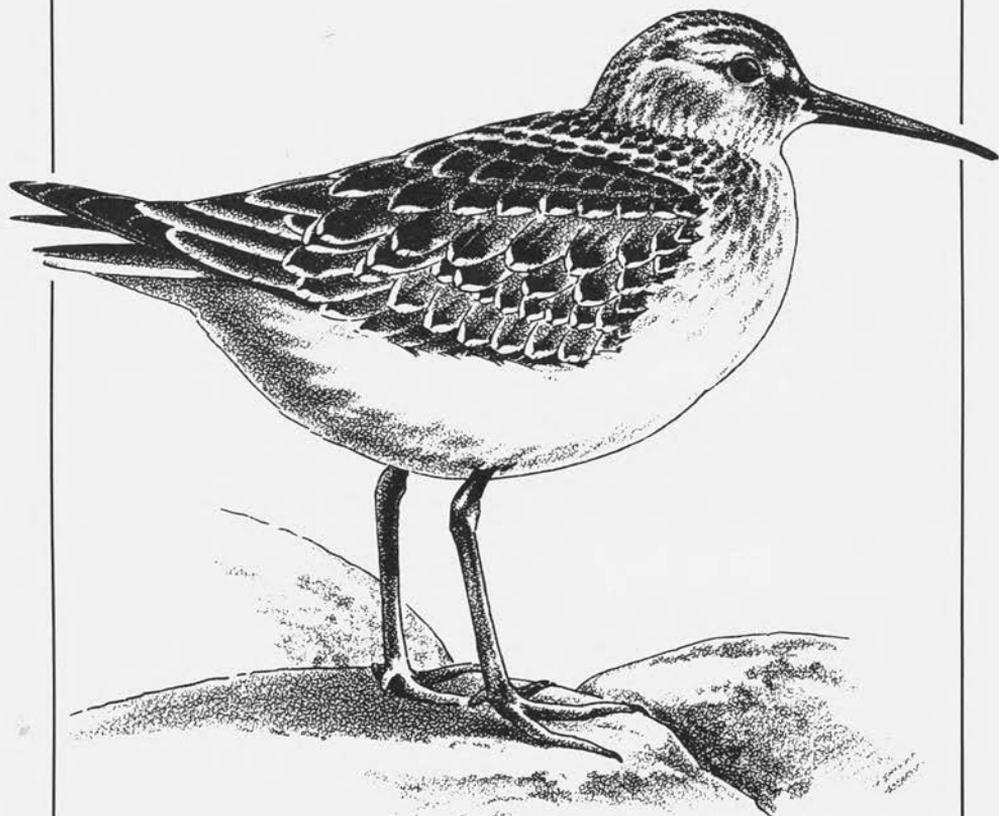


# BIRD OBSERVER



*Cox's Sandpiper*

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VOL. 15 NO. 6  
DECEMBER 1987



# BIRD OBSERVER

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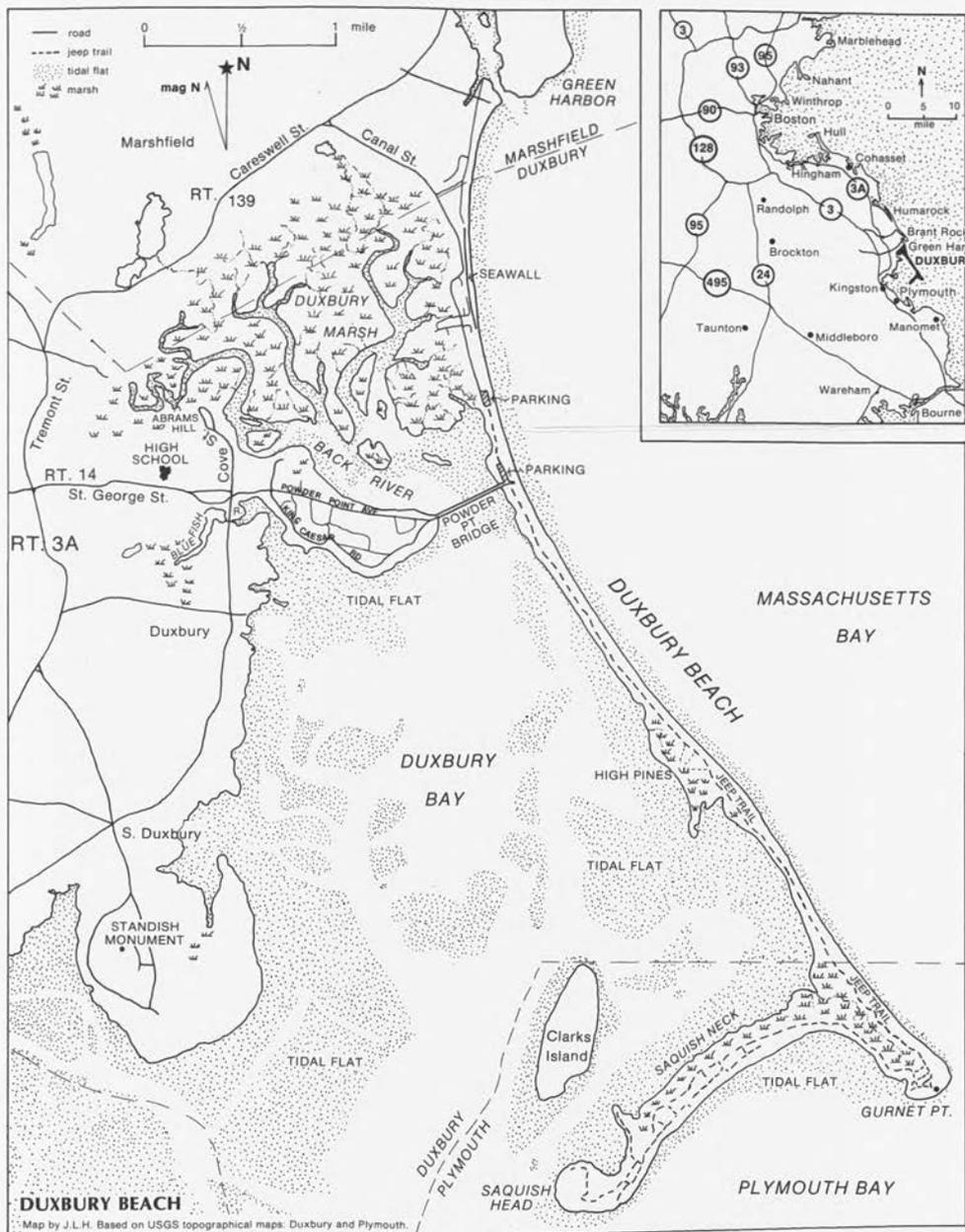
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after a photo by Simon Perkins

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## BIRDING DUXBURY BEACH

by Mark Kasprzyk

Duxbury Beach is a sandy pebble peninsula approximately six miles long that forms the northern end of Plymouth Bay including Duxbury Bay. An unusual feature of the beach is the sand strands or tombolos formed by long shore currents between Gurnet Point and Saquish Head. It is located in the town of Duxbury about thirty miles south of Boston and can be reached from Route 3. There are two approaches to the beach.

**How to get there.** From Route 3, take exit 11 to Duxbury, heading east on Route 14. Less than a mile down the road just past the police station take Route 139. Continue on Route 139 until the green signs for Duxbury Beach appear -- at the junction with Route 3A. Just follow the green signs, and you will eventually arrive at the public parking lot at the north end where there is a bathhouse and lunchroom. There is a fee for summer parking: \$2 on weekdays, and \$4 on weekends and holidays.

The other approach is to take exit 11 east from Route 3 onto Route 14 and continue on 14 across Route 3A and past the Duxbury High School on the left. The road curves to the right along the Bluefish River. At the intersection with the flagpole in its center go left, and continue straight ahead. Follow the road until you reach the Powder Point Bridge (a granite marker at the site calls it the Gurnet Bridge), one of the longest wooden bridges in the country. This bridge was destroyed by fire in 1985 but has been completely rebuilt and opened to the public in September 1987. The small lot before the bridge is a public boat landing with only a few parking spaces. The parking lot across the bridge is reserved for vehicles with Duxbury resident permit stickers.

**The Duxbury Beach Reservation Inc.** In 1919, this beach, privately owned by the Wright family for over thirty years, was offered for sale. The prospect that extensive real estate development might occur prompted a number of Duxbury residents to raise money to buy the property in order to protect the beach for the benefit of the town of Duxbury. Title was taken in the name of the Duxbury Beach Association, a common law trust. Property limits stretched from the upper parking area to just north of the Gurnet, and at this time, eighteen shacks and three large shooting stands existed on the beach. Nearly all of these were removed. Even the three Wright cottages were taken out by floating them across the bay and relocating them in south Duxbury. Today, aside from the residences on the Gurnet, only one house remains on the property itself.

In 1926 and 1931, after many years of negotiation, litigation, and the acquisition of marshlands bordering the beach, the Massachusetts Land Court

finally confirmed the Association's title to the land. This expensive process was financed by additional subscriptions from the shareholders of the Association.

In 1928, a bill was introduced into the Massachusetts legislature providing for state acquisition of several beaches, including Duxbury Beach, but Duxbury residents organized to defeat the plan, and the annual town meeting voted against it.

As beach use increased over the years, the Association expanded public parking, extended the road from the north parking area to the bay, and built a public bathhouse and lunchroom, still known today as the Pavilion. The improvements were financed by the shareholders and by selling small parcels of land outside the north end of the beach. The policing problems for the Town also increased, and these costs were met by requiring a minimal sticker. Parking in the Duxbury Beach parking lot was open to residents of Duxbury by stickers only.

During the 1970s, the three remaining families in charge of Duxbury Beach proposed to give the property to The Trustees of Reservations. However, the Trustees felt there was too much recreational use of the land for their standards. The Association then incorporated as the Duxbury Beach Reservation and gave their rights over to a new board of directors (unpaid), none of whom would be owners. The new directors consisted of eight representatives from local organizations.

The Duxbury Beach Reservation has undertaken measures to protect this natural resource and to prevent beach erosion and habitat destruction. Beach grass and shrubs are even more extensive now than in earlier days. Roadsides are being protected with post and cable fencing along the right of way to the Gurnet and Saquish to reduce damage caused by vehicles pulling off the road. Conservation officers patrol the beach during periods of heavy use to ensure that people possess stickers and that they stay out of the Least Tern colonies and dunes.

**Rules and regulations for the protection of Duxbury Beach.** Before setting off in anticipation of finding that rare shorebird or vagrant landbird, beach rules should be reviewed and understood by every visiting birder. Like any of the more popular Cape beaches, Duxbury Beach becomes flooded with beachgoers throughout the summer months, particularly along the northern sector and southern Saquish bay area. Heavy use requires constant beach patrol to protect areas of fragile habitat. To birders willing to make the 4.5 mile trek to Saquish, this means they can observe birds in the bay and thickets *from the road only* unless permission has been granted to bird in a specific area.

Only four-wheel-drive vehicles bearing either a Duxbury or Plymouth permit sticker are permitted down the beach. Plymouth residents are given access because the southern part of Duxbury Beach, from just north of the

Gurnet directly west past Saquish Head, is within the town of Plymouth. However, regulations state that Plymouth residents are allowed access to the Saquish area but *are not permitted to stop and use the beaches along the way.*

**Birding Duxbury Beach.** The main bird attraction at Duxbury Beach is the fall migration of shorebirds. Thousands of Semipalmated Sandpipers, along with a great host of other shorebird species, stop over to refuel on invertebrates. Although Duxbury may not rival Plum Island or Monomoy for sheer numbers or diversity, shorebirds that do frequent the area can usually be viewed at close range. Landbirds occasionally "fall out" in any of the vegetated areas dotting the beach. One August morning I witnessed ten species of warblers feeding in the wrack at Saquish along with shorebirds. It was a strange sight to see Yellow-rumped Warblers and Northern Waterthrushes feeding among the Semipalmated Sandpipers!

Along the northern end of Duxbury Beach, the best birding can be found on the bay side; the ocean side up to the level of the High Pines area is usually devoid of birds. On the bay side during high tide, shorebirds roost in scattered flocks ranging in size from a few birds to over two thousand. The best roosting spots on this part of the beach are located within the first half-mile, just south of Powder Point Bridge. Semipalmated Sandpipers make up the majority of the flocks along with Semipalmated Plovers, Sanderlings, Ruddy Turnstones, and other more common species. During the summer, Piping Plovers nest north of High Pines along the bay in sandy cobblestone areas with beach grass. Flocks of Least Terns also nest in this area. However, their breeding grounds tend to vary each year, and these areas may not always be posted. In September, Sanderlings and Black-bellied Plovers are the more common shorebirds along with the occasional Lesser Golden-Plover or Whimbrel. During fall, a surprising variety of warblers and sparrows can occur right in the beach grass with Lark, Clay-colored, and White-crowned sparrows reported here irregularly.

Continuing south will bring you to High Pines. Trees and thickets surrounding the one "private" residence can act as a migrant trap. The salt marsh here begins to jut out into the bay and is a fairly isolated roosting spot for shorebirds. The larger shorebirds in particular find favor here with numbers of Red Knots, Greater Yellowlegs, and Black-bellied Plovers found during August or September. The ocean side south to the Gurnet attracts large flocks of gulls, with Lesser Black-backed Gull always a distinct possibility from late summer on.

At high tide herons and egrets abound in the extensive salt marshes to the west of the Gurnet. Breeding birds from nearby Clarks Island come to feed as the tide pushes fish up into the grasses. Little Blue Herons are regular here. Check the harbor between High Pines and the Gurnet for summering eiders, mergansers, scoters, or loons.

Saquish Neck, also known as Crescent Beach, offers the greatest variety of birds along Duxbury Beach. Nearly all of the regularly occurring shorebirds may be seen here during the course of the fall migration. Over three thousand Semipalmated Sandpipers feed on the sand flats and wrack beds, which are best visited one to two hours after high tide. Western, White-rumped, and Least sandpipers can be found mixed in with the flocks of Semipalmated Sandpipers. Hundreds of Red Knot feed on mussel spat along the rocks that border the tidal pool once the tide recedes. In September, Lesser Golden-Plover is a regular species here, and Hudsonian Godwits occur sporadically. Cox's Sandpiper, Little Stint, and Red Phalarope head the list of shorebird rarities in recent years. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon may often be seen harassing the shorebird flocks here and anywhere else along Duxbury Beach. Lesser Black-backed Gull may be picked out of the roosting flocks of Herring Gulls that sometimes gather along the beach during low tide, especially after storms. September is also a good time to find large flocks of terns feeding along Saquish; keep an eye out for Forster's and Caspian terns.

The Gurnet Head and Saquish Point areas have proved to be excellent migrant traps for landbirds. Private residences surrounded by shrubs and thickets are packed into these outcroppings and provide a refuge for tired migrants. Fortunately, most of the vegetation can be checked for birds from the small roads that snake through the area. *There is no excuse for birders to trespass on private property.* Be sure to check for sparrows in the weedy margins bordering the roads. Rarities such as Northern Wheatear and Yellow-headed Blackbird have been seen here.

Another birding option to consider for Duxbury Beach is the Massachusetts Audubon Society's (MAS) Natural History Program in the summer. For further information write to MAS South Shore Regional Center, 2000 Main Street, Marshfield, MA 02050. Bird walks and beachcombing expeditions along the beach can make an outdoor excursion both fun and informative.

**Reporting birds color-banded by Manomet Bird Observatory (MBO).** While searching through the shorebird flocks along Duxbury Beach, you may come upon a color-banded individual. Through the years, MBO has been color-marking shorebirds in an attempt to determine length of stay, site fidelity, and longevity for fall migrants using the Plymouth-Duxbury system. Red Knots, Sanderlings, and Semipalmated Sandpipers are the birds most likely to be found with color bands. If you do come across one of these marked birds, you can make a real contribution by reporting it accurately. Please note the color-band combination, sequence and position (whether above or below the "knee" (joint) on both legs. For Semipalmated Sandpipers, nearly all individuals will be banded with a metal band above the left "knee" and will have a five-band color combination: two on the lower left leg and three on the lower right leg. Five

colors have been used: red, green, yellow, white, and orange. Two bands of the same color may be adjacent, so care must be taken to discern the five-band combination accurately. With Sanderlings and Red Knots, the number of color bands and colors may vary. Also, color flags should be present on most of the banded individuals of these latter two species. Please send the information to MBO, Box 936, Manomet, MA 02345.

**Acknowledgments.** I would like to thank Charlie Wood and Brian Harrington for supplying information and for offering helpful comments on this article. The Duxbury Reservation and Historical Society kindly gave us permission to use the Duxbury Beach Book, 1637-1987, as a source of historical material. An article by Frederick T. Pratt, "A Half Century of Duxbury Beach," that appeared in the *Duxbury Clipper* on May 8, 1969 was also used as a reference. Manomet Bird Observatory provided me with a four-wheel drive vehicle to conduct shorebird research at Duxbury Beach. David Clapp supplied details on natural history programs at the beach.

**MARK J. KASPRZYK**, who is studying the turnover rates of Semipalmated Sandpipers in the Plymouth Beach area for his master's degree from the University of Massachusetts/Boston, grew up on the northshore, graduated from Salem State College, and interned at Manomet Bird Observatory before working for two years as a field biologist in charge of fauna/flora inventories and revegetation studies along the lower Colorado River, a project affiliated with Arizona State University. At this time, he also was subregional editor of this area for *American Birds*. He worked for two years on a U. S. Bureau of Reclamation study along the Virgin River in Nevada and for three years coordinated the shorebird banding program in the Plymouth area for MBO. He is currently on the Manomet staff working with Brian Harrington on the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, helping to write a shorebird manual. Mark enjoys nature photography and has birded extensively in the Northeast, Arizona, California, Nevada, Texas, Florida, and the Yucatan and Chiapas in Mexico. After January 1, 1988, his address will be 13 Rockhill Street, Foxboro, MA 02035.

## WHY WAS IT A COX'S SANDPIPER?

by Richard A. Forster

Certainly one of the most phenomenal occurrences in Massachusetts' ornithological history, if not in all of North America, was the presence of a Cox's Sandpiper at Duxbury Beach, Plymouth County, September 15-22, 1987. The species *Calidris paramelanotos* was described as recently as 1982 and is known only from about twenty-five sight records and two specimens, all from southeastern Australia. Given the brief history of the species, its appearance in Massachusetts seems impossible.

The scenario opened with a routine shorebird netting conducted by Manomet Bird Observatory (MBO) on the evening of Tuesday the fifteenth. There was an exceptionally good catch of Semipalmated Sandpipers (*C. pusilla*), the primary target, with several incidental individuals including a bird tentatively identified as a Pectoral Sandpiper (*C. melanotos*). After the banding was completed (3:00 A.M.), this bird was photographed and released.

A careful study of the photos prompted Mark Kasprzyk to phone me Thursday afternoon. He said he thought the bird identified as a Pectoral was more likely a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*C. acuminata*). He urged me to go to Duxbury beach with him, but due to the lateness of the hour (3:30 P.M.), I decided to wait till morning. Mark, however, visited the beach that evening, relocated the bird, and recorded detailed notes during a leisurely viewing.

About 10:45 A.M. the following morning, Mark and I arrived at Duxbury Beach accompanied by Jon Atwood and Trevor Lloyd-Evans of Manomet Bird Observatory and by Carol E. Seeckts. There was a moderate wind and intermittent light rain. Almost immediately after our arrival, we located the bird feeding with numerous other shorebirds of various species along the high-tide wrack line. From our position, under the existing weather conditions, the bird in question did not look like a Pectoral but seemed to be a Sharp-tailed. During the next quarter hour, we approached the sandpiper, flushing the foraging shorebirds several times. Each time the birds flushed they returned shortly thereafter to the same area and resumed feeding. Each closer study of the bird confirmed some field marks inconsistent with the identification of Pectoral Sandpiper. But it could not be considered a juvenile Sharp-tailed because it lacked the bright rufous crown, prominent supercilium, and buffy breast nearly devoid of streaks. It had an inordinately long black bill that was slightly decurved at the tip. The legs were distinctly greenish yellow or olive and seemed slightly longer than in a typical Pectoral. The breast was a rather bright buff with fine vertical streakings somewhat resembling that of a Baird's Sandpiper (*C. bairdii*). The mantle and scapular feathers were dark, edged with rufous, but the wing coverts

were a much paler gray or gray-brown without rufous edgings. The supercilium was present but not prominent and at some angles appeared distinctly split or forked. By default, we then concluded that it must be an **adult Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** in a plumage stage transitional between alternate and basic.

I spent that afternoon visiting areas in Scituate and Marshfield and the Cambridge Reservoir in Lexington looking for Pectorals to view for comparison but was unable to locate any. Upon arriving home that evening, I consulted the recently published book by J. Marchant, T. Prater, and P. Hayman (*Shorebirds: An Identification Guide to the Waders of the World*, 1986, Houghton Mifflin, Boston). Plate 82 in the book illustrates a variety of plumages for Pectoral and Sharp-tailed species and includes an illustration of Cox's Sandpiper. Comparing the illustrations with my recollection of the bird we had seen that day, I kept arriving at Cox's. The illustration that most convinced me is the one depicting the heads of the three species. It clearly shows the long, decurved, all black bill of Cox's Sandpiper. The text, especially the description of leg color, further strengthened my conviction about the bird's identity. The bird did not fit any description of Sharp-tailed or Pectoral Sandpiper. There seemed to be one character that would definitively identify the bird, namely, the bill length. Marchant et al. (1986) list the range of bill length for Pectoral as 24-32 mm and for Sharp-tailed as 22-28 mm. Bill length for Cox's Sandpiper was listed as 33-37 mm.

At this point I called Kasprzyk to find out what the bill had measured. Kasprzyk checked with the MBO records and called back with the measurement -- 35.1 mm -- well in the range for Cox's and beyond the maximum for both Sharp-tailed and Pectoral. All salient field marks were consistent with Cox's Sandpiper, and no other shorebird that I was familiar with possessed the combination of characteristics of the Duxbury bird.

Is the appearance of a Cox's Sandpiper in Massachusetts plausible? The answer, quite simply, is yes. This species is known to winter in southeastern Australia during the period of September to March, the same time frame as other common wintering species -- Red-necked Stint (*C. ruficollis*), Sharp-tailed, and Curlew Sandpiper (*C. ferruginea*). All of these leave Australia to breed on the Siberian tundra. Presumably Cox's does too. Both Red-necked Stint and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper have occurred as vagrants on the Massachusetts coast during southward migration. If they all share the same general breeding location and similar migration strategies, then why shouldn't a Cox's Sandpiper appear in Massachusetts? **And now it has.**

**RICHARD A. FORSTER**, a *Bird Observer* staff member and a regional editor for *American Birds*, was associated with Massachusetts Audubon for twelve years but is now engaged in independent ornithological study.



The two photos printed here were taken September 21, 1987, on Duxbury Beach and document the first known example of the juvenile plumage of Cox's Sandpiper (*Calidris paramelanotos*). Despite the differences discernible from the photographs, this individual bears a considerable resemblance to a juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper (*C. melanotos*). Structural differences include a somewhat heavier build, slightly longer legs, and a longer, thinner bill. The bill also appears (as it appeared in the field) entirely dark, showing no pale area at the base, as a Pectoral would. Plumage differences include less prominent "V" marks on the back and extensive gray bases to the lower scapulars. (For an excellent reference to feather groupings in *Calidris* sandpipers, see Veit and Jonsson, 1984, *American Birds*, 38: 854.) This character serves to offset the dark shaft streak and black subterminal portion of each of these feathers, thus creating an appearance distinctly different from that created by the dark-centered scapulars of a Pectoral Sandpiper (see cover sketch as well). Note, also, the size difference between the much larger Cox's and the nearby Semipalmated Sandpiper (*C. pusilla*).

Photos by Simon Perkins.

## COX'S SANDPIPER: COMMENT

"The really extraordinary thing is that one of the least known, rarest birds in the world should be on the opposite side of the world from where it has ever been seen." (Claudia Wild, quoted in *The Boston Globe*, September 25, 1987).

UPI report in San Francisco newspaper: "Duxbury, Mass.--Bird watchers could hardly believe their eyes. The strange bird on Duxbury Beach was an extremely rare Cox's Plover [*sic*]... 'This sighting has national or international significance,' said Eleanor Perkins Robinson of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, which identified the bird Wednesday [*sic*, again]." [*In reality, Mark Kasprzyk of Manomet Bird Observatory, who carefully examined the photographs on Wednesday, September 16, 1987 and was the first to realize that the bird had been incorrectly identified as a Pectoral Sandpiper, alerted other shorebird experts and relocated the bird on Thursday evening, studied it carefully, and made extensive notes. Mark, Richard Forster, Trevor Lloyd-Evans, and others met Friday morning at Duxbury Beach, but the bird was not correctly identified until late Friday night (see R. A. Forster's article).]*

Mark Kasprzyk to Dorothy Arvidson at Massachusetts Audubon by telephone on Friday afternoon at 4:30 P.M.: "We have a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper on Duxbury Beach. But there is something strange about the bird; it has a very long bill, and it must be an adult." Chris Leahy, sitting in the same office, hearing the conversation repeated, asked: "Is it confirmed?" Mark: "Well, Richard Forster and Trevor Lloyd-Evans have seen the bird." Chris Leahy: "It's confirmed." Mark: "Please, please caution people [on the Voice] about trampling the dune grass. This is a fragile area, and it's all private property."

[*And so the sighting was announced on the Friday Voice as a "confirmed adult Sharp-tailed Sandpiper."*]

Davis Finch (who first saw the bird on Monday and called *Bob-O-Link* that same day to report the bird as a Cox's Sandpiper) in a telephone conversation on Tuesday, 7:00 A.M., with Nancy Clayton who anticipated another trip to Duxbury to view the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, recommended that she observe carefully the bill -- more slender than a Pectoral's and longer than a Sharp-tailed's, listen for the voice, and observe the action of the bird when startled. He also noted that this was not an adult but a young bird. Davis told Nancy, "I've never seen this bird before."

Nancy Clayton, disappointed not to see the bird on Tuesday (along with a number of disgruntled out-of-staters brought in by the *Bob-O-Link* announcements of a Sharp-tailed on Saturday and a Cox's on Monday) and hearing rumors (unfounded) that Manomet had known all along that the bird was a Cox's: "This whole affair sounds like a 'Coxgate' to me."

*Bird Observer* plans to publish more on the Cox's, and we request our readers to send us their observations.

Dorothy R. Arvidson, Editor

## CALIDRIS PARAMELANOTOS: A PERPLEXING STORY

by David C. Morimoto

I did not know what that bird was that I had spent over an hour peering at in the cold, wind, and rain. I only knew that someone had called it a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*), but it didn't look like anything in my field guides. When I heard that it was identified as a Cox's Sandpiper (*C. paramelanotos*), my reaction was probably fairly typical -- "What's a Cox's Sandpiper?" My curiosity got the better of me, and I started to do some research.

I came across the name of Fred T. H. Smith and dug out his address in Kew, Victoria, in Australia from the "Recent Ornithological Literature" *Supplements to The Auk*. I dropped him a line requesting some reprints and any other information he might have on Cox's Sandpiper. To my surprise, I received the reprints, together with a detailed letter and some photographs only a few days later. The letter told of an intriguing story about the discovery and naming of this species -- a veritable "Coxgate" (see acknowledgment).

It seems that Fred Smith first sighted what he thought was a Dunlin (*C. alpina* -- a rare vagrant in southern Australia) in 1955 at the Laverton Saltworks, Victoria (Smith 1984a, 1984b). He continued to see these birds locally over the years, and by 1972 he and Bob Swindley realized that something was wrong with the Dunlin identification. From then on they referred to them as "dunlin-style" birds, seeing one every two or three years.

John Cox, seeking Smith's expertise on "waders" (this term includes shorebirds), corresponded with Smith for several months, during which time he learned of these dunlin-style birds. Cox subsequently took specimens of the unusual birds in 1975 and 1977. The birds were called hybrid "Curlew-sharp-tails" (*C. ferruginea*-*C. acuminata*) by the British Museum of Natural History and aberrant Pectoral Sandpipers (*C. melanotos*) by the Smithsonian Institution. The South Australia Museum accepted the latter identification (Cox 1976).

In the meantime, Smith, unaware of what was happening in South Australia had already begun to entertain the possibility that his dunlin-style birds were hybrids or even a new species. After seeing Cox's article, Smith commenced a correspondence with Shane Parker, curator of birds at the South Australia Museum, pointing out the similarities between his dunlin-style birds and Cox's specimens, and suggesting the possibility of a stereotyped hybrid or even a new species. For fifteen months they collaborated (although never actually meeting each other) on the identification of this bird (Smith 1981, 1982, 1984a). Smith sent me a photocopy of a letter from Parker dated April 6, 1981. In it Parker stated that he was "seriously considering" describing the bird as a new species, and he thought Smith's suggestion of *Calidris perplexa* for the bird's name was

an excellent one. Parker suggested "False Dunlin" as a common name. He further stated that Smith (and Cox) would certainly be included in the authorship of the description.

Then, in June 1982, the *South Australian Naturalist* published "A New Sandpiper of the Genus *Calidris*" by S. A. Parker. In it Cox's Sandpiper (*C. paramelanotos*) was described, and no mention was made of Smith's major contributions even in the many acknowledgments. This perplexed Smith, and since then he has struggled for "due recognition in the discovery of this species." Smith has seen more of these birds than anyone else -- approximately thirty since 1955, including five this past season (two in late 1986 and **three birds together** for the first time on March 8, 1987. It seems unfair that he has not been officially recognized for his contributions. Smith feels that his nonprofessional status has put him at an "ornithological disadvantage." But this should not be so, especially since many professionals have specifically sought his expertise in wader (shorebird) identification.

At any rate, I feel obligated to let this interesting matter be known, now that Cox's Sandpiper is a part of Massachusetts, indeed North American, ornithology. It remains to be seen whether or not it will ever be resolved, at least from Smith's point of view.

**Addendum.** In a recent letter Fred Smith informed me that John Cox, whom Smith has never met and with whom he has no argument over the bird, had written a paper disputing Smith's earlier sightings of Cox's Sandpipers. However, Smith has reliable witnesses to support his sightings. And so the controversy continues. A further interesting note is Smith's response to the photograph from *The Boston Globe*, which I sent him: "The photo is certainly one of the birds in question."

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**Acknowledgments.** I would like to thank Fred T. H. Smith for his prompt and interesting response to my questions about Cox's Sandpipers, Mark

Kasprzyk for his comments on the matter, and Josh Seamon for driving me out to see the bird!

The term "Coxgate" originated with Nancy Clayton.

**DAVID C. MORIMOTO**, a doctoral candidate at Boston University, is near completion of his Ph.D. work on avian community structure in the southeastern Massachusetts pine barrens. He received his M.A. degree from this university in 1984 for research on radionuclide dynamics in meadow voles. He has been birding for about six years and has traveled to several areas of the United States (including Hawaii, California, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, and Florida) as well as to Belize and Guatemala in Central America. David has regularly contributed his bird sightings to the Field Records, and the editor hopes he will produce further manuscripts for *Bird Observer* from his graduate research.

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## COURTSHIP DISPLAY AND TERRITORIAL DEFENSE

### BY YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT

by William E. Davis, Jr.

While walking along a sandy lane in Mathews County, Virginia, on the morning (9:45 A.M.) of May 14, 1987, I noticed a bird flying with a flight pattern that I had not seen before from the crown of one tree to another. The bird was a Yellow-breasted Chat. I followed it as it moved to another tree every few minutes, encompassing a territory roughly square in shape and about 125 feet per side. The perches selected were generally twenty-five to thirty feet high near the tops of the largest trees emerging from a dense thicket. The bird sang constantly when perched, uttering the chat's usual bewildering assortment of whirs, seeps, chirps, and catbird-like wheezes.

When the chat flew from tree to tree, it used, with one or two exceptions, a display flight -- the "peculiarly standardized and often exaggerated performances including all vocalizations and many movements and postures which have become specialized and modified as social signals or releasers" (Moynihan 1955). This flight was characterized by an undulating flight pattern, with the bird dragging and pumping its tail and pausing between wing beats with its wings pointed skyward. Sometimes the pause followed several wing strokes, producing the undulating flight pattern. This appeared to be a low-intensity version of the courtship-display flight described by Petrides (1938) as "clownish 'courtship' flight-song given with 'dangling legs, pumping tail, and slowly flapping wings.'" The chat I observed did not extend its legs or make the more typical vertical flights associated with courtship in the chat, as described by numerous authors.

My immediate impression was that the bird in flight resembled a moth or caprimulgid. I watched for about forty minutes and left when the bird stopped calling. I later returned to find a chat, my bird, I presume, singing and displaying again on the same site. Another chat was calling from a second thicket separated from the first by thirty feet of lawn. At 11:20 A.M. the two birds were directly across the lawn from each other. They then flew at each other over the lawn and fought, locking together and tumbling about six feet before separating just above the ground and returning to their respective thickets. My bird landed on a perch six feet from the ground and faced towards the lawn, head low, tail erect, and wings drooping, in what seemed to be a threat display. It sang from this low site for perhaps a minute and then resumed a high perch and sang for several more minutes before flying to a position on the opposite side of its territory. It ceased singing at 11:23 A.M.

The general references to warblers that I have consulted (e.g., Chapman 1917, Griscom and Sprunt 1957, Harrison 1984) make little mention of warblers fighting in territorial squabbles, but monographs on individual species often do. For example, Nolan, Jr. (1978) describes fighting in Prairie Warblers, and Walkinshaw (1983) describes "violent battles" between Kirtland's Warblers along territorial boundaries. In addition, visual and vocal displays are given by many species of wood-warblers (Parulinae). Ficken and Ficken (1965) report that during territorial encounters "gliding" (coasting flight with wings and tail spread) and "wings out" (wings held away from the body while facing an opponent) occur in Yellow and Chestnut-sided warblers and in American Redstarts. "Moth flight" (wings beat rapidly in slow flight) occurs in Yellow Warblers. Both gliding and moth flight were also noted in courtship displays and hence, are apparently used both in courtship and in territorial defense.

Since I observed courtship flight in this chat while it patrolled its territory as well as before and after a boundary fight, I suggest that this display is probably used in territorial defense as well as courtship. I did not find any mention of this possibility in the literature on chats that I consulted.

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**WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.**, a member of the *Bird Observer* staff, is professor of Physical and Biological Sciences at Boston University and has authored many articles on bird behavior. Ted wishes to thank John C. Kricher for reviewing an early draft of this manuscript. Ted's recent book, *History of the Nuttall Ornithological Club 1873-1986*, is described in **Book Views** in this issue.

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## MORE ON GLOSSY IBISES

by Andrew H. Williams

Robert C. Humphrey's paper, "Range Expansion and New Breeding Record for the Glossy Ibis in Massachusetts" (*Bird Observer*, August 1987, 15: 173) admirably describes the nest and nest site of a Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) pair on Monomoy in 1986. Unfortunately, Humphrey perpetuates Audubon's mistaken view regarding the history of the arrival and spread of the Glossy Ibis in the New World. Also, I think his statement characterizing the species as nesting above ground is misleading. In a study of the literature about the relationship between the Glossy Ibis and the White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*), I have amassed an extensive bibliography that supports the following view of the arrival and spread of the Glossy Ibis in the New World.

It seems that the Glossy Ibis colonized the New World by crossing the North Atlantic just prior to 1800, making its landfall in the Caribbean and successfully establishing itself there, perhaps first on the western end of the island of Hispaniola. Then it spread, slowly at first and then explosively, through coastal North America by colonizing Cuba and peninsular Florida and then spreading west along the Gulf Coast and north along the Atlantic Coast as far as southern Maine. It lives throughout peninsular Florida, but elsewhere in North America, it almost always occurs in coastal habitats. The species spread, too, through the West Indies and recently has been reported from Trinidad, Colombia, and Venezuela along the north coast of South America.

Based on records of occurrence and observed population levels and present-day migration patterns, the circumstantial evidence for this colonization scenario is simply overwhelming. In fact, I can find no other published explanation or interpretation of the Glossy's appearance in the New World. [Editor's note: The author supplied *Bird Observer* with fifty-eight references in the literature to support this statement. Readers who are interested should contact the author for this list.]

At least as late as 1893, the Glossy Ibis bred at Guadalquivir in Spain (Anon. 1905), and Palmer (1962) indicates this species used to breed in Morocco. It is my bet that the founding population in the Caribbean came from Spain or Morocco. This idea is not my own. Richard Forster suggested this to me upon his return from a trip to the Caribbean where he believed he had just seen a Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*). Little Egrets and Western Reef Herons (*E. gularis*) have found their way to the Caribbean from the Old World several times (Norton 1985). And I believe the Glossy Ibis may have successfully colonized the New World once before. Fossils of a *Plegadis* ibis have been found at Rancho La Brea in California and have been dated at more than 10,000

years BP (Wetmore 1956). These fossils are identified as the White-faced Ibis, which lives in California today, but these could just as well be Glossy Ibis remains. The descendants of these earlier colonists are the closely related (if not, conspecific) White-faced Ibis, with its two separate populations in North and South America.

Humphrey repeats Audubon's error that in 1837, the Glossy Ibis existed "in vast numbers in Mexico and in flocks, but only as a summer resident, in Texas." No doubt, the ibises of Mexico and Texas were White-faced Ibises (Edwards 1972, Oberholser 1974, Palmer 1962, Peterson and Chalif 1973, and Pratt 1976). This error of Audubon's casts doubt on the true identity of the ibis shot in Maryland in 1817, which Audubon referred to as a Glossy and the "first intimation" of this species in the United States. Further along in Humphrey's paper is the sentence, "The breeding range in this country was restricted to Texas and Florida for most of the first half of the 1900s." Presumably Humphrey based this statement on Audubon's information. Oberholser (1974) lists this species as hypothetical in Texas.

I differ, too, with Humphrey's statement, "Like most waders, ibises traditionally build elevated nests in trees and bushes." This is misleading. My search of the literature revealed the diversity of situations and building materials utilized by the Glossy and White-faced ibises in their nesting. Many sources document nesting on the ground among herbaceous marshy growth (*Scirpus*, *Typha*, *Phragmites*) or among dryland forbs, in bushes, in trees, and in tangled vine-covered thickets. Nests are at ground level or low in the supporting growth. In some instances, nests are built that float on water or that sit on the ground. Some nests are built over water. Both Glossy and White-faced ibises frequently share a colony with several, sometimes many, other nesting birds -- herons, egrets, cormorants, gulls, White Ibises (*Eudocimus albus*), Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*), and Wood Storks (*Mycteria americana*). Glossy Ibises show greater flexibility in nesting requirements (both globally and within the New World) than do White-faced Ibises, which most often nest in marshes rather than in woody vegetation. In most areas -- in desert or steppe habitats -- where the White-faced Ibis nests, there are few trees. And so they nest in marshy herbaceous vegetation. In the Old World, in similar steppe habitats, the Glossy Ibis, too, nests in marshy herbaceous vegetation (Bond 1936 and 1971, Brewster 1886, Bull 1974, Burger 1978a, 1978b, 1979, Burger and Müller 1977, Flint et al. 1984, Forbush and May 1939, Hundertmark 1974, Ivey and Severson 1984, Ogden 1978, Palmer 1962, Pearson 1936, Ryder 1967).

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**ANDREW H. WILLIAMS** is a Massachusetts naturalist, now living in Northampton. His major interests are birds and books, and currently he is working at Smith College in the Science Library. To obtain a copy of his larger bibliography on Glossy and White-faced ibises, write him at The Science Library, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063.

## A LETTER FROM ROGER TORY PETERSON

I have just read the article in the August issue of *Bird Observer* entitled "Range Expansion and New Breeding Record for the Glossy Ibis in Massachusetts" by Robert C. Humphrey. In his opening line Mr. Humphrey states that the purpose of his paper was twofold: "first to give a brief summary of the history of the Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) in North America and its northward expansion into Massachusetts, and second to report on a new breeding location in the state."

To quote Mr. Humphrey: "Audubon noted the 'first intimation' of this species in the United States as a bird shot in Maryland in 1817. By 1837 he referred to them as existing in vast numbers in Mexico and in flocks, but only as a summer resident in Texas."

Here is where I wish to set the record straight. Audubon knew the Glossy Ibis, but barely. He really encountered it only once, the male bird figured in his color plate, "procured in Florida near a woodcutter's cabin, a view of which is also given." He wrote: "The Glossy Ibis is of extremely rare occurrence in the United States, where it appears only at long and irregular intervals, like a wanderer who has lost its way." Then he added, "It exists in Mexico, however, in vast numbers. In the spring of 1837, I saw flocks of it in Texas."

What Audubon saw in Texas was not the Glossy Ibis, but its sister species the White-faced Ibis. Oberholser in his 2-volume work on the *Birds of Texas* lists the Glossy as hypothetical for that state, unsubstantiated by a specimen.

Prior to the mid-1930s when I was on the staff of the National Audubon Society, the largest known colony of the Glossy Ibis in the U. S. was 27 nests which had been under the watchful eye of Oscar Baynard, the warden at Orange Lake in Florida.

However, in 1936, Marvin Chandler, the Audubon warden on the Kissimmee, reported a very large colony in the marshes of Lake Okeechobee. Hundreds. Incredible. John Baker, then president of National Audubon, sent me down there to check on things. There were indeed hundreds; 1200 was the official estimate. In succeeding years the glossies of Okeechobee, often hundreds at a time, were enjoyed by the tour groups under the guidance of Alexander Sprunt (Sandy's father). That was undoubtedly the focal point from which the proliferating glossies moved rapidly up the coast forming colonies such as the dense one at Stone Harbor, New Jersey, and elsewhere. Eventually smaller colonies were established in New York State and in New England as far north as southern Maine.

Like the Cattle Egret, the Glossy Ibis appears to have been a very recent but highly successful immigrant from the Old World.

October 16, 1987

Roger Tory Peterson, Old Lyme, Connecticut

Sometimes I sit down to write my short reviews and find there are no new books to write about. This month, however, the new titles are stacked to the ceiling, and I have chosen a dozen to review. Here they are, the usual mixed bag, presented in alphabetical order.

*THE BACKYARD BIRDER'S JOURNAL* by Howard Blume. 1987. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco. 310 pages; paperback \$12.95.

This book is designed as a combination notebook (234 pages) and guidebook (76 pages) for backyard birdwatching. The text consists of backyard feeder anecdotes, hints for increasing bird activity in your yard, and seasonal backyard bird lists from families in New York, Louisiana, New Mexico, Utah, and California, as well as information on the "art" of bird listing. If you have always wanted to compare your backyard list with R.T.P.'s, you can now do it, since Peterson's annotated list is right there in appendix 1. More useful appendices are "Attracting Birds to Your Backyard" and "Your Backyard as Habitat." As Abraham Lincoln once wrote, "People who like this sort of thing will find this the sort of thing they like."

*BIRDING AROUND THE WORLD, A Guide to Observing Birds Everywhere You Travel* by Aileen R. Lotz. 1987. Teale Books. 272 pages, photographs; clothbound \$18.95, paperback \$10.95.

Aileen Lotz's book is designed for persons who go bonkers when all of those nature tour catalogs come in the mail. She whets the travel appetite with birdwatching possibilities from Texas to Tanzania, including information on travel precautions, tour companies, and, most of all, birds to look for. Do not look for much of a serious nature here or for detailed itineraries for trip planning. The coverage is uneven, for while Peru is praised in twelve pages, Texas gets but one, and Churchill is summed up in one paragraph. Writing of Churchill, the author recommends this as an area where "you can watch millions of shorebirds in breeding plumage." What? Thousands, maybe, Aileen, but not millions! This is decent armchair traveler reading, nothing more.

*THE BIRDS OF ISRAEL* by Uzi Paz. 1987. The Stephen Greene Press, Lexington. viii + 264 pages, 60 color photos, 29 black-and-white illustrations, endpaper maps. \$26.95.

Interest in the ornithology of Israel has bloomed in recent years, dramatically so in the case of its spectacular spring and fall migrations. Millions of birds of prey (really, millions!) as well as countless individuals of other species pass through the narrow Israeli land mass during their Eurasian-African migrations, and western birdwatchers are taking advantage of this phenomenon in greater and greater numbers. Uzi Paz has written a good introduction to Israel's 470 bird

species, with each given a short accounting, including description, general range, behavior, and distribution in Israel. There is a three-page bird-finding guide and the bibliographic references number 127. The photos are first-rate. Recommended for anyone interested in the region's birdlife.

*EASTERN BIRDS*. xvii + 496 pages, 1300+ color photos.

*WESTERN BIRDS*. xvii + 496 pages, 1300+ color photos.

*HOW TO IDENTIFY BIRDS*. 318 pages, 700+ color photos. All by John Farrand, Jr. 1987. McGraw-Hill, New York. \$13.50 each.

The first two titles are Mr. Farrand's latest entries into the field of photographic bird guides. In fact, the author has had a hand in all of the popular photographic bird guides of the 1980s. The photos in this doublet are mostly very fine indeed, but from my point of view, the use of photographs, no matter how good, in a field guide is hardly more than a sales ploy. Photographs cannot compare with well-delineated color illustrations in depicting subtle form and color, critical elements of a good field guide. Although Farrand's text is really quite good, it will by and large be ignored by serious birdwatchers, who will stick with more traditional guides.

In *How to Identify Birds* the author breaks down the process of identification into a series of steps. His first "field mark" is habitat, followed in order by size, behavior, shape and posture, color and pattern, and finally, voice. The reader, upon viewing a bird, is instructed to work through these steps, each of which is accompanied by color photographs and a detailed series of color-coded charts. If it sounds complicated, it is. In fact, I showed this book to six birders (two advanced, two intermediate, and two beginning) and asked them how useful it would be to them. All thought it was confusing and overly complicated. One called it scary; another, unbelievable. I call it a good plan in theory but too busy on paper. I am not convinced many birdwatchers will take the time to study this guide, and thus, its purpose will remain unfulfilled.

*ERIC HOSKING'S BIRDS, Fifty Years of Photographing Wildlife* by Eric Hosking with Kevin MacDonnell. 1987. The Stephen Greene Press, Lexington. 224 pages, approximately 300 color and black-and-white photographs; paperback \$17.95.

Eric Hosking is, of course, one of the truly remarkable wildlife photographers of our time -- an extraordinary technician and a gifted observer of wildlife. The present volume, previously published in America under the title *A Passion for Birds* highlights his travels and bird portraiture. The quality of the reproduction in this edition is mediocre; look for the original.

*A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF HAWAII AND THE TROPICAL PACIFIC* by H. Douglas Pratt, Philip L. Bruner, and Delwyn G. Berrett. 1987.

Princeton University Press, Princeton. xx + 498 pages, 43 color plates by H. D. Pratt, 2 color photos; clothbound \$50, paperback \$19.95.

Princeton University Press has developed into a faunistic field-guide factory, happily, one that puts out high quality products. This work covers the Hawaiian Islands, all of Micronesia, central Polynesia, and Fiji. The species accounts are up-to-date (all of the authors have done extensive recent research in the Pacific), the introductory material on habitats and conservation is timely, and the appendices, which include regional checklists and maps, are an important addition. Pratt's plates are superb. Worth noting is the price of the paperback version, which at under \$20 is a very good buy.

*A FIELD GUIDE TO THE SEABIRDS OF THE WORLD* by Peter Harrison.

1987. The Stephen Greene Press, Lexington. 317 pages, 764 color photographs, 24 black-and-white plates, 321 maps; paperback \$24.95.

In 1983, Peter Harrison's *SEABIRDS* burst onto the scene with great fanfare and arm waving. Four years and one revision later, the enthusiasm for that monumental guide has hardly diminished. Now, Harrison has written a more compact field guide to seabirds, and although it is an accomplished, well-designed field guide in its own right, it suffers by comparison with the prototype. First, there are far fewer illustrations in this book. Most species have but two photos, except the frigatebirds, skuas, and gulls which have four. A number of the photos are out of focus. Second, the text is much reduced in the basic three categories of identification, habits, and distribution. Third, the captions on the plates merely identify the species and do not point out field marks. On the plus side, this guide includes 321 species, nine more than the author's previous work. In sum, if you have the original guide, and you are not a seabird addict, you are probably all set.

*HISTORY OF THE NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB 1873-1986* by

William E. Davis, Jr. *Memoirs of the Nuttall Ornithological Club*, No. 11. Nuttall Ornithological Club, Cambridge. xi + 179 pages, 26 photos. \$20.

It has been fifty years since C. F. Batchelder wrote the early history of the Nuttall Club (N.O.C.). With the publication of this memoir, North America's oldest ornithological organization now boasts a well-written, well-researched, and spirited account of its 113-year existence. Ted Davis takes us from the formative Brewster years through the Peters/Griscom era to the present leadership. He details the development of the club's publication series, examines the important philosophical and compositional changes in the club's membership, and ponders the future role of the N.O.C. Brief biographies of current members are included. Despite the curious lack of an index, this volume

is highly recommended to anyone with an interest in the development of the American ornithological scene.

*IN SEARCH OF MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS*, photographs by Galen Burrell and text by Ron Hirschi. 1987. Graphic-sha Publishing Co., Ltd., Tokyo. 100 pages, 89 color photos. \$26.50.

This is, quite simply, the best book of bird photography I have seen in many years. From the introduction one learns that "the sequence of photos follows a path from the ocean's edge to the mountain tops, beginning in coastal swamps of Georgia, Florida, and Louisiana lowlands ... through forest and farmlands ... [to] the Rocky Mountains." Burrell's compositions are outstanding, beautifully balanced masterpieces, the photographic equivalents of Bateman paintings. I salute the publishers, who have produced many wonderful collections of Japanese landscape photographs for publishing a book on American birds. I can't wait for the next one.

*NEW GENERATION GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF BRITAIN AND EUROPE* by Christopher Perrins. 1987. University of Texas Press, Austin. 320 pages, 1500+ color illustrations. \$14.95.

The *New Generation Guides*, under the general editorship of David Attenborough, are a well-conceived, well-executed, innovative approach to nature guides. The present volume on birds is divided into four parts. "The Evolution of Birds" includes discussions of physiology, speciation, and classification. "The Directory of Species" has good, though rather small, pictures and includes many more portraits of juveniles and birds in flight than the average field guide. "The Life of a Bird" concerns bird development, behavior, migration, and nesting. And "The Ecology of Birds" covers bird populations, protection, and conservation. All this in a book of standard field guide size and price -- an exceptional value.

**BRIAN E. CASSIE**, who regularly contributes this column to *Bird Observer*, has recently moved with his family from Millis to Foxboro. (It is not yet known if the famous hordes of Millis Christmas Count chickadees have also relocated.) Noted for his wit, if not for common sense, Brian introduced the article above with the following quote from Max Reger, which the editor thought more suitable at the end of his column: "I am sitting in the smallest room in the house. I have your review in front of me. Soon it will be behind me."

## FINDING 300 SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS IN ONE YEAR

by Herman H. D'Entremont and Dorothy R. Arvidson

"Is it possible for me to see 300 birds in one year?" is a question a novice birder might ask. The answer is, "Yes, but it will take planning and a lot of field work." A new birder who is striving to attain a sizeable year's list -- one that will rival the achievement of the dedicated lister -- is really undertaking a crash course in learning to recognize bird species. The list provides a challenge, a goal, and a motivation to learn in a hurry how to distinguish most of the state's birds, to discover which are the migrants and which the residents, to learn something about weather and its effect on bird movement, and to begin to recognize different habitats. And there are numerous side benefits. Intensive birding is a good way to build friendships with a wide assortment of people, to get to know the experienced and dedicated birders who are out in the field at all seasons, and to get away, inexpensively, to some of the best natural places remaining on the Eastern Seaboard. Birding is often the first step along the road to appreciation of these areas and to understanding the need for preserving them.

The inexperienced birder embarking on a listing year must be equipped with good binoculars, a field guide to eastern birds, and have access to a telescope (helpful for sighting shorebirds, raptors, and seabirds). Find or get a friend who is equipped with one. And learn to hover nearby (yearningly) when you see a scope in the field. Most birders love to share their discoveries. Two items essential for the novice that cost little are available from Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS). The first is *A Massachusetts Daily Field Card* (cost ten/\$2 postpaid) to carry in a pocket along with pencil and notebook. This card provides a convenient checklist and supplies necessary information about migration dates, nesting, frequency of occurrence, and the correct common names, orders, and families arranged in the standard (A.O.U. Check-list) sequence followed by most field guides. The other is a *Checklist of Massachusetts Birds* (cost: 2/\$1 postpaid) for recording the first sighting of each species throughout the year. One additional item, a *Massachusetts Bird List* by Brad Blodget, state ornithologist, is available through the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife for \$1.50 (call 366-4479). Published in 1983, this is a complete list of all the birds that have been seen in the state through the year of the Western Reef Heron and also lists vagrants and problematical sightings.

To attain a good year's state list, you must know where to look and when to go. This is the first in a series of articles on where to look for birds of the season and covers the months, December through February. All of the subsequent references are drawn from *Bird Observer*, the traditional source in

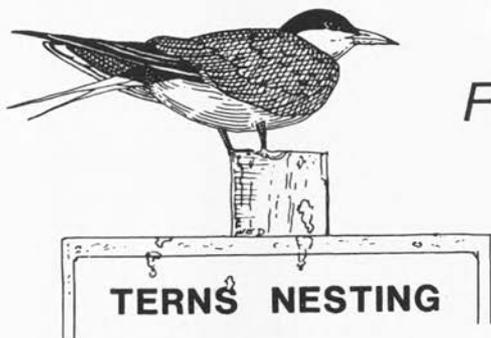
Massachusetts for maps, directions, and specifics about where to bird. Although you won't be marking your list until January 1 of the counting year, it is necessary to begin scouting in December to know what is around.

Look for alcids and sea ducks at Andrews Point and Halibut Point on Cape Ann (*Bird Observer* February 1983, volume 11: page 5) and from the sea wall at Scituate (December 1980, 8: 220), at Race Point and Provincetown Harbor (February 1987, 15: 4) or on a ferry ride to Nantucket (October 1976, 4: 131). The last hour into Nantucket can produce great numbers of these species in winter. Birding at Plum Island (June 1985, 13: 116), Newburyport and Salisbury (February 1981, 9: 4) and in the Bridgewater/Lakeville area (February 1984, 12: 5) will provide ducks, raptors, gulls, and owls for your year's list. There are other good owling areas such as Ipswich (December 1979, 7: 208), The Grass Rides in Hamilton (October 1986, 14: 217), Plum Island pines (February 1978, 7: 194), and Lexington (October 1980, 8: 177). A trip to the Quabbin area (December 1983, 11: 297) (October 1987, 15: 220) will produce sightings of raptors, turkeys, owls, ravens, woodpeckers, and winter finches. Orleans and Eastham (October 79, 7: 172) on Cape Cod and the islands of Martha's Vineyard (April 1979, 7: 52) and Nantucket (see above) are places to visit for overwintering species and freshwater ducks in ice-free ponds. For land birds in winter, many species can be found in the Falmouth and Buzzards Bay area (December 1982, 6: 300 and December 1973, 1: 132), whereas inland, you might try the Fobes Hill area (April 1980, 8: 48).

Call the Voice of Audubon regularly (617-259-8805 for eastern Massachusetts birds and 413-569-6926 for western Massachusetts) to find out what species are around, for reports of special birds at feeders, and for rare strays or vagrants. Another useful technique for learning about "rare" birds -- and you will need some of these if you are to reach 300 -- is to associate yourself with a birding club that has regular trips throughout the year. The largest of these is Brookline Bird Club. A schedule of trips can be obtained by sending \$3 to treasurer Dorothy Davis, 115 Plymouth Street, Middleboro, MA 02346. But there is certain to be a bird club in your area. MAS publishes a Natural History Directory that may be useful in locating one. You don't have to be an expert to see 300 species in a year in Massachusetts, but you do have to work at it. Happy birding.

**HERMAN D'ENTREMONT**, a staff member of *Bird Observer* since its inception, wrote the first "where-to-go" article for this publication. He has served for many years on the Board of Directors of the Brookline Bird Club and as program director of the Needham Bird Club.

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# FIELD RECORDS

## JUNE 1987

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

June 1987 was dry and cloudy. The temperature averaged 65.1 degrees, 2.9 degrees below normal. The highest reading was 87 degrees on June 15, and the low mark was 50 degrees on June 3 and again on June 7. Rain totaled 2.62 inches, just a little less than normal. Except for one heavy downpour on June 2, this was a very dry month. Sunshine totaled 56 percent of possible, and heavy fog was noted on ten days, a new record number for June, exceeding the eight days in 1972. R.H.S.

### LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Pelagics were scarce on Stellwagen Bank but numerous on Georges Bank with counts of 102 Northern Fulmars, an amazing 17,000 Greater Shearwaters, 4500 Wilson's and 195 Leach's storm-petrels.

The bird of the month was an adult **Brown Pelican** that spent a couple of days on or near a spit in the Merrimac River in Lawrence. This is only the fifth record for this species in the state. In recent years small numbers of Great Cormorants have been remaining into the summer, and this trend continued with 3 immatures at Provincetown. American Bitterns were better reported than in most recent years, with 5 individuals compared with a five-year average of 2. Egret counts were a little lower than normal; however, Little Blue and Tricolored herons were reported in normal numbers.

Black-crowned Night-Herons were only reported from two locations. This is probably due to a lack of reporting rather than a real decrease. The only Yellow-crowned Night-Heron reported was from Plum Island. Glossy Ibis were reported in near average numbers. G.d'E.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1987
<b>Common Loon</b>				
7, 20	Wachusett Res., S. Monomoy	1, 5	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula	
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>				
7, 20	S. Monomoy	2, 1 on nest	B. Nikula	
<b>Northern Fulmar</b>				
thr	Georges Bank	102 total	S. Dinsmore	
<b>Cory's Shearwater</b>				
14	Georges Bank	1	S. Dinsmore	
17	20 m SE Chatham	1	B. Nikula#	
<b>Greater Shearwater</b>				
14	20 m SE Chatham	5000+	B. Nikula#	
15, 26	Nantucket Sound	125, 300	S. Dinsmore	
20	Georges Bank	17000	S. Dinsmore	
<b>Sooty Shearwater</b>				
14	20 m SE Chatham	400	B. Nikula#	
15, 26	Nantucket Sound	31, 100	S. Dinsmore	
20	Stellwagen Bank	1	K. Holmes	
<b>Manx Shearwater</b>				
17, 19	Georges Bank	3, 3	S. Dinsmore	
20	Stellwagen Bank	1	K. Holmes	
<b>Wilson's Storm-Petrel</b>				
6	Stellwagen Bank	10	K. Holmes	
14	20 m SE Chatham	3000	B. Nikula#	
20	Georges Bank	4500	S. Dinsmore	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1987
Wilson's Storm-Petrel (continued)				
22, 26	Ipswich Bay, Duxbury B.	56, 12	J. MacDougall, D. Ludlow	
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
21	Georges Bank	195	S. Dinsmore	
Northern Gannet				
5	Cape Cod Bay	17	W. Petersen	
6	Stellwagen Bank	3	K. Holmes	
20	Stellwagen Bank	12	K. Holmes	
22	Ipswich Bay	1	J. MacDougall	
<b>Brown Pelican</b>				
15-17	Lawrence	1	fide B. Blodget + v. o.	
Great Cormorant				
14	Provincetown	3 imm	B. Nikula	
Double-crested Cormorant				
thr	Everett-Boston	45 max 6/2	J. Berry	
thr	P.I.	45 max 6/7	v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	11 max 6/8	LCES (J. Lyons)	
20	Lawrence-Methuen	75+	G. d'Entremont#	
American Bittern				
6, 13	Newbypt, Lynnfield	1, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Brown	
28	Bolton Flats	3	M. Lynch#	
Least Bittern				
thr	P.I.	2 max 6/14	v. o.	
Great Blue Heron				
thr, 20	P.I., Rowley	1+, 2	v. o., J. Berry	
Great Egret				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	3 max 6/25, 6/30	LCES (J. Lyons)	
15, 22	P.I., Saugus	4, 1	BBC (H. Weissberg), J. Berry	
Snowy Egret				
thr	P.I.	21 max 6/24	v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	7 max 6/25	LCES (J. Lyons)	
thr	Saugus-Revere (by train)	27+ max 6/3	J. Berry	
20	N. Monomoy	25	M. Lynch#	
Little Blue Heron				
20	N. Monomoy	1	M. Lynch#	
30	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Tricolored Heron				
12, 13	Orleans	1	v. o.	
20	N. Monomoy	1	M. Lynch#	
24	P.I.	1	D. F. Oliver	
Cattle Egret				
thr	Ipswich (Appleton Farm)	5 max 6/2	J. Berry	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
thr	Watertown	75 max 6/24	P. Overby	
thr	P.I.	5 max 6/1	v. o.	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
6	P.I.	1 ad	M. Lynch#	
Glossy Ibis				
thr	Ipswich	6 max 6/19	J. Berry	
thr	Revere (train)	9 max 6/5	J. Berry	
thr	S. Monomoy, P.I.	1, 6 max 6/15	B. Nikula, v. o.	
1, 25	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	3, 2	LCES (J. Lyons)	

#### WATERFOWL

Mute Swans established a first nesting record on South Monomoy, and another nesting was recorded in Ipswich. A single Brant on North Monomoy must have been lonely and sick. Wood Ducks were reported in healthy numbers. Northern Pintails are uncommon summer residents but, when present, are likely to be found on South Monomoy, as they have been four out of the last five years. Northern Shovelers, also uncommon summer residents, were reported from two locations. Flax Pond in Lynn had a Gadwall and an American Wigeon. Greater Scaup are rare summering birds, but the most unusual duck was an immature male King Eider at Chatham. Two species of scoters were seen at West Yarmouth. A Common Merganser at South Dartmouth is a good find for that location. G.d'E.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1987
Mute Swan				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	16 max 6/25	LCES (J. Lyons)	
13	Ipswich	pr + 4 yg	J. Berry	
20	S. Monomoy	pr + 3 yg	B. Nikula	
Brant				
20-24	N. Monomoy	1	v. o.	
Wood Duck				
7, 18	Bolton Flats	5, 3 ad + 6 yg	M. Lynch#	
13	W. Bridgewater	30	W. Petersen	
14	Hamilton	1 f + 4 yg	J. Berry	
Green-winged Teal				
20	S. Monomoy	5	B. Nikula	
American Black Duck				
7, 20	S. Monomoy	60, 80	B. Nikula#	
Mallard				
7, 20; 5	S. Monomoy; N. Monomoy	25, 50; 35+	B. Nikula	
Northern Pintail				
7, 20	S. Monomoy	2, 8	B. Nikula	
Blue-winged Teal				
6, 20	P.I., S. Monomoy	15, 8+	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula	
Northern Shoveler				
6-7, thr	P.I., S. Monomoy	2 max, 2	v. o., B. Nikula	
Gadwall				
thr	P.I.	17 max 6/24	v. o.	
24-30	Lynn (Flax Pd)	1	J. Quigley	
7, 20	S. Monomoy	25, 60+	B. Nikula#	
American Wigeon				
1, 3-29	Newbypt, Lynn (Flax Pd)	2 m, 1	S. Dinsmore, J. Quigley	
7, 20	S. Monomoy	3, 2	B. Nikula	
Greater Scaup				
29	P.I.	1	BBC (H. Weissberg)	
King Eider				
16-30	Chatham	1 imm m	R. Humphrey + v. o.	
Surf Scoter				
13	W. Yarmouth	2	P. Trimble	
White-winged Scoter				
13	W. Yarmouth	3	P. Trimble	
Common Merganser				
8	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Red-breasted Merganser				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	10 max 6/8	LCES (J. Lyons)	
6	Chatham	65+	B. Nikula	

#### RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS

Turkey Vultures were reported from numerous locations. An Osprey has been found in Ipswich for the second June in a row, causing the observer to wonder if the bird is nesting in the area. A total of 3 eagles is lower than the average of 7 for the last two years. Northern Harriers were well reported from locations throughout the region. A nest of Red-shouldered Hawks in Middleboro contained two young, but only one fledged. There were scattered reports of Broad-winged Hawks. An adult Ruffed Grouse with eight young was observed in the Quabbin area. A Wild Turkey was seen in Plymouth, probably from the stocking program in that area. Virginia Rails were well reported. Sora is very uncommon as a breeder in Plymouth County, so two in West Bridgewater are noteworthy. Two moorhens were all that were reported.

G.d'E.

Turkey Vulture			
2	Lynn, DWWS	1, 1	J. Quigley, D. Ludlow
7, 9	Randolph, Harwich	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, B. Nikula
14, 16	Ipswich, Bedford	1, 2	J. Berry, J. Thomas#
20	Rowley, Methuen	1, 2	G. Gove, G. d'Entremont#
Osprey			
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	4 max	LCES (J. Lyons)
7	Pembroke	1	W. Petersen

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1987
Osprey (continued)				
14, 18	Ipswich, Mashpee	1, 7	J. Berry, P. Trimble	
Bald Eagle				
7-17	N. Monomoy	1 imm	v. o.	
13	Marstons Mills	1	B. Nikula	
eagle sp.				
14	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	
Northern Harrier				
7, 14	S. Monomoy, Wellfleet	2 f, 1 m	B. Nikula#, D. F. Oliver	
18, 24	Wakefield, P.I.	1, 1	J. Moore, D. F. Oliver	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
thr	E. Middleboro	pr + 2 yg	K. Anderson	
7, 10	Norwell, Boxford (C.P.)	1, 1	W. Petersen, J. Brown	
13, 14	Truro, Petersham	1 ad, 1	S. Dinsmore, M. Lynch#	
Broad-winged Hawk				
thr	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	
6, 28	Topsfield	3, 2	J. Brown	
14, 18	P.I., Mashpee	1, 3	G. Gove#, P. Trimble	
28	Winchester	3	G. Gove#	
Red-tailed Hawk				
16-18	Hanscom AFB	3 (2 imm)	J. Carter	
American Kestrel				
15	W. Falmouth	2	D. F. Oliver	
30	Beverly-Somerville (by train)	3	J. Berry	
Ruffed Grouse				
11	Quabbin (G40)	1 ad + 8 yg	M. Lynch#	
13	W. Bridgewater	1	K. Anderson	
12-18, 17	Plymouth, Westminster	1, 1	D. Morimoto, D. F. Oliver	
18, 28	E. Middleboro, Topsfield	1, 1	K. Anderson, J. Brown	
Wild Turkey				
14	Plymouth	1 f	D. Morimoto	
Northern Bobwhite				
15, 16	N. Falmouth, Needham	12, 1	D. F. Oliver, G. Bain	
Virginia Rail				
7, 28	Bolton Flats	4, 6	M. Lynch#	
2, 27	Stoneham, IRWS	pr + 1 yg, 2	T. Aversa, J. Brown	
13, 13	W. Bridgewater, Lynnfield	6, 13	W. Petersen, J. Brown	
Sora				
13	W. Bridgewater	2	W. Petersen	
13, 20	Lynnfield, Ipswich	1, 1	J. Brown, J. Berry	
Common Moorhen				
13, 24	Lynnfield, P.I.	1, 1	J. Brown, D. F. Oliver	

#### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

Piping Plovers were noted at six locations, and a nest with four eggs was observed on North Monomoy where two adults with four young were seen later in the month. On New Island in Chatham, two nests, eighteen inches apart, were defended by three adult American Oystercatchers. Willets were counted at Nantucket, South Dartmouth, Plum Island, and North Monomoy, all probable nesting locations. Up to 75 were present on North Monomoy. Two sightings of Western Willets were made on North Monomoy, constituting the first June reports of this subspecies in *BOEM* field records.

Twelve Upland Sandpipers were present at Hanscom AFB, and 7 or 8 were noted at Otis AFB. A Long-billed Curlew was seen for five days at Coast Guard Beach in Eastham, making the sixth record of this species in Massachusetts since 1905 with other recent records in May 1979 and June 1984, both also on Cape Cod. Two reports of Hudsonian Godwit are noteworthy since this species is only rarely encountered in Massachusetts in June.

Birds seen on a pelagic survey conducted in the later half of June and mostly over Georges Bank, out to 42 degrees 10 minutes North and 66 degrees West, included the following: Fulmar; Cory's, Greater, Sooty, and Manx shearwaters; Wilson's and Leach's storm-petrels; Great and South Polar skuas (details received on both species); Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers; Laughing and Lesser Black-backed gulls; and Dovekie, Common Murre, and Atlantic Puffin. Dovekie is an extremely unexpected bird at this time of year.

Little and Common Black-headed gulls were present in the Newburyport-Plum Island area. Royal Terns were noted at three locations, and a Sandwich Tern was present at North Monomoy for a day. The records include a nest counts of Roseate, Common, and Arctic terns. G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1987
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	107 max 6/1	LCES (J. Lyons)	
1, 7, 20	N. Monomoy	800, 25, 10	B. Nikula	
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>				
1, 7	N. Monomoy	30, 1	B. Nikula	
6	P.I.	6	M. Lynch	
<b>Piping Plover</b>				
thr	Hyannis, Mashpee	2, 1	P. Trimble	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	16 max 6/15, 30	LCES (J. Lyons)	
3, 20	N. Monomoy	nest w/4 eggs, 5	R. Humphrey#	
8, 14	Ipswich, P.I.	2 pr, 1	BBC (J. Berry), J. Brown	
<b>Killdeer</b>				
8-30	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	8 max 6/30	LCES (J. Lyons)	
27, 28	Hanscom AFB	2 ad + 4 eggs, 2 ad + 4 yg	J. Carter	
28	Concord	1	J. Carter	
<b>American Oystercatcher</b>				
3, 11	Orleans (S. Beach, New I.)	pr at nest, 3 ad + 2 nests	R. Humphrey#	
20	Hyannis, N. Monomoy	2, 25	P. Trimble, M. Lynch	
21	Boston (Grape I.)	1 pr	K. Durham	
<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>				
6, 13	P.I., Halifax	6, 1	M. Lynch, W. Petersen#	
20	Rowley	2	J. Berry	
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>				
20	Rowley	1	J. Berry	
<b>Willet</b>				
thr	Nantucket	1 or 2 (nesting?)	fide E. Andrews	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	max 14 6/30	LCES (J. Lyons)	
thr	P.I.	6 max	v. o.	
thr	N. Monomoy	70-75	B. Nikula	
<b>Willet (western race)</b>				
20, 29	N. Monomoy	1, 1	B. Nikula, S. Dinsmore	
<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	8 max 6/25	LCES (J. Lyons)	
7, 28; 20	Bolton; Lawrence	3, 9; 5	M. Lynch; G. d'Entremont#	
<b>Upland Sandpiper</b>				
10, 13	Otis AFB, Yarmouthport	12, 1	P. Trimble, J. Aylward#	
18, 28	Hanscom AFB, Bolton	7 or 8, 1	J. Carter, M. Lynch	
<b>Whimbrel</b>				
5, 7, 17; 28	N. Monomoy	1, 1, 1; 2	B. Nikula; S. Dinsmore	
30	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2	LCES (J. Lyons)	
<b>Long-billed Curlew</b>				
8-12	Eastham (Corp. B.)	1	H. Stabins + v. o.	
<b>Hudsonian Godwit</b>				
20, 28	Cape Cod Bay, N. Monomoy	1, 1	K. Holmes, S. Dinsmore	
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>				
1, 7, 20	N. Monomoy	200, 25, 8	B. Nikula	
<b>Red Knot</b>				
thr	N. Monomoy	80 6/1 to 14 6/29	B. Nikula	
<b>Sanderling</b>				
1, 7	N. Monomoy	1500, 40	B. Nikula	
<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>				
thr	P.I.	232 max 6/11	v. o.	
1, 7, 20	N. Monomoy	800, 300, 70	B. Nikula	
<b>Western Sandpiper</b>				
20	N. Monomoy	1 basic pl	B. Nikula	
<b>Least Sandpiper</b>				
1, 5, 20	N. Monomoy	2, 1, 30	B. Nikula	
<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>				
thr	N. Monomoy	25 max 6/1	v. o.	
7-14	PRNWR	1-8	v. o.	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1987
Dunlin 1; 1, 20	S. Dartmouth; N. Monomoy	6; 70, 1	LCES (J. Lyons); B. Nikula	
Short-billed Dowitcher thr 1	N. Monomoy S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	27 max 6/29 86	v. o. LCES (J. Lyons)	
Common Snipe 28	Bolton	1	M. Lynch	
American Woodcock 6, 8	W. Newbury, Ipswich	1, 1	J. Berry	
Wilson's Phalarope 1-22	P.I.	1 m + 2 f max 6/1	v. o.	
Red-necked Phalarope 5	Cape Cod Bay	5	W. Petersen	
Great Skua 16	Georges Bank	1	S. Dinsmore	
South Polar Skua 17-24	Georges Bank	20	S. Dinsmore	
Pomarine Jaeger 14, 16-19	Pollock Rip, Georges Bank	1, 7	B. Nikula, S. Dinsmore	
Parasitic Jaeger 16-21	Georges Bank	5	S. Dinsmore	
Laughing Gull 14-30 20	Chatham (New Island) N. Monomoy	1200 nests 60	I. Nisbet# M. Lynch	
Little Gull 1-15 7	Newburyport-P.I. N. Monomoy	1 or 2 1 imm	v. o. B. Nikula	
Common Black-headed Gull 1 10, 28	P.I. N. Monomoy	1 1 ad	BBC (W. Drummond) B. Nikula, S. Dinsmore	
Bonaparte's Gull 6-14 27	Newburyport Revere	180 max 6/14 20 (1S)	v. o. J. Cumming	
Ring-billed Gull 6	Newburyport	500	J. Berry	
Iceland Gull 6	N. Monomoy	1	S. Dinsmore	
Lesser Black-backed Gull 21	Georges Bank	1 ad	S. Dinsmore	
Black-legged Kittiwake 3, 6	Chatham, Salisbury	1 imm, 1	R. Humphrey#, J. Quigley	
Royal Tern 8, 30 20	Mashpee, S. Dart. (Allens Pd) S. Monomoy	2, 1 2	W. Petersen, LCES (J. Lyons) B. Nikula	
Sandwich Tern 13	N. Monomoy	1 ad	I. Nisbet#	
Roseate Tern 7-30 10-30 13-30 14-30	Plymouth Beach Marion (Bird I.) N. Monomoy Chatham (New I.)	5 nests 1500 nests 5 nests 50 nests	I. Nisbet I. Nisbet S. Hecker S. Hecker	
Common Tern thr thr 7-30 10-30 13-30 14-30	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) P.I. Plymouth Beach Marion (Bird I.) N. Monomoy Chatham (New I.)	9 max 6/15 24 max 6/27 1500 nests 1500 nests 1000 nests 3200 nests	LCES (J. Lyons) v. o. I. Nisbet I. Nisbet S. Hecker S. Hecker	
Arctic Tern 7-30 13-30 14-30	Plymouth Beach N. Monomoy Chatham (New I.)	4 nests 1 nest 11 nests	I. Nisbet S. Perkins S. Hecker	
Forster's Tern 13	N. Monomoy	1 ad	I. Nisbet#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1987
Least Tern				
thr	P.I.	52 max 6/15	v. o.	
thr	Hyannis	450	S. Hecker	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	8 max 6/15	LCES (J. Lyons)	
thr	Mashpee	200	P. Trimble	
8	Ipswich	50	BBC (J. Berry)	
Black Tern				
5, 6	N. Monomoy	1	R. Humphrey + v. o.	
14	Norfolk (Stony Brook)	1 (details)	J. + G. Adams	
Black Skimmer				
thr	N. Monomoy	2 pr at nests	R. Humphrey#	
Dovekie				
21	Georges Bank	1	S. Dinsmore	
Common Murre				
17, 18	Georges Bank	1 br pl, 1 br pl	S. Dinsmore	
Atlantic Puffin				
21	Georges Bank	1 subad	S. Dinsmore	

#### DOVES THROUGH MIMIDS

A well-described **White-winged Dove** was observed for three days on Nantucket; this was the third record for the island, the other two records were also in June. In fact, the first state record was of a bird banded on Nantucket June 17, 1961; the other Nantucket record was from June 9-12, 1978. In total, there have been ten records for the state.

Black-billed Cuckoos were reported from twelve locations, double the number seen in June 1986, and there were four reports of Yellow-billed Cuckoos, three more than last year. Jim Berry of Ipswich relates the following observation:

I was listening to a Whip-poor-will about 11:30 P.M., when a Black-billed Cuckoo began singing in perfect time with it. The cuckoo made a two-note call that always immediately preceded the "whip" of the whip-poor-will's song. It went on for two to three minutes in perfect synchrony and thus had to be deliberate.

In Lakeville a brood of four Eastern Screech-Owls was observed. Two birds fledged on June 9, and on June 10 there was one live bird and one dead bird in the box. In Belmont a gray phase bird was found dead. The only nighthawks noted were 5 individuals over Cranes Beach on June 8; Whip-poor-wills were also reported in very low numbers.

Flycatchers were still migrating in early June, with Acadian noted in three places. Certainly the highlight of the month was the appearance of two **Fork-tailed Flycatchers** a week apart. This is only the second time that a Fork-tailed has been observed in the spring or summer. Most of the records have occurred in the fall. This was the eighth record for the state. (See photo in this issue.)

Interesting breeding reports included 30 pairs of Barn Swallows nesting in the lighthouse on South Monomoy. Along Virginia Road near Hanscom Field 4 pairs of Tree Swallows fledged 18 young, an average of 4.5 per nest. Nesting Golden-crowned Kinglets were found in a small stand of Norway Spruce in Ipswich, and there were indications that the species may have nested in the Lakeville area as well. High numbers of Marsh Wrens were found along the North River between Marshfield and Pembroke. A very careful count of over 135 individuals was made as the observers canoed that stretch of the river on June 7. Eastern Bluebirds were reported from five locations. R.H.S.

#### White-winged Dove

19-21	Nantucket (Smith Pt)	1	B. Vigneau#
Black-billed Cuckoo			
2, 5	Rehoboth, Middleboro	1, 1	K. Anderson, D. Briggs
6, 7	Essex, Lancaster	1, 2	J. Berry, M. Lynch#
15, 17	N. Falmouth, P.I.	1, 1	D. F. Oliver
18, 19; 19	Plymouth; N. Andover	1, 1; 1	D. Morimoto; J. MacDougall
20	Annisquam, Newbury	1, 1	H. Wiggin, J. Berry
22, 28	Falmouth, Coatue	1, 1	R. Turner, R. Tate#
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			
thr	Middleboro	1	D. Briggs
6	Falmouth	1	G. d'Entremont
14, 24	Quabbin (G40), Annisquam	1, 1	M. Lynch#, H. Wiggin

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1987
<b>Eastern Screech-Owl</b>				
8, 9	Ipswich, Annisquam	2 (red), 1	J. Berry#, H. Wiggin	
10	Lakeville	brood of 4	R. Turner	
30	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	
16, 24	Belmont, Lexington	1 grey dead, 1	J. Carter	
<b>Great Horned Owl</b>				
8	Ipswich	2 ad + 2 juv	J. Berry	
9	Cambridge (F.P.)	1	J. Barton	
<b>Barred Owl</b>				
19	Topsfield	1	J. MacDougall	
<b>Common Nighthawk</b>				
8	Ipswich (Cranes Beach)	5	J. Berry	
<b>Whip-poor-will</b>				
6, 28	Essex, Plymouth	2, 8	J. Berry, S. Dinsmore	
<b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</b>				
11, 14	Quabbin (G40)	1, 3	M. Lynch#	
29	N. Middleboro	2	K. Holmes	
<b>Belted Kingfisher</b>				
thr	Ipswich	pr n	J. Berry	
7	Marshfield (North R.)	3	W. Petersen	
<b>Hairy Woodpecker</b>				
2	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	
<b>Pileated Woodpecker</b>				
15, 26	Topsfield	1, 1	J. MacDougall	
18	Dedham	1	T. Raymond	
<b>Eastern Wood-Pewee</b>				
3, 6, 12	Annisquam	1, 1, 1	H. Wiggin	
11, 20	Quabbin (G40)	3, 8	M. Lynch#, BBC (J. Center)	
<b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b>				
3, 7; 6	P.I.; Annisquam	1, 1; 1	D. Chickering; H. Wiggin	
<b>Acadian Flycatcher</b>				
1-5	Plymouth	1	S. Dinsmore	
2	MNWS	1	M. Kasprzyk#	
20	S. Dartmouth	1	T. Raymond	
<b>Alder Flycatcher</b>				
7, 11	Bolton Flats, Quabbin (G40)	2, 3	M. Lynch#	
11, 21	Eastham, Plymouth	1, 2	B. Nikula, G. d'Entremont	
21, 28	Bolton Flats, Sudbury	2, 2	M. Lynch#, G. Gove#	
<b>Willow Flycatcher</b>				
thr, 2	P.I., Cambridge (F.P.)	4+, 1	v. o., J. Barton	
6	Essex County	7	J. Berry	
7	Pembroke (North R.)	1	W. Petersen	
7, 28	Bolton Flats	13, 10	M. Lynch, S. Carroll	
20	W. Newbury	4 m	J. Berry	
<b>Least Flycatcher</b>				
7, 28	Bolton Flats	3, 2	M. Lynch#	
20	Quabbin (G40)	12	BBC (J. Center)	
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>				
24	Ipswich	nest w/5 yg	J. Berry	
<b>Great-crested Flycatcher</b>				
18	Mashpee	6	P. Trimble	
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>				
thr	P.I.	22 max 6/24	v. o.	
9	Cambridge (F.P.)	6	J. Barton	
28	Bolton Flats	9	M. Lynch#	
<b>Fork-tailed Flycatcher</b>				
13	Falmouth (Crane Res.)	1 imm	K. Griffis, F. Bouchard	
20-21	Marshfield (DWWS)	1	D. Ludlow + v. o.	
<b>Horned Lark</b>				
8	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Lyons)	
20	N. Monomoy	5	M. Lynch	
<b>Purple Martin</b>				
thr	P.I.	40+	v. o.	
<b>Tree Swallow</b>				
thr	P.I.	50 max	v. o.	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1987
Tree Swallow (continued)				
thr	Concord	4 pr, 18 yg	J. Carter	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
17, 20	Lawrence	8, 6+	D. F. Oliver, G. d'Entremont#	
Bank Swallow				
7, 28	Bolton Flats	10, 12	M. Lynch#	
Barn Swallow				
7	S. Monomoy	30 n pr	R. Humphrey#	
27	Topsfield	14	J. MacDougall	
30	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	15	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Fish Crow				
thr, 3	Hanson, W. Hanover	5+, 1	W. Petersen, G. d'Entremont	
20	Plymouth	1	D. Morimoto	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
13	Ipswich, Lakeville	1, 3	J. Berry, W. Petersen#	
15, 27	Topsfield	1, 2	J. MacDougall	
Brown Creeper				
13, 14	Lakeville, Petersham	1, 3	W. Petersen#, M. Lynch	
Carolina Wren				
3	Plymouth	5	S. Dinsmore	
9	Annisquam	1	H. Wiggin	
House Wren				
14	Quabbin (G40)	12	M. Lynch#	
27	Topsfield	5	J. MacDougall	
Marsh Wren				
thr	P.I.	23 max 6/24	v. o.	
7	Marshfield-Pembroke (North R.)		135+ W. Petersen	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
13	Lakeville	3 or 4 pr	W. Petersen#	
13	Ipswich	pr n	J. Berry	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
11, 14	Quabbin (G40)	6	M. Lynch	
Eastern Bluebird				
thr	Plymouth	3 pr	S. Dinsmore + v. o.	
thr	N. Falmouth	2 pr	D. F. Oliver#	
6	Tyngsboro	4	BBC (R. Gerrish)	
11, 12	S. Carver	1	K. Shaw	
11, 14	Quabbin (G40)	5 ad + 1 yg, 7 ad + 2 yg	M. Lynch#	
Veery				
14	Petersham	14	M. Lynch, S. Carroll	
24, 26	Ipswich (Willowdale)	1 m, 2 m	J. Berry	
Hermit Thrush				
11, 14	Quabbin (G40), Petersham	6, 5	M. Lynch#, S. Carroll#	
26, 30	Ipswich, Plymouth	1 m, 1	J. Berry, K. Anderson	
Gray Catbird				
thr	P.I.	49 max 6/24	D. F. Oliver + v. o.	
2	Bolton Flats	10	M. Lynch#	
9	Cambridge (F.P.)	6	J. Barton	
Brown Thrasher				
thr, 6	Annisquam, P.I.	pr, 3	H. Wiggin, M. Lynch#	
15	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2	LCES (J. Lyons)	
24	N. Bridgewater	ad feeding yg	K. Holmes	

#### VIREOS THROUGH SISKINS

Territorial White-eyed Vireos were noted in Plymouth and were suspected of breeding in Ipswich; we had no reports from the Westport-South Dartmouth area, a long-established breeding location. At La Salette Shrine in Ipswich, Jim Berry reported the following nesting sequence of a Blue-winged Warbler: May 30, female lining nest; June 5, five eggs; June 13, five eggs; June 18, five blind young; June 24, nest empty. Jim never saw the fledglings and suspected a predator. Jim also noted some interesting behavior at the nest of a Golden-winged Warbler found at the same site:

On June 13, the female was aggressive when approached; nest found by watching food deliveries; a male flew in at one point and was followed by a second male, but only one male

was heard singing; the nest had two young, eyes open; on June 18, the nest was empty but intact; young may have fledged - no time to look for them.

Forty-six Yellow Warblers were counted on Plum Island in late June, and 18 Prairie Warblers were tallied in North Falmouth at the Crane reservation. A **Cerulean Warbler** in Sutton on June 8 was an interesting find, though it was not reported again. The Kentucky Warbler continued at the High Ridge Conservation area in Westminster throughout the month, and nesting was suspected.

On June 28, a survey of Hanscom Air Field for Upland Sandpipers revealed an abundance of grassland species living there: over 150 Savannah Sparrows, 2 singing Grasshopper Sparrows, and 54 Eastern Meadowlarks. Over 7 Grasshopper Sparrows were found at the Crane Reservation in North Falmouth. At Allens Pond in South Dartmouth, 28 Sharp-tailed and 7 Seaside sparrows were tallied. Pine Siskins were still at feeders through the middle of June.

R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1987
White-eyed Vireo				
thr	Plymouth	2 m	S. Dinsmore	
13, 18	Ipswich	2 m, 1	J. Berry	
Solitary Vireo				
14	Petersham	5	M. Lynch	
Yellow-throated Vireo				
7, 28	Bolton Flats	3, 2	M. Lynch#	
13	Marstons Mills	1	B. Nikula	
Warbling Vireo				
2, 9	Cambridge (F.P.)	6, 10	J. Barton#	
7, 28	Bolton Flats	4, 8	M. Lynch#	
Red-eyed Vireo				
7, 28	Bolton Flats	6, 4	M. Lynch#	
Blue-winged Warbler				
thr, 1	Ipswich, Holliston	pr n, 1	J. Berry, M. Martinek	
13, 15	W. Bridgewater, N. Falmouth	2, 1	K. Anderson, D. F. Oliver	
16, 20	Lincoln, Newbury area	4 m, 3 m	J. Carter, J. Berry	
"Brewster's" Warbler				
1	Holliston	1 paired with Blue-winged	M. Martinek	
9	W. Newbury	1	D. Chickering	
Golden-winged Warbler				
1-28	Ipswich (La Salette)	3 + 2 yg in nest	J. Berry + v. o.	
Nashville Warbler				
21	Mashpee	1	D. Morimoto	
Northern Parula				
13, 16	Osterville, Annisquam	2, 1 m	B. Nikula#, H. Wiggin#	
Yellow Warbler				
thr	P.I.	46 max 6/24	D. F. Oliver	
28	Bolton Flats	18	M. Lynch#	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
7, 28	Bolton Flats	4, 3	M. Lynch#	
13, 20	Ipswich, Newbury	3 m, 2 m	J. Berry	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
14	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
13	Lakeville	2 m	W. Petersen#	
15, 20	Holden, Quabbin (G40)	3, 6	M. Lynch, BBC (J. Center)	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
1	Holliston, Madaket	3, 1 f	M. Martinek, E. Andrews	
24	Ipswich (Willowdale)	3 m	J. Berry	
Blackburnian Warbler				
1	Plymouth, Madaket	1, 3	D. Morimoto, E. Andrews	
6	Ipswich (Willowdale)	1 m	J. Berry	
Pine Warbler				
16	N. Falmouth (Crane)	4	P. Trimble	
24, 26	Ipswich (Willowdale)	1 m, 2	J. Berry	
Prairie Warbler				
15, 20	N. Falmouth, Newbury	18, 6 or 7	D. F. Oliver, J. Berry	
30	Milton (Blue Hills)	7 m	D. Morimoto	
Bay-breasted Warbler				
1	Holliston	1	M. Martinek	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1987
<b>Cerulean Warbler</b>				
8	Sutton	1	S. Wheelock	
<b>Black-and-white Warbler</b>				
18	Mashpee	4	P. Trimble	
<b>American Redstart</b>				
thr	P.I.	12 max 6/1	v. o.	
28	Lincoln	3	L. Taylor#	
<b>Ovenbird</b>				
14	Petersham	21	M. Lynch#	
24, 26	Ipswich	6 m, 5 m	J. Berry	
<b>Louisiana Waterthrush</b>				
10	Westminster	1	D. F. Oliver	
<b>Kentucky Warbler</b>				
thr	Westminster	1 m	C. Quinlan#	
<b>Mourning Warbler</b>				
1, 7	Quincy, Norwell	1 m, 2	D. Morimoto, W. Petersen	
<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>				
thr	P.I.	43 max 6/24	v. o.	
7, 28	Bolton Flats	21, 24	M. Lynch#	
28	Milton (F.M.)	25	BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
<b>Scarlet Tanager</b>				
11	Quabbin (G40)	6	M. Lynch#	
22	N. Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>				
16, 21	Annisquam, Concord	1 m, 2	H. Wiggin, J. Carter	
<b>Field Sparrow</b>				
6	Salem, W. Newbury	6, pr at nest	J. Brown, J. Berry	
14, 15	Hamilton, N. Falmouth	3, 6	J. Berry, D. F. Oliver	
28	Rockport (Dog Town)	3	J. Brown	
<b>Vesper Sparrow</b>				
13	Wellfleet	2 ad feeding 1 yg	S. Dinsmore	
16	Otis AFB	2	P. Trimble	
<b>Savannah Sparrow</b>				
20	N. Monomoy, Rowley	20, 5 or 6	M. Lynch, J. Berry#	
28	Hanscom AFB	150+	J. Carter#	
<b>Grasshopper Sparrow</b>				
thr	N. Falmouth (Crane)	7+	P. Trimble + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2	LCES (J. Lyons)	
16, 28	Otis AFB, Hanscom AFB	3, 2 m	P. Trimble, J. Carter#	
<b>Sharp-tailed Sparrow</b>				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	28 max 6/15	LCES (J. Lyons)	
thr	P.I.	13 max 6/24	D. F. Oliver + v. o.	
7, 20	Marshfield, Mashpee	8, 6	W. Petersen, P. Trimble	
<b>Seaside Sparrow</b>				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	7 max 6/25	LCES (J. Lyons)	
<b>Song Sparrow</b>				
thr	P.I.	47 max 6/24	D. F. Oliver + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	13 max 6/30	LCES (J. Lyons)	
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>				
6, 28	Lynnfield, Milton (F.M.)	4, 4	J. Brown, BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
<b>Bobolink</b>				
6	W. Newbury	15+	J. Berry	
11	Beverly (airport)	20	J. Brown	
20	Rowley (Nelsons I.)	30+	J. Berry	
<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>				
thr	P.I.	80+ max	v. o.	
<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>				
6	Newbypt (airport)	4 or 5	J. Berry	
16	Otis AFB, N. Falmouth	6, 4	P. Trimble	
26, 30	Marlboro	2, 3	R. Graefe	
28	Hanscom AFB	54	J. Carter#	
<b>Common Grackle</b>				
29	P.I.	52	BBC (H. Weissberg)	
<b>Orchard Oriole</b>				
9, 11	Cambr. (F.P.), Beverly	1, 1	J. Barton, J. Brown	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1987
Northern Oriole				
9	Cambridge (F.P.)	6	J. Barton	
Purple Finch				
4, 14	Bourne	3, 3	D. Morimoto	
7, 18	Plymouth	3, 1	D. Morimoto	
House Finch				
25	Scituate	1 albino	B. Salvador	
Red Crossbill				
1	Hanson	1	W. Petersen	
Pine Siskin				
1, 13, 17	Arlington	2, 1, 1	L. Taylor	
7, 20	Chatham	1, 2	B. Nikula, T. + H. Vose	



*Fork-tailed Flycatcher*  
*Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary*  
*Marshfield, MA*  
*June 20, 1987*

*Photos by Robert Abrams*



# FIELD RECORDS

## JULY 1987



by George W. Gove and Robert H. Stymeist

July was dry, cloudy, and cool. The temperature averaged 71.7 degrees, 1.8 degrees below normal. The high was 95 degrees on July 24; the low was 57 degrees on July 2, 3, and 7. Rain totaled just 0.82 inch, 1.86 inches less than average. This was the seventh driest July in 117 years of record. The most in any one day was 0.7 inch on July 2. A sixteen-day stretch in the latter half of the month without measurable rain nears the record of eighteen days in a row set in July 1946. As is usual in the summer, rainfall was spotty throughout the area; but most communities in Massachusetts were also well on the dry side. Thunder was heard on only two days, but fog was unusually frequent for the month. R.H.S.

### LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Common Loons were at Quabbin and at Wachusett Reservoir, where one chick was present with four adults. One or two Common Loons were also seen at Sampson's Pond in South Carver. As it was last year, pelagic birding was poor since the sand lance have stayed offshore and south of Cape Cod.

American Bitterns were seen in Easton, and four Least Bitterns were present at Hellcat on Plum Island. Only 10 to 15 Great Egrets were noted at Allens Pond in South Dartmouth, in contrast to the 39 counted there last July. Three Little Blue Herons were also there. At Plum Island, 263 Snowy Egrets were counted, and single Tricolored Herons were seen at Plum Island and at North Monomoy. Up to 28 Cattle Egrets were in Ipswich, and 2 or 3 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen periodically at Plum Island, where 42 Glossy Ibis were also counted. G.W.G.

#### Common Loon

3-12	Wachusett Res.	5 (1 chick)	M. Lynch#
5	Quabbin	2	M. Lynch#
4	P.I.	1 basic pl	W. Ellison#
6, 7	S. Carver	1, 2	fide K. Anderson
25	Cape Cod Bay, E. Sandwich	1, 1	K. Holmes, B. Porter
25	Cuttyhunk	1	P. Trimble
Pied-billed Grebe			
16, 28	Duxbury, Bolton	1, 1	M. Kasprzyk, E. Salmella
Cory's Shearwater			
18	Stellwagen	1	K. Holmes
Greater Shearwater			
11, 18	Stellwagen	2, 25	K. Holmes
26	Stellwagen	1	BBC (I. Giriunas)
Sooty Shearwater			
18, 26	Stellwagen	100, 2	K. Holmes, BBC (I. Giriunas)
Wilson's Storm-Petrel			
6, 18	E of Gloucester	60, 30	J. Berry, D. Chickering
26	Stellwagen	400-500	BBC (I. Giriunas)
Northern Gannet			
11, 18	Stellwagen	1, 13	K. Holmes
Double-crested Cormorant			
26	Boston-Stellwagen	500	BBC (I. Giriunas)
26	Cuttyhunk	300	P. Trimble
American Bittern			
16, 20	Easton	1, 1	K. Holmes

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1987
Least Bittern				
4-17	P.I.	4 max 7/11	v. o.	
Great Blue Heron				
12-27	P.I.	8 max 7/27	v. o.	
18	GMNWR	14	BBC (M. Lynch)	
11	Quabbin (G37)	8	M. Lynch#	
Great Egret				
thr	P.I.	6 max 7/27	v. o.	
7, 28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	10, 15	LCES (J. Lyons)	
25, 30	S. Carver, Lakeville	1, 1	K. Anderson, K. Holmes	
Snowy Egret				
thr	P.I.	263 max 7/27	BBC (H. Weissberg) + v. o.	
1-17	Saugus-Revere	25 max 7/14	J. Berry	
Little Blue Heron				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), Duxbury	3 max 7/28, 2	LCES (J. Lyons), M. Kasprzyk	
17, 18	Essex, Manchester	1 ad, 1 or 2	J. Brown, A. Williams	
19, 20	P.I., N. Monomoy	2 ad, 1 ad	BBC (D. + D. Oliver), B. Nikula	
22, 25	Bolton, Plymouth	1 ad, 1	E. Salmella, K. Holmes	
Tricolored Heron				
20, 25	P.I., N. Monomoy	1, 1	BBC (D. + D. Oliver), B. Nikula	
Cattle Egret				
thr	Ipswich	28 max 7/28	J. Berry, J. Brown	
2, 9	Beverly, DWWS	1, 1	J. Brown, D. Ludlow	
18	Essex	2	A. Williams#	
Green-backed Heron				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	6 max 7/21	LCES (J. Lyons)	
5, 18	Quabbin (G37), GMNWR	2, 8	M. Lynch#	
12, 28	P.I., N. Middleboro	4, 3	J. Brown, K. Holmes	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
2, 10	Watertown, Salem	14, 4	P. Overby, J. Berry	
19, 27	P.I.	13, 14	M. Lynch#, BBC (H. Weissberg)	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
10, 14	Nantucket	1 ad	fide E. Andrews	
19	P.I.	2 or 3 ad	v. o.	
Glossy Ibis				
thr	P.I.	42 max 7/27	v. o.	
1-17, 19	Revere, N. Monomoy	8-10, 19	J. Berry, B. Nikula	
15	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	7	LCES (J. Lyons)	
26	Cuttyhunk	1	P. Trimble	

#### WATERFOWL THROUGH BOBWHITES

At least 300 Wood Ducks were counted at Great Meadows NWR, including many young birds. Among the less usual summer ducks reported this month were pintails, shovelers, a Greater Scaup, and a Ruddy Duck.

Ospreys fledged two young at Assawompsett Pond in Lakeville, and Bald Eagles were seen at Quabbin and at South Monomoy. Three noisy young Red-shouldered Hawks were noted throughout the month in East Middleboro. A Merlin was seen at Cuttyhunk, and one of the Boston peregrines was seen hunting at Belle Isle Marsh.

G.W.G.

Mute Swan				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	10 max	LCES (J. Lyons)	
30	S. Monomoy	5	R. Humphrey	
Canada Goose				
4, 19	GMNWR, P.I.	89, 86	P. Overby, M. Lynch#	
Wood Duck				
4	GMNWR	11 ad + 51 yg	P. Overby	
4	Milford	40	R. Hildreth	
18, 19	GMNWR	300+, 149	BBC (M. Lynch), R. Stymeist#	
Green-winged Teal				
6, 12	P.I., S. Monomoy	4, 22	BBC (M. + R. Barnett), R. Humphrey	
American Black Duck				
18	GMNWR	40	BBC (M. Lynch)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1987
Mallard				
11	P.I.	78	E. Nielsen	
Northern Pintail				
12	S. Monomoy	14	R. Humphrey	
Blue-winged Teal				
13, 26	P.I., Halifax	16, 3	BBC (W. Drummond), K. Anderson	
Northern Shoveler				
6, 30	P.I., S. Monomoy	2, 7	BBC (M. + R. Barnett), R. Humphrey	
Gadwall				
4-17, 12	P.I., S. Monomoy	40 max 7/4, 36	v.o., R. Humphrey	
Greater Scaup				
4	P.I.	1 m	W. Ellison#	
Common Eider				
6, 26	Gloucester, Cuttyhunk	29, 12	J. Berry, P. Trimble	
Red-breasted Merganser				
4, 7	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2, 1	W. Ellison#, LCES (J. Lyons)	
Ruddy Duck				
30	S. Monomoy	1	R. Humphrey	
Turkey Vulture				
4, 17	Quabbin (G40), Essex	4, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Brown	
23, 30	Topsfield, Falmouth	1, 1	J. Berry, K. Anderson	
Osprey				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	7 max	LCES (J. Lyons)	
thr	Lakeville	2 + 2 yg	K. Holmes	
4, 26	P.I., Cuttyhunk	1, 3	W. Ellison#, P. Trimble	
Bald Eagle				
5, 11	Quabbin (G37)	1 imm, 1 ad	M. Lynch#	
12-30	S. Monomoy	1 imm	R. Humphrey	
Northern Harrier				
27	P.I., DWWS	1, 1	BBC (H. Weissberg), D. Ludlow	
29	N. Monomoy	1 m	B. Nikula	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
27	P.I.	1	BBC (H. Weissberg)	
Cooper's Hawk				
17	Ipswich	1	J. MacDougall	
Northern Goshawk				
25	Boxford	1 ad + 1 imm	J. Berry#	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
thr	E. Middleboro	3 imm	K. Anderson	
5, 25	Quabbin (G37), Boxford	4, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Berry#	
Broad-winged Hawk				
thr	E. Middleboro	1-2	K. Anderson	
12, 17	Ipswich, Hamilton	1, 1	J. Brown	
19, 25	Mendon, Boxford	1, 3 or 4	K. Holmes, J. Berry#	
Red-tailed Hawk				
5, 25	Quabbin (G37), Ipswich	4, pr + 1 yg	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
American Kestrel				
thr	N. Middleboro	pr	K. Holmes	
3, 21	Topsfield, Hanscom AFB	3, 6	J. Brown, J. Carter	
Merlin				
26	Cuttyhunk	1	P. Trimble	
Peregrine Falcon				
21	E. Boston	1	J. Cumming	
Ring-necked Pheasant				
11, 12	P.I., Bolton	4, 1	E. Nielsen, M. Lynch#	
Ruffed Grouse				
1, 17; 11	Ipswich; Quabbin (G37)	1 imm, 1; 1	J. MacDougall, M. Lynch#	
Northern Bobwhite				
4, 12	E. Sandwich, Rochester	4, 5	B. Porter, K. Anderson#	
14	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Lyons)	

## RAILS THROUGH SKIMMERS

A Clapper Rail was noted at Barnstable, and 8 Virginia Rails and 3 Soras were counted at Great Meadows NWR. Only one Common Moorhen was reported this July.

A Lesser Golden-Plover at Plymouth Beach elicited a note which is excerpted here.

...The same Lesser Golden-Plover has appeared every year for the last nine or so years in the second or third week of July and it remains until late August or early September. It always comes early and is in full basic plumage. ...[Possibly it follows] other breeders to the Arctic but has no chance of mating because it remains in basic plumage year round. It heads south with the first shorebird departures. Although it cannot be said definitely that the plover is the same bird, it would seem to be because of the same time and location of its annual appearance and the fact that it is always in basic plumage.

Piping Plover numbers included 24 at Allens Pond in South Dartmouth, 11 at Duxbury Beach, and 12 at North Monomoy. Upland Sandpiper reports were scant, and there was no report for Otis AFB where 100 birds were seen last year. The first confirmed nesting of Willet occurred on Nantucket this July. A Marbled Godwit was present with the Hudsonian Godwits at North Monomoy. Red Knot numbers were said to be extremely low at Duxbury and Plymouth beaches. A Ruff was reported from Peabody, but no details were received. A Wilson's Phalarope was found on a nest with four eggs at Plumbush.

A Little Stint was reported from Plymouth Beach. It was observed from July 28 through August 9; photographs were taken on both July 31 and August 7, and details are on file.

An Iceland Gull at North Monomoy is an unusual July record. A leucistic Herring Gull, noted at Squantum, was said to be an adult having a yellow bill with a faint red spot and dark eyes. G.W.G

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1987
Clapper Rail				
8	Barnstable	1	B. Porter	
Virginia Rail				
4, 12	Quabbin (G40), Bolton	3, 3	M. Lynch#	
13	P.I.	2	BBC (W. Drummond)	
18	GMNWR	8	BBC (M. Lynch)	
Sora				
17, 18	P.I., GMNWR	1, 3	J. Brown, BBC (M. Lynch)	
Common Moorhen				
4	Milford	1	R. Hildreth	
Black-bellied Plover				
29	N. Monomoy	150	B. Nikula	
Lesser Golden-Plover				
20, 28-31	P.I., Plymouth	1, 1 basic pl	BBC (D. + D. Oliver), M. Kasprzyk	
Semipalmated Plover				
4, 19	P.I.	1, 53	W. Ellison#, M. Lynch#	
28, 29	N. Monomoy, Duxbury	200, 247	B. Nikula, M. Kasprzyk	
30	Plymouth	182	M. Kasprzyk	
Piping Plover				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	24 max 7/7	LCES (J. Lyons)	
thr	Duxbury	11 max 7/21	M. Kasprzyk	
11	P.I., Cuttyhunk	3, 2	E. Nielsen, A. Williams	
18	N. Monomoy	12	A. Bennett#	
Killdeer				
thr	P.I.	10 max	v.o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	9 max 7/7	LCES (J. Lyons)	
5-11	Quabbin (G37)	6	M. Lynch#	
26, 30	Halifax	4	K. Anderson	
American Oystercatcher				
11, 25	Cuttyhunk, N. Monomoy	4, 25	A. Williams#, B. Nikula	
26	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	10	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Greater Yellowlegs				
4-19, 5	P.I., Nantucket	56 max 7/19, 4	v. o., E. Andrews	
28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	18	LCES (J. Lyons)	
29	N. Monomoy	120	B. Nikula	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
4, 19	P.I.	33, 53	W. Ellison#, M. Lynch#	
19, 30	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	50, 70	B. Nikula, R. Humphrey	
Solitary Sandpiper				
30	Halifax	1	K. Anderson	
BIRD OBSERVER		317		

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1987
Willet				
thr	Nantucket	4 ad + 2 yg	E. + C. Andrews	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	13 max	LCES (J. Lyons)	
4	P.I., Plumbush	4, 10	W. Ellison#	
25	N. Monomoy	140	B. Nikula	
Spotted Sandpiper				
3, 5	Clinton, Quabbin (G37)	10, 10	M. Lynch#	
14	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	7	LCES (J. Lyons)	
25	Halifax	3	K. Anderson	
Upland Sandpiper				
4; 5, 18	Plumbush; Hanscom AFB	1 ad; 10, 5	W. Ellison#; J. Carter	
30	Newburyport	3	J. Brown	
Whimbrel				
thr	Nantucket	24 max 7/28	E. Andrews	
8, 18	Wellesley, Massachusetts Bay	24, 10	C. Quinlan, K. Holmes	
25, 26, 27	N. Monomoy	<b>545, 483, 475</b>	R. Humphrey#	
Hudsonian Godwit				
5, 18	Newburyport, N. Monomoy	3, 11	G. Gove, E. Nielsen#	
25, 27	N. Monomoy, P.I.	70, 26	B. Nikula, BBC (H. Weissberg)	
Marbled Godwit				
7, 25	N. Monomoy	1, 1	R. Humphrey, B. Nikula	
Ruddy Turnstone				
27, 29	P.I., N. Monomoy	1, 80	BBC (H. Weissberg), B. Nikula	
Red Knot				
28, 29	Duxbury, Plymouth	15, 83	M. Kasprzyk	
29	N. Monomoy	300	B. Nikula	
Sanderling				
23, 30	Duxbury, Plymouth	516, 327	M. Kasprzyk	
29	N. Monomoy	1500	B. Nikula	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
19, 29	P.I., N. Monomoy	50, 2000	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula	
29, 30	Duxbury, Plymouth	680, 1222	M. Kasprzyk	
Western Sandpiper				
13, 18-19	Duxbury, N. Monomoy	1, 1 basic pl	M. Kasprzyk, S. Perkins#	
Little Stint (details submitted)				
28-31	Plymouth	1 alt pl	M. Kasprzyk	
Least Sandpiper				
13	Duxbury, Plymouth	129, 13	M. Kasprzyk	
11, 19	P.I., N. Monomoy	23, 700	E. Nielsen, B. Nikula	
26, 30	Halifax	40, 5	K. Anderson	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
4, 30	P.I.	1, 4	W. Ellison#, BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
4, 12	P.I.	1, 1	D. Chickering, J. Brown	
26, 30	Halifax, S. Monomoy	8, 24	K. Anderson, R. Humphrey	
Dunlin				
thr	N. Monomoy	1	v. o.	
Stilt Sandpiper				
12, 27	P.I.	1-2, 5	J. Brown, BBC (H. Weissberg)	
29	N. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula	
Ruff				
19	Peabody	1	J. Brown	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
4, 14	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	180, 77	W. Ellison#, LCES (J. Lyons)	
15, 17	Duxbury, Nantucket	106, 15	M. Kasprzyk, E. + C. Andrews	
18, 25	N. Monomoy	1500, 2500	E. Nielsen#, B. Nikula	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
25, 30	P.I.	1, 3	G. Gove, J. Brown	
dowitcher species				
6	off Gloucester	10	J. Berry	
10, 15	Revere, Saugus	10, 25	J. Berry	
Common Snipe				
17, 30	P.I., S. Monomoy	1, 1	J. Brown, R. Humphrey	
Wilson's Phalarope				
4	P.I., Plumbush	1 m, 1 f at nest	W. Ellison#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1987
Wilson's Phalarope (continued)				
30	S. Monomoy	1	R. Humphrey	
Red-necked Phalarope				
10-31	Nantucket	1	M. Litchfield	
Red Phalarope				
10-15	Duxbury	1 alt pl	M. Kasprzyk	
25	Cape Cod Bay	1	K. Holmes	
Parasitic Jaeger				
19	Vineyard Sound	1	P. Trimble	
Laughing Gull				
4, 20	P.I.	1 ad, 3	W. Ellison#, BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
15, 18	N. Monomoy, Provincetown	40, 1	J. Brown, K. Holmes	
Bonaparte's Gull				
4, 27	Newburyport, P.I.	13, 18	W. Ellison#, BBC (H. Weissberg)	
18, 29	Lynn, Revere	29, 250	J. Quigley, J. Cumming	
Ring-billed Gull				
25, 27	P.I., Lynn	190, 9	J. Cumming, J. Quigley	
Iceland Gull				
18	N. Monomoy	1	E. Nielsen, A. Bennett	
Royal Tern				
25	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula + v. o.	
Roseate Tern				
24	Monomoy	270	R. Humphrey	
Common Tern				
18	N. Monomoy	6 portlandica	E. Nielsen#	
26	Cuttyhunk	250	P. Trimble	
28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	189	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Arctic Tern				
18	N. Monomoy	1 ad + 4 portlandica	A. Bennett#	
Forster's Tern				
17, 18	P.I.	1, 1 imm	J. Brown, R. Stone#	
14, 21	N. Monomoy	1 imm, 3 imm	R. Humphrey	
Least Tern				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	8 max 7/21	LCES (J. Lyons)	
24	N. Monomoy	55 pr	R. Humphrey	
25, 26	P.I., Cuttyhunk	20, 15	J. Cumming, P. Trimble	
Black Tern				
8, 24	Plymouth, N. Monomoy	1, 1	J. Atwood, R. Humphrey	
Black Skimmer				
thr	N. Monomoy	5 max 7/21	R. Humphrey + v. o.	

#### DOVES THROUGH CROSSBILLS

An observer summed up the month of July as "dull, dull, dull." Even the cool weather the last few days of the month brought no early migrants.

At Grape Island in Boston Harbor, a roost of 132 Mourning Doves was counted, and also of note on the island was the record of a singing White-throated Sparrow! Numbers of both species of cuckoos were an improvement over last July with 8 Yellow-billed reported, compared with just 1 last year. There were at least 5 Short-eared Owls recorded on Monomoy this July. Whip-poor-will reports were few and far between, but ten individuals were heard at Miles Standish State Forest.

At Quabbin, Mark Lynch and Sheila Carroll did a survey of breeding birds at Gates 37 and 40, and some of the interesting numbers included: 20 Eastern Wood-Pewees, 28 Least Flycatchers, 13 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 21 House Wrens, 16 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, 13 Eastern Bluebirds, 21 Hermit Thrushes, 56 Red-eyed Vireos, 7 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 9 Black-throated Green Warblers, 11 Blackburnian Warblers, 24 American Redstarts, 4 Worm-eating Warblers, 68 Common Yellowthroats, 26 Scarlet Tanagers, 21 Swamp Sparrows, and 10 White-throated Sparrows. For more information on this section of Quabbin, see Mark Lynch's "The Birds of Gate 40, Quabbin," *Bird Observer*, October 1987, 15: 220.

On July 5 a survey by bicycle along the Charles River in Watertown produced some interesting numbers: 31 Yellow Warblers, 21 Warbling Vireos, and 52 Song Sparrows. Last year, a similar survey

in mid-June produced more vireos and warblers, but far fewer Song Sparrows. The opinion is that both the Warbling Vireos and Yellow Warblers were busy feeding fledged young, and that the song activity was greatly reduced in that two-week period. In the case of the Song Sparrows, perhaps the increased song marked the beginning of a second brood.

At Allens Pond in South Dartmouth, the continuing survey by the Lloyd Center produced 2 Grasshopper, 33 Sharp-tailed, and 7 Seaside sparrows. R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1987
Mourning Dove				
3	Boston H. (Grape I.)	132 at roost	K. Durham	
Black-billed Cuckoo				
	Reports of 12 individuals from 9 locations.			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
2, 5	N. Middleboro, Concord	1, 1	K. Holmes, J. Carter	
12	Bolton Flats, P.I.	1, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Brown	
12, 13	Westminster, Duxbury B.	3, 1	R. Stymeist#, M. Kasprzyk	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
thr	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	
Barred Owl				
17	Ipswich	2	J. MacDougall	
Short-eared Owl				
12, 18	S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy	5, 1	R. Humphrey, B. Nikula#	
Whip-poor-will				
17	Plymouth (M. Standish)	10	G. d'Entremont	
Chimney Swift				
10	Marlboro	21	R. Graefe	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
thr	E. Middleboro	3+	K. Anderson	
1, 24	Topsfield	1	J. Brown	
4, 5	Quabbin (G37, 40)	1, 1	M. Lynch, S. Carroll	
12, 17, 30	N. Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	
20, 24	Chatham, Hudson	2, 1	B. Nikula, E. Salmela	
Belted Kingfisher				
25	GMNWR	4	BBC (J. Center)	
Pileated Woodpecker				
11	Quabbin (G37)	2	M. Lynch#	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
4, 5	Quabbin (G40, 37)	11, 9	M. Lynch, S. Carroll	
25	Boxford (C.P.)	5	J. MacDougall	
Willow Flycatcher				
11, 18	P.I., GMNWR	3, 4	E. Nielsen, M. Lynch#	
12, 22	Bolton Flats	9, 5	M. Lynch#, E. Salmela	
Least Flycatcher				
4, 5	Quabbin (G40, 37)	14, 14	M. Lynch, S. Carroll	
Eastern Phoebe				
4, 5	Quabbin (G40), Petersham	2, 2	M. Lynch, S. Carroll	
5, 12	Concord	3, 2 imm	J. Carter	
25	Boxford (C.P.)	2	J. Berry#	
Great Crested Flycatcher				
2, 30	N. Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	
4, 5	Quabbin (G40, 37)	3, 4	M. Lynch, S. Carroll	
20	Carlisle (Great Brook)	5	P. Overby	
Eastern Kingbird				
thr	Marlboro (Ft Meadow)	7 max 7/29	R. Graefe	
11, 12	P.I., Bolton Flats	18, 14	E. Nielsen, M. Lynch#	
Tree Swallow				
7	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	21	LCES (J. Lyons)	
11	Quabbin (G37)	35	M. Lynch#	
11, 27	P.I.	42, 300	E. Nielsen, BBC (H. Weissberg)	
N. Rough-winged Swallow				
3	Wachusett Res.	6	M. Lynch#	
5, 8	Nantucket	2, 1	S. Perkins	
Bank Swallow				
11, 26	P.I., Cuttyhunk	21, 40	E. Nielsen, P. Trimble	
Cliff Swallow				
5, 20	Paxton, P.I.	2, 1	M. Lynch#, BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1987
Barn Swallow 26	Cuttyhunk	20	P. Trimble	
Common Raven 11	Quabbin (G37)	1	M. Lynch#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch 4, 5	Quabbin (G40, 37)	10, 3	M. Lynch, S. Carroll	
7, 25	E. Middleboro, E. Orleans	1, 1	K. Anderson, A. Williams	
25, 26	Boxford, Topsfield	2, 1	J. MacDougall#	
White-breasted Nuthatch 20, 25	Centerville, Boxford	6, 5 or 6	P. Trimble, J. Berry#	
Brown Creeper 5, 17	Quabbin (G37), E. Middleboro	8, 1 singing	M. Lynch#, K. Anderson	
Carolina Wren 3, 4	Nantucket	1	E. + C. Andrews	
12	Rochester	3	A. Leggett	
30, 31	Rehoboth, E. Middleboro	1, 1	K. Anderson	
House Wren 4, 5	Quabbin (G40, 37)	11, 10	M. Lynch, S. Carroll	
5, 14	Nantucket	1, 2	E. Andrews + v. o.	
Winter Wren 11	Petersham	1 singing	M. Lynch#	
Marsh Wren 11, 18	P.I., GMNWR	15, 17	J. Brown, BBC (M. Lynch)	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 3	Boxford	1	J. MacDougall	
4, 5	Quabbin (G40, 37)	10, 6	M. Lynch#	
25, 27	Topsfield, E. Middleboro	1, 1	J. Brown, K. Anderson	
Eastern Bluebird 1, 23	E. Middleboro	1 m, pr feeding yg	K. Anderson	
4	Quabbin (G40)	13	M. Lynch#	
Veery 5, 6	Quabbin (G37), Ipswich	15, 7	M. Lynch#, J. MacDougall	
12, 15	Foxboro, N. Middleboro	5 pr, 1	W. Davis, K. Holmes	
Hermit Thrush thr, 5	Mashpee, Quabbin (G37)	1, 21	P. Trimble, M. Lynch#	
25	Boxford (C.P.)	3 m	J. Berry#	
23, 29	S. Middleboro, E. Middleboro	1 m, 1 m	K. Anderson	
Wood Thrush 3, 25	Boxford (C.P.)	6, 2	J. MacDougall	
6, 17	Ipswich (Willowdale)	5, 7	J. MacDougall	
7, 13-30	Topsfield, N. Middleboro	3, 2+	J. Brown, K. Holmes	
Gray Catbird 11	P.I.	59	E. Nielsen	
Northern Mockingbird 4	P.I., Milford	9, 12	W. Ellison#, R. Hildreth	
Brown Thrasher thr	Annisquam	pr w/ 1 yg	H. Wiggin	
thr, 12	P.I., Rochester	3-5, 5	v. o., K. Anderson	
Cedar Waxwing thr, 5	P.I., Quabbin (G37)	13 max, 17	v. o., M. Lynch#	
12, 15	Bolton Flats, N. Middleboro	10, 6	M. Lynch#, K. Holmes	
Solitary Vireo 11, 25	Quabbin (G37), Boxford (C.P.)	7, 1 or 2	M. Lynch#, J. Berry#	
Yellow-throated Vireo 12	Bolton Flats	3	M. Lynch#	
Warbling Vireo 5	Watertown-Cambr. (Charles R.)	21	R. Stymeist	
Red-eyed Vireo 5	Quabbin (G37)	56	M. Lynch#	
12, 25	Rochester, Boxford	5, 8-10	A. Leggett#, J. Berry#	
Yellow Warbler 5	Watertown-Cambr. (Charles R.)	31	R. Stymeist	
11	P.I.	32	E. Nielsen	
Yellow-rumped Warbler 11, 12	Quabbin (G37), Rochester	7, 1	M. Lynch#, K. Anderson	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
Black-throated Green Warbler			
3, 25	Boxford	2, 4	J. Berry#
5, 11	Quabbin (G37)	9	M. Lynch, S. Carroll
6, 17	Ipswich	3	J. MacDougall
Blackburnian Warbler			
5	Quabbin (G37)	11	M. Lynch#
Pine Warbler			
5, 12	Quabbin (G37), Rochester	13, 3	M. Lynch#, K. Anderson
Black-and-white Warbler			
11	Quabbin (G37)	7	M. Lynch#
American Redstart			
5	Quabbin (G37)	24	M. Lynch#
25	Boxford (C.P.)	ad feeding yg	J. Berry#
Worm-eating Warbler			
11	Quabbin (G37)	2 ad feeding 2 yg	M. Lynch#
Ovenbird			
3, 25	Boxford	4, 1	J. MacDougall#
5	Uxbridge, Quabbin (G37)	2, 38	R. Hildreth, M. Lynch#
Northern Waterthrush			
5	Quabbin (G37)	1	M. Lynch#
Louisiana Waterthrush			
12	Westminster	2	R. Stymeist#
25	Boxford (C.P.)	1 or 2 m	J. Berry#
Kentucky Warbler			
23	Westminster (High Ridge)	1 ad feeding yg	C. Quinlan, R. Jenkins
Common Yellowthroat			
4, 5	Quabbin (G40, 37)	41, 27	M. Lynch, S. Carroll
11, 12	P.I., Westminster	22, 16	E. Nielsen, R. Stymeist#
Canada Warbler			
5, 12	Quabbin (G37), Westminster	2, 3	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#
Scarlet Tanager			
2, 5	Mashpee, Quabbin (G37)	3, 26	P. Trimble, M. Lynch#
17, 20, 31	N. Middleboro	1, 1, 3	K. Holmes
25	Boxford	4	J. MacDougall
Rufous-sided Towhee			
6	P.I.	3	BBC (M. +. D. Barnett)
Chipping Sparrow			
4	Quabbin (G40)	19	M. Lynch, S. Carroll
6, 17	Topsfield, Ipswich	7, 5	J. MacDougall
Field Sparrow			
4	Milford	6	R. Hildreth
Savannah Sparrow			
13	P.I.	10	BBC (W. Drummond)
21-28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Lyons)
Grasshopper Sparrow			
7, 28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2, 2	LCES (J. Lyons)
Sharp-tailed Sparrow			
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	33 max 7/7	LCES (J. Lyons)
4	Newbypt (Plumbush)	30	W. Ellison#
4, 12	P.I.	15, 6	W. Ellison#, J. Brown
Seaside Sparrow			
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	7 max 7/7	LCES (J. Lyons)
Song Sparrow			
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	17 max 7/7	LCES (J. Lyons)
5	Watertown-Cambr. (Charles R.)	52	R. Stymeist
Swamp Sparrow			
4, 12	Quab. (G40), Bolton Flats	21, 19	M. Lynch#, S. Carroll#
White-throated Sparrow			
4, 5	Quabbin (G40, 37)	5, 5	M. Lynch, S. Carroll
12	Boston H. (Grape I.)	1 singing	K. Durham#
Bobolink			
28	Bolton Flats	100+	E. Salmela
Red-winged Blackbird			
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	18 max 7/7	LCES (J. Lyons)
13	P.I.	60	BBC (W. Drummond)

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1987
Eastern Meadowlark thr	Marlboro (Ft. Meadow)	4 max	R. Graefe	
Orchard Oriole 25	Newbury	2+	J. Cumming	
House Finch thr	Annisquam	13+ pr + 41 yg	H. Wiggin	
White-winged Crossbill! 23	S. Monomoy	1 m	R. Humphrey	

## MDFW NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR SURVEY OF NESTING PEREGRINES AND EYRIES

A decade of Peregrine restoration effort on the part of The Peregrine Fund and cooperating agencies is paying dividends. In 1987, 56 pairs (40 of which bred) were established in the East from North Carolina to Maine. Nineteen pairs, including Boston's pair (*Bird Observer*, June and October 1987, 15: 134-136, 230), were established in New York and New England. The comeback seems especially strong in the White Mountains, where seven pairs were confirmed. There is a real possibility that some of our state's fourteen historic eyries will be occupied again. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW) will conduct eyrie surveys April 4-15, 1988, and again in June. Volunteers who do these field inspections must have a car and reasonable bird identification skills and be available for several days during the period. Most sites are in the Connecticut Valley and Berkshire County. If pairs are located, volunteers will be needed to monitor active sites and record behavior. For more information contact Dr. Thomas W. French, Assistant Director, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, MDFW, 100 Cambridge St., Boston 02202 (617-727-3151) or Bradford G. Blodget, State Ornithologist, MDFW Field Headquarters, Westboro 01581-3397 (617-336-4470 or 617-727-2864).



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*Boston Peregrine*

*Photo by Erika Desuk*



## BIRDERS: USE YOUR SKILLS AS VOLUNTEERS IN WATERFOWL STUDY

Coastal towns are now being required by the EPA to upgrade their sewage treatment facilities. Over the next few years, these changes will produce improved water quality, less turbidity, higher levels of oxygen, and greater diversity and quantity of bottom dwelling plants and animals (duck food). The logical assumption is that what's good for the water will be good for the ducks, but nature often does not operate with the same logic we do. In England, improvements in sewage treatment led to declines in goldeneye populations. It seems that the birds relished the sewage stew, which, in one instance included leftover vegetables from a canning plant.

Birder volunteers are needed for a study on the North Shore, a joint effort of Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) and the Peabody Museum of Salem, that will focus on the more abundant species such as Red-breasted Mergansers, American Goldeneye, Buffleheads, and American Black Duck with a smattering of eiders, scoters, loons, cormorants, and Black Guillemots to provide added interest. These species vary in feeding habits and tolerance of winter conditions, thus making for interesting comparisons of their responses to water quality improvements. In addition to counting the birds, their activities will be recorded to determine if different harbors are providing food or are used only as resting areas. To get involved in this important study, call Robert Buchsbaum, MAS Coastal Ecologist, or Lesley Rowse at MAS Resources, North Shore (617-283-0598 or 744-2967) or Rob Moir, Curator of Natural History for the Peabody Museum of Salem (617-745-1876).

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## MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

**BARRY W. VAN DUSEN** is an independent commercial artist living in Princeton, Massachusetts, not far from the Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary. In his commercial work he has done major illustrations for Genrad, Digital, Scandinavian Design, and American Optical, but lately he has turned his attention to natural history subjects, especially birds. Currently he is working closely with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, illustrating and producing brochures, field guides, and magazine illustrations. Some of these have, in turn, appeared in the pages of national *Audubon*, *Wildbird* magazine, and *The Boston Globe*. Barry prefers to work from life whenever possible and has gained inspiration from the works of Eric Ennion, John Busby, and Lars Jonsson -- all advocates of working directly from the living bird. In 1985, Barry had a one-man show at the Laughing Brook Nature Center in Hampden, Massachusetts, and is planning another show in the Greater Boston area soon. If you would like to be notified of future exhibits, please drop a note to him at 13 Radford Road, Princeton, MA 01541.

The portrait of the Snow Bunting opposite was created by Barry for the cover of this issue of *Bird Observer*. When we saw the beautiful, lifelike sketch of the Cox's Sandpiper that he had made from Simon Perkins' superb photograph (also printed in this issue), we wanted it for our cover. In view of the importance of the advent of this rare vagrant, Barry graciously consented to let us replace his Snow Bunting with the Cox's. The sandpiper drawing also appeared in the December 1987 issue of *Sanctuary* (27: 20). It is a tribute to Barry's skill as an artist that he was able to make the black-and-white sketch of the Cox's Sandpiper come alive.

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## AT A GLANCE: *October 1987* \_\_\_\_\_ by *Wayne R. Petersen*

The chunky body, short, deeply notched tail, and conical bill all suggest that October's bird is some species of finch (Family Fringillidae). Outside of this family, only the Savannah Sparrow bears a superficial resemblance to the pictured bird. However, the sparrow would not display the broad pale eyebrow stripe (beginning above the eye) or the dark cheek patch shown by the mystery bird.

Returning to options in the finch family, the length of the legs, the robust chest and body, and the head pattern all lead away from the bird's being a redpoll, despite any suggestion of a pale rump. Likewise, the heavy bill and the lack of a wing patch suggest that the bird is not a Pine Siskin. The absence of crossed mandibles eliminates a female or immature Red Crossbill.

Thus, the heavy stripes of breast and flank leave the viewer faced with a choice between either a female or an immature of the Purple Finch or of the House Finch. The dark cheek patch and the broad pale supercilium immediately point to Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*). Additionally, the robust chest and short neck are atypical of a House Finch. Female and immature House Finches appear to have longer, slightly notched tails, a more slender profile overall, a more uniformly colored facial pattern with no conspicuous supercilium or contrasting dark cheek patch, and a somewhat stubbier bill with greater curvature to the upper mandible. Also, what can be seen of the dusky flank stripes is not consistent with the heavier and broader stripes of the House Finch. From the photograph, it is difficult to ascertain the precise age and sex of the pictured individual. Viewing the original colored print, however, reveals traces of a reddish tint appearing about the head, thus suggesting a yearling male.

Barely discernible in the photograph is an absence of streaking on the belly and undertail coverts -- often a useful point of separation between the Purple Finch and the Cassin's Finch of the West. This finch was photographed in May 1987 at Magnolia.



*Purple Finch*

*Photo by Bonnie Manning*

## AT A GLANCE

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*Photos by Alden Clayton*

Can you identify the bird shown in these two photos?  
Identification will be discussed in next issue's AT A GLANCE.



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Cover Illustration: Cox's Sandpiper by Barry Van Dusen  
after a photo by Simon Perkins

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