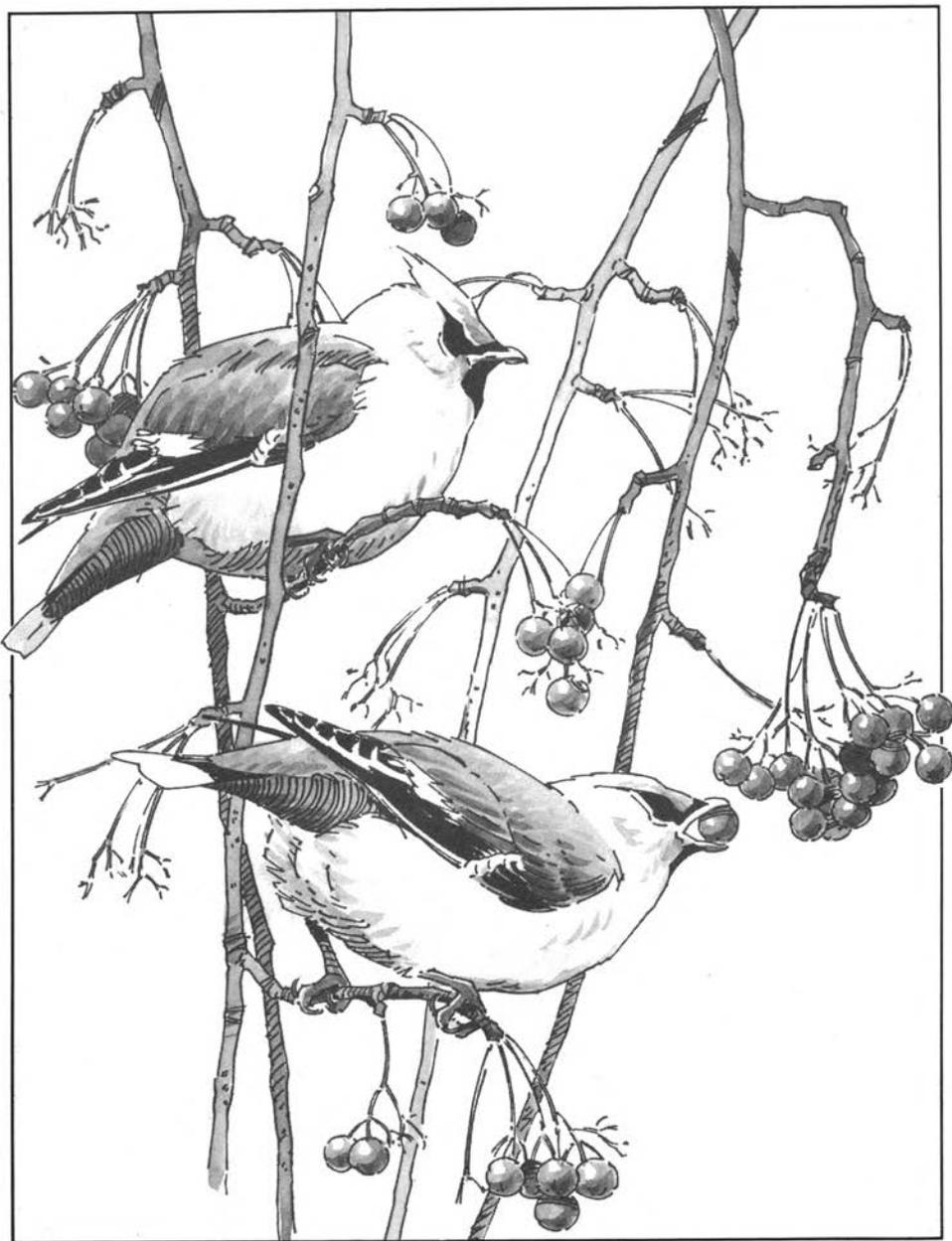


BIRD OBSERVER



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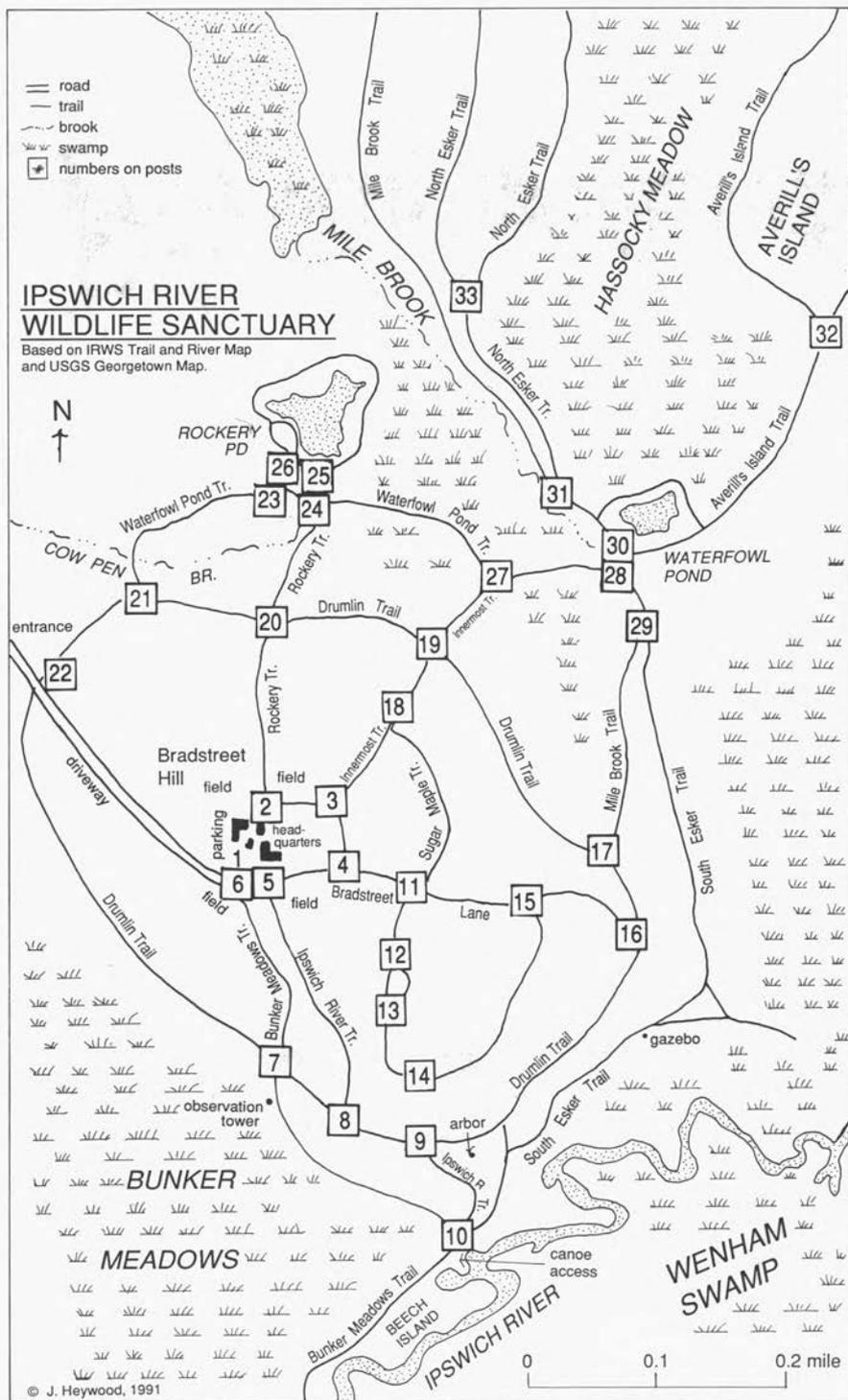
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ARTICLES APPEARING IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

In the February 1992 *Bird Observer* issue, John Kricher and Ted Davis will tell us where to find birds in the Edwards Plateau region of Texas, a popular birding spot in the spring and also known for two endangered species, the Black-capped Vireo and the Golden-cheeked Warbler. Robert Askins writes on the effect of forest fragmentation on migratory songbird populations. David Rimmer reports on the status of recovery and research efforts on the Piping Plover, placed on the U.S. Endangered Species List in January 1986. Finally, Bruce Hallett reviews *Western Birding By Ear*, by Richard Walton and Robert Lawson, and Chris Floyd reviews *Birds of Prey in Connecticut*, by Gene Billings.



BIRDING THE IPSWICH RIVER WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

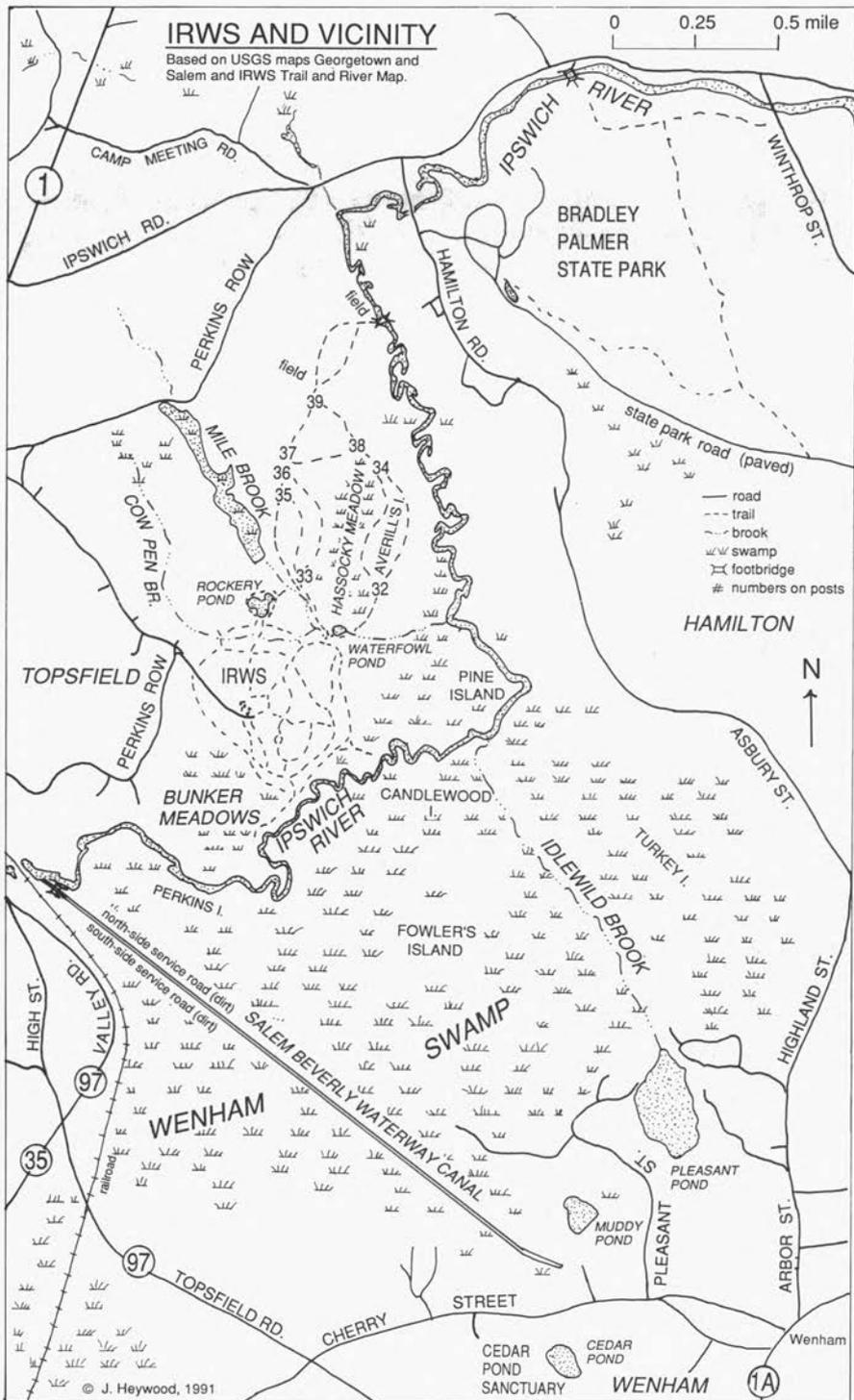
by Jim MacDougall

The Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield, Massachusetts, protects 2500 acres with a rich mosaic of habitats that in turn attract a wide array of birds. It is situated about halfway between Boston and Newburyport just off Route 1. The property is dominated by the Wenham Swamp, the largest floodplain wetland on the Ipswich River. The landscape is typical glacial topography with a drumlin, kames, and an esker. There are clear indications of areas of glacial ice contact such as the margin between Hassocky Meadow and Averill's Island.

This area is rich in cultural history. It was a favorite campsite for the Agawam sept of the Algonquin tribe. North of the sanctuary by just a few feet are areas where Native American artifacts, from 2000 to 7000 years old, have been collected in amounts that would indicate an active and continuous site. In 1643 this land was given to Governor Bradstreet, who leased it for farming and the taking of waterfowl. One of the original houses on the property was built around 1650 by Simon Bradstreet, the governor's grandson, and was located on Bradstreet Lane, now a dirt road running east of the sanctuary headquarters. Only a cellar hole remains today.

The sanctuary headquarters is in a house built around 1763. Its large seven-flue central chimney identifies the architectural period and offers habitat for a large colony of Chimney Swifts. The Bradstreets owned the land until 1898, when it was purchased by Thomas Emerson Proctor. Proctor, with the help of staff at Boston's Arnold Arboretum and a Japanese landscape gardener, began to transform Bradstreet Hill and surrounding uplands into a formal landscape, highlighting many hardy trees and shrubs of the world that would grow here. Italian laborers constructed the Rockery, roads, bridges, and trails. Hundreds of plant species were introduced and placed in areas around the hill which would offer them the best growing conditions. Large rocks were imported from nearby Newbury and placed with the plantings to augment the visual impact. People came from miles around to walk and picnic at Mr. Proctor's invitation. He died in 1947, essentially penniless, and it was from his estate that the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) purchased the bulk of the sanctuary.

Proctor's arboretum and the introduction of exotic plants are responsible for an important change in natural plant communities. Many of the habitats have been overtaken by aggressive exotic plant species. The impact on these communities' utility to native breeding, migrating, and wintering birds is difficult to assess. The upside of the problem is that the extensive thickets of crabapple, bittersweet, smooth buckthorn, and multiflora rose offer food items for some guilds of birds throughout the fall and winter. The downside may be



that other native birds cannot locate their preferred community composite for breeding and foraging. Perhaps breeding bird surveys of these exotic communities compared with communities of largely native species would give us the answer to another of man's influences on the production of native birds. It raises the question of the effectiveness of stewardship programs on conservation land. Is it enough to simply set land aside? The MAS has begun a program to identify the natural communities on the sanctuary and quantify the impact of some of the more aggressive nonnative plants. Purple loosestrife, Japanese corktree, smooth buckthorn, and multiflora rose have been studied without clear results. Certainly a great deal of work is required to assess this problem.

The sanctuary is a big place, and like every other birding area around here, the birds are seasonal. The birds that attract people to this property during different seasons are Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, waterfowl (most notably Wood Duck), rails, Great Horned Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Vireo, migrating warblers, Orchard Oriole, and Fox Sparrow.

You can bird the sanctuary on foot or by canoe. Canoes can be rented by MAS members at the sanctuary. Most people walk the extensive trail system.

Bradstreet Hill

Bradstreet Hill, a drumlin, surrounds the sanctuary headquarters buildings and parking lot. Three fields, each with its own grasses and habitat, nearly encircle the hilltop. The north field is the place to find Bobolink in the summer. On an October evening, it is also the place to watch waterfowl fly by overhead and the Pileated stake out its winter bounds. It is the place to watch accipiters dart, and in the spring of 1979, it was the place to watch Great Gray Owls hunt for mice. There is big sky above the north field and a bench under a crabapple tree to accommodate the artful watcher. In spring you will find male woodcocks strutting their stuff at dusk.

The bird-feeding area, viewed from inside the sanctuary's nature center, is usually the first place to stop when the station is operating. Regular feeder birds are Downy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted and White-breasted nuthatches, European Starling, Northern Cardinal, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, American Goldfinch, House Finch, and House Sparrow. East of the buildings is a scrubby area that follows along Bradstreet Lane. This is a good place to see Pileated Woodpeckers in March, White-crowned Sparrows in May, and to call in Eastern Screech-Owls at night.

To understand the trail system around Bradstreet Hill, envision the hill as the hub of a wheel. The outer rim of the wheel is the Drumlin Trail, while the spokes are trails and roads originating at the center (or top of the hill) and connecting to the rim. Beginning at the north and proceeding clockwise, the

spokes are the Rockery Trail, Innermost Trail, Bradstreet Lane, Ipswich River Trail, Bunker Meadows Trail, and the driveway. Mr. Proctor planted each area within the spokes with different tree and shrub families. Maples are in the southwestern quadrant; cherries, *Sorbus*, and magnolias in the southeast; oaks and beeches in the northeast; and rhododendrons and hemlocks in the north and northwest. Again, the impact of the plantings and their orientation to the elements may influence birds due to the habitat communities they create. Waves of spring warblers are most often seen on the south, east, and north sides of the hill, and the late-spring birder with limited time can make this circuit productive.

Bunker Meadows Trail

From the top of the hill, go to post number 6, and take the trail down to Bunker Meadows. This is a flooded shrub meadow constructed with federal funds in 1965. Prior to that time it was a seasonally flooded grass meadow along the Ipswich River. Possibly harvested for hay by colonial farmers, it had maintained a sedgy open structure until the impoundment was created. The purpose of creating the impoundment, according to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, "was to maintain year-round water levels that would provide suitable waterfowl nesting habitat."

An early morning visit in the spring or fall to Bunker Meadows is fun and good birding. Head down to the observation tower, and approach it quietly. First see whether anything is perched on the tower. Then slowly make your way to the first landing. Check the meadow and buttonbush for birds and mammals. A quiet approach will allow birds to merely skulk away rather than wildly flushing, thereby stopping feeding and courtship activities. It will also allow you to locate many of the birds around the fifty-acre marsh by the time you reach the tower's top deck. A scope is helpful here, although the tower's shakiness tests your patience with keeping a steady view. From the tower you should see: in the spring, Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, teals, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Osprey, Virginia Rail, American Coot, all of the swallows, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat; in the autumn, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Wood Duck and other waterfowl, Sharp-shinned Hawk, swallows, and blackbirds and grackles.

From the tower walk east on the trail that follows the marsh edge to the canoe landing. This trail is one of the best for spring migrants. It gets early morning sun and is usually out of the cold northerly wind. Kinglets, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Warbling Vireos, warblers, and Swamp Sparrows can be very common in late April and May. The canoe landing gives you another perspective of Bunker Meadows and your first views of the Ipswich River. Walk out to the well-named Beech Island and the dead-end dike beyond. This area is

where I go first thing in the morning to catch Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, and Virginia Rail. The end of this dike (if you can get to it; water levels occasionally make it impassable) has consistently been visited by Common Snipe in April. All these upland areas adjacent to the Wenham Swamp are excellent for spring and fall warbler waves.

South Esker Trail

From post 10 at the canoe landing, you may walk northeasterly along the South Esker Trail, which skirts the southeastern and eastern edge of Bradstreet Hill where it abuts the Wenham Swamp. Bear right at the first fork by some hemlocks to stay on the South Esker Trail. This is an area known for Red-tailed Hawk, Sora, Eastern Phoebe, Marsh Wren, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Swamp Sparrow, and Orchard and Northern orioles. The scenery along this trail is among the best the property has to offer, with two places to sit and enjoy it. One is the gazebo, which you will have to share with the resident phoebes; the second is a bench perched atop the south esker with a view of the *Phalaris* floodplain marsh. At the toe of this esker, next to the marsh, are Soras, Marsh Wrens, and Swamp Sparrows. (The trail forks at the gazebo, but you can take either branch. The left fork is the main trail, while the right fork is just a short loop that takes you to the toe of the esker.)

Waterfowl Pond

From the north end of the South Esker Trail, it is but a short distance along Mile Brook Trail to Waterfowl Pond. You should be aware that lately, beavers have been damming Mile Brook in this area. Thus, the Waterfowl Pond and Rockery trails, which lie to the west, may be flooded. This itinerary, however, omits those trails.

Waterfowl Pond is another nice place to sit and rest the soles. While sitting at the bridge, you may be introduced to the local tame chickadees. These poor birds are the product of good-hearted people who cannot resist intimate contact with wildlife. People flock to the sanctuary with their children clenching mitts full of millet and sunflower seeds to feed the birds for a so-called outdoor experience. As many as eighty percent of all winter visitors are there to feed these birds, which are the offspring of birds hand-tamed by one man who has been visiting the property nearly every weekend for the past twenty years.

Despite these distractions, spend some time around the pond. Walk the little trail (partially overgrown) around the back of the pond and the short segment of Averill's Island Trail back to the stone bridge. Springtime brings Hooded Merganser, Virginia Rail, American Woodcock, Marsh Wren, Magnolia and Wilson's warblers, Northern Waterthrush, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Orchard Oriole. It used to be the only place to see Least Bittern and Common Moorhen, neither of which has been reported in the past fifteen years. Later in the spring,

Willow Flycatchers call from the stubby maples in Hassocky Meadow. Waterfowl Pond is also the gateway to the hinterlands of the property: Averill's Island and the North Esker.

North Esker Trail and Averill's Island Trail

This is the place I like to bird and rest my soul. It is also the longest loop on the sanctuary. If your time is limited, either omit these trails, or take these and omit the others. The birds are relatively few and far between, but it is on this circuit that you will see or hear the Great Horned Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Fox Sparrow. For the Christmas count we hit this area late in the day for Virginia Rail at the spillway from Hassocky Meadow. One year we also had Hermit Thrush. It is one of the few areas on the property where there is open water in the heart of winter; it is located between post 34 and 38 on the map.

From Waterfowl Pond, proceed north on the North Esker Trail where it begins at post 31. Take either branch at post 33 (the right one is lower and hugs the marsh), and rejoin the Mile Brook Trail at post 35 or 36, turning right in either case. A Great Horned Owl nest is located east of post 39. To see it, walk northwest, north, and northeasterly (take the left fork, then bear right twice) from this post along an unmarked trail for 200 yards looking to your right. You should see the bottom of a barrel placed in the fork of a tree as an artificial nest platform for Great Horned Owls. They have been using the structure for a few years now and should be a sure bet for years to come.

Retrace your steps to post 39, and now it is off to Averill's Island via the White Pine Trail between posts 39 and 38. At post 38, take the Averill's Island Trail toward the southeast. Take either branch where it splits at post 34; they rejoin and take you back to Waterfowl Pond. This is a good place for late-fall, winter, and early-spring birding. Pileated Woodpecker and Great Horned Owl are the staples. This is the only place from which I have seen Bald Eagle on the property. It is an old woodland on good soil, offering trees optimum growing conditions. Some of the trees are very impressive in size and are alone worth seeing. In fact, walking through this magnificent forest is probably the closest one can come to a return to the days before the European settlers arrived.

Other Areas Near the Sanctuary

The next three areas are not accessible from the parking area on Bradstreet Hill, but they are well worth birding.

Pleasant Pond and Idlewild Brook. The outlet of Pleasant Pond into Idlewild Brook, which flows into the Ipswich River in the southeast portion of the sanctuary, can be reached from Pleasant Street in Wenham. Pleasant Street is off Cherry Street, half a mile east of the entrance to Cedar Pond Sanctuary and

about the same distance west of Route 1A. Follow Pleasant Street to the end, which will be the parking area for the Wenham public swimming beach. Walk along the edge of the pond to the outlet and the beginning of a loose trail system. This is a good place to visit in the dead of winter. The brook usually remains open and will attract rails and Winter Wrens. There are no marked trails, but you can follow the skimobile tracks into the far reaches of the Wenham Swamp, tracking deer and fisher in the snow. If you get out as far as the *Phalaris* floodplain, look for shrikes. Great Horned and Barred owls are always a possibility in the winter. I do not, however, recommend venturing out into this area unless it is thoroughly frozen, you have a compass, and you are with a friend.

The Salem Beverly Waterway Canal. The Salem Beverly Waterway Canal (or Wenham Canal) is a sleeper for birdwatchers. The canal is a two-mile-long trench through the Wenham Swamp with a dirt service road on either side. It begins at the river near Route 97 and terminates at the pumping station in Wenham near the entrance to the Cedar Pond Sanctuary on Cherry Street. You can access the canal from Route 97 in Topsfield. From Route 1, drive south on Route 97 about a mile. Park at the railroad tracks crossing Route 97 near the Ipswich River. Walk southeast along the tracks, cross the river, pass three houses on your right, and turn left at the first trail in that direction. This will take you out to the canal where it diverges from the river. In spring and fall this is a good place for both Solitary and Spotted sandpipers, and the woodland between the railroad tracks and the canal is good for Eastern Screech-Owl. With such a big sky, one can expect just about anything to fly over. The winter can bring shrikes to perch on the scrub of the adjacent swamp, rails can be coaxed out of the marshes if there is open water, and Great Horned and Barred owls are generally accommodating. Spring brings waves of kinglets, warblers, and blackbirds as well as their migratory associates, Merlins, Sharpshins, and kestrels.

If you have time for a pleasant walk, you can follow the south-side service road for two miles to the Wenham end of the canal. Crossing behind the pumping station, you can then return on the north-side service road and cross over the canal at the little bridge to bring you back to where you started. Three dips in the north-side service road are often under water, so always start a hike along the canal on the south side.

Canoeing. Canoeing the Ipswich River for birds has been a traditional May outing for the Essex County Ornithological Club since 1906. The land that is now the sanctuary has long been recognized as one of the hot spots along the river. Mr. Proctor encouraged the club to visit his property and to camp on what is known as Perkins Island, near the south end of the sanctuary. The records for these outings show some interesting trends. Whip-poor-wills have disappeared, along with locally nesting Black-crowned Night Herons. On the other side of the

Trends in Bird Occurrences in Essex County: 1907-1989
Records from Essex County Ornithological Club
Mid-May Canoe Trips on the Ipswich River

Increasing

Pied-billed Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron
Cattle Egret
Glossy Ibis
Mute Swan
Canada Goose
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Gadwall
Turkey Vulture
Ringed-neck Pheasant
Lesser Yellowlegs
Willet
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Rock Dove
Pileated Woodpecker
Great Crested Flycatcher
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
House Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Northern Mockingbird
European Starling
Blue-winged Warbler
Northern Cardinal
House Finch
House Sparrow

Decreasing

American Bittern
Black-crowned Night Heron
Ruddy Duck
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
American Kestrel
Peregrine Falcon
Common Snipe
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Short-eared Owl
Whip-poor-will
Horned Lark
Eastern Bluebird
Yellow-throated Vireo
Golden-winged Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Vesper Sparrow

coin, Herring and Great Black-backed gulls, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Mockingbird, and Northern Cardinal, once accidental, are now common. A full day's canoe ride can be started from Green Street in Danvers with a take-out at Asbury Street in Topsfield. To canoe only within sanctuary boundaries, put in at Route 97 in Topsfield. A canoe guide is available from the Ipswich River Watershed Association, which has its office at the sanctuary.

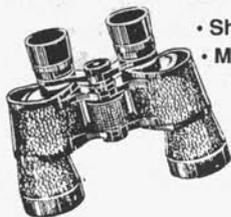
Birds commonly seen along the river within the sanctuary are Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron (post-nesting), Canada Goose, Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Great Horned Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle. During the third week in May and the third week in August, this river has major Common Nighthawk migrations. In some years the numbers can reach eighty to one hundred birds per flock. On the mornings of such flights, it is easier to locate resting nighthawks sitting parallel to the branches of trees overhanging the river.

It would be easier to list the birds you will not have the potential of seeing than those you will. Of the 400 or so birds that have been seen in the county (approximately ninety of which are accidental), 224 have been seen here. Thus, about two-thirds of the birds seen in eastern Massachusetts visit this property with annual regularity. Because the vegetation is thick, you should visit the sanctuary before May 15 for best viewing.

JIM MACDOUGALL, a resident of Topsfield, is currently Land Manager of the Essex County Greenbelt Association and has for the past fifteen years worked to acquire, protect, and manage wildlife habitat in Essex County. He is treasurer of the Essex County Ornithological Club and editor of the sixth edition (1988) of *Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts, A Field List*. Jim would like to thank Kate Noonan, director of the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, for reviewing the manuscript and making her sight records available, and Ruth Moore of Topsfield, who edited the *Checklist of the Birds of the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary* in 1972.

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**PROFILES OF NEW ENGLAND ORNITHOLOGISTS:
RUTH P. EMERY, THE ORIGINAL VOICE OF AUDUBON**

by James Baird

Editor's Note. James Baird spoke about Ruth Emery in a memorial service held in her honor on September 10, 1991, at Bigelow Chapel, Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Bird Observer is pleased to publish Jim's eloquent tribute.

Ruth Price McMurtrie, a child of the nineteenth century, was born on August 5, 1898, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, of a Scottish father and an Irish mother. She was proud of her Celtic heritage but clearly favored the patrimonial donation. Although Ruth took frequent trips in search of birds, she never strayed far from home, and her death on August 14, 1991, occurred in the same city in which she was born. Given that Ruth was born a scant two years after the founding of the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS), her life, in a sense, paralleled that of the Society, even though it took forty-six years for them to find each other.

Ruthie was a bonnie lassie with her thick red hair, quick intellect, and vivacious personality, and it was a lucky Maurice Emery who captured her heart, and whom she married on September 1, 1925. They bought a house in Wollaston where Ruth lived for nearly sixty-five years, and which became a welcome beacon to generations of birders.

Maurice and Ruth had wide-ranging interests and delved deeply into whatever subject they were immersed at the moment—whether glass, china, antiques, or stamps. Ruth was an accomplished artist whose talent found expression in the tole trays and wooden pantry boxes that she so beautifully decorated. It was no small recognition of her artistic ability that her work was accepted for sale at the Women's Industrial Union in Boston during the 1930s and 1940s. Ruth's artistry also found outlet in crewel work, flower arranging, and quilting. On one occasion a quilt that she designed was exhibited in a storefront window of R.H. Stearns in downtown Boston.

Maurice and Ruth discovered birds around 1943. One of their first field trips was to the Society's Moose Hill Sanctuary in Sharon, which, according to Ruth, she first visited wearing a hat and veil! In 1944, Ruth got a job as secretary at the Society's headquarters at 155 Newbury Street in Boston. There she met her friend and lifelong birding companion, Margaret Argue (who had started a few months earlier) and gradually became acquainted with most of the leading birders in the Boston region. She and Maurice became increasingly active birders. Ruth slowly broadened her official duties to such nonsecretarial activities as coleading the MAS bus trips with Margaret Argue, and she undoubtedly got trapped into answering the many calls that came into the office from an insatiably curious public, especially around baby bird season. She and

Maurice joined the OCBC (ostensibly the Old Colony Bird Club, but affectionately dubbed by its members as the Outer Circle Bird Club) that was started as a counter to the male-only Nuttall Ornithological Club. Ludlow Griscom characteristically invited himself to OCBC activities, thereby putting Ruth (and the other members) in close association with the country's most experienced field ornithologist. This association, of course, greatly accelerated the Emerys' interests and abilities.



Tragically in 1951, while attending a Nuttall Club meeting, Maurice suffered a stroke which subsequently proved fatal. Thankfully, Ruth Emery was surrounded with solicitous and caring friends from MAS and the birding community who helped her through the trying months that followed. As a consequence, Audubon and birds became increasingly important to Ruth.

But it was the Voice of Audubon that thrust Ruth Emery into the limelight. The Voice was the product of a meeting between Griscom, the Argues, and the Cottrells, all of whom were, to say the least, active birders and all of whom thought there was a need for some sort of bird-reporting service. Henry Parker, another active birder who just happened to work for the New England Telephone Company, was contacted, and the Voice of Audubon (KENmore 6-4050) came into being in December 1954. A great success from its inception, the early years were particularly exciting. Not only was the Voice greeted with enthusiasm by birders, but it achieved considerable notoriety through demonstrations at sales meetings and boardrooms all across the country (and abroad) where it was presented as an example of the new communications frontier. Ruth was perfect for the job with her sure knowledge, her measured pace, and her clear diction; Ruth Emery was the Voice of Audubon for fifteen years.

By this time Ruth had already acquired a reputation as a skilled field birder, but it was her meticulous and methodical recordkeeping that garnered her the most admiration from the birding community. Records flowed in a constant stream from all over the Commonwealth and beyond to the one person who could assimilate, collate, and prepare them for publication in the *Records of New England Birds* and *Audubon Field Notes*, which she coedited for a number of years. During these most productive years she also wrote articles on birds for the various Society publications and occasional news releases on birds. Long after she officially retired from MAS in 1973, Ruth was actively involved in

assembling and collating records for *Bird Observer* and *American Birds*. Recognition of her preeminence among birders came when she was one of five women elected as the first women members of the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1974.

Ruth had an engaging personality and quick wit, and despite the occasional acerbic remark, Ruth inspired great loyalty from her friends and fans. The truth of this statement finds credence in the fact that Ruth never drove a car, yet could be found out birding every weekend or wandering about the country on her vacations in pursuit of birds. Of course, being the lady that she was, Ruth never asked to go birding, but she never lacked for birding companions and spent very few weekends languishing from a lack of attention, a remarkable testament to someone who remained an active birder well into her eighties. Having lived for fourscore and thirteen years, the list of Ruth's friends is long, but we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge those special friends of long standing like Sue Loring, Margaret and Arthur Argue, and Wallace and Priscilla Bailey, whose generosity and camaraderie were one of the constants in Ruth's life. Then we have the Higginbothams, Sib and Ruth, who were not only old friends, but whose efforts on her behalf in the last few years of her long life stretched the bonds of friendship to limits seldom reached but by the privileged few.

For more than half of Ruth P. Emery's long life, birds and birding were her passion. It was, therefore, not surprising when she made it known that because of this, and because of her high regard for the Society, she wanted to leave the proceeds from the sale of her house to the MAS. After discussion she decided that she wanted to establish a Fund for Field Ornithology, the income from which would be used to carry on those activities, such as the Voice of Audubon, which were dearest to Ruth's heart. I cannot think of a more fitting memorial and one that brings to full closure a rich and productive life while at the same time offering unlimited opportunity for future expansion. On behalf of birders everywhere and the MAS in particular, I want to acknowledge our deep debt to this truly remarkable lady.

JAMES BAIRD is himself a distinguished New England ornithologist. He has published over fifty articles on birds and mammals, authored three subspecies accounts of Savannah Sparrow in Bent's *Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows, and Allies*, and served as the editor of *Records of New England Birds* from 1963 to 1968. He recently retired as vice-president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS), having held several positions in the organization since 1961. As director of the MAS tours department, he has led or coled tours throughout the world. Jim describes himself as a "lifelong birder and ardent (but discouraged) conservationist."

BOOK REVIEW: *The Search for the Pink-Headed Duck*

by Mark Lynch

The Search for the Pink-Headed Duck by Rory Nugent. 1991. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. 222 pages, 1 map, 8 pages of photographs. \$19.95.

Many years ago I was hiking along a trail in the Monteverde Cloud Forest in Costa Rica when I met an American birding group on their way out. I asked one of the birders what they had seen. Of course the Resplendent Quetzal was mentioned, but when I pressed him for details of other species seen, the birder was at a loss. There were a lot of "ticks," but only the most obvious came to mind. After all, the birder confessed, they had come to Monteverde for one afternoon to tick off a set of birds, and then it was off to a new location and a new list. "Sort of the 'if this is Tuesday, that must be an Orange-Bellied Trogon' syndrome," I thought to myself. It was then that I began to have serious doubts about how birders see the world.

We are all familiar with this attitude. Birders choose where they travel based on the species present in that location. Usually the areas that offer the greatest number of species to tick off in the shortest amount of time are the most popular. The visiting birder's interaction with the indigenous peoples is usually of the most utilitarian kind. We talk to a precious few hotel clerks, guides, drivers, and local experts who know the location of a rarity. Occasionally we might have a "colorful" moment with a native if it does not interfere with the next twitch. Once in a country, we zip madly around eventually leaving exhausted but with a fattened life list. Many times we also depart with little genuine understanding of the people in whose country we have just made an ass of ourselves. We project an attitude that the world is our playground to use as we see fit, and nonbirders better make way.

The Search for the Pink-Headed Duck is the perfect antidote to this birder's malaise. Rory Nugent, modest adventurer and master raconteur, decided to leave his life in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and go to India to search for the thought-to-be extinct Pink-Headed Duck (*Rhodonessa caryophyllacea*). Now, Rory is no stranger to doing unusual things in out-of-the-way places, having sailed solo across the Atlantic Ocean four and one half times (therein lies a tale) and searched for the legendary beast M'koo-m'bembe in the Congo (he is currently writing the story of that bizarre adventure). He is also an enthusiastic birder, having developed a thirst for the avian pursuit on Martha's Vineyard several decades ago.

The last authenticated sighting of this duck was from the Darbhanga area of Bihar, in northeastern India along the Nepal border, in June 1935. Could the duck survive anywhere in this most populous of countries? Well, you could sit in your armchair and wonder all you want, but the only way to really find out whether the duck is still extant is to go and look for yourself. Can you imagine

most birders you know giving up months of valuable birding time in a search for a single species that they probably will not see in an area they know nothing about? Rory was not backed by the National Geographic Society, nor did he have any contacts to bring him to the prime areas, and it goes without saying that he was not interested in racking up 300 species in three weeks. He was totally on his own from day one. Through his book, Rory Nugent comes across to the reader simply as an extremely curious fellow who follows his inclinations into all sorts of strange situations. Basically, he takes the time to let himself be led in unforeseen directions when the opportunities present themselves.

Where would you start looking for a supposedly extinct duck in India? Rory starts by hanging around the famous waterfowl markets of Calcutta passing out color xeroxes of the duck and simply asking the locals if they had seen any Pink-Headed Ducks lately. After a couple of weeks of this, the workers in the market ceased thinking that Rory is a very dangerous lunatic and began presenting him with a variety of birds with dyed and spray-painted pink heads.

Only hours later another pink bird is laid at my feet. Fluorescent overspray dapples the sandals of the eager seller, Amrik, a young man who usually peddles screwdrivers and wrenches near the bus stop. What attracts me to Amrik, besides his winning smile, is his capacity for lying. He swears that he has just scooped the bird from the river, insisting that the coloring of all Indian birds comes off when touched by foreigners.

"It's your white skin crying for color," he tells me, gently stroking the bird.

When I point out that he's holding not a duck but a red turtledove, he quickly corrects me: "It may look like a biki (Dove) now, but it was a duck" (p. 11).

Realizing that this plan was getting him nowhere, Mr. Nugent then latches on to the idea that the duck may yet survive in the large, remote, and unpopulated areas of the Brahmaputra River, which runs along India's border with Tibet and Bangladesh. This area is not only closed to outsiders but is generally off limits to residents of southern India as well. In order to enter the area, a person must obtain an elusive permit from New Delhi. Shrugging off the initial denials from various officials, Rory persists in the face of a Kafkaesque bureaucracy and keeps pushing his request papers slowly along, a task worthy of Sisyphus. This tortuous process takes months and tremendous patience, all of which Mr. Nugent bears with unusual common sense and good humor.

Waiting for the papers, Rory visits Sikkim, where Tibetan nationals attempt to smuggle him across the border to document nuclear waste dumping by the Chinese. Here he also manages to wrestle with the impenetrable Giant Rhododendron forest, wanders into the Valley of Bliss, witnesses some mystical

phenomena, and keeps an eye out for the Abominable Snowman. In Darjeeling, Rory becomes involved with the shadowy Gurkha National Liberation Front. Through all these digressions, he never wavers in his obsessive search for the duck in question. All of these events are described in plainspoken and good-natured prose. Rory Nugent is by no means some macho Indiana Jones wannabe, but a sincerely interested and involved traveler to the far-flung areas of the globe. Early into the book, you begin to really like this guy who seems to combine a common-sense point of view with a habit of landing in some of the most unusual situations possible.

The centerpiece of the book is his trip down the mighty Brahmaputra River where he paddles a thirteen-foot skiff, christened the Lahey-Lahey, from Burma to Bangladesh with Shankar, an acquaintance he meets in a bookstore. Maps of this little known area are useless. The process known as river braiding changes the river's configurations on an almost daily basis as vast deposits of sediment from the Himalayas create and destroy islands and bars overnight. Crocodiles are a real and ever-present danger, and the travelers are haunted by persistent stories of ruthless river pirates. Amazingly, all the while, Rory searches doggedly for the Pink-Headed Duck in the vast untouched marshes along the river.

As we paddle through a string of midstream islands, we happen upon a kingdom of ducks. Swimming in the calm water, protected from the wind and safe from shore predators, are thousands upon thousands of waterfowl. Flocks of Spotbills and Little Grebes arch their necks as we coast by. At the edge of a flock a lookout squawks the alarm. At once there's the frantic tumult of wings and the soft patter of webbed feet racing across the water's surface. The ducks lift off, row after row, perfectly choreographed, their fluttering mass obscuring the sun. Like a pesky insect, we move through the flocks, watching the dance again and again.

I see splashes of emerald, red and blue feathers, plenty of downy white, and lots of speckles, but not one flash of sunset pink. Once, an odd duck in a flock of pochards catches my eye. Back paddling, I spin the Lahey-Lahey around and use the push pole to head for the duck, only to discover that it's a widgeon preening its dull, brownish-pink feathers (p. 153).

Suffice it to say that all of this makes for a ripping yarn in the great quest/adventure tradition. What is unique about the tale, however, is Rory Nugent's writing that combines an eye for detail with genuine humor. Furthermore, there is an engaging sense of place and people in this book. There are no grand pronouncements on the fate of India, but rather a series of fascinating and intimate sketches on a personal scale of an area of the world

most of us know little about. A key to the success of the writing is that Mr. Nugent never loses his humble perspective that he is a mere foreigner in an unfamiliar and complex culture. Finally, this is a great birding book. That passionate search for the big rarity is something all of us can identify with. In this book we find the thrill, taken to its most rewarding extreme, that one feels finding a Terek Sandpiper in the salt pans or spotting a Black-Capped Petrel during a hurricane .

MARK LYNCH is a relentless birder who also happens to be a teacher/docent at the Worcester Art Museum, an ecological monitor at the new Broad Meadow Brook Audubon Sanctuary in Worcester, and the host of *Inquiry*, a talk show of the arts and sciences on radio station WICN. He interviewed Rory Nugent on that show.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CANADA GOOSE PROJECT

The Atlantic Flyway is sponsoring a study of migrant and resident Canada Geese. From Prince Edward Island to South Carolina, Canada Geese have been marked with flexible white or yellow neckbands. Volunteers are desperately needed to make observations throughout the flyway. If you are interested in becoming an observer, please call Jay Hestbeck at 413-545-4889, or write to:

Massachusetts Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
204 Holdsworth Hall
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003.

FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

DECOY BEHAVIOR OF GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS AT NEST

At 12:15 P.M. on June 9, 1991, just off Uptack Road in Groveland, Massachusetts, I observed a male and a female Golden-winged Warbler foraging in a chickadee-like manner high in pine and deciduous trees bordering a high-tension powerline. They caught larvae and winged insects and carried them to bushes beneath the powerline about thirty feet away. They caught larvae and winged insects and carried them to bushes beneath the powerline about thirty feet away. After catching an insect, the birds would fly with the insects to several different places in the tall trees before flying to four-by-six foot high bushes or saplings.



The warblers may have exhibited a decoy behavior by flying with food to different bushes. Only one bird approached the bushes at a time; the other remained with its insect in the tall trees. Each bird typically flew to one of three bushes, where it paused in full view for a few seconds. Then it dropped down, out of view. After a few seconds, the bird reappeared, sometimes without the food, but many times with the insect still in its bill. When it reappeared without an insect, the bird was always on or near the same bush, thus indicating the probable location of a nest. I heard high-pitched chirping sounds coming from the base of the bush, possibly indicating young in a nest. However, when the bird reappeared still with an insect after dropping down into a bush, it either flew directly to another bush or flew back to the tall trees before flying to another bush.

Decoy behavior by these warblers could be an effort to keep predators from finding the nest. I did not approach close enough to see either the nest or young birds. I observed these warblers for about forty-five minutes, and saw the following other species (number of individuals) within about 100 feet: Brown-headed Cowbird (4), Blue Jay (2), Northern Oriole (2), Prairie Warbler, House Wren, Northern Mockingbird, and Red-winged Blackbird. At one point, a Blue Jay flew within about ten feet of the Golden-winged Warblers. An American Crow flew over. There was also evidence of heavy human activity within ten to fifteen feet of the bushes. The path was well worn, some saplings and bushes had been cut down, and there were large tire tracks in the muddy ground.

Robert C. Bradbury, Worcester, Massachusetts

HUMMINGBIRDS IN A HURRICANE

On August 18, 1991, the night before Hurricane Bob, I busily readied our North Kingstown, Rhode Island, home for the storm. We live less than three miles from Narragansett Bay, so I expected the worst. Knowing the energy needs of hummingbirds, however, I did not take down our hummingbird feeder, which hung on a long hook from the porch gutter. Instead I wrapped a thin piece of rope around the feeder's stem and tied the rope to a brick placed on the porch steps directly below.

The feeder had been regularly visited by at least one female Ruby-throated Hummingbird all summer. Judging from the storm predictions, I expected that she might feed for a few hours in the morning before the winds picked up, and then perhaps again before nightfall if the winds calmed sufficiently.

I watched her briefly at the feeder at 7:00 A.M. the day of the storm, and then got busy with other things. I do not know when she stopped coming before the height of the storm.

At 2:00 P.M. the eye of the storm was in the West Passage of Narragansett Bay. Within a half hour the eye had disappeared as the storm weakened, but damaging winds continued in our area. As the storm tore through our neighborhood, it downed several large pines, split an oak tree down the middle, and snapped off tree limbs, large and small. As I watched out the sliding glass doors to the porch, the torrential rain subsided and finally ended.

At 3:30 P.M., after the rain stopped, a hummingbird arrived back at the feeder. Rainwater had raised the fluid level, but the dilution was not enough to make the feeder unattractive. She perched on rather than hovered at the feeder, drank eagerly, and took off in a straight line to the south across the open area of our backyard. Quickly I prepared some high-concentrate sugar water, tilted the feeder to pour off some of the diluted liquid, and added the new mixture.

At 3:45 P.M. she was at the feeder again for the first of five visits in the next half hour. I was amazed at her ability to navigate the continuing gale force winds. (Although the center of the storm was in the Boston area by 4:00 P.M., the huge trunk of a white pine snapped in two in our neighborhood around that time, and a large oak limb broke off across the street as late at 5:30 P.M.)

Each time, she came directly from the south and took off in a straight line in that direction. Could she still have been feeding young? The latest egg-laying dates for the species (based on New York observations) is July 25 (*Rhode Island Breeding Bird Atlas*, undated, "Species Accounts," p. 8). Allowing for incubation time, I concluded she could indeed still be tending nestlings or new fledglings.

At 4:25 P.M., for the first time that afternoon, the female hummingbird at the feeder took off in a different direction. From then on, sometimes she made a beeline due south and at other times flew off in other directions. Not until 5:07

P.M., when I observed a brief skirmish between two females at the feeder, did I realize that since 4:25 P.M., I had probably been watching two birds.

What are my conclusions from these observations? Hummingbirds will brave the rigors of a hurricane except during the peak hours of the storm. Amazingly, these tiny dynamos can cope with even gale force winds to meet their need for high-energy food. Maternal instincts may even shorten the period in which they ride out the storm without feeding. The first hummingbird, which may have still been tending a dependent brood, ventured out into the storm almost an hour earlier than the second bird.

While sugar water is not a balanced diet, it is a high-energy supplement that can help hummingbirds through those critical hours when finding natural food is very difficult. The hurricane season begins early enough to impact the survival of hummingbird young as well as adults. It continues throughout the migration period, when maintaining peak strength is especially important and hummingbird energy needs are very high.

So, do not take down your hummingbird feeder in a storm. Secure it in position instead. While hummingbird feeders are more for human enjoyment rather than for hummingbird survival at other times, they may mean the difference between life and death in a hurricane.

Richard F. Graefe, North Kingstown, Rhode Island

FORSTER'S TERN NESTING IN PLUM ISLAND MARSHES

On June 10, 1991, while censusing breeding Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) colonies in the marshes behind Plum Island, we discovered a single pair of Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) on a nest within a small Common Tern colony. We were within a colony situated around several small salt pans on the open marsh near the mouth of the Parker River counting Common Terns overhead, when we heard a series of calls clearly different from those of the Common Terns. Training our binoculars in on this higher pitched, more abrupt call, we observed what we suspected to be a pair of Forster's Terns. Returning to our boat at the colony's edge, we saw the pair land at an apparent nest. We confirmed the two birds as Forster's Terns, with their distinct orangish bill and pale body. We quickly went to the spot where the birds landed and found a nest with two eggs. The nest was built on a small pile of wrack (dead grasses and leaves deposited during a flood tide) and was almost identical in appearance to the Common Tern nests surrounding it. Back at the boat we again observed the two Forster's Terns land at the nest site and resume incubation. Unfortunately, we had no camera to record the nest or adults and were unable to return to the

nest to determine productivity. However, based on the above criteria, we are convinced that this pair of Forster's Terns was nesting.

According to Brad Blodget, Massachusetts state ornithologist, this observation would represent the first nesting record for the Forster's Tern in Massachusetts and most likely in New England. Reviewing *Bird Observer* Field Records from past years, Forster's Terns are observed in small numbers most years in Massachusetts, and are usually found around Monomoy Island off of Cape Cod. Also, *Bird Observer* (Vol. 18:5) reported in the Field Records from June 1990 that "an apparently mated pair" of Forster's Terns was observed at Plum Island. This observation, combined with our own sighting, will prompt us to look harder for breeding Forster's Terns in the Essex County marshes in 1992.

David Rimmer and Russ Hopping, Beverly, Massachusetts

LEUCISTIC BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

Having read the article on aberrantly pigmented goldfinches in the December 1990 issue of *Bird Observer*, I thought the enclosed photo of a leucistic Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) would be of interest to your readers.

It appeared in my yard in the company of several normally colored individuals on an overcast mid-20s°F day in January 1991, and fed with seeming familiarity from a hanging sunflower seed feeder. The other chickadees frequently acted aggressively toward it, beyond the normal pecking order interactions of the species. I observed it for perhaps ten minutes and have not seen it since.

The typical black cap, and to a lesser extent the black bib, have been largely replaced by white feathers. It is interesting to further note that the bill pigmentation is also abnormal, with the outer portion of the lower mandible and the entire upper mandible very light in color.

Michael Onyon, Haverhill, Massachusetts



THE SPRUCE GROUSE

It was a cool and breezy August afternoon in Algonquin National Park, in the vast wilderness of Ontario, Canada. The fluffy clouds moved along from horizon to horizon, now and again blotting out the sun and laying a blanket of cool shade on the shaking aspen leaves and the dark green spruce and pine. A hint of fall was in the air. The 3:00 P.M. shadows were growing longer, and the birds were quiet and still, although at one point my eyes were drawn to movement a few feet away as a Red-breasted Nuthatch slowly spiraled its way up the trunk of a small spruce. A single Yellow-rumped Warbler flashed from the dense ferns through which I was walking and peered at me from behind a spruce bough. I followed a deer trail through the ferns and entered a small open glade near the edge of the spruce bog. In the clearing a few stumps and small saplings poked above the dense fern carpet, and to my right the clearing was bordered by a pine tree, perhaps thirty feet tall. As I passed this tree, which dwarfed the others in the clearing, my eye caught a silhouette that froze me in my tracks. About halfway up the tree a Spruce Grouse stood outlined against the sky.

In my binoculars the silhouette became a pattern of black, white, and brown, the white breast sporting a black bull's-eye, a puff of fiery red above the eye: a male bird. As I watched the grouse, he watched me, craning his neck to get a better view. Spruce Grouse have a reputation for being absurdly tame, and this individual was certainly no exception. He stopped looking at me, and as he began to walk slowly along a branch, I approached to within twenty feet,



Spruce Grouse

Illustration by William E. Davis, Jr.

stopping when I reached the focusing limit of my binoculars. He was beautiful with his chocolate colored back and gray tail with buffy tips. The black chin, breast band, and spot were set in white which melted into the wavy browns and russets of his contour feathers, all highlighted by the flashes of brilliant red bare skin patches above each eye. He was very conspicuous in the tree, but would have been virtually invisible among the brown twisted ferns and sphagnum hummocks on the ground.

When he walked, his tail drooped, giving him a distinctly hump-backed appearance. I could see his outer toes sticking out to the sides as he walked steadily along a narrow branch, perhaps the size of my finger. His thigh feathers were long, extending all the way down between his toes, providing insulation against the bitter cold of the Ontario winters. He walked like a tightrope walker, slowly, one foot in front of the other with his middle toes pointed directly along the branch. Once he took a few quick steps, breaking the rhythm of his walk.

Eventually he stopped and began to eat the pine needles. Spruce Grouse have digestive systems adapted to the processing of spruce and pine needles, which, in winter, may constitute nearly 100 percent of their diet. They are not often hunted by man because their flesh is considered virtually inedible, their taste reflecting their diet of spruce and pine. He would work over one leaf in a spray of the long-needled pine, taking perhaps a half-inch of needle with each clip. Sometimes he worked on an entire spray at the same time, taking turns on the needles, resembling someone clipping a hedge. He never finished a spray, but typically, after eating about halfway down four or five needles, stopped and with great deliberation, walked on to another bough. Once he stopped and scratched his chin with the toes of his right foot, his head fully extended, reminding me a great deal of my dog. He was very deliberate in his feeding, often taking a minute or two between feeding bouts. As he walked up and through the tree, I circled around to keep him in good light. At the edge of the tree he walked out onto two small tangled boughs, each with a stem about the thickness of a pencil and a few small open cones among the sprays. He fed from spray to spray on one of the boughs, then scratched his chin again and hopped onto the second bough. The two boughs separated, one snapping up and above him, leaving him flapping wildly to maintain his balance on the sagging second bough. Undaunted he began to snip away at the new sprays of needles. I glanced at my watch. It was 3:45 P.M., and I had been watching this fascinating bird for more than a half hour. I decided that I had bothered him enough, and quietly slipped back onto the deer trail and continued on my way through the spruce bog. When I passed this tree on my return a half hour later, the grouse was gone. The silhouette across the clearing had melted into the lichen-decorated boughs of spruce and pine, and faded into a memory.

William E. Davis, Jr., Foxboro, Massachusetts

Late Winter–Spring Workshops

Raptor Rapture – a workshop on hawks, owls, and wildlife

The stark landscape of late winter is often accented by the appearance of a solitary hawk perched in a leafless tree or the methodical coursing of a hungry harrier gliding over a grassy meadow. After dark, these images are replaced by the sinister glare of the Great Horned Owl and the booming cadence of a hooting Barred Owl. These are raptors—predators whose very presence help keep natural populations in balance.

This workshop will investigate the many adaptations that make hawks and owls such remarkable hunting machines and that contribute to their success as predators. Aspects of population regulation and breeding biology will be considered at a time of year when both winter survival strategies and courtship and nesting activity are occurring simultaneously. A full-day field trip beginning before dawn will provide the chance to see local raptors and observe some of the behaviors discussed during the indoor session. Seminar: Friday, March 6, 1992. Field Trip: Saturday, March 14, 1992. Cost: \$35.

Vagrants and Vagrancy, Records and Rarities – a workshop for serious birders

The search for and discovery of unusual and out-of-range bird species is a challenge that sparks and sustains the interest of many birders. Enjoyable as the quest for finding vagrants may be, developing an understanding of the dynamics of vagrancy can be equally intriguing. An examination of the factors that may explain the occurrence of accidental avian visitors in Massachusetts will provide background for a roll call discussion of the approximately 150 vagrant species on the Massachusetts state bird list.

In addition to summarizing existing rarity records, thoughts will be provided on what future vagrants should be expected in Massachusetts and where and when they might occur. Also, guidelines for documenting unusual bird sightings will be suggested, and background on the recently created Massachusetts Avian Records Committee will be provided. A field trip to the Plum Island area (while not promising to locate any vagrants!) will help participants become more proficient at making observations and taking field notes when unusual birds are discovered.

Seminar: Friday, March 27, 1992. Field Trip: Sunday, March 29, 1992. Cost: \$35.

The Coming of Spring – a workshop on the return of spring to Massachusetts

Spring is a season eagerly anticipated by birders and naturalists. With lengthening days and rising temperatures, the ice and snow of winter disappear, and southwest winds usher in returning migrant birds. Spring wildflowers bloom, pussy willows pop, and long-hidden amphibians make their way to vernal breeding ponds. Such are the rites of spring.

Participants will examine the ecological factors and elements that make spring such an exciting season for the naturalist. More than just a season of returning waterfowl, migrating hawks, and early warblers, April provides a host of natural phenomena that often go overlooked by zealous birders. This workshop will take birders beyond the bird list and into the realm of field natural history during a season when there is lots to see.

Seminar: Friday, April 24, 1992. Field Trip: Sunday, April 26, 1992. Cost: \$35.

These workshops are cosponsored by *Bird Observer* and the Needham Bird Club and will be presented by Wayne R. Petersen. Seminar sessions will be held in Needham, MA, from 7:30-9:30 P.M. Directions to the seminars will be sent to registrants. Details about the field trips will be announced at the seminars preceding them. If you have questions, please call 617-666-8934 (evenings). Preregistration is required.

To register, send your name, address, and phone numbers with your check payable to Bird Observer to Bird Observer Workshops, P. O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02174.

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

Bird Observer is intended for both amateur and professional audiences. We encourage articles that enhance our readers' knowledge and enjoyment of birds and that are easily understood by amateurs. Scientific and technical articles are peer-reviewed and are abstracted for *The Auk's* "Recent Ornithological Literature." *Bird Observer* wishes to encourage strongly submission of original papers by both amateurs and professionals, and the entire *Bird Observer* staff stands ready to assist authors in completing a final manuscript.

Bird Observer solicits articles in the following areas:

- where to bird in New England and, occasionally, elsewhere in the United States or foreign locations of interest to New England birders
- species distribution
- field studies and population surveys
- avian behavior, ecology, adaptation, evolution, and genetics
- bird identification
- where and when to find a particular species coveted by New England birders
- birding techniques, behavior, and equipment
- profiles of New England ornithologists, interviews with wildlife scientists, and profiles of local or regional ornithological organizations in New England
- field observations, notes, and reports
- vagrancy and extralimital observations
- reviews of bird-related literature, books, videotapes, and recordings.

Papers of general interest will be considered regardless of their geographic origin, but particularly desired are papers dealing with New England birds (residents, breeders, migrants, and vagrants) and with studies accomplished in or pertaining to the New England states. Guidance on the length, format, and other information for submitted material is given on the masthead of each issue. *Bird Observer* will make every effort to publish articles as quickly and as timely as possible, and will keep authors informed of the status of their articles.

Bird Observer has prepared a style guide and a list of points which should be covered in a "where to find birds" article, either of which potential authors may wish to use while writing an article. If interested, please ask for copies from the editor in chief.

The entire *Bird Observer* staff wishes to thank everyone who has contributed articles in the past and encourages both amateurs and professionals to contribute material for publication. We look forward to working with you.

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FIELD RECORDS

JULY 1991

by Robert H. Stymeist

July 1991 will be remembered for high temperatures, with nine days exceeding ninety degrees. A six-day heat wave, July 16-21, tied for the third longest in July records. Rain totaled 1.95 inches. Six days had measurable rainfall, with the most in any 24-hour period, 1.17 inches, falling on July 26-27. Sunshine was 70 percent of possible, making this the sunniest July since 1983. Thunderstorms were heard on just two days, and no heavy fog was noted.

R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Pelagic birding on Stellwagen Bank was a disappointment all month. Wilson's Storm-Petrels were the only birds reported above single digits. A trip well offshore to Lydonia and Hydrographer canyons produced few birds as well, although 24 **Audubon's Shearwaters** were tallied in these warmer waters. In Hull, a Manx Shearwater was seen circling under the lights in a Nantucket beach parking lot at 10:15 P.M.

Least Bitterns were noteworthy for their absence, especially at Hellcat Swamp on Plum Island. Normally easily found along the dikes during midsummer, only one bird was reported all month.

Among waterfowl, nonbreeding summering birds included a Redhead, King Eider, and a Brant, the latter with an injured wing.

R. H. S.

Common Loon			
3, 23	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), P'town	3, 3	T. Aversa, K. Jones
25	S. Monomoy	4	B. Nikula
Pied-billed Grebe			
13	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale
Cory's Shearwater			
5	Georges Bank, Lydonia C.	1, 5	M. Gooley#
6	Hydrographer Canyon	3	M. Gooley#
Greater Shearwater			
4, 5	Stellwagen, Georges Bank	4, 60+	R. Stymeist#, M. Gooley
Sooty Shearwater			
5, 12	Georges Bank, Stellwagen	1, 1	M. Gooley#, M. Lynch#
Manx Shearwater			
6	Hydrographer Canyon	1	M. Gooley#
10, 28	Stellwagen, Hull	2, 1	H. Weisberg#, D. Morimoto
Audubon's Shearwater			
5, 6	Lydonia C., Hydrographer C.	23, 1	M. Gooley#
Wilson's Storm-Petrel			
4, 12	Stellwagen	275, 100+	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#
5	Georges Bank	100+	M. Gooley#
6	Hydrographer Canyon	25	M. Gooley#
Leach's Storm-Petrel			
5	Georges Bank, Lydonia C.	10, 10	M. Gooley#
6	Hydrographer Canyon	65	M. Gooley#
Double-crested Cormorant			
12, 20	Boston Harbor, Wachusett Res.	750+, 47	M. Lynch#
Least Bittern			
6, 7-31	W. Harwich, W. Newbury	1, 1	B. Nikula, J. Berry# + v. o.
21	P.I.	1	G. Gove
American Bittern			
13	P.I.	2	R. Stymeist
Great Blue Heron			
thr	GMNWR	47 max 7/28	v. o.
thr	P.I.	20 max 7/24	v. o.
Great Egret			
thr, 25	P.I., S. Monomoy	37 max 7/25, 11	v.o., B. Nikula

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	
Snowy Egret				
thr	P.I.	125 max 7/25	v. o.	
thr	E. Boston	50 max 7/21	v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	60 max 7/28	LCES (J. Hill)	
Little Blue Heron				
thr	Essex-Ipswich	4 ad max	v. o.	
1	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2 ad	LCES (J. Hill)	
23	Squantum	1 ad	R. Donovan	
Cattle Egret				
thr	Essex-Ipswich	36 max 7/31	v. o.	
Green-backed Heron				
thr, 1	P.I., W. Gloucester	9 max, 1 (on nest)		v. o., T. Young
Yellow-crowned Night Heron				
25, 29; 27	P.I.; Squantum	1; 1	W. Drew#; R. Donovan	
Glossy Ibis				
thr	P.I., N. Monomoy	38 max 7/10, 8 max	v. o.	
Mute Swan				
thr	Westport	120 max 7/3	T. Aversa + v. o.	
Brant				
13-31	P.I.	1	v. o.	
Wood Duck				
thr	GMNWR, Wakefield	51 max 7/13, 20+	v. o., P. + F. Vale	
8, 24	Milford, ONWR	20, 27	T. Aversa	
Green-winged Teal				
25	S. Monomoy	5	B. Nikula	
American Black Duck				
25	S. Monomoy	60	B. Nikula	
Mallard				
18, 25	Dorchester, S. Monomoy	103, 45	R. Donovan, B. Nikula	
Northern Pintail				
25	S. Monomoy	12	B. Nikula	
Northern Shoveler				
25	S. Monomoy	4	B. Nikula	
American Wigeon				
13, 25	P.I., S. Monomoy	2, 1	R. Stymeist, B. Nikula	
Redhead				
5	Newburyport	1 f	R. Forster	
Common Eider				
thr, 4	N. Monomoy, Gloucester	110 max, 26	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
King Eider				
5-27	P.I.	1 imm m	R. Forster + v. o.	
Black Scoter				
26	Bourne	1	C. Ewer	
White-winged Scoter				
9	N. Monomoy	8	B. Nikula	
Red-breasted Merganser				
28	Westport	2	M. Rines#	
Ruddy Duck				
25	S. Monomoy	5	B. Nikula	

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

An injured **Black Vulture** was captured alive at Nauset Beach in Eastham on July 3. The bird was taken to a rehabilitation center on the Cape and released on July 12. Peregrine Falcons continued all month in Boston. Unfortunately, an airplane at Logan Airport hit and killed a fledged bird after it had been on the wing for about a month.

Two Clapper Rails were found in the Squantum marshes late in the month, and one or both birds could be seen each day. A Sora was also seen in the same area. An adult **Sandhill Crane** was found on Plum Island, where it remained behind the Pines Nature Trail for three days.

R. H. S.

Black Vulture

3	Orleans (Nauset Beach)	1	fide R. Roberts
Turkey Vulture			
3	S. Dartmouth	11	T. Aversa
Osprey			
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	12 max 7/10	LCES (J. Hill) + v. o.
thr	P.I.	3 max	v. o.
thr	Westport, Nantucket	95 max 7/28, 3 max	R. Stymeist#, J. Papale
9, 13	GMNWR, Boston	1, 1	T. Aversa, K. Hudson

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1991
Bald Eagle				
thr, 8	P'town, Scituate	1 imm, 1 imm	K. Jones, S. Hecker#	
15, 25	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	1 imm, 1 imm	M. Boucher, B. Nikula	
Northern Harrier				
25	S. Monomoy	2 f + 3 juv	B. Nikula	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
1	N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher	
Cooper's Hawk				
6, 14	N. Dartmouth, Essex	1, 1	M. Boucher, T. Young	
27, 31	Holden, MNWS	1 ad, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Northern Goshawk				
1, 12	Holliston, Hingham	1 ad, 1 ad	T. Aversa, R. Campbell	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
thr	E. Middleboro	pr	K. Anderson	
thr	Sherborn	2 ad 3 imm (in nest)	E. Taylor	
Broad-winged Hawk				
21, 22	Hingham, Randolph	1, 1	R. Campbell, G. d'Entremont	
American Kestrel				
thr, 3	Saugus, Middleboro	2 or 3, 5	J. Berry, T. Aversa	
13	W. Roxbury	3	T. Aversa	
Peregrine Falcon				
thr	Boston	2 ad	v.o.	
Northern Bobwhite				
1, 7	W. Gloucester, W. Newbury	1, 3 or 4	T. Young, J. Berry	
13, 14	W. Roxbury, Boston Harbor	4, 1	T. Aversa, BBC (P. Stevens)	
14, 16	Newburyport, Sudbury	2, 3	M. Rines#, R. Forster	
Clapper Rail				
21-31	Squantum	2	R. Donovan + v. o.	
Virginia Rail				
thr, 2	GMNWR, Nantucket	6 max 7/13, 1	v. o., J. Papale	
7, 13-23	W. Newbury, Dorchester	2, 3 max	J. Berry#, R. Donovan#	
Sora				
2, 9	Essex, GMNWR	1, 1	T. Young, S. Arena	
23-31, 29	Squantum, Boston (Fenway)	1, 1	R. Donovan, K. Hudson	
Sandhill Crane				
13-15	P.I.	1 ad	R. Stymeist# + v. o.	

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

The first southbound shorebird migration was evident by July 4, and shorebirds were the main attraction by month's end. Unlike July 1990 (Spotted Redshank and Bar-tailed Godwit), no unusual birds appeared, although a Curlew Sandpiper turned up on Monomoy. North Monomoy was easier to reach this year with regular service offered by Captain Keith Lincoln from Morris Island in Chatham. The highlights, all on North Monomoy, included a count of 722 Whimbrels flying to an evening roost, over 250 Willets, including 15 of the western race, and 4500 Short-billed Dowitchers, 200 more than July 1990.

The Glaucous Gull, first found on June 17, was still present on Breeds Pond in Lynn on July 22. Royal Terns were noted from Hull and North Monomoy.

R. H. S.

Black-bellied Plover				
thr	N. Monomoy, P.I.	200 max, 90 max	B. Nikula + v. o., W. Drew#	
Semipalmated Plover				
thr	N. Monomoy	500 max 7/31	B. Nikula + v. o.	
thr	P.I.	150 max 7/27	W. Drew#	
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	348 max 7/30	D. Rimmer#	
14	Barnstable (S.N.)	50	G. Ferguson	
Piping Plover				
thr	Eastham-P'town	27 nesting pr	K. Jones	
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	10-12 nesting pr	D. Rimmer#	
1, 2	Cuttyhunk, S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	10, 17	B. Blodgett, G. Gove	
6	Barnstable (S.N.), P.I.	4, 7	G. Ferguson, D. Defik	
28	Westport	9	R. Stymeist#	
Killdeer				
5	Norwell, DWWS	14, 6	D. Clapp	
31	Ipswich (Northgate Fields)	46	T. Aversa	
American Oystercatcher				
thr, 1	N. Monomoy, Cuttyhunk	60 max 7/31, 2	B. Nikula, B. Blodgett	
25, 26	Squantum, Nantucket	5, 7	R. Donovan, J. Papale	
Greater Yellowlegs				
thr	N. Monomoy, P.I.	75 max, 80 max	B. Nikula, M. Lynch# + v. o.	
13	Newburyport (airport)	180+	R. Stymeist#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1991
Lesser Yellowlegs thr 13, 27	N. Monomoy, P.I. Newburyport	100 max, 115 max 270, 450	B. Nikula#, W. Drew# R. Stymeist#, R. Forster	
Solitary Sandpiper 13, 19; 15 20-31, 24	Wakefield; Boston Holden, Bolton Flats	1, 2; 1 7 max, 2	P. + F. Vale; K. Hudson M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Willet thr thr 27, 28	N. Monomoy P.I. Nantucket, S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	250 max 7/22 11 max 7/10 7, 19	B. Nikula + v. o. W. Drew# J. Papale, LCES (J. Hill)	
Willet (western race) 2-31	N. Monomoy	15 max 7/22	B. Nikula + v. o.	
Spotted Sandpiper 21, 28	P.I., Westport	3, 27	BBC (C. Floyd), R. Stymeist#	
Upland Sandpiper thr 3, 18	Newburyport Halifax, DWWS	1 or 2 1, 1	v. o. T. Aversa, D. Clapp	
Whimbrel 9-31 24 24-31 28	N. Monomoy S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Newburyport Westport, Nantucket	722 max 7/27 24 25 max 7/25 1, 18	W. Harrington + v. o. M. Boucher S. Arena + v. o. M. Rines#, E. Andrews#	
Hudsonian Godwit thr 5-31, 21	N. Monomoy Newburyport, E. Boston	70 max 7/22 22 max 7/29, 8	B. Nikula + v. o. v. o., T. Aversa	
Marbled Godwit 2, 31	N. Monomoy	1 ad, 1 juv	B. Nikula	
Ruddy Turnstone thr, 28	P.I., Westport	19 max 7/31, 65	v. o., R. Stymeist#	
Red Knot thr 27-31	N. Monomoy P.I.	500 max 7/22 4 max 7/29	B. Nikula# v. o.	
Sanderling thr 18-31, 30	Ipswich (C.B.) N. Monomoy, Nantucket	348 max 7/28 250 max, 11	D. Rimmer# B. Nikula#, J. Papale	
Semipalmated Sandpiper thr thr thr	N. Monomoy P.I. Ipswich (C.B.)	2000 max 7/31 845 max 7/25 571 max 7/30	B. Nikula# W. Drew# D. Rimmer#	
Least Sandpiper thr, 25 thr, 13	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy P.I., Orleans (New I.)	1500 max 7/18, 400 120 max 7/27, 122	B. Nikula M. Lynch#, K. Jones	
White-rumped Sandpiper 15-31, 27 28, 30	P.I., Newburyport S. Dart. (Allens Pd), Squantum	6 max 7/15, 1 5, 2	v. o., R. Forster LCES (J. Hill), R. Donovan	
Pectoral Sandpiper 27	P.I.	2	R. Forster	
Dunlin 14	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
Curlew Sandpiper 18, 20	Chatham (S. Beach I.), N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula + v. o.	
Stilt Sandpiper 5, 13, 21, 27 25	P.I. S. Monomoy	1, 2, 2, 3 12	v. o. B. Nikula	
Ruff (details submitted) 5	Newburyport	1 f	R. Forster	
Short-billed Dowitcher thr 3, 5-31 14, 21	N. Monomoy Middleboro, P.I. Barnstable (S.N.), E. Boston	4500 max 7/18 1, 586 max 7/25 200, 280	B. Nikula + v. o. T. Aversa, W. Drew# + v. o. G. Ferguson, T. Aversa#	
Long-billed Dowitcher 21-31; 25, 28	P.I.; S. Monomoy	16 max 7/25; 2, 2 v. o.;	B. Nikula#	
American Woodcock 6, 30	Milton (F.M.), Ipswich (C.B.)	4, 2	G. d'Entremont, D. Rimmer#	
Wilson's Phalarope 13, 15	P.I.	1	R. Stymeist# + v. o.	
Red-necked Phalarope 28	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula# + v. o.	
Parasitic Jaeger 6	Hydrographer Canyon	2	M. Gooley#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1991
Laughing Gull 15, 21 25, 29	E. Boston, N. Monomoy Lynn, E. Boston (Suffolk)	14, 20 11, 84	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist# J. Quigley	
Bonaparte's Gull thr, 7 25, 27	Ipswich (C.B.), P.I. Lynn, Newburyport	25-45, 1 imm 12, 130	D. Rimmer#, I. Lynch# J. Quigley, R. Forster	
Ring-billed Gull 24, 29	P.I., E. Boston	236, 114	R. Forster, J. Quigley	
Herring Gull 12	Lynn (Breeds Pd)	478	J. Quigley	
Glaucous Gull 22	Lynn (Breeds Pd)	1	J. Quigley	
Great Black-backed Gull 12	Lynn (Breeds Pd)	115	J. Quigley	
Royal Tern 16, 31	Hull, N. Monomoy	2, 1	B. Cassie, B. Nikula	
Roseate Tern 21	N. Monomoy	30	R. Stymeist#	
Arctic Tern thr	N. Monomoy	5 max	B. Nikula + v. o.	
Forster's Tern 24	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	M. Boucher	
Least Tern thr	Ipswich (C.B.), P.I.	100+ pr, 10 max	D. Rimmer#, W. Drew#	
Black Tern 9-21 27	N. Monomoy Newburyport	3 max 7/21 1 ad	G. Gove# + v. o. R. Forster	

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Whip-poor-wills were plentiful in Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth, and a **Chuck-will's-widow** was calling at Edgartown Great Pond on Martha's Vineyard on July 10. Acadian Flycatchers, both singing and in suitable breeding habitats, were noted in Middleboro and South Dartmouth. Cerulean Warblers continued to breed in the Gate 40 area of Quabbin, now in their third consecutive year. A lone male Prothonotary Warbler continued to sing, looking for a mate, at Great Meadows through at least July 14. The bird had been in the same area since May 22.

Finally, an adult male Evening Grosbeak was seen feeding 3 young at a feeder in Princeton. This is only the second confirmed breeding record for Massachusetts. R. H. S.

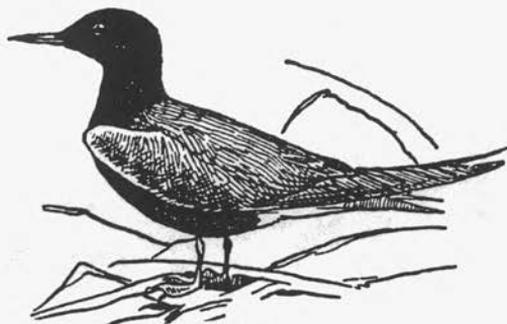
Mourning Dove thr	Essex	250+ max 7/22	T. Young
Black-billed Cuckoo thr	Reports of 15 individuals from 8 locations		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1, 4 6, 28	Petersham, Concord E. Middleboro, Quabbin (G40)	2, 2 ad + 2 yg in nest 1, 1	G. Gove, C. Floyd K. Anderson, M. Lynch#
Short-eared Owl 2, 27	Nantucket (Eel Pt)	1	E. Andrews, J. Papale
Northern Saw-whet Owl 2, 11, 18	Plymouth (Myles Standish)	2, 1, 1	G. d'Entremont
Common Nighthawk 1	Watertown	1	R. Stymeist
Chuck-will's-widow 10	Edgartown (Great Pd)	1	S. Jackson
Whip-poor-will 2, 11, 18, 25 15	Plymouth (Myles Standish) Dover	17, 21, 19, 11 1	G. d'Entremont E. Taylor
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 3 7, 10	Yarmouthport, N. Middleboro Bolton Flats, Hopkinton	1, 2 1, 2	K. Hamilton, K. Holmes M. Lynch#, G. Gove
Hairy Woodpecker 4, 6	Quabbin (G40), Milton (F.M.)	6, 3	G. Gove, G. d'Entremont
Pileated Woodpecker 15	Acton	1	C. Seeckts
Eastern Wood-Pewee 28	Quabbin (G40)	8	M. Lynch#
Acadian Flycatcher 2, 3	Middleboro, S. Dartmouth	1 m, 1 m	T. Aversa
Alder Flycatcher 7, 28	Bolton Flats, Quabbin (G40)	1, 3	M. Lynch#

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1991
Willow Flycatcher 6, 7	Milton (F.M.), Bolton Flats	4, 7	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
7	W. Newbury	pr on nest	J. Berry#	
14	Worc. (BMB)	pr feeding yg	R. Bradbury	
Least Flycatcher 1, 4	Petersham, Quabbin (G40)	4, 3	G. Gove	
7	Bolton Flats	4 w/3 fledglings	M. Lynch#	
Eastern Kingbird thr	Sherborn, P.I.	8 max, 16 max	E. Taylor, v. o.	
Horned Lark 13, 26	P.I. Nantucket	1, 2	R. Stymeist, J. Papale	
Purple Martin thr	P.I.	40 max	v. o.	
Tree Swallow 13	P.I.	1000+	R. Stymeist	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 6, 13	Milton (F.M.), W. Roxbury	5, 7	T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont	
Bank Swallow thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	100-600+ max	7/20 D. Rimmer#	
Cliff Swallow 18, 21	Mansfield, Rutland	1, 5	K. Holmes, M. Lynch#	
Barn Swallow 21, 29	New Braintree, Milford	110, 60+	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Fish Crow 4, 6	Gloucester, Arlington	1, 1	M. Lynch#, M. Rines	
11	Watertown	1	R. Stymeist	
Common Raven 21	New Braintree	1	M. Lynch#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch 3-10, 10	E. Middleboro, Sharon	3+, 1	K. Anderson, K. Holmes	
14, 19	Acton, Nantucket	1, 1	R. Forster, J. Papale	
20, 28	Ipswich, Quabbin (G40)	2, 16	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
Carolina Wren thr	Reports of 27 individuals from 12 locations.			
House Wren 1, 28	Petersham, Quabbin (G40)	7, 5	G. Gove, M. Lynch#	
Winter Wren 2, 4	Middleboro, Ipswich	1, 1	T. Aversa#, J. Berry	
4, 21	Quabbin (G40), Oakham	2 m, 1	G. Gove, M. Lynch#	
Marsh Wren thr	GMNWR, P.I.	8 max, 10 max	v. o.	
Golden-crowned Kinglet 6	Topsfield	2	J. Berry	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 8, 19	GMNWR, Wakefield	1, 1	R. Forster#, P. + F. Vale	
Eastern Bluebird thr	Reports of 19 individuals from 7 locations			
Veery 1, 4	Petersham, Quabbin (G40)	21, 34	G. Gove	
6, 13	Milton (F.M.), ONWR	7, 7	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
Hermit Thrush 1, 2	Holliston, Middleboro	4, 12	T. Aversa	
7, 9	Plymouth, Westminster	5, 6	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
28	Quabbin (G40)	16	M. Lynch#	
Wood Thrush 1, 6	Petersham, Milton (F.M.)	12, 14	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
Gray Catbird 4	Gloucester (2 locations)	58	M. Lynch#	
7, 6	Bolton Flats, Milton (F.M.)	23, 44	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
Brown Thrasher thr, 14	P.I., Barnstable (S.N.)	8 max, 4	v.o., G. Ferguson	
Solitary Vireo 28	Quabbin (G40)	9	M. Lynch#	
Yellow-throated Vireo 4, 7	W. Newbury, Bolton Flats	1, 4	M. Rines#, M. Lynch	
Red-eyed Vireo 1, 4	Petersham, Quabbin (G40)	31, 33	G. Gove	
Blue-winged Warbler 6	Milton (F.M.)	6	G. d'Entremont	
Northern Parula 4	E. Harwich	1	B. Nikula	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1991
Yellow Warbler thr	P.I.	25 max 7/6	v. o.	
Chestnut-sided Warbler 4, 9	Quabbin (G40), Westminster	8, 15	G. Gove, T. Aversa	
Magnolia Warbler 9	Westminster	1 m	T. Aversa	
Black-throated Blue Warbler 9	Westminster	2 m	T. Aversa	
Yellow-rumped Warbler 28	Quabbin (G40)	6	M. Lynch#	
Black-throated Green Warbler 9, 10	Westminster, Quabbin (G40)	6, 9	T. Aversa	
Pine Warbler 4, 28	Quabbin (G40)	12, 14	G. Gove, M. Lynch#	
Cerulean Warbler 10	Quabbin (G40)	pr	T. Aversa	
American Redstart 28	Quabbin (G40)	15	M. Lynch#	
Prothonotary Warbler 1-14	GMNWR	1 m (from May)	v. o.	
Ovenbird 1, 4	Petersham, Quabbin (G40)	12, 7	G. Gove	
Northern Waterthrush 26, 28	Squantum, P'town	1, 1	R. Donovan#, J. Young	
Louisiana Waterthrush 9, 10	Westminster, Quabbin (G40)	2, 1	T. Aversa	
	Holden	1	M. Lynch#	
Common Yellowthroat 4, 6	Quabbin (G40), Milton (F.M.)	39, 95	G. Gove, G. d'Entremont	
	Bolton Flats	25	M. Lynch#	
Scarlet Tanager 1, 4	Petersham, Quabbin (G40)	7, 13	G. Gove	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 6, 13	Milton (F.M.), W. Roxbury	8, 5	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
Blue Grosbeak 1-27	Worc. (BMB)	1 imm m (from May)	R. Bradbury + v. o.	
Indigo Bunting 4, 13	Quabbin (G40), W. Roxbury	11, 10	G. Gove, T. Aversa	
Chipping Sparrow 4	Quabbin (G40)	22	G. Gove	
Savannah Sparrow 13	Newburyport	20	R. Stymeist	
Grasshopper Sparrow 18, 23	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow thr	P.I.	20+ max	v. o.	
	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	61 max 7/2	G. Gove + v. o.	
	E. Boston (B.I.)	41 max 7/15	T. Aversa	
	Nantucket	11 max 7/27	J. Papale	
Seaside Sparrow thr	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	4 max, 19 max 7/28	v. o., LCES (J. Hill)	
Song Sparrow 6, 7	Milton (F.M.), Bolton Flats	58, 31	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
White-throated Sparrow 1, 15	Boston (Fenway)	1 singing, 2	K. Hudson	
Dark-eyed Junco 10, 21	Quabbin (G40), Petersham	1, 1	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Bobolink 3, 13	Halifax, W. Roxbury	65, 2	T. Aversa	
	Rutland, W. Newbury	40, 71	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Eastern Meadowlark 13	Newburyport	15	R. Stymeist	
Orchard Oriole 5, 6	Worc. (BMB), Lexington	1, 3	R. Bradbury, L. Taylor	
Northern Oriole 8	W. Newbury	16	BBC (S. Charette)	
Purple Finch 2, 9	Essex, Gardner	1, 6	T. Young, T. Aversa	
Evening Grosbeak 5	Princeton	ad m feeding 3 yg	S. Poor	

FIELD RECORDS

AUGUST 1991



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

Hurricane Bob on August 19 dominated the month's weather. The rapid forward speed of "Bob" minimized the period of the strongest winds in our area. The peak gust recorded at Boston was 64 mph from the northwest. Cape Cod suffered the most damage, losing many trees, and electric power in some sections was out for nearly a week. The hurricane brought with it the heaviest rains of the month: over two inches fell in the Boston area in just ten hours. Total rainfall for the month was 5.27 inches, 1.59 inches over average. Except for during the hurricane, no thunderstorms occurred in the month. A small tornado was noted in Georgetown on August 15. The high temperature mark for the month was 93 degrees on August 17, and eight days reached 90 degrees. The low was 57 degrees on August 25.

R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The story for the month of August was the occurrence of extralimital birds most probably caused by the course and intensity of Hurricane Bob.

Terns and shorebirds that normally appear in small numbers at summer's end appeared in much greater numbers. Examples included Caspian, Royal, Forster's, and Black terns and Black Skimmers. More rarely seen terns that appeared briefly included Gull-billed, Sandwich, Bridled, and Sooty terns. Unusual shorebird sightings included a Wilson's Plover on the Vineyard, a Black-necked Stilt Sandpiper in Falmouth, an American Avocet at Plum Island, Long-billed Curlews, one of which appeared on the Vineyard two weeks before the hurricane, and a Little Stint at Plum Island, also before the hurricane.

Other storm-related birds include a Black-capped Petrel at Eastham on the day of the hurricane, two inland Leach's Storm-Petrels, one in Clinton and one in Worcester, and a White-tailed Tropicbird found dead in Eastham.

G. W. G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1991
Red-throated Loon				
4, 31	N. Monomoy, Nahant	1 br pl, 1	B. Nikula#, R. Forster#	
Common Loon				
21	Clinton (Wachusett Res.)	4	P. Brown	
Pied-billed Grebe				
23	Stoughton	1	R. Titus	
29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
31	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale	
Black-capped Petrel				
19	Eastham (S. Sunken Meadow Beach)	1	R. Heil + J. Smith	
Greater Shearwater				
20	Provincetown, Eastham	4, 2	K. Jones	
26	East of Monomoy	200	V. Laux	
Sooty Shearwater				
26	East of Monomoy	35	V. Laux	
Manx Shearwater				
19, 20	Nantucket, Provincetown	1, 1	F. Gallo, K. Jones	
26	M.V.	4	V. Laux	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
11	Stellwagen	200	J. Berry	
26	East of Monomoy	100	V. Laux	
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
19, 20	Nantucket, Clinton	1, 1	F. Gallo, S. Carroll# + v.o.	
20	Worcester	1 dead	fide R. Jenkins	
White-tailed Tropicbird				
22	Eastham (Kingsbury Beach)	1 sub ad (dead)	E. Cudihy (fide K. Jones)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1991
Northern Gannet				
20	Eastham, Provincetown	4, 5	K. Jones	
26	East of Monomoy	6	V. Laux	
Great Cormorant				
24	Lakeville	1 imm	W. Petersen	
Double-crested Cormorant				
thr, 21	Southboro, Clinton	25 max, 45	E. Taylor, P. Brown	
23, 25	Monomoy, Boston Harbor	1800, 500	K. Jones, G. d'Entremont	
American Bittern				
13	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
Least Bittern				
1	W. Newbury	1	H. Weissberg + v.o.	
Great Blue Heron				
thr	GMNWR	50 max 8/17	v.o.	
Great Egret				
thr	P.I., DWWS	40 max 8/21, 45	max 8/29 W. Petersen#, D. Clapp#	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	35 max 8/6	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr, 13	S. Monomoy, 13	8 max, 1	B. Nikula#, M. Lynch#	
Snowy Egret				
thr	P.I., Saugus	700 max 8/21, 40	max 8/2 W. Petersen#, J. Berry	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	61 max 8/23	LCES (J. Hill)	
Little Blue Heron				
thr	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	17 max 8/21, 2 max	W. Petersen#, LCES (J. Hill)	
4, 30	N. Monomoy, DWWS	1 imm, 1 imm	W. Loughran#, D. Clapp	
Tricolored Heron				
23, 24-26	M.V., P.I.	1, 1	V. Laux, BBC (S. Charrette) + v.o.	
Cattle Egret				
18, 21	Ipswich, P.I.	36, 2	G. Gove, W. Petersen#	
Green-backed Heron				
4, 11	Wayland, Newburyport	7, 15	BBC (B. Howell), BBC (J. Kennedy)	
27	Norfolk	30	B. Cassie	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
14, 25	GMNWR, Yarmouthport	15, 29	E. Taylor, K. Hamilton	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
3, 21, 28	P.I.	1 imm, 1 imm, 1 ad	M. Rines#, W. Petersen#, T. Aversa	
4, 13, 29	Squantum	1 ad, 1 ad, 1 imm	B. Merrifield, T. Aversa, J. Hoye	
30, 31	Nantucket, Wellfleet	1 ad + 4 imm, 1 imm	N. Claflin, R. Stymeist#	
Glossy Ibis				
thr, 8	P.I., Fall River	25 max 8/1, 20	E. Taylor + v.o., M. Boucher	
12	N. Monomoy	26	B. Nikula	
Mute Swan				
23, 27	Nantucket, Westport	124, 258	J. Papale, T. Aversa	
Brant				
thr	P.I.	1 injured	v.o.	
Canada Goose				
thr	Wakefield, Lexington	250-300, 325-375P.	+ F. Vale, R. Stymeist	
Wood Duck				
3, 4	Wakefield, Wayland	35, 38	P. + F. Vale, BBC (B. Howell)	
27	Norfolk	102	B. Cassie	
Green-winged Teal				
5, 20	E. Boston, P.I.	1, 40	T. Aversa	
Northern Pintail				
25, 31	S. Monomoy, P.I.	1, 1	BBC (S. Whittum), R. Forster#	
Blue-winged Teal				
14, 21	GMNWR, Eastham	1, 5	T. Aversa	
25, 28	S. Monomoy, Cambridge	20, 2	BBC (S. Whittum), D. Flood	
Gadwall				
24	P.I.	48	BBC (S. Charrette)	
American Wigeon				
27, 27-31	Lakeville, Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 6-14	T. Aversa, D. Flood	
31	Essex	3	R. Forster	
Ring-necked Duck				
24, 25	Lakeville, S. Monomoy	9, 1	W. Petersen, BBC (S. Whittum)	
Common Eider				
thr, 11	N. Monomoy, Gloucester	70 max, 20 imm	B. Nikula# + v.o., J. Berry	
23, 24	N. Scituate, S. Monomoy	13, 25	G. d'Entremont, BBC (S. Whittum)	
King Eider (from July)				
1-11	P.I.	1 m	v.o.	
Black Scoter				
20, 31	Provincetown, Cohasset	1, 1	K. Jones, W. Petersen#	
Surf Scoter				
17	Chatham	1	J. Hoye#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1991
White-winged Scoter				
4, 13	P.I., Squantum	7, 1	G. d'Entremont#, T. Aversa	
20, 24; 31	Scituate, Duxbury; Nahant	4, 4; 16	W. Petersen; R. Forster	
Bufflehead				
30	Squantum	1	T. Aversa	
Hooded Merganser				
8, 14	S. Monomoy, GMNWR	1, 1	B. Nikula#, T. Aversa	
14, 15-31	Quabbin (G45), Sherborn	1, 3	T. Aversa, E. Taylor	
Red-breasted Merganser				
23, 27	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), Nantucket	1, 1	LCES (J. Hill), D. Harper	
Turkey Vulture				
8	Randolph	17	P. Iarrobino	
Osprey				
thr	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2, 9 max 8/13	v.o., LCES (J. Hill)	
Bald Eagle				
16	Middleboro, Nantucket	1 imm, 1 imm	W. Davis#, E. Ray	
Northern Harrier				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	3 max	LCES (J. Hill)	
5, 17	Randolph, Boston (Fenway)	1, 1 ph	G. d'Entremont, K. Hudson	
28	P.I.	3	T. Aversa	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
14	Quabbin (G45)	1 or 2 imm	T. Aversa	
Cooper's Hawk				
9, 24	Wenham, Wachusett Mt.	1, 1	J. Berry#, E. Taylor	
Northern Goshawk				
4, 24	Middleboro, Wachusett Mt.	1, 1	K. Holmes, E. Taylor	
Broad-winged Hawk				
1, 19	Middleboro, Stoughton	1, 1	K. Holmes, R. Titus	
22, 24	Randolph, P.I.	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#	
Merlin				
13, 16	Squantum, Nantucket	1, 1	T. Aversa, E. Ray	
31	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale	
Peregrine Falcon				
thr	Boston, P.I.	1 ad, 1 imm	v.o.	
8	Arlington	1 imm	M. Rines	
Ring-necked Pheasant				
23	Wayland	4 ad, 7 juv	S. Arena	
Ruffed Grouse				
14	Quabbin (G45)	18	T. Aversa	
Wild Turkey				
6	Boxford	1 f + 8 yg	R. Ledoux	
Clapper Rail				
thr, 17	Squantum, Yarmouthport	1, 1	v.o., K. Hamilton	
Virginia Rail				
3, 4	Chatham (Morris I.), Wayland	1, 4	W. Bailey, BBC (B. Howell)	
23-24	Nantucket	3 max	J. Papale#	
Sora				
thr, 4	Squantum, Wayland	1 or 2, 1	v.o., BBC (B. Howell)	
American Coot				
22	Nantucket	1	D. Harper	
Black-bellied Plover				
thr, 11	Ipswich (C.B.), N. Monomoy	51 max 8/18, 250	D. Rimmer, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
18, 20	P.I., Clinton (Wachusett Res.)	500, 1	G. d'Entremont, R. Bradbury	
25, 29	Pedlocks I., Norfolk	119, 4	BBC (P. Stevens), B. Cassie	
Lesser Golden-Plover				
1, 30	Nantucket, Newburyport	1, 1	M. Litchfield#, C. Paine	
20; 24	Ipswich; Newbury, P.I.	1; 2, 3	D. Rimmer; S. Arena, BBC (S. Charrette)	
24-31, 31	Middleboro, Wachusett Res.	1, 2	W. Petersen + v.o., M. Lynch	
Wilson's Plover				
20	Katama M.V.	1	C. Morano	
Semipalmated Plover				
thr	N. Monomoy	750 max	B. Nikula# + v.o.	
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	1600 max 8/22	D. Rimmer#	
thr	P.I.	800 max 8/13	R. Forster + v.o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	76 max 8/6	LCES (J. Hill)	
5, 7	Barnstable (S.N.), Squantum	1000, 300	R. Scott#, G. d'Entremont	
Piping Plover				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	11 max 8/4	D. Rimmer	
6	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
Killdeer				
27	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	28	T. Aversa	
31	Middleboro	24	J. Hoye#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1991
American Oystercatcher				
thr	N. Monomoy	87 max 8/24	R. Stymeist# + v.o.	
20, 25	Nantucket, Peddocks I.	20, 4	N. Clafin, BBC (P. Stevens)	
29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	3	LCES (J. Hill)	
31	Cuttyhunk	3	T. Raymond	
Black-necked Stilt				
18	Falmouth	4	A. Cassese	
American Avocet				
20-31	P.I.	1	J. Murray + v.o.	
Greater Yellowlegs				
thr, 4	N. Monomoy, WBWS	200 max 8/11, 220	B. Nikula#, K. Jones	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
thr, 4	N. Monomoy, WBWS	100 max 8/3, 27	B. Nikula#, K. Jones	
11, 24	P.I., Newburyport	60, 65	BBC (J. Kennedy), BBC (S. Charrette)	
Solitary Sandpiper				
6, 8	Boston, Plymouth	1, 1	B. Merrifield, G. d'Entremont	
9, 13	Nantucket, Watertown	2, 1	J. Papale, R. Stymeist	
20, 29-31	Boston (Fenway), DWWS	1, 2 max	K. Hudson, J. Hoye#	
Willet				
thr, 4	N. Monomoy, Revere	70 max 8/4, 1	B. Nikula#, P. + F. Vale	
8, 18	P.I., Nantucket	3, 7	J. Hoye, E. Ray#	
Willet (western race)				
thr	N. Monomoy	5 max	B. Nikula#	
Spotted Sandpiper				
7, 17	Nantucket, Ipswich (C.B.)	4, 6	E. Ray, D. Rimmer	
Upland Sandpiper				
3, 12	W. Roxbury, Middleboro	1, 4	T. Aversa, M. Sylvia	
19, 31	Newburyport, M. V.	1, 15	D. Small#, V. Laux	
Whimbrel				
thr	N. Monomoy	550 max 8/2	B. Nikula#	
thr	Newburyport	43 max 8/4	G. d'Entremont# + v.o.	
1	Nantucket, S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	10, 21	M. Litchfield#, M. Boucher	
Long-billed Curlew				
7, 8	W. Tisbury (Great Pond)	1	K. Chase, S. Whiting#	
20	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	M. Sylvia	
Hudsonian Godwit				
thr	N. Monomoy, Newburyport	90 max 8/11, 24	max 8/20 B. Nikula#, G. Gove#	
5	E. Boston, Barnstable (S.N.)	8, 1	T. Aversa, R. Scott#	
Bar-tailed Godwit				
11-14	N. Monomoy	1 (basic pl)	B. Nikula#	
Marbled Godwit				
thr, 17-31	N. Monomoy, Newburyport	3 max, 1	B. Nikula#, H. Weissberg + v.o.	
Ruddy Turnstone				
thr	N. Monomoy, P.I.	250 max 8/14, 20	max 8/4 B. Nikula#, J. Berry#	
5, 25	Barnstable (S.N.), Peddocks I.	100, 25	R. Scott#, BBC (P. Stevens)	
Red Knot				
thr	N. Monomoy	350 max 8/11	B. Nikula#	
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	260 max 8/10	D. Rimmer#	
31	P.I.	40 (incl. 1 leuc.)	G. Gove#	
Sanderling				
thr	N. Monomoy	1600 max 8/14	B. Nikula#	
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	630 max 8/25	D. Rimmer#	
4	Revere (Point of Pines)	90	P. + F. Vale	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
thr	N. Monomoy	1500 max 8/3	B. Nikula#	
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	1325 max 8/22	D. Rimmer#	
5, 17	Barnstable (S.N.), Squantum	1300, 1000	R. Scott#, G. d'Entremont	
25	P.I.	500	G. Gove	
Western Sandpiper				
6; 14, 31	Annisquam; N. Monomoy	1; 4 ad, 8 ad	H. Wiggin; B. Nikula#	
15-31, 18	Squantum, Nantucket	3 max, 1	J. Hoye# + v.o., E. Ray#	
19-31	P.I.	2 max	v.o.	
Little Stint (details on file)				
4	P.I.	1	T. Cameron#	
Least Sandpiper				
thr, 10	N. Monomoy, Wakefield	300 max 8/3, 35	B. Nikula#, P. + F. Vale	
11, 20	P.I., Nantucket	70, 175	BBC (J. Kennedy), E. Gallo#	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
thr	N. Monomoy, P.I.	60 max 8/31, 30 max 8/13	B. Nikula#, R. Forster#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1991
Baird's Sandpiper				
8-26, 12	P.I., Provincetown	3 max, 1	J. Hoye# + v.o., K. Jones	
16-18, 25	Squantum, S. Monomoy	2, 1	R. Donovan#, BBC (S. Whittum)	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
5, 10	E. Boston, P.I.	1, 3	T. Aversa, J. Berry	
14, 15	GMNWR, Squantum	1, 1	T. Aversa, J. Hoye	
26, 31	Middleboro, Nantucket	2, 13	G. d'Entremont, J. Papale	
Dunlin				
11	N. Monomoy	1	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Stilt Sandpiper				
4-31	P.I.	4 max 8/13	R. Forster# + v.o.	
20, 31	Nantucket (2 loc.)	2, 2	F. Gallo, J. Papale#;	
23, 31	S. Dartmouth	1, 1	LCES (J. Hill)	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				
24, 31	S. Monomoy, Cuttyhunk	1, 1	BBC (S. Whittum), T. Raymond	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
thr, 5	N. Monomoy, E. Boston	1400 max 8/3, 240	B. Nikula#, T. Aversa	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
thr, 8	P.I., N. Monomoy	70 max 8/13, 1	R. Forster#, B. Nikula	
Common Snipe				
26	Middleboro	4	G. d'Entremont	
American Woodcock				
17, 29	Milton, Nantucket	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, J. Papale	
Wilson's Phalarope				
thr, 4	P.I., N. Monomoy	3 max 8/25, 1	G. Gove#, W. Loughran#	
Red-necked Phalarope				
8	S. Monomoy	1 juv	B. Nikula#	
26	East of Monomoy	40	V. Laux	
Red Phalarope				
26	East of Monomoy	1	V. Laux	
Pomarine Jaeger				
26	East of Monomoy	2	V. Laux	
Parasitic Jaeger				
14, 19	N. Monomoy, Eastham	1, 2	B. Nikula, K. Jones	
26	East of Monomoy	4	V. Laux	
Long-tailed Jaeger				
30	off M. V.	1 imm	V. Laux	
Laughing Gull				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	82 max	LCES (J. Hill)	
5, 19	E. Boston, Squantum	45, 75	T. Aversa	
31	Marblehead-Nahant	85	R. Forster#	
Franklin's Gull (details on file)				
5	Barnstable (S.N.)	1 ad	B. Nikula#	
Little Gull				
21, 31	Lakeville, Nahant	1 ad, 1 ad W	M. Sylvia, R. Forster#	
Common Black-headed Gull				
10	Revere	1	P. + F. Vale	
23	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	3	LCES (J. Hill)	
Bonaparte's Gull				
thr, 10	Newburyport, Wachusett Res.	380 max 8/20, 3	G. Gove + v.o., M. Lynch#	
20, 31	Winthrop, Nahant-Swampscott	96, 550	J. Young, R. Forster	
Ring-billed Gull				
5	Barnstable (S.N.)	200	R. Scott#	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
9	Wareham	1 ad	R. Titus	
Black-legged Kittiwake				
22	Provincetown	1 juv	K. Jones#	
Sabine's Gull				
26	East of Monomoy	1 ad	V. Laux	
Gull-billed Tern				
1, 20-28	P.I.	1, 1	J. Hoye, J. Murray + v.o.	
20, 22	Clinton, Dorchester	1, 1	R. Bradbury, R. Donovan	
22	Ipswich (C.B.)	1	R. Buchbaum	
Caspian Tern				
20; 21, 25	Barnstable (S.N.); P.I.	1; 1, 1	R. Donovan#; W. Petersen#, M. Lynch#	
22, 26	Dorchester, Provincetown	2, 1	R. Donovan#, K. Jones	
Royal Tern				
14, 19	N. Monomoy, Nantucket	1, 7	B. Nikula, J. Papale	
19	M.V., Wollaston	18, 4-5	V. Laux, S. Higginbotham	
19	Eastham, Onset	1, 2	K. Jones, C. Ewer	
20-26, 20	P.I., Winthrop	1, 1	T. Aversa + v.o., J. Young	
20	Barnstable (S.N.), Ipswich	17, 1	R. Donovan#, D. Rimmer#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1991
Royal Tern (continued)				
23	Lynn, Gloucester	1, 2	J. Quigley, H. Wiggin	
23, 25	S. Monomoy, Duxbury	1, 1	K. Jones, W. Petersen	
31	Scituate	1	J. Hoye	
Sandwich Tern				
19-23	Nantucket	7	fide J. Papale	
19, 20	Rockport, Newburyport	1, 1	D. Nyzio, T. Aversa	
19, 20	M.V.	2, 4	V. Laux	
20, 21-22	Barnstable (S.N.), Provincetown	1, 2 ad + 2 imm	R. Donovan#, K. Jones	
22-24, 22	P.I., Salisbury	2 max, 1	R. Bradbury# + v.o., R. Bradbury#	
23, 23-24	Chatham, S. Monomoy	1, 1	K. Jones	
24, 24	N. Scituate, Squantum	1, 1	W. Petersen, R. Abrams	
Roseate Tern				
11, 20	N. Monomoy, Nantucket	100, 118	BBC (G. d'Entremont), F. Gallo	
20, 21	Ipswich (C.B.), Provincetown	2, 100	D. Rimmer, K. Jones#	
Common Tern				
thr	N. Monomoy	600 max 8/11	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	41 max 8/20	D. Rimmer	
20	Newton, Clinton	10, 7	O. Komar, R. Bradbury#	
20, 21	Nantucket, Provincetown	140, 200	E. Ray#, K. Jones	
Arctic Tern				
20, 21; 22	Nantucket (2 loc.); Provincetown	1, 1; 1	F. Gallo, N. Claffin; K. Jones	
Forster's Tern				
thr	N. Monomoy, P.I.	4 max, 5 max	B. Nikula#, T. Aversa + v.o.	
13, 24	Wollaston, Squantum	1, 20	T. Aversa, R. Abrams	
17-31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	19 max 8/26	M. Sylvia# + v.o.	
19, 19-21	Onset, Nantucket	1, 38 total	C. Ewer, fide J. Papale	
21, 22	N. Truro, Mattapoisett	1, 1	K. Jones, M. Sylvia	
22, 23	Fairhaven, S. Monomoy	2, 4	M. Sylvia, K. Jones	
24, 30	Lakeville, Lexington	1, 1	W. Petersen, C. Floyd	
Least Tern				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	100 max 8/1	D. Rimmer	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	23 max 8/29	LCES (J. Hill)	
19	Stoughton	1	R. Titus	
Bridled Tern				
19	Gay Head, Tisbury	2, 1	A. Keith, S. Whiting	
20	Eastham (F.E.)	2	B. Cassie	
Sooty Tern				
19	Oak Bluffs	6	V. Laux	
19, 21	Onset, Nantucket	1 ad, 2 or 3 ad	C. Ewer#, D. Harper	
Black Tern				
4, 11; 20-21	N. Monomoy; Nantucket	3, 1; 15 total	B. Nikula#; fide J. Papale	
20	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5	M. Sylvia	
20	P.I., Ipswich, Provincetown	2, 1, 5	J. Young#, D. Nyzio#, K. Jones	
21, 25	Ipswich (C.B.), S. Duxbury	6, 3	D. Rimmer#, W. Petersen	
Black Skimmer				
11, 19-23	Orleans, Nantucket	3, 6 total	G. d'Entremont#, fide J. Papale	
19, 20-31	Onset, Ipswich (C.B.)	1, 5 max 8/27	C. Ewer, D. Rimmer#	
20-31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	93 max 8/25	T. Raymond# + v.o.	
20-31	M.V.	42	V. Laux	
20	Provincetown, Eastham	1, 2	K. Jones	
23, 24	W. Gloucester, Barnstable (S.N.)	6, 2	H. Wiggin, M. Sylvia	
30	Wollaston	4	T. Aversa	
Mourning Dove				
27	Natick	310	B. Cassie	
parrot species				
4	P.I.	1	G. d'Entremont#	
Black-billed Cuckoo				
6, 14; 11	Quabbin (G45); P.I.	1, 1; 1	T. Aversa; BBC (J. Kennedy)	
22, 31	Walpole, Scituate	1, 1	O. Komar, W. Petersen#	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
24	N. Scituate	1	W. Petersen	
Short-eared Owl				
8, 21	Nantucket	3, 1	J. Papale	
Common Nighthawk				
6, 13	DWWS, Squantum	1, 1	D. Clapp, T. Aversa	
19, 21	Stoughton, Cambridge	3, 11	R. Titus, R. Stymeist#	
23	Worcester, Westwood	1650, 27	B. Kamp#, E. Nielsen	
23	Jamaica Plain, Watertown	33, 1	J. Young, R. Stymeist#	
25, 25; 27-29	Framingham; Mt.A.	40, 15; 129 total	E. Taylor; R. Stymeist#	
28	P.I., Westwood	12, 15	T. Aversa, E. Nielsen	
29, 31	E. Middleboro	50, 20	D. Briggs	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1991
Whip-poor-will thr	Plymouth (MSSF)	9 max 8/28	G. d'Entremont	
Chimney Swift 10, 17; 14	Framingham; Cambridge	71, 64; 112	E. Taylor; R. Stymeist#	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1, 6; 13	Wellesley; Milton	1 f; 1	R. Forster; T. Aversa	
14	Watertown, Hopkinton	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, G. Gove	
14-31, 16	Millis, Middleboro	1-2, 1	P. Iarrobino, K. Holmes	
20, 28	Sherborn, Wayland	1, 1	E. Taylor, S. Arena	
24, 28	Natick, Cambridge	1, 1	E. Taylor, D. Flood	
Red-bellied Woodpecker 4	Medford (Middlesex Fells)	3	R. Stymeist#	
Pileated Woodpecker 6	Quabbin (G45),	3	T. Aversa	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied flycatchers, Philadelphia Vireos, and Cape May and Bay-breasted warblers were among the first southbound migrants noted after a week of northwest and northeast winds following Hurricane Bob.

Acadian Flycatchers were still singing at Quabbin on August 14, and the first Western Kingbird of the season was found early in the month at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were well represented, with 8 at one site and 6 at a second site. Thrush reports were discouraging. Observers reported only 8 Hermit and 3 Wood thrushes and 2 Eastern Bluebirds during the month. Large flights of American Robins were noted on August 27 and 29, with counts of 548 and 571, respectively.

An immature male Cerulean Warbler and a female Prothonotary Warbler were seen two days apart at Morris Island in Chatham. Other warbler highlights included two Golden-winged Warblers, a "Lawrence's" Warbler, 2 Hooded Warblers, and 2 Yellow-breasted Chats.

A female **Summer Tanager** was seen well at Plum Island on August 31. Seventeen Indigo Buntings were observed in West Roxbury. A Dickcissel was noted from Corn Hill in Truro, and another visited the feeder at the Monomoy headquarters on Morris Island. In Norfolk a count of 47 Chipping Sparrows was noted. A Clay-colored Sparrow was found at the Glades in North Scituate. A male **Lark Bunting** was well described from Plum Island on August 26. On Nantucket a juvenile-plumaged **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found. A **European Goldfinch**, origin unknown, was present at a Winchester feeder for about 2 weeks from the end of August into September.

R. H. S. and G. d'E.

Olive-sided Flycatcher 20	Worcester (BMB)	2	R. Bradbury
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 20, 30	MNWS, Manomet	1, 1	T. Aversa#, MBO Staff
Acadian Flycatcher 6, 14	Quabbin (G45)	3 (1 singing), 2	T. Aversa
Willow Flycatcher 3, 4	Wakefield, Wayland	1 ad + 2 imm, 1	P. + F. Vale, BBC (P. + F.Vale)
<i>Empidonax</i> species 23, 24	North Scituate, P.I.	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, G. d'Entremont
Eastern Phoebe 29	Norfolk	23	B. Cassie
Great Crested Flycatcher 5, 9	Wellesley, Nantucket	1, 1	R. Forster, J. Papale
Western Kingbird 8, 26	WBWS, P.I.	1, 1	D. Reid, W. Drummond
31	Nantucket	1	N. Claffin
Eastern Kingbird 4, 14	Wayland, GMNWR	9, 53	BBC (B. Howell), T. Aversa
22, 24	Norfolk, P.I.	78, 50+	B. Cassie, BBC (S. Charette)
Horned Lark 24	South Monomoy	25	BBC (S. Whittum)
Purple Martin 11, 21	P.I., Truro	100+, 3	BBC (J. Kennedy), T. Aversa#
Tree Swallow 28	Ipswich; P'town	20,000; 1600+	D. Rimmer, K. Jones
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 31	Wakefield	2	R. Forster#
Cliff Swallow 20	Newton	1	O. Komar

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1991
Barn Swallow 4, 18 24, 25	Wayland, GMNWR S. Monomoy, Boston (Peddocks I.)	20+, 50 50, 48	BBC (B. Howell), BBC (E. Tarry) BBC (S. Whittum), BBC (P. Stevens)	
Fish Crow 26, 31	Middleboro, Carver	40, 26	G. d'Entremont, W. Petersen#	
Common Raven 4, 6	Wachusett Res., Quabbin (G45)	1, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Carolina Wren 24, 31	Scituate, Wellfleet	8, 4	W. Petersen, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Reports of 1 or 2 individuals (15 total) from 14 locations.				
House Wren 4, 17 16, 23	Wayland, Milton (F.M.) Annisquam, N. Scituate	4, 2 4, 1	BBC (B. Howell), G. d'Entremont H. Wiggin, G. d'Entremont	
Marsh Wren 4, 4 24	Wayland, P.I. P.I.	3, 1 1	BBC (B. Howell), G. d'Entremont# G. d'Entremont	
Golden-crowned Kinglet 13	Milton (F.M.)	8	T. Aversa	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 4, 6 23, 24	Wayland, Quabbin (G45) N. Scituate, P.I.	1, 8 6, 1	BBC (B. Howell), T. Aversa G. d'Entremont, G. d'Entremont#	
Eastern Bluebird 8	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	
Hermit Thrush 1, 8 8, 25	Plymouth, Fall River Plymouth, Hanson	1, 3 2, 2	G. d'Entremont#, M. Boucher G. d'Entremont#, W. Petersen	
Wood Thrush 17, 28	Milton (F.M.), Stoneham	1, 2	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
American Robin 17; 27, 29	Milton (F.M.); DWWS	30; 548, 571	G. d'Entremont; D. Clapp	
Gray Catbird 11, 17 23	P.I., Milton (F.M.) North Scituate (Glades)	45, 60 23	BBC (J. Kennedy), G. d'Entremont G. d'Entremont	
Brown Thrasher 11	Plum Island	11	BBC (J. Kennedy)	
Cedar Waxwing 17, 31	Milton (F.M.), Annisquam	60, 45	G. d'Entremont, H. Wiggin	
Solitary Vireo 6	Quabbin (G45)	5	T. Aversa	
Yellow-throated Vireo 6, 24	Quabbin (G45), N. Scituate	1, 1	T. Aversa, W. Petersen	
Warbling Vireo 4, 17 30, 31	Wayland, Milton (F.M.) Boston (F. Pk), Wellfleet	4, 4 3, 3	BBC (B. Howell), G. d'Entremont T. Aversa, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Philadelphia Vireo 24, 27 30	Scituate, Lakeville North Scituate	3, 1 2	W. Petersen, T. Aversa D. Clapp#	
Red-eyed Vireo 17, 31	Milton (F.M.), Nant.	2, 1	G. d'Entremont, J. Papale	
Blue-winged Warbler 6, 13 14, 23	Stoneham, Milton (F.M.) Quabbin (G45), N. Scituate	1, 6 3, 1	M. Martinek, T. Aversa T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont	
Golden-winged Warbler 3, 23	Ipswich, N. Scituate	1 m, 1 m	J. Berry, G. d'Entremont	
"Lawrence's" Warbler 6	Quabbin (G45)	1	T. Aversa	
Nashville Warbler 22, 22 22, 23	Nantucket, Squantum Nantucket, N. Scituate	2, 1 1, 1	D. Harper, G. d'Entremont D. Harper, G. d'Entremont	
Yellow Warbler 1, 13 23, 28	Nantucket Watertown, Cambridge (F.P.)	7, 10 b 1, 4	J. Papale, E. Andrews R. Stymeist, D. Flood	
Chestnut-sided Warbler 6, 20 23, 30	Quabbin (G45), MNWS N. Scituate, Boston	6, 1 2 imm, 2	T. Aversa, D. Nyzio# G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
Magnolia Warbler 28	Stoneham	1	T. Aversa	
Cape May Warbler 29, 31	Annisquam, Marshfield	2, 1	H. Wiggin, J. Hoye	
Black-throated Blue Warbler 6, 14 28, 30	Stoneham, Quabbin (G45) Stoneham, N. Scituate	1, 3 2, 2	M. Martinek, T. Aversa T. Aversa, D. Clapp#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1991
Yellow-rumped Warbler 31	Wellfleet	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Blackburnian Warbler 14, 16; 31	Quab. (G45), Boston; Wellfleet	2, 1; 1	T. Aversa; BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Pine Warbler 22, 30	Plymouth, Nantucket	1, 3+	G. d'Entremont, J. Papale	
31	Wellfleet	6	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Prairie Warbler 12, 21	Holliston, P'town	3, 1	T. Aversa, T. Aversa#	
24, 31	N. Scituate, Wellfleet	2, 7	W. Petersen, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Bay-breasted Warbler 28, 31	Stoneham, Wellfleet	2, 1	T. Aversa, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Blackpoll Warbler 31, 31	N. Scituate, Wellfleet	1, 1	W. Petersen#, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Cerulean Warbler 3	Chatham (Morris I.)	1 imm m	W. Bailey	
Black-and-white Warbler 6, 13	Quab. (G45), Milton (F.M.)	4, 3	T. Aversa, T. Aversa	
28, 30	Stoneham, Nantucket	3, 2	T. Aversa, J. Papale	
American Redstart 4, 6	P.I., Quabbin (G45)	5, 16	G. d'Entremont#, T. Aversa	
7, 16	Nantucket, Boston (F. Pk)	2, 3	J. Papale, T. Aversa	
Prothonotary Warbler 5	Chatham (Morris I.)	1 f	W. Bailey	
Ovenbird 22, 31	Squantum, Wellfleet	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Northern Waterthrush 3-31, 5	Annisquam, Chatham	1, 2	H. Wiggin, W. Bailey	
20, 31	MNWS, Wellfleet	2, 4	T. Aversa#, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Mourning Warbler 24	Scituate	1	W. Petersen	
Common Yellowthroat 17, 31	Milton (F.M.), Wellfleet	36, 16	G. d'Entremont, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Hooded Warbler 20, 23	MNWS, N. Scituate	1 f, 1 imm m	T. Aversa#, G. d'Entremont	
Wilson's Warbler 23, 30	N. Scituate, Cambridge	2, 1	G. d'Entremont, D. Flood	
Canada Warbler	Reports of 1 to 2 individuals (6 total) from 5 locations.			
Yellow-breasted Chat 24	North Scituate (Glades)	2	W. Petersen	
Summer Tanager (details on file) 31	Plum Island	1 f	R. Forster#	
Scarlet Tanager 6, 7	Quabbin (G45), Medford	11, 2	T. Aversa, M. Rines	
24	Boston (F. Pk)	1	T. Aversa	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1, 31	Nantucket, Wellfleet	1 m, 1	J. Papale, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Indigo Bunting 3	West Roxbury	17	T. Aversa	
Dickcissel 10, 21	Chatham, Truro	1, 2	S. Arena, T. Aversa	
Rufous-sided Towhee 4, 8	P.I., Annisquam	5, 3	G. d'Entremont#, H. Wiggin	
17, 31	Milton (F.M.), Wellfleet	8, 17	G. d'Entremont, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Chipping Sparrow 29, 29	Norfolk, N. Dartmouth	47, 12	B. Cassie, M. Boucher	
Clay-colored Sparrow 30	North Scituate (Glades)	1	D. Clapp#	
Lark Bunting (details on file) 26	Plum Island	1 m	B. Bradbury	
Savannah Sparrow 11, 25	P.I., S. Monomoy	12, 40	BBC (J. Kennedy), BBC (S. Whittum)	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow thr, 11	S. Dartmouth, P.I.	32 max 8/6, 15	LCES (J. Hill), BBC (J. Kennedy)	
Seaside Sparrow 6, 13; 7	S. Dartmouth; P.I.	3, 5; 1	LCES (J. Hill); T. Aversa	
Song Sparrow 17	Milton (F.M.)	23	G. d'Entremont	
White-crowned Sparrow 15	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1991
Bobolink				
5, 21	E. Boston (B. I.), Truro	2, 10	T. Aversa, T. Aversa	
25, 27	S. Dart., Halifax	1, 45	M. Boucher, T. Aversa	
Yellow-headed Blackbird				
18	Nantucket	1 juv	E. Ray#	
Red-winged Blackbird				
11	Newburyport	200+	BBC (J. Kennedy)	
Common Grackle				
11	Framingham	300	E. Taylor	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
11	Framingham	50	E. Taylor	
Northern Oriole				
8, 17	Fall River, Milton (F.M.)	4, 7	M. Boucher, G. d'Entremont	
22, 31	Squantum, Wellfleet	5, 4	G. d'Entremont, BBC (R.Stymeist)	
Purple Finch				
10, 24	Plum Island	1 m, 2	J. Berry, G. d'Entremont	
American Goldfinch				
17	Milton (F.M.)	20	G. d'Entremont	
European Goldfinch				
30-31	Winchester	1	B. Saurmon	

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD REPORTS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

This publication prints monthly compilations of reports of birds seen in eastern Massachusetts. Space does not permit the inclusion of all material submitted. However, field reports sent to Bird Observer are archived at Massachusetts Audubon Society. Our compilers select and summarize for publication sightings that document early and late dates for migratory species, maximum counts of migrants, high or low numbers of some common birds, and species found beyond their normal ranges.

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the next month. Send to Bird Reports, Robert H. Stymeist, 98 Boylston Street, Watertown, MA 02172. Organize reports by month and by species in current A.O.U. checklist order. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, number of observers, and information relevant to age, sex, morph, etc.

Reports of difficult identifications, vagrants, and rarities should include, in addition to the above information, time of day and light available, wind and weather conditions, the optics used and approximate distance from the bird, length of observation, the observer's prior experience with the species, and field guide or other reference used. Provide a description of the bird based solely on personal observation. Comment on the distinguishing field marks (observed and unobserved), vocalizations, activity, general behavior, the habitat in the immediate vicinity, and other birds present. Include with your report documentation such as copies of the observer's field notes and sketches.



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad	adult	I.	Island
alt	alternate	L.	Ledge
b	banded	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
br	breeding	Mt.A.	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
dk	dark (phase)	N.A.C.	Nine Acre Corner, Concord
f	female	Nant.	Nantucket
fl	fledged	Newbypt	Newburyport
imm	immature	P.I.	Plum Island
ind	individuals	Pd	Pond
juv	juvenile	P'town	Provincetown
loc	location	Quab.	Quabbin
lt	light (phase)	Res.	Reservoir
m	male	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
max	maximum	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
mi	mile	S.F.	State Forest
migr	migrating	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
n	nesting	S.P.	State Park
ph	photographed	Stellw.	Stellwagen Bank
pl	plumage	Worc.	Worcester
pr	pair	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
S	summer (1S = first summer)	BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester
thr	throughout	BOEM	Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts
v.o.	various observers	CBC	Christmas Bird Count
W	winter (2W = second winter)	CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
w/	with	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
yg	young	DLSP	Demarest Lloyd State Park
#	additional observers	DWWS	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	EMHW	Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	FCBC	Felix Cutler Bird Club
B.	Beach	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	LCES	Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies
Buzz.	Buzzards Bay	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
C.	Canyon	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
Cambr.	Cambridge	MDFW	MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	NBC	Needham Bird Club
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	NEHW	New England Hawk Watch
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	PRNWR	Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
F.M.	Fowl Meadow	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston	TASL	Take A Second Look Harbor Census
F.S.F.	Federation State Forest	USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
G45	Gate 45, Quabbin	WMWS	Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary
H.	Harbor		

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ABOUT THE COVER: BOHEMIAN WAXWING

The Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) is truly a bird of mystery. We know very little about its breeding biology and general natural history. It is an erratic and rare winter visitor to Massachusetts, sometimes suddenly appearing in small numbers in flocks of Cedar Waxwings or wintering American Robins, only to disappear the next day. Behaviorally, Bohemian Waxwings can be skittish or absurdly tame, especially if they are mildly intoxicated from eating overripe berry juice.

Noticeably larger and grayer than Cedar Waxwings, Bohemian Waxwings may be distinguished from their smaller relatives by their lack of yellow on the belly, rusty undertail coverts, and the presence of both yellow and white in the wings. Its name, waxwing, is derived from the red waxy material that is secreted at the tips of its secondary feathers. While the sexes are similar, juvenile birds may be separated from adults by their streaked underparts and whitish rather than black throats.

Bohemian Waxwings are circumpolar in their breeding distribution. In North America, they breed from Hudson's Bay, west across northern Canada into Alaska, and south to northern Washington, Idaho, and Montana. Their breeding biology is surprisingly poorly known. They are generally solitary nesters, but occasionally a few pairs breed in loose aggregations, typically in boreal coniferous and mixed forests and in muskeg. They tend to be erratic in their choice of breeding areas, with the location apparently influenced by local food abundance. The few reports of courtship displays mention strutting by the males, sometimes with drooping wings and spread tail. The song is reportedly a variation of the sibilant trill used as a flight call. The nest is a cup constructed of twigs, grass, and moss, and lined with fine plant fibers. It is often located close to the trunk of a tree, and is sometimes on a horizontal branch, at heights of four to eighteen feet above the ground. The black-spotted bluish eggs are four to six in number. It is not known if both sexes participate in incubation or feeding of the young, and the duration of both the incubation and fledging periods are also uncertain, although both are probably about two weeks. Young waxwings are fed both insects and berries.

Bohemian Waxwings are nomadic and irruptive, and their winter incursions south and east are probably triggered by food shortages. They occasionally invade the United States in large flocks and occur irregularly in southern California and northern Arizona. Their irruptions eastward and southward into Massachusetts have become more frequent in the past thirty years, with thirty-three individuals recorded in the winter of 1961-1962, and more than 300 in 1968-1969. Since then, Bohemian Waxwing sightings have been reported nearly every winter, including a number from Cape Cod and the islands off the coast of Cape Cod.

Bohemian Waxwings, like Cedar Waxwings, are opportunistic foragers that utilize a wide variety of food types. In the summer they feed on insects, berries, fruits, and flowers, but in winter, berries are their preferred food. They also have been reported eating tree sap, bugs, and seeds. In summer, similar to flycatchers, they hawk insects from perches. They are reputed to be exceptional gluttons, often filling their crops to capacity and, between meals, eating large quantities of snow. One report claims that they may eat two or three times their body weight in berries in a day!

When the cold winter winds sweep down from Canada, watch those flocks of Cedar Waxwings and robins closely, and check out any local patch of shrubbery with a good supply of berries. Eventually you may be lucky enough to find a Bohemian Waxwing, a species of striking beauty and a rarity worth searching for.

W. E. D.

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

We are delighted to have another Barry Van Dusen drawing appear on *Bird Observer's* cover. Barry is a wildlife artist with a growing reputation. He was recently named the Audubon Alliance Artist of the Year for 1992, and his work was included in the important international show, "Birds in Art," at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin, in October 1991.

Barry lives in Princeton, Massachusetts, and has been an independent professional artist for nearly fifteen years. For the past eight years, he has worked closely with Audubon societies and conservation organizations throughout New England. His work has been featured in books, magazines, posters, and brochures involving many aspects of natural history, although his favorite subjects are birds. Among the titles Barry has illustrated is *Birding Cape Cod* (1990) and the forthcoming *Birds of Massachusetts*, authored by Richard Veit and Wayne Petersen.

Barry prefers to work from life, and spends many hours studying and drawing his subjects in the field. In November 1991, Barry spoke at the Third Annual Massachusetts Birders' Meeting in Shrewsbury on sketching in the field. His field work is an inspiration and reference for more finished pictures. "After an outdoor experience fills me with wonder and excitement," he says, "I try to determine the essentials of what I've seen and felt. I try to recreate the scene directly and economically, doing my best to preserve the spark and power of the original moment."

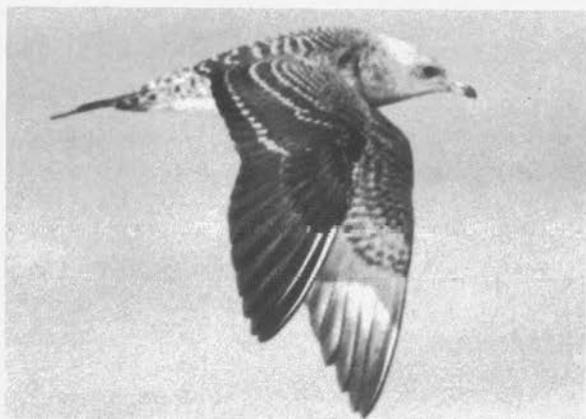
Barry currently has an exhibit of his artwork (through January 1992) at the Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, 414 Massasoit Road, Worcester, Massachusetts. Some of Barry's pieces are also exhibited at least through January 1992 at the Sterling Mill Works, 15 Washacum Street, Sterling, Massachusetts. For future scheduled exhibits or additional information, Barry can be reached at 13 Radford Road, Princeton, Massachusetts 01541. M. J. S.

Seabirds pose identification challenges for birders partly because of factors such as poor lighting conditions and distance, but also because of intrinsic complexities in their variable plumage. Of the numerous seabirds regularly inhabiting Massachusetts waters, none are more consistently difficult to identify than jaegers, such as the individual in October's mystery photograph.

Jaegers exhibit extreme plumage variability from several perspectives. First, they are polymorphic—their coloration ranges from uniformly dark to dark above and whitish beneath, with varying amounts of dusky on the sides, flanks, and chest. Second, they exhibit the same protracted plumage development found in gulls, with individual birds undergoing a series of transitional molts between juvenile and adult plumage over the course of approximately four years. Finally, jaegers exhibit recognizably distinct basic (winter) and alternate (summer) plumages. Collectively these features can produce a baffling appearance that virtually defies identification especially when seen under poor conditions. Fortunately structure, flight characteristics, and behavior are useful features that can also be helpful in making accurate jaeger identifications.

The jaeger in the photograph is readily identifiable as a juvenile on the basis of the extensive whitish barring and spotting on the scapulars, secondary coverts, and underwing coverts, its uncapped head, and its pale-based bill. The very pale head and whiteness of the visible portion of the underparts indicate that the bird is in the light morph.

To specifically identify the pictured jaeger, attention should focus on the two white outermost primary shafts, which stand out in marked contrast to the adjacent primaries. This characteristic, along with the overall paleness of the bird (especially the head) and the extensive barring on the flanks and uppertail coverts, indicate that the bird is a Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*).



Long-tailed Jaeger

Photo by Jack Murray

Given a different view of the tail, the extended central tail feathers would display decidedly rounded tips rather than tapering to sharp points as in a juvenile Parasitic Jaeger.

The Long-tailed Jaeger in the picture was photographed in September 1991 slightly east of Stellwagen Bank.

AT A GLANCE

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



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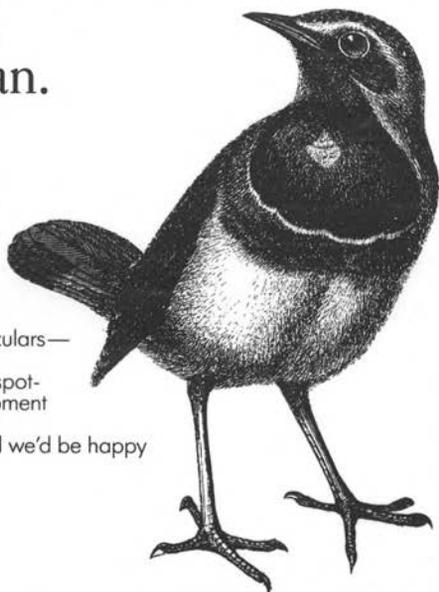
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