extends about 300 yards into the middle of the bog. The boardwalk was overhauled in 2012, allowing visitors to easily, safely, and dryly visit the bog without disturbing the fragile plants that grow on the bog.

Over the course of several visits to the bog, mostly in spring and summer, I have recorded over 90 species of birds that include 13 breeding wood warblers. A list of 40 or more species for a single morning in June is not hard to achieve. Many of these species, such as Blue-headed Vireo and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, are common summer residents. Some, like Black-billed Cuckoo and Wilson's Snipe, undoubtedly breed here but are more difficult to detect. May, June, and July are the optimal months to visit.

Known as "Cranberry Swamp" on topographic maps, Hawley Bog occupies a shallow glacial lake basin. Over hundreds of years, sphagnum moss grew from the shoreline and spread out toward the center of the lake. Because the lake was poorly drained and accumulation of sphagnum peat—partially decayed moss—exceeded decomposition, the water became acidic, which further inhibited decay to produce more and thicker layers of peat. Over many, many years, the sphagnum slowly accumulated both vertically and horizontally, extending its reach farther and farther toward the middle of the lake. It is now at the point where there is only a small pond of open water in the middle of the bog. The mat of sphagnum peat is reported to be over thirty feet



deep in places. The several vegetation zones that demonstrate bog succession are found here, from the central open water of the pond to the surrounding spruce-fir forest.

And if all this is not enough to encourage a visit, parking for the bog is on the former town common of Hawley, established in 1794. A few years ago, the Sons and Daughters of Hawley established the former town common as an archaeological site. The cellar holes of several former dwellings have each been researched, cleaned up, and labeled with placards that identify the former properties and give some of their history. The town of Hawley migrated to its present site in or around 1848, when a new meetinghouse was built farther to the west on East Hawley Road. A kiosk at the parking area should have a brochure that includes a crude map and brief descriptions of the various properties that once existed here. A self-guided tour of the Old Town Common is peaceful and enjoyable and will certainly add a few more birds to one's list.



“Bog Mat is Fragile” (All photographs by the author)

The parking area is at the intersection of East Hawley Road and Forget Road in Hawley. From Route 2 go to Route 8A in Charlemont. At the stop after the train tracks, go left and take the first right onto East Hawley Road. Continue for approximately four miles to the parking area marked by a small rock monument in a clearing. Alternatively, take Route 116 to Union Street in Plainfield. Turn left onto North Central Street, and then take an immediate right onto North Union Street. In about 7/10 of a mile, bear right onto North Street. North Street will become Plainfield Road and then East Hawley Road. The parking area is 4.7 miles from the turn onto North Road and about 1.4 miles from where it becomes East Hawley Road.

Although Hawley Bog is a lovely place to visit at any time of year, spring and summer offer the best opportunities for birding and botanizing. (Later in summer is probably a better time for butterflies and odonates, but that is not within the purview of this article.) An early morning in May or June will offer American Redstarts, Ovenbirds, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Black-and-white Warblers, and Red-eyed Vireos singing in the woods surrounding the parking lot. Across the road from the parking lot

is a summer cottage that was built on the former site of the Longley Tavern. Watch and listen there for Purple Finches, Goldfinches, and Chipping Sparrows.



Boardwalk at Hawley Bog

There are two trails that begin at the parking area. The trail to the right will start with a tour of the Old Town Common. If you haven't heard it in the parking lot, listen for Least Flycatcher here. The trail will eventually bring one to the abandoned Old County Road, which can be walked through deciduous woods for a mile or more. Use caution—it is possible to wander too far and become lost.

From the parking area, the trail to the left will lead to the bog. This trail goes down a short, gentle slope through hardwoods. Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian warblers are often seen and heard along this section of the trail. Eastern Wood Pewees can also be heard. After going around a chain barrier you will come to a kiosk with a placard describing a few of the plants one can find on the bog. There is also a sign-in book where the Nature Conservancy would like you to document your visit. Because signing in helps the Nature Conservancy determine approximately how many people visit the bog, we usually sign the book.

Farther down the trail on the edge of the bog, one will come to the beginning of the boardwalk. Starting here, Canada Warblers will sing during May and June. Here, also, several Northern Waterthrushes invariably nest on both sides of the boardwalk. Canada Warbler and Northern Waterthrush are dependable here. The latter is often seen by scanning the top branches of trees, scattered along the perimeter of the bog to the left. The Canada Warblers are more challenging to see in the dense cover to the right, but they are almost as vocal as the waterthrushes. Magnolia Warblers are also expected after the start of the boardwalk. Cedar Waxwings are often seen anywhere along the boardwalk.

In May, there will be marsh marigolds in full bloom. The curious phantom crane fly is often seen here, slowly hovering in the low vegetation. As one continues on the boardwalk, Alder Flycatchers and Swamp Sparrows perch prominently in several places. During early June and again in late August, Olive-sided Flycatchers often visit the bog during their migration. Given the regular visits of these flycatchers and the breeding Eastern Phoebes, as well as possible visits of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers on migration, it's possible to err by assuming that any flycatcher is an Alder. Along this stretch, if your hearing can pick up the sound, you may hear Ruffed Grouse drumming repeatedly from the forest edge.

Continuing on the boardwalk, look and listen for a Red-Shouldered Hawk. Off in the distance, we almost always hear a Yellow-throated Vireo singing from the top of a tree on the edge of the bog, but we are rarely able to locate it with our binoculars. You will more likely hear the Wood Ducks calling as they fly away. White-throated and Song sparrows are common. At any time of year listen for Evening Grosbeak. I have had fly-overs here several times. By late fall, most of the summer residents have left, but you may see Tree Sparrows and Pine Siskins from the boardwalk.



Northern Pitcher Plant

In the middle of the bog, you will come to the end of the boardwalk, which loops around on itself. Here is a panoramic view of the bog and surrounding woods. It is peaceful here, and you will often find yourself alone. Tree and Barn swallows often work the nearby pond. Check the pond for Mallards. Great Blue Herons do not nest here, but they will visit in summer. Listen for Common Ravens, since there is almost always one calling. Scan the trees on the far side of the bog for hawks. Please do not venture off the boardwalk onto the mat. The mat is fragile and you will be trampling tiny, rare bog plants, such as the round-leafed sundew. The mat surrounding the pond, which is relatively thin, is also treacherous for people to walk upon.

Here is where the northern pitcher plants grow. They are exquisite carnivorous plants whose leaves form a vessel that holds rainwater. Insects are lured into the pitcher and can't get out. They drown in the water, are digested, and thus become plant food. Later, in early to late summer, the tiny round-leafed sundew, another insect-eating plant, can be found by carefully inspecting the mat on both sides of the boardwalk. A magnifying glass may be helpful. Also visible here are a few species of wild, bog-loving orchids. White-fringed orchid and rose pogonia are two of the orchids you may encounter, depending on when you visit. These are small orchids, not the large,

tropical kind that are sold in flower shops. Nevertheless, these orchids are beautiful. If you are interested in the orchids, bring a camera with telephoto capability.

As you retrace your steps back toward the edge of the bog, scan the spruce snags for finches, flycatchers, and woodpeckers. Black-backed is not here, but I have seen six species of woodpecker. Keep your ears open for a possible Boreal Chickadee—at least once I've heard a song that suggested this rare visitor but was not able to locate it. Brown Creepers and both nuthatches are residents. Also listen for Great Crested Flycatchers. Flowering plants along the boardwalk include wild cranberry, yellow loosestrife, and bog laurel.



View of open water at Hawley Bog.

Back at your vehicle, there are a few ways in which you can extend your time in this area. As mentioned above, you can take the other trail and explore cellar holes as well as an old logging road that allows relatively easy walking through the woods. In your car, if you drive west through the main section of Hawley, you can turn left onto Ashfield Road. This road quickly ascends to an area of potato fields. During the spring and summer, Vesper Sparrows can be found here. Continue on Ashfield Road and bear left onto Hawley Road. After passing Apple Valley Road on the left, you will come to Bear Swamp, a Trustees of Reservations property, on the right. Park along the pulloff and walk into this property, where there is relatively easy hiking on marked trails, with a spectacular variety of blooming native wildflowers in early to mid-May. 🐦

***Robert Wood** was born in Monmouth County, New Jersey, and grew up on the Jersey Shore. He discovered birding in 1982 when Phil Bedient took him to see a Gyrfalcon while he was living in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He has lived in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, since 1987 and works as a Psychiatric Emergency Services Clinician for the Brien Center in Pittsfield. Robert Wood is a member of the Hoffmann and Allen bird clubs and lives in Windsor.*

Remembering Herman D'Entremont

Glenn d'Entremont



Herman D'Entremont on his 80th birthday (Photograph courtesy of the author).

It was around 1960 when a young man out hunting saw something beautiful at the other end of his sights. Wanting to learn more about the birds he was hunting, Herman almost stumbled upon a group of birdwatchers called the Brookline Bird Club. I think he found them in the *Boston Globe*, which announced a bird walk at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Concord led by a teenager named Peter Alden. Herman soon discovered there were more birds than ducks. They made sounds, too. He traded his gun for binoculars and a telescope.

During the 60s he was a quick learner and hobnobbed with the best birders of the times at what became his favorite birding spot—Plum Island and adjacent Newburyport. In a short time, he was leading trips and helping out beginners as the leaders before did with him. Herman became one of the elite, one of those whom beginners, intermediates, and even experts would ask for an opinion and receive an accurate answer.

Herman's hearing was excellent, still very good into his 80s, and he had a good command of bird song. He could identify most of the birds he heard. This came at a time when one had to learn song the old-fashioned way—by chasing down the sound and seeing its source. During the late '60s, '70s, and early '80s there were none better. He was in company of such notables as Nancy and Alden Clayton, Ruth Emery, Stella

Garrett, Ida Giriunas, Dick and Dora Hale, Warren Harrington, Larry Jodrey, Dennis and David Oliver, Evelyn Pyburn, Rod Sommers, Gerry Soucy, and Herman Weissberg, just to name a few.

He volunteered his time not only as a leader but also as a board member of the Brookline Bird Club for over 20 years and of *Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts* (now *Bird Observer*) for about 20 years. He authored the first “Where to Go Birding” in *Bird Observer*—“A Good Day at Cape Ann”—in 1973. (Reprinted on page 89). Herman also was program chairman of the now defunct Needham Bird Club for almost 30 years and assisted at the banding station at Manomet.

Herman gave of himself as well. He would take young and new birders to all corners of the state. Once he moved to Somerville, he befriended visiting birders by opening his home for them to stay and then going birding in their free time. Herman traveled extensively to all parts of the continent and the world. He birded in all 50 states, going to Hawaii in his 81st year.

His work with novice birders, young or old, was second to none. His quiet demeanor drew people toward him and he would always help locate birds for those having difficulty or not recognizing bird song. If he knew you had not seen a bird, he tried hard to get you on it. Always the patient birder, he would stay just five more minutes to locate what others had passed by.

Over the years the birding community has not had a better ambassador. A lot of us are probably in it because of Herman or someone like him. ♣

Glenn d’Entremont is the nephew of Herman D’Entremont.



Editor's Note: Herman D'Entremont was one of the founding members of Bird Observer, which was originally called Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts. Herman wrote the first Bird Observer article about where to find birds, reprinted below, from Volume 1 Issue 1, Jan.–Feb. 1973.

A GOOD DAY AT CAPE ANN

Herman D'Entremont, Newton

For me the New Year began at 7 A.M. as I headed north on Rte. 128 toward Cape Ann. Yesterday my year list totaled 307, but today, 1972 was as empty as the Martin houses at Plum Island.

After entering the Gloucester city limits, a right turn on Rte. 133 brought me to the harbor. At the intersection of Rte. 127, also known as Western Avenue, I made another right. Hesperus Avenue, the road to Magnolia intersects at 1.4 miles, where a left and 0.8 miles more took me to the Hammond Museum, my first stop.

To get to the sea overlook, I walked down the driveway. The nearest land jutting into Gloucester Harbor is Mussel Point, to the north (left). From November through March this vantage often yields Harlequins, which can also be found to the south near a large island known as "Norman's Woe Rock."

Across the harbor mouth stands the lighthouse at the end of the breakwater at Eastern Point, which I shall visit later. The sun had not been up too long and was shining in my eyes when I looked seaward. My list now read: Red-breasted merganser, Common goldeneye, and Common loon. Yet this area can also provide Great cormorant, all three scoters, Common eider, Bufflehead, Greater scaup, Oldsquaw, and possibly King eider.

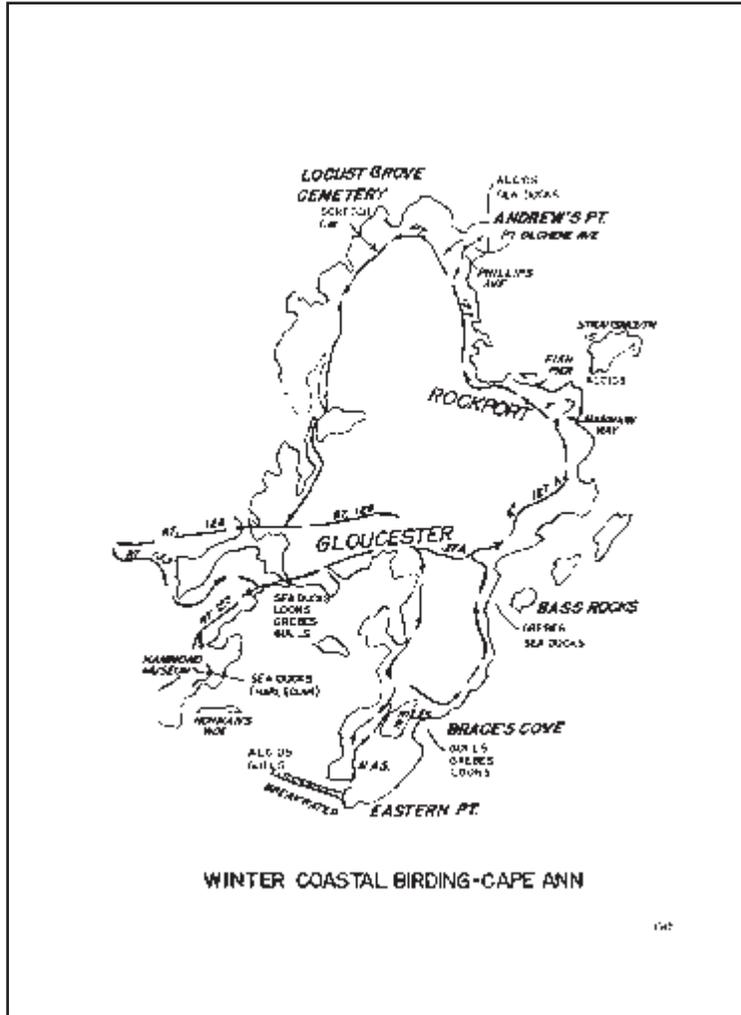
Returning to Gloucester, I saw a small flock of Snow buntings in Stage Fort Park. Near the famous Fisherman's Statue there were Great cormorant, Horned grebe, Common eider, and more Common goldeneye. This is also a good spot to search for wintering Barrow's goldeneye and white-winged gulls.

At the intersection of Rtes. 127 and 128, I turned right onto East Main Street, the scenic shore drive, toward Eastern Point. Approaching this landmark, one finds two stone pillars with a sign that states that this area is private. A guard is stationed here in summer, and if a birder is stopped he should say that he is going to the Massachusetts Audubon Society sanctuary at Eastern Point; your membership card may be necessary.

This road follows the shore to the right for 1.4 miles, through a second set of pillars to a parking lot at the Coast Guard station, where a sign painted on a rock tells this is for the M.A.S. Note the breakwater extending from the Coast Guard station southward into Gloucester harbor.

Though it was bitter cold and windy, I walked to the end of breakwater, and was rewarded with: Horned grebe, Common loon, Great cormorant, Common eider,

Razorbill, Thick-billed murre, Bufflehead, Red-breasted merganser, Dovekie, Purple sandpiper, and Black guillemot. A short-eared owl even flew overhead toward land. Alcids and an owl in the same place!



Driving back toward the stone pillars, I stopped at Nile's Pond. Depending on the weather and the ice on the pond, one can find Glaucous and Iceland gulls mixed in with the Black-backs and Herrings. Before reaching the pillars, I turned right onto S-shaped Bemo Avenue to a beach called Brace's Cove. The rocks of both sides of the cove's entrance hold food for Purple sandpipers. On the beach were Killdeer, Dunlin, and Sanderling; on the water, gulls – Iceland, Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, Black-backed, and the ever-present Herrings. This place is also frequented by Horned and Red-necked grebes, loons, scoters, and other sea ducks.

One should continue northward toward Rockport along Atlantic Road; a small pine grove on the right often shelters Red and White-winged crossbills. Many sea ducks congregate in the frequent inlets along this rocky coast. At one such place, called Bass Rocks, opposite Windmere Road and the Moorland Motor Inn, an Eared grebe has been seen for eight consecutive years. He was not here today, but Horned grebes and Buffleheads were.

I continued along Atlantic Road until it joined Route 127A, Thatcher Road, which I followed to Rockport town limits. I then turned right along Marmion Way. An old Coast Guard tower stands on a rocky ledge at "Straitsmouth" where one can find wintering Alcids, Grebes, and both Common and King eiders.

Just a couple of hundred feet offshore is Straitsmouth Island, owned by M.A.S. There I hoped to see a Snowy owl or Sparrow Hawk. A flock of King eiders wintered there in 1970–71, and for two weeks in January, 1970, a Red phalarope was seen.

Driving on, I turned right onto Oldgarden Road, where there is a little park at the intersection of Marraden Avenue. There I looked for Red-necked and Horned grebes as well as Iceland gulls. Farther on I turned left at Norwood Avenue then right at Highland to Mount Pleasant Street, which is 127A to Rockport Center.

The Rockport Fishpier, at the foot of Broadway, is favored by Alcids and White-winged gulls, but I continued along Route 127 toward Pigeon Cover. After passing the Cape Ann Tool Co., I turned right onto U-shaped Philips Avenue and continued straight through the next intersection. Past the Waldo Emerson Inn is a stone slope where a Rock wren stayed for four weeks, December 1965 to January 1966. But in any year this location is a good overlook for Barrow's goldeneyes, Red-necked grebes, and other sea ducks.

Returning to the intersection, I made a right at Philips Avenue and continued to bear right to Point Dechene Avenue, which leads to Andrews Point. Another right brought me to a stone wall and a view of a rocky point where one or two Black guillemots usually winter. Here, too, all the Alcids have been found at one time or another. This site is excellent during northeasters, when Kittiwakes, Shearwaters, Gannets, Phalaropes, Jaegers, and Leach's petrels, among others, can be blown by. Yet it is a good idea to check all the overlooks around Andrew's Point in any weather.

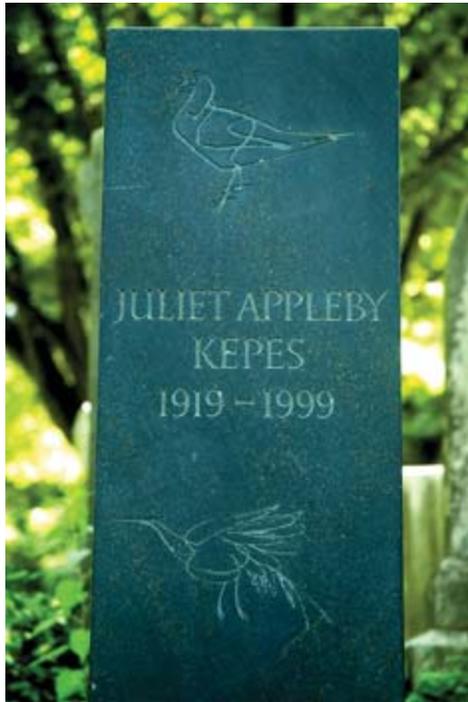
Now I continued along Route 127 toward Gloucester via Annisquam, arriving at the Locust Grove Cemetery. Turning right at the second entrance to the cemetery, across from a Texaco gas station, I parked near a small building. By climbing a knoll adjacent to the right side of the road, I could peer directly across the road into a hole about 30 feet high, in the crook of a large branch. There, as he has been for five years, was the resident Screech owl.

It was getting late. As I turned homeward along route 127, I began to think of the many fine restaurants in the Rockport-Gloucester area, a fitting way to celebrate a fine day of winter birding. For the hardy, yes, but a way to turn our "poorest" season into one of the best. 🦉

A Commemoration of Birders at Mount Auburn Cemetery

Regina Harrison

From its founding in 1831, Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has been frequented by birds and by those who watch, admire, and study them. Many of those ornithologists and birders chose to remain at Mount Auburn in perpetuity, becoming a part of the landscape that supports so much avian life throughout the seasons. As you visit Mount Auburn this spring to enjoy its bounty of warblers and other migrants, keep an eye out for the names of the following individuals who contributed greatly to the study of birds and the avocation of birding in New England and beyond. This list is by no means exhaustive, but provides a sampling.



Juliet Appleby Kepes, 1919 - 1999 (detail)
(All photographs courtesy of Mount Auburn Cemetery)

Path names of burial locations are provided here. If you like, you can obtain a specific location for an individual by visiting www.mountauburn.org, clicking on “Graves” in the upper right-hand corner, and entering the individual’s name and a range of dates that include when that individual was interred. A pamphlet with a map is also available at the Mount Auburn Visitor Center for a small fee; it includes most of the individuals listed here. On the other hand, coming across one of these names by chance can provide a wonderful moment of unexpected communion with a past counterpart. For just as generations of birds continue to visit Mount Auburn, so too do generations of birders continue to arrive in spring, walking in one another’s footsteps along the paths and roads of the cemetery with a continuity that feels timeless.

Glover Morrill Allen 1879–1942
(Maple Avenue)

Allen was a zoologist and ornithologist, and president of the Nuttall Ornithological Club from 1919 to 1942. He was a professor of zoology at Harvard University and the author of many scientific publications, including *The Birds of Massachusetts* (with R. H. Howe, Jr., 1901), *Birds and Their Attributes* (1925), and *Bats: Biology, Behavior and Folklore* (1939). He also published numerous

distributional records and regional checklists of birds and was a prolific reviewer of ornithological works. William E. Davis Jr. profiled him in “Glover Morrill Allen: Accomplished Scientist, Teacher, and Fine Human Being” in *Bird Observer* December 2011.

Oakes Ingalls Ames 1893–1970 (Begonia Path)

Ames was the president of Mount Auburn Cemetery from 1934–1963 and again from 1967–1968. He was also a director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. With lifelong interests in horticulture and conservation, he recognized and developed Mount Auburn’s resources as an arboretum and a bird sanctuary, and oversaw the cemetery’s restoration following the hurricane of 1938 with those resources in mind.

Francis Parkman Atkinson 1851–1874 (Palm Avenue)

Atkinson was one of the nine original members of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.

Outram Bangs 1863–1932 (Woodbine Path)

Bangs was elected a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1880. As a young man, he was known to his fellows as a boxer and a keen quail shooter, and admired for his dazzling waistcoats. As a curator of mammals and curator of birds at Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ), he built collections of worldwide fame, including a contribution of 24,000 of his own specimens. William E. Davis Jr. wrote about him in “Outram Bangs and the Creation of a World-Class Bird Collection at Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology” in *Bird Observer* December 1997.

Thomas Barbour 1884–1946 (Excelsior Path)

Professor of zoology at Harvard and director of the MCZ, Barbour was one of the foremost American naturalists of his time, specializing in herpetology but also a great generalist. He was a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club and author of several books, including *The Birds of Cuba* (1923) and *Cuban Ornithology* (1943). William E. Davis Jr. wrote about him in “Thomas Barbour: The Last of the Gentleman Naturalists” in *Bird Observer* October 2001.

Charles Foster Batchelder 1856–1954 (Excelsior Path)

Batchelder was elected a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1877, and was a founder of the New England Zoological Club in 1899. He was an associate in mammalogy and ornithology at the MCZ and author of *An Account of the Nuttall Ornithological Club 1873 to 1919* (1937). William E. Davis Jr. featured him in “He Spanned Two Eras: Charles Foster Batchelder, Last of the ‘Shotgun’ Ornithologists” in *Bird Observer* February 1999.

Thomas Mayo Brewer 1814–1880 (Yarrow Path)

Brewer was an early ornithologist and a friend of Thomas Nuttall and John James Audubon, who named Brewer’s Blackbird after him; his friend John Cassin similarly honored him in the naming of Brewer’s Sparrow. He was the editor of a revised edition of Wilson’s *American Ornithology* (1840), and author of *North American*

Oölogy (1857) and *A History of North American Birds* (with Spencer Fullerton Baird and Robert Ridgway, 1874). He was a trustee of Mount Auburn, 1870–1880, and was elected a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1876.

William Brewster 1851–1919 (Larch Avenue)

Brewster was the founder of the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1873 and the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) in 1884. The first president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society (1896), he also amassed one of the best collections of North American birds, which is now at the MCZ. He authored almost 300 papers and the book *Birds of Cambridge Region* (1906). Selections from his journals were published as *October Farm* (1936) and *Concord River* (1937). He was an early conservationist who understood the importance of preserving habitat. His studies of the Cambridge landscape were discussed by Michael W. Strohbach, Paige S. Warren, and Andrew Hrycyna in “‘Saturday, April 28th, 1866: Saw The First Chimney Swallow Today.’ 150 Years of Bird Observation In Western Cambridge” in *Bird Observer* August 2014, and his writings were showcased in a series of articles compiled by Robert H. Stymeist titled “Gleanings from the Journal of William Brewster” in *Bird Observer* October 2003 through October 2004.



William Brewster, July 5, 1851 - July 11, 1919. “For, lo the winter is past, the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come.”

Zebedee Cook Jr. 1786–1858 (Rose Path)

Cook was a horticulturist and a founding member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in 1829, as well as a founder and trustee of Mount Auburn Cemetery from 1832–1833. During the early years of the cemetery, he called for the protection and preservation of birds at Mount Auburn.

Ruthven Deane 1851–1934 (Beryl Path)

Deane was an original member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club and a fellow of the AOU. He was a businessman by profession, but President Theodore Roosevelt referred to him approvingly as a “heart ornithologist” (Osgood 1935). After moving to Chicago, he became the first president of the Illinois Audubon Society in 1897.

Ludlow Griscom 1890–1959 (Palm Avenue)

Griscom became a curator at MCZ in 1927; prior to that, he was an ornithologist at American Museum of Natural History from 1917–1927. An expert on Mexican and Central American avifaunas, he was known for his brilliant field identification skills, encyclopedic memory, and enthusiasm for the sport of birding, to which he attracted a host of followers and protégés. He authored several works, including *Birds of the New York City Region* (1923), *Modern Bird Study* (1945), *The Birds of Nantucket* (with E. Folger, 1948), *Birds of Concord* (1949), *Birds of Massachusetts* (with D. Snyder, 1955), and *Birds of Martha's Vineyard* (with G. Emerson, 1959). His birding experiences during World War I were recently recounted in “Birding from the Front: A Wartime Letter from Ludlow Griscom,” edited by David Swain, in *Bird Observer* October 2014; William E. Davis Jr. provided further biographical information in “Ludlow Griscom: The Birdwatchers’ Guru” in *Bird Observer* February 1993.



Ludlow Griscom, 1890-1959

Harriet Lawrence Hemenway 1858–1960 (Thistle Path)

With her cousin Minna Hall, Hemenway cofounded the Massachusetts Audubon Society in 1896, spurred by outrage over the devastation of colonies of Snowy Egrets and other birds for the sake of using their plumage in women’s hats.

Juliet Appleby Kepes 1919–1999 (Oxalis Path)

Kepes was an artist and a writer and illustrator of children’s books including the Caldecott Medal recipient *Five Little Monkeys* (1953). She collaborated with her husband Gyorgy Kepes on a series of experimental enamel panels of bird and tree designs for the Morse School in Cambridge, Massachusetts (1955), and she also designed a series of bronze birds in flight set against a wall of a playground at Clarendon Avenue Park, Cambridge (1980). Her elegant monument bears several engraved images of her fine bird illustrations.

Elizabeth “Betty” Petersen 1943–2013 (Andromeda Path)

Petersen was a volunteer and staff member at the Manomet Center for Conservation Services working on bird surveys, bird banding, marketing, and the Birders’ Exchange Program, which delivers used binoculars, spotting scopes, and birding equipment to Latin American communities that would not otherwise be able

to afford them. She joined the American Birding Association (ABA) staff in 2000 when the Birders' Exchange Program transferred to the ABA. She was president of the Nuttall Ornithological Club from 2011–2013.

Henry Augustus Purdie 1840–1911
(Mimosa Path)

Purdie was an original member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club and a fellow of the AOU.

Henry Munson Spelman 1861–1946
(Olive Path)

Spelman was elected a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1879 at the age of 18, one of the youngest members ever admitted and also one of the most active. He was a lawyer by profession and was the son of Israel Munson Spelman, who was president of Mount Auburn Cemetery from 1874–1905.

Wendell Taber 1897–1960 (Excelsior Path)

Taber was a member of AOU and the Wilson, Cooper, and Nuttall ornithological clubs. He edited some of the final volumes of Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds* for the Smithsonian Institution. An investment counselor by trade, he was "one of the most active and enthusiastic amateur ornithologists in New England" (Unknown 1972). He was the brother of Elizabeth Taber Taintor.

Elizabeth Taber Taintor 1895–1955 (Excelsior Path)

A local authority on birds, Taintor was active in the Massachusetts Audubon Society's work to interest children in the appreciation of birds. She was the sister of Wendell Taber.

Charles Wendell Townsend 1859–1934 (Rose Path)

A physician by profession, Townsend was a prolific amateur ornithologist. Author of *Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts* (1904), *Supplement* (1920), and many reports in Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds*, he was a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club and a fellow of the AOU. He was also a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, the Wilson Ornithological Club, the *Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft*, and a charter member of the Essex County Ornithological Club. In addition, he was a member of the Boston Society of Natural History and, at the time of his death, a director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.



Horace Winslow Wright, 1848-1920. "The Lord is the strength of my life."

Horace Winslow Wright 1848–1920 (Lily Path)

Wright was the author of *Birds of the Boston Public Garden: a Study in Migration* (1909) and a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club. 🦋

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Regina Harrison is the executive assistant at Mount Auburn Cemetery and is an associate editor of Bird Observer. She is also engaged in a long-term habitat restoration project at her home in Woburn, Massachusetts, with an emphasis on providing year-round food and shelter for birds.

Birds of the World: A New Exhibit at the Harvard Museum of Natural History

Maude Baldwin



Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*; center, male; right, female). Males perform elaborate mating displays. (Credit: Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University; Copyright © President and Fellows of Harvard College)

For the birds—and for the birders

The Harvard Museum of Natural History's new exhibit, *Birds of the World*, is designed for you. Vying for attention with the impressive hanging whales in the gallery above the Great Hall of Mammals and showcasing the global diversity of modern birdlife, the new exhibit occupies the same space as the former North American bird display. Although the location is the same, both the birds and the balcony have undergone a dramatic renovation. In addition to being redesigned, with all cabinets repainted and relit to appeal to the general museum-going public, the exhibit is also organized to serve as a resource for birders and biologists curious about the evolutionary relationships that connect groups they know and love.

Global diversity in your own backyard

Birds are extremely diverse—over 10,000 species are alive today. In *Birds of the World*, nearly 750 specimens are on display; taxidermied mounts as well as 13 articulated skeletons were selected from the Ornithology Collection and from other public exhibits. These birds were chosen to represent as many different families as possible. Due to the Museum of Comparative Zoology's extensive collection of mounts, members of 178 living bird families —roughly 80%—are now included. Many

of the old Thayer Hall North American specimens are back in the cases, although some groups, such as ducks, had to be winnowed to a few key genera. Instead of being grouped by their biogeographic area—the common organization in most natural history museums—the birds are now organized according to their evolutionary history.

The modern study of bird relationships relies on research combining many different types of data, from comparative anatomy to paleontological studies on fossils to current cutting-edge work using genomic data. In December 2014, a new phylogeny, or tree of life of birds, was published, based on genome sequencing of 48 key lineages (Jarvis et al. 2014). This is an immense increase in information; 10 years ago, the only bird with a sequenced genome was the domestic chicken. Recent work has greatly improved our understanding of bird relationships, and these new results are reflected in the exhibit's organization. A large panel with a phylogeny tree shows the current relationships of the major groups. Smaller trees will soon be added to the individual cases so that interested visitors will have access to the underlying organization at a more detailed level. The average museumgoer may not care that penguins are the closest living relatives, or sister group, to albatrosses and tube-nosed seabirds; or that toucans are nested within the colorful smaller-billed barbets; or that sunbirds and hummingbirds, although superficially similar, are extremely distant cousins—but these stories are there if your curiosity is piqued.

The exhibit is not only about the birds, but also about evolution. Convergent evolution can be seen everywhere you look. When habitats or other selective forces are similar, animals often evolve to look, act, or sound like other species despite being only distantly related. The small size, iridescent plumage, long bill, and modified tongue of nectar-feeding sunbirds and hummingbirds exemplify convergent evolution, along with many other instances on display. Fulmars look like gulls, but they aren't close kin. The quail-like body shape is apparent in a number of different groups; "quail" themselves have independent origins in the Old and New Worlds. Buttonquail are not true quail at all, but in fact are more closely related to gulls and shorebirds. Common names are particularly misleading. Vultures in the Americas are *not* most closely related to vultures in the Old World, but rather, with condors form a separate family, renowned for their sense of smell. If you have ever pondered the similarities in terrestrial habits and plumage shared by Ovenbirds and waterthrushes (Lovette et al. 2010), or wondered if auks and penguins are close relatives or merely look alike due to the demands of polar life, you can find answers in the new display cases.

Studies on the evolutionary history of birds have produced a number of surprises over the recent years. Flamingos and grebes are each other's closest relatives, a finding that is backed up solidly by molecular work (Van Tuinen et al. 2001), skeletal similarities, and the discovery of intermediary fossil forms (Mayr 2004, Mayr 2005). This took many people by surprise, reflected in the new name for the group: the Mirandornithes, or wonderful birds (Sangster 2005). Parrots turn out to be more closely allied with songbirds than previously suspected, and falcons are more closely related to parrots than to other extremely similar-looking accipiters—the raptorial appearance and predatory lifestyle may have arisen independently (Hackett et al. 2008).



Macaroni Penguin (*Eudyptes chrysolophus*), Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*). Penguins and puffins are distant relatives despite their similar outward appearance. (Credit: Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University; Copyright © President and Fellows of Harvard College)

New studies of tanagers, the second largest family of birds after tyrant flycatchers, reveal other surprises. For instance, many species formerly belonging to this group, e.g., Scarlet Tanagers, are actually more closely related to cardinals. Conversely, many tropical species called cardinals, such as the Red-crested Cardinal and the Yellow Cardinal, both with striking pointed crests, are now grouped in the tanager family (Burns et al. 2014). Other unlikely members of the tanagers include the finch-like saltators, the tiny conebills, and the hooked-billed group of flowerpiercers. Bananaquits are also tanagers, as are their close relatives, the Darwin's finches, famous for their radiation throughout the Galapagos Islands. All this you can now see for yourself.

A bird walk through deep time

The colorful tanagers occupy the last case in the *Birds of the World* exhibit. To follow birds through time, save it for last and walk clockwise, starting with the large, flightless bird case to the left of the stairwell as you arrive on the balcony. These birds, called the ratites, are the most 'basal' group of birds, a term scientists use to indicate that this group split off from the rest of birds earliest in their evolutionary history. They are not technically *older* than other birds—a common misconception. All living birds today have been evolving for the same amount of time, but ratites—the group known as Palaeognathae—were the first to have branched off, or diverged, from the rest.

The ratites include many flightless birds: kiwis, rheas, ostrich, emus, and the impressive casqued cassowary, as well as the extinct moas and elephant birds. Many of these giants are too big to fit into the museum's cases. A chick and an egg represent the ostrich, and a cast of an elephant bird's enormous egg gives visitors a sense of its former stature. Surprisingly, recent research shows that Palaeognathae also includes the smaller South American tinamous, which can fly, raising questions about how many times flight was lost (Harshman et al. 2008, Haddrath and Baker 2012, Mitchell et al. 2014).

Yet more surprising to some visitors—to children in their “T. rex” phase and to some adults as well—might be the fact that birds are indeed dinosaurs and that crocodiles are their sister group. A juvenile saltwater crocodile winds its way beneath the rhea's feet, raising the question of origins and unexpected relatives. Skeletons of theropods, the agile, raptorial, meat-eating dinosaurs from which birds evolved, can be found together with a cast of the famous *Archaeopteryx* in the galleries on the museum's third floor.

After the ratites come the Galloanseres, the combined group of waterfowl—ducks and relatives—and landfowl or gamebirds, which include turkeys, pheasants, grouse, quail, and of course, chickens, as well as lesser known groups like the moundbuilders and curassows.

The remainder of birds—indeed, the majority of birds—are called Neoaves. Many of the major groups within Neoaves diverged from one another in a short window of time, making relationships difficult to determine. With the new bird genome project, scientists were finally able to unravel some of these events: pigeons, including the small ground-doves and the enormous crowned-pigeons, comprise an early-branching group and are related to the sandgrouse and to Madagascan mesites. Other relatives include the unlikely pair of flamingos and grebes. Cuckoos, bustards and turacos also belong to this early radiation, as do the Strisores, the group containing hummingbirds, swifts, and nightjars (Mayr 2010). The enigmatic foregut-fermenting hoatzin, a family of its own, has been traditionally difficult to place; it likely split off from other birds at roughly the same time in the distant past as these other early Neoaves.

Other major divisions in the bird tree of life include a group of waterbirds and their relatives, and another group called landbirds. Within landbirds, the largest radiation is that of the passerines, which includes over 5,000 species and is divided into the suboscines, or non-vocal-learning perching-birds, and the oscines, or songbirds, which likely arose in the Australasian region before spreading across the globe (Barker et al. 2004)

Songbirds are divided into a series of groups including crows and relatives, many of which are only found in Australia and Asia, such as birds-of-paradise, minivets, woodswallows, and the “true” orioles. North American orioles are in the icterid family, again misleadingly sharing a common name. Together, these are distinct from another songbird group, called the Passerida, which include the bulk of songbirds. Sister to the little-known rail-babbler (*Eupetes*), a specimen of which is on display, the Passerida include many of the songbirds familiar to North Americans: swallows, thrushes, wrens,



Red-billed Streamertail (*Trochilus polytmus*). Over 330 species of hummingbirds exist today—all in the Western Hemisphere, with most of the diversity in Central and South America. The earliest hummingbird fossils, however, are from Europe, indicating a wider range in the past. (Credit: Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University; Copyright © President and Fellows of Harvard College)

tanagers, as well as the distinct groups of both warblers and sparrows from the New and Old Worlds.

Phylogenies are hard to describe in words; come to the museum to have them brought to life. In all of the display cases, recent research on each of the groups is surveyed so that closest relatives are placed close together. The exhibit is organized to be pleasing to the casual observer and informative to the bird sleuth. Other panels depict specializations of the bird body plan and maps of the radiation of passerines across the globe. New developments are in the works for the exhibit to become more multi-sensory in the future, maybe including bird songs and incorporating new interactive technology. As research continues and our knowledge about phylogenetic relationships changes, the exhibit will evolve as well.

***Birds of the World* exhibit information**

The exhibit, made possible by a generous anonymous donation in memory of Melvin R. Seiden, Harvard AB 1952, LLB 1955, opened to the public on September 18, 2014. It is on permanent display at the Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Visiting hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday mornings from 9:00 am to noon and Wednesday afternoons from 3:00–5:00 pm are free for Massachusetts residents. 🐦

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Maude Baldwin recently finished her PhD in Professor Scott Edwards' lab in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology. She has been researching how hummingbirds, which lack the mammalian sweet receptor, instead use their savory receptor to taste nectar sugars. In 2014 she helped with the redesign of the exhibit, synthesizing new studies on bird phylogenetics to reorganize the bird balcony with Jennifer Berglund, Janis Sacco, and the exhibits staff at the Harvard Museum of Natural History, along with Jeremiah Trimble and Kate Eldridge in the Museum of Comparative Zoology's Ornithology Department.

PHOTO ESSAY

Birds of the World

The Harvard Museum of Natural History



Brown Kiwi (*Apteryx australis*) left; Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus hoazin*) right. Kiwis are part of the earliest-diverging group of birds, the Paleognaths. The Hoatzin is an herbivorous tropical species that uses foregut fermentation as part of its digestive system. It is in a family of its own. (Credit: Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University; Copyright © President and Fellows of Harvard College)



American Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*). Flamingos and grebes have been recently shown to be sister taxa, despite their morphological differences. (Credit: Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University; Copyright © President and Fellows of Harvard College)



Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*) left; Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*) right. Hummingbirds evolved from an insectivorous ancestor. They form a group called the Strisores along with swifts (their closest relatives), frogmouths, nightjars, oilbirds, and potoos. (Credit: Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University; Copyright © President and Fellows of Harvard College)



Three Hummingbirds: White-tipped Sicklebill (*Eutoxeres aquila*) left; Sword-billed Hummingbird (*Ensifera ensifera*) center; Sapphire-vented Puffleg (*Eriocnemis luciani*) right. Hummingbirds feed on different flowers and many have strikingly different bill shapes. While all living species are nectarivorous, hummingbirds also eat large numbers of insects. (Credit: Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University; Copyright © President and Fellows of Harvard College) 🐦

FIELD NOTES

A Hawk In Pigeon's Clothing

David Sibley

Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from Sibley Guides online, where it was posted on November 23, 2014, and last edited on November 24, 2014.

I saw a Cooper's Hawk catch a Rock Pigeon a few days ago. By itself that experience is noteworthy – a Rock Pigeon is a big bird for a Cooper's Hawk to handle – but more remarkable was the way the attack unfolded.



Juvenile Cooper's Hawk (Photograph by Sandy Selesky)

I was just finishing a birding walk at a local farm. Ahead of me was a small field, recently plowed, where twenty or so Rock Pigeons were foraging on the ground. Another bird was about ten feet up and flying across the field toward the flock. I didn't give it much thought. It was just another pigeon making the sort of relaxed, floating approach that pigeons do – or so I thought. Except that when this "pigeon" got within about five feet of the pigeons on the ground it suddenly transformed into a Cooper's Hawk!

The pigeons all burst into flight, but much too late. The hawk was already among them and knocked one out of the air in a cloud of feathers.

I was stunned. It's always shocking to witness a life-and-death drama like that, but a few seconds earlier I was simply seeing a pigeon flying in to join the flock when suddenly everything changed. And I wondered: How could I (and, more amazingly, a whole flock of pigeons) misidentify a Cooper's Hawk like that? The hawk was in plain view, flying over an open field. Admittedly I did not give it much attention in that first glance, but there was nothing that drew my attention. It "registered" as a pigeon, which made sense for a bird coasting across the field. The pigeons must have seen it the same way, because normally they would not just sit on the ground and allow a Cooper's Hawk to fly into their midst.

I considered the possibility that this was just a very lucky Cooper's Hawk taking advantage of an opportunity with a flock of pigeons that either didn't see it or didn't think it was a threat. But I can't imagine a whole flock of pigeons not seeing this bird approaching, nor letting it get that close under any circumstances.

I think the most plausible explanation is that the pigeons saw the bird but didn't recognize it as a hawk (the same thing that happened to me), and that this was due to some deliberate mimicry by the Cooper's Hawk, a brilliant bit of acting.

Predators rely on surprise, so if there is any way they can camouflage or "disguise" themselves and sneak up on their prey, it makes sense that they would take advantage of that. The resemblance of Zone-tailed Hawk to Turkey Vulture is often cited as an example of this aggressive mimicry. Potential prey species don't react to the common and benign presence of Turkey Vultures overhead, and a Zone-tailed Hawk can hide among the vultures and drop onto unsuspecting prey.

Zone-tailed Hawks are born looking like Turkey Vultures, and they take advantage of it. I believe this Cooper's Hawk was doing something more deliberate and active, transforming its wingbeats and flight actions to mimic another bird.

I've seen raptors mimic the flight style of other species before. Several times at Cape May, New Jersey I saw Merlins adopt the undulating flight style of a Northern Flicker, or the irregular flicking wingbeats of a Mourning Dove. It was only for a second or two and always when they were low and actively hunting.

This behavior is so infrequent, and so brief, that I suspect it will be very hard to confirm that it is deliberate aggressive mimicry, but I believe that all of these predators are trying to disguise themselves in order to sneak up on their prey. 🦅

<http://www.sibleyguides.com/2014/11/a-hawk-in-pigeons-clothing/>

posted November 23rd, 2014; last edited November 24th, 2014 — David Sibley

Since the age of seven, David Sibley has been watching and drawing birds, traveling throughout North America indulging his love of nature study. This work culminated in the publication of The Sibley Guide to Birds in 2000, which became the fastest-selling bird guide ever, and several companion volumes including The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior in 2001, Sibley's Birding Basics in 2002, and The Sibley Guide to Trees in 2009. He lives with his family in Concord, Massachusetts.

A Barn Owl in Concord

Cole Winstanley and Jalen Winstanley

At dusk on Saturday, January 10th, 2015 the two of us and our father, Carter, saw an intriguing "short-eared" owl at Pine Hill just west of Hanscom Field in Concord, Massachusetts. The bird was hunting over a marsh about 0.3 miles from us. In the low light, we felt in the field that it was a Barn Owl, not a Short-eared. We took about 70 dimly lit photos of the bird, of which only a couple showed discernible marks. Upon reviewing the photos at home, we decided that it was impossible to make a call based only on those photos, especially for such a rare bird as a Barn Owl. We decided to go back and try for better documentation.

The next day, the 11th, Jalen was tied up so only Cole and Carter returned to Pine Hill where they met David and Tim Swain. That evening they observed the bird flying



Barn Owl (Photograph by Cole Winstanley)

around the exact same area as the day before. Cole took ample photos and, this time, video. That night we were able to conclusively identify the bird as a Barn Owl.

We sent word out to a few locals who were interested in the sighting, and they corroborated the identification as Barn Owl. Some joined Jalen and Carter on the 12th to see the bird again.

On the next two days, various local birders observed the Barn Owl at the Pine Hill location. However, observers noted that the owl spent more time perched and less time flying and hunting than before. Far lower temperatures or accumulating stress due to lack of food may have contributed to this change in behavior. On Thursday the 15th, the sole birder at the location could not find the bird, and additional stakeouts each night until Sunday the 18th appeared to paint a picture of an intrepid southern wanderer that had succumbed to the cold of interior Massachusetts.

However, when David Swain reported an owl from a nearby spot on the following Tuesday (January 20th), a number of the original observers recognized the Barn Owl in his video. It had reappeared! Cole returned the following night and captured some of the first close-range, definitive documentation of the bird. Unfortunately, the Barn Owl vanished after that night, not to be found again despite a number of checks in both locations.

When we first observed the bird, we recognized it as a small raptor coursing over the marsh after dusk. Marks included a darker area that was present not only on the primary coverts, but also running in a rough line down the center of the length of the wing. There was no contrast between the primary and secondary coverts, and there appeared to be a paler leading edge of the wing. The photos showed no black markings on the underwings, including at the wrists and wingtips. With a scope, however, Tim Swain saw grayish marks in these areas similar to those that can be found on female

Barns. There was no indication of dark wingtips in the field or in any of the photos. Additionally, there was contrast between the tawny armpit area and the white belly, which is different from the laterally uniform coloring on the underparts of Short-eared Owls. Though not obvious in the field, we noted that some photos appeared to show the distinctive Barn Owl face.

The bird's flight was fluttering with less gliding and more flapping compared to a Short-eared. Its wings were held in a gull-like dihedral when gliding, and it frequently made steep banks that showed off the strikingly white underwings. From the video, Simon Perkins noted that the "proportions (shorter tail, bigger head), wing set (more gull-winged, osprey-like in glide), wing pattern, more deliberate, fluttery flight, long face, [and] the dark line between eye and bill on an otherwise white face" all pointed to Barn Owl (Perkins 2015).

Barn Owls are rare and irregular in Massachusetts, with the exception of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket where they were recorded in the second Breeding Bird Atlas (Kamm et al. 2013). On these islands, Barn Owls roost in old barns, tree cavities, and other structures during the day, and hunt over coastal marshes at night. They generally nest in man-made structures.

This sighting in Concord apparently represents the first Barn Owl recorded in Middlesex County since the 1995 sighting in Pepperell by M. Resch (Resch 1995). In Concord or the Concord-Sudbury River Valley, the last previous sighting of a Barn Owl had been in April 1984 by R. K. Walton. Walton notes that Concord had a pair of Barn Owls that were seen by Gardler in the summer of 1959 (Walton 1984, p. 139). A breeding pair and hatchlings were observed by Armstrong in 1945, though all perished in a blizzard (Griscom 1949, p. 235). †

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Cole and Jalen Winstanley are teenaged birders who live in Concord. They are focused on birding as locally as possible, and have found over 160 species in their yard alone. As such, they contribute significantly to the local bird data in Concord, with over 500 eBird checklists in 2013 and 2014. In 2014, they found uncommon breeding birds including Sharp-shinned Hawk, Canada Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush all within walking distance of their home. They frequently discover new areas to bird and share them with the local community; their favorite patches in Concord include Estabrook Woods, Great Meadows NWR, Barrett's Mill Conservation Land, and the Massport 13C trails.

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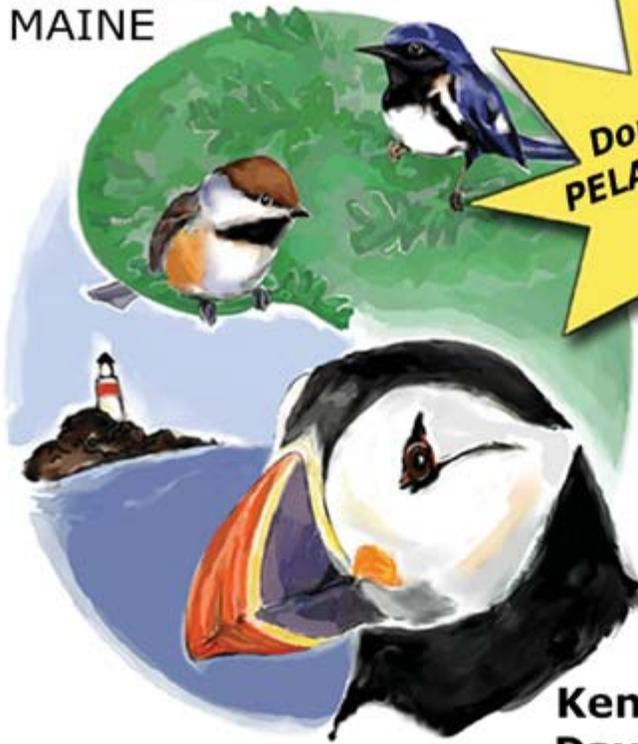
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MUSINGS FROM THE BLIND BIRDER

Song of Spring

Martha Steele

It is early March and time to head to Rock Meadow in Belmont as the sun sets. The fields are a patchwork of snow and frozen grass. We park our car and start walking out into the meadow, Bob with his eyes to the sky and me with my ears ready to hear the bird that to me signals the coming avalanche of spring bird song. As light fades from the sky, we suddenly hear *peent!* off to our left.

“WELCOME BACK!”

Such is my reaction to my first American Woodcock of the receding winter. We cannot tear ourselves away, following any flight song or calls we hear across the fields. We eventually call it a night and head home, looking forward to repeating this experience multiple times over the coming weeks.

It probably goes without saying that spring migration is the most exciting and anticipated time of year for the majority of birders in the Northeast. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to see up to 35 or more species of warblers in breeding plumage pass through during spring migration. We are ecstatic over fallout days where birds are everywhere, starting with our backyards. We want to be in 100 places at the same time and see every bird that passes through. Mount Auburn Cemetery, Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, the Beech Forest Trail on Cape Cod, October Mountain State Forest in western Massachusetts, and other hot spots take on a whole new façade during spring migration, morphing from quiet and serene places to walk and contemplate into a birder’s version of Times Square, with our returning avian friends lighting up our days with their brilliant colors.

The excitement of the spring is even more striking on the heels of winter birding. What I find most challenging about the winter and fall seasons is identifying birds based on their calls and chip notes, as full song is rarely heard. I marvel at those, such as Bob, who know the bird that just gave that barely audible, short, and single chip note.

“See how sharp that is? It is really different from any other bird.”

Yeah, right. Easy as pie.

Still, winter has its own treasures, its own leisurely rhythm, and birds typically not present at any other time of the year, such as Snow Buntings, boreal species—Snowy Owl, Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Grosbeak, crossbills—and the myriad of handsome sea ducks, such as King Eider and Harlequin Duck. But as the days begin to lengthen (and the cold begins to strengthen), it is hard not to be looking forward to the renewal that is spring.

Spring is not the only migration season, of course. The fall migration brings its fair share of returning migrants, some more common in the fall than spring, and occasional rarities and unusual stories.

One of my favorite stories is recounted by Tom Gagnon of Northampton about a female Rufous Hummingbird that showed up during the fall of 1996 at a feeder in Agawam. Birders flocked to see the bird throughout the fall. As winter approached, considerable discussion ensued about what to do with the bird, which was unlikely to survive the winter. Federal and state permits were acquired, and the hummingbird was mist-netted and transported to Tom's greenhouse in Northampton to spend the winter. When spring arrived, the bird was released, presumably never again to be seen in these parts.

The following September 1997, the hummingbird showed up at the exact same feeder in Agawam and resumed its autumnal routines. Again, the bird was captured (after the required federal and state permits were secured) and transported back to the Northampton greenhouse. Upon arrival in the early evening, the female went to roost in the exact same spot on a sweet olive bush that she had used the previous winter. The spring of that second year, Trevor Lloyd-Evans of the Manomet Bird Observatory (now the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences) banded the Rufous Hummingbird. This cycle continued for seven straight years. During the seventh season, the Agawam homeowner reported seeing the bird feeding just before dark, but never saw the bird again. Tom reports that he and the homeowner believed that some predator got the bird overnight, and the two mourned the loss of their avian companion.

Stories like this only intensify my appreciation of and fascination with the feats of migratory birds and spur me on to spend as much time as possible birding during migration. The spring migration is such a scintillating time of year to bird and just so much fun. But I am always struck by how quickly it seems to pass. Song gradually increases from late March through April, with an emphatic crescendo in May. Heading to northern New England gives a birder opportunities for surround-sound bird song through June. But by early July, the woods and meadows have quieted substantially. We realize with a sinking feeling that another migration and courtship season has passed and it will be another year before we hear the songs of the spring again. It seems so unfair how quickly it passes, and how abruptly it ends.. Yes, there will be some song, and yes, the birds are still there, but they are harder to find in their silence and the noise they make turns more muted, less frequent, and more challenging to identify. This is especially true for the birder who does not see well. The difference between the spring and early summer and the rest of the year for me is so striking. Still, I work hard at trying to master the calls and chip notes because I know that most of the year, those are the only sounds that I will hear.

In the end, spring migration means nearly everything to me as a birder without vision. It is my time of year when the playing field evens out just a little between me, the blind birder, and you, the sighted birder. I can perhaps identify the bird song that others may not, and I can participate in vigorous debates about who just sang. It means optimism, joyousness, and anticipation not present most other times of the birding year.

It means a buzz in the air, constant checking with our devices and among ourselves to see if anything showed up somewhere else. It means a profound connection between us and our passion—the birds—in ways that I do not often feel at other times of the year. It is the pinnacle of my birding year, a season to savor, even if it always seems to flash by. So, enjoy. We are about to embark on another spring migration in Massachusetts. 🐦

Martha Steele, a former editor of Bird Observer, has been progressively losing vision due to retinitis pigmentosa and is legally blind. Thanks to a cochlear implant, she is now learning to identify birds from their songs and calls. Martha lives with her husband, Bob Stymeist, in Arlington.

The Benefits of Using *Bird Observer's* Website

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The *Index* page links to a complete *Table of Contents* that dates back to the journal's first issue in 1973. It also contains links to *Where to Find Birds* listings sorted alphabetically, by geographic location, and by keywords. The indices also list all book reviews, all cover art and artists, and the popular *At a Glance* photo quizzes to fine-tune your identification skills. A search of these indices will quickly lead you to the appropriate issue. If you are a long-time subscriber and have saved back issues in print, you can then access the publication you need. If the article of interest appeared between 2003 and the current issue, **and you are a current subscriber**, you can read it online or download it to your smart phone or other personal device.

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GLEANINGS

Serendipity and Science

David M. Larson



Golden-winged Warbler (Photograph by Dennis Cooke, CC BY-NC 2.0)

One of the great technical advances of recent times that has allowed for fine-tuning of our understanding of many aspects of bird behavior has been the invention and improvement of geolocators. Often deployed on birds captured on their breeding or wintering grounds, these recorders can provide data on the location of birds for up to a year. They can be useful in helping to plot the annual movements of individual birds and the differences in migratory patterns of subpopulations of a species (Larson 2014). The geolocators are small and have no transmitter capability, so the birds have to be recaptured in order to read the data.

An important skill in science is the ability to recognize the existence and importance of serendipity in data collection. When you combine geocator data with serendipity, you may discover some interesting phenomena. And this is the crux of the article described here.

Streby et al. (2015) were carrying out a fairly standard migration study on Golden-winged Warblers when serendipity hit. Several of their geocator-carrying warblers arrived on the breeding grounds in eastern Tennessee between April 13 and April 27, 2014, following migration from eastern Colombia. The researchers captured five of the birds on May 3–9 and read the geolocators. The data revealed that rather than stay on territory, the birds departed on April 26–27 and flew toward the Gulf of Mexico. Between April 27 and April 30, a huge storm system swept through the breeding-

ground region, producing 84 confirmed tornadoes, 35 human fatalities, and over a billion dollars in property damage. After the storm passed, on May 1–2, the five tracked warblers returned to their breeding grounds and resumed defending territories. Without the geolocator data, the researchers would not have known that the warblers had flown some 700 kilometers from the breeding grounds apparently to avoid this oncoming storm. The researchers had evacuated the storm path as well.

Although each of the warblers carried out this evacuation using a different route, their general flight paths corresponded to their normal fall and spring migration routes via the Gulf of Mexico coast and, in one case, along the Florida coast to Cuba.

Golden-winged Warblers are obligate migrants, meaning that migration occurs on a regular schedule and is considered to be innate or genetically determined. This migration pattern is in contrast to facultative migration, which is triggered by acute weather changes or food availability. Although obligate migrants can delay, alter, or reverse parts of their migration path because of weather or other external stimuli, it was not clear that obligate migrants could undertake facultative migrations. Yet this is exactly what appears to have happened with these five warblers.

It seems inescapable that these male Golden-winged Warblers performed a brief facultative migration of over 1500 kilometers in order to avoid the oncoming storm system. They then returned to defend their breeding territories throughout the remainder of the season. The trigger for their exodus remains speculative. At the time of their departure the weather patterns onsite were not unusual; temperature, atmospheric pressure, wind speed and direction, cloud cover, and precipitation were all unremarkable. The storm system was still 400–900 kilometers distant. The remaining environmental clue that seems most likely to have provided the trigger was infrasound, frequencies below the range of human hearing. Infrasound can propagate at over 100 decibels thousands of kilometers ahead of such storms, and the frequencies involved are well within the range of bird hearing.

The most reasonable explanation for this behavior of the warblers is that they heard the sound of the approaching storm system and decamped to avoid personal risk. They returned when the coast was clear and continued on with their breeding season. Serendipity came into play because the birds involved were carrying geolocators that were recovered, revealing unsuspected and unexpected behavior. 🦋

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David M. Larson, PhD, is the Science and Education Coordinator at Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center in Newburyport, the Director of Mass Audubon's Birder's Certificate Program and the Certificate Program in Bird Ecology (a course for naturalist guides in Belize), a domestic and international tour leader, Vice President of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, and a member of the editorial staff of *Bird Observer*.

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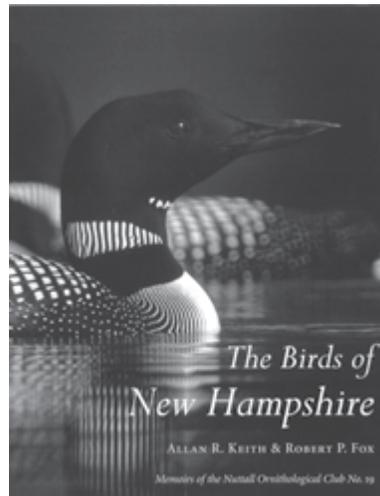
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ABOUT BOOKS

Making It Big

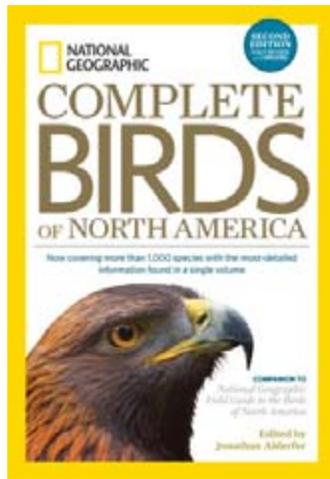
Mark Lynch

Complete Birds of North America (second edition). Jonathan Alderfer (editor) with Jon L. Dunn. 2014. Washington, D.C. National Geographic Society.

“The bigger the better; in everything.” (Freddie Mercury, frontman for Queen)

Birders really like it big. Bigger scopes and camera lenses and more powerful binoculars have become the fieldmarks of the hardcore birder. Birders thrive on big lists, big days, and big years. Big birds are the species that get all the attention. A Gyrfalcon or a Snowy Owl trumps a Merlin or Screech Owl every time. The same is true for bird books. We want to believe the bigger the book, the more information on birds, the more identification tips, the more details on where to look for a species, and more lush photographs. I would need several coffee tables in every room of my house just to showcase all the oversized volumes I own on birds. The truth is, though I may glance at these big books a few times, I don't go back time and again to *use* them like I use a field guide. Most of these large volumes become simply decorations, trophies, or room accessories. Admit it, we may not read most of these large books even once because they are not really important to our birding. They are not *useful*. The *Complete Birds of North America* is another doorstopper of a book that rivals the size and thickness of a modern college dictionary. But is it *useful*?

The *Complete Birds of North America* is a companion volume to the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. This popular field guide was first published in 1983. Younger birders may have no idea what a splash this guide made when it first came out. To begin with, it was a different-looking field guide, printed in a larger format than the Peterson field guides, which most people used at the time. Because it did not fit in your pocket, a cottage industry started designing special cloth carriers for the guide. The illustrations were by a variety of artists, and the identification information was cutting edge for the time. Finally, all the birds of North America were now in one volume. This was a breakthrough for birders who, up until then, had been using Peterson's Eastern and Western guides. Originally, you had to order the new guide from the National Geographic offices, and those first orders of the field guide came with a fine companion coffee-table book on birds, a beautiful full color map of bird migration, and a set of odd floppy records of bird calls that were actually quite good. (NB: I understand that some of you may have to ask your grandparents what records were.) The National Geographic guide ushered in a new competitive era in the publishing of bird guides. Most of these guides failed to catch on, and I have shelves of these doomed publications. The National Geographic guide remained competitive with the Peterson until the arrival of the Sibley field guide, which



rapidly became *the* popular guide to the birds. Today, the National Geographic guide remains popular, and I keep a copy in the car along with my Sibley.

The *Complete Birds of North America* is a greatly expanded version of the National Geographic field guide. Most of the illustrations in the *Complete Birds of North America* are the same as those in the field guide and are about the same size. These illustrations are augmented by new ones of vagrants and recently split species and some nice color photographs that begin the description of each bird family. The maps are slightly larger and more detailed. There are also larger maps showing the ranges and migratory routes of particular species like American and Pacific golden-plovers and the Arctic Tern.

The emphasis in this book is on the text rather than the illustrations. There are just a few pages of introduction that describe the basics of taxonomy, plumage variation, and feather topography. The species descriptions begin on page 10 of this 743-page book. Each one has been rewritten and greatly expanded from the field guide. There are details about identification, similar species, status and distribution, voice, and population. There is an introductory paragraph of varying length. Most species descriptions run to about half a page. But species that have a number of recognizable plumages, regional variations, or subspecies have much longer entries. Cackling and Canada geese have a full page devoted to each. The Red-tailed Hawk has two full pages of dense text. Each species description includes the bird's ABA abundance code number and its four-letter banding code.

Recently split species are fully described and illustrated. These include birds like the Sooty and Dusky grouse, recent splits from Blue Grouse. Species that have occurred in North America only as extremely rare vagrants are given a full descriptive treatment complete with an illustration. The Scaly-naped Pigeon is included even though there are only two very old records for North America. Some of these extreme rarities are quite recent, however, like the Rufous-necked Wood-Rail that was seen at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in July of 2013.

Every family has a lengthy introductory section that includes topics like structure, plumage, behavior, distribution, taxonomy, and conservation. Many genera also have a short descriptive introduction, like this one for eagles, genus *Aquila*:

Worldwide, there are ten species in this genus, only one of which occurs in North America, the Golden Eagle. Large raptors with wide wings, all are fierce hunters of mammals and birds, and many are prized for falconry. The human descriptive term "aquiline nose" refers to the hooked beak of *Aquila* eagles. (p. 163)

These sections put the North American avifauna in a global perspective.

Well-written special sections are devoted to describing particularly difficult field problems. These include the separation of Taiga and Tundra Bean geese, the Tule Goose subspecies of the Greater White-fronted Goose, and subspecies identification of male Common Eiders, including *Borealis*, which has been identified here in Massachusetts in winter. There are other detailed subsections on separating Common Ringed and Semipalmated plovers, the challenges of winter longspurs, redpoll identification, and Atlantic and Gulf Coast Clapper Rails versus King Rails. All of these sections are far too long to be included in a typical general field guide.

The book ends with a short two pages of additional reading suggestions and a long list of credits.

The *Complete Birds of North America* occupies an interesting place in bird literature. It is much more informative than a standard field guide but not quite as scientifically thorough and fully referenced as the species entries in the *Birds of North America Online*. That website is a great resource but concerns itself only with species that breed in North America. The *Complete Birds of North America* bears some resemblance to the classic reference book the *Handbook of Bird Identification for Europe and the Western Palearctic*, although the large illustration plates in the *Handbook* are separate from the text. Even though that book is several decades old, I still use it as a reference whenever a European species shows up here. Like the *Handbook*, the *Complete Birds of North America* is aimed at active birders; its thrust is species identification, while at the same time offering much interesting information on species behavior, breeding, and migration.

The *Complete Birds of North America* is an impressive and well-written book. But will birders find it useful? Because it is too large to carry about, even in the car, it is a book to use at home. The *Complete Birds of North America* has the potential to be a handy go-to reference guide for the serious birder who wants to know more about species than he can find in any field guide or many on-line resources. Will it become a standard home reference or end up gathering dust like so many other bird books? Time will tell, but for now, it is sitting on my desk.

“Any intelligent fool can make things bigger and more complex... It takes a touch of genius - and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction.” E. F. Schumacher (Brainyquote online 2015) 🦋

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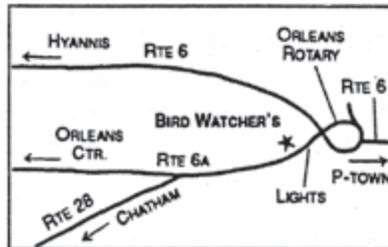
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BIRD SIGHTINGS

November/December 2014

Seth Kellogg, Marjorie W. Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist

November opened with a weekend storm, which turned into a nor'easter bringing the first snow of the season along with strong winds and some coastal flooding. Boston's snow quickly turned into rain, but snow piled up in southeastern Massachusetts, and some flooding closed roads in Plymouth County. Most of the month saw near normal temperatures. Boston averaged 42°, with the first freeze on November 15. The first major snowstorm occurred the day before Thanksgiving and dumped up to 16 inches in parts of the state. Many areas lost power, creating havoc for those preparing Thanksgiving festivities. Snowfall totals were highest in Franklin and Worcester counties, Hawley recorded 16 inches, and Royalston had 14 inches. Boston had only 2.6 inches of snow but 1.57 inches of rain during the Thanksgiving storm.

December was warmer than normal; Boston averaged 38°, three degrees above normal. The high was 64° on December 1, and the low was 18° on December 8. The big story for the month was the nor'easter that occurred on December 9, which brought record rainfall to the state. Many areas reported more than three inches of rain; Wakefield recorded the most with 3.94 inches. Strong winds caused coastal flooding and power outages.

R. Stymeist

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

On December 20 a Ross's Goose was discovered at Turners Falls. Because it was accompanied by two Snow Geese, birders had an opportunity to make comparisons. The Ross's Goose lingered through December 26, and many enjoyed it.

Cackling Geese were well reported during this period. On December 7 a **Tundra Swan** was discovered in Seekonk, where it was foraging in a cornfield with Canada Geese. It remained through December 19, during which time it moved around between Seekonk and Rehoboth. **Tufted Ducks** were reported from Falmouth and Nantucket. Because a Tufted Duck had been reported from Nantucket during the past two seasons, this was likely a repeating bird. **Barrow's Goldeneyes** were well reported, especially from inland locations. Inland reports appear to be increasing, but it is difficult to tell whether they signify a trend or simply better coverage as birding increases in popularity across the state.

Eared Grebes were reported from Quabog Pond in Brookfield and Wakeby Pond in Mashpee. This species is always an exceptional find, but the one in Worcester County appears to be the first inland record in 35 years.

For years a significant vulture roost has been assumed to exist in Westport because of reports of high numbers during the winter. Black Vultures have often been included in these tallies, but a count of 31 on December 2 shattered all previous records. A hybrid Red-tailed Hawk x Red-shouldered Hawk was photographed in West Boylston on November 9. According to the observer, there appear to be only about 10 records of this hybrid.

On November 28 at 8:13 am, a flock of 24 Sandhill Cranes was sighted flying south over Interstate 95 in Newburyport. Before this month, this number of Sandhills was unprecedented in Massachusetts and probably in the entire northeast United States. Earlier in November as

many as 30 Sandhills were reported near Skowhegan, Maine. On November 27 a flock of 24 was seen flying south over Seabrook, New Hampshire, and the next morning was the Massachusetts sighting. Also on November 28 at 2:00 pm, 23 were reported flying over Lighthouse Point in Connecticut (they were flying high; undoubtedly one was missed). On November 29 at 10:15 am, the flock was seen over Philadelphia. These sightings give us an idea of the Sandhills' movements. It is fascinating to be able to follow these birds, something made possible only by today's technology, which combines reports from email Listservs, eBird maps, and Facebook posts.

Black-headed Gulls were reported from five locations, including a rare inland sighting in Hadley. **Little Gulls** were reported from four locations. A **Mew Gull** was discovered on the Nantucket Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on December 28, and a **Thayer's Gull** was found at Niles Pond in Gloucester on December 27. As usual, Nantucket boasted large numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

M. Rines

Greater White-fronted Goose				American Wigeon			
11/15-12/31	W. Newbury	1	Goetschkes + v.o.	11/1	P.I.	80	T. Wetmore
11/16-23	Lunenburg	3	v.o.	11/2	C. Berkshire	17	T. Tynning
11/23	Lakeville	1	J. Young	12/2	Fairhaven	44	R. Stymeist
12/10-13	Nantucket	1	J. Papalay#	12/6	Waltham	65	J. Forbes
Snow Goose				12/14	Barnstable	80	C. Lapite#
11/25	Randolph	6	P. Peterson	American Black Duck			
11/28	Pittsfield	255	T. Collins	11/23	Acoaxet	217	M. Lynch#
12/2	Sheffield	5	R. Wendell	11/29	P.I.	600	T. Wetmore
12/14	Hatfield	5	S. Sauter	Blue-winged Teal			
12/18	Nantucket	4	V. Laux#	11/2	C. Berkshire	1	T. Tynning
12/20	Turners Falls	2	J. Smith	11/4	Marstons Mills	2	P. Crosson
Ross's Goose				11/5	Newbypt H.	1	D. Larson
12/20-26	Turners Falls	1 ph	B. Zajda + v.o.	11/28	Chatham	2	R. Schain
Brant				12/29	Sheffield	1	C. Jones
11/1	Quabbin Pk	7	L. Therrien	Northern Shoveler			
11/10	Wellfleet	225	P. Kyle	thr	Arlington Res.	9 max	v.o.
11/15	Bourne	179	M. Lynch#	thr	P.I.	12 max	v.o.
12/23	Nahant	350	L. Pivacek	11/19	Belchertown	10	E. Dalton
Cackling Goose				11/22	Marstons Mills	6	L. Waters
11/1-18	Turners Falls	1	J. Coleman#	12/6	Pittsfield (Onota)	3	J. Pierce
11/9	Agawam	1	L. Therrien	12/14	E. Boston	11	CBC (R. Stymeist)
11/9	Concord	2 ph	D. Sibley#	12/26	Fall River	15	C. Longworth
11/10	Amherst	1	I. Davies	Northern Pintail			
11/22-12/31	Belmont	2 ph	B. Miller + v.o.	thr	P.I.	175 max	v.o.
12/5-07	Rochester	1	J. Sweeney	11/22	Yarmouth	6	E. Hoopes
12/14-19	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins	11/23	Acoaxet	37	M. Lynch#
12/14	Hadley	1	E. Dalton	11/30	Marstons Mills	8	J. Davis
Tundra Swan				12/6	Quabog IBA	27	M. Lynch#
12/7-19	Seekonk/Rehoboth	1	S. Davis + v.o.	12/14	Hadley	20	L. Therrien
Wood Duck				12/28	Sudbury	29	B. Black#
11/1	Douglas-Sutton	81	M. Lynch#	Green-winged Teal			
11/6	GMNWR	30	A. Bragg#	11/9	Nantucket	75	K. Blackshaw
11/16	Brookline	49	P. Peterson	11/16	P.I.	450	T. Wetmore
12/30	Jamaica Plain	13	P. Peterson	11/18	Longmeadow	21	M. Moore
Gadwall				11/20	Pittsfield (Pont.)	18	J. Pierce
11/8	Pittsfield (Pont.)	6	Allen Club	12/25	Turners Falls	1	J. Coleman
11/22	Hyannis	40	L. Waters	Canvasback			
11/22	W. Yarmouth	54	P. Bono	thr	Cambr. (F.Pd)	4 max	v.o.
11/28	Ipswich	25	P. + F. Vale	11/3	Hudson	2	T. Spahr
11/29	Nantucket	51	B. Perkins	11/16	Nantucket	8	K. Blackshaw
12/27	P.I.	100	T. Wetmore	11/23	Richmond	5	J. Pierce
Eurasian Wigeon				11/25-12/19	Turners Falls	5 max	v.o.
11/1-25	P.I.	1 m	T. Wetmore	12/2	Stockbridge	5	J. Pierce
11/3	Marstons Mills	1	S. Paventy + v.o.	12/27	Nantucket	68	M. Malin#
11/9	Westport	1 m	E. Nielsen	12/28	Brookline	1	R. Schain#
11/22-12/31	Fairhaven	1 m	D. Logan#	Redhead			
11/23	Somerset	1 m	S. Davis	thr	Southboro	4 max	v.o.
12/27	Nantucket	1	J. Smith#	11/25	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw

Redhead (continued)				11/22	Nant. Shoals	6420	BBC Pelagic
12/4	W. Newbury	3	S. Mirick	12/16	P.I.	420	T. Wetmore
12/7	Lee	1	R. Wendell	Long-tailed Duck			
12/18	Clinton	2	J. Lawson#	11/1	Wachusett Res.	10	P. Morlock
12/26	N. Dennis	1	M. Faherty	11/1, 12/13	Quabbin Pk	59.2	L. Therrien
12/27	Nantucket	5	M. Malin#	11/1	Dennis (C.B.)	575	P. Flood
Ring-necked Duck				11/2	Eastham (F.E.)	520	B. Nikula
thr	Waltham	270 max	J. Forbes	11/22	Nant. Sound	150710	BBC Pelagic
thr	Cambr. (F.Pd)	186 max	v.o.	11/27	Richmond	3	C. Jones
thr	Southboro	1151 max	M. Lynch#	12/15	Newbypt H.	340	R. Heil
11/5	W. Newbury	150	P. + F. Vale	Bufflehead			
11/9	Pittsfield	700	S. Sumner	11/2	C. Berkshire	130	T. Tynning
11/16	Falmouth	225	C. Caron	11/5	Falmouth	250	M. Malin
Tufted Duck				11/8	Marion	385	M. Lynch#
12/13-31	Falmouth	1	S. Kellogg	11/9	Edgartown	210	R. Stymeist#
12/28	Nantucket	1	F. Gallo	11/9	Eastham (F.H.)	250	P. Crosson
Greater Scaup				11/13	Nahant	500	J. Berry#
11/4	P.I.	19	T. Wetmore	12/28	Nantucket CBC	2200	J. Trimble#
11/9, 12/22	Wachusett Res.	89, 77	M. Lynch#	Common Goldeneye			
12/1	Marion	91	M. Lynch#	11/5	Southboro	38	M. Lynch#
12/14	Falmouth	1320	J. Trimble	11/8	Brewster	30	K. Fiske
12/22	Stockbridge	3	R. Wendell	12/6	Mashpee	42	M. Malin
12/31	Waltham	4	J. Forbes	12/11	Turners Falls	70	J. Rose
Lesser Scaup				12/20	Agawam	100	S. Kellogg
11/20	Clinton	11	M. Lynch#	12/22	Wachusett Res.	66	M. Lynch#
11/25	Lynnfield	20	D. Williams	Barrow's Goldeneye			
12/3	Gloucester (E.P.)	21	MAS (B. Gette)	11/5	Southboro	1	M. Lynch#
12/20	Mashpee	276	M. Faherty	12/9-31	Turners Falls	1	J. Smith
12/29	Southboro	20	M. Lynch#	12/14	Boston (Deer I.)	1	R. Stymeist
King Eider				12/18-31	Agawam	1	A. & L. Richardson
11/8	Gloucester	1 m	B. Pfeiffer	12/18-31	Northfield	1	J. Smith
11/22-12/3	Weymouth	1 m	K. Rawdon	12/20	Bourne	1	M. Faherty
11/23	Dennis (C.B.)	1 f	A. Burdo#	12/26	W. Yarmouth	1	P. Trimble
12/3	N. Chatham	1 m	K. Yakola	12/27	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	N. Bonomo#
12/5	N. Scituate	1	MAS (D. Ludlow)	12/28	Orleans	2	B. Lagasse
12/6	P.I.	1 m	C. Whitebread	12/31	Hyannis	1	R. Debenham
12/9	Rockport (A.P.)	1 f	T. Spahr	Hooded Merganser			
12/27	Nahant	1 m	J. Malone	11/16	Lunenburg	120	T. Pirro
Common Eider				11/25	W. Newbury	160	J. Berry
11/15	Bourne	515	M. Lynch#	11/29	Turners Falls	133	M. Lynch#
11/16	N. Truro	3500	B. Nikula	12/3	Waltham	120	J. Forbes
11/22	Nant. Sound	60615	BBC Pelagic	12/6	Westboro	124	G. Gove
Harlequin Duck				12/20	Mashpee	66	M. Malin#
thr	Rockport	75 max	v.o.	12/25	Turners Falls	40	J. Coleman
11/4	Manomet	9	J. Chisholm	Common Merganser			
11/10	Chilmark	11	R. Stymeist#	11/16	Pittsfield (Pont.)	338	J. Pierce
11/23	Acoaxet	12	M. Lynch#	11/16	Quabog IBA	1322	M. Lynch#
11/26	Chappaquiddick	15	C. Blauvelt#	11/23	Northboro	178	P. Morlock
11/26	Aquinnah	25	C. Plimpton#	11/25	Lynnfield	265	D. Williams
11/29	Dennis (C.B.)	6	R. Doherty	11/29	Arlington	165	J. Forbes
12/28	Nantucket CBC	27	J. Trimble#	12/6	Westboro	517	G. Gove
Surf Scoter				12/31	Southwick	185	S. Kellogg
11/1	Wachusett Res.	1	P. Morlock	Red-breasted Merganser			
11/1	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	11/4	Wellfleet	1150	M. Dettrey
11/6	P.I.	35	T. Wetmore	11/8	Mattapoisett	72	M. Lynch#
11/8	Marion	29	M. Lynch#	11/16	P.I.	30	E. Labato
11/22	Nant. Sound	1110	BBC Pelagic	11/16	P'town	2000	B. Nikula
12/28	Nantucket CBC	2750	J. Trimble#	12/27	Quabbin	1	CBC
White-winged Scoter				Ruddy Duck			
thr	Wachusett Res.	1-2	v.o.	11/3	Chestnut Hill	409	R. Stymeist
11/1	Rockport (A.P.)	350	P. + F. Vale	11/5	Sterling	52	S. LaBree
11/1	S. Quabbin	13	L. Therrien	11/5	Southboro	80	M. Lynch#
11/4	P.I.	120	T. Wetmore	11/5	W. Newbury	185	P. + F. Vale
11/16	N. Truro	1000	B. Nikula	11/8	Pittsfield	55	Allen Club
11/22	Nant. Sound	2303	BBC Pelagic	11/9	Wachusett Res.	159	M. Lynch#
12/22	Stockbridge	7	R. Wendell	11/16, 12/28	Waltham	117, 23	J. Forbes
Black Scoter				12/19	Eastham	196	M. Malin
11/1	Barnstable (S.N.)	1800	P. Flood	Northern Bobwhite			
11/1	Waltham	51	J. Forbes	11/3	Marstons Mills	1	E. Hoopes
11/1	Wachusett Res.	49	P. Morlock	12/26	W. Yarmouth	5	CBC
11/1	S. Quabbin	91	L. Therrien	12/30	Truro CBC	10	B. Nikula#
11/13	Nahant	150	J. Berry#				

Ring-necked Pheasant				Sooty Shearwater			
11/10 Aquinnah	2	R. Stymeist#		11/16, 30 P'town	1, 1		B. Nikula
11/15 Wellfleet	1	C. Caron		Manx Shearwater			
11/29 Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale#		11/1, 15 P'town	10, 7		B. Nikula
12/31 P'town	1	F. Gallo#		11/16 Chatham (MI)	1		B. Nikula
Ruffed Grouse				11/22 Nant. Shoals	3		BBC Pelagic
11/15 Quabbin	3	C. Allen#		Leach's Storm-Petrel			
11/16 Mashpee	1	M. Malin		11/3 Dennis (C.B.)	1		E. Hoopes
12/20 Camp Edwards	2	J. McCumber		Northern Gannet			
Red-throated Loon				11/1, 12/28 P'town	3100, 300		B. Nikula
11/1 Quabbin Pk	1	L. Therrien		11/23 Chatham	5500		R. Schain
11/2 Pittsfield (Pont.)	1	v.o.		11/27 Eastham (F.E.)	2250		B. Nikula
11/4 Brookfield	1	R. Jenkins		12/2 Rockport (A.P.)	380		R. Heil
11/6 P.I.	120	T. Wetmore		12/7 Eastham (F.E.)	350		B. Nikula
11/10 Dennis (C.B.)	120	T. Green#		Double-crested Cormorant			
11/15 Wellfleet	250	C. Caron		11/6 P'town	400		B. Nikula
11/16 Chatham (MI)	1300 migr	B. Nikula		11/7 Chatham (MI)	600		B. Nikula
11/21 Gloucester	90	J. Nelson		11/8 Marion	101		M. Lynch#
Pacific Loon				11/9 Eastham (F.H.)	1200		S. Sullivan#
12/20 P'town (R.P.)	1 ph	P. Flood		11/29 Arlington	22		J. Forbes
Common Loon				12/20 Belmont	20		R. Jilek
thr P.I.	190 max	v.o.		Great Cormorant			
11/9 Wachusett Res.	26	M. Lynch#		11/10 Aquinnah	4		R. Stymeist#
11/11 Orleans	60	P. Trull		11/28 Monomoy	47		R. Schain
11/22 Nant. Shoals	115	BBC Pelagic		11/29 P'town	33		A. Burdo
11/24 Dennis (C.B.)	138	S. Paventy		American Bittern			
12/16 Ipswich (C.B.)	41	J. Berry		11/6 Barnstable	2		S. Paventy
12/30 Nant. Sound	44	F. Gallo#		11/7 Eastham (F.H.)	5		S. Paventy
Pied-billed Grebe				11/11 Concord	1		D. Sibley
11/2 C. Berkshire	6	T. Tynning		11/16 P.I.	2		E. Labato
11/10 Brewster	6	E. Hoopes		11/25 Wellfleet	1		S. Broker
11/16 Jamaica Plain	4	P. Peterson		12/1 N. Truro	1		D. Reynolds
11/25 Nantucket	12	K. Blackshaw		Great Blue Heron			
12/1 Brewster	6	E. Hoopes		11/9 P.I.	10		T. Wetmore
12/26 Hyannis	11	CBC		11/9 Saugus	11		S. Zende#
Horned Grebe				11/28 Squantum	12		P. Peterson
11/9 Wellfleet	45	T. Green		12/26 Mid-Cape CBC	40		CBC
11/22 S. Quabbin	6	L. Therrien		Great Egret			
11/23 Barnstable (S.N.)	45	P. Crosson		12/13 Eastham	6		J. Trimble
12/1 Marion	39	M. Lynch#		12/17 Ipswich (C.B.)	1		P. Brown
12/16 P.I.	32	T. Wetmore		12/22 Orleans	5		v.o.
12/16 Ipswich (C.B.)	24	J. Berry		12/31 Nantucket	1		T. Pastuszak
12/26 Mid-Cape CBC	106	CBC		Snowy Egret			
Red-necked Grebe				11/2 Nantucket	1		G. Andrews
11/9 Wachusett Res.	3	M. Lynch#		Little Blue Heron			
11/13 Brookfield	3	R. Jenkins		11/18 Quincy	1		J. Sweeney
11/21 Gloucester	18	J. Nelson		11/25 Yarmouth	1		S. Paventy
11/24 Dennis (C.B.)	24	S. Paventy		Cattle Egret			
12/16 P.I.	12	T. Wetmore		11/8 Edgartown	2		J. Young
12/21 P'town	20	B. Nikula		11/12 Gill	1		J. Smith
Eared Grebe				Green Heron			
11/15-21 Brookfield	1	J. Young + v.o.		11/1 Eastham (F.H.)	1		D. Clapp
11/20-22 Mashpee	1	M. Keleher + v.o.		11/11 Longmeadow	1		M. Moore
Northern Fulmar				Black-crowned Night-Heron			
11/22 Nant. Sound	2	BBC Pelagic		11/9 Edgartown	2		R. Stymeist#
12/9 Rockport (A.P.)	1	T. Spahr		11/15 P'town	1		C. Caron
12/16 Stellwagen	2	CBC		11/24 Plymouth	1		R. Bowes
12/29 Eastham (F.E.)	1	F. Atwood		12/12 Nantucket	2		T. Pastuszak
Cory's Shearwater				Black Vulture			
11/1, 16 P'town	3000, 15	B. Nikula		11/11 Hadley	2		L. Therrien
11/1 Manomet	1	I. Davies		11/23 Williamstown	3		C. Jones
11/3 Dennis (C.B.)	272	E. Hoopes		11/25 Uxbridge	3		M. Lynch#
11/3 Eastham (F.E.)	600	B. Nikula		12/2 Westport	31		L. Waters#
11/3 Orleans	300	B. Nikula		12/29 Sheffield	6		C. Jones
Great Shearwater				Turkey Vulture			
11/1, 12/2 P'town	850, 7	B. Nikula		11/5 Georgetown	4		P. + F. Vale
11/16 Chatham (MI)	25	B. Nikula		11/8 Essex	3		BBC (I. Girunas)
11/22 Nant. Shoals	71	BBC Pelagic		11/14 Cambr. (Daney)	5		R. Stymeist
11/27 Eastham (F.E.)	12	B. Nikula		11/28 Nantucket	28		D. Blatt
12/2 Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil		12/2 Westport	35		L. Waters#
12/16 Stellwagen	62	CBC		Osprey			
				11/thr			Reports of indiv. from 11 locations

Osprey (continued)				Common Gallinule			
12/3	Brewster	1	M. Faherty	11/1-16	Fairhaven	1	C. Longworth
12/6	Newbypt. H.	1	S. + C. Whitebread	11/16	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
12/8	Westboro	1	T. Spahr	American Coot			
12/14	Wachusett Res.	1	J. Lawson	thr	Waltham	160 max	J. Forbes
Bald Eagle				thr	GMNWR	230 max	A. Bragg#
11/4	Quabbin (G5)	5	M. Lynch#	thr	Woburn (HP)	98 max	M. Rines
12/11	GMNWR	4	A. Bragg#	11/2	C. Berkshire	145	T. Tynning
12/14	P.I.	4	N. Landry	11/8	Richmond	88	Allen Club
Northern Harrier				11/22	Eastham	120	L. Waters
11/9	Orleans	6	C. Harris	11/29	W. Newbury	95	J. Berry#
11/23	Plymouth B.	2	M. Sylvia#	12/27	Nantucket	80	J. Smith#
11/28	GMNWR	2	A. Bragg#	Sandhill Crane			
11/29	Hadley	2	M. Lynch#	11/7	Pittsfield (Pont.)	2	J. Pierce
12/1	Cumb. Farms	5	I. Davies	11/28	Newburyport	24	D. Lovitch#
12/19	P.I.	8	P + J. Roberts	Black-bellied Plover			
12/26	Barnstable	17	J. Trimble	11/9	P.I.	70	E. Labato
Sharp-shinned Hawk				11/10	Duxbury B.	31	R. Bowes
11/2	Quabog IBA	2	M. Lynch#	11/11	Katama	70	R. Stymeist#
11/3-15	Barre Falls	27	Hawkcount (DS)	11/15	E. Quabbin	2	C. Allen
12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	11	CBC	11/20	Eastham (F.H.)	109	E. Hoopes
Cooper's Hawk				12/30	Wellfleet	3	Truro CBC
11/5	Lexington (DM)	2	M. Rines#	American Golden-Plover			
11/9	P.I.	3	T. Wetmore	11/1	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore
11/16	Barnstable	3	P. Crosson	11/11	Katama	1	R. Stymeist#
12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	12	CBC	11/23	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw
Northern Goshawk				Semipalmated Plover			
11/8	P.I.	1	MAS (P. Roberts)	11/9	Eastham (CGB)	2	B. Sullivan
11/8	Eastham (F.H.)	1	J. Trimble#	11/27	Falmouth	1	J. Hiam
11/12	New Salem	1	J. Smith	11/29	P.I.	1	C. Morgan
11/14	Barre Falls	1	Hawkcount (DG)	12/14	Boston H.	1	CBC (R. Schain)
12/5	Belchertown	1	D. Griffiths	12/31	Dennis (C.B.)	1	R. Hamman
12/7	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	Killdeer			
12/27	Quabbin	3	CBC	11/4	Acton	18	R. Stymeist
Red-shouldered Hawk				11/25	Lynn	4	R. Heil
11/3-15	Barre Falls	9	Hawkcount (DS)	12/26	Hyannis (CBC)	3	K. Rosenberg#
11/14	Mt. Watatic	8	Hawkcount (TP)	American Oystercatcher			
12/27	Westfield	2	A. & L. Richardson	11/9	Nantucket	10	K. Blackshaw
Red-tailed Hawk				11/9	Chappaquiddick	2	R. Stymeist#
11/3-15	Barre Falls	63	Hawkcount (DS)	11/10	Chatham	4	B. Harris
12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	55	CBC	12/3	Quincy	1	C. Leuchtenburg
Red-shouldered Hawk X Red-tailed Hawk				Spotted Sandpiper			
11/10	W. Boylston	1	R. Schain	11/23	Orleans	1	B. Lagasse
Rough-legged Hawk				Greater Yellowlegs			
thr	P.I.	4 max	v.o.	11/7	Eastham (F.H.)	50	S. Paventy
11/5	Windsor	1	G. Hurley	11/8	Essex	6	BBC (I. Girionas)
11/23	Williamstown	1	C. Jones	11/10	Yarmouth	46	G. d'Entremont
11/28	Squantum	1	P. Peterson#	11/12	Quabbin (G43)	2	B. Kamp
11/30	Saugus	2	S. Zende#	12/7	Marion	2	J. Sweeney
12/1	Pittsfield (Pont.)	1	G. Hurley	12/24	P.I.	3	MAS (B. Gette)
12/4	Windsor	1	J. Pierce	Willet			
12/12	Southwick	2	J. Weeks	11/7	Eastham (F.H.)	1	S. Paventy
12/23	DWWS	1	E. Dalton#	11/10	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes
12/30	Dalton	1	J. Morris-Siegel	Lesser Yellowlegs			
Golden Eagle				11/5	Nantucket	1	R. Ouren
11/4	New Salem	1 ad	M. Lynch#	Hudsonian Godwit			
11/7	Lexington	1 imm	P. + F. Vale	11/10	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes
11/8	Fairhaven	1 ph	A. Morgan#	Ruddy Turnstone			
Yellow Rail				11/18	Osterville	15	M. Malin
12/28	Nantucket CBC	1	T. Johansson#	12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	71	CBC
Clapper Rail				12/29	Nantucket	25	D. Bates
11/9	Wellfleet	4	S. Broker	Red Knot			
12/1	Cotuit	1	P. Crosson	11/9	P.I.	3	E. Labato
12/29	Wellfleet	1	S. Broker	11/23	Chatham	12	R. Schain
Virginia Rail				12/5	Duxbury B.	2	R. Bowes
12/15	GMNWR	1	A. Bragg	Sanderling			
12/26	Barnstable	14	J. Trimble	11/1	Barnstable (S.N.)	300	P. Crosson
12/30	Milford	1	N. Paulson	11/11	Orleans	250	P. Trull
Sora				11/16	P'town (R.P.)	275	P. Flood
12/8	GMNWR	1	D. Pettee	12/4	P.I.	150	T. Wetmore
12/14	Cape Cod CBC	2	CBC	12/15	Dennis	300	P. Kyle

White-rumped Sandpiper				12/7	Hyannis	1	E. Hoopes
11/9	Duxbury B.	2	R. Bowes	Mew Gull			
11/16	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	12/28	Nantucket CBC	1	J. Trimble#
11/26	Pittsfield (Pont.)	1	J. Pierce	Thayer's Gull			
11/30	Nantucket	2	J. Young	12/27	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 ph	N. Bonomo#
Pectoral Sandpiper				Iceland Gull			
11/2	Nantucket	3	T. Pastuszak#	11/8	Gloucester (E.P.)	2	L. Ferraresso
11/8	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale#	11/16	P'town (R.P.)	3	P. Flood
11/10	Pittsfield (Pont.)	1	G. Hurley	12/28	Nantucket	77	CBC (J. Trimble#)
11/23	Nantucket CBC	1	R. Ouren	Lesser Black-backed Gull			
Purple Sandpiper				thr	Reports of indiv. from 7 locations		
12/6	Gloucester	110	BBC (N. Hayward)	11/22	Nant. Shoals	12	BBC Pelagic
12/11	Salisbury	19	P. + F. Vale	12/28	Nantucket CBC	111	J. Trimble#
12/11	Rockport	88	BBC (B. Volkle)	Glaucaous Gull			
12/20	Falmouth	5	M. Malin#	thr	Reports of indiv. from 7 locations		
12/29	Nantucket	20	D. Bates	Common Tern			
Dunlin				11/2	Eastham (F.E.)	5	B. Nikula
11/10	W. Gloucester	105	J. Nelson	11/6, 30	P'town	70, 1	B. Nikula
11/23	Westport	90	M. Lynch#	11/30	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula
11/23	Plymouth B.	500	M. Sylvia#	Forster's Tern			
11/25	P.I.	700	T. Wetmore	11/3	Yarmouth	10	P. Crosson
11/27	Eastham (F.E.)	550	B. Nikula	11/8	P'town	8	P. Brown
12/15	Dennis	420	P. Kyle	11/23	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	P. Crosson
Short-billed Dowitcher				11/24	Dennis (C.B.)	1	B. Lagasse#
11/30	Edgartown	1	S. Whiting#	Pomarine Jaeger			
Wilson's Snipe				11/2, 12/7	Eastham (F.E.)	47, 90	B. Nikula
11/2	Saugus	3	S. Zende#	11/3	Orleans	16	B. Nikula
11/9	Stockbridge	2	J. Pierce	12/2, 27	Rockport (A.P.)	3, 1	R. Heil
11/15	Worc. (BMB)	3	J. Liller#	12/7	Orleans	47	B. Nikula
12/30	Nantucket	2	R. Ouren	12/16	Stellwagen	16	CBC
American Woodcock				12/21	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula
11/5	S. Hadley	2	S. Desrosier	Parasitic Jaeger			
12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	4	CBC	11/11, 12/5	P'town	3, 1	B. Nikula
Red Phalarope				Dovekie			
11/3	Dennis (C.B.)	3	E. Hoopes	11/2, 12/7	Eastham (F.E.)	2, 16	B. Nikula
Black-legged Kittiwake				12/16	Stellwagen	25	CBC
11/22	Nant. Shoals	139	BBC Pelagic	12/28	Nantucket CBC	174	J. Trimble#
11/27	Eastham (F.E.)	255	B. Nikula	12/28	P'town	9	B. Nikula
12/2	Rockport (A.P.)	122	R. Heil	12/30	Truro CBC	30	CBC
12/28	P'town	475	B. Nikula	Common Murre			
Bonaparte's Gull				11/30	Gloucester (B.R.)	1	J. Nelson
11/16	P'town (R.P.)	2500	P. Flood	12/2	Rockport (A.P.)	41	R. Heil
11/20	Pittsfield (Pont.)	2	J. Pierce	12/16	Stellwagen	70	CBC
11/23	Plymouth B.	300	P. Edmundson	Thick-billed Murre			
11/27	Eastham (F.E.)	280	B. Nikula	12/2	Rockport (A.P.)	3	R. Heil
11/30	N. Truro	450	B. Nikula	12/27	Gloucester	1	R. Heil
12/28	Nantucket CBC	875	J. Trimble#	12/29	Marblehead	1	D. Noble
Black-headed Gull				Razorbill			
11/15	Plymouth H.	1 ad ph	D. Ludlow#	11/22	Nant. Shoals	97	BBC Pelagic
11/19	Hull	1 ad ph	S. Williams	12/16	Stellwagen	134	CBC
12/14-18	Hadley	1	C. Page	12/26	Cohasset	24	V. Zollo
12/15	Newbypt H.	1 ad ph	R. Heil	12/27	Cape Ann	695	R. Heil
12/28	Nantucket CBC	3	J. Trimble#	12/28	P.I.	30	T. Wetmore
Little Gull				12/30	Truro CBC	1233	CBC
11/9-16	P'town	1 ad	B. Nikula	Black Guillemot			
11/18	Orleans	1	B. Lagasse	11/16	Rockport (H.P.)	4	J. Berry#
11/30	N. Truro	1 ad	B. Nikula	11/23	Dennis (C.B.)	1	T. Green#
12/28	Nantucket CBC	2	J. Trimble#	11/30	Gloucester	3	J. Nelson
Laughing Gull				12/7	P'town	1	M. Faherty#
11/9	Chappaquiddick	82	R. Stymeist#	12/26	Cohasset	2	V. Zollo
11/9	Westport	70	E. Nielsen	Atlantic Puffin			
11/11, 23	P'town	75, 10	B. Nikula	12/16	Stellwagen	13	CBC
11/22	Nant. Shoals	21	BBC Pelagic	12/30	Wellfleet	3	J. Liller
11/30	N. Truro	4	B. Nikula				

OWLS THROUGH FINCHES

There was no repeat of last year's incredible Snowy Owl invasion, but the flight this season has been better than average. During this period there were reports from over 30 locations with a maximum of six from Plum Island. Norm Smith had thirteen Snowys at Logan Airport on the day of the Greater Boston CBC, and nine were tallied on the Nantucket CBC. The Northern Saw-whet Owl migration was much better than last season's as reported by the banding stations in Northbridge and Lincoln. This was the eleventh season for these two sites, and the grand total of Saw-whets banded was an amazing 2942! Saw-whets were well reported on Christmas Counts: Quabbin recorded 19, Truro 10, and Mid Cape 8.

There were six reports of **Rufous Hummingbirds** this period; Sue Finnegan of Brewster banded five. Last year there was only one report during the same period. There were reports of **Ash-throated Flycatchers** from three places: Harwich, Plymouth, and Milton. A **Gray Jay** took up residence at Quabbin's Gate 41 for nearly two weeks, although many birders had to make multiple trips to catch a glimpse. A **Townsend's Solitaire**, named after John Kirk Townsend—an ornithologist and contemporary of Audubon—made a one-day appearance at Halibut State Park in Rockport, and another Solitaire delighted many birders in Marion for over a month. A **Townsend's Warbler**—named for the same ornithologist—took up residence for most of December at Marblehead Neck Sanctuary. The most exciting find this month was a **Smith's Longspur**, well documented with several photos taken at East Point in Nahant. This was just the second record for this species in Massachusetts; the only other record was from Salisbury State Park on October 12, 1968. Other unusual birds seen during this period were several **Bohemian Waxwings**, a Yellow-throated Warbler, a **LeConte's Sparrow**, and a **Painted Bunting**.

December signals the Christmas Count season, and many birders were busy scouting their areas. The weather cooperated for most of the counts, and this year the recurring theme was record high counts of woodpeckers. All-time high counts for Downy, Hairy, Red-bellied, and Pileated woodpeckers and Northern Flicker were tallied in many counts. Eastern Bluebirds occurred in record numbers on the Athol, Cape Cod, Concord, Groton, Greenfield, Quabbin, and Worcester CBCs. For complete results of the various Christmas Counts visit <http://netapp.audubon.org/CBCObservation/CurrentYear/ResultsByCount.aspx>.

R. Stymeist

Barn Owl				12/21	Ipswich	2	S. Riley
11/9	Edgartown	1	R. Stymeist#	12/27	Mendon	2	B. Cassie
Eastern Screech-Owl					Long-eared Owl		
12/21	Ipswich	4	S. Riley	12/2	Northampton	1	A. Magee
12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	26	CBC	12/2	Hadley	3	J. Oliverio
12/27	Mendon	35	B. Cassie	12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	1	CBC
Great Horned Owl					Short-eared Owl		
11/27	Newton	2	P. Gilmore	11/4	Rockport (H.P.)	1	J. McCoy#
12/13	Mt.A.	2	R. Stymeist	11/25	Orleans	1	B. Lagasse#
12/13	W. Newbury	2	R. Heil	11/29	Hadley	1	S. Motyl
12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	12	CBC	11/30	Rowley	1	B. Rusnica
12/27	Mendon	9	B. Cassie	12/20	P.I.	1	N. Landry
Snowy Owl				12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	2	CBC
11/8-12/31	P.I.	6 max	v.o.		Northern Saw-whet Owl		
11/10-12/31	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 26 locations			11/3	DFWS	10 b	fide K. Seymour
12/7	Ipswich (C.B.)	7	N. Dubrow	11/3-15	Northbridge	29 b	fide B. Milke
12/14	Boston (Logan)	13	CBC (N. Smith)	12/14	Hadley	2	S. Surner
12/26	Barnstable (S.N.)	5	CBC	12/21	Sudbury	3	B. Harris
12/27	Duxbury B.	3	R. Bowes	12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	8	CBC
12/28	Nantucket	9	CBC	12/27	Quabbin	19	CBC
Barred Owl				12/30	Truro CBC	10	CBC
11/8	P.I.	2	MAS (P. Roberts)				

Ruby-throated Hummingbird				White-eyed Vireo		
11/1-15	E. Dennis	1 b	S. Finnegan	11/11	Westport	1 J. Young
11/1-21	Chestnut Hill	1 b	M. Garvey	11/12	Mashpee	1 M. Keleher
11/19	Plymouth	1 b	S. Finnegan	12/26	Osterville	1 C. Caron
Rufous Hummingbird				12/28	Taunton	1 V. Zollo#
thr	Brewster	1 b	M. Myers	Blue-headed Vireo		
11/1-12/16	Orleans	1 b	S. Finnegan	11/8	Newton	1 M. Gooley
11/7-16	Roslindale	1 b	C. Wenc	11/9	Dennis	2 P. Flood
11/15-18	Arlington	1 b	S. Simpson	11/10	Chilmark	1 R. Stymeist#
11/25-12/21	Woods Hole	1	D. Remsen	11/21	Sandwich	1 T. Green
12/1-16	Orleans	1 b	S. Finnegan	11/22	Scusset B.	1 B. Harris
American Kestrel				12/15	Nantucket	1 R. Ouren
11/8	Eastham (F.H.)	1	T. Green#	Gray Jay		
11/9	Chappaquiddick	1	R. Stymeist#	11/4-16	Quabbin (G41)	1 M. Lynch + v.o.
11/16	Saugus	4	S. Zende#	Fish Crow		
11/30	Medford	1	M. Rines#	12/1	Boston (F.Pk)	40 S. Walker
12/16	Cumb. Farms	1	J. Sweeney	12/20	Bourne	480 J. Trimble#
12/26	Newburyport	1	P + F. Vale	12/22	W. Roxbury (MP)	90 P. Peterson
Merlin				12/30	Waltham	3 J. Forbes
11/11	DWWS	2	L. Wightman	Common Raven		
11/15	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore	11/5	Mt. Wachusett	2 S. Olson
11/28	Hadley	2	S. Surner	11/14	Mt. Wataic	5 T. Pirro
11/30	Saugus	2	S. Zende#	11/30	Ware R. IBA	2 M. Lynch#
Peregrine Falcon				12/2	Swansea	2 S. Davis
11/7	Medford	2	P. Roberts	12/7	Quabbin Pk	2 J. Rose
11/16	Saugus	2	S. Zende#	12/18	Northbridge	2 S. Ricker
11/24	Squantum	2	P. Peterson	12/thr	W. Roxbury (MP)	2 v.o.
11/29	Nantucket	2	D. Blatt	Horned Lark		
12/14	Greater Boston	11	CBC	11/15	Chatham (S.B.)	35 M. Malin
12/29	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore	11/16	Saugus	80 S. Zende#
Monk Parakeet				11/28	Acton	75 J. Forbes
12/2	Brighton	2	G. Gurka	11/29	Hadley	300 H. Galbraith
Red-bellied Woodpecker				12/14	Rehoboth	80 M. Lynch#
11/1	Douglas-Sutton	5	M. Lynch#	12/21	P.I.	90 T. Wetmore
11/6	W. Barnstable	6	P. Crosson	12/31	Northampton	225 T. Gagnon
12/14	Cape Cod CBC	57	CBC	Tree Swallow		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				11/10	Aquinnah	120 R. Stymeist#
11/25	Mt.A.	2	R. Stymeist	11/16	GMNWR	1 M. Gooley
11/27	Vineyard Haven	3	C. Plimpton	12/1	Nantucket	50 T. Pastuszak
11/30	Boston	3	BBC (R. Stymeist)	12/2	P.I.	2 T. Graham
12/14	Cape Cod CBC	21	CBC	12/3	Yarmouth	6 P. Crosson
12/26	Winchester	2	C. Gibson	12/27	Barnstable	1 S. Thomas
Northern Flicker				Red-breasted Nuthatch		
11/7	Eastham (F.H.)	11	M. Keleher	11/5	Boston (A.A.)	5 P. Peterson
11/10	Aquinnah	12	R. Stymeist#	11/6	W. Barnstable	8 P. Crosson
11/25	Orleans	10	K. Yakola	11/16	Quabog IBA	8 M. Lynch#
12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	97	CBC	11/23	Mashpee	9 M. Keleher
Pileated Woodpecker				12/4	P.I.	5 T. Wetmore
11/22	Quabbin (G37)	3	B. Lafley	12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	61 CBC
11/29	W. Newbury	2	J. Berry#	12/27	Quabbin	39 CBC
12/21	Ipswich	2	S. Riley	12/30	Truro CBC	98 CBC
Empidonax species				Brown Creeper		
12/1	Cambridge	1	T. Spahr	11/5	Boston (A.A.)	2 P. Peterson
Eastern Phoebe				11/6	Newton	2 J. Forbes
12/18	Sharon	1	W. Sweet	11/23	Mashpee	3 M. Keleher
12/19	Malden	1	K. Marshall	12/13	Quabog IBA	2 M. Lynch#
12/22	Cambr. (F.Pd)	1	M. Sabourin	12/18	GMNWR	4 A. Bragg#
12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	5	CBC	Carolina Wren		
12/27	Turners Falls	1	B. Kenney	11/8	Marion	12 M. Lynch#
12/28	Nantucket	1	P. Trimble	11/10	Chilmark	17 R. Stymeist#
Ash-throated Flycatcher				11/10	Aquinnah	12 R. Stymeist#
11/8-12	Harwich	1	P. Kyle + v.o.	11/13	Nahant	12 J. Berry#
11/22	Plymouth	1	B. Silkas	12/1	Mattapoisett	10 M. Lynch#
11/24	Milton	1 ph	E. Lipton	House Wren		
Northern Shrike				11/5	Concord	1 D. Sibley
11/4	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine	11/25	Woburn (HP)	1 M. Rines
11/5-12/31	Windsor	1	G. Hurley+ v.o.	12/2	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1 L. Waters
11/24-12/31	Gill	1	J. Smith+ v.o.	12/12	Boston (F.Pk)	1 P. Peterson
12/1-4	Northampton	1	D. McLain	12/20	Sandwich	1 J. Trimble
12/2	P.I.	1	T. Graham	Winter Wren		
12/14	Holyoke	1	D. McLain	11/4	Brookline	4 P. Peterson
12/16	Cumb. Farms	1	J. Sweeney	11/7	Bourne	2 M. Malin

Winter Wren (continued)				12/20	Williamstown	2	G. Soucie
11/23	Lexington (DM)	5	M. Rines#	12/30	Truro CBC	1	B. Nikula#
11/26	Shirley	2	T. Aversa	Cedar Waxwing			
12/5	Woburn (HP)	2	D. Williams	11/8	Aquinnah	55	S. Whiting
12/13	W. Newbury	2	R. Heil	11/11	Falmouth	55	M. Keleher
12/30	Truro CBC	11	CBC	11/16	Yarmouth	50	P. Bono
Marsh Wren				11/20	Barnstable	65	P. Crosson
11/16	Wayland	4	B. Harris	12/14	Rockport	120	B. Harris
12/14	Cape Cod CBC	13	CBC	Lapland Longspur			
12/15	Newbury	3	R. Heil	11/3	P.I.	15	T. Wetmore
12/18	GMNWR	3	K. Dia	11/8	Newbury	2	P. + F. Vale#
12/19	IRWS	3	S. Santino	11/29	Hadley	4	H. Galbraith
12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	13	CBC	12/14	Hatfield	3	S. Sauter
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				12/22	Acton	2	S. Perkins
11/29	Squantum	1	S. Williams	Smith's Longspur			
12/26	Hyannis (CBC)	1	S. Williams#	11/9	Nahant	1 ph	A. Trautmann
Golden-crowned Kinglet				Snow Bunting			
11/3	Nantucket	8	G. Andrews	11/4	Wachusett Res.	40	E. Kittredge
11/9	Wachusett Res.	5	M. Lynch#	11/11	P.I.	80	T. Wetmore
11/9	N. Truro	10	S. Sullivan#	11/15	Chatham (S.B.)	120	M. Malin
11/13	Mashpee	9	P. Kyle	11/15	Sandwich	130	C. Schlotterbeck
12/1	Boston (F.Pk)	2	S. Walker	11/15	S. Quabbin	43	J. Young
12/29	Southboro	2	M. Lynch#	11/16	N. Truro	150	B. Nikula
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				11/22	Plymouth B.	150	S. van der Veen
11/8	Aquinnah	3	S. Whiting	11/22	Hyannis	40	BBC Pelagic
11/28	Falmouth	2	R. Doherty	11/23	Acoaxet	40	M. Lynch#
11/28	Camb. (Danehy)	2	K. Hartel	11/29	Hadley	40	H. Galbraith
12/28	Milton	1	P. Peterson	12/14	Ipswich (C.B.)	80	J. Berry#
12/29	Westboro	1	N. Paulson	Ovenbird			
Eastern Bluebird				12/14	Brighton	1	CBC (R. Doherty)
11/9	Westport	22	E. Nielsen	12/22	N. Dighton	1	J. Eckerson#
12/14	DFWS	20	P. Sowizral	Northern Waterthrush			
12/14	Cape Cod CBC	89	CBC	11/11	Brookline	1	P. Peterson
12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	66	CBC	Black-and-white Warbler			
Townsend's Solitaire				11/6	N. Brookfield	1	R. Jenkins
11/4	Rockport (H.P.)	1	H. Galbraith	11/30	Nantucket	1	D. Blatt
11/29-12/31	Marion	1 ph	V. Zollo + v.o.	12/7	Chestnut Hill	1	M. Garvey
Swainson's Thrush				12/20	Brookline	1	M. Hunt
11/4	Manomet	1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans	Tennessee Warbler			
12/6	Carlisle	1 ph	S. Heinrich	12/16	Milford	1 ph	B. Parette
Hermit Thrush				Orange-crowned Warbler			
11/4	P.I.	8	T. Wetmore	11/9	Westport	4	E. Nielsen
11/9	Westport	8	E. Nielsen	11/9	Truro	4	B. Harris#
11/10	Chilmark	7	R. Stymeist#	11/10	Aquinnah	3	R. Stymeist#
11/23	Boston (RKG)	9	R. Stymeist#	11/29	Squantum	2	S. Williams
12/1	Wayland	2	B. Harris	11/29	Nantucket	2	T. Pastuszak
12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	37	CBC	12/14	Greater Boston	8	CBC
Gray Catbird				12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	3	CBC
11/9	Westport	15	E. Nielsen	12/30	Truro CBC	2	CBC
11/10	Aquinnah	11	B. Stymeist	Nashville Warbler			
11/10	Chilmark	7	R. Stymeist#	11/10	Chilmark	1	R. Stymeist#
12/14	Rockport	5	B. Harris	11/10	P'town	1	M. Keleher
12/30	Truro CBC	30	CBC	Common Yellowthroat			
Brown Thrasher				11/8	Eastham	2	B. Harris#
11/9	Westport	1	E. Nielsen	11/23	N. Dighton	3	A. Eckerson
11/10	Chilmark	1	R. Stymeist#	12/29	Salisbury	1	S. Sullivan#
11/16	Saugus	1	J. Smith	American Redstart			
11/23	Chatham	1	R. Schain	11/15	Wellfleet	1	C. Caron
12/14	Rockport	1	B. Harris	12/2	Cohasset	1	S. Avery
American Pipit				12/28	Nantucket	1	J. Trimble
11/2	Saugus	50	S. Zende#	Cape May Warbler			
11/3	Longmeadow	75	A & L Richardson	12/10	Nantucket	1	T. Pastuszak
11/3	P.I.	25	T. Wetmore	Northern Parula			
11/5	Newbury	20	MAS (B. Gette)	11/4	Brookline	1	P. Peterson
11/10	Chilmark	33	R. Stymeist#	12/16-31	Uxbridge	1	E. Lodi
11/28	Nantucket	25	R. Ouren	Magnolia Warbler			
12/12	Acton	50	P. + F. Vale	11/5	Boston (PG)	1	T. Factor
12/17	Rehoboth	40	S. Miller	Bay-breasted Warbler			
12/28	Nantucket	1	P. Trimble	11/8-11	E. Quabbin (G41)	1	J. Kraus
Bohemian Waxwing				Yellow Warbler			
12/14	Rockport	2 ph	B. Harris	11/9	WBWS	1 b	J. Junda
12/20	Buzzard's Bay	3	CBC	11/28	Squantum	1	P. Peterson

Blackpoll Warbler			12/27	Arlington Res.	1	K. Hartel
11/3 Barnstable	1	R. Debenham#	Clay-colored Sparrow			
11/4 Sudbury	1	J. Lawson	11/3 Hadley	1	J. Drucker	
11/4 Wayland	1	B. Harris	11/3 Cambr. (F.Pd)	1	R. Stymeist	
11/4 Marlboro	1	T. Spahr	11/10 Aquinnah	1	R. Stymeist#	
11/19 Manomet	1	T. Lloyd-Evans	11/16 Harwich	1	C. Caron	
Black-throated Blue Warbler			11/29 Brewster	1	R. Doherty	
11/5 Stoughton	1	A. Johnston	12/4-31 Belchertown	1	D. Griffiths	
11/8 Rockport (H.P.)	1	L. Ferraresso	12/21 W. Newbury	1 ph	CBC (D. Lange)	
11/9 Groton	1	T. Murray	Field Sparrow			
Palm Warbler			11/10 Chilmark	4	R. Stymeist#	
11/10 Chilmark	3	R. Stymeist#	11/11 Katama	4	R. Stymeist#	
11/10 W. Dennis	6	E. Hoopes	11/16 Falmouth	10	M. Malin	
11/10 Harwich	5	J. Hoye#	11/23 N. Eastham	10	K. Yakola	
11/11 Katama	12	R. Stymeist#	12/28 Marlboro	2	T. Spahr	
11/11 Edgartown	12	B. Stymeist	12/30 Boxboro	2	S. Miller	
12/26 Mid-Cape CBC	10	CBC	Vesper Sparrow			
12/28 Uxbridge	1	E. Lodi	11/3 Hadley	1	J. Drucker	
Pine Warbler			11/16 Falmouth	1	K. Fiske	
11/6 Waltham	1	J. Forbes	11/18 Deerfield	1	J. Rose	
11/16 DFWS	1	P. Sowizral	11/22 Turners Falls	1	E. Huston	
12/2 Westport	1	L. Waters	Lark Sparrow			
12/12 Roxbury	1	P. Peterson	11/22-12/31 Hingham	1	V. Zollo#	
12/30 Plymouth	1	R. Bowes	11/25 Longmeadow	1	M. Moore	
Yellow-rumped Warbler			11/28 Hadley	1	S. Surner#	
11/4 Barnstable (S.N.)	43	P. Crosson	12/15 Eastham	1	S. Williams	
11/8 Harwich	40	A. Curtis	Savannah Sparrow			
11/8 Rockport (H.P.)	10	L. Ferraresso	11/4 Concord	16	R. Stymeist	
11/8 Marion	14	M. Lynch#	11/4 P.I.	4	T. Wetmore	
11/9 Nantucket	51	M. Malin	11/8 Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale#	
12/1 Squantum	4	P. Peterson	11/29 Hadley	19	M. Lynch#	
12/1 Marion	8	M. Lynch#	11/29 W. Newbury	1	S. McGrath#	
12/28 Nantucket CBC	127	J. Trimble#	11/30 GMNWR	1	J. Forbes	
Audubon's Warbler			12/12 Boston (F.Pk)	2	P. Peterson	
11/21-12/19 Hingham	1 ph	S. Williams#	12/22 W. Roxbury (MP)	9	P. Peterson	
Yellow-throated Warbler			12/31 Waltham	1	J. Forbes	
12/14-16 Orleans	1	J. Trimble#	Ipswich Sparrow			
Prairie Warbler			11/8 Westport	1	P. Champlin	
11/29 Squantum	1	S. Williams	11/9 P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	
Townsend's Warbler			11/9 Duxbury B.	3	R. Bowes	
12/7-31 MNWS	1	A. Sanford + v.o.	11/22 Plymouth B.	1	S. van der Veen	
Black-throated Green Warbler			12/11 P.I.	1	D. Adrien	
11/5 Hadley	1	A. Bartols	12/14 Ipswich (C.B.)	2	J. Berry#	
Wilson's Warbler			Grasshopper Sparrow			
11/23 Milton	1	P. O'Neill	11/4 Falmouth	1	M. Malin	
12/6 Gloucester	1	S. Hedman	11/16 Lexington	1	J. Forbes	
Yellow-breasted Chat			11/23 Dennis	1	P. Flood	
11/12 Boston (Fens)	1	P. Peterson	12/14 Eastham	1	V. Zollo	
11/15 P.I.	1	S. McGrath#	12/21 W. Roxbury (MP)	1	M. Garvey	
12/14 Cape Cod CBC	3	CBC	12/29 Mattapan (BNC)	1	P. Peterson	
12/26 Mid-Cape CBC	2	CBC	Le Conte's Sparrow			
Eastern Towhee			12/14-15 Eastham	1	V. Zollo#	
11/9 Westport	3	E. Nielsen	Nelson's Sparrow			
11/10 Aquinnah	6	R. Stymeist#	11/23 Eastham (F.H.)	1	K. Yakola	
12/1 Cambridge	1	T. Spahr	Saltmarsh Sparrow			
12/8 MNWS	1	J. Hoye#	11/7 Eastham (F.H.)	1	S. Paventy	
12/12 Quabbin Pk	1	L. Therrien	Seaside Sparrow			
12/21 Wayland	1	B. Harris	11/23 Eastham (F.H.)	1	K. Yakola	
12/30 Truro CBC	14	CBC	11/23 Dennis	2	P. Flood	
American Tree Sparrow			12/15 Newbypt H.	3	R. Heil	
11/4 P.I.	3	D. Williams	12/26 Mid-Cape CBC	3	CBC	
11/6 GMNWR	6	A. Bragg#	Fox Sparrow			
11/27 Bolton Flats	35	T. Aversa	11/7 Brookline	6	P. Peterson	
11/29 Hadley	31	M. Lynch#	11/10 Paxton	6	M. Lynch#	
12/2 Fairhaven	18	R. Stymeist	11/12 Lexington (DM)	10	M. Rines	
12/7 Waltham	25	J. Forbes	12/5 Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale	
Chipping Sparrow			12/20 P.I.	2	B. + E. Bornhofft	
11/10 Aquinnah	6	R. Stymeist#	12/22 W. Roxbury (MP)	4	P. Peterson	
12/1 Southboro	3	M. Garvey	Lincoln's Sparrow			
12/2 Westport	2	I. Davies#	11/8 Westport	1	P. Champlin	
12/14 Cape Cod CBC	7	CBC	11/13 Harwich	1	D. Hefferon	
12/24 Groton	1	T. Murray	11/28 Mt.A.	1	A. + G. Gurka	

Lincoln's Sparrow (continued)			11/15	Brewster	7	D. Clapp	
11/29	N. Eastham	1	K. Yakola	11/20	Brookline	8	A. Morgan
11/29	Squantum	1 ph	S. Williams	11/25	Wayland	8	J. Forbes
12/28	Concord	1	E. Nielsen	12/5	Agawam	2	K. Daniels
Swamp Sparrow				Baltimore Oriole			
11/5	Lexington (DM)	12	M. Rines#	11/5	P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale
11/7	Eastham (F.H.)	14	M. Keleher	11/5	Boston (PG)	1	T. Factor
11/16	Wayland	22	B. Harris	11/9	Truro	3	B. Harris#
11/16	Harwich	14	C. Caron	11/9	N. Truro	2	S. Sullivan
12/22	W. Roxbury (MP)	10	P. Peterson	11/12-12/13	Reports of indiv. from 9 locations		
12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	119	CBC	12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	4	CBC
White-throated Sparrow				Purple Finch			
11/10	Paxton	62	M. Lynch#	11/5	Lexington (DM)	61	M. Rines#
11/11	Falmouth	48	M. Keleher	11/8	Chilmark	30	J. Young
11/23	Boston (RKG)	47	R. Stymeist#	11/9	N. Truro	10	S. Sullivan#
White-crowned Sparrow				11/9	Falmouth	12	M. Schanbacher
11/2	Holden	6	S. Corazzini	12/14	Ipswich (C.B.)	9	J. Berry#
11/10	Paxton	2	M. Lynch#	12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	10	CBC
11/12	Concord	2	D. Swain	Red Crossbill			
11/29	Hadley	5	H. Galbraith	12/27	Quabbin	1	CBC
12/20	Agawam	2	J. Zepko	White-winged Crossbill			
12/29	Sheffield	2	C. Jones	12/14	Amherst	1	E. Dalton
Oregon Junco				Common Redpoll			
12/28	Marlboro	1	T. Spahr	11/26	Amherst	25	J. Rose
Scarlet Tanager				11/26	Belchertown	4	L. Therrien
11/28	Falmouth	1	M. Schanbacher	12/14	N. Chatham	2	B. Nikula #
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				12/14	Pittsfield	22	G. Hurley
11/9	Athol	1	D. Small	12/23	DWWS	20	E. Dalton#
11/10	Nantucket	1	T. Pastuszek	12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	15	CBC
Blue Grosbeak				12/27	Quabbin	5	CBC
11/1	Sudbury	1	B. Black	12/30	Watertown	6	R. Stymeist
Indigo Bunting				Pine Siskin			
11/8	Harwich	1	D. Clapp#	11/1	Douglas-Sutton	38	M. Lynch#
11/20	Cambridge	1	T. Spahr	11/4	Brookline	30	P. Peterson
12/4	Falmouth	1	M. Schanbacher	11/4	Lexington (DM)	22	M. Rines
Painted Bunting				11/7	Medford	30	P. Roberts
11/1-3	Brighton	1 ph	P. DeGennaro#	11/8	Aquinnah	95	S. Whiting
12/14	Nantucket	1	S. Langer#	11/9	Brookline	35	P. Peterson
Dickcissel				11/9	Wachusett Res.	25	M. Lynch#
12/2	Watertown	1	A. Gurka	11/12	Lincoln	40	J. Forbes
Eastern Meadowlark				11/28	New Salem	60	B. Lafley
11/11	DWWS	12	L. Wightman	12/11	Falmouth	3	M. Schanbacher
11/14	Barre Falls	1	D. Grant	12/20	Mashpee	3	J. Trimble#
11/30	Hadley	1	S. Surner	12/21	Ipswich	12	S. Riley
12/1	Cumb. Farms	13	I. Davies	12/27	Essex	1	M. Brengle#
12/26	Mid-Cape CBC	15	CBC	12/28	Milton	1	P. Peterson
12/28	Saugus	4	A. Schliemann#	Evening Grosbeak			
Yellow-headed Blackbird				11/1	Turners Falls	1	J. Coleman
11/5	Nantucket	1	G. Andrews	11/3	Adams	3	J. Jones
11/11	Hadley	1	L. Waters#	11/9	N. Brookfield	1	J. Smith
11/22	Groton	1	R. Templeton	11/13	Plainfield	1	J. Williams
11/25	Concord	1	S. Perkins	11/19	Conway	1	S. Baker
Rusty Blackbird				12/2	Brighton	1	G. Gurka
11/3	Pittsfield (Pont.)	15	J. Pierce	12/20	Williamstown	1	G. Soucie

Correction

The entry for Cory's Shearwater in the July/August 2014 Bird Sightings (*Bird Observer* 42.6, December 2014) included the the following entry:

Cory's Shearwater 7/21, 8/17 P'town 2000, 4000 B. Nikula

the correct entry should be:

Cory's Shearwater 7/21, 8/17 P'town 2000, 10000 B. Nikula

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, up to the 53rd Supplement, as published in *Auk* 129 (3): 573-88 (2012) (see <<http://checklist.aou.org/>>).

Locations		ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
Location-#	MAS Breeding Bird Atlas Block	PG	Public Garden, Boston
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum, Boston	P.I.	Plum Island
ABC	Allen Bird Club	Pd	Pond
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	POP	Point of Pines, Revere
A.Pd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth	PR	Pinnacle Rock, Malden
B.	Beach	P'town	Provincetown
Barre F.D.	Barre Falls Dam	Pont.	Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	Res.	Reservoir
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	RKG	Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston
BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester	S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
BNC	Boston Nature Center, Mattapan	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
CGB	Coast Guard Beach, Eastham	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	TASL	Take A Second Look, Boston Harbor Census
Cambr.	Cambridge	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay WS
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club	WE	World's End, Hingham
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	WMWS	Wachusett Meadow WS
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms, Middleboro	Wompatuck SP	Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate, Norwell
DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary	Worc.	Worcester
DWMA	Delaney WMA, Stow, Bolton, Harvard		
DWWS	Daniel Webster WS	Other Abbreviations	
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	ad	adult
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	b	banded
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	br	breeding
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	dk	dark (morph)
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston	f	female
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin Res.	fide	on the authority of
GMNWR	Great Meadows NWR	fl	fledgling
H.	Harbor	imm	immature
H.P.	Halibut Point, Rockport	juv	juvenile
HP	Horn Pond, Woburn	lt	light (morph)
HRWMA	High Ridge WMA, Gardner	m	male
I.	Island	max	maximum
IRWS	Ipswich River WS	migr	migrating
L.	Ledge	n	nesting
MAS	Mass Audubon	ph	photographed
MP	Millennium Park, W. Roxbury	pl	plumage
M.V.	Martha's Vineyard	pr	pair
MBWMA	Martin Burns WMA, Newbury	S	summer (1S = 1st summer)
MNWS	Marblehead Neck WS	v.o.	various observers
MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth	W	winter (2W = second winter)
Mt.A.	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambr.	yg	young
NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord	#	additional observers
Newbypt	Newburyport		

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month, and may be submitted by postal mail or email. Send written reports to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 36 Lewis Avenue, Arlington MA 02474-3206. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). For instructions on email submission, visit: <<http://www.birdobserver.org/Sightings/>>.

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 Matt Garvey, 137 Beaconsfield Rd. #5, Brookline MA 02445, or by email to <mattgarvey@gmail.com>.

Invest in Endangered Species Conservation this Year

MassWildlife Monthly March 2015

MassWildlife reminds and encourages Massachusetts taxpayers to invest in endangered wildlife and plant conservation this tax season by donating to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Fund on their state tax returns (Line 32a). All donations go into the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Fund, a critical funding source for the annual budget of MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. About 20,000 tax-filers support the Program each year. If you have made a contribution in the past, thank you for supporting the Program and its conservation efforts!

Contributions can also be made directly by sending a check payable to the "Commonwealth of MA: NHESP" to: MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Fund, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

Some of the success stories behind the work of the NHESP include the recovery of bald eagles and peregrine falcons. In 1989, there were four pairs of eagles living in the state and the first wild eagle chicks hatched. Currently, there are at least 40 pairs of eagles with over 480 chicks leaving the nests since 1989. In that same time period, there were two pairs of peregrine falcons, which increased to 31 pairs.

While Massachusetts has made considerable progress, more than 425 plants and animals are recognized as rare in the Commonwealth. "The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program is the first line of defense for the Massachusetts' most vulnerable plants and animals," said Department of Fish and Game Commissioner George Peterson. "I strongly encourage taxpayers to support the fund as it will help us protect these valuable and endangered resources."



THICK-BILLED MURRE BY SANDY SELESKY

ABOUT THE COVER

Northern Shoveler

The Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) is a beautiful dabbling duck with a large, spatulate bill adapted for filter feeding on small aquatic invertebrates. The former genus name *Spatula* and the current species name, from the Latin *clypeum* meaning shield, both refer to the bill shape of this elegant duck. The medium-sized shoveler is sexually dimorphic in plumage. In breeding plumage—December through May—the male has a shining green head and neck, and chestnut flanks and belly that contrast sharply with its white breast. The female is mottled light brown but can be distinguished from other female ducks of similar plumage by her spatulate bill. In flight, both sexes have white underwings. Males have a large blue patch on their forewings; females have a similar patch of gray. Juveniles resemble females. In nonbreeding plumage, males have gray heads and the rufous underparts are muted. Northern Shovelers are monotypic, with no subspecies recognized. They are, however, closely related to the three shoveler species of the Southern Hemisphere.

Shovelers breed from northern Alaska south through the prairie pothole regions of western Canada and the United States. In the east, breeding is patchy through the Great Lakes, the Saint Lawrence Seaway, and southern Hudson Bay area. Shovelers also breed in Europe and Asia. This species has bred sporadically in Massachusetts, especially on Monomoy and Plum islands where it is a fairly common migrant. Shovelers are rare or uncommon in other parts of the state, although they have become progressively more common since the 1920s. Most Northern Shovelers are migratory, wintering from Washington State across much of the lower half of the United States to Mexico, and Central America. On the East Coast they winter north to southern Massachusetts. Of the dabbling ducks, Shovelers are one of the latest spring migrants and earliest fall migrants.

Shovelers are usually monogamous but are occasionally polygynous. Pair formation occurs on the wintering grounds, usually by the end of February. Courtship by the male includes *took-took* calls, a display in which the male swims away from the female, showing off his shimmering green head. Other displays involve the tip-up posture, wing flapping, and short jump-flights. The male Shoveler defends the core of his home range during breeding season more than any other of the dabbling ducks. Territorial males will chase conspecifics while swimming or flying and may fight with lunging, wing flapping, and biting. Threat displays include open bill and bill-jabbing, and head pumping with an upward-pointing bill. Shovelers may also be aggressive on the wintering grounds.

Northern Shovelers produce a single brood per season. Breeding habitat includes shallow wetlands, ponds, and parklands—habitat typical of the prairie pothole region. The female selects the nest site, usually in vegetation no more than a foot high and within 150 feet of water. She also makes a simple nest scrape, which she lines with down. The clutch is 10–12 pale olive or greenish gray eggs, incubated by the female alone for 22–25 days until the synchronous hatching. The female may give a flapping

distraction display if the nest is threatened and if flushed, may defecate on the eggs as she departs, which may deter predators. The chicks are precocial, covered with down, eyes open, capable of locomotion, and within a day feed themselves on aquatic invertebrates and plants. The female leads the young to water shortly after hatching. She remains with the brood for about seven weeks until fledging. Males eventually desert their mate and young and form cohesive bachelor flocks. During their flightless period during molt, they become solitary and secretive, hide in vegetation, and feed less. After molt, they once again form flocks.

Shovelers forage by swimming with their bills in the water, the comb-like lamellae along the broad, spatulate bill straining invertebrates from the water. Their diet consists primarily of swimming invertebrates, especially *Daphnia* and other cladocerans, and also includes seeds. They usually forage in open water but may also dabble in the mud of the bottom, using a tip-up posture. They also glean food from submerged vegetation. Because Shovelers tend to stir up their environment when foraging, they are sometimes used as beaters by other species such as phalaropes.

During breeding, adult females, eggs and young are preyed upon by foxes and other mammalian predators. Skunks and ground squirrels regularly destroy their nests. Typical avian predators include crows, magpies, and gulls. Hunters kill several hundred thousand Shovelers every year, and habitat loss due to the conversion of wetlands to agricultural lands is widespread. But Breeding Waterfowl Survey data suggest increasing or stable population numbers, possibly influenced by recently improved breeding habitat. Despite hunting pressure, habitat loss, and predation, the future looks promising for this lovely duck species. 🦆

William E. Davis Jr.

About the Cover Artist: Barry Van Dusen

Once again, *Bird Observer* offers a painting by the artist who has created many of our covers, Barry Van Dusen. Barry, who lives in Princeton, Massachusetts, is well known in the birding world. Barry has illustrated several nature books and pocket guides, and his articles and paintings have been featured in *Birding*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and *Yankee Magazine* as well as *Bird Observer*. Barry's interest in nature subjects began in 1982 with an association with the Massachusetts Audubon Society. He has been influenced by the work of European wildlife artists and has adopted their methodology of direct field sketching. Barry teaches workshops at various locations in Massachusetts. For more information, visit Barry's website at <www.barryvandusen.com>. 🦆

AT A GLANCE

February 2015



DAVID M. LARSON

This issue’s mystery species features a study (mostly) in black. In fact, the birds in the photograph are blackbirds (family *Icteridae*), which would seem to make their identification straightforward. As is often the case with “At a Glance” photos, however, there are features of the birds that seem distinctive and, at the same time, ambiguous. This uncertainty is partly due to the fact that more than one species is represented in the photo.

First, look at the appearance of the bill on the right-hand bird in the foreground. It is stout and distinctively shaped, which is somewhat atypical for a blackbird. Most icterids—Baltimore Oriole, for example—possess relatively long and sharp-pointed beaks, although others, such as the Common Grackle, have relatively stout and gently curved beaks. The blackbird in the foreground, however, has a thick, conical beak reminiscent of a sparrow or certain other seed-eating species. This distinctive bill shape, coupled with the uniformly glossy black appearance of the bird’s wings and body, identify it as a male Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). Furthermore, at least two other blackbirds in the photo have prominently cocked tails suggesting that these birds are also cowbirds. The cocked tail of feeding cowbirds is often an easy way to pick them out of a mixed flock of ground-feeding blackbirds.

In addition to the three cowbirds in the picture, there is an indeterminate blackbird in the left rear portion. A careful look at the size and posture of this blackbird suggests that it is slightly larger than the cowbirds in the foreground and may not be that species. Although the bird is partially eclipsed by the bird in front of it, its size and posture suggest that it could be a Red-winged Blackbird, but realistically its identity is best left as uncertain.

The remaining blackbird in the center of the picture is noticeably larger than the other blackbirds. In addition to its significantly larger size, this bird also has a prominent pale, perhaps white, circular area around its vent. There is also a slash of white showing on the folded wing. This bird is unequivocally an adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). Even though its yellow head cannot be seen, no other blackbird shares the unique ventral marking around its anal opening, which is actually rich yellow like the head, and white inner wing coverts which, when the wing is extended, take on the configuration of a white wing patch. This feature is present only in males.

This mixed flock of blackbirds is typical of many such flocks seen throughout Massachusetts in fall. Though Brown-headed Cowbirds, Common Grackles, and Red-winged Blackbirds are seasonally common to abundant throughout the state for much of the year, Yellow-headed Blackbirds are rare and tend to be found near the coast in late summer and fall. David Larson photographed this flock on October 25, 2014, in Seabrook, New Hampshire. 🐦

Wayne R. Petersen

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRICE INCREASE

Bird Observer last had a price increase in 1996. Since then production costs have risen substantially, in particular for printing and postage. In order to maintain the magazine's financial viability, a price increase is necessary. Starting with Volume 43 (2015), new one-year subscription and renewal rates for *Bird Observer* will increase to \$25.00. The two-year rate will increase to \$48.00.

AT A GLANCE



DAVID M. LARSON

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

Bird Observer Online!

Bird Observer has a new website: <http://birdobserver.org> !

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

BIRDING AND BOTANIZING THE HAWLEY BOG	<i>Robert Wood</i>	81
REMEMBERING HERMAN D'ENTREMONT	<i>Glenn d'Entremont</i>	87
A GOOD DAY AT CAPE ANN	<i>Herman D'Entremont</i>	89
A COMMEMORATION OF BIRDERS AT MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY	<i>Regina Harrison</i>	92
<i>BIRDS OF THE WORLD: A NEW EXHIBIT AT THE HARVARD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY</i>	<i>Maude Baldwin</i>	98
PHOTO ESSAY <i>Birds of the World</i>		104
FIELD NOTES		
A Hawk in Pigeon's Clothing	<i>David Sibley</i>	106
A Barn Owl in Concord	<i>Cole Winstanley and Jalen Winstanley</i>	107
MUSINGS FROM THE BLIND BIRDER		
Song of Spring	<i>Martha Steele</i>	111
GLEANINGS		
Serendipity and Science	<i>David M. Larson</i>	114
ABOUT BOOKS		
Making it Big	<i>Mark Lynch</i>	117
BIRD SIGHTINGS		
November/December 2014		122
ABOUT THE COVER: Northern Shoveler	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i>	135
ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Barry Van Dusen		136
AT A GLANCE		
February 2015	<i>Wayne R. Petersen</i>	137

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