

Bird Observer

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HOT BIRDS



On March 28, Edie Ray and Trish Pastuszak found a **Wilson's Plover** (left) in Madaket on Nantucket, and Vern Laux arrived that afternoon for this photograph.

On May 10, Bob Murphy discovered two **White-faced Ibises** (right) in Rowley, and Phil Brown took this great photograph of one of them.



Steve and Jane Mirick found this **Purple Gallinule** (left) eating caterpillars in a Norway maple in Gloucester on May 15, and Steve took this photograph of the obliging bird.

This **Sedge Wren** (right) was reported at Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary in Marshfield on May 24 and photographed by Bob Stymeist on May 26.



Carl Goodrich located this handsome **King Rail** (left) at Fort Hill in Eastham on May 30, and Wayne Petersen photographed the bird later that day.

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WORM-EATING WARBLER BY DAVID LARSON

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Bird Observer

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A Birding Guide to October Mountain State Forest

Ed Neumuth

Introduction

I can only imagine that it must have been a glorious fall Berkshire day in 1850 when Herman Melville, looking southeast across the Housatonic River to the western slope of Washington Mountain from Arrowhead, his home in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, was so moved by its beauty that he memorialized it in an essay, “October Mountain.” The name caught the public’s fancy and stuck.



On March 31, 2009, that very same forested area that Melville enjoyed—13 miles of the Upper Housatonic River, its adjacent floodplain, tributary streams, the entire western slope of October Mountain State Forest (OMSF), and much of the forest interior, 12,280 acres in total—was designated by the Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs as the Upper Housatonic River Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The tremendous outpouring of public support, motivated in large part by the need to address an environmentally sound PCB cleanup of the river by General Electric Company, was a major victory for the communities of Washington, Lee, Lenox and Pittsfield (for more details see <http://greenberkshires.com>).

A brief summary of the history falling between these two events gives a greater appreciation of the cellar holes, spruce plantations, stone walls, sugar-maple-lined roads, and town cemetery that the visitor will encounter exploring this 16,765-acre state forest, the largest in the Commonwealth.

History

The Becket Plateau, on the southern extension of the Hoosac Range, is a hard place to farm. The earliest settlers of the mid 1700s contended with harsh winters, thin soil, and a lion’s share of rocks, as remnants of the stone walls that once bordered open fields attest. By the late 1800s many of the families were moving west to a more fertile Ohio to begin anew, and a curious event was unfolding.

In 1895, a mysterious individual, using a number of local attorneys, began purchasing all of the available farm land in the “West Washington Woods” section of the town of Washington. The owner of this vast domain—eventually totaling approximately 11,000 acres—turned out to be William C. Whitney, former Secretary of the Navy under Grover Cleveland.

His intention was to create a game preserve and a hunting lodge, “The Antlers,” to serve as a honeymoon getaway for his son Harry Whitney and Harry’s bride-to-be, Miss Gertrude Vanderbilt, the daughter of Cornelius Vanderbilt. He imported wild game from around the country: elk from Jackson Hole, black-tailed deer from the

Sadly, as the project was moving forward, William's wife was seriously injured in a riding accident that eventually caused her death. He lost interest and most of the animals were dispersed. Apache, the largest captive buffalo in history, was banished to Central Park in New York City, but Bill, a famous bull moose, whose mounted head now resides in the Berkshire Museum, evaded capture and roamed the Berkshire woods until 1920.

In 1915, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with contributions from local residents, purchased the Whitney estate and peripheral land to create October Mountain State Forest. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) planted large expanses of spruce for their reforestation program, many of which still remain in the state forest and adjacent Pittsfield watershed land. The watershed consists of 5228 undeveloped acres, further expanding the boundaries of this sizeable forested tract. It might have pleased Mr. Whitney to know that the land he once owned has been naturally re-inhabited by a very healthy population of moose, black bear, white-tailed deer, beaver, muskrat, fisher, mink, otter, coyote, fox, and a wonderful diversity of bird life, as the forest has taken over the farmland.

General Information

October Mountain State Forest is open for public use year-round and is one of the state properties that allows off-road vehicle (ORV) and snowmobile use. Although ORVs are not technically allowed on the main roads, riders often do use the road system to access one trail from another, so it is necessary to exercise appropriate caution while driving and birding on the road system. The roads are dirt, not regularly graded, and their condition can be unpredictable; however, from mid-April to the first snowfall, the roads described in this article are passable with a vehicle that has reasonable clearance.

The state forest has a campground in Lee offering 44 campsites and three yurts, open from mid-May until Columbus Day weekend. More information about reservations, opening and closing dates, and road conditions may be obtained by calling the forest headquarters at 413-243-1778, where trail maps to the state forest and the Washington Mountain Marsh should be available. The most updated map, printed in 2007, has some significant changes that will be noted in the following description of the road system.

Much of the forest area is above 1500 feet in elevation, with a number of hilltops exceeding 2000 feet (Walling Mountain on the Appalachian Trail reaches 2220 feet). The forest offers extensive stands of spruce and fir, mixed woods, and deciduous tracts. There are several lakes, an abundance of beaver ponds and wet meadows, and plenty of fast-moving streams. As expected in season, black flies, mosquitoes, and deer flies also give the habitat a decidedly northern flavor.

Orientation

If you plan to camp in the state forest, or visit the headquarters building, follow these directions:

From the east or west, take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) to Exit 2 in Lee. Bear right off the exit ramp, and follow Route 20 west for 1.1 mile through downtown Lee. Turn right onto Center Street (which becomes Columbia Street), and follow it one mile. Turn right onto Bradley Street (which becomes Woodland Road), and follow the signs for one mile to the campground and forest headquarters.

From the north or south: From Routes 7 and 20 in Lenox turn east onto Walker Street at the stoplight (turn left coming from the north and right coming from the south), and continue for one mile into Lenoxdale. Turn right onto Mill Street, cross the bridge, and continue 0.5 mile to Bradley Street. Turn left onto Bradley Street (which becomes Woodland Road), and follow signs for one mile to the campground and forest headquarters.

However, unless you plan to camp or need to visit the forest headquarters, I suggest that you enter the forest via County Road in Becket or West Branch Road in Washington. There are a number of reasons for this, which will become more evident as you read on.

From the accompanying map, based on one provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), it would appear that potentially four roads allow access to the main part of the state forest and the intersection of West Branch Road and Lenox-Whitney Place Roads, which I will subsequently refer to as the Four Corners (#6 on map). This large open meadow is a convenient central location for reference or meeting people and a well-known local landmark if you get turned around and need to ask for directions. However, only two of the roads leading to the Four Corners are currently drivable.

The first apparent, but actually impassable, access road is New Lenox Road at the north end of the forest, which merges with Whitney Place Road as it heads south toward the interior. The northern section of Whitney Place Road, as the map correctly indicates, is in very poor condition and at present is not an option for vehicles. It is worth mentioning at this point that road conditions and habitat in the forest are subject to significant change, and this article can only provide current opportunities for road travel (for example, the December 10, 2008, ice storm completely altered the habitat above 1500 feet).

The second apparent access road, Schermerhorn Road, is fairly close to the campground and appears paved on the map. It was originally paved because of the very steep climb from Roaring Brook Road to Felton Lake, but the pavement has become so deteriorated over the years that the state has officially closed the road for safety reasons. This section of road is slated for major reconstruction in early summer of 2010, according to state officials; when it opens, it will conveniently link the campground and Roaring Brook Road with the higher-elevation interior. However, that being said, and state budgets being what they are, there looms a degree of uncertainty about the priority of this project. *Do not attempt to drive up this road until it has been repaired!*

Suffice it to say that the best birding, and the birding most representative of this forest, lies in the higher-elevation interior. Another reason I suggest heading directly

in through County Road or West Branch Road is that Roaring Brook Road, running along the east side of Woods Pond and the Housatonic River, although passable, is also in serious disrepair. What you may sacrifice in bypassing the floodplain area would perhaps be species like Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Bald Eagle, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Willow Flycatcher, and Red-bellied Woodpecker. However, the cost-benefit ratio weighs heavily in favor of heading directly to the higher ground.

A suggested birding route

The following directions provide the easiest way to get from Exit 2 of the Massachusetts Turnpike into the Four Corners via County Road. Once we are in the heart of the forest I'll describe each of the other three roads radiating outwards, some of the more inviting spots at which to spend a bit more time along those roads, and the specialties one is likely to encounter.

Directions to the state forest from Exit 2 of the Massachusetts Turnpike to County Road in Becket: Exit left off the ramp, and follow Route 20 east for 3.9 miles to Becket Road on the left. Becket Road runs steeply uphill through the most southerly section of the forest and becomes Yokum Pond Road. Follow the road approximately 2.5 miles from Route 20 to a maintenance building on your left. Turn left just before the building onto a 0.5-mile spur that dead-ends with a view of Buckley Dunton Lake, the largest body of water within the forest boundaries.

This is a nice stopover spot for migrating waterfowl in season and provides excellent canoeing opportunities and wildlife viewing in a very remote setting, especially the north end.

Go back to Yokum Pond Road and turn left. Drive one more mile, take a sharp left turn onto County Road, and proceed, with the forest boundary on your left, 2 miles to the Dream Away Lodge on the right. Set your odometer at 0 and proceed 0.4 mile. The pavement will end and there will be a large wetland on the left (#1 on map). Listen here for Northern Waterthrush, Alder Flycatcher, and Swamp Sparrow, and check the pond for Hooded Merganser, Wood Duck, and American Black Duck. Although technically not a part of OMSF, it is a nice warm-up spot to get out for a look and listen. The far edge of this wetland is a good spot for Canada Warbler. Proceed 1.3 miles and pause where a brook crosses the road (#2) and flows down to a beaver meadow on the left. Listen here for Red-shouldered Hawk and Northern Waterthrush.

If you want to take a very short hike to a secluded pond, park off the road before the brook crossing and quietly walk just a few minutes up to the right along the brook (there is a vague trail) to the pond from which the brook flows. This is a very quiet spot worth the walk for the tranquility alone.

After 1.35 miles (#3), the Appalachian Trail crosses the road and there is a small pull-off for parking on the right. A large spruce plantation on the left should be checked for Yellow-rumped Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Purple Finch, Olive-sided Flycatcher,

and Sharp-shinned Hawk. At 1.6 miles the extensive clearing on the right will favor Mourning Warbler after another year or two of succession with blackberry and striped maple (there is much more of this habitat in various stages of development farther on).

At 2.1 miles, take the left fork, which is a continuation of County Road. The DCR map indicates that the road is in poor condition; however, it was reconstructed in the fall of 2009 and is very drivable. Stop for a listen in a couple of spots before the bottom of the hill (0.4 miles from the fork). This is a good spot for Hairy Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Canada Warbler, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Brown Creeper.

When you get to the bottom of the hill the road gets a bit rougher but is still passable, so proceed to the far side of the wetland, and park at the convenient pull-off to the left. This area is best explored on foot. Cross the road from where you parked (#4), and walk by the green gate up to the dike that overlooks October Mountain Lake. This spot also gives a nice overview of the wetland that you just drove by.



Spotted Sandpiper nest; all photographs by the author

Spotted Sandpipers nest regularly on the dike or alongside the road. Listen for Alder Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, and Virginia Rail in the wetland. In the spruce stand you walked by on the way in, listen for the coniferous species mentioned earlier. The marsh has had a July sighting of Rusty Blackbird and the conifers held a Ruby-crowned Kinglet into late June some years back. To penetrate deeply into this wetland, take a trail leading into it from the site where you parked. It is wet, but walkable.

If you continue along the road by car, you come to a gate on the left that leads to the dike on Schoolhouse Lake (#5). Park here and explore the area on foot. Follow the road down behind the dike where vehicle traffic must end, since the lake outflow crosses the road and both the bridge and the road beyond it are impassable. The large open areas represent locations where fill for the dike was obtained, which now provide habitat for Indigo Buntings, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Field Sparrows, and possibly Black-billed Cuckoos (the much more frequently encountered cuckoo at this elevation).

The place you parked is the vehicle turn-around point for the drive back to the fork in the road. Return to it, make a sharp left turn onto Lenox-Whitney Place Road, and proceed to the Four Corners, a distance of 1.2 miles. The habitat along the way is mixed conifer-hardwood interspersed with stands of hemlock and spruce/fir. Stop occasionally to listen for Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush (regularly present in small numbers in the forest), and Black-throated Green Warbler. At the Four Corners (#6), you will have three options, but before moving on, stop here for a

few minutes and listen for Alder Flycatcher (by far the most common empid in OMSF), Mourning Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Chestnut-sided Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Purple Finch, Dark-eyed Junco, Indigo Bunting, and Nashville Warbler.

Let's start with West Branch Road heading east. Turn right onto it and set your odometer to 0. The major points of interest are from 0 to 0.5 mile on the right, where Mourning Warblers have been regular in areas that have recently been logged over. The hilltop (#7) at 0.5 mile is worth a few minutes listen for Purple Finch, White-throated Sparrow, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Chestnut-sided Warbler.

Continuing on, you'll witness some of the extensive damage to the forest interior from the December 2008 ice storm, especially on your left. The wetland at mile 1.4 (#8) is a definite stop. Park on the left on the far side of the culvert, and listen here for Red-shouldered Hawk, American Bittern, Great Crested Flycatcher, Northern Waterthrush, Hairy Woodpecker, Canada Warbler, and Alder Flycatcher. If you feel adventurous and want to leave the road for a short bushwhack, walk the road past the car until you can see a large clearing on the left a few hundred feet through the spruces. This extensive meadow, bisected by the stream that crossed the road, is an intriguing habitat that, at the time of this writing, is hosting a pair of Northern Harriers that are being watched carefully for evidence of nesting. Soras have also been noted in this wet meadow. Scoping it from the dry edge is really the best way to appreciate this spot.



Dark-eyed Junco nest

The Appalachian Trail (#9) crosses West Branch Road at 1.7 miles, and you'll encounter yet another beaver impoundment where wetland species, especially American Bittern, are possible. Continue past another small wetland on the right, and come to the intersection with Washington Mountain Road (#10) at 2.3 miles. There is a parking area on your left, in the meadow where the original town church once stood before it was struck by lightning. The militia for the American Revolution trained here. Scan the meadow and the fields behind the house on the corner (my former home) for Barn and Tree swallows, Savannah Sparrow, and Eastern Bluebird. The roadside on this corner is a favorite place for Purple Finches to pick up grit. A female Evening Grosbeak with a brood patch was discovered here in 1983 for one of the state's first breeding records. During the White-winged Crossbill irruption of 1989-1990, a large flock of crossbills was regularly seen here also picking up grit.

The next road to cover is Lenox-Whitney Place Road heading north from the Four Corners, so return there and re-set your odometer to 0. When you arrived here earlier, you probably walked a short section of the first part of this road and may have been lucky enough to spot an American Woodcock or Wilson's Snipe in the cutover area on the left. When you are ready to move on, head north 0.6 mile, listening for

Blue-headed Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak along the way as you drive through this deciduous section, to where logging on the right begins (#11).

The next 0.5 mile on both sides of the road has been the most consistent habitat for Olive-sided Flycatcher. Other species regularly noted along this stretch include Mourning Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Purple Finch, Alder Flycatcher, and White-throated Sparrow. Occasionally, winnowing snipe and pumping American Bitterns can be heard from this spot as it is relatively close to Washington Mountain Meadow (more on this to follow). Because the conifers have been thinned out along this section, it is one of the better spots to actually see Golden-crowned Kinglets, Magnolia Warblers, Brown Creepers, and the ubiquitous Blackburnian Warbler.

It is worth mentioning here that on the map, to the northeast, you'll see a small body of water, Mud Pond (#12). I am a wetland junkie, and this is one of my absolute favorite places in the forest to get lost. The area surrounding this small pond, actually the open center of a classic floating sphagnum bog, is about as boreal as it gets in Massachusetts. There is no discernable trail in to Mud Pond, so it is best explored with topographic map and compass or GPS. The knee-deep mud and moss, upturned spruce/fir tangles, and world-class mosquitoes might turn back the faint of heart, but the wonderful bog botany and the ever-present chance of an encounter with a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (this is one of the two or three best spots in Berkshire County for potential nesting, in my opinion) make it a special place.

Continue to the intersection of Lenox-Whitney Place Road and Schermerhorn Road at mile 1.2 (#13). Winter Wrens are regular here. Do not attempt to drive any farther down Lenox-Whitney Place Road; it is in serious disrepair at present. Instead, bear left onto Schermerhorn Road and at 1.5 miles resume vigilance for the Olive-sided Flycatcher. This is also one of the best spots to see a black bear from the road. At 1.9 miles (#14) there is a scenic view and parking on the right. As long as the state maintains this overlook for the view, I expect Mourning Warblers will continue to nest here as they have for the past few years. The view to the north of Mount Greylock and Saddleball Mountain is spectacular.

Proceed 2.6 miles to an off-road vehicle parking lot on the right (#15). Notice a small body of water just a bit northwest of this lot, known as Halfway Pond (not named on the DCR map). This is another interesting bog, although not surrounded by a dense conifer border. There is no trail to the pond. Listen here for a Red-shouldered Hawk before proceeding down to the parking area at 3.5 miles by Felton Lake (#16). On the way downhill, it is worth listening for Black-throated Green Warbler, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Hermit Thrush as you pass through a fine hemlock stand. At the stream crossing, check for Louisiana Waterthrush.

After parking you have a short walk to Felton Lake, listening along the way for Veery, American Redstart, and the annual Eastern Phoebe under the bridge. Walk straight in to enter another spruce/fir stand with the expected species. Alternatively, turn left onto the Gorge Trail on the far side of the stream crossing, for Louisiana Waterthrush, Hermit Thrush, and Winter Wren, which are regular here. You'll notice that the Gorge Trail runs down both sides of the brook; the north side is preferred.

The walk is not difficult, and you may not have to go very far down for success. When you get back to the car, you will have to backtrack to the Four Corners until Schermerhorn Road gets repaired. Access to the river flood plain will be much more convenient when it is safe to drive down from Felton Lake to Roaring Brook Road.

Back at the Four Corners, re-set your odometer to 0, turn right at the intersection from the direction you just came, and proceed southwest on West Branch Road. This final road off the Four Corners is the western extension of West Branch Road. Besides offering some nice birding opportunities, it has two notable features. The first of these is what might arguably be considered the crown jewel of OMSF: namely, the Washington Mountain Meadow (a.k.a. Washington Mountain Marsh). The second is a nice picnic area on October Mountain Lake with a composting toilet. (Did you happen to notice the remains of the women's outhouse in the woods back at site #13?)

Let's check out the picnic area first. As you head down from the Four Corners, keep an ear open for Winter Wren, Purple Finch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-throated Sparrow, Brown Creeper, and Golden-crowned Kinglet on the left. The road will fork at 0.4 mile (#17). To access the picnic area and accompanying facilities, bear left and pass the small parking area on the right (for the Meadow Trail); proceed through the gate, and park in the lot 0.2 mile ahead at the end of the road (#18). If you look out across October Mountain Lake, you'll see the dike we visited earlier. Bird around the picnic area and access road for the spruce/fir species, and give the dike to the right a check for Spotted Sandpiper.

You have two options when you're ready to move on to the Washington Mountain Meadow. If you have the time and interest, a hike on the interpretive trail



Washington Mountain Marsh

will take you through some nice habitat and bring you to the large beaver pond, our final destination (#20). The hike is not strenuous, but is about 0.7 mile in length. Because the hike takes you over a boardwalk and through some sphagnum/spruce forest on a fairly well-marked trail (via blue triangles on the trees), I'd recommend the hour or so spent to get in and back out. Along this trail I've found nesting Broad-winged Hawks, Hermit Thrushes, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and probable Canada Warblers. If there are time constraints, I've found a shorter, more direct route to approach the wetland that I'll describe shortly.

The story behind the Washington Mountain Meadow is a classic example of how, on the rarest of occasions, two wrongs can make a right. In the 1950s, three lakes were proposed for construction in OMSF. October Mountain Lake and Schoolhouse Lake would provide flood control and a potential source of drinking water for the Town of Lee, while the largest, Washington Mountain Lake, would be used for active recreation, such as boating and fishing, as well as flood control.

The project got underway in the late 1970s, and October Mountain Lake and Schoolhouse Lake were completed without incident by the early 1980s. Washington Mountain Lake was another story. What was originally a large meadow with a series of beaver ponds and forested border was clear-cut, dammed, and partially filled before it was realized that the lake was sited over a buried long-distance telephone cable. It was drained to access the cable, then refilled and emptied a second time in 1986 when its water began escaping through the fractured infrastructure beneath the dam.

As it stood, the dam was a serious liability, and after the structure was deemed unsafe, cost estimates for repairs became public. The controversial project, questioned by conservation organizations from the start, heated up into the early 1990s. Then in an inspired moment, at the urging of the Berkshire Natural Resources Council, the Department of Environmental Management (now DCR) wisely chose the economically sensible alternative to burying even more tax dollars in the bedrock.

That option: breach the dam and let the area return to its former state, a healthy brook and a large beaver dam (which, incidentally, had been very well engineered, creating a substantial pond). This was the obvious choice when the numbers were examined. To enhance the successional wetland, however, the state did build an interpretive trail with a boardwalk system around and through the wetland. You will note, however, that some of the boardwalk may be under water during the wet season, and the 1.5-mile interpretive loop trail is closed just beyond our destination because of flooding.

All that behind us, let it be said that this is one of the finest spots in the state forest. Within the past few years, especially since the second Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas began, I've spent a fair amount of time overlooking the beaver pond and have confirmed breeding American Bitterns, American Black Ducks, Green-winged Teal (which incidentally were recorded nesting here in 1971, before the construction project began), Wood Ducks, Canada Geese, Mallards, and Hooded Mergansers. There are summer records of Pied-billed Grebe, and as of May 1 this year there was a regularly present grebe calling on the pond.

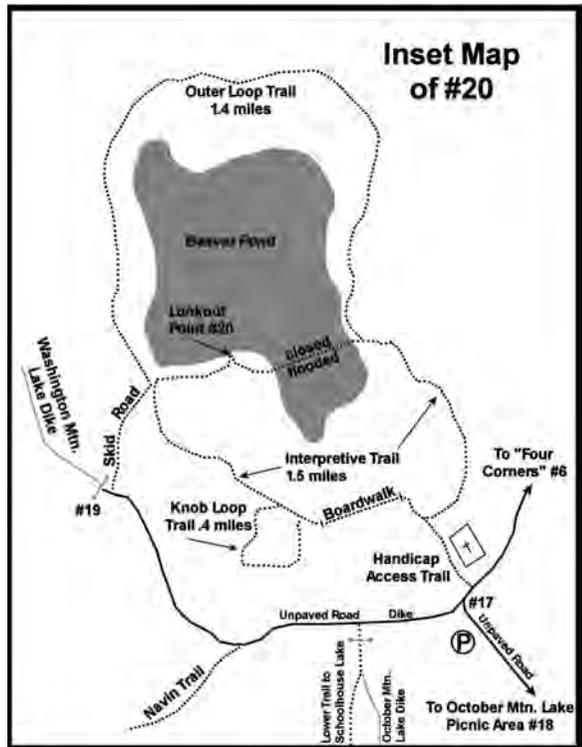
To get to the best vantage point to overlook the pond and meadow by walking the interpretive trail, park in the small lot at the intersection (#17), cross the road, and enter the trail where the sign says “Closed to off-road vehicles.” I will try to have the state once again make maps available at the trail entrance, but if they are not, my hand-drawn map, improved by the Bird Observer staff and accompanying this article, should suffice.

If you elect the quicker, easier way into the pond, bypass the trail parking area on your way out of October Mountain Lake, and take the left turn at the intersection. Drive over the dike, and you’ll see a gate on your left that closes the road to vehicles. If you choose to walk through the gate, the left trail will take you onto the October Mountain Lake dike where you checked earlier for Spotted Sandpiper, and the lower trail will bring you down to the outflow of the Schoolhouse Lake dam. The lower road tends to be far more interesting.

If you continue driving past the gate, the road shortly bears right, and directly in front of you is the entrance to Navin Trail at 0.9 mile. This is about a ten-minute walk downhill to a stream crossing and yes, another beaver pond. Along this trail, regular enough to mention, might be found Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pileated Woodpecker, Ruffed Grouse, Wood Thrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Dark-eyed Junco. The habitat on the right side of this trail is favorable for Winter Wren, Mourning Warbler, and Olive-sided Flycatcher, all three of which have been found annually within the past three years.

Drive past the Navin Trail entrance, and at the end of the road (at 1.2 miles) you will see an obvious place to pull into and park on the right, and an equally obvious trail that appears to be heading into the woods in the direction you want to go. *Don’t* take it! It drops down along the edge of the woods into some very wet walking.

Instead, look for three large rocks 20 feet to the right that conceal the entrance to the skid road that is the much preferred alternative. Although there are some minor detours around a few branches purposely left fallen, the trail is easy to pick out, and in a few minutes you’ll see the wetter skid road on your left and the beaver pond





American Bittern

straight ahead. When you locate the pond, the clarity of the trail gets a bit fuzzy, and you should stop for a moment, look back, and get a sense of the return view. When you're satisfied, proceed straight through a very short trail-less section toward the pond, to intersect with the marked foot path that is the interpretive trail. Turn left on the interpretive trail, and walk the short distance to the sign post just before the boardwalk, which indicates your position on the Washington Mountain Meadow map.

To get to the overlook (station #9 on the Washington Mountain Meadow map and #20 on our DCR map), follow the interpretive trail to the right to its endpoint overlooking the pond. If you feel ambitious and want to walk another 1.5 miles, go back to the boardwalk and follow the outer loop trail that will eventually lead you back to the parking area (#17), but only if you left your car there and elected to take the long way in via the interpretive trail.

Roadside birding only scratches the surface of the potential for exciting discoveries in OMSF. I'll like to end with a completely subjective list of the species that interest me most, as possible past, present, or future breeding birds. If, during the course of a visit to OMSF, you suspect any of the following of nesting, I'd be grateful for the opportunity to follow up with future visits to see what might develop.

American Black Duck
Ring-necked Duck
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Wilson's Snipe
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Acadian Flycatcher
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Swainson's Thrush
Lincoln's Sparrow
Rusty Blackbird
White-winged Crossbill
Pine Siskin
Evening Grosbeak

I'd also suggest that, before heading out this way, the reader dust off an earlier *Bird Observer* issue, Volume 27 No. 6 from December 1999, that is dedicated entirely to Berkshire Birding. 



View of Mount Greylock

Ed Neumuth recently retired from practicing veterinary medicine in the Town of Washington for 30 years and continues to reside there. He is a past president and an active member of the Hoffman Bird Club and former compiler of the Central Berkshire Christmas Count. Ed has run a Breeding Bird Survey route since 1989 and is currently a Breeding Bird Atlas participant, covering OMSF and adjacent blocks within the Town of Washington. He currently teaches a beginner birding field course for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and, when not out birding or fishing, can be found at home gardening or brewing his Golden Plover Pale Ale. He is grateful to the following individuals for their contributions to this article: David St. James for reviewing the article and providing me with a copy of *The History of Washington* by John Wright Crane and Benjamin Thompson (published in 1918 by the Berkshire Family History Association, Inc., of Pittsfield, and reprinted in 1992); Tad Ames of the Berkshire Natural Resources Council for information regarding the early history of Washington Mountain Meadow; Lisa Peltier for her typing, technical assistance, and encouragement; and Jim Berry for chaining him to his desk to meet the deadline when, in his heart, he knew he should have been out birding.

Roseate Terns—Citizens of the World: the Canada to Cape Cod Connection

Ellen L. Jedrey, Rebecca J. Harris, and Edith A. Ray

2009 marked a year of surprising discovery for U.S. and Canadian biologists studying the imperiled Northwest Atlantic Population of the Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*), which breeds from coastal New York to the Magdalen Islands, Quebec. Roseates are listed as Endangered in both countries, and their entire breeding population is heavily managed and studied each year from May to July. However, little is known regarding the terns' whereabouts during the rest of the year (August to April). During the 2009 field season, staff from the Coastal Waterbird Program of Mass Audubon (CWP), U.S. Geological Survey Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (USGS PWRC), and Canadian Wildlife Service realized—not by design, but by coincidence—just how connected the two countries are when it comes to habitat use by this species during the post-breeding period (August to September). Though we still need additional information regarding the migration and wintering periods for this species, data from this season add another piece to the puzzle of this trans-hemispheric species. We believe this information will inform future management efforts, and that it can ultimately contribute to bringing this species back from the brink of extinction.

The post-breeding dispersal, or “staging” period encompasses the time from when fledgling Roseate Terns (approximately ≥ 23 days old) leave their natal colony sites (late July) to the time they depart North America and migrate to South America (August/September). This is a critical period for young terns that must rapidly build energy reserves for migration and begin the transition to independence from their parent(s), upon whom they rely for food. Prior to 2009, we had very little information about whether the Canadian adults and young flew directly from Canada to South America and the Caribbean, or if they joined most of the U.S. population, staging in the greater Cape Cod area in Massachusetts before embarking on the next leg of their southward migration.

In 2009, Roseate Tern chicks were color-banded on Country Island, Nova Scotia, Canada (Figure 1, 45.10167° N -61.54219 ° W), a Canadian breeding site approximately 778 km (483 mi) from Cape Cod. This color-banding effort was meant to help biologists better assess the number of fledglings produced per breeding pair, because chicks are very difficult to detect after hatching. Coincidentally, an independent, major resighting study of color-banded adults from Massachusetts breeding colonies was also underway at known staging sites. USGS biologist Dr. Jeff Spindelov began color-banding adult Roseate Terns on their Buzzards Bay breeding colonies in 2004, and by 2009 roughly 2100, or 70%, of the breeding adults on the three Buzzards Bay islands were estimated to be color-banded and still alive. This color-banding effort was initiated in order to better understand individual survival rates, population dynamics, movements between breeding colonies, and numerous



Figure 1. Location of Roseate Tern breeding colony at Country Island, Nova Scotia, Canada, and straight-line distance to post-breeding dispersal sites on Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

other facets of Roseate Tern ecology. In 2006, Mass Audubon CWP initiated a project to better understand habitat use and movements of adult Roseate Terns during the post-breeding staging period by conducting counts and observations of color-banded adults at dozens of sites throughout southeastern Massachusetts. The combination of these two research efforts allowed us to determine that most, if not virtually all of the Canadian fledglings, and therefore very likely their care-providing parent(s), used southeastern Massachusetts during 2009!

Observers used spotting scopes daily in shifts of at least three hours to identify and “resight” individual color-banded Roseate Terns at major staging sites (Figure 2) in southeastern Massachusetts from early July through late September, aside from occasional days of bad weather. Coastal Waterbird Program staff and collaborators spent over 1000 hours of effort resighting color-banded Roseate Terns during this period.

Amazingly, a total of 13 out of a possible 14 color-banded chicks (93%) were positively identified at one or more locations around southeastern Massachusetts between August 14 and September 21. These observations were made by 11 observers over 69 days at nine sites: Hatches Harbor and Wood End, Provincetown; Nauset Marsh, Eastham/Orleans; Crowe’s Pasture, Dennis; North Beach, South Beach, and South Monomoy Island, Chatham; Eel Point, Smith’s Point, and Esther Island, Nantucket (Figure 2). Because observers were making daily observations at the majority of these sites beginning July 1, we are fairly confident that August 14 is reflective of the time Canadian fledglings began to appear on the southeastern Massachusetts coastline.

At the end of the breeding season, Canadian Wildlife Service biologists had estimated that overall productivity at Country Island was six fledglings (five color-



Figure 2. Locations of post-breeding dispersal study sites in southeastern Massachusetts during the 2009 field season

banded, one metal-banded) produced by 24 breeding pairs or 0.24 fledglings/breeding pair. This estimate was based on the number of individuals still seen alive at 15 days old. Roseate Tern chicks were assumed to have departed the Canadian breeding sites by early to mid-July, though we do not know exactly when this occurred. Because we observed a total of 13 color-banded individuals out of a possible 14, plus an additional metal-banded fledgling, productivity estimates were adjusted to 14 fledglings/24 breeding pairs, or 0.58 fledglings/breeding pair. These confirmed fledglings more than double the original productivity estimate!

Three individual fledglings were first observed on August 14, 2009 (23%), after the first period of sustained northeast wind (as recorded by GoMoos buoys, <<http://www.gomoos.org>>, Gulf of Maine). Nine out of 13 (69%) individuals were observed by August 23, and 11 out of 13 (85%) had been observed by August 31; two individuals were observed only in September. “Length of stay,” the period between first and last sightings of individuals, ranged from one to 37 days, and at least four of these individuals were observed multiple times over at least 31 days. There appeared to be no correlation between the age of the fledglings and the dates they were first or last observed in southeastern Massachusetts. Fledglings also appeared to exhibit a high degree of variation in their use of different sites; while some used multiple (at least four) sites across Cape Cod and Nantucket, others were observed multiple times at only one site.

The high resighting rate of individuals across southeastern Massachusetts from both Canadian and US populations—particularly on Outer Cape Cod and Nantucket Island beaches—indicates that a substantial proportion, if not the entire breeding population of Northwest Atlantic Roseate Terns, use and traverse coastal and marine areas around southeastern Massachusetts during the post-breeding dispersal period.



Figure 3. Color-banded adult Roseate Tern (A.J. Hand photo). Report color-bands as follows: upper left, middle left, lower left; upper right, middle right, lower right (for the bird in the image: bicolor white/blue, light green, USFWS “service” band; bicolor white/blue, purple, field-readable band). It is important to distinguish between the two types of metal bands; field-readable bands tend to be slightly taller and have larger lettering than service bands.

This information could have significant management implications, given that such a high proportion of the entire population could be simultaneously affected by management actions during a narrow time period each year. The importance of international cooperation is clear, and U.S. and Canadian biologists must work together in their management efforts for this species. Last, these findings underscore the importance of major banding studies when combined with a substantial level of resighting effort across wide regions; we certainly would not have had the chance to detect these individuals were it not for the amount of effort that was put into the resighting study. The future of this work is dependent on finding new sources of funding, but we hope to continue this important study, analyze an enormous amount of data on adult color-banded terns, and additionally focus on disturbance to staging flocks and the potential for improved management of the most critical staging habitats for Roseate Terns and other species.

If you see a color-banded Roseate Tern in or around the New England area, please report the sighting to: Dr. Jeff Spendelow, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (jspendelow@usgs.gov). We are also interested in sightings of flocks of Common and Roseate terns in new staging areas and welcome reports of large numbers of terns (report to Becky Harris or Ellen Jedrey at bharris@massaudubon.org or ejedrey@massaudubon.org). 

Ellen Jedrey has been the Assistant Director of the Coastal Waterbird Program at Mass Audubon since 2003. She has a degree in Wildlife Management from UNH, and her work in coastal ecosystems for the past ten years has mainly centered around monitoring and managing Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, and Least, Common, and Roseate terns in

southeastern Massachusetts. **Becky Harris** is the Director of the Coastal Waterbird Program at Mass Audubon. She holds an adjunct faculty position at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine in the Center for Conservation Medicine, where she founded and coordinated the Seabird Ecological Assessment Network (SEANET). Becky received her Ph.D. in Biology at Tufts, where her thesis research focused on the effects of forestry practices on Black-throated Blue Warblers in Maine, and before that worked on Project Puffin, monitoring and protecting seabirds on islands off the ME coast. **Edie Ray** has been living and birding on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts, for the last 30 years. She has had the good fortune to have worked in the capacity of Shorebird Monitor for the Town of Nantucket as well as several conservation organizations on the island over the years. She is currently Island Coordinator on Nantucket with Mass Audubon's Coastal Waterbird Program and the American Oystercatcher Recovery Program.

The authors would like to thank the following for their efforts, cooperation, and/or funding of this study: Canadian Wildlife Service, Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Cape Cod National Seashore (National Park Service), US Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program (Southern New England – New York Bight), Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act funds, the Goldenrod Foundation, the Island Foundation, Nantucket Conservation Foundation, Maria Mitchell Association, individual donors to Mass Audubon's Coastal Waterbird Program, and most of all Jeff Spendelow, US Geological Survey-Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, without whom this work would not have been conducted.



HOODED MERGANSER CALLING BY SANDY SELESKY

Low-Maintenance Barred Owl Nest Boxes

Alfred Maley

This article describes how to build Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) nest boxes that are durable, lighter than previous designs, and easy to maintain. The boxes are made from one-half inch pressure-treated (PT) plywood and are given strength by the innovative use of PT balusters attached to the interior of the box with stainless steel deck screws. The author has deployed such boxes in Hampstead, New Hampshire, over the last decade or so, with nearly twenty successful nestings and no known failures.



Barred Owl nestlings in a box of the author's design. Photograph by the author.

Previous Designs

A useful design for such boxes was first published many years ago in Carrol L. Henderson's classic *Woodworking for Wildlife* (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources), but that design employed three-quarter inch exterior plywood and was about one-third heavier than the current design. Attempting to place just one of these

boxes in a tree made it clear to me that there had to be a better way. Other designs using wide pine boards were similarly heavy as well as prone to rapid decay.

A New Approach

Because of its laminate structure, nailing or screwing the edges of plywood together just wouldn't work. However, placing square, PT balusters in the four interior corners of the box and screwing the sides to the balusters made it possible to use lighter one-half inch plywood, dramatically reducing the weight of the finished boxes and making for a box that was also very strong.

Needed Materials

Pressure-treated (PT) plywood is normally wet and green when purchased at the local lumber yard. Thus it is prudent to buy a 4 x 8 sheet of one-half inch PT plywood several months before constructing the boxes. Summertime is the ideal time to do this. The plywood can be stood up in the garage or other protected area and will be dry enough to accept boiled linseed oil or other protective finishes when the boxes are completed. Square PT balusters come in lengths up to 48 inches; two of those are sufficient for each box. It's best to buy these at the same time as the plywood and sticker them so they dry out as well. Buy an extra one or two in case they warp excessively or you make a mistake in cutting.

Because current PT products contain lots of copper, which corrodes base metals, it is essential to use stainless steel screws for assembly. Square-drive 1 5/8" screws work well. Stainless steel trim washers (available through <http://www.mcfeeleys.com>) are great for spreading the pressure of the screw head over a wider area of plywood, and they dress up the box as well.

Cutting and Assembly

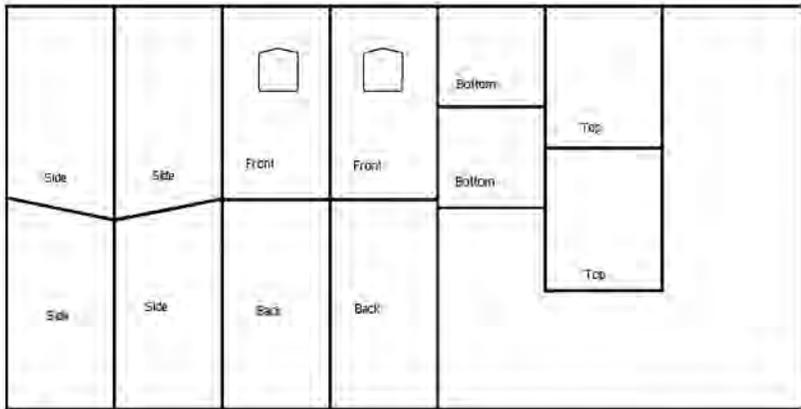
Once the plywood is dry, the depicted cutting pattern can be used to make two boxes, with enough plywood left over for a meat feeder, another topic. Note that there is a gentle slope to the roof so that water runs off. All sides of the roof have an overhang to avoid water penetration, although some snow and rain will inevitably come in through the entrance hole, which should be cut before assembly begins.

The Duck Ladder

Chances are your owl box will be occupied by Wood Ducks at some point if it is anywhere near water. Because ducklings cannot climb up the smooth plywood interior of the box, I always include a duck ladder in my owl boxes. This consists of a piece of quarter-inch hardware cloth, a wire mesh, screwed to the inside of the front of the box. Even if ducks use the box for a year or two, owls may eventually take over.

Assembly, Continued

I recommend you start by attaching pieces of baluster to both the front and back corners of both sides of the box. Place a baluster one inch from the bottom of the side and mark the top for cutting, following the slope. This will allow the bottom to be



Barred Owl Nest Box Cut Diagram. 4 x 8 pressure treated plywood. Sides, back, front 13 inches wide. Sides 24.25 inches in back, 23.75 inches in front. Bottoms 12 x 13 inches. Tops 14 x 17 inches. Entrance hole is 7 x 7 inches. Bottom of hole is 13 inches above bottom of the front panel. 1.25 inch square balusters in interior corners to screw plywood to

recessed one-half inch, to avoid water penetration. Pre-drilling the screw holes makes for much easier assembly. Next, assemble the front and back to the side assemblies and then attach the top. The bottom always seems to require small adjustments to fit its recess, but don't worry about small gaps at the edges. No drainage holes are required since such gaps always seem to occur and serve the purpose.

Finishing

Boiled linseed oil is a suitable finish, and two coats will last a long time. UV damage is the real enemy of these boxes, so I add a coat of Cabot's Timber Oil, which contains a UV inhibitor. Any similar product would work. Since these boxes are typically in the shade of the forest for most of the summer, cracking and weathering are less of a problem than, say, for Tree Swallow boxes. I finish both sides of the plywood, easier if done prior to assembly.

The Mirror

Another innovation that makes monitoring the boxes a snap is the addition of a convex mirror to the ceiling of the nest box, centered about an inch back from the front. Before the leaves come out, if sunlight can reach the floor of the box, it is possible to stand on the ground with binoculars and determine



Partial assembly showing the balusters and mirror placement; photograph by the author.

roughly what is going on. I say roughly because the convexity, which lets you see the entire floor of the box from a considerable area on the ground, makes the owl and especially the owlets appear very small.

These mirrors, available from Wal-Mart or from auto supply stores, have a sticky back, but that won't last, so I use three small stainless steel screws to hold the mirror to the roof.

Placement

The best place to locate a nest box is where Barred Owls are already present, usually in wet woods with large trees, especially hemlock trees, which the owls like for roosting. I always place the box in a hardwood tree near some hemlocks. The hardwoods have fewer branches and are easier to access with a ladder or climbing steps such as archers use. About 25 feet up is sufficient, and there should be a clear flight path to the box entrance.



Len Medlock up a tree near an owl box.
Photograph by the author.

Climbing Gear

It's dangerous to wrestle with a twenty-pound nest box high in a tree without safety equipment, the least of which would be a safety belt to attach you to the tree. It should leave your arms free for wrestling. I use a body harness and lanyard (see <http://www.forestry-suppliers.com>) for peace of mind, even though it's only 25 feet to the ground.

The Role of an Assistant

While I've placed these boxes by myself, it's easier with an assistant, who can hoist the box and hold it in position while it is attached to the tree. In any event, a rope and a higher branch to throw the rope over are required.

Attachment

The bugaboo of placing boxes in live trees is that live trees tend to grow. One elaborate attachment device is shown in one of the photos. Here a piece of PT decking is attached to the tree with long lag screws so that the board is several inches away from the trunk. This will allow for ten years or so of tree growth, even though the screws must ultimately be backed out or the attachment will fail. The box itself is bolted to the board after the board is attached to the tree. After dry fitting this all together on the ground, the pieces are re-assembled on the tree. Make sure to put a nut between the board and the box beforehand, so that the box can be slid onto the bolts

and nuts applied from inside the box. I once tried to push a box onto loose bolts, and it doesn't work!

Another, simpler attachment method is to put stainless steel eye bolts in the back of the box and then use a length of chain to hang the box in the tree. The chain should be partially encased with a piece of plastic pipe (to protect the tree) and should go over a branch or lag bolt on the side of the tree opposite the box. The chain is attached to the box with two stainless steel Quik Lock connectors, available at hardware stores. Where high winds can occur, having the box face south seems to help prevent sideways movement. The chain should not be too long.

Nesting Material

I add four inches of leaves and moss to the bottom of the box. No more than that is necessary unless you think your tenants may be ducks, in which case some wood shavings would be welcome.

Predator Guard

To prevent these boxes from becoming raccoon condos, a predator guard on the tree trunk is essential. The simplest method I know of is to buy a ten foot roll of 20" wide aluminum flashing (available at Home Depot), lay it out on the ground, and apply a can of flat-black spray paint to hide the shine. Cut the piece in half, wrap the pieces loosely around the tree and attach with a couple of two-to-three-inch deck screws. The top piece should overlap the bottom piece by an inch or two. These pieces must be loosened every two or three years as the tree grows. If vandals could be a problem, place the flashing seven or eight feet up the trunk; otherwise chest height is fine.

Results

The first box I placed in a conservation area in Hampstead, New Hampshire, in September a decade ago was ignored during the first nesting season but has been used continuously ever since. It produces two young each year with monotonous regularity and requires zero maintenance. The boxes stay up all year and do not need seasonal cleaning. The box in the photo has been used continuously for the last seven years. In all, four such boxes have produced nearly 20 successful nestings during this time period, with no known nest failures. 

Alfred Maley is a retired software engineer whose interest in nest boxes began at age 10, when he cobbled together a successful bluebird house with wood from an orange crate. Later came Barn Owl nest boxes and Long-eared Owl nest baskets. When they are not watching raptor migration in Spain or traveling with Danger Tours to Latin America, he and his wife Linda reside in Hampstead, New Hampshire.

Richard H. Pough, Conservationist Extraordinaire

William E. Davis, Jr.

After Richard H. Pough died in his Chilmark home on Martha's Vineyard, in 2003, at age ninety-nine, newspapers and journals were flooded with praise for this pioneer conservationist (e.g., Lavietes 2003; Graham 2003, 2004; Gallagher 2004; Walter 2003). All extolled his contributions to birds and conservation, and all related some of the high points of his career. Below I expand on these short tributes, and fill out his amazing list of accomplishments.

I first met Richard Pough in 1952 when I was aboard a sailboat on a two-week cruise on the Maine coast. Pough was staying aboard a boat at the Audubon camp on Hog Island. I was very interested in birds and had just been given a copy of his *Audubon Water Bird Guide* (1951). My skipper knew where Pough's boat was and took me over to meet the great man and have him inscribe my copy—a very heady experience for a young teenage boy. Fifty years later, the year before he died, I spent a day in Pough's home on Martha's Vineyard, taping an extensive interview with him. He was clearly elderly and nearly blind, but his mind was sharp, his memory excellent, and he still had a grand, deep voice and commanding presence. Through his son, Tristram, he provided me with a copy of an unpublished autobiographical manuscript that covered many of the topics discussed in the interview. The quotes below are either from the manuscript or from my taped interview. It was a wonderful day, and I was amazed at Pough's accomplishments.

The early years

Pough was born on April 19, 1904, in Brooklyn, New York, and as a small child was taken for rides on the last of New York's horse-drawn streetcars. Pough's father attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and eventually took a job running a sulfur-refining business in St. Louis, and hence much of Pough's upbringing occurred there. However, while still in Brooklyn he had his first contact with someone with an interest in birds. The house next door in Brooklyn Heights was owned by W. P. Hamilton, an editor for the *Wall Street Journal*, whose nephew, Rex Brasher, also lived there. Brasher was an ornithologist and well-known bird artist. Pough recalled:

He [Brasher] borrowed skins from the American Museum of Natural History to use as models. I was allowed to visit him, examine the specimen[s] and watch him paint. This was my first exposure to birds.

The family spent several summers on Block Island where he used a Chester A. Reed field guide to identify birds, including a Sandhill Crane.

After the move to St Louis in 1917, Pough continued to develop his interest in birds, aided by summer trips throughout the west. After completing high school he studied engineering at Washington University in St. Louis. He took a summer field-course and submitted his list of birds observed as his project report. His parents were among the elite, and Pough soon joined the local social set and began making

acquaintances that would remain important contacts throughout his life. During his years in St. Louis he perfected social skills that would be important to him in his conservation work.

Pough joined the St. Louis Bird Club and became its President, the first of many presidencies throughout his long life. He also began his conservation career, engineering the passage of a bill to preserve some local Indian mounds.

In 1921, Pough transferred to MIT and soon joined the Brookline Bird Club, where he met, among others, Maurice Broun, later the director of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania. He joined the Outing Club at MIT and became its president. He developed his ability to make friends in high places, becoming a frequent guest of Dr. Stratton, President of MIT. After graduating from MIT Pough spent a year taking liberal arts courses at Harvard. He then briefly held a job in Port Arthur, Texas, before taking a year off to travel Europe, birding and further developing his social skills and making contacts with influential people. His traveling companion in Europe, Julian Hill, would later be one of the discoverers of Nylon. On returning from Europe he had a short stay in St. Louis and then went to Philadelphia in 1932, taking a job during the Great Depression running the affairs of a camera store, which folded. Pough then bought the bankrupted business and through friends was introduced into wealthy Philadelphia society. For example:

Eleanor Houston was one of the girls I especially liked. Dates with her involved using the family car and chauffeur as the family was enormously rich and very protective of Eleanor—her grandfather had been involved in founding the Pennsylvania R.R. and the family owned thousands of acres inside Philadelphia. We became lifelong friends and I got to know the whole family over the years.

Serious involvement in conservation

Pough joined the Wilson Ornithological Club (now Society), and an article by George Miksch Sutton, the state ornithologist of Pennsylvania, in the *Wilson Bulletin* (now *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*) (1931) caught his attention. Sutton plotted the distribution of Northern Goshawks, mostly birds killed for bounties. Pough was intrigued by a concentration of kills near Reading and decided to have a look around:

So in mid-September 1932 all by myself feeling silly I drove up that way and started asking any local farmers I ran across if he knew a good place to shoot hawks. Finally I hit ‘pay dirt.’ I was directed to the mountain ridge north of Dreherstown. When I got to the top of the dirt road over the mountain I headed off to my right [to] what sounded like a sham-battle. . . . Here were assembled some 50 or more men with shotguns all talking and joking with each other in a strange language—Pennsylvania Dutch.

A steady procession of hawks was passing by on the east side of the ridge many almost at eye level. Often several men would shoot at one and if hit it would fall far below into the trees. . . . I was sickened by the spectacle but of course could do nothing about it.”

The following weekend Pough returned with his brother and they retrieved, arranged, and photographed hundreds of dead hawks (Figure 1). They made a total of five trips to observe the “indiscriminate slaughter” that fall (Harwood 1973), and Pough published a letter in *Bird-Lore* about the “appalling slaughter” (1932). Pough and Henry Collins supplied a detailed account to the annual Report of the newly formed Hawk and Owl Society. The following year Pough and his brother told the story of the hawk shooting to a meeting of the National Association of Audubon



Figure 1. Pough’s collection of dead hawks at Hawk Mountain, 1932. From Pough 1932.

Societies (now National Audubon Society) (NAAS) and the Linnaean Society of New York. Later, Pough was contacted by Rosalie Edge, the fiery leader of an Emergency Conservation Committee, which had been set up because of concerns with foot-dragging by the NAAS; since Audubon had apparently done nothing about the situation, Edge asked if he could meet her and a real estate agent to have a look around. The meeting resulted in Edge securing an option to buy the shooting site. Pough, at Edge’s suggestion, attempted to raise the

money for the property from his wealthy friends in the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club (DVOC). They were willing to provide the money but thought that Audubon should be the owner, so Pough contacted John Baker, President, and it was agreed that Audubon should make the purchase. Audubon apparently didn’t respond quickly enough, and the ever-prickly Mrs. Edge refused, stating that she had the lease and option to buy, not the NAAS. It took her four years to raise the money, buy the property, and turn it over to a newly formed Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association of which she became President (Harwood 1973). This apparently started a lifelong feud between Edge and Baker. Nonetheless, the birth of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary was underway, and Maurice Broun, Pough’s Brookline Bird Club acquaintance, became the first sanctuary warden. Pough’s copy of Broun’s book *Hawks Aloft: The Story of Hawk Mountain* (1948) bears the inscription: “To Richard H. Pough, one of the ‘discovers’—with the regards of Maurice Broun Sept. 24, 1949.”

Warren Eaton, who had started the Hawk and Owl Society in New Jersey and was the NAAS person responsible for the campaign to defend persecuted species, died, and Baker, apparently impressed with Pough’s work with Hawk Mountain, asked Pough to replace him. Pough’s brother was able to take over the camera store business, so Pough accepted and joined the NAAS staff in 1936, where he worked with Roger Tory Peterson and Robert Allen. His office was on the same floor as T. Gilbert Pearson, who had founded the NAAS and served as its President prior to John Baker. Pough and Pearson became good friends. Pearson had originally proposed the idea of an International Committee for Bird Preservation (ICBP) and was, at the time, the Pan-American Section Chairman. Pough was eventually to become Western Hemisphere Secretary of the ICBP, and later Chairman of the United States Section.

In 1939, Pough nearly got to take a famous visitor to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary:

. . . sometime later in August of 1939 as I recall, I got a letter from Dr. Hernolt [the maker and repairer of Pough's binoculars in Germany] saying that (as was obvious) the Reicherts [owners of Miracle Optical Company] had told him all about my role at Hawk Mountain. He said his friend Herman Goering was a great lover of hawks and falcons. He said Goering was planning a trip to America and he asked if I could help him get to Hawk Mountain. To this of course I said yes. . . Well of course Goering never came as the war began.

Pough retained his interest in raptors and started a number of programs relating to them. In the most successful, Pough recruited a retired Canadian banker, Charles Broley, to start a program of banding Bald Eagles in Florida. Eventually Broley banded over 1200 eagles and his story was chronicled in *Eagle Man* (1952). Pough acquired a banding permit and permission to give bands to sub-permittees for banding hawks and owls. Pough had early on fallen in love with the Charleston, South Carolina area, and was good friends with artist and conservationist John Henry Dick, and with Alexander Sprunt, IV who worked for National Audubon.

During this period Pough married Moira Flannery (Figure 2) and was an usher at Roger Tory Peterson's wedding to Mildred Washington. It was at the Peterson's apartment that Pough met Peter Scott, a fateful meeting as it later turned out. Pough also became friends with William Vogt, editor of Audubon's *Birdlore*. When Vogt left the magazine, Pough had a suggestion for a replacement editor:

I suggested Rachel Carson who was out of a job with the government in Washington. I had been impressed with her book "Under the Sea Wind" [1941]. I got her to come for an interview with John Baker. She did not get the job but it was the beginning of what developed into a close friendship. She even consulted me on the provision of her will and under a pledge of secrecy I helped a bit with "Silent Spring" [1962].

Pough made friends easily, particularly with women:



Figure 2. Richard Pough and his wife, Moira, June 16, 1962.

For many years the librarian at Audubon House was the Countess de la Salle a charming French Woman who came to the U.S. during the war. We became the greatest of friends. Frenchmen and women have been my best and closest friends all my life.

Pough was approached at an American Ornithologists' Union meeting in New York by Francis Allen, an editor at Houghton Mifflin in Boston, shown a manuscript of a field guide by Roger Tory Peterson, and asked his opinion of it. He, along with several reviewers, including Ludlow Griscom, gave it high praise. It was published in 1934, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Ironically, Pough was to become a competitor of the Peterson field guide series. In his own words:

Some time after its appearance [the Peterson book] I said to Roger I think it is a shame to give [a] youngster a book that just gives them a name for a bunch of colored feathers and nothing about the birds. About that time Ed Weyer editor of the American Museum of Natural History who was advising Doubleday & Co. on a projected series of Nature Guides suggested my name—as a possible author of such a guide. I jumped at the chance and got John Baker to ok it's being called 'Audubon Birds Guides' in return for 25% share in the royalties.

Don Eckelberry who had succeeded Peterson as staff artist agreed to do a series of color plates, eventually 128 in all. (UAM)

The series eventually ran to three books, *Eastern Land Birds*, *Eastern Water and Game Birds*, and *Western Birds* (1946, 1951, 1957). Pough's emphasis was on the natural history of each species, so that they nicely complemented the Peterson books. Interestingly, Pough was a learning-disabled speller and somewhat dyslectic, so that his wife, Moira, actually wrote the species accounts as Pough dictated them (Tristram Pough, pers. comm.). The books were a great success, selling about a million copies and providing Pough with enough financial security to allow him to pursue his conservation initiatives, his real love, as he saw fit.

At one point Pough was invited to visit Aldo Leopold in Wisconsin:

Aldo Leopold—"Sand County Almanac" etc. a pioneer in the field of Wildlife Management was on the board of Audubon at the time and invited me to visit him at Madison WI where he headed a department at the Univ. of Wisconsin. It was for me a memorable visit and I had the privilege of spending a weekend with him at his cabin on the Wisconsin River. We practically talked all night on Saturday. One might say it gave me my degree in Ecology. . . .

One amusing story that Aldo told for years about me was about a hollow tree near the cabin. I had noticed it and wondered if an owl might be living in the hole I noted. I commented on it and he said no, it had never harbored an owl. I said 'Do you mind if I go over and give it a nock?' and I did so and out popped a barred owl—i.e., the owl man produced an owl.

Later, Pough was one of several people who influenced Leopold to take on Joe Hickey as a graduate student. Hickey, whom Pough had known from the Bronx County Bird Club, replaced Leopold as head of the Agricultural Economics Department after Leopold's death.

In 1945, Pough participated in a study of the effects of DDT on birds. The results showed that large doses of DDT did kill birds, and Pough began a personal crusade to warn people of the potential dangers of persistent pesticides. His lectures reached thousands of people and stimulated concern for the environmental effects of persistent pesticides to a group of people that included Rachael Carson.

During World War II the Singer Tract in northern Louisiana was logged and, with it, the last major home of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Pough was sent down by Audubon to check the situation out:

Finally I located an Ivorybill—a female. After several days I was able to follow her to her nighttime roost in a hole in an old tree. Then I could see her emerge in the morning usually well after sun up. At that time before flying off to feed she would for a while . . . repeatedly give her distinctive call.

This made her easy to follow. In fact there were days when I had her in sight all day long and watched her feed by chipping bark off newly dead trees. Before long it became apparent her calls [were] never being answered that she was the lone survivor of the population Tanner had studied and I came back to New York.

For a conservationist this must have been a sad realization.

Pough apparently also had an inadvertent hand in the release of House Finches, which now have overspread most of eastern North America. His wife reported to him that Macy's pet department was selling "California Linnets," and Pough found them to be House Finches. He reported the problem to the appropriate federal agents and accompanied an agent to the shop (the agent wasn't much of a bird man). The store evidently had a supply of House Finches back at their warehouse out on Long Island, and fearing federal prosecution, did the logical thing—they let the birds go—a situation that was not a feather in the cap of a conservationist. He also was involved in stomping out a resurgence of importing wild bird feathers for millenary purposes, including sniffing out, literally, boxes of albatross feathers in a warehouse. One of his last assignments for Audubon was to have a look at Corkscrew Swamp in western Florida, and he recommended that Audubon buy all the land available.

On to the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH)

In 1948, Pough took a position as Curator of Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History, and a year later was made Chairman of the Department of Conservation and General Ecology. It probably didn't hurt that Pough had been a schoolmate of Alexander White, then President of the Museum. He was also elected President of the Linnaean Society of New York, which operated out of the Museum,

and later President of the John Burroughs Association, which awards medals for outstanding nature writing.

Pough's years with the Museum were often rocky because issues of conservation often conflicted with the goals and profit margins of major corporations, and Pough was anything but a shrinking violet. He opposed the plan of the City Parks Department (which provided funds for the Museum) to run an expressway through a swamp. He opposed a plan to construct a dam in Dinosaur National Monument, annoying the Monsanto Chemical Corporation (whose president sat on the AMNH Board of Trustees). He blasted National Distributors for logging 100,000+ acres of their forest. This produced a lot of polarization in the Museum but gave him the friendship of, among others, Robert Cushman Murphy of the Bird Department. He also published a series of articles pushing the idea of the Museum preserving areas of natural habitat—"Living Museums of Natural History"—but he could not convince the trustees to buy the idea. Pough attended the international Ornithological Congresses and gradually acquired an international reputation for his conservation work.

Pough was approached about Corkscrew Swamp again. It seems that Audubon had only bought one section of land and the rest was about to be cut. Pough's reaction was predictable:

Baker [President of Audubon] showed no interest in trying to raise such a sum [\$175,000] and when I asked if I might try he laughed as though I was crazy and said go ahead if you want to try. Well I went to Ernest Brooks who was running Paul Mellon's Old Dominion Foundation and got as I recall a promise of $\frac{1}{4}$ the needed sum. Then I went to Ted Edison (the son of Thomas) whom I had gotten acquainted with through the MIT Alumni Association. He agreed to $\frac{1}{4}$.

Then I went to Horace Albright who had ever since he had been director of the National Park Service, been an advisor to John D. Rockefeller on conservation matters. I asked him to ask Mr. Rockefeller for help. He said he had always been careful not to ask him for money but just helped him on projects in which Mr. R. was interested.

He confessed that he was lunching with Mr. R on Tuesday. So I asked would he please break his rule and tell him I needed \$175,000 to save trees that could well be called the redwoods of the east. I did this knowing he had long taken an interest in Save the Redwoods.

I had heard that Mr. R. often offered to do $\frac{1}{2}$ on projects, well that is what he did saying tell Pough I'll give Audubon $\frac{1}{2}$.

This passage provides insight into Pough's strategy for the acquisition of large sums of money for conservation projects. He knew the right people and he knew what they could or would provide.

Pough led the charge against the U.S. Navy when they decided to eliminate the Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses from an air base in the Pacific. (The navy even lodged a complaint about Pough with the Museum.) He engineered the Linnaean Society's taking over responsibility for Great Gull Island, a major tern nesting location, which was to become the location of landmark studies by Helen Hayes of the AMNH (Harwood 1976).

Pough learned from the French ornithologist Jean Delacour at a cocktail party that the wealthy Phipps family was about to sell a sizable piece of New Jersey coastline and beaches to developers. Pough learned of a committee at Princeton University that had been established to try and buy the land and establish it as a National Monument. He inquired, found that it was going nowhere, and took over chairmanship of the committee. He thought that the best bet was to get the state to buy it and establish a state park, and for several years bills were introduced into the legislature to accomplish this. The mother of then Governor Driscoll was a garden club member, and when the state showed a budget surplus she pressed for the purchase. The 10.5 miles of beach is now a state park. Pough was also involved in the adding of Little Beach Island to the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge.

He also was a major player in establishing Wildlife Preserve Inc., a non-profit organization that was involved in rescuing Troy Meadows, an extensive marsh in New Jersey and the "sunken forest" area of Fire Island New York. Pough was Treasurer of Wildlife Preserve but didn't get along with its President, Robert Perkins, and eventually left the organization. Pough also successfully fought the development of a Shell Oil refinery in the Delaware Bay area and was asked by the acclaimed southern conservationist, Herbert Stoddard, to help set up the Tall Timbers Research Station in Tallahassee, Florida; Pough was involved in creating a local corporation to handle the title. In addition to the pioneering work of Stoddard on Northern Bobwhites, Tall Timbers is internationally known for its research on fire ecology and long-term studies on bird migration (Crawford and Engstrom 2010).

The garden club circuit

One of Pough's first accomplishments at the American Museum was to establish a monthly "Conservation Round Table," a pitch towards the conservation elements in the garden clubs of the New York City area. By this point, Pough had become a seasoned lecturer for the Audubon Society and AMNH. From the influential friends he had made throughout his life, Pough had realized that garden clubs are the way to the heart of wealthy Americans. Garden clubs in major urban areas are largely controlled by the wealthy, so Pough gave lectures, usually in evenings, and suggested that they be preceded with dinner parties where not only the wives, but the husbands as well, would be in attendance. He found this a great way to get his message across to wealthy people, the source of funding for his conservation projects (Figure 3). In his own words:

From the day I raised the money for Mrs. Edge to buy hawk mountain I realized that if I was to get anywhere in preserving natural areas I was going to need money and the help of people of influence and access to money. So

my whole career had as it[s] aim the cultivation of what one might call the rich and powerful. For this I make [no] apologies. In almost all cases I found them congenial and in many cases developed close friendships. This was especially true of women with whom I always get along well. Actually the bulk of my friends have always been women.

Pough was obviously a handsome man and he had a remarkable voice, one of those deep baritone voices that command a lecture hall:

Over and over I have been complimented on my voice. . . . I might also mention that I never read a speech in my life and seldom have needed a 'mike'. I hold that if one can't 'talk' to an audience one should put ones thought[s] on paper and let them be read.



Figure 3. Richard Pough

Clearly, Pough was an impressive speaker. His Conservation Round Table led to him becoming an official advisor to the Conservation Committee of the Garden Clubs of America, composed of a hundred or so prestigious organizations scattered around the country. This in turn led to innumerable invitations to speak at annual meetings and special events across the United States.

The politics and conflicts between Pough and trustees at the Museum finally got out of hand, and his department was abolished, leaving Pough without a job. So he established The Natural Area Council, with which he was associated for thirty years, with the financial support of his garden club and roundtable friends. Among other things, this organization held funds for start-up organizations until they incorporated and received tax-exempt status. The Board of Trustees included Ann Rockefeller and other people of means, and Pough received a modest salary (he was also getting royalties on his books). Pough was good friends with banker/birder Guy Emerson, who suggested to Robert T. Vanderbilt, Jr. that he contribute annually to the new Council.

Defenders of Wildlife

A friend of Pough's, Victor Callahan, the State Biologist for New York, asked Pough to join the Board of Directors of the Defenders of Fur-bearers, which had been established in 1947. The person running the organization was aging, and the Board was split on whether to replace her or not. At the annual meeting Pough was nominated from the floor and was elected President, with the understanding that he tactfully pass her responsibilities on to others without hurting her feelings. The organization was renamed Defenders of Wildlife. Once again Pough was involved in the beginnings of an organization that would become one of the great conservation agencies of North America.

The Nature Conservancy

The Ecologists Union had been established by Victor Shelford from the University of Illinois in 1946, to act for the preservation of entire ecological communities, because the Ecological Society of America had decided that it was not appropriate for a professional organization to be involved in the politics of conservation. Pough thought that Union was ineffective so he sought and got the Presidency (1952-1956).

After a trip to the United Kingdom as a guest of their Nature Conservancy (see below), Pough returned and suggested that the Ecologists Union name be changed to The Nature Conservancy (TNC), borrowing the name of the U.K. organization. He felt that the name would better represent the purposes of the organization. Pough became the TNC's first President and loaded the Board with friends, including Joe Hickey of the University of Wisconsin. Pough had learned a bitter lesson at the AMNH and decided that TNC should not be against anything or anyone:

My unhappy experience at the museum made me decide that a basic principle of TNC, as we now call it, would not [to] be against anything. We would just be for buying and preserving lands something no one could get mad at us for. To this day that principal has been adhered to with great success. Corporations like us and give us land, bureaucrats like us and ask us to procure land for them and the public and foundations support us generously.

After initial successes, Pough encountered the problem of local groups, Audubon groups for example, not having the money to buy up parcels of land. So he decided that the way around this problem was for the TNC to have a revolving fund so that they could lend local organizations money for options and down payments. To establish this fund Pough, in the early 1950s, asked Lila Wallace, editor of *Readers Digest*, to lunch and made his pitch. He left after lunch with a check for \$100,000—a rather expensive lunch for Lila. It did, however, get Pough in trouble with Fairfield Osborn of the New York Zoological Society, which received substantial funding from Lila Wallace. Osborn didn't welcome Pough's competition for her financial help. He confronted Pough over lunch and tried to get Pough to take only \$25,000 from Wallace. Pough responded "Fair, I'll kill you if you try to queer the deal." It was a threat made in jest no doubt, but Fairfield Osborn didn't pursue the issue, at least not directly. Later, when Pough was put up for membership in the Century Club, he was apparently black-balled, and Pough suspected that John Baker or Fairfield Osborn was behind it.

Pough continued to use his relationships with influential people to further the TNC goals. For example, his friendship with the Avery Rockefellers led to an introduction to Chicago businessman Cyrus Mark. Pough told him about two bogs north of Chicago that needed protection and several weeks later received a call from Marks saying that he had secured options to buy both of them—they went to the TNC. In another example of his connections and charm, Pough attended a party hosted by the daughter of Ester Goodrich at which he targeted Bob Anderson of

Atlantic Richfield, who was reputed to be the largest land owner in the United States, with what Pough called one of his “fireside chats.” As Pough relates, “Before the party broke up he said to me ‘I have some land up hill from Roswell, NM (where his home is) that I ought to give to the Conservancy.’”

Pough was particularly interested in saving remaining areas of prairie in the west, particularly in Missouri, through his friendship with Kay Ordway and her Goodhill Foundation. After her death, her son insisted that Pough become President of the Foundation, and as such he influenced the purchase of numerous tracts through TNC, including sizable tracts in the Chiricahua Mountains. Pough guided TNC through its infancy years and then moved on to other conservation initiatives. As president of the Goodhill Foundation, Pough pledged \$500,000 towards the establishment of the Theodore Roosevelt Ranch, dedicated on the hundredth anniversary of Roosevelt’s birth. Pough had met Roosevelt’s son, Archie, at meetings of the Boone and Crockett Club founded by Roosevelt. Pough had been made an Honorary Member for his conservation work.

World Wildlife Fund

Pough had gotten to know Peter Scott well after their original meeting in Roger Tory Peterson’s apartment, visiting with Scott at International Ornithological Congress meetings over the years. Both Pough and Scott were members of a cluster of international friends that kept in touch with, and visited, each other between congresses. This group included most of the prominent ornithologists of Europe and the United States, such luminaries as David Lack, Jean Delacour, Conrad Lorenz, K. Curry-Lindahl, Jean Dorst, Alfred Gross, Julian Huxley, François Hue, William Phelps, S. Dillon Ripley, Erwin Stresemann, Nico Tinbergen, Josslyn Van Tyne, Alexander Wetmore, and Ernst Mayr—an august group, to say the least.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources was a conservation organization, mostly of Europeans, which was hampered by a lack of funds, not enough staff, and was thought by some as ineffectual. Peter Scott, Prince Phillip (an ardent conservationist), and several others wanted to revive the organization. In 1961, Pough, probably because of his conservation lectures in Canada, was invited to England as a guest of their governmental Nature Conservancy. Pough had a delightful stay, being shown around the nature reserves of England, Scotland, and Wales. What emerged from the conference was a plan for an organization, the World Wildlife Fund, with chapters in many countries around the world. The United States, with its vigorous economy, was high on the list. Pough stopped for a tour of Iceland on the way home and gave a talk in which he blasted their forestry people for their planned planting of exotic conifers where native forest should grow.

At the time Pough was Chairman of the U.S. chapter of the ICBP. He called a meeting and arranged for the ICBP funds to be used in fund raising for three months for the new U.S. branch of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). He then recruited Ira Gabrielson, a retired Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to be the first President of the U.S. chapter of the WWF. After the ball was rolling Pough became

just a member of the Board of Directors. His work in setting up the WWF led to a close friendship with Charles and Ann Lindberg. Pough's wife Moira had known Ann at Smith College, so they already were acquainted, yet another in the incredible list of connections that typified Pough and his conservation work.

Many projects, many successes, and winding down a brilliant career

In addition to his national and international affiliations, Pough worked with a number of more local organizations and conservation projects. He served on the Parks, Recreation and Conservation Board of Westchester County, New York, and he served on the Committee of 100 of the Regional Plan Association for the New York City region. He served as President for five years of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, which sought to ward off challenges to the provision that the state-owned forests of the region must be left wild. He advised Ted Edison on a strategy for keeping Monhegan Island (Maine) from uncontrolled development. For years he advised the Boys and Girls Scouts on preserving land given to them. He was involved in the land purchase that led to the establishment of the National Wildlife Refuge that protects the Atwater's Prairie Chicken (Figure 4). Pough served on the Board of Trustees for the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, a New York State chartered organization that was the forerunner of the state parks system. Pough helped the Scenic Hudson organization in the fight to keep Consolidated Edison from building a facility at Storm King on the Hudson River. He was heavily involved in a rather secretive plot to preserve the Bull Run Mountains west of Washington D.C. from development. The strategy was to buy up a patchwork of properties in the mountains so that no developer could acquire a large tract of land. The secrecy was to keep land prices from becoming inflated.

After participating in Lady Bird Johnson's White House Conference on Natural Beauty, Pough and others were dissatisfied with the results and established The America the Beautiful Fund. This organization has been involved in a broad spectrum of activities, from giving away seeds for flowers and vegetables, landscaping grounds of public buildings, to helping in establishing farmers markets and community kitchens.

Pough attended the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) and National Wildlife Conference meetings, as well as the International Ornithological Congresses, and his schmoozing often led to his involvement in projects. In one example, he talked to a Spanish ornithologist at an AOU meeting who told the sad tale of the plans to drain the Cato Donna, a vast wetlands area in southern Spain that was important habitat for



Figure 4. King Ranch, Texas. Roland Clement (left), Richard Pough (right).

waterbirds. Soon thereafter, Pough was visiting friends of his in the Phipps family, one of whom was about to go hunting in Spain with none other than Head of State General Francisco Franco's daughter and son-in-law. Pough told him the Cato Donna story and said to raise hell about it with Franco's daughter. It turned out that Franco himself showed up and heard the plans for the Cato Donna, apparently for the first time (the Minister of Agriculture was in charge of the project). Pough did some saber rattling and the WWF made an offer to buy the most critical property. The result was the eventual saving of the wetland, which today remains one of Europe's great wildlife refuges.

At one point Pough was invited by his National Audubon connections to lead some nature tours to Spain, Portugal, Greece, and South Africa under the auspices of the American Horticultural Society and participated in other tours around the world. As usual, these groups enabled him to increase his network of friends, and his natural history tours always took on some conservation dimension.

After he and Moira bought a property on Martha's Vineyard in 1961, Pough became involved in conservation on the Vineyard. He and a few friends organized The Vineyard Conservation Society, with Pough becoming President. He was also a founder of the Vineyard Open Land Foundation that specialized in guiding developers in sub-dividing properties to maximize retention of open land. Pough was



Figure 5. Richard Pough (center) receives the Hornaday Medal from John Ripley Forbes, President of the Natural Science for Youth Foundation.

instrumental in the acquisition and development of the Massachusetts Audubon Societies' Felix Neck Sanctuary. He just could not go anywhere and not become actively involved in conservation initiatives.

Pough received many honors for his conservation work, including an L.L.D. degree from Haverford College and medals from more than a dozen organizations (Figure 5). He was, of course, at the right place at the right time—he was most active during the period of the 1940s and 1950s as America awoke to the realization that all was not well in the natural world, and that without conservation measures,

much would be permanently lost. Much of the growth and acceptance of conservation as an important facet of American and global life is due to the work of Richard H. Pough. His accomplishments are of Herculean proportions—the scope of his work is truly amazing.

In our interview, Pough summed up his life's work: "I'd like to say that my career has been based on making [the world] a nicer place to live. Period. That sums it all up." And so it does (Figure 6). 🐦



Figure 6. Richard Pough—always a birder.

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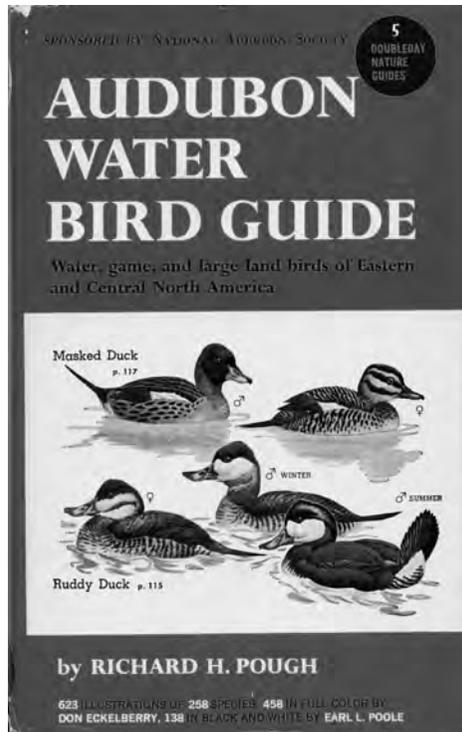
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FIELD NOTE

Carolina Wrens Deal with the Cold

Nancy Soulette

In mid-December 2009, party guests arriving at my house asked what the bird was that flew into their faces as they approached my front door. I rarely use my front door so I hadn't realized I had uninvited avian guests, but I suspected that there might be a Carolina Wren roosting in my Christmas wreath. I admired its commitment to its roost as it returned over and over again between arriving guests, during the party, and as guests left. Late the next afternoon I waited at my living room window to see if the bird would arrive at dusk, and indeed I saw a Carolina Wren sneak quietly from nearby bushes onto the wreath. Knowing it was there was irresistible, so a few days later I decided to look from inside the storm door at dusk to see where it had chosen to roost. I left the main door closed but unlatched so I could quietly sneak it open a tiny bit. There, nestled in an indentation amongst the evergreen sprigs against the storm window was not just one, but two fluffy, brown balls huddled together.

Through the rest of the winter, I avoided using the front door at night and enjoyed the image of my little couple snuggled up in the wreath. I looked forward to taking the dried-out wreath down as soon as the weather warmed up but I was not going to get my wish. On March 3rd, I noticed a long rootlet sticking out of the wreath, and I wondered what my guests were up to. Nothing changed for several days but starting March 10, more and more twigs, rootlets, leaves, and moss were added and I realized I wasn't going to get to use my front door at all for quite some time.



Nest building progresses—about 30% done—viewed from inside the storm door. All photos by the author.

In mid-April, after I got back from a trip, I found five little speckled eggs deep inside the wren nest. I set up a sawhorse at the end of my front walk with a sign to prevent anyone from disturbing the nest, and resigned myself to using my back door exclusively. By this time I had become hopelessly involved in the wrens' progress. After the chicks hatched, I increased the amount of mealworms I normally put out for my bluebirds, and enjoyed watching the wrens come to the feeder at the crack of dawn to carry them off to their chicks.

In early May, around the time the chicks were to fledge, we had a sudden cold snap. I was frantic that on the night the chicks fledged they would freeze to death. On May 10, they did fledge, and temperatures dipped below freezing that night. The next



Carolina Wren nest in wreath, March 2010

obvious fact that any chick who had fledged from the wreath at the front of the house and had managed to fly around the house to the vegetable garden in the back would certainly be capable of flying out of the garden the next day. I feverishly studied the garden, looking for the chicks on the ground. I realized then that the parents were taking food not to the ground, but to the composting leaf pile on one side of the garden. Then I noticed leaf fragments dropping to the ground from a small hole in the middle of the pile, and a tiny wing flicking the leaves out of the hole. There in a shelter from the cold were the chicks, with their parents standing guard on the garden fence! Never underestimate the ingenuity of our feathered friends.



New occupant of Carolina Wren Chicks' shelter in leaf pile two days after the chicks fledged

morning I was determined to see if the chicks had made it through the night. At dawn I watched the parents come to the feeder for mealworms and tried to follow them (through my kitchen window) to see if they were feeding fledglings. Sure enough they carried the mealworms off, over and over, so I knew at least some of the chicks must have survived. One of the parents was acting strangely though, sitting on the garden fence, singing intensely. Mealworm transportation was ending abruptly in my vegetable garden. Ever the anxious mother, I panicked again and assumed one or more chicks was stuck in the enclosure, unable to get out, and that I had to help. I ignored the

Postscript: A few days later, after the wren family had moved across the street, I was working in my garden when an enormous garter snake climbed through the fence and into the hole the chick(s) had used in the leaf pile. I noticed other holes in the pile as well, all of them very small, and it made me wonder if I had seen just one chick in the original hole or the whole brood. I don't know which species created the holes in the first place—the snakes or the wrens—but I thank goodness that garter snakes are diurnal and that the wren chicks got out of there when they did. 🐦

From Partners in Flight

We are pleased to announce that “Saving Our Shared Birds: Partners in Flight Tri-National Vision for Landbird Conservation” is now available! Government officials, on behalf of international bird conservation leaders from the United States, Canada, and Mexico, released the report today at the XV Annual Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

The tri-national assessment followed Partners in Flight’s process of scientific evaluations of conservation vulnerability for 882 native landbirds to Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Please note that the results of this new tri-national species assessment do not replace the priorities and objectives identified previously in the 2004 PIF Landbird Conservation Plan or regional priorities in the PIF species assessment database. The messages in this report are highly relevant to successful conservation of all North American landbirds.

Visit <http://www.savingoursharedbirds.org> to learn more, download a copy, view our new PIF video, or read the press release. Please help share the news!

IBA News and Book Notes:

The new Americas IBA directory provides a concise summary of 2450 Important Bird Areas described throughout the Americas through 2009. This inventory, prepared by BirdLife International, follows similar regional IBA directories developed this past decade for Africa (2001) and Asia (2004) and represents a powerful overview of the most important sites for bird conservation in our hemisphere. Starting with the beginning of the IBA Program in North America in 1994, sites have now been identified in all 57 countries or territories in the region. The results are impressive and are organized as free pdf downloads.

You can find summaries for all 57 countries or territories in the Hemisphere at http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/sites/american_ibas/americas-ibas-downloads.html.

There are also a number of individual national and regional directories that have additional details. For more information about IBA programs across the U.S., check the National Audubon Society’s Important Bird Area program website at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/>.

If you prefer a hard-copy of the book, it is also available through BirdLife. The standard book copy is available (for about \$70) here <http://www.nhbs.com/title.php?tefno=172848>.

[from the Birding Community E-bulletin
<http://www.refugenet.org/birding/birding5.html>]

ABOUT BOOKS

Triple Threat

Mark Lynch

Birding From the Hip: A Sound Approach Anthology.
Anthony McGeehan and Sound Approach. 2009. The
Sound Approach. Dorset, U.K.



Looking back and writing about what happened has given me a chance to don rose-coloured binoculars and make sure that, with the passage of time and the onset of a failing memory, truth did not get in the way of a good story.
Anthony McGeehan on the *Sound Approach* website.

What do you look for in a bird book? I don't mean field guides and "where to find" guides, which I consider more tools than tomes: important to own but not enjoyable to read. I enjoy writing that conveys something about the reality of the experience of birding, not just the thrill of the chase—*everyone* writes about that—but the more mundane day-to-day bits too. I like those slightly potty, neurotic experiences of a person deeply obsessed with one little slice of the natural world. What is life like at home with the kids and the "significant other" of a hardcore birder, especially when that loved one is NOT a birder? To me, a sense of humor is critical in writing about birding; otherwise it can be like perusing a Trekkie's diary: amusing at first but ultimately boring and sad. Writing about birding also has to have a palpable sense of place, whether it's a jaunt to the local conservation land or a trek across the sea to search for a life bird. Readers who are birders need the feeling of being transported out of their daily lives because if they are taking the time to be reading a book, that means for some reason they are not able to be out birding themselves. (Admit it, given the choice of birding for thirty minutes during spring migration or spending hours reading the latest novel by Chuck Palahniuk, which would you choose? I thought so.) Lastly, a great birding writer needs to be able to spin a good yarn. To transform something ordinary—hearing a Hermit Thrush sing, for instance—and crafting that experience into a piece that makes readers hold their breath.

Anthony McGeehan is a writer well known to western European birders, and for seventeen years his wonderfully written pieces have appeared in periodicals like *Birdwatch* and *Dutch Birding*. *Birding from the Hip* is a collection of some of his best work.

McGeehan grew up in Northern Ireland, and a certain impish, Belfast-ian anti-authority attitude informs much of his writing. This is seen best in pieces like "Who dares wins" when McGeehan and his teen birding chums get nabbed by the authorities for birding where they well knew they should not have been. He writes:

Why all the fuss? It had to do with the location of the reclamation pools.
They were sandwiched between an oil refinery and the open waters of

Belfast Lough. Moreover, the entire area was patrolled by heavily armed cops since it also contained an army base, ordnance depot, airstrip, Royal navy berth, Short's missile factory (keep that to yourself) and just for good measure, 95 per cent of Northern Ireland's fuel supplies. In other words, we were birding in a McDonald's for terrorists. (p. 27-8)

The pieces in *Birding From the Hip* cover a lot of ground geographically and conceptually. There is a wonderful childhood account of getting his school chums to encircle a Corncrake in a churchyard so they could actually see and not just hear the bird. The culmination of this event led to his conversion to birdwatching as his religion. Many essays deal with the small experiences of birding: the sinking feeling of dipping after many hours searching for a wanted species, what to do when you or a mate makes the wrong field identification, and the uncomfortable insanity of early pelagic trips.

Though many of the pieces focus on birding around Belfast, there are as many trips to mainland Europe, Iceland, and North America searching for that next lifer. In "Letter from America" McGeehan talks about preparing to participate in the New Jersey World Series of Birding by learning bird calls and songs from his "bible," Dick Walton's *Birding By Ear*. Newfoundland birder and friend Bruce MacTavish advises him to use mnemonic phrases to help remember the foreign songs, and here is what McGeehan comes up with:

Sora: the noise made in an empty house by an unauthorized person.
Blackpoll Warbler: the hiss of a sewage farm sprinkler; Ruffed Grouse: the sound of inflating a sheep's stomach with a bicycle pump; Bobolink flight call: a fairy's fart. (p. 82)

There are also several essays by Mairead McGeehan, Anthony's long-suffering no-nonsense wife who still loves and even lusts after her husband despite his addle-headed obsessions. What makes Mairead's pieces so refreshing is that, while they are certainly humorous, they also reveal the tensions that can exist when a member of the family is a hardcore birder. Mairead genuinely feels slighted by her neglectful spouse for being abandoned, to sit alone in a car for hours on what was supposed to be a romantic trip abroad, while he tromps the mountains of the Salzburg looking for Alpine Accentor. And boy does she mind when he forgets to pitch in with the kids and housework, or ditches birthdays to run off after some vagrant.

The first alarm bells sounded on the night of our wedding rehearsal. The same day a lost Elegant Tern was discovered in County Down. He phoned at six o'clock to say he couldn't make the rehearsal. I yelled at him that I was supposed to be the most elegant thing in his life. "Right now you come an extremely close second to a tern", was the reply. He thought this sounded sympathetic, although he did promise not to try and get the stupid bird on his "Wedding Day" list. (p. 33 "My Life with a Jerk")

Her ever-patient love for her husband always wins out though, when most other women I know would have tossed him and his binoculars out the door and sent him

on his twitching way. Most important, Mairead's delightfully tart writing grounds Anthony's birding in the reality of a family life. He has a loving wife and children, and they have needs for which he has to provide. There are always tensions, always another mega tick to drop everything and run after, but it is clear that eventually there is housework and child tending he has to do. Mairead is no birding widow and does not let him off the hook regarding family responsibilities, and even resorts to making deals with Anthony:

Nowadays, I make him earn his birding time. Washing the dishes equals an hour out; doing the shopping equals half a day; and for just being nice and paying me some attention, up to a whole day. He calls this a credit system. I call it adulthood. (p. 35)

McGeehan's two children are also found among the pieces in *Birding From the Hip*. He brings his charges to a lecture he is giving at a church on the gorier aspects of pelagic birding called "Birds and Bile." Back in the car after the lecture, he eagerly asks his kids what they thought of dad's talk.

"So what were the good bits?" That opened the floodgates. Out poured a line-by-line repetition of the goriest stories of the night. How Stuart fell into the ship's hold in total darkness and nearly broke a leg. About Davy waking up to find that he had shared a bunk with a rat. And the midnight raid on our chum supply that was believed to contain sealed packets of drugs—when the customs officer dredged through the barrels with his bare hands and fished out nothing more sinister than cod heads. But not a word about birds. "Is that it?" I said. "What about the rest?" "Mmmm," they replied, "not great. The maps were the worst—that was school stuff. But the stories were cool. Even the people asleep beside us woke up during them." (p. 40 "Kids stuff")

In "No more Mr. Nice Guy," he rails against cats. "Cats. I hate them. They are to wild birds what the month of December is to Turkeys." (p. 51)

However, when a stray "moggie" begins to win the hearts of his children, McGeehan is tolerant, but: "that night's bedtime stories were Peter and the Cat, followed by a new version of Little Red Riding Hood featuring a wicked cat dressed up as Granny." (p. 52) Reading these essays made me realize how rare it is that children are talked about in a meaningful way in most books by hardcore birders.

Throughout *Birding From the Hip* there are some stunning color photographs, many full-page, taken by a number of photographers. There are the bird portraits of course, all of very high quality, but also location pictures and a number of shots of birding friends and family. Several photographs focus on those moments in birding when things do not go as planned: a car hopelessly stuck in the mud in the middle of nowhere; a boatload of pelagic birders, sick as dogs, laid out on deck while another photographer leans in for a close shot of their misery. There was one photograph that made me laugh out loud, but you will have to discover that for yourself.

Finally, as if a beautifully organized book of wonderful birding essays combined with great photography weren't enough, there are two CDs enclosed in the inside

cover that contain Anthony and Mairead reading sixteen of their pieces in their best Belfast accents. Music heard at the beginning and end of each piece is by Grammy Award nominated producer, and founder of *The Imagined Village*, Simon Emmerson. (Though much of this is acoustic folk music, “Surfin’ Bird” by The Trashmen (1963) does make an unexpected appearance.) The particular bird songs, calls, and even ambient sounds are also included where and when appropriate. These state-of-the-art recordings are thanks to the guys at *Sound Approach*: Arnoud van der Berg, Mark Constantine, and Magnus Robb. Since 2000, they have been building a major new collection of sound recordings focusing on bird songs and calls of the western Palearctic Region and apparently also expanding the way birdcalls can be used in recordings. When you combine all these talents, you get a series of recordings that are truly a pleasure to experience.

There you have it. Great writing, excellent photography, and great sound recording. *Birding From the Hip: A Sound Approach Anthology* sets a new high bar of what to expect from a birding book. It will be a very tough act to beat. 

Massachusetts Wildlife Photo Contest

Have you taken a beautiful photo of a coyote in your back yard? Caught a magnificent eagle on the wing? Snapped an image of a colorful spider wrapping up its dinner or the first bloom of a gorgeous wild orchid? Have you captured the perfect sunrise from a Cape Cod beach—or the perfect sunset from a Berkshire mountain? How about the ear-splitting smile of a child with a first fish—or Mom paddling a kayak for the first time? We want to see what you’ve got! For the first time ever, *Massachusetts Wildlife* will devote an issue to a public photography competition, the 2010 Massachusetts Wildlife Photo Contest. Other than bragging rights, prizes are modest: a free, 2-year subscription to the magazine for the first-place winners in each category; and an award citation and four copies of the #4, 2010 issue of *Massachusetts Wildlife* for all first-, second-, and third-place winners.



The photo contest is open to amateur photographers, who may submit up to ten images. Photos must be taken in Massachusetts. There are eight entry categories: flora, scenic, outdoor activities, invertebrates, fish, herps (reptiles and amphibians), birds, and mammals. Deadline for entry submission is September 1, 2010. More details about the contest and an entry form can be found at

http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/publications/mwmag/mwmag_home.htm.

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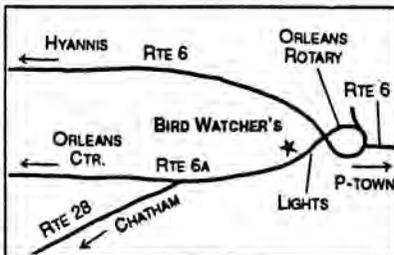
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BIRD SIGHTINGS

January/February 2010

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

New Year's Day was on a Friday, so birders had three days to start off a brand new year of birding. Day one was very cloudy, with normal temperatures and a few snow flurries, but things went downhill from there. Over the next two days more than 10 inches of snow fell on Boston and more on the northern and western suburbs. Even more snow fell on Cape Cod and the Islands, playing havoc with the Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket CBCs. The first half of January was somewhat colder than normal, but the second half of the month was warmer than the average. The high recorded in Boston was 57° on January 25 and the low for the month came five days later when the mercury dipped to 6°. Rainfall in Boston totaled 2.91 inches, with measurable rain on eight days. Snow totaled 13.2 inches.

February was mild, with no below-normal days after February 8. The first week was cold, and the low recorded in Boston was 14° on February 7. The high was 50° on February 20. A total of 3.34 inches of rain was recorded for Boston, just about normal, with measurable amounts falling on seven days. The month saw just 7 inches of snow, 4.3 inches less than normal.

R. H. Stymeist

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

The Sharon **Greater White-fronted Goose** continued throughout the period. January 20 was a good day for Mark Lynch and Sheila Carroll in South Egremont as they discovered single **Barnacle** and **Cackling geese**. Two **Tundra Swans** that spent the last two weeks of December on Nantucket were recorded on January 1 on the Nantucket CBC and seen again on January 17. An observer on Martha's Vineyard watched two Tundra Swans circle over Chilmark Pond on January 1, but they evidently could find no open water and presumably are the same birds seen on Nantucket.

Eurasian Wigeon were well reported from the southern part of the state. A Blue-winged Teal in Cheshire on January 11 was noteworthy; this species is extremely uncommon in winter, even more so in the western counties. The last January record in western Massachusetts was in 1991. **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** were reported from three locations. A male **Tufted Duck** was reported through most of February on the Sudbury River and almost surely represents the same individual that was seen in this area last March. A male Tufted Duck was photographed on February 19 on the Charles River in Waltham, about eight miles away. The Sudbury River bird was also sighted on that date, and given the distance and the different waterway, the Waltham bird almost surely is a second individual, although subsequent searches proved fruitless. Barrow's Goldeneyes were particularly well reported, including an unusual inland sighting in Waltham on January 2.

Pacific Loons were reported from Provincetown and Rockport, locations which have proven almost annual for this species. An Eared Grebe was found and photographed on an inland pond on Cape Cod on January 2 and stayed through January 5. This is likely only the third freshwater record for this species in Massachusetts. The only significant number of Great Cormorants inland was a dozen reported from the Mystic Lakes in Medford. This species is relatively rare inland, and they probably moved the ten miles upriver from Boston Harbor. Northern Fulmars are uncommon in midwinter, and a count of 72 from Andrew's Point in Rockport was impressive.

A **Wood Stork** was discovered in Cotuit on January 20, but no additional sightings were reported. By extraordinary coincidence it was only a short distance from the location where one was seen from November 16-December 11, 1994. Sheffield is the most reliable place in the state to see Black Vulture, and a count of 32 on February 20 is the highest to date. Bald Eagles were reported throughout the state in good numbers this winter.

Yellow Rail is one of the rarest rails to occur in Massachusetts, and usually only in fall migration, but the Nantucket CBC has yielded one or more in 2006, 2008, and now 2010.

Common Moorhens are anything but common in recent years, and winter records are even rarer, but they have been almost annual on Nantucket over the past decade. American Coots were reported in very poor numbers except on Nantucket. A Semipalmated Plover was an unusual winter lingerer, and a Western Willet was even more noteworthy.

In January 2009, **Ivory Gulls** were discovered in Gloucester and Plymouth, the first records of this species since 1985. It astonishes that only a year later two more Ivory Gulls were seen in Massachusetts. A bird at Race Point in Provincetown was seen for three days. The second bird was sighted on January 23 in Westport near the Rhode Island line and was spotted on the Rhode Island side later that day and again on January 27. The other gull news was, as is often the case, from Eastern Point in Gloucester. A **Mew Gull** (or possibly two) was photographed several weeks apart. A **Thayer's Gull** was reported for the third year in a row—given that it was a first-winter bird, it clearly is not the same individual returning year after year. Along with the Ivory Gull, the other mega-larid was a **Slaty-backed Gull** photographed on January 25 for a fifth state record (and a third in Gloucester). Unlike its predecessors, this gull evaded rediscovery.

M. W. Rines

Greater White-fronted Goose					Wood Duck			
thr Sharon	1		W. Sweet + v.o.	1/10	Orleans	4		M. Iliff#
Snow Goose				1/12	Wakefield	15		P. + F. Vale
1/1-17 Northampton	1-2		F. Bowrys	1/22	Weston	7		G. Dysart
1/13 Essex	1		S. McGrath	1/28	W. Roxbury	3		R. Stymeist
1/16 Nahant	1		L. Pivacek		Gadwall			
1/24 Mashpee	1 juv		P. Devaney	1/10	Swansea	6		M. Lynch#
2/27 P.I.	2		N. Landry	1/23	Gloucester	22	BBC (S. Hedman)	
Brant				1/25	Falmouth	23		M. Keleher
thr Nahant	460 max		L. Pivacek	2/12	Marstons Mills	17		M. Keleher
1/10 Swansea	642		M. Lynch#	2/13	Woburn (HP)	3		M. Rines#
1/17, 2/14 Boston H.	541, 491		TASL	2/14	Plymouth	77		SSBC (GdE)
1/23 Bourne	400+		M. Lynch#	2/28	P.I.	86		S. Sullivan
1/24 Nantucket	500		K. Blackshaw#		Eurasian Wigeon			
2/27 P'town H.	120		B. Nikula	thr Falmouth		3 max		v.o.
2/28 Beverly	144		S. Hedman	1/thr Plymouth		3 max		v.o.
Barnacle Goose				1/3 Nantucket		2		K. Blackshaw#
2/20-28 S. Egremont	1		M. Lynch# + v.o.	1/10 Swansea		1 m		M. Lynch#
Cackling Goose				1/31 Nantucket		1		K. Blackshaw#
2/20 S. Egremont	1		M. Lynch#		American Wigeon			
Richardson's Cackling Goose				thr Falmouth		87 max		v.o.
1/10 Swansea	1		M. Lynch#	thr Nantucket		45 max		K. Blackshaw#
Canada Goose				1/10 Swansea		174		M. Lynch#
1/10 Swansea	2865		M. Lynch#	2/7 Plymouth		12		M. Lynch#
1/10 Fairhaven	506		M. Lynch#	2/13 Edgartown		40		M. Pelikan
1/17, 2/14 Boston H.	933, 1061		TASL	2/21 Springfield		1	A. + L. Richardson	
2/6 Northampton	500+		B. Zajda		American Black Duck			
2/20 S. Egremont	750+		M. Lynch#	thr Plymouth		1192 max		v.o.
Mute Swan				1/15 P.I.		400		T. Wetmore
1/1 Falmouth	55		J. Hoye#	1/17 Newbypt		500+		M. Lynch#
1/4 Cumb. Farms	61		K. Anderson	1/17 Orleans		457		G. d'Entremont#
1/10 Turners Falls	33		F. Bowrys	1/17, 2/14 Boston H.	1105,	571		TASL
1/10 Swansea	327		M. Lynch#	1/31 Rowley		300+		J. Berry
1/17 Falmouth	61		G. d'Entremont#	2/28 Cumb. Farms		300		SSBC (V. Zollo)
Tundra Swan					Mallard			
1/1 Chilmark	2		L. McDowell	1/10 Swansea		422		M. Lynch#
1/1, 17 Nantucket	2		Laux, Blackshaw	1/17, 2/14 Boston H.	484,	208		TASL
				2/3 Waltham		327		R. Stymeist

Mallard (continued)				1/10-1/23	Bourne	1 f	v.o.
2/7	Plymouth	973	M. Lynch#	1/17	Marblehead	1 m	D. Noble
2/27	Charlton	250+	M. Lynch#		Common Eider		
Blue-winged Teal				thr	Nantucket	5000	K. Blackshaw#
1/11	Cheshire	1	D. St. James	1/9	Chatham	6000	B. Nikula
Northern Shoveler				1/17, 2/24	Boston H.4808,	3654	TASL
1/thr	Woburn (HP)	1 f	M. Rines	1/17	Wareham	2500	G. d'Entremont#
1/3	Nantucket	1 m	K. Blackshaw#	1/23	Bourne	3000	M. Lynch#
1/17-30	Nahant	1 f	L. Pivacek#	2/28	Acoaxet	626	M. Lynch#
1/21	Winthrop	1 m	T. Bradford		Harlequin Duck		
1/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 f	P. Peterson	thr	Rockport	118 max	v.o.
1/24	Belmont	1 m, 1 f	C. Cook	thr	Scituate	27 max	v.o.
1/28	Fall River	3 m, 4 f	M. Iliff	1/16	Orleans	7	A. Burdo#
2/thr	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher	1/16	Sandwich	3	B. Cassie
Northern Pintail				1/29	Manomet	9	K. Doyon
thr	Reports of indiv. from 10 locations			1/31	Nantucket	12	K. Blackshaw#
thr	P.I.	70 max	v.o.	2/15	Sandwich	4	A. Curtis
1/24	Plymouth	2 m	K. Anderson		Surf Scoter		
2/15	Westport	66	G. d'Entremont	1/10	Fairhaven	16	M. Lynch#
Green-winged Teal				1/17, 2/28	Rockport	30, 17	J. Berry
1/8-21	Salisbury	4	S. McGrath#	1/17, 2/24	Boston H.	570, 423	TASL
1/11	Pittsfield (Onota)	3	D. St. James	1/23	Falmouth	80	M. Lynch#
1/11	Sandwich	9	M. Keleher	2/7	Plymouth	67	M. Lynch#
1/12	Ipswich	4	J. Berry	2/28	Gloucester (E.P.)	37	F. Vale
2/1	Marstons Mills	6	M. Keleher		White-winged Scoter		
2/7	Plymouth	24	K. Doyon	1/10	Fairhaven	53	M. Lynch#
2/28	Cumb. Farms	20	SSBC (V. Zollo)	1/15	P.I.	35	T. Wetmore
Eurasian Green-winged Teal				1/17, 2/9	Nahant	98, 20	L. Pivacek#
thr	Newton	1	v.o.	1/17, 2/24	Boston H.1667,	1261	TASL
1/2	Marstons Mills	1 m	B. Nikula	1/17, 2/28	Rockport	23, 325	J. Berry
2/16	Falmouth	1	M. Keleher	1/23	Barnstable (S.N.)	62	M. Lynch#
Canvasback				1/24	Ipswich (C.B.)	32	J. Berry
thr	Nantucket	4 max	Blackshaw#		Black Scoter		
1/thr	Falmouth	5 max	v.o.	1/2	Nant. Sound	500	G. d'Entremont#
1/24	Westport	6	R. Stymeist	1/6	Duxbury B.	5	R. Bowes
2/28	Acoaxet	2	M. Lynch#	1/17, 2/24	Boston H.	3, 13	TASL
Redhead				1/17, 2/28	Rockport	11, 95	J. Berry
thr	Falmouth	3-4	v.o.	1/24	N. Truro	80	B. Nikula
thr	Plymouth	1 m	v.o.	2/28	P.I.	28	S. Sullivan
1/thr	Nantucket	11 max	K. Blackshaw#		Long-tailed Duck		
Ring-necked Duck				1/10	Fairhaven	22	M. Lynch#
1/3	Nantucket	40	K. Blackshaw#	1/17, 2/24	Boston H.	144, 53	TASL
1/7	Eastham	48	R. Stymeist	1/17	Rockport	28	J. Berry
1/17, 2/21	Waltham	20, 23	Forbes, Cook	1/23, 2/22	P.I.	30, 150	T. Wetmore
1/26	S. Carver	10	K. Anderson	1/24	Nantucket	55	K. Blackshaw#
2/7	Plymouth	50	M. Lynch#	1/31	Marion	79	M. Lynch#
2/26	Winchester	13	R. LaFontaine	2/1	Falmouth	46	M. Keleher
2/26	Falmouth	40	M. Keleher		Bufflehead		
Tufted Duck				thr	Nahant	120 max	L. Pivacek
2/3-28	Wayland/Sudbury	1 m	J. Hines + v.o.	1/10	Fairhaven	409	M. Lynch#
2/19	Waltham	1 m ph	Mastropasqua	1/17, 2/24	Boston H.1939,	1434	TASL
Greater Scaup				2/1	Osterville	260	M. Keleher
1/1-2/16	Nahant	30 max	L. Pivacek#	2/7	Plymouth	536	M. Lynch#
1/1	Wachusett Res.	12	M. Lynch#	2/13	Gloucester	236	M. Lynch#
1/3	Nantucket	20	K. Blackshaw#	2/21	Falmouth	205	G. d'Entremont
1/10	Swansea	466	M. Lynch#	2/28	Acoaxet	163	M. Lynch#
1/17, 2/14	Boston H. 1746,	796	TASL		Common Goldeneye		
1/23	N. Truro	130	B. Nikula	thr	P.I.	58 max	v.o.
2/26	Falmouth	500	M. Keleher	thr	Newbypt	75 max	v.o.
Lesser Scaup				1/1	Wachusett Res.	22	M. Lynch#
thr	Nahant	80 max	L. Pivacek#	1/10	Fairhaven	172	M. Lynch#
1/1	Falmouth	35	E. Nielsen	1/17, 2/24	Boston H.	718, 442	TASL
1/3	Nantucket	4	K. Blackshaw#	1/23	Falmouth	234	M. Lynch#
1/7	Eastham	2	R. Stymeist	2/7	Dracut	40	S. + J. Mirick
1/17-2/20	Waltham	1	J. Forbes#	2/28	Bridgewater	35	SSBC (V. Zollo)
2/3	Wayland	2	J. Hines		Barrow's Goldeneye		
2/23	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell	1/2	Waltham	1 f ph	J. Crookes
2/28	Acoaxet	10	M. Lynch#	1/4	Bourne	1	M. Keleher
King Eider				1/9	Plymouth	1 m	G. d'Entremont
thr	Gloucester	2	v.o.	1/16-17	Gloucester (B.R.)	1 m	S. Hedman
thr	Sandwich	1 m	v.o.	1/17	Nantucket	1 m	K. Blackshaw#
1/1	P.I.	1 m 1W	T. Wetmore#	1/30-2/6	Dover	2	P. Oehlkers
1/6-9	Duxbury B.	1 m ph	R. Bowes	2/7	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw#

Barrow's Goldeneye (continued)				Common Loon			
2/7	Dracut	1 m, 1 f	Mirick	thr	S. Quabbin	5 max	v.o.
2/10	Duxbury B.	1 f	R. Bowes	1/6	Duxbury B.	15	R. Bowes
2/14	Boston H.	1	TASL	1/8, 2/28	P.I.	18, 24	T. Wetmore
2/20	Newbypt H.	1 f	B. Zajda	1/17, 2/28	Rockport	65, 17	J. Berry
2/27	Bournedale	1 m	B. Bushnell	1/17, 2/24	Boston H.	44, 28	TASL
Hooded Merganser				1/24, 2/25	Ipswich	27, 14	J. Berry
1/1	Wachusett Res.	23	M. Lynch#	Pied-billed Grebe			
1/7	Eastham	36	R. Stymeist	thr	Falmouth	1-2	v.o.
1/10	Swansea	156	M. Lynch#	1/3	Nantucket	4	K. Blackshaw#
2/1	Falmouth	57	M. Keleher	1/7	Eastham	3	R. Stymeist
2/7	Plymouth	84	M. Lynch#	1/9, 2/1	Marstons Mills	4	Petersen, Keleher
2/14	Brookfield	20	M. Lynch#	2/7	Plymouth	1	M. Lynch#
2/21	Nantucket	35	K. Blackshaw#	Horned Grebe			
Common Merganser				1/1, 2/2	Duxbury B.	2, 7	R. Bowes
1/1	Mashpee	115	J. Griener	1/10	Swansea	37	M. Lynch#
1/23	S. Quabbin	33	L. Therrien	1/10	Fairhaven	30	M. Lynch#
2/1	Falmouth	29	M. Keleher	1/16	P.I.	16	T. Wetmore
2/21	Worcester	23	M. Lynch#	1/17, 2/24	Boston H.	180, 61	TASL
2/22	Egremont	29	J. Kyron-Austin	2/28	P'town	6	B. Nikula
2/26	Medford	34	R. LaFontaine	2/28	Gloucester	15	F. Vale
Red-breasted Merganser				Red-necked Grebe			
thr	P.I.	81 max	v.o.	1/5, 2/17	P.I.	16, 16	T. Wetmore
1/10	Swansea	57	M. Lynch#	1/17, 2/24	Boston H.	7, 8	TASL
1/17, 2/24	Boston H.	616, 494	TASL	1/23	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	M. Lynch#
1/23	Bourne	34	M. Lynch#	1/30	Gloucester	10	BBC (Drummond)
1/23	P'town	700	B. Nikula	2/28	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#
1/23	Barnstable (S.N.)	57	M. Lynch#	Eared Grebe			
2/13	Gloucester (E.P.)	178	M. Lynch#	1/2-5	Marstons Mills	1 ph	M. Keleher + v.o.
2/28	Rockport	28	J. Berry	Northern Fulmar			
Ruddy Duck				1/2	Nant. Sound	1	R. Fox
1/2	E. Gloucester	1	S. Hurley	2/11	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula
1/3, 31	Nantucket	20, 1	K. Blackshaw#	2/24	Rockport (A.P.)	72	R. Heil
1/4, 2/25	Falmouth	2, 1	M. Keleher	2/28	N. Truro	1 dead	B. Nikula
1/4-24	Brookline	1	v.o.	Northern Gannet			
1/16	Gloucester (E.P.)	2	S. Hedman#	thr	P.I.	25 max	v.o.
2/15	Plymouth	1 f	R. Bowes	thr	N. Truro	520 max 2/28	B. Nikula
Northern Bobwhite				1/1	P'town	600	B. Nikula
2/1	WBWS	2	C. Nims#	2/13	Jeffries L.	10	E. Masterson#
Ring-necked Pheasant				2/24	Rockport (A.P.)	45	R. Heil
1/1	New Braintree	2 m	M. Lynch#	Double-crested Cormorant			
1/4	Ipswich	1 m	A. Walsh	1/1	Wachusett Res.	1	M. Lynch#
1/13-15	Hamilton	4 m, 1 f	P. Brown	2/14	Boston H.	2	TASL
1/24	Saugus (Bear C.)	2	S. Zende#	2/28	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
2/27	Hadley	1	S. Surner	Great Cormorant			
Ruffed Grouse				thr	Medford	12 max 2/27	LaFontaine
1/1	Becket	1	J. Berry	thr	Duxbury B.	52 max 2/23	R. Bowes
1/23	Lincoln	1	M. Rines	thr	Scituate	103 max 2/14	v.o.
2/6	Quabbin Pk	2	C. Ellison	1/17, 2/24	Boston H.	114, 6	TASL
2/6	Windsor	3	M. Lynch#	2/6	P'town	30	B. Nikula
2/19	Belchertown	1	L. Therrien	American Bittern			
Wild Turkey				1/1	Nantucket CBC	1	CBC
1/1	Windsor	46	C. Blagdon	Great Blue Heron			
1/5	Northampton	26	T. Gagnon	1/15	Sandwich	7	S. Fenwick
1/5	Amherst	30	H. Allen	1/16	Arlington	4	M. Rines
1/5	W. Gloucester	22	J. Nelson	1/24	Brookline	3	J. Taylor
1/9	Fall River	24	BBC (R. Stymeist)	2/28	Stow	3	D. Stewart
1/11	Newbury	22	P. + F. Vale#	Black-crowned Night-Heron			
1/20	Washington	31	M. Wiley	1/23	Falmouth	1	J. Abisla#
2/24	Belchertown	29	L. Therrien	2/11	Dartmouth	1 imm	D. Morgan
Red-throated Loon				2/14	Medford	1	M. Rines#
thr	P'town	60 max	B. Nikula	2/22	M.V.	1	L. McDowell
1/8, 2/9	P.I.	5, 12	T. Wetmore	Wood Stork			
1/9	N. Truro	43	B. Nikula	1/20	Cotuit	1	S. Goodwin
1/17, 2/24	Boston H.	19, 17	TASL	Black Vulture			
2/7	Plymouth	2	M. Lynch#	2/20	Sheffield	32	M. Lynch#
2/18	Cambridge	1	B. Stevens	Turkey Vulture			
2/20	Newbypt H.	3	B. Zajda	1/9	Bourne	15	E. Dalton
2/28	Rockport	5	J. Berry	1/24	Westport	26	R. Stymeist
Pacific Loon				2/20	Hingham	3	BBC (JZ)
1/17, 2/28	P'town	2, 1	B. Nikula	2/21	Nantucket	7	K. Blackshaw#
2/24	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil	2/25	Westfield	20	S. Kellogg
				2/26	Manchester	3	P. + F. Vale

Osprey				Virginia Rail			
2/28	Newbyp/Amesbury	1	P. McFarland#	1/1	Nantucket	CBC	7
Bald Eagle				1/3	Ipswich		1
thr	P.I.	3 max	v.o.	1/5	S. Peabody		1
thr	Newbyp	6 max	v.o.	1/16	Cotuit		1
thr	Medford	3 max	v.o.	Common Moorhen			
1/10, 2/15	Mashpee	3, 3	M. Keleher	1/10	Nantucket		2
1/16	Lakeville	2 pr at nests	G. McAvoy	American Coot			
2/6	Quabbin Pk	5	C. Ellison	thr	Woburn (HP)		2
2/28	Bridgewater	4 ad	SSBC (V. Zollo)	1/1	Falmouth		5
2/28	GMNWR	5	J. St. Sauver	1/5	Lynn		3
Northern Harrier				1/30	Sandwich		2
thr	Cumb. Farms	6 max	v.o.	1/31	Nantucket		40
thr	Duxbury B.	1-2	R. Bowes	2/12	Plymouth		3
thr	P.I.	6 max	v.o.	2/14	Cambridge		2
1/10	Fairhaven	2	M. Lynch#	2/28	Acoaxet		3
1/17	Nantucket	2	K. Blackshaw#	Black-bellied Plover			
1/23	Barnstable	2	M. Lynch#	2/7	Plymouth		2
1/23	N. Truro	3	B. Nikula	2/12	Brewster		20
2/13	Edgartown	2	M. Pelikan	Semipalmated Plover			
Sharp-shinned Hawk				1/10	Orleans		1
thr	Reports of indiv. from 28 locations			Killdeer			
1/20	W. Roxbury (MP)	2 imm	B. Cassie	1/7	Orleans		3
Cooper's Hawk				2/21	Worcester		1
thr	Reports of indiv. from 26 locations			2/26	Plymouth		1
1/15	W. Barnstable	4 ad	C. Walz	2/27	Brookfield		1
2/18	Waltham	2	J. Forbes	Western Willet			
Northern Goshawk				1/19	Orleans		1
1/1	Sheffield	1	S. Berkshire	Ruddy Turnstone			
1/11	Groveland	1	D. Chickering#	1/10	Fairhaven		1
1/23	S. Quabbin	1	R. Laubach	1/10	Osterville		21
1/24	Monroe	1 ad	M. Lynch#	1/10	Nantucket		45
2/2	Ware R. IBA	1	T. Pirro	1/17, 2/24	Boston H.		11, 9
Red-shouldered Hawk				1/17	P'town		5
thr	E. Middleboro	pr	K. Anderson	1/24	Gloucester (B.R.)		4
1/21	Plymouth	2	R. Stymeist	2/3, 23	Revere B.		3, 5
1/24	Westport	3	R. Stymeist	2/27	P'town H.		1
2/26	Duxbury	2	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	Sanderling			
2/28	Springfield	2	T. Alicea	1/10	Osterville		43
2/28	Acoaxet	pr	M. Lynch#	1/17, 2/24	Boston H.		86, 18
Rough-legged Hawk				1/23	Falmouth		60+
thr	Cumb. Farms	5 max	J. Sweeney	2/2	P.I.		80
thr	P.I.	2	v.o.	2/7	Westport		12
1/1-2/9	Northampton	1	v.o.	2/20	Salisbury		40
1/1	New Braintree	1dk	M. Lynch#	Purple Sandpiper			
1/5	Saugus	1 dk	P. Peterson	thr	Gloucester		75 max
1/9	DWWS	1	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	thr	Rockport		100 max
1/21	Gloucester	1	P. Peterson	thr	P.I.		10 max
1/23	Barnstable	1 dk	M. Lynch#	1/10	Nantucket		35
1/30	Dorchester	1	P. Peterson	1/11	Nahant		11
2/6	Deerfield	1	G. Watkevich	2/23	Revere B.		21
2/22	Berlin	1	F. Bouchard	Dunlin			
2/23	Nantucket	1 dk	K. Blackshaw	thr	P.I.		100 max
American Kestrel				1/6, 2/27	Duxbury B.930,		1360
thr	Saugus	2-3	v.o.	1/9	Eastham		58
thr	P.I.	2	v.o.	1/9	Gloucester		20
thr	Cumb. Farms	1-3	v.o.	1/10	N. Falmouth		17
thr	Hadley	1	J. Rose + v.o.	2/7	Plymouth		97
1/10	Nahant	2	L. Pivacek	2/7	Westport		18
1/16	Newbury	2	P. Roberts	2/12	Brewster		450
Merlin				Wilson's Snipe			
thr	Reports of indiv. from 32 locations			1/10	Orleans		1
Peregrine Falcon				1/11	Sandwich		3
thr	Reports of indiv. from 14 locations			2/16	Williamstown		1
1/5	Saugus	2	P. Peterson	2/26	Boston (A.A.)		1
1/7	Gloucester	2	J. Nelson	American Woodcock			
1/18	Boston	2	P. Peterson	2/22	Belmont		1
1/23	Gloucester	2	J. Forbes#	2/26	Wellfleet		2
1/24	Saugus (Bear C.)	2	S. Zende#	Black-legged Kittiwake			
2/7	Boston	2	G. Dysart	thr	P.I.		20 max
2/18	Gloucester	2	P. Guidetti	1/9, 2/28	N. Truro		55, 375
Yellow Rail				1/17, 2/13	P'town		150, 150
1/1	Nantucket	1	CBC (R. Veit)	1/17	Salisbury		40

Black-legged Kittiwake (continued)				1/1	Newbypt	2	W. Tatro#
2/11	Eastham (F.E.)	60	B. Nikula	1/3	Bournedale	1 2W	R. Bushnell
2/13	Jeffries L.	7	E. Masterson#	1/4	Plymouth	1 juv	E. Dalton#
2/24	Rockport (A.P.)	740	R. Heil	1/5	P'town	2	B. Hodson
Ivory Gull				1/9, 2/9	P.I.	1, 1	Tatro, Wetmore
1/14-17	P'town (R.P.)	1 ad ph	Ace, Yargeau	1/9-10	Salisbury	1 juv	E. Labato + v.o.
1/23	Westport	1 ad ph	D. Zimmerlin#	1/17, 2/28	N. Truro	1 2W, 1	B. Nikula
Bonaparte's Gull				2/8	Lowell	1 ad	T. Pirro
1/11	Nahant	22	L. Pivacek	2/27	Turners Falls	4	T. Pirro
1/17	Rockport	1 ad	J. Berry	Herring x Glaucous Gull			
1/22	Ostrerville	1	M. Keleher	1/25	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 1W	M. Iliff
2/14	P.I.	1	S. Grinley#	2/26	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 2W	R. Heil
2/26	Rockport (A.P.)	1 ad	P. + F. Vale	Great Black-backed Gull			
Black-headed Gull				1/23	N. Truro	700	B. Nikula
1/1	Nantucket CBC	2	CBC	1/24	Gloucester	500	M. Garvey
1/22-2/14	Osterville	2-3	M. Keleher	2/7	Turners Falls	41	B. Zajda
2/7	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw#	2/27	Winthrop	145	R. Stymeist
2/20-22	Newbypt H.	1	D. Chickering#	Dovekie			
Little Gull				1/14	Rockport	1	J. Offermann
1/1	Nantucket CBC	3	CBC (P. Trimble#)	1/17	Orleans	1	G. d'Entremont#
Mew Gull				1/23, 2/28	N. Truro	1, 1	B. Nikula
1/20	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 ad ph	J. P. Smith#	1/25	Westport	1	P. Champlin
2/14-26	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 ph	E. Nielsen + v.o.	2/13	Jeffries L.	8	E. Masterson#
Ring-billed Gull				2/26	Gloucester H.	3	R. Heil
1/1	Wachusett Res.	400+	M. Lynch#	Common Murre			
1/19	Cumb. Farms	1000	K. Anderson	1/1	N. Truro	6	B. Nikula
2/14	Plymouth	450	SSBC (GdE)	1/9	Rockport	2 BBC	(L. Ferraresso)
2/20	Waltham	280	R. Stymeist	1/17, 2/3	P'town	3, 5	Nikula, Smith
Herring Gull				2/13	Jeffries L.	12	E. Masterson#
1/1	Wachusett Res.	250	M. Lynch#	2/24	Rockport (A.P.)	156	R. Heil
1/25	Gloucester	2500	M. Iliff	Thick-billed Murre			
2/27	Winthrop	650	R. Stymeist	1/1, 2/15	N. Truro	4, 1	B. Nikula
2/28	P'town	800	B. Nikula	1/1, 17	P'town	1, 1	B. Nikula
2/28	Acoaxet	2810	M. Lynch#	1/15, 2/24	Rockport (A.P.)	2, 6	Vale, Heil
Thayer's Gull				2/9	Falmouth	3	S. Fenwick
1/16-2/14	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 1W ph	v.o.	Razorbill			
Iceland Gull				thr	P.I.	400 max	v.o.
1/1	Nantucket CBC	64	CBC	thr	Rockport (A.P.)	1290 max	v.o.
thr	Gloucester (E.P.)	26 max	v.o.	1/1, 2/28	N. Truro	1000, 125	B. Nikula
thr	Turners Falls	4 max	v.o.	1/17, 2/28	P'town	1000, 250	B. Nikula
1/17, 2/27	P'town	12, 50	B. Nikula	1/17	Salisbury	75	E. Nielsen
1/23, 2/15	N. Truro	4, 12	B. Nikula	2/13	Jeffries L.	22	E. Masterson#
1/31	Lakeville	4	SSBC (J. Sweeney)	Black Guillemot			
2/27	Winthrop	4	R. Stymeist	thr	Gloucester (B.R.)	9 max	v.o.
Lesser Black-backed Gull				1/1	P.I.	1	BBC (L.de la Flor)
thr	Turners Falls	2	v.o.	1/6, 2/14	Duxbury B.	1, 2	R. Bowes
thr	Boston	1-2	v.o.	1/15	Rockport	3	P. + F. Vale
thr	Gloucester (E.P.)	1-2	v.o.	1/17, 2/26	Nahant	2, 1	L. Pivacek#
1/1	Nantucket CBC	190	CBC	2/13	Jeffries L.	4	E. Masterson#
1/4-8	Plymouth	1	E. Dalton# + v.o.	2/14	Boston H.	3	TASL
1/17	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula	2/14	N. Scituate	1	SSBC (GdE)
1/22	Brewster	1	M. Keleher	2/28	P'town H.	1	B. Nikula
2/2-21	Waltham	1	J. Forbes + v.o.	Atlantic Puffin			
2/27	P'town H.	1 ad	B. Nikula	2/13	Jeffries L.	3	E. Masterson#
Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull				Large alcid species			
1/31	P'town	1 ad ph	B. Nikula	1/17, 2/27	P'town	3000, 1800	B. Nikula
Slaty-backed Gull				1/24, 2/28	N. Truro	5300, 10100	B. Nikula
1/25	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 ad ph	M. Iliff	2/23	Rockport (A.P.)	510	R. Heil
Glaucous Gull							
thr	Gloucester (E.P.)	4 max	v.o.				

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

The **White-winged Dove** first found December 14 on the Sturbridge Christmas Bird Count continued into January at the feeders of the *Bird Store and More* in Sturbridge. The dove was seen being chased by a Cooper's Hawk on January 3 and was presumed to have been caught since it was not seen for nearly three weeks, but it returned to the store's feeders again on January 21 and was last seen on January 22. Barn Owls continue to maintain a tenuous presence on Martha's Vineyard, where one was discovered dead on January 23. They are faring better on Nantucket where seven were tallied on the CBC. As many as three Snowy Owls were

present throughout the period at Plum Island, and Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported from seven locations.

The **Allen's Hummingbird** first noted last October at a feeder in Harwich continued through the first ten days of January. The homeowners had encased the feeder in white Christmas lights to keep the sugar water from freezing, but on January 10 when the hummingbird appeared at the feeder one of its wings got some sugar water on it, and the bird dropped to the deck. It was taken to Wild Care in Eastham for rehab, but the staff was unable to save the bird, and it died on January 19.

The adult and immature Red-headed Woodpeckers continued throughout the period in the Lowell-Dracut State Forest, and an immature bird was found in Mattapoisett. A good number of Northern Shrikes were reported, with sightings noted from over 25 locations, but still not as many as in the peak year in 2008. Common Ravens continue to spread throughout the state, with an increasing number reported from eastern Massachusetts localities.

The Cumberland Farms fields produced a number of birds not typically seen in winter, including two Vesper, one Ipswich, nine White-crowned and three Fox sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Rusty Blackbirds. Upwards of 150 Horned Larks and 140 American Tree Sparrows were also reported there.

Red-winged Blackbirds were reported in unusually high numbers this winter, probably due to a particularly bountiful white pine cone crop. Many observers described seeing flocks of blackbirds foraging in the pines much like crossbills.

In addition to the previously-mentioned **Allen's Hummingbird** of Harwich, Cape Cod played host to a number of rarities. A Townsend's **Solitaire** obligingly showed up in the yard of a birder in Yarmouthport. A **Varied Thrush** in Wellfleet unfortunately was not discovered until it struck a window and died. A **Summer Tanager** and a **Painted Bunting** visited feeders within three blocks of each other in Orleans. Perhaps the title of best bird for fall migration 2009-2010 is the **Common Chaffinch** that visited a feeder in Waltham and was seen by over 100 birders! A **Sage Thrasher** was discovered at Salisbury State Park on January 11. This is just the third state record: the first sighting was from Plum Island in October, 1965; the second record also came from Plum Island on November 6, 2005. Both of these birds were seen on just one day. A single **Bohemian Waxwing** was noted from Plum Island in early January. And, finally, an **Ovenbird**, rare in winter, was present at a feeder in Groveland. *R. H. Stymeist*

White-winged Dove				2/28	Sandwich	2	M. Keleher
1/1-2, 21	Sturbridge	1	B. Cormier + v.o.	Long-eared Owl			
Barn Owl				1/7	Sheffield	1	R. Laubach
1/1	Nantucket	7	Nantucket CBC	1/10	Salisbury	1 ph	P. Brown#
1/23	W. Tisbury	1 dead	L. McDowell	2/17-19	Everett	1 ph	K. Lewis
Eastern Screech-Owl				Short-eared Owl			
thr	Malden	2	D. + I. Jewell	1/1	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes
thr	Mt.A.	2	v.o.	1/17	Cumb. Farms	2	G. d'Entremont#
1/16	Rockport (H.P.)	3	B. Harris#	1/27	Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale
Great Horned Owl				2/2	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
1/1	Leicester	2	M. Lynch#	Northern Saw-whet Owl			
1/4	S. Carver	pr	B. Conway	thr	Burlington	1	M. Rines
1/4	Kingston	2	E. Dalton	1/1	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#
1/10	Woburn (HP)	2	P. Ippolito#	1/1	Westboro WMA	1	N. Paulson
1/14	N. Reading	pr	M. Stone#	1/1	Brewster	1	J. Hoye#
1/17	Cumb. Farms	2	G. d'Entremont#	1/10	Mashpee	1	M. Iliff#
1/24	Medfield	3	J. O'Connell	2/2	Ware R. IBA	2	T. Pirro
2/3	Billerica	pr	P. Guidetti#	2/27	Wellfleet	1	M. Faherty
Snowy Owl				Allen's Hummingbird			
thr	P.I.	3 max	v.o.	1/1-10	Harwich	1 b ph	Nikula + v.o.
1/23, 2/15	Boston (Logan)	3, 2	N. Smith	Belted Kingfisher			
Barred Owl				1/17	Orleans	2	G. d'Entremont#
thr	Reports of indiv. from 9 locations			1/24	Saugus (Bear C.)	2	S. Zende#

Belted Kingfisher (continued)									
2/22	Mashpee	3		M. Keleher	1/10	Nantucket	5		K. Blackshaw#
Red-headed Woodpecker					1/16	New Salem	3		B. Lafley
1/16	Mattapoisett	1 imm		L. Abbey#	1/17	S. Quabbin	8		L. Therrien
thr	Dracut	1 ad, 1 imm		Gaudet + v.o.	2/2	Ware R. IBA	22		T. Pirro
Red-bellied Woodpecker					2/22	Mashpee	9		M. Keleher
1/5	W. Gloucester	9		J. Nelson	2/22	Grafton	6		R. Schain
1/9	Westport	5		BBC (R. Stymeist)	2/25	Ipswich	3		J. Berry
1/17	Orleans	4		G. d'Entremont#	Brown Creeper				
2/14	Brookfield	3		M. Lynch#	1/9	Winchester	3		P. Devaney
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					1/17	S. Quabbin	3		L. Therrien
thr	Mt.A.	3		R. Stymeist	2/2	Ware R. IBA	6		T. Pirro
1/1	S. Berkshire CBC	5		CBC	2/13	Woburn (HP)	3		P. Ippolito#
1/9	Westport	2		BBC (R. Stymeist)	Carolina Wren				
Hairy Woodpecker					1/16	Wakefield	5		P. + F. Vale
1/5	W. Gloucester	3		J. Nelson	1/17	Orleans	8		G. d'Entremont#
2/2	Ware R. IBA	6		T. Pirro	1/23	Falmouth	7		M. Lynch#
2/8	Cambr. (F.P.)	3		R. Stymeist	1/24	Westport	26		R. Stymeist
Northern Flicker					2/21	Falmouth	6		G. d'Entremont
1/1	Falmouth	9		E. Nielsen	2/28	Acoaxet	9		M. Lynch#
1/1	S. Berkshire CBC	10		CBC	Winter Wren				
1/23	Harwichport	8		A. Curtis	thr	Reports of indiv. from 15 locations			
1/24	Mashpee	6		P. Devaney	Marsh Wren				
Pileated Woodpecker					1/10	Orleans	1		M. Iliff#
1/1	New Braintree	3		M. Lynch#	1/21	GMNWR	2		C. Corey
1/13	Northampton	4		J. P. Smith	2/28	Acoaxet	1		M. Lynch#
1/15	Boxford	2		T. Martin	Golden-crowned Kinglet				
1/17	S. Quabbin	3		L. Therrien	1/1	Wachusett Res.	10		M. Lynch#
2/9	IRWS	2		D. + I. Jewell	1/2	DFWS	5		P. Therrion
2/14	Wayland	2		B. Harris#	1/17	S. Quabbin	12		L. Therrien
Eastern Phoebe					1/24	Westport	7		R. Stymeist
1/27	Plymouth	1		K. Doyon	1/28	Jamaica Plain	4		R. Schain
Northern Shrike					2/1	Falmouth	6		M. Keleher
thr	Reports of indiv. from 21 locations				2/2	Ware R. IBA	28		T. Pirro
thr	P.I.	1-2		v.o.	2/13	Edgartown	4		M. Pelikan
1/12, 2/28	Cumb. Farms	1 ad, 1 ad		v.o.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
1/19, 2/26	Falmouth	1, 1		J. Abisla	thr	Reports of indiv. from 17 locations			
2/3, 22	Windsor	1, 1		B. Lafley	2/23	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2		P. Champlin
2/6	Moran WMA	1 ad		B. Zajda	Eastern Bluebird				
American Crow					1/8	Lincoln	8		M. Rines
1/16	Gloucester	2000		P. Peterson	1/9	Westport	9		BBC (R. Stymeist)
1/31	W. Roxbury	1340		M. Iliff	1/9	Middleboro	12		B. Lessard
2/2	Lynn	2000		L. Pivacek	1/16	Southwick	12		S. Svec
Fish Crow					1/23	Harwichport	16		A. Curtis
1/3	Sharon	3		W. Sweet	2/16	Williamstown	8		L. Reed-Evans
1/9	Framingham	12		B. Harris	2/19	Belchertown	8		L. Therrien
1/10	Lawrence	6		P. Brown	2/19	Amherst	7		H. Allen
1/17, 2/20	Waltham	4, 5		J. Forbes#	Townsend's Solitaire				
1/31	W. Roxbury (MP)	4		M. Iliff	1/12-2/4	Yarmouthport	1 ph		P. Bono + v.o.
2/15	Mattapan	25		P. Peterson	Hermit Thrush				
2/20	Dedham	18		R. Stymeist	thr	Reports of indiv. from 23 locations			
2/27	Manomet	4		S. Cerchio	1/9	Westport	8		BBC (R. Stymeist)
Common Raven					1/15	DFWS	2		D. Swain
1/9	Becket	10		R. Laubach	2/23	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2		P. Champlin
1/10	Lincoln	2		K. Hartel	American Robin				
1/16	New Salem	2		B. Lafley	1/9	Barnstable	57,000		J. Trimble
1/20	Milton	2		E. Nielsen	1/16	S. Quabbin	4610		L. Therrien
1/27	Sudbury	2		G. Billingham	1/16	Worcester	2000+		M. Lynch#
2/6	Quabbin Pk	4		C. Ellison	2/6	W. Warren	300		B. Zajda
2/9	Newton	2		P. Gilmore	Varied Thrush				
2/10	Westwood	2		M. McCarthy	1/1	Wellfleet	1 ad m		C. + D. Smith
2/13	Manchester	2		M. Lynch#	Gray Catbird				
2/20	W. Roxbury	2		R. Stymeist	1/1	Falmouth	4		E. Nielsen
2/21	Waltham	2		C. Cook	1/4	Cumb. Farms	2		E. Dalton#
2/21	Harvard	2		H. Robinson	1/9	Westport	7		BBC (R. Stymeist)
2/22	Sterling	2		F. Bouchard	1/15	Eastham	3		M. Keleher
2/26	Grafton	2		R. Schain	2/4-7	Southwick	1		S. Ricker
Horned Lark					2/8	Newbypt	1		S. McGrath
thr	P.I.	36 max		v.o.	2/23	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	3		P. Champlin
1/2, 2/6	Northampton	150, 100		Kellogg, Zajda	Sage Thrasher				
1/3, 2/12	Sharon	80, 62		Sweet, Peterson	1/11-20	Salisbury	1		B. Parker + v.o.
1/12, 2/14	Cumb. Farms	100, 150		Sweeney, GdE	Brown Thrasher				
1/24, 2/21	Saugus (Bear C.)	40, 10		S. Zende#	1/10	Osterville	1		M. Iliff#

Brown Thrasher (continued)			1/16	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	S. Hedman#	
1/23	Woburn (HP)	1	D. Mitev	1/16	WBWS	1	J. Offermann
1/24	Westport	1	R. Stymeist	1/23	Salisbury	1	L. Ferrarasso
1/30	Essex	1	P. Meleski#	1/29	Shutesbury	1	K. Weir
2/5-28	Manomet	1	T. Lloyd-Evans	Vesper Sparrow			
American Pipit				1/12	Cumb. Farms	2	J. Sweeney
1/1	Fairhaven	20	A. + D. Morgan#	Savannah Sparrow			
1/7	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	P. Brown	1/1	Southwick	5	S. Kellogg
1/7	Osterville	1	A. Curtis	1/1	P.I.	3	N. Landry
1/11	Cumb. Farms	1	E. Dalton	1/3	Sharon	6	W. Sweet
Bohemian Waxwing				1/10	Fairhaven	8	M. Lynch#
1/5	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	1/12	Cumb. Farms	4	J. Sweeney
Cedar Waxwing				1/14	Hadley	8	L. Therrien
1/3	Nantucket	25	K. Blackshaw#	1/24	Gloucester	11	M. Garvey
1/5	Northampton	28	T. Gagnon	2/13	Edgartown	4	M. Pelikan
1/24	Cheshire	134	M. Lynch#	Ipswich Sparrow			
2/3	Florence	135	T. Gagnon	1/1	P.I.	2	L. Ferrarasso
2/5	Westfield	35	E. Goodkin	1/1	Salisbury	3	BBC (L.de la Flor)
2/17	Amherst	50	H. Allen	1/5	Sandwich	2	B. Hodson
2/27	S. Quabbin	56	L. Therrien	1/9	Scusset B.	1	SSBC (Petersen)
Orange-crowned Warbler				1/10	Cumb. Farms	1 ph	J. Trimble#
1/25	Jamaica Plain	1	R. Schain	1/16	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	S. Hedman#
Yellow-rumped Warbler				1/20	Nahant	3	L. Pivacek
1/3	Ipswich	3	T. Young	2/12	E. Boston (B.I.)	6	R. Schain
1/5	Saugus	12	P. Peterson	2/27	Duxbury B.	3	R. Bowes
1/10	Nantucket	40	K. Blackshaw#	2/28	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw#
1/10	Fairhaven	5	M. Lynch#	Saltmarsh Sparrow			
1/17	Orleans	3	G. d'Entremont#	1/10	Eastham (F.H.)	1	M. Iliff#
1/24	Westport	6	R. Stymeist	Seaside Sparrow			
2/7	Plymouth	3	M. Lynch#	1/10	Eastham	3	M. Iliff#
2/7	P'town (R.P.)	3	J. Young	Fox Sparrow			
2/21	Falmouth	8	G. d'Entremont	1/1	Sudbury	2	G. Dysart
Pine Warbler				1/8	Groton	2	T. Murray
1/7	Wrentham	6 ph	E. LoPresti	1/12	Cumb. Farms	3	J. Sweeney
1/20	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	1/24	Westport	4	R. Stymeist
1/20	W. Gloucester	4	D. + D. Marchant	2/8	W. Warren	3	B. Zajda
Palm Warbler				2/26	Lexington	2	Stephen Taub
1/3	Ipswich	1	T. Young	Lincoln's Sparrow			
Ovenbird				1/1	Westboro WMA	1	N. Paulson
1/2-6	Groveland	1	fide S. Grinley	Swamp Sparrow			
Yellow-breasted Chat				1/5	S. Peabody	6	R. Heil
1/23	Falmouth	1	M. Lynch#	1/9	Barnstable	2	J. Trimble
Eastern Towhee				1/12	Cumb. Farms	3	J. Sweeney
thr	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	1/16	Wakefield	3	P. + F. Vale
1/1	Upton	1 f	N. Paulson	1/20	W. Roxbury (MP)	3	M. Iliff
1/7-13	DFWS	1	P. Sowizral	2/12	Cotuit	3	M. Keleher
1/9	Westport	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)	White-throated Sparrow			
1/10	Quincy	2	L. Tyrala#	1/1	Hardwick	40+	M. Lynch#
1/15	Belchertown	1 m	D. Small	1/1	New Braintree	21	M. Lynch#
1/24	Westport	4	R. Stymeist	1/24	Westport	65	R. Stymeist
2/thr	Rockport (H.P.)	1	v.o.	2/20	Sheffield	45	M. Lynch#
2/6-7	Littleton	1	G. Billingham	White-crowned Sparrow			
2/14	W. Tisbury	2	M. Pelikan	thr	Cumb. Farms	9 max	v.o.
2/15	S. Dartmouth	2	G. d'Entremont	1/10	Deerfield	1	F. Bowrys
2/16	Palmer	1	A Nascin	1/24	Northampton	3	F. Bowrys
American Tree Sparrow				2/21	Turners Falls	1	S. Sumner
thr	P.I.	35 max	v.o.	Dark-eyed Junco			
1/5	Saugus	20	P. Peterson	1/1	New Braintree	211	M. Lynch#
1/10	Cumb. Farms	140	M. Iliff#	1/1	Quabbin Pk	144	M. Lynch#
1/10	Boston	24	BBC (R. Stymeist)	1/12	Framingham	100	J. Malone
1/30	Hadley	27	M. Lynch#	2/19	Boxford	65+	P. + F. Vale
2/20	Sheffield	43	M. Lynch#	2/20	Sheffield	138	M. Lynch#
Chipping Sparrow				Lapland Longspur			
1/3	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw#	1/3	Sharon	1	W. Sweet
1/5	Agawam	1	E. Rutman	1/4	Northampton	1	F. Bowrys
1/8	Groton	1 ph	T. Murray	1/4	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
2/9-28	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	1/8	Salisbury	12	K. Marshall#
Clay-colored Sparrow				1/8	Hadley	2	S. Sumner
1/1	Hadley	1	H. Allen	1/12	Cumb. Farms	3	J. Sweeney
Field Sparrow				1/24	Gloucester (B.R.)	4	S. Moore#
thr	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	2/21	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
1/1	Upton	6	N. Paulson	Snow Bunting			
1/1	Wachusett Res.	1	M. Lynch#	thr	Worcester	100 max	M. Lynch#

Snow Bunting (continued)				1/17	W. Roxbury (MP)	1	M. Iliff
thr	P.I.	80 max	v.o.	2/14	Saugus	3	P. + F. Vale
thr	Hadley	1500 max	v.o.	2/18	Newbypt	5	R. Heil
1/1	Duxbury B.	40	R. Bowes	2/20	Wayland	2	G. Long
1/3	Sharon	45	W. Sweet	2/22	Egremont	1	J. Kyron-Austin
1/5	Salisbury	40	MAS (D. Larson)	Common Grackle			
1/7	Southwick	70	S. Kellogg	thr	Reports of 1-10 indiv.	from 19 locations	
1/15	Rockport	43	P. + F. Vale	1/3	Westwood	75	E. Nielsen
1/23	Montague	350	M. Faidrother	1/16	Wakefield	21	P. + F. Vale
2/13	Edgartown	40	M. Pelikan	1/24	Westport	40	R. Stymeist
Summer Tanager				1/29	Foxboro	50	D. Cabral
1/1-10	Orleans	1 ad m	A. + E. Hultin	2/4	Bolton Flats	2200	T. Pirro
Painted Bunting				2/20	Wayland	35	G. Long
1/1-16	E. Orleans	1	N. Burkert + v.o.	2/21	Mattapan (BNC)	50	R. Mayer
Dickcissel				Brown-headed Cowbird			
1/2	Acton	1	D. Southall	1/1-2/15	Reports of 1-2 indiv	from 8 locations	
2/5-28	Gloucester	1 ph	Gene Limone	1/3	Westwood	6	E. Nielsen
Red-winged Blackbird				1/3	Woburn	9	P. Ippolito
thr	Reports of 10-200 indiv.	from 39 loc.		1/9	Westport	200	BBC (R. Stymeist)
1/9	Barnstable	450	J. Trimble	1/18	Rehoboth	13	K. Bartels
1/13	Wachusett Res.	150+	J. + K. Hogan	1/24	Saugus (Bear C.)	10	S. Zende#
1/17	New Salem	250	B. Lafley	1/29	Littleton	30	G. Marley
2/4	Bolton Flats	1900	T. Pirro	2/15	Ipswich	6	BBC (J. Berry)
2/14	DWWS	700	F. Bouchard#	Common Chaffinch			
2/24	Grafton	300	R. Schain	thr	Waltham	1	J. Forbes + v.o.
Eastern Meadowlark				Purple Finch			
1/1	Westboro WMA	3	N. Paulson	1/3	Whately	1	B. Benner
1/1	Fairhaven	8	A. + D. Morgan#	1/8	Marshfield	4	MAS (J. Galluzzo)
1/9	DWWS	3	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	2/2	Ware R. IBA	32	T. Pirro
1/14	Cumb. Farms	6	J. Hoye#	2/16	Williamstown	5	L. Reed-Evans
1/21	P.I.	1	D. Chickering	White-winged Crossbill			
2/8	Eastham	1	M. Richmond	1/16	Mt.A.	4	W. Freedberg#
2/23	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	6	P. Champlin	Common Redpoll			
Rusty Blackbird				1/31	Southwick	1	J. Weeks
1/1	Mattapoissett	1	M. LaBossiere	Pine Siskin			
1/7	Wrentham	3	E. LoPresti	1/3	Ipswich	1	T. Young
1/8	Marshfield	3	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	1/10	Holden	1	M. Driscoll
1/9	Barnstable	10	J. Trimble	2/10	Concord	1	P. Cozza
1/11	Cumb. Farms	12	E. Dalton	Evening Grosbeak			
1/16	Wakefield	18	P. + F. Vale	1/24	Monroe	2	M. Lynch#
1/16	Rockport	1	B. Harris#				



COMMON YELLOWTHROAT BY DAVID LARSON

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, 42nd through 50th Supplements, as published in *The Auk* 117: 847-58 (2000); 119: 897-906 (2002); 120: 923-32 (2003); 121: 985-95 (2004); 122: 1026-31 (2005); 123: 926-36 (2006); 124 (3): 1109-15 (2007); 125 (3): 758-68 (2008); 126 (3): 705-14 (2009) (see <<http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/index.php>>).

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

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

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

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (indicated by an asterisk [*] in the Bird Reports), as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts, should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Matt Garvey, 137 Beaconsfield Rd. #5, Brookline, MA 02445, or by e-mail to <mattgarvey@gmail.com>.

ABOUT THE COVER

Hooded Warbler

The Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) is always an unusual and beautiful discovery for New England birders. Adult males are bright yellow below, olive above, and sport a black hood and bright yellow mask. Females resemble males but their hoods are highly variable, from nearly black to olive and yellow. Lacking the black hood, first-year birds resemble first-year Wilson's and Yellow warblers but, unlike these species, they possess distinct white sides to their tails. Hooded Warblers do not exhibit geographic variation and hence are monotypic (no subspecies).

Hooded Warblers breed from southern Ontario, New York, and southern New England south over much of the eastern United States to northern Florida and along the Gulf Coast to east Texas. They are migratory, spending their winters from southern Mexico through Central America and on many islands of the Caribbean. Males winter in mature forests, while females occupy late successional brushy fields. This habitat segregation is thought to result from male dominance. In Massachusetts, Hooded Warblers are considered uncommon to rare migrants, arriving from late April to late May, and appearing again from mid-August to mid-October. They are very rare and irregular breeders in Massachusetts. During the 1960s several nests were discovered in southeastern Massachusetts, but none were confirmed during the Breeding Bird Atlas census period from 1974-1979. Territorial males are occasionally encountered, most recently in Wompatuck State Park, Hingham, in 2008. In 2007 a pair attempted to nest in Mattapan; however, the outcome of the nest was never conclusively determined.

Hooded Warblers are socially monogamous (one male and one female per territory), but genetically promiscuous, with up to one third of offspring sired as a result of extra-pair mating, usually with males from neighboring territories. Nesting is generally restricted to large forest tracts where nests are located in understory vegetation in clearings, gaps, or edge.

Males are highly territorial and site faithful, returning in many cases to the same territory year after year, both on the breeding and wintering grounds. Males sing several song types, differing in pitch and number of notes, often from perches in the forest canopy. Their song is described as loud, ringing, and clear. Prior to mating they may spend more than half of their day singing. Each male has a distinctive song that aids in individual recognition. They can remember the songs of neighboring territorial males from year to year, which may serve to reduce energy expended in territorial defense. Males chase encroaching males, sometimes uttering *chip* notes resembling those of a waterthrush, and fights with grappling may occur. Threat displays include hunching with feathers fluffed and wings drooping. On the wintering grounds Hooded Warblers are usually solitary except when they occasionally join mixed-species foraging flocks within their own territory. Females frequently *chip* during the breeding season, which may serve to advertise fertility to neighboring males.

The female chooses the nest site, usually one to three feet from the ground, in shrubs in clearings or gaps, and she alone constructs the nest: a cup made of soft bark, grass, and spider web. The lining is fine grass or animal hair. She develops a brood patch, does all of the incubation through the twelve days until hatching, and gives a fluttering distraction display on the ground if disturbed at the nest. The clutch is typically three or four cream-colored eggs spotted brown. The female also does all of the brooding until the chicks leave the nest in eight or nine days, but both parents remove fecal sacs from the nest. Young can fly several days after leaving the nest. Both parents feed the young, and after fledging the care of the brood is divided between the parents. The young birds become independent in four or five weeks.

Hooded Warblers forage mostly by gleaning or hover-gleaning around foliage, or by hawking flying insects. They are insectivorous year-round, foraging mostly on spiders and insects, including small grasshoppers, moths, caterpillars, flies, and beetles.

Because Hooded Warblers nest low to the ground, they are subject to heavy nest predation. In one study 44% of nests were predated by avian or mammal nest predators. Hooded Warblers are apparently preferentially parasitized by cowbirds. The frequent *chip* notes of females may alert cowbirds to nesting, and because female Hooded Warblers usually do not roost in their nest at night during early egg-laying, they may not be present when cowbirds are most active early in the day. In one study, 75% of nests were parasitized by cowbirds. Forest fragmentation may be exacerbating this problem, since Hooded Warblers historically preferred large tracts of unbroken forest that were not easily penetrated by cowbirds. Forest fragmentation and other habitat alteration on the wintering grounds is also a continuing conservation problem. Nevertheless, census data suggest that Hooded Warbler populations on a continental scale are stable, so for the time being, at least, they appear to be secure. 🐦

William E. Davis, Jr.

About the Cover Artist: Julie Zickefoose

Julie Zickefoose began as an illustrator of natural history subjects in 1976, when she was a college freshman. A six-year stint as a field biologist with The Nature Conservancy's Connecticut Chapter proved a strong motivator both to learn more about ecosystems and to go back to drawing as a career of sorts. (Drawing was easier, and the pay was better.) Along the way, Julie began to write essays about birds and animals, and writing slowly came to the forefront of her interests. Since 1986, *Bird Watcher's Digest* has been the major print venue for her writing as well as her illustrations, and her husband, Editor Bill Thompson III, maintains that it has nothing to do with favoritism. Julie has also contributed short commentaries, mostly critter stories, to National Public Radio's afternoon news program "All Things Considered."

Julie's first book of illustrated essays, *Letters from Eden*, was published in 2006. Her current book, a memoir about birds, is due out from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in 2010, but first she has to finish the paintings, so you never know. 🐦

AT A GLANCE

April 2010



SUSAN L. CARLSON

Hmm! Once again readers are faced with a partial view of a mystery bird, this time a “headless wonder” in full flight, partially obscured by a tree. The obscuring tree is helpful however, since it is obviously not small, and affords size perspective for the bird in flight. Even if we allow for distance and foreshortening, the mystery bird is clearly a good-sized bird.

One telltale feature of this view of the mystery species is the presence of two white stripes bordering a darker area on the rear edge of the left wing. Coupled with the apparent large size of the bird, this marking suggests that the bird is almost certainly a duck. The wing marking is a speculum—a patch, usually iridescent, located on the upper surface of the secondaries of the wings of many freshwater ducks. The color and pattern of the speculum is often one of the features used to identify ducks in flight, and also on the water when such patches are visible. Because we cannot see the color of the speculum in this photograph, its pattern and other features need to be considered.

A close look at the bird’s tail indicates that the outer feathers are white (or light), the area under the wings and the base of the neck appear to be streaked, and the belly is pale and unmarked. Furthermore, the wing linings appear to be white and do not exhibit much contrast with the rest of the under wings.

This combination of features unequivocally points to the mystery species as a Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*). The streaking on the neck and under the wings indicates that the bird is a female. No other waterfowl in Massachusetts bears a speculum bordered by white above and below or shows such conspicuous white outer tail feathers. In a color photograph the speculum would appear blue. The most likely alternative for confusion with a Mallard would be an American Black Duck. A typical black duck, however, would not display white borders on its violet blue speculum, would appear much more uniformly dark below, and would not show whitish outer tail feathers.

Mallards are widespread and abundant permanent residents in Massachusetts and may be found almost anywhere that there is water, including puddles in wet meadows, farm ponds, city parks, freshwater wetlands, and salt marshes. Their numbers are greatest in the state during migration in spring and fall, and broods of young Mallards are commonly encountered in summer when the breeding population is nesting. Susan Carlson captured this image of a Mallard while she was paddling in a swampy pond on her property. 

Wayne R. Petersen

Help MassWildlife Count Turkey Families

Sportsmen and -women, birders, landowners, and other wildlife enthusiasts are encouraged to assist the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) to count turkey families this summer. DFW conducts an annual wild turkey brood survey from June through August. "The brood survey serves as a long-term index on reproduction," explains Dave Scarpitti, Turkey Project Leader. "It helps us determine productivity and allows us to compare long-term reproductive success." Scarpitti also points out that citizen involvement in this survey is a cost-effective means of gathering useful data, and he encourages all interested people to participate. A turkey brood survey form has been posted on the website at

http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/facts/birds/turkey/turkey_home.htm.

Information needed includes date, town, number of hens seen, and number of poults (young turkeys) and their relative size compared to the hens. Multiple sightings of the same brood should also be noted. The survey period runs from June 1 to August 31. Completed forms should be mailed to the MassWildlife Westborough Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd, Westborough, MA 01581. The last few years of survey information is posted in the Wild Turkey area of the website at

http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/facts/birds/turkey/turkey_brood_survey.htm.

AT A GLANCE



WAYNE R. PETERSEN

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

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