

# Bird Observer

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VOLUME 29, NUMBER 5

OCTOBER 2001



## HOT BIRDS

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The bird of the spring was undoubtedly this **Swainson's Warbler**, which was present on Naushon Island for nearly a month, according to island resident Sarah Storer. Lucky birders with access to this private property included Andrea Jones and Tom Maloney (who took this photograph on May 19, 2001). This bird made a very nifty write-in on the Mass. Audubon Birdathon List.

Phil Brown was ready with his digital camera and telescope when these **Black Skimmers** made an appearance at the Salt Pans at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island on July 7, 2001. Black Skimmers are unusual this far north.



A pelagic trip to Hydrographer's Canyon on August 27, 2001, provided sightings of 2 **White-faced Storm-Petrels**. This elusive and highly pelagic southern species is one of the target birds for trips to the edge of the continental shelf. Steve Mirick got these great shots using his digital video camera. The image below captures the kangaroo-like bounding behavior of the White-faced, in contrast to the dainty tip-toeing of the Wilson's Storm-Petrel.

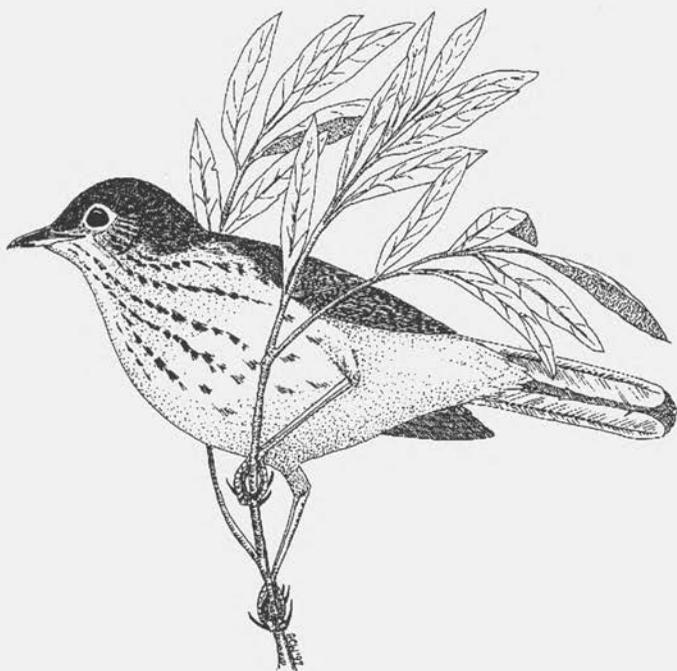


***Editor's note:** Please consider submitting your photographs of rare birds, unseasonable birds, or just interesting birds for publication in HOT BIRDS. We encourage you to get in touch with David Larson (<davlars@bu.edu> or 1921 Central Street, Stoughton, MA 02072) if you have a photograph for us to consider.*

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GEORGE C. WEST



# Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal — to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds  
**VOL. 29, NO. 5 OCTOBER 2001**

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## Editor's note:

As we are (somewhat belatedly) going to press, I would like to include, as a separate excerpt from the regular *MassWildlife News*, these thoughts from Bill Davis, Wildlife Biologist and Media & Public Affairs Coordinator for *MassWildlife*:

The ripple effects of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States continue to spread, touching everyone including the Massachusetts conservation community. . . . National Guard vehicles now sit at Quabbin Reservoir as soldiers scan the skies for threats to Boston's drinking water supply where once eagle-watchers admired our national bird. Fishing at Quabbin has been closed and access to the vast reservation lands for hiking, nature photography and birding has been lost. A decision regarding the Quabbin controlled deer hunt is pending. Licensed sportsmen and women can expect an increased law enforcement presence in the field, including thorough checks for proper firearms identification. The Coast Guard advises that Boston Harbor is open to pleasure craft for fishing and waterfowl hunting but boating activity will be under close scrutiny. Even the summit of Mt. Wachusett was closed briefly, locking away the opportunity for hawk-watching, leaf peeping and gazing at Mt. Monadnock to the north, freedoms long taken for granted.

While there can be no silver lining to the human events of September 11, there can be comfort and solace found in the natural world. The sun, indeed, has continued to rise and set, the Harvest Moon has waxed and waned and autumn's colors creep deliberately to the south. High flying and boisterous flocks of Canada geese drive their V-shaped formations through the sky, early morning mist hangs low over rivers and ponds, acorns and wild apples ripen and drop to the ground and beavers, chipmunks and squirrels cache food stocks for the winter ahead. The natural world, while largely overwhelmed and consumed by man-made changes to the landscape, somehow remains far removed from the ripple effects and consequences of the purely human events of September 11. Even before the dust had settled in New York City, the gulls and pigeons were gliding through the concrete canyons where once buildings had stood. The course of human history changed in an instant, but the daily, seasonal and timeless rhythms of nature persist, unchanged. Perhaps some may find at least momentary peace in nature's beauty and continuity.

MassWildlife News 10/9/01



WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

# Town Of Barnstable:

## Selected Birding Spots in the Town of Barnstable, Cape Cod

*Stauffer Miller*

Cape Cod is made up of fifteen towns. The largest and most populous is the Town of Barnstable with a land area of some sixty square miles and year-round population of about 50,000 people. Within the town are seven small municipalities called villages: Hyannis, Centerville, Osterville, Cotuit, Marstons Mills, West Barnstable, and Barnstable.



The term Barnstable is a confusing one to both Cape Codder and non-Cape Codder, as it can refer to three different entities: the name of the county which comprises all of Cape Cod; a village within the Town of Barnstable, as mentioned above; and that sixty-square-mile expanse in the middle of the upper arm of Cape Cod which has Cape Cod Bay to the north and Nantucket Sound to the south. The latter, the Town of Barnstable, is what I will discuss here.

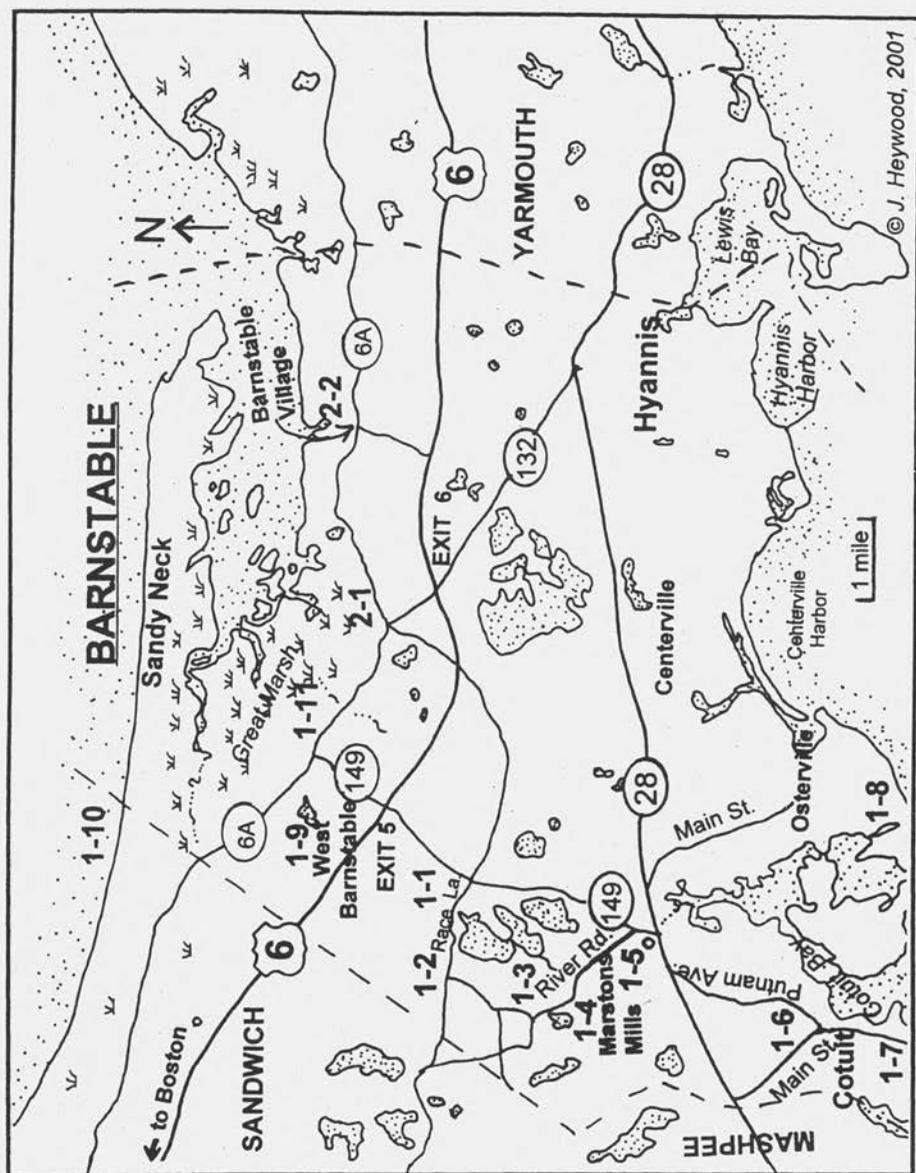
As you can imagine, there are a number of interesting birding areas in a land mass of this size on Cape Cod. I have selected thirteen to write about here. The first eleven have access from exit 5 (Route 149) of Route 6, the mid-Cape Highway, and these I label 1-1 to 1-11. The other two have access from exit 6 (Route 132) of Route 6 and these I label 2-1 and 2-2.

The list of sites is then as follows:

- 1-1 Marstons Mills Airport
- 1-2 Town of Barnstable Conservation Area, Marstons Mills
- 1-3 Bog Road Cranberry Bog and Pond, Marstons Mills
- 1-4 Muddy Pond, Marstons Mills
- 1-5 Marstons Mills Mill Pond
- 1-6 Mosswood Cemetery, Cotuit
- 1-7 Rushy Pond, Cotuit
- 1-8 Seaview Avenue, Osterville
- 1-9 West Barnstable Mill Pond
- 1-10 Sandy Neck Parking Lot, West Barnstable
- 1-11 Railroad Track at Route 6A, West Barnstable
- 2-1 Sandy Street Cemetery Road, Barnstable Village
- 2-2 Barnstable Village Whale-Watch Boat

### 1-1 Marstons Mills Airport

From Exit 5 of Route 6, set mileage to 0, and take Route 149 south. Route 149 will very shortly bend diagonally to the right. Do not go straight here. Go 0.9 mile



from the Route 6 exit to a wide pull-off on your right. This pull-off is opposite the entrance to a golf course. You are now looking out over the airport, which is used by small private planes and people taking glider rides. A sand road leads to the west, through shrubs that border the northern edge of the airport, to a police dog training area and a model airplane field. There should be birds along this road, especially August to October. There can be many Eastern Kingbirds along this road in late August and also Prairie Warblers. I saw a Western Kingbird at the dog-training area

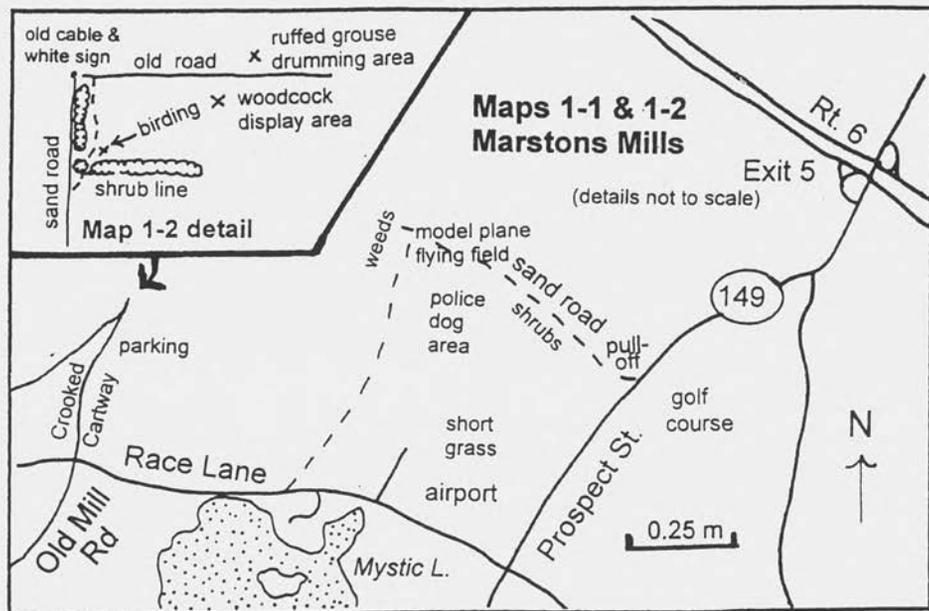
October 6 and 7, 1994, and a Dickcissel in the weeds west of the model airplane field August 16, 1998.

Try to get here early in the day, as by 9:00 a.m. or so, especially on weekends; model airplane pilots may be here. Also, I'm not sure what it portends, but there was increased use of the dog-training area this fall by the police, and this can be a major disturbance. Unfortunately, they tend to arrive early. When I walk in the short grass, which is fairly often (it is not posted), I always do so early in the day. Birds I have seen in the short grass have included Eastern Meadowlark, American Pipit, Northern Bobwhite, and Savannah Sparrow. Bobolinks have been here toward the end of August, and there was an Upland Sandpiper May 9, 2000. Sparrow varieties vary from year to year depending on the quantity of weeds. Needless to say, you should always be alert for aircraft when you are walking near the runway.

### 1-2 Town of Barnstable Conservation Area, Marstons Mills

From the airport pull-off proceed south on Route 149 and go right (west) on Race Lane. Reset mileage to zero. At 0.6 mile, there is a pull-off on the left, from which you can check Mystic Lake. Flocks of Lesser Scaup may be here in March. At 1.1 miles there is a four-way intersection. Go right onto Crooked Cartway, proceed to the end, and park at the gate. Continue walking on a sand road that goes north.

After five minutes of walking, you will see on the right an old cable and a white sign pertaining to the water supply. Go right (east) here, and immediately start walking south along the line of shrubs and low trees, keeping the shrubs to your right. This north-south line of shrubs will intersect shortly at a right angle with an east-west line of shrubs. The rising sun will directly strike this angle, and this shrubby sunlit



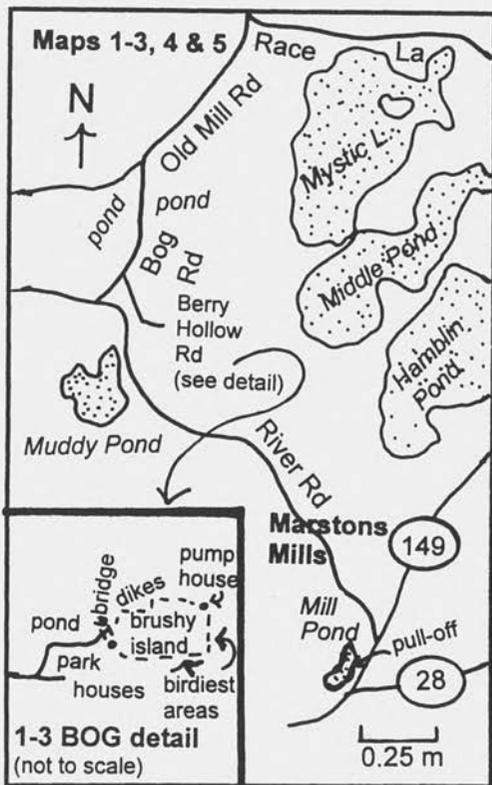
corner is an excellent place to be on calm mornings from mid-August into October. I have seen Philadelphia Vireos here as well as Blue-winged Warblers and a goodly variety of other songbirds.

When you've finished birding in this angle, you can return to the sand road and your car by penetrating the brush to your front and to your right. The large field here is an excellent spot in the spring at predawn or dusk to experience Woodcock displays. Also, I have heard Ruffed Grouse drumming here in mid-April.

### 1-3 Bog Road Cranberry Bog and Pond, Marstons Mills

Return to the intersection with Race Lane. The north-running street at this four-way intersection is Crooked Cartway, while the south-running street is Old Mill Road. Reset mileage to zero, and go south on Old Mill. At 0.6 mile bear left onto Bog Road. Look for waterfowl in the low area at 0.7 mile. I have seen Pine Siskins in the maples to the right here. At 1.0 mile turn left onto Berry Hollow Road. Berry Hollow will divide, with the right portion going uphill as a paved road to some housing. Do not take the paved road. Instead, you can either park just beyond this road split, or drive left around the bluff to the cranberry bog pumphouse, where you can stop and check the pond to the north from your car. I have gotten permission to do either. However, if you want to walk, don't leave the car here, but rather park at the road split.

The little pond here has had over the years a nice assortment of waterfowl, including Eurasian Wigeon, and also Common Snipe and a few herons. In the coldest weather when other water is frozen, there is often open water with waterfowl. If you park, there is a pleasant and rather birdy walk, which seems best in late October after the high water levels used for cranberry harvesting have been lowered. I like to make a quadrangular clockwise walk on the dikes, starting at the pumphouse at the pond, walking north and then east to the other pumphouse, then directly south and finally directly west, all the time keeping the brushy island to my right. The last two legs of this quadrangular walk are the birdiest because there are more weeds and grass. Many ducks and sparrows fly up when you walk these axes in October. There was an



American Bittern here in October 2000 and Red Crossbills November 16, 1999. I have seen Northern Shrikes and Red-shouldered Hawks in the general area. There is probably enough birdlife here to make the walk interesting in any month.

#### 1-4 Muddy Pond, Marstons Mills

Return to Bog Road and go left, then left at River Road, resetting to zero. At the fire hydrant on the right at 0.3 mile, there is an inconspicuous pull-off for one car. Park here, walk twenty feet downhill to the edge of the pond, and scan it. This is Muddy Pond. In the fall, this pond can have large numbers of American Wigeons, Gadwalls, and other dabbling ducks. There were ten Common Snipe here October 14, 1995.

#### 1-5 Marstons Mills Mill Pond

Continue on River Road and upon meeting Route 149, go right, and stop in a few hundred feet at the small paved pull-off for the familiar Marstons Mills Mill Pond. The number of Mill Ponds on Cape Cod is a source of amusement to local birders, there being about as many Mill Ponds as there are Barnstables. This Mill Pond remains one of the premier waterfowl spots on Cape Cod and is mentioned in the excellent book *Birding Cape Cod*, published in 1990 by the Cape Cod Bird Club and Massachusetts Audubon, which anybody birding on the Cape should possess.

Waterfowl start to show up here in late August, and at this time look for Wood Ducks and Blue-winged Teal. Later in the fall the pond has large numbers of American Wigeons and Gadwalls. Study the American Wigeons carefully, since a Eurasian Wigeon is often among them. Peak waterfowl numbers occur about early December. A walk to the south along the shoulder of busy Route 149, here at its junction with Route 28, and a scramble to the top of the pine-covered bluff will yield an excellent view of the entire pond. By so doing, you can sometimes see a Northern Shoveler that you might otherwise miss.

#### 1-6 Mosswood Cemetery, Cotuit

Go right on Route 28, reset to zero, and go left in 0.5 mile at the stoplight. You are now in Cotuit on Putnam Avenue. At 2.0 miles is the entrance on the right to Mosswood Cemetery. This cemetery, for reasons I don't understand, is quite good for birds. It is fairly reliable for Eastern Bluebirds, and often has a loose flock of bluebirds, Northern Flickers, Chipping Sparrows, and Pine Warblers moving around. One of the better areas within the cemetery has been the rear-most portion where the cemetery employees pile mulch and branches. At times these piles grow up in weeds, which makes birding the best. Unfortunately, the employees have recently gotten regrettably neat about these piles and have been obliterating them. Nevertheless, this area is worth checking.

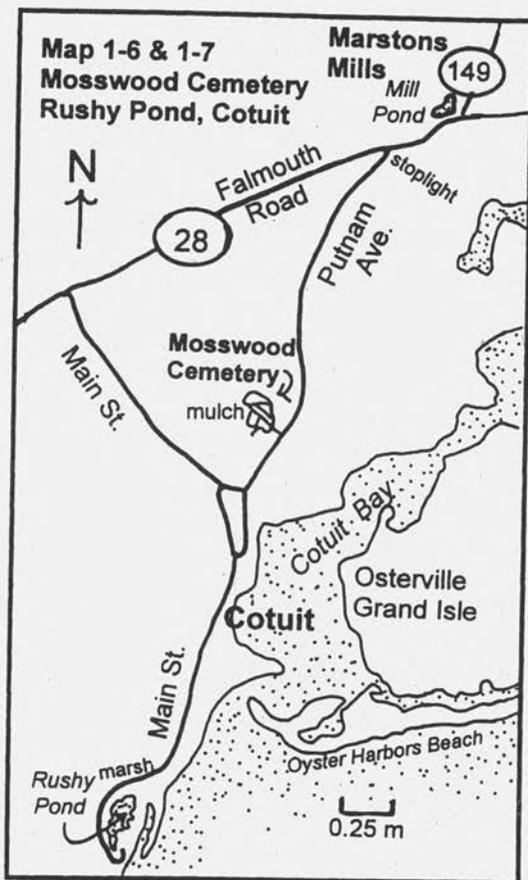
Other birds that I have seen here include Brown Creeper, which may nest, Red- and White-breasted nuthatches, Hermit Thrush, and Veery. One Pine Warbler and three Chipping Sparrows were there December 7, 1995, and a Pine Warbler in mid-January of 1996. The cemetery would seem like an excellent spot to check for rarities

that hang out in the fall and winter with Chipping Sparrows.

### 1-7 Rushy Pond, Cotuit

Return to Putnam Avenue, and go right. Putnam, with a bend to the right, will intersect with Main Street. Go left, pass through the village of Cotuit, and stay on Main Street. At 4.0 miles from the Route 149/28 intersection, you will be very near the end of Main Street and at Rushy Pond, on the left.

This pond is best known as a site for Least Bittern, a very scarce bird on Cape Cod. Some years the bittern is present, others seemingly not. The bird is very difficult to see here and is best detected by hearing the vocalization, which it gives at first light. Unfortunately, first light in early June, the best time to listen, is about 5:00 a.m. I have seen the bittern a few times and mostly heard it call from the cattail/phragmites-lined north and west borders of the pond.



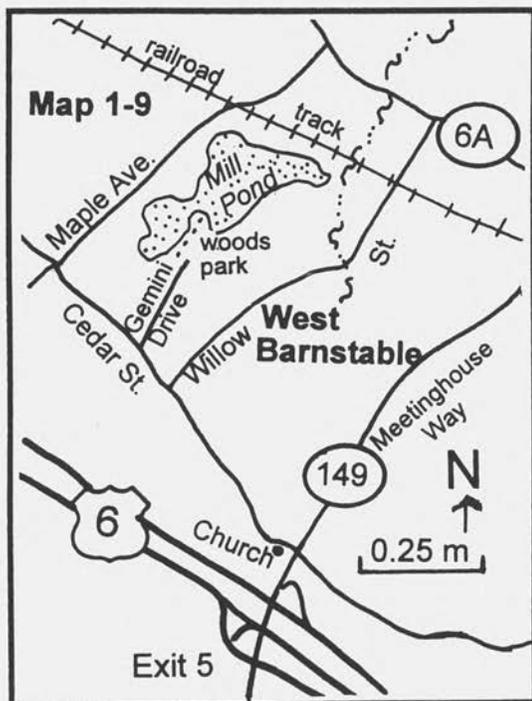
The marsh on the other (north) side of Main Street has Virginia Rails, and the nearby small pond achieved fame in November/December 1994 when a Wood Stork took up residence there. Main Street ends at the Oregon Beach overlook of Nantucket Sound. A Barrow's Goldeneye can occasionally be found here mixing in with Common Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, and Common Eiders.

### 1-8 Seaview Avenue, Osterville

Return to the Route 149/28 intersection, go east about half a mile on Route 28, turn right at the Osterville sign, and reset mileage to zero. This is Main Street in Osterville. At 1.9 miles make a diagonal right onto Parker Road. Very shortly Parker will veer slightly left at a four-way stop. Take Parker to its terminus at Seaview Avenue, and go right. This leads to a lookout, squeezed between board fences, onto the mouth of an inlet of Nantucket Sound. This is one of the more reliable sites on Cape Cod for Barrow's Goldeneye, which unfortunately mixes with flocks of the more numerous Common Goldeneye. Other winter waterfowl found here are Common Eiders, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Buffleheads.

### 1-9 West Barnstable Mill Pond

The next three sites are north of Route 6 in West Barnstable. From Exit 5 of



Route 6 go north on Route 149 across the Route 6 overpass to a church on the left. Turn left here onto Cedar Street, and go 0.6 mile to Gemini Drive on the right. Gemini will end as a triangular "circle." Park on the brushy or west side. Just north of the north aspect of this circle is a path leading to the west into the woods. This obscure path leads to one of Cape Cod's best waterfowl ponds, West Barnstable Mill Pond (yes, another Mill Pond!). Walk quietly, since you will shortly have waterfowl both on your left and ahead of you. Eurasian Wigeon can as easily be here as at Marstons Mills Mill Pond. Rusty Blackbirds can be here; I heard about twenty of them at this pond February 11, 1996.

### 1-10 Sandy Neck Parking Lot, West Barnstable

Return to Route 149, go north to Route 6A, and turn left (west). In 2.2 miles you will see Sandy Neck Road on the right, opposite a large restaurant. Drive to the end of Sandy Neck Road to the parking lot that looks out over Cape Cod Bay. The parking lot has achieved renown over the years as the place to be during the teeth of a nor'easter, that is, when the winds are strong out of the northeast.

If you are here during a nor'easter, you will most likely be looking out to sea from your car. This can be difficult from a low car because of the snow fence between the parking lot and the Bay, so obviously a high car, if available, is better. Also, a visit during a high tide portion of the nor'easter is better since the birds tend to be closer.

If tides and wind are just right, if you can see over the fence, and if you're not getting wet, frozen, and/or your car sand-blasted, you might see various seabirds such as shearwaters, storm-petrels, jaegers, phalaropes, or alcids. My general rule here is, the worse the viewing conditions, the better the birds flying by. Some interesting records here over the years include around thirty Red Phalaropes in a rare May storm of May 17, 1994, a Ross's Gull and three Red-necked Phalaropes on the beach after prolonged northeast winds May 13, 1998, and an Atlantic Puffin November 11, 2000, again after several days of northeast winds.

## 1-11 Railroad Track at Route 6A, West Barnstable

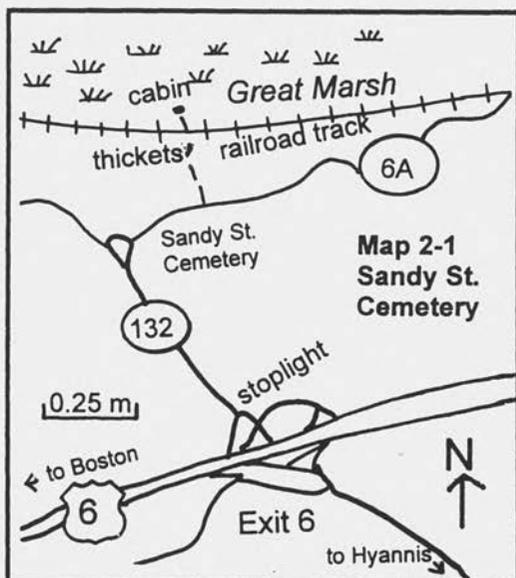
Return east on Route 6A to the intersection with Route 149, then continue east on 6A one-half mile to a pull-off on either side of the highway. The railroad track crosses Route 6A here. Walk to the east on the track, keeping in mind that this is an active railroad track with a few trains each day. After about ten minutes you will see a sign on the right that reads "Children at Play." There is a pond lined partly by tall cedar trees at this sign. From July to October varying numbers of Black-crowned Night-Herons roost in these and other trees around the pond. An adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was with the Black-Crowns August 4, 1999. The railroad track goes beside a large salt marsh here, the Great Marsh, so this can be an interesting walk in most seasons for that reason. I often see accipiters flying as I walk. Willow Flycatchers nest at the junction of Route 6A and the track.

## 2-1 Sandy Street Cemetery Road, Barnstable Village

Unless you are driving east on Route 6A from the last site, exit from Route 6 at Exit 6 and go north on Route 132. From the stoplight just north of the Route 6 overpass, it is 0.6 mile on Route 132 to the intersection with Route 6A. Go right (east) on 6A, and in 0.2 mile you will see Sandy Street Cemetery on your right. Pull in here and park. Walk across Route 6A, and start walking downhill on what until this year has been a sand road. I use this term with hesitation because, late in 2000, house construction began along the upper portion of this road, and it may become a paved road.

Anyway, your object is to walk downhill on whatever road is present to the railroad track. At the track you will be beyond all the disruption. Walk a short way west on the track and watch for a Barnstable Land Trust sign on the north side of the track.

There are excellent thickets near the sign on both sides of the track, and I usually encounter a flock of birds. I saw a Fox Sparrow here March 7, 1998, and a Brown Thrasher November 23, 1999. Formerly, you could continue north on the sand road past a duck hunter's cabin to a nice view out over the Great Marsh, but recently I noticed the dreaded "no trespassing" signs at the cabin. There is, however, in winter a nice view of the marsh from the land trust sign at the railroad.

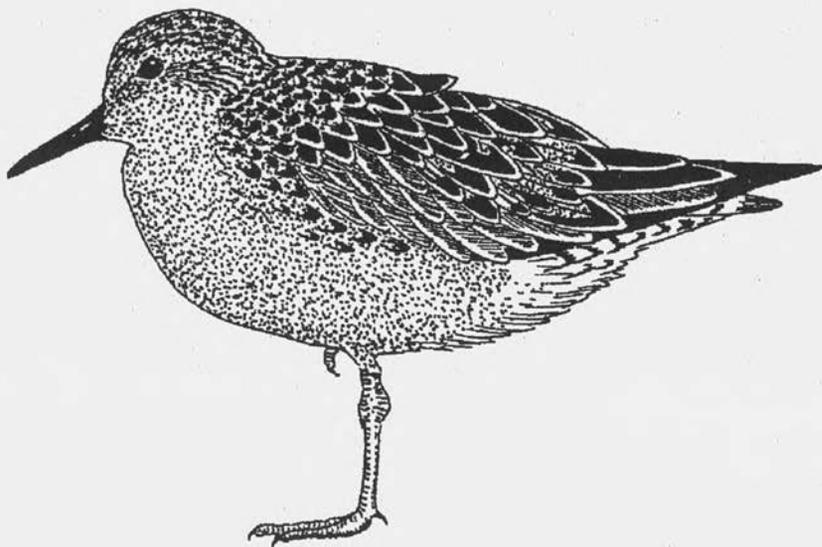


## 2-2 Barnstable Village Whale-Watch Boat

From the Sandy Street Cemetery, continue east on Route 6A, and in a few miles you will note the large Barnstable County courthouse on your right. You are now in Barnstable Village and at the epicenter of Barnstable confusion—at the Barnstable County courthouse in the Town of Barnstable in the village of Barnstable. Remain calm. Proceed to the stoplight, and go left onto Mill Way. This will shortly take you to still another Barnstable, Barnstable Harbor.

Here is to be found the Barnstable Harbor whale-watching boat known confusingly enough as the Hyannis Whale Watcher. The whale-watch boat here makes an excellent alternative to making the long drive to Provincetown and taking those whale-watch boats to look for seabirds. The fee charged to park at Barnstable Harbor to take this whale watcher is rather steep, but you can avoid it by parking at the courthouse and walking or biking over to Barnstable Harbor. Call 1-888-942-5392 for prices, schedules, and reservations for the Hyannis Whale Watcher. 

*Stauffer Miller, a native of West Virginia, has been a birder for the past thirty years. He is the author of A Guide to Bird-finding in Frederick County, Maryland. He has lived on the Cape since early 1994 and has been coordinating field trips for the Cape Cod Bird Club for the past three years.*



GEORGE C. WEST

# Seabirds of Andrew's Point, Rockport, Massachusetts

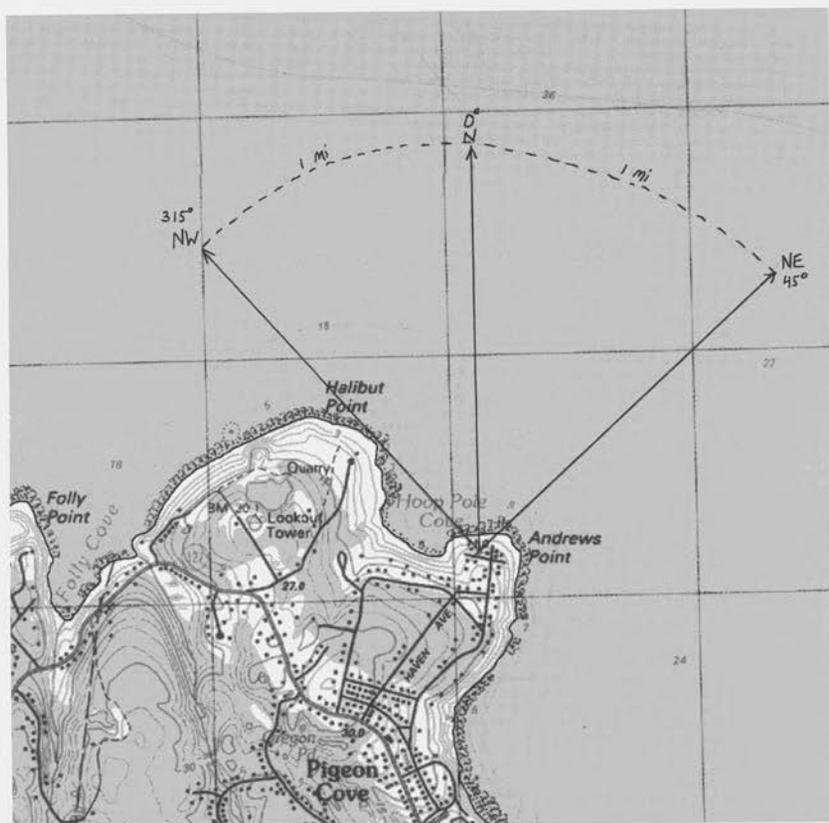
*Richard S. Heil*

That "other" Massachusetts cape, Cape Ann, is a rocky headland located between Boston and the New Hampshire border that juts out some eight to ten miles east into the North Atlantic. This at-sea location relative to the adjacent coastline, plus Cape Ann's proximity to two inshore fishing banks, Jeffreys Ledge to the northeast and Stellwagen Bank to the southeast (both of which are areas rich in plankton due to the upwelling of nutrients, and thus also rich in fish, cetaceans, and seabirds), conspire geographically to make it an excellent area for observing migrating coastal seabirds, particularly in the fall, and storm-driven pelagic seabirds year-round.

Andrew's Point is a rocky ledge ideally situated at the northeast corner of Cape Ann. There are two public right-of-ways between the several homes there. Viewing can also be easily accomplished from the adjacent road that runs parallel to the ocean. These sites are between 5 and 10 meters above sea level, beyond the "spray zone," and fortunately lack the sandblasting one receives during storms at traditional Cape Cod seawatching sites. Andrew's Point affords a magnificent unobstructed view of the sea looking NW to E. On a clear day the Isle of Shoals archipelago off the New Hampshire coast (20 miles distant) is visible, and Mount Agamenticus in southern Maine, about 38 miles away, looms on the northern horizon. During the fall, migrating seabirds such as loons, gannets, sea ducks, and gulls, following the New England coastline south, are forced to turn east at Ipswich Bay upon approaching Cape Ann, and in doing so pass by in very close proximity to Andrew's Point as they skirt around the cape.

Indeed there are few, if any, better places on the East Coast of the United States, in regard to ease of viewing, where such a variety and magnitude of seabirds regularly pass by so close to shore. Without question, autumn is the best season at Andrew's Point, and the majority of migrating seabirds, largely loons, gannets, sea ducks, and kittiwakes, perform the bulk of their passage during a rather contracted period of 4-6 weeks. During the period from early October to mid-November, it is not extraordinary to witness 10,000 to 15,000 seabirds pass by the point in a single day, and I have experienced several days when storms have coincided with the peak of migration, where single-day tallies have exceeded 30,000 seabirds.

Since 1975 I have conducted 115 seawatches of 2.5 hours duration or longer (most were 5-8 hours). These have been conducted in every month, although predominantly during the fall migration period of October through December. The monthly breakdown is as follows: Jan. (6), Feb. (7), Mar. (7), Apr. (5), May (4), Jun. (6), Jul. (3), Aug. (10), Sep. (9), Oct. (20), Nov. (22), Dec. (16). In the course of these seawatches, which entailed essentially nonstop viewing with binoculars and telescope from a stationary position, all birds were identified to species whenever possible, or to group (e.g., large alcid, tubenose sp.), and numbers were either counted (small flocks) or carefully estimated (larger flocks) and immediately recorded on paper. Of course,



*Andrews Point Seawatch Area. Map courtesy of Maptech, Inc.*

the numbers of seabirds I have observed on these comparatively limited number of counts, during any given month or season, are only a small fraction of the actual total number of what must be several hundred thousand seabirds that pass by Andrew's Point each fall.

Andrew's Point and Cape Ann have a rich ornithological history, and their seabirds have been the object of study and enumeration for more than a century by many observers both past and present. Among those in the former category are Ludlow Griscom, John Kieran, and Dorothy Snyder. In this account I summarize only my own observations over the past 26 years with a few exceptions, such as when historical understanding or a remarkable contemporaneous observation is especially relevant or insightful. In such cases other observers are cited.

### **Weather, Wind Direction, and Seabird Behavior**

It is on those clear, crisp, bright-blue-sky October days following the passage of a cold front, when gusty north and northwest winds blow down from the coast of southern Maine, floating on the distant horizon, when the great flocks of scoters appear. For sure, loons, gannets, scoters, and other sea ducks are the staple of seabird

migration at Andrew's Point, and a storm is not a prerequisite to observing them in large numbers in passage at the appropriate season. Virtually any day with a W-N-WN airflow from late September to early December can produce a moderate flight. Following the New England coastline south during their fall migration, this seemingly incessant stream of migrants, upon entering Ipswich Bay, abruptly encounters Cape Ann, which protrudes some eight to ten miles seaward from the adjacent coastline into the Gulf of Maine. With the exception of Double-crested Cormorants, whose flocks largely overfly the base of Cape Ann, most all other seabirds are forced to turn east to round Cape Ann, passing very close to Andrew's Point, before again turning south and on their way. In season, even calm days or days with winds nonconducive to migration can have flights, although generally of much lower magnitude.

The really major flights of seabirds, bringing together the usual coastal migrants with the more pelagic seabirds, occur when a northeast storm coincides with the peak of coastal seabird migration, generally between mid-October and early November. During these extraordinary flights large detached flocks of loons and masses of sea ducks may be joined by hundreds or even thousands of Greater Shearwaters, Northern Gannets, and Black-legged Kittiwakes, along with smaller numbers of Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers, and arriving Razorbills. These storms form when large low-pressure systems move up the east coast or develop offshore, often just east or southeast of Cape Cod. If such a low stalls in the Gulf of Maine, we may expect several days of gale-force east or northeast winds, which tend to drive the more pelagic species inshore. It is often the latter days of these extended storms that produce numbers of Northern Fulmars, Leach's Storm-Petrels, Red Phalaropes, or more rarely, a Great Skua, all presumably from areas far offshore. Particularly heavy flurries of seabirds, including tubenoses, jaegers, and kittiwakes, and other fast-flying species, will often appear just in advance of approaching squall lines of downpours and intensified wind gusts contained in the spiral bands of a passing low. As the low moves away and the front passes, winds shift, at varying rates, to the N and finally NW, and skies clear, ushering in yet another batch of loons and scoters.

Storms bearing E or NE winds are consistently the most productive for viewing pelagic seabirds at Andrew's Point. However, it has become evident to me in recent years that when winds are very strong (40+ mph), pelagic birds will often be present regardless of wind direction. Also, I have recently discovered that during strong southerly winds pelagic species such as shearwaters, storm-petrels, gannets, kittiwakes, and jaegers, along with gulls and terns, perhaps driven from Stellwagen Bank or other offshore areas, will seek shelter in the relative calm of Ipswich Bay, in the lee of the wind. Under these conditions it is possible some birds may circle repeatedly in the bay counterclockwise until the winds subside, and one is obviously confronted with the possibility of duplicating counts. At least a portion of these birds are viewable from Andrew's Point. When the winds finally subside, birds will exit the bay past the point en masse to return to the open sea or offshore banks. Sometimes this exodus can be spectacular, albeit brief. An analogous situation occurs in Cape Cod Bay, where birds will repeatedly circle in the bay during the course of the storm and where potential duplication of counts at coastal vantage points has always been an issue.

Typically, seabird flights at Andrew's Point are at their greatest intensity in the morning. Generally speaking, this is usually true regardless of the precise timing of the storm and the arrival of the strongest winds! Often the show is essentially over sometime between 1100 and 1200 hours. However, very early morning, depending upon season but roughly between sunrise and 0800, is often not the best. My experience has been that the greatest seabird movements, during both storms and migration, occur between 0800 and 1100 hours, usually dropping off sharply sometime around midday. Intensity often picks up again late in the afternoon, although it typically does not reach the level of the morning flight.

### Seawatching Techniques

Seawatching, like hawkwatching but I think even more so, is an art, and requires a level of experience to perfect. The novice is often frustrated by an inability to identify or even see passing birds due to distance, poor visibility, rainy or fogged lenses, or shaky images due to the wind. Certainly seawatching during inclement weather can be uncomfortable. The intrepid observer often must contend with gale-force winds, rain or snow, and freezing temperatures, or all of the above at once, depending on the season (and that's just getting there in your vehicle!). Some of these hindrances can be mitigated if a sheltered observation spot can be located in the lee of the wind. I prefer the drier and more stable view from the relative calm and comfort of a vehicle, angled to avoid rain in the face (not always successfully), and accompanied by a hot coffee and a muffin.

Sea conditions are also a factor. Skittering Dovekies and scaling shearwaters alike can easily disappear in the troughs behind ten or twenty-foot swells, sometimes, apparently, never to emerge! It is a combination of practiced skill and a measure of luck to envision where a bird will reappear and have your scope moving at the same rate and in the same direction as the now missing seabird, hoping for its reappearance somewhere in your field of view. Even during calm weather, glare, or that winter nemesis "sea smoke," produced when very cold air temperatures occur over warmer seawater, can hinder viewing.

One simple key to successful seabird watching is to maintain a constant vigil. Rest your eyes for just a few minutes, and you could miss the bird of the day, or during intense movements, literally hundreds of seabirds could fly past unnoticed. The window of opportunity to locate, focus, zoom in on, identify, and count or estimate, may be ten seconds to several minutes depending upon the distance, flight speed, and behavior of the passing bird or flock.

Another important practice is to regularly scan all proportions of your view. Think and bird three-dimensionally. One must monitor the seascape in close as well as far out, and regularly alternate between the two. Dovekies and Thick-billed Murres, for instance, will sometimes fly by very close, just beyond the rocks, and will be missed if you are only scoping the depths; alternatively, if one fails to regularly scan far offshore to the horizon, you will miss many birds, particularly shearwaters and jaegers, which less frequently come very close to the point. Additionally, all of the commoner seabirds flying past at close to midrange are usually also parading by

farther out, so your counts will be higher if you attempt to census all ranges, even if many can't be identified beyond the family level.

While the majority of the passing seabirds routinely fly within fifty or so feet of the sea surface, many species are occasional to frequent high fliers and will pass by undetected if you fail to look up. Good peripheral vision and an awareness of what's happening outside your scope field while scoping are important. I think an angled scope eyepiece is a definite disadvantage unless birds happen to be passing between your nose and your feet. Members of the high-flying club are the loons (often in sizable loose flocks), Northern Gannets, White-winged Scoters, jaegers, gulls, and terns.

Most seabirds seen at Andrew's during the fall migration and during storms year-round will be flying NW to SE. In order to detect the greatest percentage of the flight, at all ranges of distance, you must view predominantly perpendicular to the flight path direction, that is, to the northeast. About one-half mile to the north-northwest of Andrew's Point is a large green "can" buoy. It is the practice of many local birders during storms to train their scope on this buoy and observe what passes by. Although this is indeed a good method to get quickly onto some of the closer-approaching seabirds early and ensure a lengthy view as they round adjacent Halibut Point, particularly sea ducks and the closer alcids, many other birds, passing by farther off to the northeast and east, will be missed entirely.

Concentrate and be proactive. If it is early November and an intense nor'easter is in progress and you're not seeing Greater Shearwaters, then perhaps you're not trying hard enough. This tubenose, like the much more irregular Northern Fulmar, during some flights is only visible rather far out and to the east of the point. If you scan only to midrange, or only to the north-northwest or even northeast, you may miss the bulk of the flight of these birds. Not all seabirds are as obvious as a large flock of Surf Scoters or Common Eiders winging past the rocks. I sometimes find it helpful to envision or imagine the presence of certain difficult-to-detect species like the diminutive storm-petrels before I actually see them! Concentrating in such a manner, with the appearance and behavior, i.e., "jizz" of a particular bird in mind, I find to be a real aid in its actual detection. Of course this doesn't always work, even given appropriate season and conditions. Be flexible in your viewing techniques, altering them as conditions demand, but also according to which species or group upon which you place your emphasis. Be aware of and cue into any ornithological phenomena going on at the time, such as flights of a particular species or group that may be occurring on that particular day.

Finally and critically, realize that not every passing bird will be identifiable and that many individuals flying past, never to be seen again, must be left as jaeger *species* or large alcid *species*, for example. This is especially important at seawatches, where fleeting or obscured views are often the norm rather than the exception.

### **Annotated List of Selected Species**

The following annotated list of selected seabird species is essentially a summary of sightings by the author during the course of the past twenty-six years. I have



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omitted a few omnipresent common species such as Herring and Great Black-backed gull, as well as certain other species that do occur but are either not generally regarded as seabirds, occur in inconsequential numbers, or whose occurrence here was perhaps judged less interesting than other species; e.g., Black Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Purple Sandpiper. A wide range of nonseabird species are also regularly observed coming in off the sea and migrating past or over Andrew's Point, including Great Blue Herons, many hawks, shorebirds, swifts, swallows, warblers, and sparrows.

## LOONS AND GREBES

### Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata*

Very common fall migrant, more numerous than the Common Loon. The peak time frame for migrants is from mid-October to early December, when large, loose flocks can often be observed winging closely past. The four highest counts, two of which concurred with a NNW wind, are all from November, and are 520 on 8 Nov. 1977, 756 on 26 Nov. 1999, 870 on 1 Nov. 1997, and 1350 on 22 Nov. 1997. The number of migrants drops off sharply as December progresses and 152 counted on 15 Dec. 1999 was rather many for that late date. Red-throated Loons are generally quite uncommon here throughout the winter, and any spring migration that might exist has gone virtually undetected to date (14 on 30 Mar. 2001, and six on 27 May 2001). In summer, they are unrecorded on fifteen seawatches from June to August. The earliest fall arrival is of nine on 23 Sep. 1994.

### Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica*

Three records, all of individuals flying past the point at close range. The first was a bird in or near breeding plumage on 9 October 1998. A second sighting, almost exactly one year later, on 4 October 1999, was again of a bird in partial breeding plumage which flew in and landed on the water. The most recent sighting was of a basic-plumaged individual, in which the dark vent strap, among other features, was clearly noted, as it flew past on 6 June 2000. These, among many other sight records from elsewhere along the coast of Massachusetts, have amply demonstrated the status of *pacifica* as a rare but regular migrant and winterer in our region.

### Common Loon *Gavia immer*

Many migrant Common Loons in Massachusetts don't follow the coast, they migrate on a broad front overland. Of those that do follow the coast in the fall, many, unlike the more strictly coastal (in Massachusetts) Red-throated Loon, fly due south

high up over the base of Cape Ann and are not seen at Andrew's Point. Flocks of Commons often fly very high, pass directly overhead, and will be missed if you are only scanning the tops of the waves. The autumn flight of Common Loon is more protracted than that of the Red-throated, and single-day tallies of 100+ migrants can occur anytime from early September to mid-December, with peak numbers usually occurring a bit earlier than Red-throated, during October or early November. High counts include 125 on 9 Sep. 1987, 227 on 11 Oct. 1998, 340 on 5 Nov. 1983, 240 on 8 Nov. 1977, and 118 on 15 Dec. 1999. Small numbers spend the winter while scarcely any migration has yet to be detected here in the spring. A few first-summer birds are usually present in the vicinity during the breeding season.

#### **Horned Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

Although a common bird along the coast in winter, particularly to our south, this grebe is very rarely seen migrating past Andrew's Point. This leads to the conclusion that most individuals must arrive at the New England coast in the fall directly overland from points west, and that relatively few must move down the coast from the north, or if they do, they must do so nocturnally. Of course, all grebes' overland flights are in fact performed at night, but Horned Grebes also appear reluctant to move along the coast during the day as well, at least in our region. While 100+ can sometimes be counted along the sandy beaches at nearby Crane Reservation and Plum Island, the high count here is only of 13 on 7 March 2001.

#### **Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

This species has a breeding range very similar to that of the Horned Grebe, yet unlike that species, Red-necked Grebe is frequently seen migrating past Andrew's Point in small numbers both spring and fall, and a few are also seen throughout the course of the winter. It has been noted on 77% (60/78) of the seawatches between October and March. The earliest arrivals have been in mid-September, although early October is more typical. The highest counts of birds flying SE in the fall include 34 on 7 Nov. 1997, 30 on 15 Dec. 1999, and 20 on 16 Dec. 2000. "Spring" migrants noted moving NW during February and March include 14 on 5 Feb. 1999, and 19 on 7 Mar. 2001. It has not been recorded from May to August.

### **TUBENOSES**

#### **Northern Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

Considered very rare in Massachusetts as recently as fifty years ago. Following the dramatic increase around the British Isles and the colonization of Newfoundland by the nominate *glacialis*, it now regularly appears in numbers at Andrew's Point, but usually only following rather intense, and in particular, long-duration storms that apparently drive birds from far offshore to the coast. Unlike the appearance of virtually all other seabirds here, the largest numbers are equally as often seen in the afternoon as in the morning. Fulmars seem to occur here during two main periods, in the fall from mid-September through mid-December, during which they have been recorded on 16 of 67 seawatches (24%), with the high being 225 on 1 Nov. 1997, and in the spring from early February to early April (8 of 17 seawatches, 47%), when the high count is of 273 on 22 Mar. 2001. Several counts in excess of 75 birds between

mid-February and late March, including 237 on 24 Feb. 1998, may indicate that this is when the peak of northbound migrants occurs offshore. Fulmars are unrecorded on six January seawatches, perhaps indicating that flocks are either farther south or farther offshore during midwinter. Light morph birds overwhelmingly predominate at all times, dark morphs generally comprising only 2-5% of birds, although during February of 1998 an unusually high percentage of the more northerly breeding dark morph appeared, including 16 of 78 (20.5%) on 2/18, and 24 of 237 (10%) on 2/20.

#### **Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea*

Rare to uncommon and irregular in late summer and fall when water temperatures reach their maximum warmth. Records range from 13 August to 19 October, though no doubt it occurs both earlier and later than indicated by the rather small number of sightings. The biggest incursion I've witnessed here took place in 1997 when 36 were counted passing the point on 21 August. Most birds seen here during the summer are in heavy wing molt.

#### **Greater Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis*

Often common, even abundant, during northeast storms from July through November, when it has been seen on 56% (36/64) of the seawatches. The three highest counts, however, have all occurred during the first week of November: 2380 on 5 Nov. 1983, 2130 on 1 Nov. 1997, and an impressive 6150+ were counted passing

the point and exiting Ipswich Bay the morning of 3 Nov. 1999, after having apparently sought shelter there, in the lee of Cape Ann, following a period of strong (30-50 mph) south winds that had blown all night. At times during the peak of this exodus, between 0800-0900 hours, birds were passing at a rate of more than 100 per minute. By noontime the flight was completely over, and no shearwaters were in view. The highest percentage of



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observations, although in smaller numbers than later in the season, actually comes from July and August when it has been recorded on 77% (10/13) of the seawatches. Sometimes too, small numbers can be seen unrelated to weather, either foraging off the point, following passing fishing boats, or just moving past, on any day from July to November. The two earliest records are of individuals observed on 9 Jun. 1999 and on 26 May 1979. In recent years it has been demonstrated that this shearwater persists in local waters well into December, including counts here of 15 on the last day of November 2000, nine on 12 Dec. 2000, and of two on 15 Dec. 1999.

#### **Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

Uncommon but somewhat routinely encountered between June and September

when it has been recorded on 17 of 28 seawatches (61%). The high counts include 38 on 9 June 1999, 31 on 12 August 1998, and 29 on 6 June 2000. A rather early arrival, especially for waters north of Cape Cod (where several late April records exist, suggesting a regular arrival there at that time), was of one passing closely by the point, 26 April 2000. Although recorded only once out of the meager four May watches, it is certainly to be expected during the latter half of that month. Also, curiously it has not been seen on any of the twenty October seawatches, but has been noted three times out of twenty-two November watches: one on 11/14/81, two on 11/1/97, and one on 11/7/97.

#### **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

This small shearwater has occurred here more frequently than the Sooty, on 18 of 28 seawatches (64%) between June and September, and with higher maximum counts, including 64 on 12 Aug. 1998, 61 on 26 July 2001, 52 on 21 Aug. 1997, and 29 on 9 June 1999. In addition, there are three October records (maximum: five, 4 Oct. 1999) and three early November records, the latest of an individual on 5 Nov. 1983. Like the Sooty Shearwater, a few Manx can often be seen passing close to shore under placid or at least non-inclement conditions. On several occasions I have witnessed apparent evening "flights" of Manx Shearwaters (including the 29 on 9 June 1999), most just before dusk, flying WNW past the point into Ipswich Bay. Whether these birds are migrating or heading toward some nocturnal foraging or roosting area is open to speculation. The consistent presence of so many birds throughout June (23 on 27 June 1998, 26 on 6 June 2000) also makes speculation about possible nesting on one of Rockport's uninhabited and undersurveyed offshore islands not outrageous.

#### **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus*

Careful scoping off the point on almost any day during the summer might reveal a few Wilson's Storm-Petrels. However, this bird is seen from shore more frequently and in greater numbers from Eastern Point to Lands End along the southeast facing coast of Cape Ann. Despite this species' abundance on the offshore fishing banks, the appearance of large numbers during storms at the point, has been much less regular. There have been only three counts greater than one hundred, including 140 on 27 July 2000, 355 on 6 June 2000, and 1050 on 15 August 1999. Thus far, it is unrecorded in May although there are several good counts in early June. The latest definite record of Wilson's is of seven on 25 September 1977, and any storm-petrel after late September is more likely to be a Leach's.

#### **Leach's Storm-Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

This storm-petrel has thus far been rarely observed on my seawatches here, and no large numbers have appeared during storms such as has occurred repeatedly at Cape Cod. Seven out of the slim total of eleven seawatches that Leach's has been observed on have occurred during a narrow three-week period from mid-October to early November. The earliest record is of seven on 6 June 2000. Other "maxima" include seven on 21 Oct. 1996 and seven on 7 Nov. 1997, which also is the latest observation to date.

Of interest was the presence of an "apparent Leach's" with an all-dark rump among the birds on 6 June 2000. This bird was also seen independently the following

day by J. Paluzzi. Although the extent of white on the rump of Leach's varies considerably, the dark-rumped form of Leach's has never been documented in the Atlantic, and the possibility of Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel (*O. monorhis*) appearing in Massachusetts is not beyond the pale. It has recently been documented in North Carolina waters, and there are now numerous records for the eastern Atlantic north to Ireland, where two were trapped at Leach's colonies during the summer of 2000. Most sightings of dark-rumped storm-petrels in Europe are now presumed to be Swinhoe's (O'Brien et al. 1999).

## GANNETS AND CORMORANTS

### Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Regardless of the season, it is a rare seawatch here that misses Northern Gannet. It is the most numerous, and perhaps the most symbolic of Andrew's Point seabirds.



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Whether it be the sight of individuals streaming closely past the rocks as they emerge from the fog and mist of a raging storm, or of foraging masses on the horizon performing spectacular high-diving plunges into the sea on a clear October day, observations of this bird are always a thrill. Gannets have been recorded on 91% (105/115) of all seawatches, year-round, having been missed only ten times in 26

years. It is well known that young birds migrate earlier and winter farther south, revealed here by counts in late August composed overwhelmingly of juveniles and other immatures, including 200 on 21 Aug. 1997, and 690 on 15 Aug. 1999. The bulk of the fall migration, involving all ages, occurs from late September to mid-December, although the peak period of abundance is during October and the first half of November, when the maxima include 7200 on 27 Oct. 1997, 3700 on 4 Oct. 1999, and 8600 on 3 Nov. 1999. Counts progressively diminish during December, and involve primarily adult birds, as do most records throughout the winter. By February

### Northern Gannet: High Count by Month

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
74	16	214	124	48	223	18	690	1230	7200	8600	550
1/4/92	2/5/01	3/22/01	4/26/01	5/10/98	6/9/99	7/27/00	8/15/99	9/30/99	10/27/97	11/3/99	12/11/92

Gannets become scarce, though regular, when the average number seen on six counts is only six individuals. Unimpressive tallies of spring migrants have been detected during late March and April, nearly all of adult birds, including 214 on 22 Mar. 2001,

and 124 on 26 Apr. 2000. In summer, varying numbers of nonbreeding subadults can frequently be seen, and storms have produced some good counts for that season (e.g., 223 on 9 June 1999, and 171 on 6 June 2000).

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Fairly common migrant and nearly omnipresent winter resident from mid-September through March, during which time it has been noted on 92% (80/87) of the seawatches. The high count of birds flying past is only of thirty, on 1 Nov. 1997, although several hundred can easily be tallied on a winter circuit around Cape Ann (e.g., 415 on 23 Jan. 2001). First arrivals in September (earliest, one, on 6 Sep. 1999) are invariably juveniles. Late records include four on 18 April 2001, although the latest is of a first-year bird on 27 May 2001.

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus*

Andrew's Point is well to the east of the main migratory path of this species in Massachusetts, and consequently comparatively small flocks are observed here. In Essex County most flocks in the fall follow a route that takes them from the coast in the Newburyport-Plum Island area SSW overland to the Peabody-Lynn area and straight on toward Boston Harbor. Incidentally, from here most flocks also bypass the southeastern part of Massachusetts, and continue inland on a SW bearing to Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island. Smaller numbers do parallel the coast but also generally bypass the outer portion of Cape Ann and follow the Annisquam River. Of those flocks that do stray farther east; the high count is of 490 on 9 October 2000. Spring migration tends to follow the coast more closely, but again the majority bypass Cape Ann. This species breeds commonly on the islands and rocky ledges around Cape Ann. Records at Andrew's Point range from late March to late November.

**SEA DUCKS**

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca*

Certainly not usually thought of as a sea duck; however, this little duck is frequently observed migrating with flocks of scoters in the fall, when the largest tally is of 194 on 4 October 1999, although 1-5 birds per day is more typical. This phenomenon (of dabbling ducks migrating with scoters) is not completely exclusive to Green-winged Teal, although they are definitely the most common to do so. I have also recorded each of the following species migrating past Andrew's Point within scoter flocks in the fall: Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Northern Pintail, and Canvasback.

**Greater Scaup** *Aythya marila*

An uncommon fall migrant, primarily during October and November, when it has been seen on 50% of the seawatches. High counts are of 160 on 27 October 1997, 65 on 1 November 1997, and of 45 on 16 November 1983. It becomes very scarce in December (four records, maximum of three individuals), and is thus far unrecorded during January and February. There are only a few spring records, during March and April, on the very limited number of seawatches conducted at that time. A rather early arrival was of two birds migrating past on 29 August 1998.

### **King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis*

Rare but regular migrant and winter resident. Most winters at least one is usually resident somewhere along the north shore of Cape Ann, sometimes in the vicinity of Andrew's Point. I have observed it on nine seawatches between 27 October and 30 March (in addition to recording it on several other visits); however, all but two records are of individuals on the water with flocks of Common Eider. Most all of the sightings pertain to either first-winter males, or females. On 17 December 2000, an adult male flew past to the SE with a small flock of Common Eiders.

### **Common Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

Along with the Northern Gannet, this sea duck, a common breeding species just to our north, is one of the most emblematic birds of Andrew's Point. Indeed, it has been missed here only sixteen times on 115 year-round seawatches since 1976. The really big flights typically occur from early October through November, occasionally to mid-December. In 1997, a total of 10,061 eiders were counted in passage on just nine, less than full day, seawatches from October to December. Reasonably, a full-time, seven day a week seawatch might be expected to record 250,000+ passing by Andrew's Point during this period. Several of the highest tallies are 4210 on 9 Oct. 2000, 6360 on 26 Oct. 1990, 4650 on 7 Nov. 1997, and 3100 on 11 Dec. 1992. After mid-December, standard counts are normally in the 50-100 range, more rarely to 200. A slight peak has been detected in late March and April, of apparent spring migrants, including 295 on 22 Mar. 2001, 210 on 1 Apr. 1993, and 270 on 19 Apr. 1997. A few nonbreeding birds summer in the vicinity, as they do elsewhere on Cape Ann, while others may occasionally nest on one or more of the coastal islands. Southbound migration has been detected as early as late July (e.g., 39 on 26 July 2001).

### **Harlequin Duck** *Histrionicus histrionicus*

This colorful little duck is presently a fairly common but local winter resident along the rocky coast in the vicinity of Andrew's Point from late October at least through March. It underwent a rather pronounced increase over the last ten years (with maximum counts roughly tripling), and currently between forty and ninety birds now winter each year in this part of Cape Ann alone. A flock of seven was still present as late as 18 April 2001.

### **Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata*

The commonest scoter here during migration; in fact the two highest single-day counts of any seabird species at Andrew's Point are both of Surf Scoters, of 13,830 winging past on 27 October 1997, and of 12,050 counted on 5 November 1983. The vast majority of migrant Surf Scoters pass by during a narrow 4-6 week period from early October to mid-November. A few very early arrivals often begin to show up on late July and early August seawatches (8 males on 26 July 2001, 7 on 21 Aug. 1997, 3 on 12 Aug. 1998, 8 on 21 Aug. 1999), although the main vanguard of the fall passage usually begins to appear in the latter half of September (14 on 18 Sep. 1996, and 52 on 23 Sep. 1994). By December the species usually becomes quite scarce, with only a small number remaining in the area during the course of the winter. In spring comparatively very small numbers of migrants are observed from March to early May,

including 76 on 19 Apr. 1997, 232 on 26 Apr. 2000, and 27 on 10 May 1998. They are normally rare in summer: unusual were 26 seen on 11 June 1977.

#### **White-winged Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

This species and the Black Scoter are about equally numerous (White-winged statistically slightly more numerous) here during the fall migration. As with the other scoters, October to mid-November is the peak fall migration period; however, this species occurs in larger numbers than the others during December (e.g., 110 on 15 Dec. 1999), and remains fairly common throughout the entire winter. The first autumn migrants are typically detected as early as the latter half of August (13 on 15 Aug. 1998, and 13 on 29 Aug. 1999), although significant numbers don't begin to arrive until late September. High counts include 1120 on 4 Oct. 1999, 1150 on 11 Oct. 1997, and 765 on 5 Nov. 1983. Some flocks routinely migrate much higher above the sea surface than do other scoters. No large flocks have yet been perceived in the spring, when the greatest count is only of 50 on 1 Apr. 1993. Rare but regular summering individuals are noted from May through July.

#### **Black Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

Common fall migrant during October and early November. As with the other scoter species, a few individuals begin to appear in late August, and larger flocks of this species have been noted in late September than either of the other two scoter species, perhaps suggesting a slightly earlier arrival timetable, including 210 on 25 Sep. 1977, and 200 on 19 Sep. 1987. High counts are of 1950 on 4 Oct. 1999, 1800 on 11 Oct. 1997, and 980 on 7 Nov. 1997. Like the Surf it is rather uncommon here during the winter, but small flocks of migrants have been observed in the spring, primarily during April, including 110 on 19 Apr. 1997, and 130 on 26 Apr. 2000. Rare in summer.

#### **Oldsquaw** *Clangula hyemalis*

In comparison to all three scoters, the Oldsquaw migration occurs noticeably later in the fall, generally from mid-October through December, when it is at times abundant, particularly when storms coincide with the peak of migration. High counts are of 2170 on 27 Oct. 1997, 5900 on 5 Nov. 1983, and 1560 on 22 Nov. 1997. Considerable numbers of migrants continue to be noted throughout December such as the 590 passing by on 15 Dec. 1999. It is, so far, unrecorded on 32 seawatches from May through September (although hundreds are usually present at a staging area around the mouth of the nearby Merrimack River throughout much of May), and the earliest fall arrival is of six on 4 Oct. 1999. Unlike most other sea ducks, substantial migration has been documented here in the spring, mostly during April, including 925 on 19 Apr. 1997, 224 on 12 Apr. 2001, and 357 on 18 Apr. 2001.

#### **Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Common fall migrant from mid-October to early December. A tremendous, but so far anomalous flight, transpired during a nor'easter on 5 Nov. 1983 when 8570 were counted moving past along with a huge Surf Scoter and Oldsquaw flight the same day. No counts since have come close to this magnitude, with the next three highest counts being 880 on 21 Oct. 1996, 1950 on 27 Oct. 1997, and 1170 on 8 Nov. 1977. It is

generally uncommon here throughout the winter, and rare in summer. Small numbers have been observed in the spring, primarily in April.

## PHALAROPES

### **Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

Although nineteen seawatches have been conducted during the primary migratory period of August and September, mostly during storms, I have identified only a single definite Red-necked Phalarope (on 18 Sep. 1999) here in 26 years. There are several sizable counts as recently as the 1960s from Rockport (e.g., 1500+, 6 Aug. 1968, C. Leahy), and one can't help but speculate that the status of this bird has changed rather dramatically since that time. A few other sightings of unidentified phalaropes in September probably refer to this species.

### **Red Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicaria*

I have observed this species here five times, always during storms, and all records fall in a very narrow range of dates: 350 on 13 Nov. 1982, 17 on 5 Nov. 1983, six on 11 Dec. 1992, five on 7 Nov. 1997, and 11 on 30 Nov. 2000. Historically, spectacular flights once occurred here with some regularity during storms, the greatest being 7500 on 10 Nov. 1962 (Drury), and 25,000 on 15 Nov. 1957 (Burnett).

## SKUAS AND JAEGERS

### **Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

Rare. Four records exist totaling five individuals between late October and late February, all during easterly or northeasterly gales (32+ mph). Numbers of Northern Fulmars occurred simultaneously on three of these dates, suggesting that it is precisely these intense, long-duration storms that tend to drive fulmars to the coast, that also, although more rarely, may produce a skua. In my view, the concept of a "good day" at Andrew's Point, can be defined solely by the sight of a skua. The four records are of singles on 4 Jan. 1992, 1 Nov. 1997, and 25 Feb. 1999, and of two birds, flying past an hour apart, on 27 Oct. 1997.

### **Skua sp.** *Stercorarius (maccormicki?)*

A most surprising sighting was the fly-by of a skua on the afternoon of 6 September 1999 during nearly placid conditions, but following a period of dense fog earlier in the day. Observed in a direct NW to SE flight at a fair distance (approx. one-half mile), this bird projected a typical skua image in terms of size, structure, flight style, and bold white wing patches, but appeared uniformly colored, somewhat paler grayish-brown, not blackish, and lacked any rufous tones. No pale collar was noticed. Although precise plumage and structural details could not be discerned with certainty due to the distance involved, both the date and those plumage details that were noted strongly suggest South Polar Skua (*S. maccormicki*).

### **Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

This jaeger is a fairly regular feature here during storms from late September to mid-December, sometimes occurring in moderate numbers. All age classes of the pale morph have been noted, although predominantly subadults, while the dark morph

(which comprises 5-15% of the N. Atlantic population) has been at best scarce; in fact, no certain adults of that morph have been observed. The maximum counts have been from the last week of October through November (seen on 7 of 22 November seawatches = 32%), and include 20 on 27 Oct. 1997, 61 on 3 Nov. 1999, 22 on 7 Nov. 1997, and 44 on 30 Nov. 2000. The earliest sightings are of singles on 12 Aug. 1998, and 21 Aug. 1997.



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Pomarine has actually been most regular during December (6 of 16 = 37.5%), although most records then are of singles, the latest to 17 Dec. 2000. Four individuals flying past on 12 Dec. 2000, during strong SSW winds (to 40 mph), may have been deflected from Stellwagen Bank and had sought shelter in the lee of Cape Ann. Pomarine Jaeger has yet to be recorded in the spring.

#### **Parasitic Jaeger** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Uncommon but probably regular early and mid-fall migrant, although it has not been seen here in numbers equivalent to the Pomarine later in the season. Most birds have been noted during August when they have been identified on 40% (4/10) of the seawatches, and the high counts are of five on both 21 Aug. 1998 and on 15 Aug. 1999. There is a scattering of records through September and October, and Parasitic has been identified four times in early November, the latest to 7 Nov. 1997. It is certainly possible that a few other Parasitics have occurred in the large flights of Pomarines in late October and November, although there seems little doubt that "Poms" overwhelmingly predominate at that time.

In addition to the above accounts, there have been nine dates between 12 August and 13 November when counts of 1-7 unidentified, mostly distant, jaegers have been observed.

### **GULLS AND TERNS**

#### **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla*

Uncommon, generally from early August to early November, representing either birds engaged in postbreeding dispersal from colonies on Cape Cod, or farther south, or migrants from the several colonies in the Gulf of Maine to the north. It is most frequent during October, being recorded on 60% (12/20) of the seawatches then. There are only seven records before August, although it is probably regular as a spring migrant; records include a single on 18 April 2001, two birds on 26 April 2000, three on 27 May 2001, and three on 6 June 2000. The very modest high counts are of 27 on 9 Oct. 2000, 14 on 4 Oct. 1999, and 13 on 21 Aug. 1999. The latest sighting is of a single bird on 27 Nov. 1999.

**Little Gull** *Larus minutus*

Three records, all of adults. The first two records were of individuals in the company of migrating Bonaparte's Gulls. The first was on 11 Nov. 1979, while the second occurred during the huge flight of more than 30,000 seabirds on 27 Oct. 1997. The most recent record, of an early spring migrant, was with a small group of kittiwakes, during a storm on 22 March 2001.

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

One first-winter bird, lingering with a foraging flock of Bonaparte's Gulls and Black-legged Kittiwakes off the point, was observed on three dates between 16 and 30 December 2000.

**Bonaparte's Gull** *Larus philadelphia*

This very social gull usually appears in large, tight flocks, so "flights" can begin and end rather quickly. Bonaparte's flocks often appear toward the end of ocean storms, once winds either diminish or shift NW, so presumably these birds are making an exodus from Ipswich Bay once conditions begin to ameliorate. They are a fairly common fall migrant from August through January, although the largest numbers pass by during November and December, when representative high counts include 155 on 27 Oct. 1997, 290 on 7 Nov. 1997, 340 on 26 Nov. 1999, and a noteworthy 1630 on 15 Dec. 1999. The seasonal (Jul-Dec) high total of 2127, not surprisingly, also occurred in 1999. Bonies become rare later in the winter (there are only three February records of single individuals), and they have likewise been rather scarcely encountered in spring when the high counts are of a paltry 21 on 26 April 2000 and 27 on 18 April 2001. Additional watches during April, however, might reveal a greater presence at that time, since flocks are known to stage at Newburyport, just to the north.

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*

This gull has dramatically declined at Cape Ann since the late 1970s and early 1980s when counts of 50-100 a day in late winter were possible in the vicinity of Eastern Point in Gloucester. At Andrew's Point it is now infrequently noted between 21 October and 7 March (16 of 78 seawatches, Oct-Mar., = 20.5%), when the high count is of five on 14 Jan. 1999.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graellsii*

Two records: a second-winter on 23 September 1994 and a third-summer on 10 May 1998. Given the dramatic increase around Cape Cod over the past several years, many more are expected here in the near future.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

Although rare but regular around Cape Ann, I have recorded this species only twice at Andrew's Point, both first-winter birds, on 23 November 1997, and 14 January 1999.

**Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa trydactyla*

This attractive small gull, a frequent victim of attacks by jaegers, is often one of the commonest seabirds encountered here during its peak period from mid-October

### Kittiwake: High Counts and Ages by Month During Peak Period

Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
15	4260	4300	1320	742	1200	248
(2 juvs)	(70%-1W)	(55%-1W)	(5%-1W)	(3-1W)	(17-1W)	(65%-1W)
9/25/77	10/21/96	11/3/99	12/11/92	1/4/92	2/5/98	3/22/01

through February, having been seen on 89% (63/71) of the seawatches during that period. The peak of the somewhat protracted fall migration occurs from late October to mid-November, while the number of kittiwakes present in winter appears to be highly variable from year to year. These large October and November flights are often composed of 40% to as high as 70% first-year birds, but adults tend to predominate later, in December and January, probably indicating that most young birds winter farther south than the adults. I have recorded kittiwakes during every month except July. The earliest arriving juvenile was noted on 21 August 1999.

An intense but very compressed flight took place on 21 Oct. 1996. As winds diminished on the second day of a very strong nor'easter (gusts to 60 mph), compact flocks of 100-200 birds at a time, totaling 4260 birds, were counted as they exited Ipswich Bay past the point. Certainly, the largest numbers always occur during storms, but at least a few can usually be noted foraging offshore, or passing by, during more than six months out of the year.

#### Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Despite being a rare but regular fall migrant to the adjacent offshore areas, particularly at Stellwagen Bank to the SE of Andrew's Point, I have recorded this bird only once, a winter-plumaged adult passing by during a storm on 19 October 1997.

#### Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*

A first-winter bird, present along the northern shore of Gloucester and Rockport from 10 December 1976 to 10 January 1977, was photographed in flight at Andrew's Point by the author, on 8 January.

#### Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

One record, of an adult flying SE past the point on 4 October 1999.

#### Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Rare spring migrant during late May and June, although additional seawatches may reveal that it occurs more frequently. It is more regular in the fall, particularly during August, when counts included 15 on 7 Aug. 1976 and seven on 15 Aug. 1999. Similarly, more surveys in late summer would probably reveal it to be a regular migrant in small numbers.

#### Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Most migrant Common Terns in the fall probably follow the Annisquam River south to bypass the tip of Cape Ann and so, comparatively speaking, it is an uncommon bird at Andrew's Point. The largest numbers of migrants are seen from August to mid-October when high counts include 136 on 12 Aug. 1998, 115 on 21 Aug. 1999, and 320 on 15 Sep. 2000. The latest is of one on 14 November 1981.

### **Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri*

Four records to date, all of single birds: 21 August 1999, 15 September 2000, 4 October 1999, and 5 November 1983.

### **Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

Rather pelagic in its distribution during fall migration in New England, Black Terns have been somewhat rarely seen at Andrew's Point, although they are probably quite regular during August and September when the high counts are of six on 13 August 1997, and of nine on 15 September 2000. The only spring record is of two in breeding plumage, on 6 June 2000.

## **ALCIDS**

Alcids are a particular specialty of Andrew's Point. As a family they make their appearance primarily from late October through March, and are the delight and focus of many visiting birdwatchers. Indeed, all six North Atlantic species are of regular occurrence, although Common Murre and Atlantic Puffin are rather scarce, while Dovekie and, to a lesser degree, Thick-billed Murre, are irregular and irruptive, both decidedly subject to southward incursions. Gull predation, particularly from Great Black-backed Gulls, takes its toll during these sporadic irruptions. I have witnessed these gulls swallow Dovekies and, remarkably, Thick-billed Murre (once) whole, having attacked them from the air when they surfaced from dives.

Although it is true that nor'easters have produced some of the highest counts and greatest diversity of alcids on any given day, it has also been demonstrated that weather, or at least storms, is not a necessary factor in the appearance of these birds. Major flights of Razorbills, Thick-billed Murres, and Dovekies have occurred during uneventful or even calm weather. It seems likely then that food shortages or food abundance is a more probable factor in the appearance and movements of these birds in local waters, although storms certainly do play a role in pushing offshore flocks into more viewable coastal vantages.

### **Dovekie** *Alle alle*

An irregular and incursive species, present some years while absent or nearly so in others. Unfortunately for the birder, though not necessarily for the birds themselves, the great November Cape Ann Dovekie flights, or "wrecks," appear to be a thing of the past. As recently as the 1950s major flights involving 10,000 or more birds per day occurred, including a remarkable one in 1957 when 18,000 Dovekies were counted passing adjacent Halibut Point in only two hours on 30 November (Kieran). Much smaller incursions persisted into the early 1970s. Since that time comparatively very small flights have occurred, mostly from late October (78 on 22 Oct. 1988) throughout November and December (maxima: 140, 24 Dec. 1976 and 62, 17 Dec. 2000). Usually quite scarce after December, although small numbers have appeared again



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during February and may represent northbound migrants, e.g., six, 5 Feb. 1998 and 20, 5 Feb. 1999. Unrecorded between March and September.

**Common Murre** *Uria aalge*

Probably the rarest of the usual alcids here, vying with Atlantic Puffin for the rarest of the regularly occurring Atlantic alcids in Massachusetts inshore waters, but like puffin, apparently increasing. Usually seen singly, sometimes alone but often in the company of Thick-billed Murres. Records range from 7 November to 7 March. It has been recorded on 12 of 58 seawatches (21%) between November and March, with the total monthly breakdown of individuals as follows: Nov. (2), Dec. (10), Jan. (0), Feb. (7), Mar. (7). The high count is of six, flying past singly on 6 February 2001. A recent unusual summer record was of two birds together in breeding plumage passing the point on 6 June 2000.

**Thick-billed Murre** *Uria lomvia*

Generally uncommon and typically arriving much later than the much more numerous Razorbill. One to three or so birds may be observed flying past at a time, even during uneventful weather, although storms tend to produce the highest counts.

Birds in flight are readily identified even at great distances in winter by their extensively dark head and neck. Foraging individuals are frequently encountered on the water during the winter, sometimes quite close to shore. Largest numbers are normally recorded from late December to mid-March (14 on 12 Mar. 1999, and 14 on 22 Mar. 2001). During "flight years" a few may linger even into early April, the latest being three on



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12 Apr. 2001. In December 1976 and January 1977 an unprecedented flight appeared in Massachusetts coastal waters. During this flight R. Veit observed a minimum of 2300 Thick-billed Murres on the morning of 17 December (see Veit and Petersen, 1993, for a more detailed account of this incursion). One week later, on 24 December, I recorded 400 birds moving past the point. More recently, at the tail end of an intense three-day nor'easter on 7 March 2001, 485 birds were counted passing closely in loose flocks over a seven hour period. No other counts even approaching this magnitude had been witnessed previously, apart from the 1976-1977 irruption. The fact that this flight occurred at the end of a long-duration storm, and consisted of birds apparently exiting Ipswich Bay and heading back to sea, demonstrates this species' more pelagic distribution versus the more coastally-oriented Razorbill. More typical high counts include the following: 23 on 5 Jan. 1980, 63 on 5 Feb. 1998, and 36 on 14 Jan. 1999.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

Fairly common to abundant, this is "the" alcid in local waters. Large flocks can appear under any weather conditions, although most of the maxima have been recorded during storms. At least a few birds can usually be seen either foraging offshore or flying past on virtually any day between 15 October and 15 March. During this period it has been observed on 82.5% (52 of 63) of the seawatches. The

**Razorbill: High Counts by Month During Peak Period**

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
20	157	2920	820	236	1210	114
10/15/77	11/27/99	12/15/99	1/4/92	2/5/98	3/22/01	4/12/01

earliest arrival was of six on 4 October 1999, although the second week of October is more typical. The latest record is of 10 on 18 April 2001. An earlier and much larger flight, probably of deflected spring migrants, occurred on 22 March 2001, when 1210 (including many in breeding plumage), along with nearly 900 unidentified large alcids, were counted during a strong nor'easter. It is likely that the current late date could easily be extended given the paucity of seawatches conducted during April. I have yet to record this species between May and September.

Occasionally, feeding frenzies will develop off the point, apparently in response to dense schools of baitfish, when scores or even a few hundred Razorbills in tight flocks on the water can be viewed diving energetically for food. Accompanying them on these occasions may be masses of Northern Gannets, plunge diving from great heights, joined by whirling associations of Black-legged Kittiwakes, picking frenetically from near or just below the water's surface while in flight, along with the tern-like Bonaparte's Gulls and a few big gulls. Occasionally a passing Pomarine or Parasitic Jaeger will pause long enough to engage a kittiwake or other gull in aerial piracy, usually with success. The Razorbills may arrive in flocks of ten or twenty slamming into the mass of seabirds, often diving directly from the air to below the water's surface without hesitation in pursuit of their prey. These ethereal feeding assemblages can dissolve and disappear in moments, only to reincarnate themselves with the same renewed intensity several hundred yards away just minutes later.

**Black Guillemot** *Cephus grylle*

Fairly common migrant and winter resident from November to early April, although it does not gather into large flocks like other alcid species so it is never recorded in large numbers like them. One to three can frequently be found swimming and diving close to the rocky shoreline throughout the winter. This little alcid breeds at sites within view (on a clear day) of Andrew's Point at the Isle of Shoals off the coast of New Hampshire and southern Maine, and the repeated appearance of birds in breeding plumage here during May, June, and July has led to continued speculation concerning the possibility of local Cape Ann nesting. Some late spring and summer records, all of birds in breeding plumage, include four on 9 June 1999, three on 6 June 2000, and two on 26 July 2000. Guillemots have been noted here during every month except September. Although unrecorded on all but one of twenty October seawatches,

ANDREW'S POINT, ROCKPORT SEAWATCH 1975-2001

Species	High Count	Date	Max. Season Total (Jul-Dec)	Max. Season Total (Jan-Jun)
Red-throated Loon	1350	11/22/97	2872 (1997)	
Common Loon	340	11/5/83	516 (1983)	
Red-necked Grebe	34	11/7/97	89 (1997,1999)	30 (2001)
Northern Fulmar	273	3/22/01	271 (1997)	401 (2001)
Cory's Shearwater	36	8/21/97	41 (1997)	
Greater Shearwater	6150	11/3/99	15,240 (1999)	72 (1998)
Sooty Shearwater	38	6/27/98	35 (1997)	38 (1998)
Manx Shearwater	64	8/12/98	66 (1998)	29 (1999)
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	1050	8/15/99	1130 (1999)	60 (1977)
Leach's Storm-Petrel	7	10/21/96	13 (1997)	
Northern Gannet	8600	11/3/99	16,402 (1999)	340 (2000)
Great Cormorant	30	11/1/97	92 (2000)	66 (2001)
Double-cr. Cormorant	490	10/9/00	531 (2000)	
Greater Scaup	160	10/27/97	256 (1997)	
Common Elder	6360	10/26/90	10,061 (1997)	
Surf Scoter	13,830	10/27/97	15,894 (1997)	
White-winged Scoter	1150	10/11/97	3228 (1997)	
Black Scoter	1950	10/4/99	3182 (1997)	
Oldsquaw	5900	11/5/83	6321 (1983)	
Red-br. Merganser	8570	11/5/83	8693 (1983)	
Red Phalarope	350	11/13/82	350 (1982)	
Pomarine Jaeger	61	11/3/99	70 (1999)	
Parasitic Jaeger	5	8/12/98	9 (1999)	
Laughing Gull	27	10/9/00	55(1999)	
Bonaparte's Gull	1630	12/15/99	2127 (1999)	
Black-legged Kittiwake	4300	11/3/99	8083 (1983)	1991 (1998)
Roseate Tern	15	8/7/76	15 (1976)	
Common Tern	320	9/15/00	340 (2000)	40 (1979)
Black Tern	9	9/15/00	11 (2000)	
Dovekie	140	12/24/76	198 (1976)	23 (1999)
Common Murre	6	2/5/01	5 (1992)	13 (2001)
Thick-billed Murre	485	3/7/01	486 (1976)	524 (2001)
Razorbill	2920	12/15/99	3749 (1999)	2088 (2001)
Black Gullinot	24	12/11/92	49 (1999)	56 (2001)
Atlantic Puffin	9	8/20/01	12 (2001)	6 (1999)

one of the high counts, of 24 during a period of moderate S-SW winds, comes only three days later, on 3 November 1999. Additional counts of migrants and/or storm-driven birds are of 24, 11 Dec. 1992, 22, 7 Mar. 2001, and 17, 16 Dec. 2000.

**Ancient Murrelet** *Synthliboramphus antiquus*

Two out of the three Massachusetts records for this Pacific alcid come from Andrew's Point, although not from one of my seawatches (yet). Ancient Murrelet is a

known vagrant to the interior of North America, and there are now over twenty records from the east. The first Massachusetts record was of a bird well seen and described at Andrew's Point by a party of observers, 29 November 1992 (L. Brinker, J. Askildsen, T. Burke, R. Kurtz, et al.). Another sight record, also well described and sketched, was made here by R. Frechette on 5 February 1999. Although neither bird was photographed, the reports were convincing, and both were accepted by the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee.

### **Atlantic Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

Rare but regular and increasing visitor. All but two of the 18 sightings, representing 15.7% of all seawatches, have occurred since 1997. The records to date seem to be falling into three main periods, June to August (6 records, totaling 22 individuals), October to December (9 records, 12 individuals), and February (3 records, 6 individuals). Presumably, this local increase is linked to the continued success of the restoration efforts at proximate breeding sites farther north in the Gulf of Maine, at Eastern Egg Rock (22 pairs in 1997) and at Seal Island (58 pairs in 1997). Puffin could aptly be described as the "summer alcid" here as the three highest counts, all of birds flying past, are from a nine-day range in mid-August, of four on 12 Aug. 1998, and undoubtedly represent postbreeding dispersal from the Gulf of Maine breeding sites. Additionally, three were noted passing on 26 July 2001. Many of these were noted on calm clear days. In winter, observers should be aware that a puffin in flight at a distance, especially a first-winter bird, with its small size relative to the larger murre and Razorbill, and its darkish underwings, can appear remarkably similar to a Dovekie at first glance. 

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# Thomas Barbour: The Last of the Gentleman Naturalists

*William E. Davis, Jr.*

Thomas Barbour was an imposing figure — six feet five inches tall, and nearly 300 pounds — who, literally, stood out in a crowd. Yet he became one of the beloved figures of his era, generous with advice, encouragement, and financial assistance. He had wealth and station, and used both wisely as he directed the affairs of the Harvard University museums, and particularly the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) that was near and dear to his heart.

Barbour was born on Martha's Vineyard in 1884 of Northern Ireland parentage. His father was director of William Barbour and Son linen mills in Ireland, which afforded young Thomas access both to great financial resources and to frequent trips to Europe. His family was one of affluence, influence, and prestige — one of his brothers became president of the linen company, the other a United States Senator from New Jersey (Barbour 1943a). He was educated by private tutors and Browning's School in New York before entering Harvard University, where he received his A.B. degree in 1906 and Ph.D. in 1910.

As a boy he became enthralled with natural history and the outdoors, fishing and hunting in the Adirondacks of New York, where his father had accumulated holdings of 45,000 acres. He contracted typhoid fever at age fourteen, and recuperated in Florida with his grandmother, who was something of a naturalist and who took him to southern Florida and the Bahamas where he developed a life-long devotion to the tropics. He later wrote (1943a): "So it happened that I got in Nassau my first glimpse of the tropics — an iron which entered so deeply into my soul that it is still completely embedded."

He was a compulsive collector, and had broadly ranging zoological interests. Although he was trained primarily as a herpetologist, and published the bulk of his approximately 400 papers in that field, his interest in birds at times rivaled that of snakes and lizards, and he published widely on ornithological subjects (Bigelow 1950). In all, he published more than twenty scientific papers on birds, including the naming of three new Cuban species of birds: the Zapata Wren, the Zapata Sparrow, and the Zapata Rail. He became an authority on Cuban birds and published two books on Cuban ornithology as *Memoirs of the Nuttall Ornithological Club* (Barbour 1923, 1943b). Many of his publications on zoogeography included birds, and his four popular books, written near the end of his life when failing health curtailed his travels, recount many of his adventures with birds (Barbour 1943a, 1944, 1946a,b).

While recovering from the same bout of typhoid fever that took him to Florida in 1899, Barbour was taken by his tutor, Thomas W. Moses, to Harvard University where young Tom wandered about the MCZ, made the decision to attend Harvard, and resolved to some day be the Director of the MCZ — a goal he reached 28 years



*Thomas Barbour in Southeast Asia: Photograph courtesy of the Ernst Mayr Library of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University*

later (Barbour 1943a). Following his graduation from Harvard in 1906, Thomas Barbour married Rosamond Pierce, and the couple departed on an extensive honeymoon that took them to such places as Ireland, India, Java, Bali, Lombok, Celebes Borneo, the Molluccas, New Guinea, China, and Japan, with frequent collecting excursions to wild areas. He later described many of his collecting adventures, and some misadventures with birds: "We shot a hawk and a small flycatcher — also a fine white cockatoo. This when shot, alas, had a ring on its foot, and a small chain hanging thereto." Unfortunately, the cockatoo was the escaped pet of a local

rajah who was apparently not overly pleased (Barbour 1946b). On another occasion his career nearly ended in disaster when his small boat hit a stump and caused the discharge of his shotgun that had been leaning upright against the rail: "The great lead slugs passed through my hands as they slid off the barrel of the gun, burning my palms badly, and cut the brim of my pith helmet, curiously enough, without knocking it off. My face was filled with black powder grains." One of the highlights of the trip was meeting Ali Wallace, the native companion of Alfred Russel Wallace (originator with Charles Darwin of the theory of natural selection) (Barbour 1943a). The collections he made became the basis for his doctoral dissertation and a major publication on the zoogeography of the East Indian islands.

As an undergraduate at Harvard, Barbour had chosen the nearest dormitory to the MCZ and had spent countless hours as a volunteer working in the Herpetology Department in informal apprenticeship to Curator Samuel Garmon. By the time he received his A.B. degree, he had already published fourteen papers, including one in 1902 on Snowy Owls. Following completion of his doctorate, he was appointed Associate Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians at the MCZ. During the ensuing years he used his considerable financial resources to fund collection trips and buy collections for the MCZ, including the important Swann collection of accipiters. His

father had presented the museum with a beautifully mounted Great Auk. Barbour became Curator of Herpetology in 1925, and when Samuel Henshaw (the third director) was forced into retirement in 1927, Barbour was chosen the fourth Director of his beloved MCZ (Louis and Alexander Agassiz had been the first two), and Director of the Harvard University Museums as well.

Henshaw had been a disaster as Director, and Barbour set about with great energy to reverse seventeen years of decline. He directed the renovation of the building to provide more research space, replaced the gaslights with electricity, installed an electric elevator, rebuilt the public exhibits, hired new personnel, and infused confidence and enthusiasm into the staff. He hired ornithologist Ludlow Griscom away from the American Museum of Natural History to run his budget for him, and to generally keep things going when he was absent — which he was regularly from February to May while he collected in the tropics. Griscom was to influence the development of field ornithology and the sport of birding in substantial ways and make the Boston area a Mecca for birdwatchers. Many of Barbour's appointments, which were to Harvard University rather than to the museum, encouraged closer contact and cooperation between the museum and the academic biology faculty (the two had not gotten on well historically — see Barrow 1995, 1998). Some curatorial appointees also became Professors of Zoology. Barbour himself was to become Professor of Zoology (1926) and Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology (1944).

Tom Barbour, who reputedly received a dollar a year for his services to Harvard, and who in fact contributed substantial sums to the museum each year, also used his financial resources for projects not connected with the MCZ. His major interests were in the tropics, where for years he traveled in winter on Allison Armour's yacht to the Caribbean and Central America. He contributed substantially to the establishment and maintenance of the laboratory on Barro Colorado, a mountaintop turned island during the construction of the Panama Canal. It was Barbour who "bought out the banana-growing squatters" to prepare the way for building the Laboratory (Loveridge 1947). He was largely responsible for the development of the Atkins Institute of the Arnold Arboretum at Soledad in Cuba, where he spent many happy winter weeks, and was the Custodian for years.

Barbour also became involved with the venerable New England (Boston) Museum of Natural History, serving as its president from 1925-1927 and from 1940-1945. He became a member of the Boston Society of Natural History (whose museum it was) in 1902 and considered the museum a disaster: "The exhibits were so dingy, so overcrowded, and, I may add, so revolting, that it was widely rumored that recalcitrant children of the families living in the Back Bay were dragged in and walked through the Natural History Rooms to strike terror to their hearts as a bitter and long-to-be-remembered punishment" (Barbour 1946b). Barbour considered the MCZ primarily a research museum, but thought the Boston Museum's role, emphasized by his italics, "*a glorified and most honorable adjunct to the public school system*, as well as a center for popular adult education in science." He subsequently oversaw the total redirection of the museum and the sale of much of its scientific library (which duplicated the library of the MCZ), and helped engineer its

final collapse, destruction, and, like the fabled phoenix, rebirth as the Museum of Science, Boston, one of the world's premier science museums. In December 1945 he presided over the board meeting in which the decision to change the name of the museum, find a new location, and build a new building were to be voted upon. There was strong resistance from some members of the board, including the treasurer, who said that if these proposals were passed he would resign: "After about a minute of stony silence, Thomas Barbour, who was presiding over the meeting said, 'Sir, your resignation is accepted, let us proceed with the meeting'" (Davis 1994). Gentleman that he was, Thomas Barbour could be a forceful administrator.

Barbour also had a major impact on the Peabody Museum of Salem: "The Trustees of the Peabody Museum in Salem gave me permission at my own discretion to tear to pieces their hideous and utterly insignificant natural history collections and remodel them to be attractive and instructive" (Barbour 1946b). He also arranged for the transfer of zoological and botanical materials to more suitable archival institutions.

He was one of the founding members (and president) of the New England Zoological Club that existed solely to provide a rapid outlet for the taxonomic publications of the members through the *Proceedings of the New England Zoological Club*, with each member paying for their own publications. Barbour was not above a little friendly one-upsmanship. The story is widely circulated that Barbour was visiting the American Museum of Natural History in New York and learned that Ludlow Griscom, whom he later hired at the MCZ, was about to describe a new subspecies of bird that Barbour and Outram Bangs were also about to describe. Since priority goes to the first to get their description into print, Barbour telegraphed Bangs to describe the new subspecies immediately, and that he expected to see it in print the following morning. Barbour returned to Boston that day, and at 2 a.m. the description was delivered to the printer, and copies were in the mail the following morning, establishing priority (Davis 1994). The story may well be apocryphal, but suggests some of the zest with which museum collectors of the time interacted.

Barbour was a great joiner, and was a member of more than twenty-five societies worldwide and a Trustee or Director on the boards of many, including the Fairchild Tropical Garden in Florida, where he would often stay as guest of his friend David Fairchild. His primary ornithological affiliation was as a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union. For his various accomplishments he received honorary doctorates from the University of Florida, Harvard University, University of Havana, and Dartmouth College. "T.B."s (as Barbour was called by friends and associates) reputation for congeniality was enhanced by his establishment at the MCZ of what came to be called the "Eateria." He installed a refrigerator, stove, and sink in his back office and hired William Brewster's ex-servant, Robert Gilbert, to prepare lunches for museum staff and visiting dignitaries. The fare was varied and included "feral dishes" from recent collecting, hunting, or fishing expeditions, including "fried Palm beetle larvae, potted crow, smoked eels, snapping turtle, manatee, capybara" (McCord 1946), not to mention elk and moose. A count of the entries in the guest book exceeded 20,000.

Thomas Barbour was a born collector. He began the preface to *A Naturalist's Scrapbook* (1946b) with: "I have always been a pack rat, a frank and unashamed pack rat for the simple reason that I enjoyed being one." His natural history collections encompassed virtually the entire range of organisms. A February 13, 1913, letter to Outram Bangs gives some sense of his love of natural history and the "shotgun school" of collecting of his era: "I was certainly born for the tropics! I sent some rare bat skins back by Wheeler & I have some more in alcohol. I got a rare Crocodile peculiar to the Cienaga [,] a skin and skull (6 ft). Killed two others but they were so near me when I stepped on them in the mud that I blew their heads off with the 20 gauge. As I had to do all the bird shooting practically [,] I have been rather hampered with my reptile work." Barbour was especially well equipped for his naturalist proclivities, possessing a photographic memory for specimens and labels. He was philosophically predisposed to be a museum director and apply his collecting instincts: "the museum is like the library. It has got to keep growing; otherwise its significance ceases. One gets more books the other gets more critters" (Barbour 1943a). He collected widely in Africa in addition to his honeymoon trip to the Far East and his annual excursions to the Neotropics. Like most collectors he tended to eat what he shot: "I will not say that we never ate a robin, for we did, and a good many doves. These are both better birds to eat than quail." In referring to the flavor of American Coots, "Their singular combination of the flavor of shore birds with that of the best ducks makes them a real delicacy" (Barbour 1944).

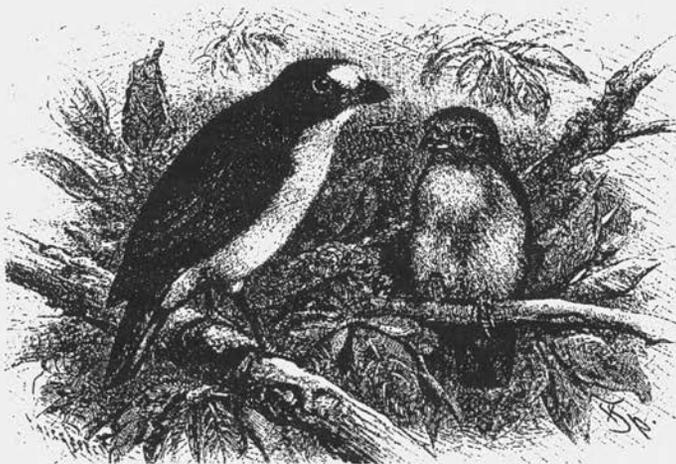
Despite his passion for collecting, Barbour was an outspoken conservationist. He referred to land drainage in Florida to provide agricultural land as a "criminally stupid policy" and of Florida's conservation problems said, "Practically all of the marketable timber in the state has been destroyed by lumber companies who literally cut and run. They make no serious efforts to reforest and pay little attention to leaving sound seed trees in their cuttings. Add to the activities of these groups the realtors and the drainage promoters, and you have about summed up the roster of the roots of all evil for Florida" (Barbour 1944). He bemoaned as well the vanishing habitats of his beloved Cuba. Barbour was an influential member of The Executive Committee of the American Committee for International Wild Life Protection (Phillips and Coolidge 1934).

Thomas Barbour's health deteriorated, and he developed heart and circulation problems, no doubt exacerbated by chronic smoking. He died following a stroke in 1946 at age 61. He had described himself as "by inclination an old-fashioned naturalist, many tell me the last of the breed" (Bigelow 1946), and the numerous memorial statements emphasized the breadth of his natural history interests and accomplishments. Typical were the comments by James Lee Peters (1948): "He was really one of the last of that vanishing race, the all-around naturalist," and his colleague Arthur Loveridge (1947), "Truly his passing will be mourned by many, for we shall not see his like again." Barbour never did succeed in bringing together the museum and academic interests at Harvard, and certainly the molecular discoveries of the 1950s were the harbingers of a new era — so perhaps he truly was the last of the great gentleman naturalists. 🐦

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## FIELD NOTES

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### Gull Predation of Sea Ducks

*Matthew L. Pelikan*

In a fascinating Field Note in *Bird Observer* 29 (2): 130 (April 2001), Richard Graefe recounts an instance of a Red-breasted Merganser killed by a Great Black-backed Gull. Graefe's narrative ends by noting that, "[u]nless additional observations convince me otherwise, I must conclude that this attack was indeed not typical and that the merganser, although apparently healthy, had some impairment that made it particularly vulnerable." Observations along the Nantucket Sound shoreline of Oak Bluffs, in contrast, have convinced me that predation of adult waterfowl by Great Black-backed Gulls, while hardly common, is far more frequent than one might suspect. Between autumn 1997 and late winter 2001, I have observed this behavior about a half-dozen times, at least once during each winter in that period.

Along the Vineyard shore, it appears that the victim is usually a male White-winged Scoter, and these cases of predation invariably begin as an attempt at kleptoparasitism. Engaged in an effort to steal shellfish from a scoter, the gull's behavior grows progressively more aggressive until it is attacking the duck rather than merely trying to make it disgorge. Graefe's account, describing repeated attempts by the duck to escape by diving, conforms closely to my own observations. The gull renews its attack instantly when the duck resurfaces, pecking its head or sitting on its back and forcing it under water. Escape by flight is not an option because of the long "takeoff roll" a sea duck requires; if the duck tries to fly, the gull simply holds it on the surface by sitting on it. Eventually (in the case of a scoter it can take a half-hour or more), the duck succumbs to some combination of exhaustion, drowning, and repeated pecks to the head and neck.

None of the scoters I've seen dispatched this way appeared to suffer from any preexisting disease or injury that made them particularly vulnerable (of course such an impairment might not be evident at binocular range); rather, I'm convinced that killing a healthy adult duck is well within the abilities of this species of gull, which is a powerful and resourceful predator. But Graefe raises an interesting question in noting that adult ducks don't play a major role in the winter diet of a Great Black-backed Gull: why not eat more of them, if they're so easy to kill?

I can't offer a definitive answer, but I think the secret lies more in gull behavior than in the ecology of predator/prey relations. On two occasions when I watched for long enough, the murderous gull toyed with the duck carcass for a few minutes, then abandoned it, flying off as if nothing had happened. Perhaps gulls can't gain sufficient purchase on the floating body to tear it open, and dragging it through the water to *terra firma* is either beyond their abilities or outside their behavioral repertoire. On another occasion, a White-winged Scoter, dead of unknown causes but still very fresh (it may well have been a gull victim), had washed up onto the Oak Bluffs town beach.

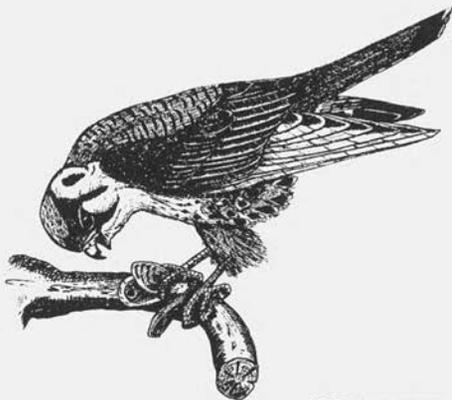
Several Herring and Great Black-backed gulls stood around it, apparently either uninterested in eating it or uncertain how to proceed. The duck remained there, uneaten, for a day or two until a high tide carried it away.

To be sure, spending a half-hour killing a duck you don't plan to eat is an extravagant expenditure of energy for a wild bird. However, under normal winter conditions gulls spend the majority of their time roosting, not eating or foraging, suggesting that they enjoy abundant supplies of more traditional food, such as shellfish, eels, sea worms, and garbage. It could be that Great Black-backed Gulls don't know how to eat freshly killed ducks, or that such ducks are unpalatable compared with other prey. But my suspicion is that instances of duckicide such as Graefe describes actually represent behavior better thought of as recreation than as foraging. 🐦

## The Phoebe and the Moth

*Steve Davis*

A pair of Eastern Phoebes has nested on a beam of our open back porch this summer. While feeding in our back yard, one of the phoebes apparently noticed a small white moth that was inside our screened tent. The phoebe flew near to the tent at the height of the moth and hovered briefly. The hovering motion of the phoebe's wings seemed to draw the moth closer, close enough so that only the screen of the tent was between them as the phoebe pecked in the direction of the moth. The phoebe was unsuccessful at catching the moth because of the nylon screening, and they both retreated. Again, the phoebe flew up to the edge of the tent, hovered, and the wing motion again seemed to draw the moth in the bird's direction. As before, the screening prevented the phoebe from catching the moth, and the bird flew away. Was this my imagination or is hovering known to be a method of aerodynamically "sucking" the prey in closer for capture? 🐦



GEORGE C. WEST

## ABOUT BOOKS

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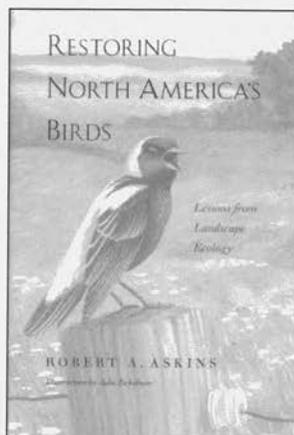
### *Restoring North America's Birds*

2000. Robert Askins. Yale University Press. 320 pages.  
\$30.00

*John Hoye*

I would like to recommend a book on the new specialty of landscape ecology that should be of value to birders, conservation commissions, foresters, biologists, and politicians.

*Restoring North America's Birds* is an attractively designed and informative book on how we might restore bird habitats that have been severely impacted by man. Each of the eight major chapters is introduced by an appealing line drawing by Julie Zickefoose and an appropriate poem. Each chapter deals with an ecosystem, its natural rhythms and natural history, its typical vegetation and birds, and how it has fared under man's stewardship.



Chapters describe the following habitats and birds:

- Grassland birds of the East Coast
- Birds of Eastern thickets
- Great plains
- Southwest flood plains
- Eastern bottomland forest
- Deep forest birds, hostile edges
- Long leaf-pine woodland
- Birds of Western slopes
- Industrial or pulpwood forest

The natural grasslands of the east, actually of great antiquity, are gone, along with their endemic Heath Hen. The grasslands that have replaced them can be made more attractive for birds if they remain large enough. A later schedule for mowing is also important. This can mean mowing only every second or third year for some species (e.g., Henslow's Sparrow). The best hope of preserving this grassland habitat is the current, ongoing successful management of military and civilian airports and the blueberry barrens of Maine.

The early successional habitat is a mix of shrubs and vines, under six feet in height, and from 5 to 250 acres in size. Originally the result of storms or fires, this habitat typically lasts nine years and can be maintained by small rotating clearcuts or special power line management practices, such as having workers cut each young tree and spray each stump with herbicide. The result is a stable shrub community that requires little maintenance, although it is initially labor intensive. These practices may

stop the precipitous decline of the Brown Thrasher and Eastern Towhee, species typical of this habitat.

The Great Plains, with their five endemic species, Baird's Sparrow, Mountain Plover, McCown's and Chestnut-collared longspurs, and Lark Bunting, has the prairie dog as a keystone species. Despite claims to the contrary, these maligned rodents, by their close grazing practices, actually increase the nitrogen and succulence of the grasses up to sixty percent and favor the growth of forbs (an herb), and can live in harmony with cattle or bison. Fire, which naturally occurred in the Great Plains every four to ten years, kept this habitat a patchy shifting mosaic favoring a mix of species. The current conservation ideal is to keep the area grazed but not cropped.

The Southwest floodplain habitat was historically maintained by seasonal flooding of the banks of rivers. This resulted in double terraced areas of Fremont cottonwoods and honey mesquite. Currently, this habitat is ninety-five percent degraded by dams and cattle grazing, but could be helped by replanting, fencing out the cattle, and having adequate flows of the rivers guaranteed. Salt cedar is an unwelcome invasive species here that is utilized by few species and could be reduced.

The Eastern bottomland forest has been reduced by seventy-seven percent, resulting in the extinction of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Carolina Parakeet, and Bachman's Warbler. Wide bands of the remaining unfragmented areas could be saved for nesting Northern Parula, Prothonotary, and Swainson's warblers by protecting all old growth stands, dead wood, and snags, and replanting oaks and hardwoods for cover and income.

The Eastern forest habitat needs larger area plots to be saved, greater than 240 acres, to reduce the ills of fragmentation, which include increased predation by jays, crows, raccoons, dogs, cats, opossums, chipmunks, and cowbirds. Predation is more common in smaller plots. Some species like the Wood Thrush and Cerulean Warbler may need even more help, such as the preservation of rainforest on their wintering ground in the tropics.

Longleaf-pine woodlands need a fire every one to five years to maintain a healthy habitat. But some clusters of trees that are eighty years old or older are needed for nest holes for the colonial nesting Red-cockaded Woodpecker. It takes up to six years to make a nest hole, but once made they are good for twenty years.

The historically patchy Western slope forest is maintained by natural fires: every one to three years for ponderosa pine, or every 100 years for lodgepole pine. Regular, planned burnings are needed to conserve this habitat, along with the preservation of older growth areas where Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet nest. Also important will be allowing clearcuts to grow up naturally to successional habitats with less herbicide and fertilizer use.

The "industrial forest" or pulpwood boreal forest requires that trees older than eighty years be conserved for cone crops, leaving dead trees and snags as nest sites for woodpeckers and others. If this does not occur, this habitat may suffer the same

fate as the intensively managed Scandinavian forests with their resultant reduction in species diversity.

Finally, we should preserve relict patches of remnant "lost landscapes" to learn how they work and can be sustained. Examples of these include the San Pedro River of Arizona (Southwest floodplain habitat), the Wade tract in Georgia (longleaf old growth pines habitat) and the Konza prairie of Kansas (tall grass prairie).

It was interesting to learn of the close interrelationships between trees and birds. For instance, the various subspecies of crossbill have anatomical differences in the roofs of their mouths that allow them to eat specific favored coniferous seeds. The "Newfoundland crossbill," a sedentary species with a much larger bill than other crossbills, depends exclusively on the cones of black spruce that in Newfoundland have substantially thinner cone scales than spruces on the mainland, cone scales that have evolved in isolation since the last glacial period, in the absence of the red squirrel, one of the major predators of spruce seeds. But to provide food for the endemic Newfoundland marten, which declined after the cutting of old growth forest in the early 1960s, the Newfoundland Wildlife Association introduced red squirrels, which then had no trouble harvesting the black spruce seeds. This resulted in a marked decline in crossbill numbers in the 1970s, and in the future the Newfoundland crossbills may exist only on squirrel-free islands.

Also of interest was reading about the historical two-terraced plan of the Southwest floodplains and relationship of each terrace habitat to different species of birds. The upper terrace consists of honey mesquite and other trees and is important habitat for Crissal Thrasher, Verdin, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Lucy's Warbler. The mistletoe berries found here are spread primarily by Phainopepla. The Phainopepla's special gizzard skins the berries and extrudes them in chains of 8-16 berries which adhere to trees (especially honey mesquite) and sprout, providing berries all winter, which are utilized as food by many fruit-eating birds. The lower terrace habitat consists of Fremont cottonwoods. This habitat originally covered more than 2,000 acres, but now only 270 acres exist. Here are found Yellow-billed Cuckoos, the southwestern subspecies of Willow Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Summer Tanager, as well as Elf Owl.

What did I like? The whole book! Which, by the way, has a 35-page bibliography, and an endorsement by our own Wayne Petersen. This book provides the reader with a picture of what the various habitats of this country were once like, and how, prior to the coming of the settlers, they were maintained for hundreds of years with their own interrelationships. You will also learn how civilization impacted these habitats causing several extinctions, some of which could have easily been prevented (such as the Ivory-billed Woodpecker), and what can be done now to help restore these habitats. 

*John Hoyer* is an internist with a lifelong passion for birds, especially identification and recently field recording. He lives with his wife Audrey, also a birder, in Wayland.

# BIRD SIGHTINGS

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MAY/JUNE 2001

*Richard S. Heil, Seth Kellogg, Marjorie Rines, Robert H. Stymeist*

The month of May was dry, warm, and sunny, ideal conditions for migration watchers, although birders thought this year's migration was rather lackluster. The extreme warm spell in April continued into early May with the mercury reaching the 90s on May 2-4. The foliage was already ahead of normal, and by the end of the first week of May it looked like midsummer. Two new daily record highs were set and two records were tied in Boston; also, the three-day heat wave was a new record for the earliest in the year, beating May 28-30 in 1931. The latter half of the month was unseasonably cool. After May 19 no day exceeded 72° in Boston. Rainfall was only half of normal, continuing April's extreme dryness. Dense fog was noted on four days and thunderstorms were heard in the area on six days. Winds were out of the southwest (the most favorable for migration) on just one day, May 28. Other southerly winds were recorded on May 1, 7-10, 18 and 29.

June was warm, wet, and sunny. The temperature averaged 71.1° in Boston, 3.4° above normal; this was the seventh warmest June in Boston in 130 years. The high was 92° on June 15 and 30, and the low was 50° on the 1<sup>st</sup> in Boston. Rainfall totaled 4.99 inches, 1.90 inches over normal. The most in any day was 2.53 inches on the 17<sup>th</sup>, associated with Tropical Storm Allison. This storm brought greatly variable amounts throughout the state, up to 5 inches of rain in some parts. One Rhode Island location recorded 7 inches that day. The severe thunderstorms associated with Allison on the 17<sup>th</sup> produced considerable wind as well as flooding. Damage was scattered throughout the state with some locally damaging hail, and in Princeton a small tornado touched down.

*R. Stymeist*

## LOONS THROUGH ALCIDS

Since 1978 Pied-billed Grebes have been confirmed breeding at less than a dozen sites in the state, and very irregularly at these. The discovery of a nest containing six eggs in a marsh within the Willowdale State Forest in Ipswich was therefore both exciting and at least somewhat encouraging. The discovery of three nests of Leach's Storm-Petrels at Nomans Land Island south of Martha's Vineyard in mid-June established a new southernmost breeding site in the Atlantic, but was only about fifteen miles south of the traditional Penikese Island site in Buzzard's Bay where the species has been known to breed since at least 1933, although in greatly reduced numbers since the 1950s. Single Great Cormorants, at East Quabbin and Gill in mid-May, were said to be the first ever for the period in western Massachusetts. Two sightings of flying *Anhingas* were made in mid-June, both of which were naked-eye observations involving no optics. Although reported with some frequency in spring, and with two previous state records accepted by the MARC, Anhinga has however yet to be unambiguously documented with photographic evidence. While some of these sightings may involve confusion with soaring cormorants, undoubtedly many Anhinga reports are correct.

Least Bitterns appeared at six sites, all but one during June, including a pair suspected of nesting at the Ipswich Pied-billed Grebe marsh. A late June dusk count of birds flying to the Kettle Island, Manchester colony for the night involved 93 Great Egrets, 497 Snowy Egrets, 48 Little Blue Herons, 4 Tricolored Herons, and 154 Glossy Ibises. This count taking place prior to fledging of the young, these numbers probably represent nearly all breeders. Single adult

Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were noted in Fairhaven and Salem. This heron, crepuscular and non-colonial, may be cryptically breeding in the state on a regular basis.

A bird believed to be a **Dark-bellied Brant** (*B.b.bernica*) was observed at Newburyport May 4-5. This form is considered a separate species by many European authorities, along with our local wintering Pale-bellied Brant (*hrota*), and the Black Brant (*nigricans*) of the Pacific Coast, which appears here on rare occasions. Dark-bellied Brant breeds in west Siberia and migrates to northwest Europe where it is common in winter. Small numbers are also regular as far as Iceland in winter, but the form has not been reported, to my knowledge, in North America. The bird was present among a flock of several hundred Pale-bellied Brant along the edge of Newburyport Harbor. Although seen by several observers, the brant was not photographed. Up to 725 (Pale-bellied) Brant were counted at Newburyport May 11. A drake King Eider lingered at Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard, to at least May 24. For mid-May, impressive numbers of scoters, presumably non-breeding first-years, were still present in the waters around Chilmark on the 16th, when some 2000 Surf, 8000 White-winged, and 1500 Black were estimated. A Harlequin Duck that dropped into a flock of Oldsquaw in the Plum Island surf May 16 was both late and misplaced.

Osprey continues to expand and consolidate its population in the state. An amazing sixty-two nests were counted on Martha's Vineyard. On the very recently colonized north shore, nests were located at Essex, Rowley, and Plum Island, while a pair was prospecting in Salem. Thirty Ospreys passing the North Truro hawk watch (hopefully only once) was a fine one-day total on May 29. A number of **Mississippi Kites** were cruising around Cape Cod in May and early June. It is difficult to determine how many birds were involved, but at least three, one adult and two sub-adults, were present in the Truro-Provincetown area in mid-May. Others delighted lucky observers in Bourne, Sharon, and Marshfield. Numbers of Bald Eagles wandered into the state during May and early June, comprised mostly of juveniles emanating from the southeastern U.S., including at least nine at Plum Island between May 5-29, and four in Adams on May 28.

Representing the first confirmed breeding in Essex County in nearly fifty years, a pair of Northern Harriers nested in the Parker River NWR's North Pool cattail marsh. Harriers may also have nested this year at the Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary in Marshfield, where an adult male and female were observed on several occasions. Due to the destruction of marsh and grassland habitat, harriers have consistently declined as a breeding bird in southern New England in recent decades. In Massachusetts, harriers have become largely restricted to a few Cape Cod and island locations, where intense development pressure continues to place the few remaining pairs at risk. A Swainson's Hawk was reported, without details, from the North Truro hawk watch May 18. Clapper Rail reaches the northern terminus of its breeding range in Massachusetts. As many as seven were reported calling from the Barnstable marshes on May 26, and the perennial Plum Island bird(s) arrived in early May. Reflective of its troubled status in the state, the only certain King Rail reported was at the Delaney WMA in Stow. A total of four Common Moorhens at as many sites, all in western Massachusetts, was noteworthy. Hopefully some of these remained to nest.

As many as three Western Willets in the North Monomoy-South Beach area of Chatham June 13-30 were rather unseasonable. Returning southbound shorebirds seem to arrive earlier each year. Although this summary encompasses only an eight-week period, we report here on both northbound and southbound migrants on the same page, which dramatically illustrates the brevity of the Arctic breeding season for many of these birds. Some notably early arrivals included 83 Lesser Yellowlegs at Plum Island, June 27; seven Hudsonian Godwits and 95 Red Knots at South Beach, June 26; a Stilt Sandpiper at Plum Island, June 28; and 350 Short-billed

Dowitchers at South Beach, June 30. Causing a great deal of excitement was a bird identified as a **Long-toed Stint**, in alternate (breeding) plumage, discovered at the Plum Island salt pans May 4. In brief, it was felt that both the extent and the intensity of the rusty coloration on the margins of the scapulars and tertials, and in the cap, along with a few other more subtle field marks, reasonably excluded the very similar Least Sandpiper. If accepted by the MARC, this would constitute the first record for eastern North America. One or two **Curlew Sandpipers** also appeared at Plum Island A very cooperative bird was well photographed at the salt pans May 10-16, while a second showed at Stage Island Pool for one day, June 27. Rounding out the Eurasian shorebird list were at least two Ruffs that graced the salt pans at Plum Island in mid-May. Perhaps two pairs of Wilson's Phalaropes resided in the Plum Island salt marshes where they were strongly suspected, but not proven, to nest. Throughout June two territorial males defended a patch of marsh and were observed engaging passing gulls and raptors on several occasions.

An adult **Franklin's Gull**, typically scarcer in spring than in fall in the state, made an appearance along the beach at Plum Island June 12. The number of nesting Laughing Gulls at South Monomoy has more than doubled over last year, now totaling 805 pairs. The gull control program at the north tip of South Monomoy, which began in 1996, has demonstrably been a huge success. As reported by USFWS Wildlife Biologist Stephanie Koch, the number of nesting Common Terns there has risen from a mere 63 pairs in 1995 to a remarkable 7807 pairs in 2001, making it the second largest colony on the Atlantic seaboard (see details below). A pair of Forster's Terns resided in the Plum Island marshes in May and June, but there was no confirmation of breeding this season. Certainly the least expected Atlantic alcid in our waters in June, a breeding-plumaged **Dovekie** discovered at Bass Point in Nahant June 23 must have been quite a surprise.

R. Heil

#### South Monomoy Island: Numbers of Nesting Pairs

Year	ROST	COTE	LETE	BLSK	LAGU	PIPL
1995	0	63	28	0	0	14
1996	3	694	103	5	9	16
1997	0	641	6	0	0	22
1998	22	2363	246	3	0	24
1999	27	5480	103	3	19	26
2000	3	6886	119	1	376	27
2001	6	7807	16	0	805	26

(Courtesy of Stephanie Koch, USFWS)

Species	Date	Location	Count	Observer	Notes	Observer			
Red-throated Loon	5/10, 6/21	P.I.	37, 1	R. Heil		M. Lynch#			
	5/15	N. Scituate	1	G. d'Entremont#		J. Berry#			
	5/19	Chatham (S.B.)	26	T. Maloney#					
	5/19	E. Orleans	50	B. Nikula#					
	5/19	Squantum	1	SSBC (R. Fox)					
	5/27	Rockport (A.P.)	6	R. Heil					
	6/30	Chatham (S.B.)	1 IS	R. Heil					
	Common Loon	5/17, 6/20	P.I.	58 migr, 3	R. Heil				
		5/19	Chatham (S.B.)	32	T. Maloney#				
		5/20	Holyoke	2	D. McLain				
5/25		P'town	19	D. + S. Larson					
5/26		S. Quabbin	2	J. Liller					
5/26		Plymouth	10	G. d'Entremont#					
5/27		Uxbridge	3	M. Lynch#					
5/29		N. Truro	12+	T. Carrolan					
6/2		Rockport (A.P.)	6	R. Heil					
6/8		Gardner	2	T. Pirro					
Pied-billed Grebe	5/19	S. Egremont	1						
	5/19-6/30	Ipswich	pr n						
	5/5	Lynn	6			SSBC (W. Harrington)			
	Red-necked Grebe	5/4	P.I.				1 br pl R. Heil		
		5/5	Nahant	5			SSBC (W. Harrington)		
		5/29	N. Truro	1			T. Carrolan		
		Northern Fulmar	6/25	Cashes Ledge	8			R. Donovan	
			Cory's Shearwater	6/13	Stellwagen	1			O. Spalding
				6/30	off Chilmark	1			A. Keith
				Greater Shearwater	6/11	off Wellfleet	1		
6/13					Nomans I.	1			T. French
6/18					off Gay Head	2			A. Goldman
6/25					Cashes Ledge	150			R. Donovan
Sooty Shearwater	5/16				Wellfleet H.	1			P. Flood

Sooty Shearwater (continued)									
5/16	Gloucester (B.R.)	1		J. Soucy	6/16	Salem	1	BBC (I. Lynch)	
5/19	Chatham (S.B.)	3		T. Maloney#	6/18	P'town	2	O. Spalding	
5/27, 6/2	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 1		R. Heil	6/23	DWMA	2	M. Lynch#	
6/10	N. Truro	100		W. Petersen	Great Blue Heron				
6/11	2 mi. E. of Wellfleet	120		P. Flood	6/10	W. Boxford	84 nests	J. Berry#	
6/13	Stellwagen	26		O. Spalding	6/thr	Hudson	6 nests	B. Parker	
6/25	off Edgartown	3+		M. Pelikan	Great Egret				
6/25	Cashes Ledge	25		R. Donovan	5/5	Lynn	10	SSBC (W. Harrington)	
6/30	off Gloucester	1		S. Moore#	5/12	Quincy	2	E. Taylor	
Manx Shearwater					6/23	S. Monomoy	2	R. Lockwood#	
5/16	P.I.	1		R. Heil	6/24	Manchester (K.I.)	93	R. Heil	
5/27	Rockport (A.P.)	4		R. Heil	Snowy Egret				
6/25	Cashes Ledge	1		R. Donovan	5/10	Weymouth	5	K. Vespaziani	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel					5/22	W. Gloucester	6	J. Soucy#	
5/19	Chatham (S.B.)	25		T. Maloney#	6/22	S. Monomoy	34	R. Lockwood#	
5/25	off Gay Head	10+		A. Keith	6/24	Manchester (K.I.)	497	R. Heil	
6/4	Stellwagen	8		P. Flood	Little Blue Heron				
6/18	Gloucester (E.P.)	15		R. Heil	5/3	E. Boston (B.I.)	1 ad	J. Young	
6/19	Chatham (S.B.)	20+		P. Flood	5/14	Essex	3	D. + S. Larson	
6/23	S. Monomoy	109		R. Lockwood#	5/22	W. Gloucester	4	J. Soucy#	
6/24	Magnolia	20		R. Heil	5/29	N. Truro	1	T. Carrolan	
6/25	Cashes Ledge	350		R. Donovan	6/17	Nantucket	1	J. Papale	
6/27	Stellwagen	150		MAS (N. Soulette)	6/24	Manchester (K.I.)	48	R. Heil	
6/30	off Gloucester	300+		S. Moore#	Tricolored Heron				
6/30	off P'town	950		R. Heil	thr	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	
Leach's Storm-Petrel					5/23	Essex	1	J. Berry	
6/13	Nomans I.	3 pr n		T. French	6/24	Manchester (K.I.)	4	R. Heil	
6/25	Cashes Ledge	25		R. Donovan	Cattle Egret				
Northern Gannet					5/3	Topsfield	6	R. Heil	
5/5	P'town	375+		B. Nikula	5/11	Beverly	1	S. Simpson	
5/13	N. Truro	700		B. Nikula	5/16	Fairhaven	1	D. Brown#	
5/15	Marshfield	10		G. d'Entremont#	6/30	Gay Head	1	V. Laux	
5/16	Rockport (A.P.)	52		J. Soucy	Green Heron				
5/16	P.I.	70		R. Heil	5/20	P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale	
5/19	Chatham (S.B.)	300		T. Maloney#	5/21-31	Hamilton	pr n	J. Berry	
5/19	P'town (R.P.)	200		T. Maloney#	5/30	Scituate	3	G. d'Entremont	
6/4	Rockport	100 imm		J. Berry	6/3	Brookfield	3	M. Lynch#	
6/4	Stellwagen	250 imm		P. Flood	6/9	Stow	2	R. Lockwood	
6/10	N. Truro	30		W. Petersen	6/10	DWWS	pr	D. Furbish	
6/25	off Edgartown	30+		M. Pelikan	6/16	Quabbin	4	L. de la Flor#	
Great Cormorant					6/23	DWMA	4	M. Lynch#	
5/12	E. Quabbin	1		T. Gagnon#	6/24	Bolton Flats	7	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
5/16	Westport	1		G. d'Entremont#	6/thr	Hamilton	pr n	J. Berry	
5/16-27	Gill	1		B. Laflay	Black-crowned Night-Heron				
5/17	Cohasset	2		R. Titus#	5/13	Watertown	9	R. Stymeist	
5/18	Nahant	1		R. Heil	5/14	Harwich	11	CCBC (D. Silverstein)	
5/19	N. Scituate	5		SSBC (R. Fox)	5/17, 6/20	Medford	28, 71	M. Rines	
5/27	Turners Falls	1		M. Fairbrother	5/25	Boston	3	C. Nims	
6/18	Rockport (A.P.)	1 1S		R. Heil	6/9	Hingham H.	50	C. Nims#	
Double-crested Cormorant					6/16	Salem	3	BBC (I. Lynch)	
5/3	Turners Falls	9		B. Laflay	6/24	Manchester (K.I.)	24	R. Heil	
5/5	Nahant	1500		SSBC (W. Harrington)	6/27	S. Monomoy	94	R. Lockwood#	
5/19	Chatham (S.B.)	1800		T. Maloney#	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
5/20	Hampden Cnty	86		Allen Club	6/20-25	Salem	1	J. Smith + v.o.	
6/2	Wachusett Res.	51		M. Lynch#	6/26	Fairhaven	1	M. Boucher	
6/3	Dudley, Charlton	15, 23		J. Young	Glossy Ibis				
6/8	DWWS	160		D. Furbish	5/1, 21	P.I.	17, 8	R. Heil	
6/27	S. Monomoy	73		R. Lockwood#	5/1	W. Bridgewater	1	G. d'Entremont	
Anhinga (no details) *					5/2	Manchester	6	BBC (S. Hedman)	
6/17	Essex	1		T. Young	5/16	Newbury	42	D. + I. Jewell	
Anhinga (details submitted) *					5/16	Rowley	15	MAS (B. Lawless)	
6/19	Avon	1		R. Titus	5/26	GMNWR	1	J. Forbes#	
American Bittern					6/9	IRWS	1	P. + F. Vale	
5/2-11	Gardner	1-2		T. Pirro	6/10	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	1	G. d'Entremont#	
5/3	Sheffield	2		D. Reid	6/18	GMNWR	1	P. Savage	
5/4, 10	HRWMA	2		T. Pirro	6/24	Manchester (K.I.)	154	R. Heil	
5/9	Brookfield	3		C. Buelow	6/28	N. Monomoy	4	P. Flood	
5/19	Goshen	4		T. Gagnon	Black Vulture				
5/20	Berkshire Cty	2		Hoffmann Club	5/20	Sheffield	4	Hoffmann Club	
5/26	Tyringham	2		M. + K. Conway	Turkey Vulture				
5/thr	Pepperell	2		P. Duke	5/1	Hardwick	8	C. Buelow	
6/20	Brookfield	3		S. Kellogg	5/1-4	N. Truro	127	EMHW (M. Lowe)	
thr	Reports of indiv. from	10 locations			5/4	S. Quabbin	5	M. Lynch#	
Least Bittern					5/5	Northfield	6	BBC (M. Taylor)	
5/29	Maynard	1		R. Lockwood#	5/12-18	N. Truro	68	v.o.	
6/3	Brookfield	2		M. Lynch#	5/18	Townsend	13	R. Heil	
6/9-30	Ipswich	pr		J. Berry#	5/19	Mt. Greylock	6	M. Lynch#	
					5/19	P'town (R.P.)	11	T. Maloney#	

Turkey Vulture (continued)				Surf Scoter			
5/25	Manchester-Essex	6	J. Berry	5/5	Nahant	40	SSBC (W. Harrington)
5/26	S. Quabbin	8	J. Liller#	5/16	Chilmark	2000	A. Keith
6/6	Brookfield	9	C. Buelow	5/28	Plymouth B.	1	J. Hoye#
6/9	Sheffield	21	R. Stymeist#	White-winged Scoter			
6/14	P.I.	5	R. Heil	5/5	Nahant	500+	SSBC (W. Harrington)
Snow Goose				5/16	Chilmark	8000	A. Keith
5/14-18	P.I.	2	R. Heil	5/19	P'town (R.P.)	10	T. Maloney#
5/20	Berkshire Cty	1	Hoffmann Club	5/22	Southwick	6	S. Kellogg
Brant				5/23	P.I.	175+	R. Heil
5/11, 22	Newbypt.	725, 32	R. Heil	6/4	Gloucester	4	J. Berry
5/13	Gloucester	27	BBC (S. Hedman)	Black Scoter			
5/16	Winthrop	360	D. Larson	5/5	Nahant	1	SSBC (W. Harrington)
5/18	Squantum	42	G. d'Entremont	5/16	Chilmark	1500	A. Keith
5/25	Dartmouth	22	M. Taylor	6/8	Wareham	8	D. Clapp
6/3	Plymouth	2	W. Petersen	Long-tailed Duck			
6/7	Florence	150	T. Gagnon	5/5	Newbypt.	3000	M. Lynch#
Dark-bellied Brant ( <i>B. b. bernicla</i> )				5/10, 18	P.I.	850, 100	R. Heil
5/4-5	Newbypt. H.	1	R. Heil	5/30	Swampscott	1 m	J. Berry#
Mute Swan				6/18	Gloucester	1 m	R. Heil
5/15	N. Scituate	31	G. d'Entremont#	Bufflehead			
5/20	Hampden Cnty	15	Allen Club	5/3	Randolph	30	G. d'Entremont
6/22	S. Monomoy	16	R. Lockwood#	5/5	Chelsea	2	R. Stymeist
Whooper Swan				5/5	Newbypt.	12	M. Lynch#
5/thr	P.I.	3-5	R. Heil	Common Goldeneye			
Wood Duck				5/5	Newbypt.	4	M. Lynch#
5/1	Wayland	11	G. Long	5/16-24	Turners Falls	1	v.o.
5/5	Northfield	40	BBC (M. Taylor)	Hooded Merganser			
5/16	W. Newbury	10	P. + F. Vale	5/4	HRWMA	1 m	T. Pirro
5/20	Hampden Cnty	72	Allen Club	5/5	Boston	1 m	G. d'Entremont
6/24	Wakefield	7 ad, 4 juv	P. + F. Vale	5/5	Northfield	1	BBC (M. Taylor)
Gadwall				5/8	P.I.	1 f	R. Heil
5/18	Turners Falls	2	B. Lafley	5/11	HRWMA	4	T. Pirro
6/22	S. Monomoy	21	R. Lockwood#	5/17	Petersham	1	B. Lafley
6/thr	P.I.	45	R. Heil	5/19	S. Egremont	1	M. Lynch#
Blue-winged Teal				5/20	Berkshire Cty	2	Hoffmann Club
5/1	W. Bridgewater	1 f	G. d'Entremont	6/11-13	Chilmark	1 f	A. Keith
5/2	Manchester	5	BBC (S. Hedman)	6/12	Hawley	1	R. Packard
5/3	W. Newbury	2	BBC (S. Grinley)	6/20	Becket	5	R. Laubach
5/4	P.I.	7	R. Heil	6/29	Hardwick	1 w yg	C. Buelow
5/5	DWWS	2 m, 1 f	D. Furbish	Red-breasted Merganser			
Northern Shoveler				5/19	P'town (R.P.)	30	T. Maloney#
5/2	Cambridge	pr	J. Melithonites	5/28	P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale
5/17	Boston	1	G. Tepke	6/4	Rockport	4	J. Berry
6/23	S. Monomoy	1	R. Lockwood#	Common Merganser			
Northern Pintail				5/1	Melrose	25	BBC (D. + I. Jewell)
5/5	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#	5/14	Hardwick	pr	C. Buelow
5/19	S. Monomoy	1	T. Maloney#	5/17	Petersham	4	H. Allen
Green-winged Teal				5/19	Northampton	4	T. Gagnon
5/1	W. Bridgewater	150	G. d'Entremont	5/20	Agawam	2	J. Hutchison
5/2	Gardner	5	T. Pirro	5/21	Granby	1	S. Kellogg
5/4	P.I.	330	R. Heil	5/24	Turners Falls	1	H. Allen
5/7	Lexington	2	J. Forbes	5/26	Florida	1 m	W. Zuzevich
5/14	Essex	2	G. d'Entremont#	5/26	S. Quabbin	4	J. Liller
6/thr	P.I.	17 max	R. Heil	5/31	Westfield	2	S. Kellogg
6/10	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	pr	G. d'Entremont#	6/5	Montgomery	1 f	J. Young
6/22	S. Monomoy	2	R. Lockwood#	6/18	Deerfield	12	R. Packard
Ring-necked Duck				6/24	Huntington	9	R. Packard
5/19	New Salem	1	B. Lafley	6/24	Blandford	1	T. Swochak
6/6	P.I.	1 m	R. Heil	Ruddy Duck			
6/10-12	W. Tisbury	1 m	A. Ben David#	5/thr	Melrose	1-3	D. + I. Jewell
6/28	Hadley	1 m	C. Gentes	5/5	Boston	4	G. d'Entremont
Greater Scaup				5/11	W. Newbury (C. H.)	1 m	R. Heil
5/3	Randolph	27	G. d'Entremont	6/1	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
5/5	Newbypt.	2	M. Lynch#	Osprey			
Lesser Scaup				5/thr	M.V.	62 nests	R. Bierregaard
5/3	Randolph	13	G. d'Entremont	5/1-4	N. Truro	38	EMHW (M. Lowe)
King Eider				5/17	N. Truro	11	EMHW (M. Lowe)
5/24	Chilmark	1 m	A. Keith	5/20-6/30	W. Springfield	pr n	J. Zepko
Common Eider				5/27	Falmouth	6	BBC (R. Petersen)
5/5	Nahant	20	SSBC (W. Harrington)	5/29	Rowley	pr n	J. Berry
5/15	N. Scituate	50	G. d'Entremont#	5/29	N. Truro	30	T. Carrollan
6/10	Boston H.	10	R. Bielawski	5/31	Lakeville	pr n	A. Brissette
6/11	P'town H.	27	P. Flood	5/31, 6/30	Pepperell	4	E. Stromsted
6/23	S. Monomoy	150	R. Lockwood#	6/thr	P.I.	2 pr n	R. Heil
6/30	Gloucester (B.R.)	9	P. + F. Vale	6/6	Medford	2	R. LaFontaine
Harlequin Duck				6/10	DWWS	5	S. Carey
5/16	P.I.	1 f	R. Heil	6/12	Charlemont	1	R. Packard

Osprey (continued)				5/30	MBWMA	1	MAS (B. Stevens#)
6/16	Westboro	2 ad + 2imm	E. Taylor	5/30	E. Middleboro	pr n	R. Clem#
6/16	Mashpee	8	D. Silverstein#	6/3	Hudson	1 ad	B. Parker
Mississippi Kite (no details) *				6/8	Gardner	1	T. Pirro
5/3	Brewster	1	J. Sones, M. Lowe	6/23	Monterey	1 ad	B. Nikula
5/8	Bourne	1	P. Kyle	Red-shouldered Hawk			
5/11	P'town (R.P.)	1 sub-ad, 1 ad	M. Faherty	5/2	Stoughton	1	D. Larson
5/11	N. Truro	2 sub-ad	D. Manchester	5/9	Duxbury	1	W. Lackey
5/12	N. Truro	1 sub-ad, 1 ad	M. Lowe#	5/10	DWWS	1	D. Furbish
5/12	P'town (R.P.)	1 sub-ad; 1 ad	B. Nikula#	5/12	Truro	1 imm	J. Young
5/15	Sharon	1 sub-ad	R. Titus	5/18	Boxford	3	J. Berry
5/28	Marshfield	1	D. Clapp	5/19	Stockbridge	1	M. Lynch#
5/29	N. Truro	1	T. Carrolan	5/30	E. Middleboro	pr n	R. Clem#
6/4	N. Truro	1	D. Manchester	6/1	Plymouth	1	D. Clapp
6/6	Yarmouth	1	B. Loughran, P. Trimble	6/1	MBWMA	1	J. Nelson
Bald Eagle				6/8	Gardner	1	T. Pirro
5/1	N. Truro	3	EMHW (M. Lowe)	6/8	Ashfield	1 imm	J. Young
5/4	Agawam	1	J. Hutchison	6/8	Conway	1 ad	J. Young
5/5, 15, 17	P.I.	1 juv, 1 juv, 1 juv, migr	R. Heil	6/9	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood
5/6	Sudbury	1 imm	L. Nachtrab	6/10	Hingham	1	C. Nims
5/12	Truro	1 imm	SSBC (T. O'Neil)	6/26	S. Acton	1	J. Young
5/12, 17	N. Truro	1, 2	EMHW (M. Lowe)	Broad-winged Hawk			
5/14	Otis	1	A. Krupa	5/1-4	N. Truro	49	EMHW (M. Lowe)
5/19	Gill	1 ad	M. Lynch#	5/2	Ashfield	1	S. Sauter
5/19	Quabbin (G37)	1	R. Lockwood	5/4	Agawam	1	J. Hutchison
5/21	Washington	1	C. Blagdon	5/8	Mt. A.	1	P. + F. Vale
5/28	Adams	1 ad, 4 juv	C. Buelow	5/10	Lancaster	1	R. Lockwood
5/29, 31	P.I.	6 juv, 1 imm migr	R. Heil	5/11	Hingham	2	C. Nims#
6/4	Gr. Barrington	1	J. Johnson	5/12, 18	N. Truro	15, 14	EMHW (M. Lowe)
6/4	Springfield	1 imm	J. Young	5/12	Pepperell	4	M. Torpey
6/6	Truro	1 imm	M. Faherty	5/20	N. Marshfield	1	D. Furbish#
6/10	Sunderland	1 IS	M. Williams	5/25	IRWS	1	P. + F. Vale
6/10	W. Springfield	2	J. LaPointe	5/25	Saugus	1	D. + I. Jewell
6/13	Pepperell	1	K. Robbins	5/29, 31	P.I.	8, 2	R. Heil
Northern Harrier				6/4	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller
5/2	DWWS	3	D. Furbish	6/13	New Salem	1	B. Lafley
5/3, 17	P.I.	16, 5	R. Heil	6/23	DWMA	1	M. Lynch#
5/3	N. Truro	9	EMHW (M. Lowe)	Swainson's Hawk (no details) *			
5/4	Lincoln	1 m	M. Rines	5/18	N. Truro	1 ad	D. Manchester
5/5	Newbypt.	9	M. Lynch#	Red-tailed Hawk			
5/10	DWWS	1 m ad, 1 f ad	D. Furbish	5/20	Hampden Cnty	39	Allen Club
5/13	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	6/10	S. Groveland	6	BBS (R. Stymeist)
5/14	Otis	2	A. Krupa	American Kestrel			
5/29	Rowley	1 f	J. Berry	5/1	Templeton	2	T. Pirro
6/1	DWWS	1	D. Clapp	5/1-4	N. Truro	38	EMHW (M. Lowe)
6/22	S. Monomoy	3	R. Lockwood#	5/4	P.I.	25	T. Carrolan
6/30	P.I.	pr n	R. Heil	5/5	Newbypt.	2	M. Lynch#
Sharp-shinned Hawk				6/8	W. Newbury	pr	R. Heil
5/1-4	N. Truro	268	EMHW (M. Lowe)	6/9	Mt. A.	1	R. Stymeist
5/4, 5	P.I.	72, 15	T. Carrolan	6/13	Lancaster	1	R. Lockwood
5/5	Newbypt.	4	M. Lynch#	6/21	Medfield	pr, 3 juv	E. Morrier
5/12, 14	N. Truro	12, 9	EMHW (M. Lowe)	6/28	Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted
5/12	Chilmark	2	A. Keith	Merlin			
5/15	Stoneham	2	D. + I. Jewell	5/1, 2	N. Truro	11, 6	EMHW (M. Lowe)
6/9	Saugus	2	D. + I. Jewell	5/3	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell
6/9-30	Ipswich	pr n	J. Berry#	5/4	P.I.	1	T. Carrolan
6/18	Deerfield	1	R. Packard	5/6	Cambr. (F.P.)	1	B. Miller
6/20	Brookfield	1	S. Kellogg	5/10	DWWS	2	D. Furbish
Cooper's Hawk				5/12, 17	N. Truro	3, 3	EMHW (M. Lowe)
5/10	Lancaster	1	R. Lockwood	5/13	Gloucester	1	BBC (S. Hedman)
5/10	Amherst	1	H. Allen	5/20	Berkshire Cty	1	Hoffmann Club
5/14	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	6/6	Truro	1	M. Faherty
5/25	Stow	1	R. Lockwood	6/14	P.I.	1 f	J. Smith#
6/30	Hudson	pr n	B. Parker	Peregrine Falcon			
6/4	ONWR	1	R. Lockwood	5/2	N. Truro	3	EMHW (M. Lowe)
6/4	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller	5/4, 5	P.I.	3, 5	T. Carrolan
6/8	Granby	1	S. Kellogg	5/1-6/30	Springfield	2	v.o.
6/9	Uxbridge	1 ad	M. Lynch#	5/12	P.I.	2	M. Resch
6/10	DWWS	1	S. Carey	5/15	P.I.	3	R. Heil
6/10	W. Boxford	1	J. Berry#	5/18	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#
6/27	Lenox	1	R. Laubach	5/18, 19	N. Truro	1, 1	EMHW (M. Lowe)
6/28	Quabbin	1	L. de la Flor	5/19	Boston	1	E. Taylor
Northern Goshawk				5/22	P.I.	1 imm	R. Heil
5/2	Westhampton	1	B. Bieda	Ring-necked Pheasant			
5/5	Northfield	1	BBC (M. Taylor)	6/8	W. Newbury	4 m	R. Heil
5/18	Townsend	1 ad	R. Heil	Ruffed Grouse			
5/18	Maynard	1	R. Lockwood	5/1	Sharon	2	D. + S. Larson
5/19	Westhampton	1	T. Gagnon	5/5	Northfield	2	BBC (M. Taylor)

Ruffed Grouse (continued)			5/28	MNWS	4	P. + F. Vale
5/5	Stoughton	2	5/31	N. Monomoy	850	B. Nikula
5/18	Stow	3	6/6	Ipswich (C.B.)	37	BBC (J. Berry)
6/16	Quabbin (G15)	3	6/23	S. Monomoy	32	R. Lockwood#
6/30	Quabbin (G10) ad + 4 yg		6/26	P.I.	18	R. Heil
			6/26	Chatham (S.B.)	470	B. Nikula
Wild Turkey				American Golden-Plover		
5/4	S. Quabbin	4		Scituate	1	S. Hecker
5/9	Sherborn	20	5/4	P.I.	1	R. Heil
5/11	Stow	3	5/16	Plymouth airport	1	G. d'Entremont#
5/12	Maynard	9	5/19	Westport	1	N. Paulson#
5/17	Hingham	2	6/3	Plymouth	1	W. Petersen
5/19	Gr. Barrington	3		Semipalmated Plover		
5/21	CPWMA	5	5/2, 6/12	P.I.	1, 12	R. Heil
5/29	Newbury	4	5/11	Newbypt.	9	R. Heil
5/31	Ipswich	6	5/11	Orange	3	B. Lafley
6/3	Southwick	3	5/17	N. Monomoy	28	B. Nikula
Northern Bobwhite			5/18	Chicopee	3	H. Allen
5/16	Amherst	1	5/18	Newbypt/P.I.	150	R. Heil
5/19	Marshfield	2	5/20	Longmeadow	1	B. Kindseth
5/25	Eastham (F.H.)	3	5/20	Agawam	6	J. Hutchison
5/27	Falmouth	2	5/24	GMNWR	3	M. Rines
5/27	P.I.	1	6/13	N. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula
5/30	Wellfleet	1		Piping Plover		
5/30	Barnstable (S.N.)	2	5/16	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	4+	G. d'Entremont#
6/10	Berkley	1	5/25	Nauset B.	2	D. + S. Larson
6/30	Falmouth	2	5/25	Westport	2	M. Taylor
6/30	WBWS	10	5/26	Plymouth B.	7	G. d'Entremont#
Clapper Rail			5/27	Falmouth	4	BBC (R. Petersen)
5/2-11, 11-31	P.I.	1, 2	6/6	Ipswich (C.B.)	13	BBC (J. Berry)
5/26	Barnstable	7	6/8	Chatham (S.B.)	8	P. Flood
6/4, 12	P.I.	1	6/13	N. Monomoy	4	P. Flood
King Rail			6/23	S. Monomoy	7	R. Lockwood#
6/23	DWMA	1		American Oystercatcher		
Clapper/King Rail			thr	N. Monomoy	25 max	B. Nikula
5/1-8	W. Harwich	1	5/5	P.I.	1	D. Larson#
5/19	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	5/6	Beverly	2	S. Hedman
Virginia Rail			5/14	Boston (Logan)	2	M. Connelly
5/2, 6/8	W. Newbury	5, 2	5/23	P.I.	1	R. Heil
5/6	Mt Tom	2	5/26	Truro	1	J. Young
5/8	GMWNR	3	6/8	Chatham (S.B.)	14	P. Flood
5/18	Agawam	3	6/22	S. Monomoy	20	R. Lockwood#
5/20	Longmeadow	2	6/30	Orleans	15	L. Ferraresso#
5/20	Berkshire Cty	2		Greater Yellowlegs		
6/3	Brookfield	3	5/3	Turners Falls	2	B. Lafley
6/9	IRWS	5	5/4	Newbypt.	335	R. Heil
6/10	Washington	2	5/16	Arlington Res.	4	M. Rines
6/10	Groveland	2 ad, 3 yg	5/25	Sheffield	1	C. Blagdon
6/11-12	Noman's Land	4+	5/25	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
6/14	GMNWR	1 ad, 4 yg	6/1	GMNWR	4	R. Lockwood
6/23	DWMA	15		Lesser Yellowlegs		
Sora			5/3	W. Harwich	2+	B. Nikula
5/2	P'town	1	5/4	Newbypt.	40	R. Heil
5/6	Hadley	1	5/4	Easthampton	1	B. Bieda
5/7	New Braintree	1	5/10	Wayland	1	A. McCarthy#
5/9	GMNWR	1	5/13	Cambridge	1	M. Rines
5/18	Pittsfield	1	5/20	Berkshire Cty	1	Hoffmann Club
5/20	Berkshire Cty	2	6/23	S. Monomoy	4	R. Lockwood#
6/5	Worc. (BMB)	1	6/26	N. Monomoy	10	B. Nikula
6/9-30	Ipswich	1-2	6/27	P.I.	83	R. Heil
6/14	Scituate-Norwell	1		Solitary Sandpiper		
6/14	Marshfield/Hanover	1	5/3	Rowley	3	J. Soucy#
6/23	S. Monomoy	1	5/5	Gardner	3	T. Pirro
6/24	Bolton Flats	2	5/7	Wayland	7	A. McCarthy#
Common Moorhen			5/8	Westfield	6	J. Weeks
5/19	Gr. Barrington	1 ad	5/10	GMNWR	4	D. Larson
5/20	Uxbridge	1 ad	5/11	HRWMA	6	T. Pirro
5/22	Northfield	1	5/11	P.I.	3	R. Heil
6/3	Brookfield	1	5/12	Ipswich R.	25	J. Berry#
American Coot			5/13	Hadley	3	C. Holzapfel
5/6	Arlington Res.	1		Willet		
5/20	GMNWR	1	5/thr	N. Monomoy	70 max	B. Nikula
Black-bellied Plover			5/2, 6/30	P.I.	13, 60+	R. Heil
5/2	N. Monomoy	450	5/8	Turners Falls	1	M. Fairbrother
5/11	Newbypt.	37	5/9	Nantucket	3	E. Ray
5/19	Chatham (S.B.)	400	5/11	Newbypt./P.I.	53	R. Heil
5/20	E. Boston	175	5/19	P'town (R.P.)	4	T. Maloney#
5/24	GMNWR	1	5/24	Barnstable (S.N.)	10	R. Stymeist
5/26	Plymouth B.	110				

Willet (continued)			5/25	Dartmouth	30	M. Taylor
6/13	N. Monomoy	29	6/26	N. Monomoy	30	B. Nikula
6/22	S. Monomoy	27	6/27	P.I.	26	R. Heil
6/23	Salisbury	16	6/27	S. Monomoy	5	R. Lockwood#
6/26	N. Monomoy	90	White-rumped Sandpiper			
Western Willet			5/17, 31	N. Monomoy	20, 30	B. Nikula
6/13, 26	N. Monomoy	1	5/18, 6/4	P.I.	13, 45	R. Heil
6/30	Chatham (S.B.)	3	5/25	Westport	2	M. Taylor
Spotted Sandpiper			6/8	N. Monomoy	45	B. Nikula
5/7	Watertown	3	6/12	P.I.	16	R. Heil
5/12	Ipswich R.	4	6/26	Chatham (S.B.)	4	B. Nikula
5/13	Grafton	6	Pectoral Sandpiper			
5/16	Arlington Res.	5	5/1	W. Bridgewater	2	G. d'Entremont
5/20	Hampden Cnty	40	5/2	P.I.	5	R. Heil
5/24	GMNWR	3	5/3	W. Harwich	1	B. Nikula
5/27	Grafton	8	5/5	Newbypt.	1	M. Lynch#
6/2	Sterling Peat	5	5/13	Hadley	1	C. Holzapfel
6/13	Pepperell	5	5/19	Sheffield	5	M. Lynch#
6/17	Wachusett Res.	6	5/20	GMNWR	1	M. Rines
6/18	Deerfield	9	5/28	P.I.	1	S. Moore#
Upland Sandpiper			Purple Sandpiper			
5/2	Orange	2	5/3	Gloucester (B.R.)	50	J. Soucy#
5/5	P.I.	1	5/4	Salisbury	30	R. Heil
5/6	Uxbridge	1	5/15	N. Scituate	20	G. d'Entremont#
5/21	Bedford	1	5/16	Fairhaven	4	G. d'Entremont#
5/31	Bolton	1	5/17	Cohasset	26	R. Titus#
6/1	Plymouth	4	5/18	Marblehead	50	R. Heil
6/9	Westover	12	5/26	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	D. + S. Larson
6/12	Falmouth	1 w/young	5/26	Lynn B.	28	P. + F. Vale
6/12	Lancaster	4	Dunlin			
Whimbrel			5/2	N. Monomoy	1800	B. Nikula
5/12	P.I.	1	5/11	Newbypt.	200	R. Heil
5/17, 6/26	N. Monomoy	1	5/16	Fairhaven	10	G. d'Entremont#
6/19	WBWS	1	5/31, 6/8	N. Monomoy	900, 5	B. Nikula
Hudsonian Godwit			6/26	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula
6/26	Chatham (S.B.)	7	Curlew Sandpiper			
Marbled Godwit			5/10-16	P.I.	1 br pl	R. Heil + v.o.
6/23	S. Monomoy	1	6/27	P.I.	1 br pl	R. Heil
Ruddy Turnstone			Stilt Sandpiper			
5/19	Winthrop	5	6/28-30	P.I.	1	P. Brown
5/25	Westport	3	Ruff			
5/26	Fairhaven	3	5/11	P.I.	1 f	C. Ralph
5/31	N. Monomoy	350	5/19	P.I.	1 m, 1 f	D. Sandee#
6/26	Chatham (S.B.)	11	5/19-23	P.I.	1 f	P. Brown + v.o.
6/27	P.I.	13	6/23	S. Monomoy	1 f	R. Lockwood#
Red Knot			6/26	N. Monomoy	1 f	B. Nikula
5/16	Plymouth Airport	1 alt	Short-billed Dowitcher			
5/31	N. Monomoy	50	5/1, 18	Newbypt.	2, 60	R. Heil
6/3	P.I.	2	5/31	N. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula
6/26	Chatham (S.B.)	95	6/6, 27	P.I.	12, 77	R. Heil
Sanderling			6/8, 26	N. Monomoy	14, 130	B. Nikula
5/2, 31	N. Monomoy	650, 1300	6/26	Chatham (S.B.)	145	B. Nikula
5/20	Nahant	530	6/30	Chatham (S.B.)	350	R. Heil
5/26	Plymouth B.	150	Common Snipe			
6/6	Ipswich (C.B.)	40	5/1-18	Reports of indiv. from 12 locations		
6/8	Chatham (S.B.)	30+	5/1	Wayland	3	G. Long
Semipalmated Sandpiper			5/3	Longmeadow	3	J. LaPointe
5/4, 23, 6/6	P.I.	1, 35, 250	5/5	Mt. Holyoke	2	E. Labato
5/17, 31	N. Monomoy	60, 700	5/20	Hadley	2	E. Labato
5/20	Longmeadow	4	5/20	Berkshire Cty	2	Hoffmann Club
5/24	GMNWR	1	5/26	Tyringham	1	S. Kellogg
5/25	Westport	20	American Woodcock			
5/26	Plymouth B.	20	5/1	New Salem	10	D. Small
6/6	Ipswich (C.B.)	200	5/7	New Braintree	5	C. Buelow
6/8	N. Monomoy	55	5/11	S. Royalston	5	D. Small#
Western Sandpiper			5/11	P.I.	1 ad 3 yg	R. Heil
5/15	P.I.	1	5/12	Leicester	19	M. Lynch#
Long-toed Stint (details submitted) *			5/20	Hampden Cnty	17	Allen Club
5/4	P.I.	1	5/21	Hingham	1 ad, 3 juv	C. Nims#
5/9	P.I.	1	6/9	Worcester	13	M. Lynch#
Least Sandpiper			Wilson's Phalarope			
5/2, 4	P.I.	21, 80	5/4-6/30	P.I.	3-6	R. Heil
5/11, 18	Newbypt./P.I.	530, 2000	5/16	Rowley	4	D. + I. Jewell
5/13	Grafton	21	Red-necked Phalarope			
5/13	Hadley	10	5/24	Grafton	1 f br pl	B. Kamp
5/15	Rowley	46	5/24	GMNWR	1 f br pl	J. Hoye#
5/17	N. Monomoy	300	5/27	P.I.	3	G. Wood
5/20	Longmeadow	16				

Red Phalarope				6/23	Somerset	1	G. Tepke#
5/23-24	Nantucket	1	P. Vennema#	Royal Tern			
Parasitic Jaeger	P.I.			6/17	Vineyard Sound	1	V. Laux#
5/16	P.I.	2 ad	R. Heil	6/26	Nantucket	1	B. Perkins
5/19	N. Monomoy	2	T. Maloney#	6/27	Lynn B.	1	J. Quigley
5/26	Chatham	1	B. Nikula	Roseate Tern			
5/27	Rockport (A.P.)	1 ad	R. Heil	5/6	Nantucket	4	E. Ray
6/25	off Edgartown	1 dk	M. Pelikan	5/16	Fairhaven	15	G. d'Entremont#
Laughing Gull				5/19	P'town (R.P.)	7	T. Maloney#
5/11	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	C. Leahy	5/26	Plymouth B.	2	G. d'Entremont#
5/16	Rockport (A.P.)	3	J. Soucy	6/22	S. Monomoy	12	S. Koch#
5/19	Lynn	3	R. Stymeist#	6/26	P.I.	5 ad	R. Heil
6/8	N. Monomoy	150	B. Nikula	6/30	Chatham (S.B.)	10 ad	R. Heil
6/18	Cape Ann	13	R. Heil	Common Tern			
6/21	P.I.	16	R. Heil	5/3	E. Boston (B.I.)	3	J. Young
6/25	Lynn	2	J. Quigley	5/6	Nantucket	3	E. Ray
Franklin's Gull (details submitted) *				5/8, 18	P.I.	30, 300	R. Heil
6/12	P.I.	1 ad	R. Heil	5/19	N. Monomoy	10,000+	T. Maloney#
Little Gull				5/26	Plymouth B.	400	G. d'Entremont#
5/15	Newbypt.	1 1W	R. Heil	6/6	Ipswich (C.B.)	100	BBC (J. Berry)
5/18	Lynn B.	4 1W	R. Heil	6/12	P.I.	275+	R. Heil
5/27	Newbypt.	1 1S	J. Hoye#	6/22	S. Monomoy	15614	S. Koch#
6/21-30	P.I.	1 1S	R. Heil	Arctic Tern			
6/28	P.I.	1 ad	R. Heil	5/26	Edgartown	1	A. Keith
Black-headed Gull				5/26	Plymouth B.	6	G. d'Entremont#
5/4	Newbypt.	1 1W	R. Heil	6/30	Chatham (S.B.)	1 1S	R. Heil
5/18	Lynn	2 1W	R. Heil	Forster's Tern			
6/-30	P.I.	1 1S	R. Heil	5/ thr	P.I.	pr ad	R. Heil
Bonaparte's Gull				6/26	P.I.	1 1S	R. Heil
5/9	Lynn	200	J. Quigley	Least Tern			
5/15	Newbypt.	7	R. Heil	5/6	Nantucket	25	E. Ray
5/16	Rockport (A.P.)	10	J. Soucy	5/26	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	18	D. + S. Larson
5/18	Lynn	35	R. Heil	5/28	Plymouth B.	30	J. Hoye#
6/6	Ipswich (C.B.)	20 imm	BBC (J. Berry)	6/6	Ipswich (C.B.)	150	BBC (J. Berry)
6/13	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	6/17	P.I.	11	P. + F. Vale
6/18	Chatham	5	B. Nikula	6/27	S. Monomoy	4	R. Lockwood#
6/21	P.I.	50 1S	R. Heil	Black Tern			
Iceland Gull				5/18, 29	P.I.	2, 1	R. Heil
5/12	N. Truro	1	J. Young	5/25	Chilmark	1	A. Keith
5/19	5 m E of Monomoy	3	T. Maloney#	6/12	P.I.	1 br pl	R. Heil
Lesser Black-backed Gull				Black Skimmer			
5/15	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	5/24	Orleans	2	R. Stymeist
5/17	Plymouth	1 S	R. Titus#	6/20-22	Oak Bluffs	1	R. Taylor
5/17	N. Monomoy	3 3S	B. Nikula	6/23	Chatham	1	P. Flood
5/19	P'town (R.P.)	1 1S	T. Maloney#	6/23	S. Monomoy	2	R. Lockwood#
5/19	S. Monomoy	2	T. Maloney#	6/27	P.I.	2 ad	R. Heil
5/19	5 m E of Monomoy	2	T. Maloney#	Dovekie			
Glaucous Gull				6/23	Nahant	1 br pl	J. Jokela
5/3	P.I.	1 1S	R. Heil	Common Murre			
Black-legged Kittiwake				5/19	5 m E of Monomoy	1 br pl	T. Maloney#
5/16	P.I.	13	R. Heil	6/1	Chatham	1	P. Flood
5/16	Rockport (A.P.)	3	J. Soucy	Razorbill			
5/19	S. Monomoy	2	T. Maloney#	5/19	5 m E of Monomoy	1 imm	T. Maloney#
5/24	Chapaquiddick	1	A. Keith	Black Guillemot			
6/18	Chatham	26	B. Nikula	5/16	Rockport (A.P.)	1 br pl	J. Soucy
6/30	P'town	1 2S	R. Heil	5/27, 6/2	Rockport (A.P.)	2, 1	R. Heil
Caspian Tern				Atlantic Puffin			
5/7	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	6/8	Nantucket	1 dead	fide E. Ray
5/17	Truro	1	M. Faherty	6/13	Nomans I.	1 ad	T. French
6/3	P.I.	2	S. Mirick#				

## PARAKEETS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

Spring migration is anxiously awaited by all birders, but the big question this spring was "Where are the birds?" That question was being asked all over the state, in fact all over the east coast. There were reports of nearly a million birds, a great many of them sitting on the beaches of the Florida Keys this spring. These birds were stacked up for days in south Florida due to strong northerly winds, with others possibly stuck in the Gulf without food and water. These conditions certainly could affect what we see here. Most veteran migration watchers agreed that this year's migration was the worst in memory. The excessive heat that sent the foliage bursting out made it even more difficult finding the far-fewer-than-normal migrants in the trees. This writer saw only one female redstart and two female Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and no males until after May 16!

Notwithstanding the overall poor migration, there were a few nice days this spring, especially early and then again at the end of the month. May Day produced a decent fallout throughout our area, with great numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers reported everywhere. The morning of May 17, after a foggy night and east wind, brought in a new wave of migrants just in time for the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Bird-a-thon. On May 21 word came from Cape May, New Jersey, of a massive fallout, one of the largest ever recorded there, giving Massachusetts birders hope that we too would finally see some birds. On May 28 and 29 an impressive grounding of migrants occurred during foggy and showery conditions on Plum Island. The winds were south and southeast, and 18 species of warblers, including a Hooded, were tallied on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The passage of two back-to-back cold fronts and a low to the south of us pumped in strong west winds on May 29. Rick Heil noted these conditions produced one of the better diurnal movements he had ever witnessed on Plum Island. Seventeen Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were among the many migrants noted.

The importance of organized counts, be they county counts, or area surveys, such as sanctuary or power line censuses, is that they give us a better understanding of trends and fluctuations of bird populations. In the records below you will find references to the Allen Bird Club annual census of Hampden County (note 69 Red-bellied and 12 Pileated woodpeckers, and 256 Wood Thrush for starters), and the 95<sup>th</sup> running of the Essex County Ornithological Club canoe trip down 12 miles of the Ipswich River (13 gnatcatchers, 30 Warbling Vireos and 85 Baltimore Orioles), as well as the results of a breeding bird survey of Ipswich River Sanctuary in Topsfield, a power line survey in Groveland (a great habitat for Prairie Warblers and Field Sparrows), and the 23<sup>rd</sup> census of the Bolton Flats Management Area conducted by the South Shore Bird Club (they confirmed breeding in 11 of the 60 species seen).

In Western Massachusetts, Seth Kellogg has been keeping tabs of the birds for many years, and noted on the down side that for the first time ever not a single Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported, that 7 Swainson's Thrushes were the fewest ever noted in the month of May, and for warblers, the fewest number of Cape May, Bay-breasted and Wilson's were reported. On the positive side, Seth noted that Northern Saw-whet Owls were found for the fourth year in northeast Berkshire County, that more Marsh Wrens were reported than ever before, and that Worm-eating Warblers were noted in more locations than in previous years.

The cold spell mid-May had a devastating effect on some early nesting birds, especially bluebirds. If adults are not brooding, the fledglings are vulnerable to hypothermia. With proper monitoring the bluebirds could be saved, but for other early nesters such as American Robins, it could spell disaster.

Among the more unusual sightings, two Northern **Wheatears** were found in our area, and others were found in Connecticut and New Hampshire. A vagrant most often found in the fall, there have been fewer than ten sightings in the spring for Massachusetts. The rarest passerine was a **Swainson's Warbler** found and photographed on Naushon Island on May 11, where it remained through at least June 3. This is only the second or possibly the third record for this species in Massachusetts. A **Black-backed Woodpecker** discovered in the State Forest on Martha's Vineyard was the first island record in 40 years. Somewhat unusual for this period was the report of four **Sedge Wrens**, which are more often encountered later in the summer. Finally, on May 3, Ruffie, the celebrated **Rufous Hummingbird**, was released from its winter home in Northampton. This was the 5<sup>th</sup> year this bird has spent the winter in a greenhouse after appearing at the same feeder in Agawam each autumn.

Encouraging reports included two pair of Short-eared Owls on Tuckernuck and four birds on Nantucket. Chuck-will's-widows were well reported, including eleven individuals on

Martha's Vineyard. It is fair to speculate that this species is breeding in Massachusetts, but this has yet to be confirmed. Two adult male White-winged Crossbills were discovered feeding young at the campground on Mount Greylock on May 20. The young were described as heavily streaked with very short tails, with bills not yet crossed. There were 36 species of warblers noted, besides the previously mentioned Swainson's; other interesting sightings included two Orange-crowned, a single **Yellow-throated** in Newbury, five **Prothonotaries**, three **Kentucky** and a **Yellow-breasted Chat**. Three **Golden-winged Warblers** were noted, including a much-discussed bird in West Newbury that did not sing as he should and prompted a lively discussion on Massbird about DNA. Five **Brewster's** and three **Lawrence's** warblers were noted this season.

R. Stymeist

Monk Parakeet			5/29	P.I.	13	S. Hedman	
5/19	S. Dartmouth	6	N. Paulson#	6/2	DWWS	3	D. Furbish
5/25	Somerset	3	D. Wilkinson#	5/3	Beverly	2	G. Leet
Black-billed Cuckoo			6/5	Westboro	1	S. Sutton#	
5/10	Mt.A.	1	D. + S. Larson	5/5	Weston	1	G. Ferguson
5/12	E. Quabbin	1	T. Gagnon#	6/8	Gardner	1	T. Pirro
5/17	Hingham	2	R. Titus	Chuck-will's-widow			
5/28	P.I.	2	R. Heil	thr	Wellfleet	1	D. Comeau + v.o.
5/30	DWWS	6	D. Furbish	5/2	Mattpoisett	1	M. LaBossiere
6/6	Truro	3	M. Faherty	5/4	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	M. Swift
6/9	IRWS	2	BBS (D. Oliver)	5/6	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
6/20	Brookfield	3	S. Kellogg	5/11	Royalston	1	D. Small#
5/14-6/30	Reports of indiv. from 15 locations			5/26	Bourne	1	B. Reid
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			5/26	Tuckernuck I.	1	R. Veit	
5/6	Hingham	1	C. Nims#	6/12	M.V.	11	V. Laux
5/12	Brockton	1	M. Faherty	Whip-poor-will			
5/28	MBWMA	2	D. + S. Larson	5/thr	Southwick	3	S. Kellogg
6/5	Manchester	2	P. Brown	5/2	W. Gloucester	2	J. Soucy#
6/10	Hingham	4	C. Nims	5/3	Wellfleet	12	C. Buelow
6/19-20	Brewster	7	B. Nikula	5/5	New Salem	3	B. Lafley
5/15-6/30	Reports of indiv. from 10 locations			5/6	Nantucket	5	E. Ray
Barn Owl			5/7	Plymouth (MSSF)	6	D. Peacock	
5/18	Nantucket	4	E. Ray	5/11	S. Royalston	3	D. Small#
Eastern Screech-Owl			5/12	Leicester	3	M. Lynch#	
thr	Reports of indiv. from 9 locations		5/18	S. Peabody	3+	R. Heil	
Great Horned Owl			5/19	Newbury	8	R. Stymeist#	
5/1	New Salem	3	D. Small	5/20	Holyoke	2	D. McLain
5/7	Plymouth (MSSF)	3	D. Peacock	6/6	Ipswich (C.B.)	2	BBC (J. Berry)
5/15	Boston (F.Pk)	1 ad + 1 yg	J. Young	6/8	Montague	10	S. Kellogg
6/22	S. Monomoy	2	R. Lockwood#	6/9	Worcester	4	M. Lynch#
thr	Reports of indiv. from 13 locations			6/14	Lancaster	59	R. Lockwood
Barred Owl			6/18	Dover	5	E. Taylor	
5/1	New Salem	2	D. Small	Chimney Swift			
5/2	Mattpoisett	2	M. LaBossiere	5/1	Melrose	3BBC (D. + I. Jewell)	
5/9	Brookfield	2	C. Buelow	5/1	Mt.A.	3	J. Trimble
5/11	Worcester	2	M. Lynch#	5/3	Beverly	5	S. Hedman
5/14	Savoy	5	R. Rancatti	5/4	Natick	4	E. Taylor
5/16	Weston	ad + 3 yg	M. Rines#	5/7	GMNWR	26	D. Lounsbury#
5/18	Hardwick	2	C. Buelow	5/29	P.I.	123 migr	R. Heil
5/19	Middleboro	2	SSBC (R. Fox)	Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
5/20	Monroe	5	R. Rancatti	5/4	Dennisport	1	D. Silverstein#
5/22	Quabbin (G 15)	2	R. Stymeist	5/5	Topsfield	1	P. + F. Vale
thr	Reports of indiv. from 15 locations			5/5	Northfield	1	BBC (M. Taylor)
Short-eared Owl			5/10	Dennisport	2	D. Silverstein	
5/26	Tuckernuck I.	2 pr	R. Veit	5/15	Florence	4	T. Gagnon
6/28	Nantucket	4	S. Langer#	5/16	Hardwick	4	C. Buelow
Northern Saw-whet Owl			5/19	Sheffield	2	M. Lynch#	
5/1	New Salem	5	D. Small	5/20	Hampden Cnty	8	Allen Club
5/6, 14	Savoy	1, 2	R. Rancatti	5/29	P.I.	17 migr	R. Heil
5/6	Windsor	2	R. Rancatti	5/29	N. Truro	5	T. Carrolan
5/7	Plymouth (MSSF)	1	D. Peacock	6/13	New Salem	2	B. Lafley
5/21	Granby	1	S. Kellogg	6/30	Pepperell	2	E. Stromsted
Common Nighthawk			Rufous Hummingbird				
5/13	IRWS	1	D. Hill	5/3	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon
5/17	Wayland	2	A. McCarthy#	Belted Kingfisher			
5/18	Ludlow	15	H. Allen	5/5	Lancaster	3	R. Lockwood
5/20	Longmeadow	5	N. Eaton	5/14	ONWR	2	R. Lockwood
5/24	GMNWR	12	J. Hoyer#	5/20	Hampden Cnty	18	Allen Club
5/27	Westfield	2	S. Kellogg	6/4	ONWR	3	R. Lockwood

Belted Kingfisher (continued)			6/10	S. Groveland	6	BBS (R. Stymeist)
6/24 Bolton Flats	3	SSBC (K. Anderson)	6/16	Weston	7	M. Rines
Red-headed Woodpecker			6/16	Barre F.D.	27	M. Lynch#
6/4 Pittsfield	1	M. Thorne	6/21	Hardwick	9	C. Buelow
Red-bellied Woodpecker			6/30	Quabbin (G10)	14	G. d'Entremont
5/1 P.I.	1 m	R. Heil	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher			
5/2 Lancaster	2	R. Lockwood	5/28	P.I.	2	D. + S. Larson
5/7 Wayland	2	A. McCarthy#	5/29	Salisbury	1	D. Chickering#
5/9 Lancaster	3	R. Lockwood	5/29	Maynard	1	R. Lockwood
5/14 Medford pr + yg n		M. Rines	5/30	MNWS	1	H. D'Entremont#
5/20 Hampden Cnty	69	Allen Club	6/1	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
5/thr Pepperell	10	E. Stromsted	6/2	Braintree	1	M. Taylor
6/4 Wales	2	J. Young	6/9	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist
6/4 Wilbraham	2	J. Young	Acadian Flycatcher			
6/4 Longmeadow	2	J. Young	5/4	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
6/9 Lexington	3	M. Rines	5/12	Westfield	1	J. Weeks#
6/9 IRWS	2	BBS (D. Oliver)	5/12-6/9	Granby	2	S. Kellogg
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			5/17-6/28	Pelham	2	B. Lafley
5/2 Ashfield	1	S. Sauter	5/30	Hingham	1	J. Nelson
5/5 Northfield	1	BBC (M. Taylor)	6/9	Granville	2	R. Stymeist#
5/10 Boston	1	G. Tepke	6/9	IRWS	1	L. de la Flor#
5/12 P.I.	1 f	P. + F. Vale	6/16	Quabbin (G15)	4	R. Lockwood
5/19 Stockbridge	1	M. Lynch#	Alder Flycatcher			
5/21 Hingham	1	C. Nims#	5/17	Gill	1	M. Taylor
6/3 Southwick	2	G. d'Entremont	5/21	Petersham	3	C. Buelow
6/9 Worcester	1	M. Lynch#	5/26	S. Quabbin	2	J. Liller#
6/10 Quabbin (G45)	3	MAS (J. Liller)	5/28	P.I.	4	R. Heil
6/16 Mt. Greylock	7	G. d'Entremont#	6/3	Brookfield	4	M. Lynch#
6/30 Quabbin (G10)	13	G. d'Entremont	6/5	Hinsdale	3	J. Young
Hairy Woodpecker			6/7	Fairhaven	2	O. Spalding
5/2 Lancaster	3	R. Lockwood	6/8	Gardner	2	T. Pirro
5/18 Savoy	4	M. Lynch#	6/8	W. Newbury	5	R. Heil
5/21 CPWMA	4	J. Berry	6/9	Worcester	8	M. Lynch#
5/26 Medford	3	M. Rines	6/10	S. Groveland	3	BBS (R. Stymeist)
5/29 Pepperell	4	E. Stromsted	6/10	W. Boxford	3	J. Berry#
6/3 Sudbury	5	BBC (B. Howell)	6/16	Barre F.D.	3	M. Lynch#
6/7 GMNWR	3	R. Lockwood	Willow Flycatcher			
6/13 Pepperell	4	E. Stromsted	5/8	Montague	1	M. Fairbrother
6/21 Hardwick	4	C. Buelow	5/14, 6/9	Lexington	2, 9	M. Rines
6/24 Bolton Flats	7	SSBC (K. Anderson)	5/20	W. Newbury	2	P. + F. Vale
Black-backed Woodpecker			5/29	P.I.	23	J. Berry
5/16 M.V.	1 f	S. Whiting + v.o.	5/29	New Braintree	15	C. Buelow
Pileated Woodpecker			5/30	DWWS	11	D. Furbish
thr Reports of indiv. from 18 locations			5/31	GMNWR	4	R. Lockwood
5/3 Boxboro pr		S. Oxley	6/3	Brookfield	10	M. Lynch#
5/19 Quabbin (G37)	2	R. Lockwood	6/4	Worc. (BMB)	4	J. Liller
5/20 Hampden Cnty	12	Allen Club	6/6	Burlington	5	M. Rines
5/thr Pepperell	4	E. Stromsted	6/8	W. Newbury	5	R. Heil
6/5 Hinsdale	3	J. Young	6/9	Milton (F.M.)	3	G. d'Entremont
6/9 IRWS	2	BBS (D. Oliver)	6/9	IRWS	11	BBS (D. Oliver)
6/10 Quabbin (G45)	2	MAS (J. Liller)	6/12	Lancaster	6	R. Lockwood
6/30 S. Quabbin	2	G. d'Entremont	6/17	Sterling Peat	4	M. Lynch#
Olive-sided Flycatcher			6/24	Bolton Flats	14	SSBC (K. Anderson)
5/12 Northfield	2	M. Taylor#	Least Flycatcher			
5/17 Wendell	1	B. Lafley	5/1	New Salem	1	B. Lafley
5/18 Mt.A.	1	J. Forbes#	5/2	Medford	1	M. Rines#
5/20 N. Marshfield	1	D. Furbish#	5/4	S. Quabbin	5	M. Lynch#
5/26 Worc. (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#	5/6	Uxbridge	12	M. Lynch#
5/29 P'town	1	B. Nikula	5/12	E. Quabbin	22	T. Gagnon#
5/29 P.I.	1	R. Heil	5/13	Bolton Flats	4	M. Lynch#
5/30 Washington	1	D. St. James	5/14	ONWR	2	R. Lockwood
5/30 Becket	1	R. Laubach	5/17	Mt.A.	3	C. Floyd
6/1 MBWMA	4	S. Hedman#	5/19	Mt. Greylock	3	M. Lynch#
6/1 Lepox	1	N. Purdy	5/19	P.I.	3	M. Rines#
6/6 Plymouth	1	T. Maloney	5/19	Quabbin (G47)	9	R. Lockwood
6/7 Granby	1	S. Kellogg	5/20	Hampden Cnty	4	Allen Club
6/13 New Salem	1	B. Lafley	6/12	Lancaster	2	R. Lockwood
Eastern Wood-Pewee			6/13	Dunstable	2	M. Rines
5/1 Sharon	1	D. + S. Larson	6/16	Barre F.D.	30	M. Lynch#
5/4 Agawam	1	J. Hutchison	Great Crested Flycatcher			
5/20 Hampden Cnty	39	Allen Club	5/10	Lancaster	6	R. Lockwood
5/26 Medford	7	M. Rines	5/12	Ipswich R.	18	J. Berry#
5/26 S. Quabbin	5	J. Liller#	5/18	Stow	9	R. Lockwood
5/28 P.I.	6	R. Heil	5/20	Hampden Cnty	81	Allen Club
6/4 ONWR	13	R. Lockwood	5/21	CPWMA	7	J. Berry
6/8 W. Newbury	17	R. Heil	5/25	Manchester-Essex	8	J. Berry
6/8 Rowley	7 m	J. Berry#	5/28	Medford	9	M. Rines
6/9 IRWS	13	BBS (D. Oliver)	6/1	Milton	7	A. Joslin

Great Crested Flycatcher (continued)								
6/4	ONWR	7	R. Lockwood	6/9	IRWS	20	BBS (D. Oliver)	
6/8	W. Newbury	15	R. Heil	6/10	S. Groveland	12	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
6/9	IRWS	28	BBS (D. Oliver)	6/16	Mt. Greylock	69	G. d'Entremont#	
6/10	S. Groveland	8	BBS (R. Stymeist)	6/16	Barre F.D.	122	M. Lynch#	
				6/30	Quabbin (G10)	28	G. d'Entremont	
Eastern Kingbird				Fish Crow				
5/11, 29	P.I.	18, 46	R. Heil	5/2, 6/25	DWWS	6, 4	D. Furbish	
5/13	Watertown	15	R. Stymeist	5/4-6/3	Westfield	6	v.o.	
5/19	Stoughton	14	R. Titus	5/6	Lenox	2	M. + K. Conway	
5/20	Hampden Cnty	74	Allen Club	5/12	N. Truro	4+	B. Nikula#	
6/16	Barre F.D.	19	M. Lynch#	5/20	Berkshire Cty	3	Hoffmann Club	
White-eyed Vireo				5/26	Hingham	1	C. Nims	
5/1	Mt.A.	1	J. Trimble	6/4	Rockport	1	J. Berry	
5/3	Marblehead	2	K. Haley	6/4	Truro	2	M. Faherty	
5/4	Hingham	1	N. Samson	6/9	Mt.A.	3	R. Stymeist	
5/5	Brookline	1	F. Bouchard	6/27	Hyannis	1	C. Buelow	
5/9	MNWS	1	K. Haley	Common Raven				
5/16	Fairhaven	2	G. d'Entremont#	5/4	S. Quabbin	pr + 3	yg	M. Lynch#
5/18	Nahant	1	R. Heil	5/9	Plainfield	75	S. LaRock	
5/18	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale	5/18	Townsend	3	R. Heil	
5/19	Dartmouth	2	N. Paulson#	5/18	Savoy	2	M. Lynch#	
5/19-21	Agawam	1	S. Kellogg	5/19	Cheshire	27	T. Gagnon	
6/5	Nahant	1	G. Wood	5/21	Blandford	5	M. Williams	
6/21	Winchester	1	R. LaFontaine#	5/26	Monroe	2	W. Zuzevich	
Blue-headed Vireo				6/5	Washington	1	J. Young	
5/1	Medford	12	M. Rines	6/5	Middlefield	1	yg	J. Young
5/1	Mt.A.	12	J. Trimble	6/7	Rowe	1	J. Young	
5/3	Gloucester (E.P.)	11	C. Leahy	6/13	Lancaster	2	R. Lockwood	
5/11	P.I.	9	R. Heil	6/14	Petersham	1	C. Buelow	
5/18	Stow	5	R. Lockwood	6/16	Mt. Greylock	3	G. d'Entremont#	
6/16	Mt. Greylock	3	G. d'Entremont#	6/16	Quabbin (G15)	2	L. de la Flor#	
6/16	Quabbin (G15)	10	R. Lockwood	6/26	Sunderland	7	M. Williams	
6/16	Barre F.D.	17	M. Lynch#	Horned Lark				
6/26	Hardwick	3	C. Buelow	5/1	Templeton	2	T. Pirro	
Yellow-throated Vireo				5/11	Orange	5	B. Lafley	
5/4	S. Quabbin	10	J. Liller	5/17	S. Quabbin	5	G. d'Entremont#	
5/5	Northfield	2	BBC (M. Taylor)	5/18	Plymouth	10	T. Maloney#	
5/12	E. Quabbin	7	T. Gagnon#	5/22	Turners Falls	1	R. Stymeist	
5/12	ONWR	5	BBC (J. Center)	6/8	Wareham	pr + 1	yg	D. Clapp
5/12	Douglas	3	M. Lynch#	6/8	Chatham (S.B.)	2	P. Flood	
5/17	IRWS	2	P. + F. Vale	6/27	S. Monomoy	14	R. Lockwood#	
5/17	Mt.A.	2	C. Floyd	Purple Martin				
5/18	Boxford	7	J. Berry	5/2, 6/13	DWWS	26, 31	pr	D. Furbish
5/19	Quabbin (G47)	3	R. Lockwood	5/5	P.I.	35	M. Lynch#	
5/20	MBWMA	2	m	5/12	Scituate	4	D. Furbish	
5/21	CPWMA	2	m	5/12	N. Truro	2	D. Manchester#	
6/2	Wachusett Res.	2	M. Lynch#	Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
6/3	Brookfield	3	M. Lynch#	5/1-10	P.I.	total 32	migr	R. Heil
6/8	Deerfield	2	J. Young	5/6	Uxbridge	15	M. Lynch#	
6/9	Gill	2	J. Young	5/13	Watertown	13	R. Stymeist	
6/21	Hardwick	2	C. Buelow	5/20	Hampden Cnty	21	Allen Club	
6/24	Huntington	8	R. Packard	Bank Swallow				
Warbling Vireo				5/1-thr	P.I.	total 244	migr	R. Heil
5/2	Woburn	19	M. Rines#	5/5	Northfield	20	BBC (M. Taylor)	
5/12	Ipswich R.	30	J. Berry#	5/14	Burlington	60	M. Rines	
5/13	Watertown	30	R. Stymeist	5/14	Southwick	300	S. Kellogg	
6/4	ONWR	16	R. Lockwood	5/15	Woburn	60	M. Rines#	
6/8	W. Newbury	17	R. Heil	5/22	Turners Falls	40	R. Stymeist	
6/24	Bolton Flats	12	SSBC (K. Anderson)	6/6	Ipswich (C.B.)	50	BBC (J. Berry)	
Philadelphia Vireo				6/17	Sterling Peat	40	M. Lynch#	
5/5	W. Newbury	1	S. Moore#	6/24	Bolton Flats	48	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
5/14	P.I.	1	D. + S. Larson	6/28	P.I.	125	R. Heil	
5/17	Hingham	1	R. Titus#	Barn Swallow				
5/20	Holyoke	2	D. McLain	5/1-thr	P.I.	total 390	migr	R. Heil
6/5	Russell	1	J. Young	Cliff Swallow				
Red-eyed Vireo				5/1-29	P.I.	total 14	migr	R. Heil
5/2	Ashfield	1	S. Sauter	5/12	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula	
5/2	Lenox	1	R. Laubach	5/12	Newbypt.	4	P. + F. Vale	
5/3	Gloucester (E.P.)	2	C. Leahy	5/15	Sharon	1	R. Titus	
5/3	Nantucket	3	E. Andrews#	5/16	Turners Falls	1	B. Lafley	
5/14, 6/29	Hardwick	24, 34	C. Buelow	5/17	Nantucket	2	E. Ray	
5/17	S. Quabbin	23	G. d'Entremont#	5/19	Williamsburg	40	T. Gagnon	
5/18	Boxford	25	J. Berry	5/20	Berkshire Cty	5	Hoffmann Club	
5/19	Quabbin (G37)	20	R. Lockwood	5/23	DWWS	1	D. Furbish	
5/26	Lancaster	16	R. Lockwood	5/25	Rowe	1	H. Allen	
5/28	P.I.	35	J. Berry	5/26	Lenox	9	R. Laubach	
6/8	ONWR	18	R. Lockwood	5/26	Tyringham	2	S. Kellogg	
6/8	W. Newbury	38	R. Heil	5/31	Groton	6	T. Pirro	

Cliff Swallow (continued)									
6/5	Adams	50	J. Young	5/4	S. Quabbin	21	J. Liller		
6/8	W. Newbury	20	R. Heil	5/5	MBWMA	4	P. + F. Vale		
6/30	Gloucester	2	P. + F. Vale	5/6	Uxbridge	6	M. Lynch#		
Red-breasted Nuthatch				5/12	Ipswich R.	13	J. Berry#		
5/4	HRWMA	2	T. Pirro	5/20	Hampden Cnty	29	Allen Club		
5/4	S. Quabbin	2	M. Lynch#	6/4	ONWR	6	R. Lockwood		
5/5	Lancaster	2	R. Lockwood	6/8	W. Newbury	10	R. Heil		
5/6	Hingham	3	G. d'Entremont#	6/9	IRWS	4	BBS (D. Oliver)		
5/19	Quabbin (G37)	2	R. Lockwood	6/24	Bolton Flats	9	SSBC (K. Anderson)		
5/20	Hampden Cnty	10	Allen Club	Golden-crowned Kinglet					
5/21	Petersham	3	C. Buelow	5/18	Savoy	3	M. Lynch#		
5/29	Maynard	6	R. Lockwood	5/19	Mt. Greylock	2	M. Lynch#		
6/9	IRWS	6	BBS (D. Oliver)	6/7	Heath	2+	J. Young		
6/16	Mt. Greylock	2	G. d'Entremont#	6/10	Washington	1	S. Kellogg		
6/24	Paxton	7	M. Lynch#	6/16	Barre	6	M. Lynch		
6/30	Quabbin (G10)	2	G. d'Entremont	6/16	Mt. Greylock	2	G. d'Entremont#		
Brown Creeper				Ruby-crowned Kinglet					
5/5	Lancaster	6	R. Lockwood	5/1	Hardwick	5	C. Buelow		
5/7	GMNWR	2	D. Lounsbury#	5/1	Worcester	8	M. Lynch#		
5/12	Maynard	2	R. Lockwood	5/1	Medford	14	M. Rines		
5/13	Boxford (C.P.)	3	P. + F. Vale	5/3	Gloucester (E.P.)	41	C. Leahy		
5/14	Lexington	2	J. Forbes	5/4	P.I.	21	R. Heil		
5/20	Hampden Cnty	15	Allen Club	5/13	MNWS	7	P. + F. Vale		
5/25	Stow	2	R. Lockwood	5/16	S. Quabbin	2	M. Taylor		
6/5	Manchester	2	P. Brown	Northern Wheatear (no details) *					
6/7	GMNWR	4	R. Lockwood	5/16-17	Petersham	1	f ad J. Baird + v.o.		
6/16	Weston	4	M. Rines	5/19	P'town (R.P.)	1	m ad S. Highley, R. Comeau		
6/16	Mt. Greylock	4	G. d'Entremont#	Eastern Bluebird					
6/30	Boxford	2	J. Berry#	5/10	Wayland	3	A. McCarthy#		
Carolina Wren				5/14	ONWR	3	R. Lockwood		
5/3	Worc. (BMB)	4	M. Lynch#	5/16	Deerfield	2	ad, 4 juv R. Ranney		
5/5	Stoughton	9	R. Titus	5/20	Hampden Cnty	14	Allen Club		
5/11	Gloucester (E.P.)	6	C. Leahy	6/7	GMNWR	3	R. Lockwood		
5/16	Fairhaven	6	G. d'Entremont#	6/9	IRWS	3	BBS (D. Oliver)		
5/20	Hampden Cnty	10	Allen Club	6/13-15	DWWS	4	D. Furbish		
5/26	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	9	D. + S. Larson	6/18	Stow	5	R. Lockwood		
5/27	Millville	5	M. Lynch#	6/22	Deerfield	1	pr, 4 juv R. Ranney		
6/16	Weston	4	M. Rines	Veery					
House Wren				5/2	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller		
5/1	Medford	10	M. Rines	5/2, 18	P.I.	1, 40	R. Heil		
5/1	Hardwick	7	C. Buelow	5/4	Agawam	3	J. Hutchison		
6/9	IRWS	6	BBS (D. Oliver)	5/12	MNWS	7	R. Heil		
6/16	Salem	9	BBC (I. Lynch)	5/17	S. Quabbin	8	G. d'Entremont#		
6/16	Weston	9	M. Rines	5/19	Quabbin (G37)	14	R. Lockwood		
6/17	Holden	8	R. Lockwood	5/20	Hampden Cnty	113	Allen Club		
6/17	Leicester	9	R. Lockwood	5/21	Petersham	10	C. Buelow		
Winter Wren				5/21	CPWMA	10	J. Berry		
5/1	Hardwick	2	C. Buelow	6/3	Brookfield	21	M. Lynch#		
5/19	Ipswich	2	J. Berry#	6/8	ONWR	22	R. Lockwood		
5/20	Hampden Cnty	5	Allen Club	6/8	W. Newbury	27	R. Heil		
6/9	IRWS	2	BBS (D. Oliver)	6/9	IRWS	24	BBS (D. Oliver)		
6/10	Hingham	2	C. Nims	6/16	Quabbin (G15)	12	R. Lockwood		
6/16	Mt. Greylock	3	G. d'Entremont#	6/16	Barre F.D.	41	M. Lynch#		
6/16	Weston	5	M. Rines	6/16	Mt. Greylock	21	G. d'Entremont#		
6/26	Hardwick	3	C. Buelow	6/26	Hardwick	29	C. Buelow		
Sedge Wren				Bicknell's Thrush					
5/3-5	P.I.	1	R. Heil	5/17	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#		
5/17	Athol	pr	J. Johnstone + v.o.	5/2	Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush				
5/19-26	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	J. Liller# + v.o.	5/3	New Salem	1	B. Lafley		
5/31-6/5	Hadley	2	B. Kane	5/5	Stoughton	1	D. Larson		
Marsh Wren				5/5	Mt.A.	1	J. Hoye#		
5/6	Cambr. (F.P.)	1	B. Miller	5/12	ONWR	1	BBC (J. Center)		
5/11	P.I.	20	R. Heil	5/18	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#		
5/16	Orange	1	M. Taylor#	5/28	Hingham	1	O. Spalding		
5/20	Holyoke	1	D. McLain	Swainson's Thrush					
6/1	GMNWR	6	R. Lockwood	5/1	P.I.	1	R. Shore		
6/6	Brookfield	25	C. Buelow	5/5	Mt.A.	1	J. Hoye#		
6/8	DWWS	2	D. Furbish	5/12	Braintree	2	G. d'Entremont#		
6/8	W. Newbury	14	R. Heil	5/12	MNWS	4	R. Heil		
6/9	IRWS	37	BBS (D. Oliver)	5/15	Stoneham	2	D. + I. Jewell		
6/14	Marshfield/Hanover	155+	D. Peacock#	5/17	Mt.A.	7	C. Floyd		
6/14	Scituate-Norwell	149	D. Clapp	5/17	Medford	2	M. Rines		
6/16	Salem	2	BBC (I. Lynch)	5/18	P.I.	10	R. Heil		
6/23	DWMA	2	M. Lynch#	5/20	Boston (F.Pk)	9	J. Young		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				5/20	Springfield	2	A. + L. Richardson		
5/1	Wayland	4	G. Long	5/20	Arlington	4	M. Rines		
5/2	Lancaster	6	R. Lockwood	5/20	Stoughton	1	G. d'Entremont		
				5/22	S. Hadley	1	M. Taylor#		

Swainson's Thrush (continued)				Golden-winged Warbler			
6/23	Monterey	1	B. Nikula	5/3	P.I.	1	P. Brown
Hermit Thrush				5/3-7	Longmeadow	1 m	J. LaPointe
5/1	Mt.A.	10	J. Trimble	5/12-16	W. Newbury	1 m	S. Moore#
5/3	Gloucester (E.P.)	12	C. Leahy	Brewster's Warbler			
5/3	Melrose	6	D. + I. Jewell	5/12	Boxboro	1	J. Michaels
5/3	Medford	15	M. Rines	5/12	Erving	1	R. Coyle
5/5	Chelsea	6	R. Stymeist	5/18	W. Newbury	1 m	R. Heil
5/19	Mt. Greylock	16	M. Lynch#	6/5	Hingham	1	O. Spalding
5/20	Hampden Cnty	16	Allen Club	6/6	Newton	1	H. Miller
5/29	Maynard	6	R. Lockwood	Lawrence's Warbler			
6/16	Quabbin (G15)	12	R. Lockwood	5/3, 6/4	Northfield	1 m	M. Taylor#
6/16	Barre	38	M. Lynch	5/20	Hampden	1	J. Orcutt
6/23	DWMA	6	M. Lynch#	6/9	Whateley	1	M. Williams
6/28	Hardwick	6	C. Buelow	Tennessee Warbler			
6/30	Quabbin (G10)	10	G. d'Entremont	5/3, 11	Mt.A.	1, 2	J. Trimble
Wood Thrush				5/17	Worcester	3	M. Lynch#
5/3, 16	Medford	3, 9	M. Rines	5/20	Holyoke	5	D. McLain
5/4, 6/30	Worc. (BMB)	4, 10	J. Liller	5/20	Boston (F.Pk)	3	J. Young
5/4	S. Quabbin	10	M. Lynch#	5/28	P.I.	1	S. Moore#
5/9	Lancaster	10	R. Lockwood	6/29	Wellfleet	1 m	M. Faherty
5/12	Ipswich R.	16	J. Berry#	5/3-20	Reports of indiv. from 16 locations		
5/18	Boxford	11	J. Berry	Orange-crowned Warbler			
5/18	Stow	12	R. Lockwood	5/1	Braintree	1	T. O'Neill
5/19	Mt. Greylock	13	M. Lynch#	5/11	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	C. Leahy
5/20	Hampden Cnty	256	Allen Club	Nashville Warbler			
6/8	W. Newbury	13	R. Heil	5/3	Westfield	7	J. Hutchison
6/9	IRWS	20	BBS (D. Oliver)	5/3, 11	Mt.A.	12, 14	J. Trimble
6/9	ONWR	21	R. Lockwood	5/3	Medford	11	M. Rines
6/16	Mt. Greylock	11	G. d'Entremont#	5/3, 11	Gloucester (E.P.)	7, 4	C. Leahy
6/26	Hardwick	26	C. Buelow	5/4	Agawam	7	J. Hutchison
Gray Catbird				5/6	Marblehead	7	J. Hoye#
5/9	Lancaster	20	R. Lockwood	5/7	Wakefield	4	F. Vale
5/11	P.I.	106	R. Heil	5/30	Hingham	2	G. d'Entremont
5/11	Gloucester (E.P.)	26	C. Leahy	6/24	Blandford	4	T. Swochak
5/13	Watertown	57	R. Stymeist	Northern Parula			
5/20	Hampden Cnty	368	Allen Club	5/1, 6, 26	Medford	9, 18, 5	M. Rines
6/3	Brookfield	41	M. Lynch#	5/1, 11	Mt.A.	7, 10	J. Trimble
6/8	W. Newbury	106	R. Heil	5/3, 11	Gloucester (E.P.)	13, 12	C. Leahy
6/9	IRWS	86	BBS (D. Oliver)	5/5	Winchester	6	M. Rines
6/10	S. Groveland	35	BBC (R. Stymeist)	5/11	P.I.	13	R. Heil
6/24	Bolton Flats	42	SSBC (K. Anderson)	5/17	Winchester	6	M. Rines
6/30	Worc. (BMB)	42	J. Liller	5/17	Worcester	9	M. Lynch#
Brown Thrasher				5/20	Boston (F.Pk)	20	J. Young
5/1	Hardwick	3	C. Buelow	5/20	Chicopee	9	T. Swochak
5/3	Medford	12	M. Rines	5/28	P.I.	20	J. Berry
5/3	Lancaster	6	R. Lockwood	5/29	Salisbury	6	D. Chickering#
5/3, 6/30	Worc. (BMB)	5, 4	M. Lynch#	6/27	Nantucket	1	S. Langer
5/8	Westfield	3	J. Weeks	Yellow Warbler			
5/11	P.I.	15	R. Heil	5/2	Woburn	15	M. Rines#
5/19	Melrose	3	D. + I. Jewell	5/8	New Braintree	18	C. Buelow
5/20	Hampden Cnty	14	Allen Club	5/12	Ipswich R.	63	J. Berry#
6/13	Pepperell	4	M. Rines	5/12	Maynard	26	R. Lockwood
6/25	Wakefield	4	D. + I. Jewell	5/13	Watertown	34	R. Stymeist
American Pipit				5/18	Stow	23	R. Lockwood
5/7	Hyannis	1	C. Buelow	5/20	Hampden Cnty	214	Allen Club
5/11	Orange	23	B. Laffey	5/26	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	29	D. + S. Larson
5/19	P'town (R.P.)	1	D. Comeau#	5/28	P.I.	175	R. Heil
5/19	Hadley	1	T. Gagnon	5/30	DWWS	24	D. Furbish
5/3-14	P.I.	total 15 migr	R. Heil	6/8	W. Newbury	70	R. Heil
Cedar Waxwing				6/9	IRWS	71	BBS (D. Oliver)
5/29	P.I.	275+	R. Heil	6/10	S. Groveland	27	BBC (R. Stymeist)
5/29	Maynard	38	R. Lockwood	6/24	Bolton Flats	82	SSBC (K. Anderson)
6/9	Mt.A.	23	R. Stymeist	Chestnut-sided Warbler			
6/9	IRWS	43	BBS (D. Oliver)	5/1	Granby	1	M. + K. Conway
Blue-winged Warbler				5/2	Woburn	1	M. Rines#
5/4	S. Quabbin	7	M. Lynch#	5/2	Longmeadow	1	Allen BC (J. Weeks)
5/4, 6/4	Worc. (BMB)	9, 4	J. Liller	5/4	S. Quabbin	17	M. Lynch#
5/9	Lancaster	12	R. Lockwood	5/9	Lancaster	15	R. Lockwood
5/14	Burlington	6	M. Rines	5/12	E. Quabbin	14	T. Gagnon#
5/26	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	6	D. + S. Larson	5/14	Hardwick	15	C. Buelow
5/28	Stoughton	9	G. d'Entremont	5/19	Mt. Greylock	43	M. Lynch#
6/3	Brookfield	15	M. Lynch	5/20	Hampden Cnty	41	Allen Club
6/8	W. Newbury	16	R. Heil	6/3	Brookfield	11	M. Lynch#
6/9	IRWS	5	BBS (D. Oliver)	6/10	S. Groveland	12	BBC (R. Stymeist)
6/10	S. Groveland	17	BBC (R. Stymeist)	6/10	Quabbin (G45)	15	MAS (J. Liller)
6/10	W. Boxford	9	J. Berry#	6/16	Barre F.D.	78	M. Lynch#
6/24	MBWMA	6	BBC (L.delaFlor)	6/24	Huntington	22	R. Packard



Cerulean Warbler (continued)			6/16	Weston	25	M. Rines
5/3	Mt.A.	1 m	J. Trimble	6/30	Quabbin (G10)	22 G. d'Entremont
5/4	Hingham	1 m	N. Samson	Northern Waterthrush		
5/4-6/28	S. Quabbin	4	J. Liller	5/1-5/16	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 30 locations	
5/5-22	Mt Holyoke	2	E. Labato	5/2	E. Middleboro	4 m K. Anderson
5/7	Hadley	2	B. Lafley	5/3	Medford	3 M. Rines
5/12	E. Quabbin	2 m, 1 f	T. Gagnon#	5/3, 11	Gloucester (E.P.)	5, 3 C. Leahy
5/20	Southwick	2	S. Kellogg	5/11, 18	Stow	5, 6 R. Lockwood
6/10	Hadley	1	G. Tepke#	5/12	Ipswich R.	3m J. Berry#
Black-and-white Warbler			5/12	Brockton	3	M. Faherty
5/1, 11	Mt.A.	6, 15	J. Trimble	5/14	ONWR	3 R. Lockwood
5/1, 26	Medford	20, 6	M. Rines	5/20	Hampden Cnty	6 Allen Club
5/2	P.I.	16	R. Heil	5/25	Manchester-Essex	3 m J. Berry
5/4	S. Quabbin	23	M. Lynch#	5/28	P.I.	3 J. Berry
5/9	Lancaster	15	R. Lockwood	6/8	Rowley	2 m J. Berry#
5/11, 18	Stow	5, 10	R. Lockwood	6/16	Weston	2 M. Rines
5/12	Douglas	10	M. Lynch#	Louisiana Waterthrush		
5/13	Gloucester (E.P.)	50	D. + T. Brownrigg	5/1, 6/4	Hardwick	2, 2 C. Buelow
5/13, 26	MNWS	10, 1	P. + F. Vale	5/1	P.I.	1 R. Shore
5/19	Quabbin (G37)	12	R. Lockwood	5/5	Lancaster	2 R. Lockwood
5/20	Hampden Cnty	62	Allen Club	5/12	Westfield	1 J. Weeks#
5/20	Boston (F.Pk)	10	J. Young	5/19, 6/10	Hingham	3, 1 C. Nims
6/9	IRWS	12	BBS (D. Oliver)	5/19	Gr. Barrington	1 M. Lynch#
6/16	Barre F.D.	21	M. Lynch#	5/19	Ipswich	1 m J. Berry#
6/24	Huntington	15	R. Packard	5/20	Hampden Cnty	13 Allen Club
American Redstart			5/21	Petersham	2	C. Buelow
5/2	Longmeadow	2	S. Kellogg	6/3	Charlton	1 J. Young
5/3, 26	Medford	1, 18	M. Rines	6/4	Monson	1 J. Young
5/12	E. Quabbin	43	T. Gagnon	6/9	Granville	1 R. Stymeist#
5/19	Quabbin (G47)	17	R. Lockwood	6/9	Warwick	1 J. Young
5/20	Hampden Cnty	105	Allen Club	6/9	Worcester	1 M. Lynch#
5/26	S. Quabbin	35	J. Liller#	6/24	Manchester	4+ R. Heil
5/28	P.I.	75+	R. Heil	6/30	Boxford	1 m J. Berry#
5/31	Southwick	12	C. Buelow	Kentucky Warbler		
6/3	Brookfield	13	M. Lynch#	5/4	Stoneham	1 D. + I. Jewell
6/9	ONWR	14	R. Lockwood	5/8-11	Belmont	1 m J. Hoye + v.o.
6/9	IRWS	12	BBS (D. Oliver)	5/20-6/8	Southwick	1 S. Kellogg + v.o.
6/16	Barre F.D.	19	M. Lynch#	Mourning Warbler		
6/16	Mt. Greylock	31	G. d'Entremont#	5/19-6/17	Mt. Greylock	3-5 J. Liller
6/16	Quabbin (G15)	23	R. Lockwood	5/20	Berkshire Cty	2 Hoffmann Club
6/24	Huntington	50	R. Packard	5/26	Monroe	2 m W. Zuzevich
Prothonotary Warbler			6/5	Nahant	2	G. Wood
5/3	Nantucket	1	D. Lund	6/10	Washington	3 S. Kellogg
5/3	P'town	1 m	D. Silverstein	6/10	Rowe	3 R. Stymeist#
5/6-7	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine + v.o.	6/10	Lunenburg	1 J. Young
5/11	P.I.	1 m	R. Heil	6/16	Mt. Greylock	2 G. d'Entremont#
5/30	P'town	1	J. Sones#	5/26-6/9	Reports of indiv. from 12 locations	
Worm-eating Warbler			Common Yellowthroat			
5/1-20	Reports of indiv. from 13 locations			5/5, 9	Lancaster	4, 18 R. Lockwood
5/4-6/16	Mt Tom	3	v.o.	5/11, 28	P.I.	23, 80 R. Heil
5/5-22	Mt Holyoke	3	v.o.	5/12	Maynard	32 R. Lockwood
5/11	Gloucester (E.P.)	3	C. Leahy	5/12	Ipswich R.	66 J. Berry#
5/12	Milton	2	G. d'Entremont#	5/12	E. Quabbin	23 T. Gagnon#
5/16	Amherst	2	H. Allen	5/14	ONWR	31 R. Lockwood
5/17	Hingham	3	D. + S. Larson	5/18	Stow	48 R. Lockwood
5/20, 6/9	Uxbridge	2	M. Lynch#	5/29	New Braintree	26 C. Buelow
5/21-6/3	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	5/30	DWWS	26 D. Furbish
5/22	S. Hadley	1	M. Taylor#	6/3	Brookfield	51 M. Lynch#
5/22	Greenfield	2	R. Stymeist	6/8	W. Newbury	64 R. Heil
6/6	Alford	1	D. St James	6/9	IRWS	42 BBS (D. Oliver)
Swainson's Warbler (details submitted)			6/10	S. Groveland	48	BBC (R. Stymeist)
5/11-6/3	Naushon I.	1 m ph	S. Storer + v.o.	6/16	Barre F.D.	78 M. Lynch#
Ovenbird			6/23	S. Monomoy	52	R. Lockwood#
5/2, 9	Lancaster	13, 30	R. Lockwood	6/24	Bolton Flats	43 SSBC (K. Anderson)
5/4	S. Quabbin	36	M. Lynch#	6/30	Quabbin (G10)	23 G. d'Entremont
5/6, 30	Hingham	32, 19	G. d'Entremont#	Hooded Warbler		
5/11, 25	Stow	20, 34	R. Lockwood	5/3	Pocasset	1 m M. Vaughn
5/12	Milton	20+	A. Joslin#	5/4	Hingham	1 m N. Samson
5/12, 29	Maynard	30, 30	R. Lockwood	5/6, 9	Medford	1, 1 R. LaFontaine
5/14, 6/26	Hardwick	29, 30	C. Buelow	5/7	Nantucket	1 E. Ray
5/18	Boxford	23	J. Berry	5/17	Mt.A.	1 C. Floyd
5/20	Hampden Cnty	243	Allen Club	5/18	S. Quabbin	1 A. + L. Richardson
5/21	Petersham	24	C. Buelow	5/19	Hyde Park	1 J. Young
5/25	Manchester-Essex	29 m	J. Berry	5/28	P.I.	1 m R. Heil
6/9	IRWS	23	BBS (D. Oliver)	5/29	Lexington	1 M. Rines
6/16	Mt. Greylock	35	G. d'Entremont#	Wilson's Warbler		
6/16	Quabbin (G15)	38	R. Lockwood	5/1	Mt.A.	1 m J. Trimble
6/16	Barre F.D.	78	M. Lynch#	5/2	Ashfield	1 S. Sauter



Lapland Longspur	5/4	Boston (F.Pk)	4	J. Young		
5/12 P.I.	1	M. Resch + v.o.	5/8-6/23	Agawam	3	S. Kellogg
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/10	Weymouth	4	K. Vespaziani		
5/3 Worc. (BMB)	10	M. Lynch#	5/17	Hingham	4	R. Titus
5/4 S. Quabbin	11	M. Lynch#	5/19	Newbury	3	M. Rines#
5/9 Lancaster	17	R. Lockwood	5/23	Mt.A.	3	C. Floyd
5/12 Ipswich R.	22	J. Berry#	6/8	W. Newbury	3 m	R. Heil
5/13 Bolton Flats	12	M. Lynch#	6/19	Woburn	4	M. Rines
5/13 Westboro	9	M. Lynch#	Baltimore Oriole			
5/14 ONWR	13	R. Lockwood	5/4	S. Quabbin	17	M. Lynch#
5/15 Hingham	8	G. d'Entremont#	5/4	Agawam	42	J. Hutchison
5/20 Hampden Cnty	70	Allen Club	5/13	Watertown	36	R. Stymeist
5/31 GMNWR	9	R. Lockwood	5/12	Maynard	21	R. Lockwood
6/8 W. Newbury	16	R. Heil	5/12	Ipswich R.	85	J. Berry#
6/9 IRWS	6	BBS (D. Oliver)	5/18	Stow	26	R. Lockwood
6/10 S. Groveland	8	BBC (R. Stymeist)	5/20	Boston (F.Pk)	25	J. Young
6/16 Barre F.D.	11	M. Lynch#	5/20	Hampden Cnty	267	Allen Club
6/21 Hardwick	6	C. Buelow	6/3	Brookfield	21	M. Lynch#
Blue Grosbeak	6/4	ONWR	6/8	W. Newbury	35	R. Lockwood
5/19 Westport	1 imm	N. Boucher#	6/8	W. Newbury	16	BBS (D. Oliver)
5/30 Hingham	1 imm m	R. Titus	6/9	IRWS	16	BBS (D. Oliver)
Indigo Bunting	6/10	S. Groveland	6/10	S. Groveland	22	BBC (R. Stymeist)
5/3 Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	Purple Finch			
5/3 N. Brookfield	1	K. Morrison	5/5	Stoughton	2	R. Titus
5/17 Hingham	4	R. Titus#	5/11	P.I.	11	R. Heil
5/28 Adams	3	C. Buelow	5/19	Ipswich	5	J. Berry#
5/29 Pepperell	8	E Stromsted	6/3	Boxford	2	J. Berry#
6/1 Milton	3 m	A. Joslin	6/7	Lincoln	2	M. Rines
6/6 Medford	3	D. + I. Jewell	6/16	Mt. Greylock	7	G. d'Entremont#
6/8 Lincoln	3	M. Rines	6/16	Barre F.D.	6	M. Lynch#
6/10 S. Groveland	4	BBC (R. Stymeist)	6/29	Wellfleet	2 pr	M. Faherty
6/12 Lancaster	3	R. Lockwood	White-winged Crossbill			
6/16 Barre F.D.	5	M. Lynch#	5/7	Washington	2	E. Neumuth
6/16 Mt. Greylock	3	G. d'Entremont#	5/18	Savoy	1 m	M. Lynch#
6/24 MBWMA	3	BBC (L.delFlor)	5/18	Windsor	1 m	M. Lynch#
Dickcissel	5/20	Mt. Greylock	5/20	Mt. Greylock	2 m, 4 yg	T. Gagnon#
5/11 Gloucester (E.P.)	1 f	C. Leahy	6/10	Washington	3	S. Kellogg
Bobolink			Pine Siskin			
5/1 Wayland	4	G. Long	5/2	Ashfield	1	S. Sauter
5/5 Winchester	9	R. LaFontaine#	5/3	Monroe	2	B. Lafley
5/5 Northampton	5	T. Gagnon	5/5	Gardner	5	T. Pirro
5/11 P.I.	45	R. Heil	5/7	Washington	1	E. Neumuth
5/20 Concord (NAC)	5	J. Michaels	5/14	Nantucket	1	fade E. Ray
5/20 Hampden Cnty	93	Allen Club	5/19	Gr. Barrington	5	M. Lynch#
5/20 E. Boston (B.I.)	5	R. Stymeist#	5/19	P'town (R.P.)	1	T. Maloney#
6/1 DWWS	50	D. Clapp	5/25	Savoy	12	W. Zuzevich
6/9 Worcester	21	M. Lynch#	6/1-11	Dalton	1	T. Smith
6/11 Rowley	10	J. Berry	6/1-12	Hinsdale	4	L. Robinson
6/12 Lancaster	43	R. Lockwood	6/8	Hawley	2	J. Young
6/16 Barre F.D.	17	M. Lynch#	6/9	Warwick	1	J. Young
6/30 Pepperell	150	E. Stromsted	6/14	Pittsfield	2	T. Collins
Eastern Meadowlark	6/16	Barre F.D.	6/16	Barre F.D.	3	M. Lynch#
5/1 W. Bridgewater	3	G. d'Entremont	Evening Grosbeak			
5/2 DWWS	3	D. Furbish	5/1	New Salem	2	B. Lafley
5/12 Leicester	3	M. Lynch#	5/6	Westford	1 pr	S. Wedge#
5/17 Newbypt.	4	P. + F. Vale	5/7	Washington	2	E. Neumuth
6/2 Sterling Peat	3	M. Lynch#	5/10	Petersham	1	B. Nikula#
6/3 Grafton	4	J. Young	5/18	Windsor	1	M. Lynch#
6/9 Worcester	6	M. Lynch#	5/25	Savoy	3	W. Zuzevich
6/12 Lancaster	5	R. Lockwood	6/12	Hawley	3	R. Packard
6/22 Falmouth	8	C. Buelow	6/20	Carlisle	1 pr	D. + T. Brownrigg
6/30 Pepperell	3	E. Stromsted	6/22	Deerfield	3	R. Ranney
Rusty Blackbird	6/22-23		6/22-23	Brimfield	1 pr	B. Platenik
5/1 Wayland	100	E. Salmela	6/24	Shutesbury	6	J. Paluzzi
5/9 P.I.	1	G. Leet#	6/28	Quabbin	3	L. de la Flor
5/10 P'town	1	D. Silverstein#	6/29	Pepperell	2	M. Resch
Orchard Oriole	6/30	New Salem	6/30	New Salem	3	G. d'Entremont#
5/3 Gloucester (E.P.)	3	C. Leahy				

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (indicated by an asterisk [\*] in the Bird Reports), as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts, should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Marjorie Rines, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773, or by e-mail to <mrines@mediaone.net>.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

### HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO BIRD OBSERVER

Bird Observer prints compilations of birds reported in Massachusetts and offshore waters. Our compilers select and summarize for publication reports that provide a snapshot of bird life during the reporting period.

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month, and may be submitted by postal mail or e-mail. Send written reports to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 94 Grove Street, Watertown, MA 02172. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). For instructions on e-mail submission, visit: <http://massbird.org/birdobserver/submitrec.html>.

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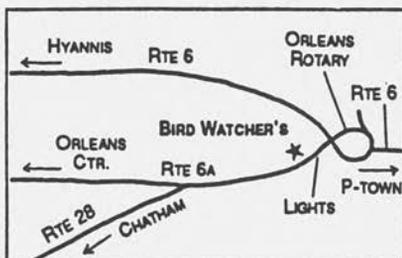
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### **TERN AND PLOVER NESTING SEASON RESULTS MIXED**

MassWildlife State Ornithologist Brad Blodget and Zoologist Dr. Scott Melvin hosted a tern and plover data compilation meeting on August 7 at Cape Cod Community College in Barnstable. MassWildlife invests substantial resources in monitoring and managing terns and piping plovers since the Massachusetts coast hosts regionally significant nesting populations of these coastal birds. Beach managers and site monitors gathered data from more than 100 sites along the Massachusetts shore. Preliminary estimates show nesting common terns increased 8% to 14,390 pairs, the highest figure recorded since the 1950s. Least terns rose 1% to 3,293 pairs, just shy of the record 3,416 pairs that nested in 1999. For reasons that remain unclear, numbers of federally endangered roseate terns dropped by 20% to 1,697 pairs, mirroring what appears to be a region-wide downward trend. Piping plover numbers were down to an estimated 480 pairs as compared to 496 pairs in 2000. Productivity was up however, with 1.4 chicks fledged per pair. In 2000, only 1.09 chicks fledged per pair, due in large part to the record loss of 178 nests to storm flooding. Milder weather during the 2001 nesting season likely resulted in comparatively few nests being lost to flooding. Intensive monitoring efforts by biologists, beach managers and seasonal volunteers from a number of agencies and organizations helped protect terns and plovers from human-related disturbance and mortality caused by predators including crows, skunks, foxes, gulls and feral cats. Piping plovers were found nesting at 97 different beaches in 2001 with 32 pairs occurring at South Beach in Chatham. High reproductive success was noted at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge and Cape Cod National Seashore, properties managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Parks Service. Other census results showed 6 pairs of Arctic terns, 3 pairs of black skimmers and 1,322 pairs of laughing gulls. Laughing gulls were up 21% over 2000 figures and approached the record number of 1,356 pairs censused in 1989. Final figures will be available later in the fall. For more information contact Carolyn Mostello, 508.792.7270 x312.

## Contribute to Bird Observer

*Bird Observer* gladly considers for publication manuscripts or article proposals from any member of the birding community — local or foreign, professional ornithologist or backyard birder. We are happy to hear from first-time authors and beginning birders, as well as from established experts. We are also interested in considering quality photographs with avian themes. The only requirement is that material be relevant to New England birds and birders.

Among the types of material we'd like to see:

- Articles presenting original scientific research
- Documentation of significant records
- "Hot Birds" photographs of rare or unusual birds in New England
- Field notes describing interesting encounters with birds
- Biographies of ornithologists or birders with regional ties
- Results of surveys and censuses
- "Where to Go" articles describing good birding locales
- "Pocket Places," brief descriptions of small hotspots
- Articles on birding equipment or methods
- Notices and news items
- "Young Birders" articles from our younger readers

*Bird Observer* tries to provide a mix of lively, informative writing in each issue. Why not contribute your insights and experiences to help us achieve this goal? Send manuscripts or proposals to the Editor: Brooke Stevens, 5 Hemlock Road, Cambridge, MA 02138, or via email attachments in Word doc or txt or rtf formats to [brookestev@aol.com](mailto:brookestev@aol.com). Send photographs (prints, slides, digital) to the Production Editor: David Larson, 1921 Central Street, Stoughton, MA 02072, or [davlar@bu.edu](mailto:davlar@bu.edu).

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### The Urban Lesser Black-backed Gull Saga Continues . . .



DAVID LARSON

This LBBG has been hanging around Long Wharf in Boston caging handouts for years. It is remarkable that the first accepted record of this species in Massachusetts was in 1971; from first record to donut scavenger in 30 years! Recently the bird molted to basic plumage (see above).

## ABOUT THE COVER

---

### Long-tailed Jaeger

The Long-tailed Jaeger is the smallest and most graceful of our jaegers. Adults in breeding (alternate) plumage are unmistakable, with their long streaming central tail feathers, but nonbreeding (basic) plumage adults and immature birds can severely test the identification skills of any birdwatcher. Adults have a yellow-tinged white neck, head, and breast with blackish cap, gray underparts and back, and black flight and tail feathers. In flight the outer black primaries are highlighted with white shafts. In nonbreeding plumage they lose their long central tail feathers and have a brown, barred pattern, similar to that of juvenile birds. Dark and light morphs occur in immature birds but not in adults. Long-tailed Jaegers can be separated from Pomarine Jaegers by their smaller size, but distinguishing them from Parasitic Jaegers is a challenge — so much so that the bulk of the published literature on Long-tailed Jaegers deals with problems of identification. Most juveniles have an unpatterned grayish breast with a white patch on the upper belly; that together with a whitish head are characters that permit identification. Many of these young birds, however, may defy positive identification.

Taxonomically, Long-tailed Jaegers are considered by most to be monotypic, although geographic variation in plumage occurs and subspecific differentiation has been suggested. Holarctic breeders, Long-tailed Jaegers in North America are found from Alaska east through northern Canada and the Arctic islands to northern Greenland. They are the most numerous and widespread jaeger, and breed farther north than either Parasitic or Pomarine jaegers. There are also breeding populations in Scandinavia and Siberia.

Long-tailed Jaegers are completely migratory and seasonally pelagic, spending their winters on the southern temperate oceans. In the Atlantic region, most birds migrate far at sea, away from the continental shelf, and large numbers have been reported off the coast of southeastern South America. There are scattered reports of sightings in the Pacific Ocean, but migration patterns are poorly understood. In Massachusetts the Long-tailed Jaeger is considered a rare offshore migrant. Most sightings have been reported from late May to mid-June, or mid-August to late September. There have been but a dozen sightings in spring since the 1940s, and about two dozen in the fall since the 1950s.

Long-tailed Jaegers are monogamous, and have long-term pair bonds. They are site-faithful, many returning year after year to the same territory on high Arctic or alpine tundra. Pairs defend territories against conspecifics and often against all other birds and predatory mammals. Territorial displays include gliding with wings bowed down, uttering *kri-kri-kri* calls with beaks wide open, chases, and slow wingbeat displays. On the ground they perform upright displays with neck stretched up and forward, or breast lifted and neck feathers erect. They dive at and otherwise harass foxes, wolves, wolverines, and even bears and humans. They use different vocalizations when approaching intruding birds and mammals. Nests are widely spaced, ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 kilometers apart.

Long-tailed Jaegers arrive on the breeding grounds in late May to early June, and leave in early August. Their small size allows for a shorter breeding season, and may be an adaptation to their high-Arctic breeding range. Their nest is a simple depression, usually in a mossy knoll. When food is abundant, the usual clutch is two, but when food is scarce many pairs lay a single egg. In years when food is very scarce, they do not nest at all. Eggs are brown-marked greenish or olive-brown in color. Both parents develop brood patches, but the female does most of the incubation, and the male the majority of the food gathering and territorial defense. They will perform distraction displays, wings spread and squeaking, or false brooding, if their attacks fail to deter potential predators. Chicks hatch after about three weeks. They leave the nest after a day or two and seek hiding places. Fledging occurs after about a month, but adults accompany young until migration begins. Initially, males provide most of the food, delivering it to the female, who then feeds it to the chicks. Males tend to hunt lemmings and voles at the periphery of the territory while females take mostly invertebrates and hunt near the nest.

During the breeding season Long-tailed Jaegers are dependent on lemmings and voles that they hunt on the tundra barrens, flying or hovering 10-15 feet above the ground. At times they may also congregate at the edges of swamps or pools where invertebrates are abundant. They often alight and pursue lemmings on foot, pecking them to death. The prey is either swallowed whole or eviscerated before ingestion. They also eat berries and prey on fledgling passerines and shorebirds and the eggs of waterfowl. At sea they take small fish, invertebrates, and offal, and are kleptoparasitic on terns and other seabirds.

There is no evidence, aside from sporadic hunting, that humans have adversely affected Long-tailed Jaegers, primarily because of the remoteness of their breeding habitat and their offshore pelagic wintering habits. The major threat to this species is the cyclic variation in rodent population numbers that may be more than a hundredfold, with peaks every four to five years. When lemming populations crash, the jaegers simply do not breed that year. Young jaegers are preyed upon by Peregrines and Gyrfalcons, and Arctic foxes can severely disrupt breeding locally. But they still remain our most common jaeger, albeit, because of their high Arctic breeding and offshore migratory pattern, they are rarely seen. 

William E. Davis, Jr

## About the Cover Artist

David Sibley has written and illustrated articles on bird identification for *Birding* and *North American Birds* as well as regional publications, and books including *Hawks in Flight* and *The Birds of Cape May*. Since 1980 David has traveled the continent watching birds on his own and as a tour leader for WINGS, Inc. He wrote and illustrated the monumental *Sibley Guide to Birds*, a comprehensive guide to North American birds (October 2000). The companion volume, *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior* (illustrated by David A. Sibley, edited by Chris Elphick, John B. Dunning, Jr., and David A. Sibley), has just been published by Knopf. You can see more of David's artwork at his website <[www.sibleyart.com](http://www.sibleyart.com)>. He lives in Concord, Massachusetts, with his wife and two sons. 

## AT A GLANCE

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August 2001



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID LARSON

There's a maxim that says, "Things are not always as they appear to be." Indeed, where bird identification is concerned, no truer words have ever been spoken! Difficulties in field identification may arise as a result of observer inexperience, imperfect observation of details, incomplete information, lack of preparedness on the part of the observer, and psychic phenomena such as overzealousness, a belief that every bird is readily identifiable in the field, and a reluctance to admit that "I don't know." This month's mystery bird offers potential in at least several of these areas!

What we see in the photograph is a blackbird with a light patch, or broad wing bar on the left wing. While there is no immediate reason that the reader should assume that this wing bar is not symmetrically located on the bird's right wing, the fact that the right wing is not discernable in the photo at least makes this condition a possibility, however remote. This comment alone suggests that this could be a situation where "Things are not always as they appear to be." Before proceeding farther down this philosophical avenue, however, let us consider the information that is available in the picture.

The blackbird in the photo has a heavy bill, a rather flat-headed appearance, a lengthy tail when compared to the tips of the folded primaries, and stout legs that appear to be fairly widely spaced, suggesting that the bird is good-sized rather than

small. The presence of a pale bar on the wing at once suggests that the bird might be a male Red-winged Blackbird, which possesses pale yellowish median coverts on the secondaries, below the orange-red lesser coverts. On a perched Red-winged Blackbird, sometimes the red epaulets are concealed, so only the pale wing bar is visible. A quick look at the blackbird in this month's photo might well suggest that this is exactly what the mystery photo depicts. Wrong!

A careful consideration of the features already noted should suggest that "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark!" First, the bird's heavy bill and its flat-headed appearance are out of keeping with a typical Red-winged Blackbird — a species whose bill is relatively short and sharply pointed, and whose head is normally more rounded, thus giving the bird the appearance of having a somewhat abrupt forehead. In addition, the tail to primary ratio on a Red-winged Blackbird would be much less than in the pictured blackbird, which clearly has a rather long tail compared with the length of the wings. In fact, if it were not for the pale bar on the wings, there is little about the photograph to suggest that the blackbird is anything other than a Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), which in fact it is! So what about the white patch in the wing?

The grackle in the photograph is exhibiting a rather common plumage abnormality often referred to as "partial albinism" — a commonly used, but biologically incorrect, term for birds exhibiting varying amounts of abnormal white feathering in their plumage. While it is difficult to be certain precisely what genetic anomaly the bird in the picture exhibits, a condition called leucism is a likely possibility. Without going into detail, this phenomenon is the result of a dilution or diminution of normal pigment, in this case melanin, which leaves the affected area devoid of pigment. In some cases, leucistic individuals may retain their normal overall pattern, but have their usual colors replaced by buff or tan coloration. However, if they completely lack pigment in one or more feathers, they appear white or patchy-white in color. This last example appears to be the situation with the mystery grackle. In this individual, the whitish coloration was present in each wing in a more or less symmetrical pattern, thus giving the bird a striking resemblance to a male Red-winged Blackbird when it was perched. Once seen in flight, the absence of orange-red shoulder patches was obvious.

To reiterate the lesson to be gained from this month's mystery image: "Things are not always as they appear to be." David Larson took the picture of the leucistic Common Grackle under a feeder at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. 

Wayne R. Petersen



WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

## AT A GLANCE

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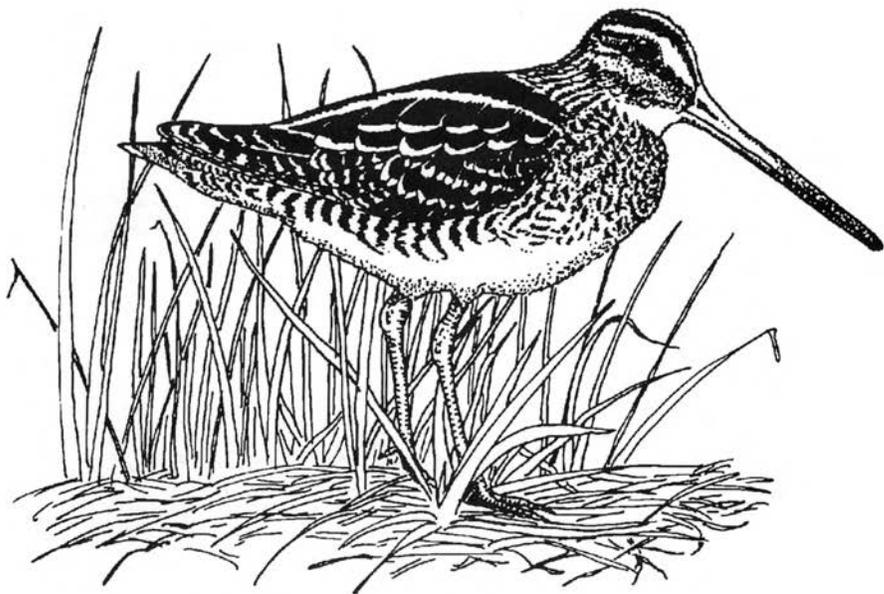


PHOTOGRAPH BY DEBORAH V. HOWARD, COURTESY MAS

Can you identify this bird?

Identification will be discussed in next issue's AT A GLANCE.

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