

BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



OCTOBER 1985

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Dorothy R. Arvidson, One School Street, #206, Arlington, MA 02174.

SEND FIELD RECORDS of any given month, no later than the 8th of the following month, to Ruth P. Emery, 225 Belmont Street, Wollaston, MA 02170.

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Time to Renew

You will be receiving your 1986 BIRD OBSERVER renewal notice in the mail soon. We would greatly appreciate your prompt response.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC), sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, dates back to 1899 and has grown from a limited affair involving only a few people to an event in which tens of thousands of birders in Canada, United States, Mexico, Central and South America take part.

Each local CBC is a day-long census of all birds within a circular area 15 miles in diameter, and count compilers try to "field" as many competent birders as they can to cover the roughly 177 square miles of each count circle.

This year's count period is from Wednesday, December 18, 1985 through January 5, 1986. BIRD OBSERVER encourages anyone who wishes more information or who desires to participate to send a stamped and self-addressed envelope to Robert H. Stymeist, 98 Boylston Street, Watertown, MA 02172.

—Bird Observer Workshops of the Coming Season—

WINTER RAPTORS and the Role of Predation

The hibernal season is a time of hardship for animal populations, yet Massachusetts plays host in winter to as many as a dozen species of diurnal raptors. In this winter workshop, an examination of the role and dynamics of predation will be made with topics on the food and feeding habits of hawks, on hawk movements, and on some of the techniques used to study wintering raptors. The indoor discussion will also feature a segment on the identification of raptors likely to be encountered in Massachusetts during the winter.

Participants will receive handouts, view slides, and examine preserved specimens of local winter raptors. A field trip will include a half-day cooperative effort to census raptors wintering in a high-density raptor area.

SEMINAR: Friday, January 17, 1986, 7:30 - 9:30 P.M.
Babson College, Forest Street, Wellesley, MA
Tomasso Hall, Room 209

FIELD TRIP: Saturday, January 18, 1986. Meet at 8:30 A.M.
COST: \$25 per person



OWLS - A Workshop on the Strigiformes

In this workshop the group will be introduced to the owl species of New England. There will be an emphasis on the many specialized adaptations of owls, owl feeding ecology, breeding biology, migration, interactions with humans, and the marvelous repertoire of owl vocalizations.

The lecture session will include handouts, slides, examination of study skins and owl pellets, and owl recordings, including some by the lecturer. A nocturnal field trip in search of owls will be followed by a group breakfast and a morning search for diurnal owls and other raptors.

SEMINAR: Friday, February 28, 1986, 7:30 - 9:30 P.M.
Babson College, Forest Street, Wellesley, MA
Tomasso Hall, Room 209

FIELD TRIP: Saturday, March 8, 1986. Meet at 3:00 A.M.
COST: \$25 per person



Wayne R. Petersen will conduct both of these workshops.

TO REGISTER, send your name, address, and phone number(s) along with a check made payable to BIRD OBSERVER to Martha Vaughan, 15 Elmwood Park, Newton, MA 02160. Telephone: 244-0166. The locations of the field trips will be decided after wintering owl and raptor concentrations become established.

BIRDING POND MEADOW PARK, BRAINTREE

by Robert Campbell, Weymouth
and Glenn d'Entremont, Randolph

One of the beneficial aspects of the gasoline shortage was that it motivated birders to do more exploring of birding sites close to home. In the Boston area, there are many good locations that are scarcely birded at all, but that have real potential. Many of us tend to develop a pattern of visits to the same tried and true sites year after year in their appropriate seasons. We often overlook promising areas in our own neighborhoods.

In the past few years, the authors have spent some time investigating the possibilities offered by Pond Meadow Park in Braintree and Weymouth. Pond Meadow Park was originally part of a flood control project for the Weymouth Landing area and was officially opened as a park in May of 1976. It is operated jointly by Weymouth and Braintree. The park comprises about 320 acres. It includes a variety of habitat - a twenty-acre pond, a meadow, marshy areas, deciduous woods, some open scrub area, and a few small pine groves. Much of the park is part of an old farm, and the visitor will notice many bits of evidence of the park's history such as old building foundations, escaped cultivated plant species, orchards, remnants of stone walls, and animal bones (mostly of pigs).

Access to the park is easy. From Route 3 south from Boston, take the Union Street exit in Braintree. Turn left under the Expressway and follow Union Street east past a Sunoco station to the first set of lights. At the lights, turn right onto Middle Street, go 0.5 of a mile and turn left onto Liberty Street (before the underpass). The park entrance is 0.1 mile on your right.

The front gate is open from 9 A.M. to 7 P.M. during Daylight Savings Time and from 9 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. thereafter. If the gate is open, you can drive down the dirt road to the dam at the far end of the pond. At other times, park so as not to block access to the road, and walk down.

At the dam, the first place to check is the picnic area at the edge of the pond. This is a good spot for spring migrants and seems to be particularly attractive to Warbling Vireos, which may nest here. Orchard Orioles have been seen here also. In early May, look along the sandy shore near the dam for Spotted or Solitary sandpipers. Every spring, one or two pairs of Spotted Sandpipers come in and visit for a week or so. This area is marked 1 on the map.

Before going around the pond, there is one short side trip which can be very productive. As you face the dam, there is a stony path to the left that is blocked off by a yellow pole gate. Walk

up this path, cross the paved bike trail, and continue straight down the path to a low swampy thicket. On an early winter morning this is an excellent place to find roosting Ruffed Grouse (2). In the spring, this is a good spot for warblers, vireos, and thrushes. As the path curves uphill to the left, look for Eastern Wood-Pewees and Great Crested Flycatchers, which seem to favor this area, as do Scarlet Tanagers. When the path forks at the top of the little hill, turn right and go down to another swampy spot directly behind the Archie T. Morrison elementary school (3). In May of 1983, two Hooded Warblers were seen here, one carrying nesting material! Blue-gray Gnatcatchers have nested here, and Winter Wren has been recorded. Check the bird feeders at the back of the school building. They are kept filled from late September until June.

Retrace your steps to the pond, and walk up onto the dam for a view of the pond. This really isn't much of a duck pond. The only regular species are American Black Ducks and Mallards, and a flock of Ring-necked Ducks that checks in every spring and fall. There are scattered appearances of other species of waterfowl, but nothing predictable. In the spring, Barn and Tree swallows catch insects over the surface of the water, and Northern Rough-winged Swallows are here every May. In early April and in October, look on the other side of the dam for Rusty Blackbirds, which appear here regularly along the stream.

After crossing the dam, you will come to a grassy dike alongside the pond. On the left side of this grassy area, there is a path entrance between two large boulders. Near the beginning of this path there is a small footbridge over a stream (4). Connecticut Warbler has been seen in the undergrowth of Jewelweed in September. In April, listen for Louisiana Waterthrush (two sightings): and for the woodland thrushes. If you come here in May, you should see one of Massachusetts' most beautiful insects, the Black-winged Damsel fly, whose preferred habitat is along these little shaded streams. Its metallic blue-green body and velvety black wings remind us that the birder who sees only birds and ignores the rest of the natural environment deprives himself of much enjoyment, both aesthetic and scientific.

As you walk farther along this path, you will notice an open area on your left. The undergrowth between this little field and the stream is a good place for American Woodcock and kinglets in the spring and is used as a grouse roost in winter.

Take the next path to the right. If it is spring, you will be in one of several Rufous-sided Towhee nesting territories. Follow this path, looking for warblers along the way, till you come to another little bridge on the edge of an old orchard (5). You should hear resident Yellow Warblers and Common Yellowthroats, and a glance at the trees will tell you that this is the place to look for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in season. This section of the trail is very good for migrant warblers, and one of the authors has seen both Kentucky and Orange-crowned warblers here.

POND MEADOW SPECIES LIST

In referring to this list, one must remember that the area has had limited coverage by birders. Further observation would probably result in an increase in species recorded, more proven breeders, and more complete data on the relative abundance of the species present. Much of this article was drafted before the bicycle path was paved in 1984. It remains to be seen how the paving of this path will increase traffic in the park and perhaps affect bird populations.

Although many of the summer resident species may perhaps be presumed to breed in the park, we have listed as breeders only those species for which we have observed definite evidence of nesting. The symbols used in the list are the following:

SM = spring migrant Y = present year-round W = winter resident
 FM = fall migrant M = migrant both seasons U = uncommon to rare
 SR = summer resident B = known breeder

Pied-billed Grebe	UM	Eastern Wood-Pewee	SR	Yellow-rumped Warbler	M
Great Cormorant	UFM	"Traill's" Flycatcher	UM	Black-throated Green Warb.	M
Double-cr. Cormorant	M	Least Flycatcher	SM	Blackburnian Warbler	M
Great Blue Heron	UM	Eastern Phoebe	M	Pine Warbler	USM
Green-backed Heron	M	Great Crested Flycatcher	SR	Prairie Warbler	USM
Black-cr. Night-Heron	UM	Eastern Kingbird	SR	Palm Warbler	M
Mute Swan	USM	Tree Swallow	SR	Bay-breasted Warbler	M
Canada Goose	UM	No. Rough-winged Swallow	SR	Blackpoll Warbler	M
Wood Duck	M	Barn Swallow	SR	Black-and-white Warbler	M
American Black Duck	UY	Blue Jay	YB	American Redstart	SR
Mallard	YB	American Crow	Y	Ovenbird	SR
Ring-necked Duck	M	Fish Crow	USM	Northern Waterthrush	USM
Common Goldeneye	UW	Black-capped Chickadee	YB	Louisiana Waterthrush	USM 2x
Bufflehead	UW	Tufted Titmouse	YB	Kentucky Warbler	SM 1x
Common Merganser	UFM	Red-breasted Nuthatch	UW	Connecticut Warbler	UFM
Turkey Vulture	USM	White-breasted Nuthatch	YB	Mourning Warbler	SM 1x
Osprey	UM	Brown Creeper	Y	Common Yellowthroat	SRB
Sharp-shinned Hawk	UM	Carolina Wren	U	Hooded Warbler	SM 1x
Red-shouldered Hawk	UM	House Wren	SRB	Wilson's Warbler	M
Broad-winged Hawk	SR B?	Winter Wren	UM 2x	Canada Warbler	M
Red-tailed Hawk	Y	Golden-crowned Kinglet	M	Scarlet Tanager	SR
American Kestrel	Y	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	M	Northern Cardinal	SRB
Ring-necked Pheasant	UY	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	MB	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	SRB
Ruffed Grouse	YB	Veery	UM SR?	Indigo Bunting	SRB
Northern Bobwhite	1x	Gray-cheeked Thrush	FM 1x	Rufous-sided Towhee	SRB
American Coot	UFM	Swainson's Thrush	UM	American Tree Sparrow	W
Killdeer	UM	Hermit Thrush	M	Chipping Sparrow	USM
Yellowlegs sp.	1x	Wood Thrush	SR	Field Sparrow	UM
Solitary Sandpiper	SM	American Robin	SRB	Savannah Sparrow	USM
Spotted Sandpiper	SM	Gray Catbird	SRB	Fox Sparrow	FM
American Woodcock	USR	Northern Mockingbird	SRB	Song Sparrow	YB
Ring-billed Gull	Y	Brown Thrasher	SRB	White-throated Sparrow	M
Herring Gull	Y	Cedar Waxwing	SR	Dark-eyed Junco	W
Great Black-backed Gull	Y	European Starling	Y	Bobolink	SM
Rock Dove	Y	Solitary Vireo	M	Red-winged Blackbird	SRB
Mourning Dove	Y	Yellow-throated Vireo	UM	Eastern Meadowlark	USM
Bl.-billed Cuckoo	UM SR?	Warbling Vireo	SR B?	Rusty Blackbird	M
Y.-billed Cuckoo	UM SR?	Philadelphia Vireo	UM	Common Grackle	SR
Eastern Screech-Owl	Y	Red-eyed Vireo	SR	Brown-headed Cowbird	SR
Great Horned Owl	YB	Blue-winged Warbler	M	Orchard Oriole	USM
Common Nighthawk	UM	Tennessee Warbler	M	Northern Oriole	SRB
Chimney Swift	SR	Orange-crowned Warbler	FM 1x	Purple Finch	UM
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	SM	Nashville Warbler	M	House Finch	Y
Belted Kingfisher	UM	Northern Parula	M	White-winged Crossbill	UW 1x
Yellow-bell. Sapsucker	M	Yellow Warbler	SRB	Common Redpoll	UW
Downy Woodpecker	YB	Chestnut-sided Warbler	M	Pine Siskin	UM
Hairy Woodpecker	YB	Magnolia Warbler	M	American Goldfinch	Y
Northern Flicker	SRB	Cape May Warbler	M	Evening Grosbeak	UM
Olive-s. Flycatcher	SM 1x	Black-throated Blue Warb.	M	House Sparrow	Y

This path ends where it joins the paved bike path. You are now in the most active spring birding area in the park (6). To your left is a large meadow; to your right, the bike road goes back to the grassy dike and the pond. Between the meadow and the pond, we have seen all the common warblers, plus Mourning Warbler, House Wren, Philadelphia Vireo, both cuckoos, kinglets, and tanagers. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Gray Catbirds, and Northern Orioles nest here every year. Walk down the path toward the pond, checking off the species on your field card as you go. Look on both sides of the dike for migrants, although the birds are usually more numerous on the side nearest the pond. In the little pine grove surrounding the picnic tables (7) a Great Horned Owl nested in 1977 and fledged one owlet in full view of the visitors to the park. Another nestling died when it fell from the nest.

Return up the path to the large meadow, observing birds that you missed on the way down. At the meadow (8), turn right and follow the path along the meadow's edge. On your left, in the meadow, look for Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks; in the shrubbery to your right, you will certainly see more warblers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, as well as flycatchers, American Goldfinches, and Indigo Buntings. Red-tailed Hawks and Broad-winged Hawks reside in the area and are often seen soaring here. There is evidence that Broad-winged Hawks nest in the park itself.

Take the first path on the right leading into the woods toward the pond (9). In the tangled growth along the path, one of the authors found two Connecticut Warblers in September of 1982. Farther down the path, at the footbridge, a Winter Wren presented itself to be recorded on a Quincy area Christmas Count on one memorable day. This area has some of the oldest trees in the park and there is much evidence of woodpecker activity. The Pileated Woodpecker holes, alas, are many years old, evidence of a former presence.

At this point, you have covered the prime birding territories in the park. In terms of birds-per-hour efficiency, your best bet is probably to go back the way you came, looking for birds that were not seen when you came into the park, especially if you are parked near the dam. On the other hand, if you left your car at the front entrance, you may wish to go forward to look at some different habitat areas.

If you elect to go forward, continue over the bridge and follow the path. Take the trail that leads off to the right, and check the thickets on both sides. Someone is going to be lucky and find a chat here some day. During migration and breeding season, this area will have more towhees, catbirds, and thrashers, along with a sprinkling of migrant warblers, vireos, and sometimes flycatchers.

This trail eventually rejoins the bike trail, which you can follow back to your car. On the way, you will go through an old

gravel pit overgrown with weeds, a good spot for sparrows if you can hear them over the Route 3 traffic. The paved path leads down to an open marshy area, where you might see a water snake if you are there on a bright sunny morning. When the trail crosses the inlet to the pond, look for Rusty Blackbirds in season. Continue along the trail to the parking area.

Pond Meadow Park can be covered in an hour or two. When you finish, you are within easy driving distance of several other good birding areas. For example, you might continue your birding day at Great Pond in Braintree, the Squantum-Wollaston area, World's End or Wompatuck State Park in Hingham, or Fowl Meadow in Milton. Why not spend a day on this part of the south shore next spring?

ROBERT A. CAMPBELL teaches fourth grade at the Archie T. Morrison School in Braintree. His original interest in natural history began with an enthusiasm for herpetology (he has observed and photographed both species of pit viper in Massachusetts), and he continues to maintain a small collection of live reptiles for study. He took up birding as a hobby in 1976. Bob met his co-author for the first time at the Penniman School in Braintree when he was teaching the sixth grade there and Glen was in his class. Since they have been birding together, Bob feels the roles of teacher and student have been somewhat reversed. He is grateful to Glenn and to David Brown of Quincy for tutelage in the fine points of birding.

GLENN d'ENTREMONT began his birding career with a trip to Manomet Bird Observatory in October of 1968. An accountant by profession, his concern is finding enough time to bird. His birding interests include field records and reports, looking for the unusual and the rare, and bird songs and vocalizations.

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THE MASSACHUSETTS NATURALIST'S LIBRARY

compiled and edited by Brian E. Cassie, Millis

Come, and take choice of all my library.

Shakespeare

Bird Observer asked a number of experienced Massachusetts naturalists to submit their ideas on which ten or fifteen books should make up the core of a well-rounded naturalist's library. The list of respondents includes writers, teachers, tour leaders, and lecturers, and their choices covered the spectrum of natural history publications, from expensive out-of-print classics to modern paperbacks. Some of the book lists are historical in nature; some are based on "most used" books. All are fascinating and insightful.

Almost without exception, our contributors found it difficult to limit themselves to fifteen books. (One, seemingly dismayed at the thought of leaving off a favorite title, listed forty-four! That took some editing.) In the listing that follows, entire and unabridged except for the limit of fifteen per person, the initials of the contributors appear with their choices; if a quote is given, it is from the first person so listed.

My grateful thanks to all of the respondents (even the over-zealous ones). If you find this article an inspiration to expand your library, it is due in full measure to the devotion of these naturalists: Kathleen Anderson, Dorothy Arvidson, Nancy Clayton, Betty Anderson Falxa, Richard Forster, Wayne Hanley, John Kricher, Wayne Petersen, Bob Prescott, Bruce Sorrie, Don and Lillian Stokes, Tom Tynning, Richard Walton, and the writer.

Books on Birds.

Allen, Francis H. (editor). 1910. *THOREAU'S BIRD LORE: NOTES ON NEW ENGLAND BIRDS*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston. "A primary source book; representative of the roots of natural history." - R.W.

Austin, Jr., Oliver L. 1971. *FAMILIES OF BIRDS*. Western Publishing, New York. - D.A., R.F.

Bagg, Aaron C. and Samuel A. Eliot, Jr. 1937. *BIRDS OF THE CONNECTICUT VALLEY IN MASSACHUSETTS*. Hampshire Bookshop, Northampton. - N.C.

Bent, Arthur Cleveland, et al. 1919-1968. *LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS*. U.S.G.P.O., Washington, D.C. "[It] properly belongs in any naturalist's library." - W.P.; D.A. B.F., D. & L.S.

Forbush, Edward Howe. 1925-1929. *BIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES*. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Boston. "Aside from its historic value as the greatest state bird book of its era (and perhaps, even ours), Forbush's *BIRDS*

- reflects many qualities, including the author's enthusiasm for the subject. It arrived in a period in which ornithology was in transition from the old style of firing a shotgun into a bush and counting what fell out to the modern school of optical observation. As a result, the book contains not only the color illustrations which modern birders can use but also the detailed description necessary for identifying a bird in hand, information not available in many modern works." - W.H.; K.A., D.A., B.C., N.C., B.F., R.F., J.K., W.P.
- Grant, Peter J. 1982. *GULLS, A GUIDE TO IDENTIFICATION*. T. and A. D. Poyser. Carlton, England. - B.P.
- Griscom, Ludlow. 1949. *THE BIRDS OF CONCORD*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge. "Excellent historical account of ornithological changes and population trends in Massachusetts bird populations, in addition to a fine summary of the work of William Brewster, who certainly was one of the state's greatest pioneer ornithologists. A must for all local birders." - W.P., K.A.
- Griscom, Ludlow and Dorothy Snyder. 1955. *THE BIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS; AN ANNOTATED AND REVISED CHECK LIST*. Peabody Museum, Salem. "This and Richard Veit's update, once published, are the sequels to Forbush, less lyric but factual analyses of the current status of the Commonwealth's avifauna." - K.A.; B.C.
- Harrison, Colin. 1978. *A FIELD GUIDE TO THE NESTS, EGGS, AND NESTLINGS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS*. Collins, Edinburgh. "Essential for anyone interested in atlasing, breeding bird surveys, finding and identifying nests." - K.A.; D.A.
- Hickey, Joseph J. 1943. *A GUIDE TO BIRD WATCHING*. Oxford University Press, New York. "A classic by a distinguished birdwatching scientist and teacher who was a pioneer in the field of wildlife ecology, this book is still, after 42 years, being reprinted as a popular paperback. A comprehensive and readable how-to book that encompasses all aspects of bird watching and shows how scientific principles can be applied by the amateur naturalist 'to explore the mysteries of bird life.'" - D.A.
- Hill, Norman P. 1965. *THE BIRDS OF CAPE COD, MASSACHUSETTS*. William Morrow, New York. "A fine local study based largely on the work of Ludlow Griscom and earlier field observers. While out of date in some ways, the historical accounts of the change in species status, as well as the general descriptions of the Cape's avifauna, are among the best to be found anywhere." - W.P.
- Leahy, Christopher. 1982. *THE BIRDWATCHER'S COMPANION, AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDLIFE*. Hill and Wang, New York. "A basic, readable reference to all aspects of ornithology for anyone with more than a casual interest in birds." - K.A.; D.A., B.C., N.C., R.F., J.K., W.P.
- Mead, Chris. 1983. *BIRD MIGRATION*. Facts on File, New York. - N.C.

- National Geographic Society. 1983. *FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA*. N.G.S., Washington. "This is an excellent back-up to Peterson with superb illustrations, good range maps, national coverage, and alternate plumages." - D.& L.S.; K.A., B.P.
- Pasquier, Roger F. 1977. *WATCHING BIRDS, AN INTRODUCTION TO ORNITHOLOGY*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston. "I suggest this as an alternative to Welty's book for those who might be discouraged at the prospect of a textbook on their library shelf. It certainly has enough information for the average birder." - D.A.; B.C., R.F.
- Pettingill, Jr., Olin Sewall. 1977. *A GUIDE TO BIRD-FINDING EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston - B.F.
- Pough, Richard H. 1949, 1951. *AUDUBON LAND BIRD GUIDE, AUDUBON WATER BIRD GUIDE*. Doubleday, Garden City. "Still the most concise and informative guides to habits and habitats of eastern birds." - K.A.; D.A., B.C.
- Stokes, Donald W. 1979, 1983. *A GUIDE TO THE BEHAVIOR OF COMMON BIRDS, A GUIDE TO BIRD BEHAVIOR, VOLUME II*. Little, Brown, Boston. "The lives of fifty widely distributed, frequently encountered birds. . . in field guide format." - D.& L.S.; K.A.
- Stout, G. D. (editor). 1967. *THE SHOREBIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA*. Viking Press, New York. "A treasure of a book with Robert Verity Clem's exquisite shorebird plates, Peter Matthiessen's scholarly and poetic text (originally ran in *The New Yorker*), and Ralph S. Palmer's species accounts. If this magnificent volume is beyond your means, *THE WIND BIRDS* by Matthiessen, Viking Press, 1973, is a reprint of the above text with drawings by Robert Gillmor." - D.A.; N.C.
- Terres, John K. 1980. *THE AUDUBON SOCIETY ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS*. Knopf, New York. "One of those rare books that lives up to its title: it is, indeed, the encyclopedia of North American birds. Almost any question regarding birds has been answered, and the species accounts of all North American birds have been brought up to date. The 875 color photographs, which include every bird nesting in North America, may be worth the rather substantial cost of the volume." - W.H.; D.A., B.C., R.F.
- Walton, Richard. 1984. *BIRDS OF THE SUDBURY RIVER VALLEY: AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE*. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln. "A fine updating of Griscom's earlier book, with some original material on the observations of Thoreau, plus the writings of more recent workers. Includes a carefully screened annotated list of birds of the region under discussion." - W.P.; K.A., N.C.
- Welty, Joel Carl. 1982. *THE LIFE OF BIRDS*. Saunders, Philadelphia. "A superb text on ornithology. Absolutely required as a reference book for anyone interested in the biology of birds." - D.A.; N.C.

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Reprint 1979. Penguin, New York - N.C.

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"This is the best and most complete review of the most recent research on mammals. Leaves out one or two common species such as deer mouse and eastern chipmunk but otherwise is superb." - D. & L.S.

Godin, Alfred J. 1977. *WILD MAMMALS OF NEW ENGLAND*. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore. "The most complete mammal report ever done for New England. Godin bases distribution upon known specimens collected in towns and counties rather than upon conjecture. Mammalogy is a field in which there usually are a few disputes over scientific names, etc., but Godin's opinions are as reliable as any and more so than most." - W.H.; K.A., B.C., N.C., R.F., J.K., W.P., B.P.

Katona, Steve and David Richardson. 1983. *A FIELD GUIDE TO THE WHALES, PORPOISES, AND SEALS OF THE GULF OF MAINE AND EASTERN CANADA*. Scribner's, New York. "A useful guide for anyone going to sea to observe mammals and birds." - W.P.; N.C., B.F., W.H.

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Wright, Bruce S. 1972. *THE EASTERN PANTHER*. Clark Irwin, Toronto. "Not a basic reference, but an intriguing book for those of us whose spines tingle when we hear reports of 'cougars' as close as Quabbin." - K.A.

Books on Fishes.

Bigelow, Henry B. and William C. Schroeder. 1953. *FISHES OF THE GULF OF MAINE*. U. S. Department of Interior, Washington. "The thoroughness and reliability of this work on description, distribution, and life histories of the saltwater species between Nantucket Shoals and Cape Sable are incredible." - W.H.; B.F., W.P., B.P.

Books on Reptiles and Amphibians.

Lazell, Jr., Jame D. 1976. *THIS BROKEN ARCHIPELAGO: CAPE COD AND THE ISLANDS, AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES*. Quadrangle, New York. "An outstanding and entertaining accounting of the 'herps' of the cape and the islands. Contains much excellent biogeography not readily available for the Massachusetts region. Should be read by anyone with an interest in local natural history, not just in herptiles." - W.P.; W.H., B.P., T.T.

Books on Invertebrates.

- Abbott, Robert Tucker. 1974. *AMERICAN SEASHELLS*. Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York. "An important reference for malacologist and amateur alike." B.C.; B.P.
- Comstock, J. H. 1924. *INTRODUCTION TO ENTOMOLOGY*. Comstock Publishing Company, Ithaca, New York. "This is an older book that is still a goldmine of information about the lives and behavior of all kinds of insects. It is the best single source for information on a wide spectrum of insects." - D. & L.S.; "a revered textbook from the distant past." - D.A.
- Gould, Augustus A. 1870. *REPORT ON THE INVERTEBRATA OF MASSACHUSETTS, Second Edition*, edited by W. G. Binney. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Boston. "This volume deals almost exclusively with molluscs; land, freshwater, and marine. It is one of the very few books ever published on Massachusetts shells, and, although difficult to obtain, it is well worth the effort." - B.C.
- Milne, Lorus and Margery Milne. 1980. *THE AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICAN INSECTS AND SPIDERS*. Knopf, New York. "No one book is enough to identify even a small number of insects. But this has the most color pictures and along with Comstock's book will lead you, with work, to at least the right family." - D. & L.S.
- Opler, Paul A. and George O. Krizek. 1984. *BUTTERFLIES EAST OF THE GREAT PLAINS; AN ILLUSTRATED NATURAL HISTORY*. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore. "Up-to-date nomenclature and range maps, as well as good species accounts, make this a valuable reference." - B.C.; R.F.
- Scudder, Samuel Hubbard. 1899. *EVERY-DAY BUTTERFLIES, A GROUP OF BIOGRAPHIES*. "Scudder wrote a number of works on insects, especially butterflies, and this is an excellent example of his ability to combine scholarship with popular writing. For life history details, nothing else comes close." - B.C.
- Stokes, Donald W. 1984. *A GUIDE TO OBSERVING INSECT LIVES*. Little, Brown, Boston. "Complete, year-round life histories of sixty of our most common insects. . . . includes the most recent scientific research." - D. & L.S.

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- Collingwood, G. H. 1946. *KNOWING YOUR TREES*. American Forestry Association, Washington, D.C. "This is a marvelous book that shows details of branching structure, flowers, fruit, bark, summer silhouette of all the major trees in North America. It also contains great text on the natural history of each tree." - D. & L.S.
- Eaton, R. J. 1974. *A FLORA OF CONCORD; FROM THOREAU'S TIME TO THE PRESENT DAY*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge. - R.F.

- Elias, T. S. 1980. *THE COMPLETE TREES OF NORTH AMERICA: A FIELD GUIDE AND NATURAL HISTORY*. Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York. "Descriptions, drawings (many in color), range maps of all species." - B.S. [Note: Bruce Sorrie developed a list of "essential botanical works for someone wanting to know the flora of Massachusetts." All of the following titles accompanied by his initials are "essential" in his opinion.]
- Fernald, Merritt Lyndon. 1970. *GRAY'S MANUAL OF BOTANY, EIGHTH (CENTENNIAL) EDITION*. D. Van Nostrand Company, New York. "Obviously the most complete classification of plants in the East." - D. & L.S.; B.S.
- Gleason, H. A. 1952. *THE NEW BRITTON AND BROWN ILLUSTRATED FLORA OF THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES AND ADJACENT CANADA*. New York Botanical Garden, New York. "Beware of the Dover publication (1970), a reprint of the 1913 edition, now badly out of date." - B.S.; R.F.
- Hellquist, C. B. and G. E. Crow. 1980-. *AQUATIC VASCULAR PLANTS OF NEW ENGLAND*. University of New Hampshire, Durham. "Continuing series of booklets." - B.S.
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- Luer, C. A. 1975. *THE NATIVE ORCHIDS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA EXCLUDING FLORIDA*. New York Botanical Garden, New York. "The definitive work." - B.S.
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- Mitchell, R. S., (editor). 1978-. *CONTRIBUTIONS TO A FLORA OF NEW YORK STATE*. New York State Museum, Albany. "Continuing series of booklets, each covering specific families or genera. Extremely useful for New England." - B.S.
- Newcomb, Lawrence. 1977. *NEWCOMB'S WILDFLOWER GUIDE*. Little, Brown, Boston. "Complete, including shrubs, and focuses on the Northeast." - J.K.; K.A., D.A., R.F., B.P., B.S.
- Seymour, Frank Conkling. 1982. *THE FLORA OF NEW ENGLAND, SECOND EDITION*. H. N. Moldenke, Plainfield. "Fine keys, distributional lists by county, and includes the whole state



under one cover. Other good floras are too local in coverage."
- W.P.; K.A., B.F., W.H., B.S.

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Symonds, George W. D. 1963. *THE SHRUB IDENTIFICATION BOOK*. William Morrow, New York. "The use of photos, keys, and key descriptions makes this a useful volume for the identification of what can otherwise be a difficult group of plants."
- W.P.; D. & L.S.

Underhill, Miriam. 1964. *MOUNTAIN FLOWERS OF NEW ENGLAND*. Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston. - B.F.

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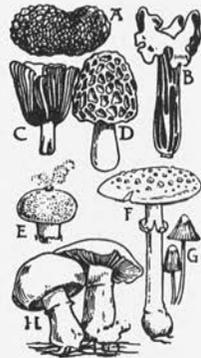
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Beston, Henry. 1928. *THE OUTERMOST HOUSE*. Doubleday, Doran, Garden City. "Beston was one of America's finest writers; this is his masterpiece." - B.C.; T.T.

Brewster, William. 1936. *OCTOBER FARM*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge. - R.W.

Brooks, Paul. 1980. *SPEAKING FOR NATURE*. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco. - R.W.





A Massachusetts Naturalist's

Master List

The list of titles given below are the books that appeared on three or more contributors' lists. For those who like the notion of a master list - this is it!

- BENT: *LIFE HISTORIES OF AMERICAN BIRDS*
- BERRILL AND BERRILL: *A SIERRA CLUB NATURALIST'S GUIDE TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COAST*
- BIGELOW AND SCHROEDER: *FISHES OF THE GULF OF MAINE*
- FORBUSH: *BIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES*
- GODIN: *WILD MAMMALS OF NEW ENGLAND*
- HANLEY: *NATURAL HISTORY IN AMERICA*
- JORGENSEN: *A GUIDE TO NEW ENGLAND'S LANDSCAPE*
- JORGENSEN: *A SIERRA CLUB NATURALIST'S GUIDE TO SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND.*
- KATONA AND RICHARDSON: *A FIELD GUIDE TO THE WHALES, PORPOISES, AND SEALS OF THE GULF OF MAINE AND EASTERN CANADA*
- LAZELL: *THIS BROKEN ARCHIPELAGO*
- LEMY: *THE BIRDWATCHER'S COMPANION*
- NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY: *FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA*
- NEWCOMB: *NEWCOMB'S WILDFLOWER GUIDE*
- PASQUIER: *WATCHING BIRDS*
- PETERSON: *A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS*
- PETERSON AND McKENNY: *A FIELD GUIDE TO WILDFLOWERS*
- POUGH: *AUDUBON LAND and WATER BIRD GUIDES*
- SEYMOUR: *THE FLORA OF NEW ENGLAND*
- TERRIS: *AUDUBON SOCIETY ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS*
- THOMPSON: *THE CHANGING FACE OF NEW ENGLAND*
- WALTON: *BIRDS OF THE SUDBURY RIVER VALLEY*



- Carson, Rachel. 1951. *THE SEA AROUND US*. Oxford University Press, New York. - D.A., T.T.
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- Chamberlain, B. B. 1964. *THESE FRAGILE OUTPOSTS*. Doubleday, Garden City. - R.W.
- Chambers, Kenneth A. 1979. *A COUNTRY LOVER'S GUIDE TO WILDLIFE*. American Mirror Library, New York. "Excellent life history information with good color illustrations of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians." - J.K.
- Cronon, William. 1983. *CHANGES IN THE LAND: INDIANS, COLONISTS, AND THE ECOLOGY OF NEW ENGLAND*. "This book focuses on the contrasting views of the environment held by native Americans and colonists. Very informative." - J.K.; R.W.
- Darwin, Charles. 1890. *THE VOYAGE OF THE H.M.S. BEAGLE*. D. Appleton, New York. - R.W.
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- Gould, Stephen Jay. 1980. *THE PANDA'S THUMB, MORE REFLECTIONS IN NATURAL HISTORY*. W. W. Norton, New York. "Whether explaining the thumb of the Panda, the smile of the flamingo or 'south-paws among snails,' Gould leads the reader lightheartedly through the complexities of evolution, speciation, taxonomy, and Darwinian theory toward a real appreciation of how the natural world became what it is. Read anything he writes!" - D.A.
- Hanley, Wayne. 1977. *NATURAL HISTORY IN AMERICA*. Quadrangle, New York. "This book deals with the most important personalities to influence American natural history; it is a series of short biographies. Well-written, with good illustrations." - J.K.; T.T., R.W.
- Hay, John. 1979. *THE RUN*. W. W. Norton, New York. - B.F.
- Jorgensen, Neil. 1971. *A GUIDE TO NEW ENGLAND'S LANDSCAPE*. Barre Publishers, Barre. "An excellent reference to the to the geology and plant geography of New England. Includes lots of nice photos and lists outstanding spots to visit." - W.P.; K.A., J.K., R.W.
- Jorgensen, Neil. 1978. *A SIERRA CLUB NATURALIST'S GUIDE TO SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND*. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco. "A sophisticated treatment of the landscape, land, biological communities, and history of land use. The environmental perspectives are based upon field work and modern knowledge that earlier authors did not have available." - W.H.; B.C., J.K., W.P.
- Klots, Elsie B. 1966. *THE NEW FIELD BOOK OF FRESHWATER LIFE*. G. P. Putnam Sons, New York. "Not so 'new' today but contains

good text and profuse illustrations not readily attainable." - W.H.

- Matthiessen, Peter. 1959. *WILDLIFE IN AMERICA*. Viking Press, New York. "Excellent written account of early American wildlife and the effect of colonization on it. Covers the entire country. Excellent pen and ink drawings." - J.K.
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- Richardson, Wyman. 1980. *THE HOUSE ON NAUSET MARSH*. Chatham Press, Old Greenwich. - R.W.
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- Tanner, Ogden. 1974. *NEW ENGLAND WILDS*. Time-Life Books, New York. "Integrates New England ecology with history. Superb color photographs." - J.K.
- Teale, Edwin Way. 1981. *NORTH WITH THE SPRING*. Dodd, Mead, New York. - B.F.
- Teal, John and Mildred Teal. 1969. *LIFE AND DEATH OF THE SALT MARSH*. Little, Brown, New York. - D.A., B.F.
- Thompson, Betty Flanders. 1958. *THE CHANGING FACE OF NEW ENGLAND*. Macmillan, New York. "Fascinating guide to understanding our landscape, what it is, and how it came to be this way." - K.A.; W.P., R.W.
- Thoreau, Henry David. 1966. *WALDEN*. Peter Pauper Press, White Plains. - T.T.
- Torrey, Bradford and Francis H. Allen. 1962. *THE JOURNAL OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU*. Dover, New York. - B.F.
- White, Gilbert. 1977. *THE NATURAL HISTORY OF SELBORNE*. Penguin, New York. R.W.

Books in Series.

"PETERSON" FIELD GUIDES. Houghton Mifflin, Boston. A number of contributors recommended this series as a whole. Those titles singled out for excellence were *ATLANTIC SEASHORE*, *BIRDS*, *BIRDS' NESTS*, *FERNS*, *TREES AND SHRUBS*, and *WILDFLOWERS*.

BRIAN E. CASSIE runs a natural history book business, *IBIS BOOKS*. He has led Massachusetts Audubon Society tours in Canada, the U.S.A, and Mexico. Marine mollusks, birds, and butterflies are his passions. (Snakes, also, but Sarah Jane won't let them in the house.)



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AUTUMN SEABIRD MIGRATION AT MANOMET POINT

by Vincent G. Yurkunas, Bondsville

Every year along the coast of Massachusetts thousands of seabirds migrate to their wintering grounds. Sites such as Halibut Point and Andrews Point on Cape Ann and Sandy Neck Beach and Race Point on Cape Cod provide observers with excellent views of this fascinating avian phenomenon. Manomet Point, an elevated promontory located on the South Shore in Plymouth, is another reliable lookout. Since 1967 an average of 41,000 migratory seabirds have been recorded annually during "Operation Seawatch," an ongoing research project conducted by personnel at Manomet Bird Observatory.

Over the years the primary purpose of "Operation Seawatch" has been to monitor the migratory populations of Black (*Melanitta nigra*), Surf (*M. perspicillata*), and White-winged (*M. fusca*) scoters, and various aspects of scoter migration have been described (Petersen 1971, Norton 1974, Riccitelli 1978, Sommers 1982, Bryan 1983, Yurkunas 1985). However, large numbers of other seabird species, particularly Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), Northern Gannet (*Sula bassanus*), and Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*), are also seen (Yurkunas 1985).

The most important factor governing the observation of migrants at Manomet Point is the weather. Local weather systems influence the bird-to-shore distance when a flight is in progress. Generally, weather systems with strong northwest to southwest winds drive birds away from shore, decreasing the chance for close-up viewing, while systems with strong northeast to southeast winds blow birds toward shore, many times affording observers a "bird's-eye view" of passing migrants. Particularly affected by strong offshore winds are the more pelagic species such as gannets, shearwaters, storm-petrels, and alcids.

The main purpose of this article is to describe the migratory populations of sixty-one species of seabirds observed at Manomet Point during the first eighteen years of "Operation Seawatch."



Flying White-winged Scoters

Illustration by Denise Braunhardt

Because the entire population of any migratory species cannot be counted from a single location, a relative abundance rating was used to assign the descriptive terms depicted graphically in Table 1. This rating was based on the mean monthly number of birds per hour (BPH) over the entire observation period and was computed by dividing the total number of individuals of each species per month by the total number of hours of observation for that month. The number of hours of observation for the months of September, October, November, and December were 329.3, 1372.8, 319.4, and 36.0, respectively. As an example, 16 Red-throated Loons (*Gavia stellata*) were observed during the month of September. Therefore, a BPH of $16/329.3$ or 0.049 places this species in the Rare category.

Another way of determining which species are most likely to be seen when was to calculate the probability of observation (Table 2). This method was based on the monthly frequency of occurrence of each species during the entire observation period and was computed by dividing the number of months a species was seen by the total number of months of observation. The number of months during which observations were made for September, October, November, and December were 16, 18, 16 and 5, respectively. As an example, the Red-throated Loon was observed during 4 of the 16 months of observation during September. Therefore, the chance of seeing that species that month is $4/16$ or 0.25.

The relative abundance rating and probability of observation may seem underestimated for several species. Because the emphasis of "Operation Seawatch" has been on scoter migration, observers have concentrated on those species, perhaps resulting in a less thorough count of other birds.

Records of species observed ten or fewer times (Table 3) are presented to detail as much as possible the temporal pattern of their migration at Manomet Point.

I would like to thank Trevor Lloyd-Evans, Senior Staff Biologist at Manomet Bird Observatory, for the extended use of "Operation Seawatch" data. Duncan S. Evered provided helpful comments on an earlier draft of the article.

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References continued on page 257.

Table 1. Relative abundance of 61 seabird species observed migrating southward past Manomet during "Operation Seawatch," 1967-1984.

Legend: Abundant (100.000+ BPH) ██████████
 Common (10.001 - 100.000 BPH) ██████████
 Uncommon (1.001 - 10.000 BPH) ██████████
 Occasional (0.101 - 1.000 BPH) -----
 Rare (0.011 - 0.100 BPH)
 Accidental (0.000 - 0.010 BPH) *
 Ten or fewer records *

SPECIES	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Red-throated Loon (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Common Loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
*Pied-billed Grebe (<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>)	.....	.....	Acc.	.....
Horned Grebe (<i>Podiceps auritus</i>)	Acc.	.....	Acc.	-----
Red-necked Grebe (<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>)	.....	.....	.....	-----
*Northern Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	.....
Cory's Shearwater (<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Greater Shearwater (<i>Puffinus gravis</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
*Sooty Shearwater (<i>Puffinus griseus</i>)	Acc.	.....	.....	.....
*Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	.....
*Wilson's Storm-Petrel (<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	.....
*Leach's Storm-Petrel (<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	.....
Northern Gannet (<i>Sula bassanus</i>)	-----	-----	██████████	██████████
Great Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Double-crested Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>)	-----	-----	-----	-----
*Snow Goose (<i>Chen caerulescens</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	.....
Brant (<i>Branta bernicla</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Canada Goose (<i>Branta canadensis</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
*Wood Duck (<i>Aix sponsa</i>)	Acc.	Acc.	.....	.....
Green-winged Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
American Black Duck (<i>Anas rubripes</i>)	-----	-----	-----	-----
Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	Acc.	.....	.....	.....
Northern Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Blue-winged Teal (<i>Anas discors</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
*American Wigeon (<i>Anas americana</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
*Canvasback (<i>Aythya valisineria</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	.....
Greater Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
*Lesser Scaup (<i>Aythya affinis</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	.....
Common Eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)	-----	██████████	██████████	██████████
*King Eider (<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	.....
*Harlequin Duck (<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	.....
Oldsquaw (<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>)	Acc.	.....	██████████	██████████
Black Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>)	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Surf Scoter (<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>)	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
White-winged Scoter (<i>Melanitta fusca</i>)	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Common Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)	.....	.....	██████████	██████████
Bufflehead (<i>Bucephala albeola</i>)	-----	-----	-----	-----
*Hooded Merganser (<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>)	.....	Acc.	Acc.	.....
Common Merganser (<i>Mergus merganser</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)	-----	██████████	██████████	██████████
*Ruddy Duck (<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	.....
*Red-necked Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	.....
*Pomarine Jaeger (<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>)	Acc.	Acc.	Acc.	.....
Parasitic Jaeger (<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Laughing Gull (<i>Larus atricilla</i>)	Acc.	.....	.....	.....
*Little Gull (<i>Larus minutus</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	.....
*Common Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>)	.....	Acc.	Acc.	.....
Bonaparte's Gull (<i>Larus philadelphia</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
*Iceland Gull (<i>Larus glaucooides</i>)	Acc.	Acc.	Acc.	.....
Black-legged Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>)	Acc.	.....	.....	.....
*Caspian Tern (<i>Sterna caspia</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	.....
*Royal Tern (<i>Sterna maxima</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	.....
*Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	.....
Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
*Forster's Tern (<i>Sterna forsteri</i>)	Acc.	.....	Acc.	.....
*Least Tern (<i>Sterna antillarum</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	.....
Dovekie (<i>Alle alle</i>)	.....	.....	.....	-----
*Common Murre (<i>Uria aalge</i>)	.....	.....	Acc.	.....
*Thick-billed Murre (<i>Uria lomvia</i>)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>)	.....	Acc.	.....	-----
*Black Guillemot (<i>Cepphus grylle</i>)	.....	Acc.	Acc.	-----

Table 2. Probability of observing 61 seabird species from Manomet Point during "Operation Seawatch," 1967-1984.

Legend: 81% - 100% ██████████
 61% - 80% ██████████
 41% - 60% ██████████
 21% - 40% ██████████
 0% - 20% ██████████
 Ten or fewer records *

SPECIES	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Red-throated Loon (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)	-----	██████████	██████████	-----
Common Loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	██████████	██████████	██████████	-----
*Pied-billed Grebe (<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>)
Horned Grebe (<i>Podiceps auritus</i>)
Red-necked Grebe (<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>)
*Northern Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>)
Cory's Shearwater (<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>)
Greater Shearwater (<i>Puffinus gravis</i>)
*Sooty Shearwater (<i>Puffinus griseus</i>)
*Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>)
*Wilson's Storm-Petrel (<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>)
*Leach's Storm-Petrel (<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>)
Northern Gannet (<i>Sula bassanus</i>)	██████████	██████████	██████████	-----
Great Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)	██████████	██████████	██████████	-----
Double-crested Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>)	██████████	██████████	██████████	-----
*Snow Goose (<i>Chen caerulescens</i>)
Brant (<i>Branta bernicla</i>)	██████████	██████████	-----
Canada Goose (<i>Branta canadensis</i>)	██████████	██████████	-----
*Wood Duck (<i>Aix sponsa</i>)
Green-winged Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)	██████████	██████████	██████████	-----
American Black Duck (<i>Anas rubripes</i>)	██████████	██████████	██████████	-----
Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)
Northern Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)
Blue-winged Teal (<i>Anas discors</i>)
*American Wigeon (<i>Anas americana</i>)
*Canvasback (<i>Aythya valisineria</i>)
Greater Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>)	██████████	██████████	-----
*Lesser Scaup (<i>Aythya affinis</i>)
Common Eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)	██████████	██████████	██████████	-----
*King Eider (<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>)
*Harlequin Duck (<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>)
Oldsquaw (<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>)	██████████	██████████	-----
Black Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>)	██████████	██████████	██████████	-----
Surf Scoter (<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>)	██████████	██████████	██████████	-----
White-winged Scoter (<i>Melanitta fusca</i>)	██████████	██████████	██████████	-----
Common Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)
Bufflehead (<i>Bucephala albeola</i>)
*Hooded Merganser (<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>)
Common Merganser (<i>Mergus merganser</i>)
Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)	██████████	██████████	██████████	-----
*Ruddy Duck (<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>)
*Red-necked Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>)
*Pomarine Jaeger (<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>)
Parasitic Jaeger (<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>)
Laughing Gull (<i>Larus atricilla</i>)
*Little Gull (<i>Larus minutus</i>)
*Common Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>)
Bonaparte's Gull (<i>Larus philadelphia</i>)
*Iceland Gull (<i>Larus glaucooides</i>)
Black-legged Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>)
*Caspian Tern (<i>Sterna caspia</i>)
*Royal Tern (<i>Sterna maxima</i>)
*Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>)
Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)	██████████	██████████	-----
*Forster's Tern (<i>Sterna forsteri</i>)
*Least Tern (<i>Sterna antillarum</i>)
Dovekie (<i>Alle alle</i>)
*Common Murre (<i>Uria aalge</i>)
*Thick-billed Murre (<i>Uria lomvia</i>)
Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>)
*Black Guillemot (<i>Cephus grylle</i>)

Table 3. Records of seabird species observed ten or fewer times at Manomet Point during "Operation Seawatch," 1967-1984

Pied-billed Grebe: November 30, 1984 - one.

Northern Fulmar: October 4, 1971 - five; October 17, 1971 - one; October 18, 1971 - one; October 30, 1972 - one; October 2, 1984 - one.

Sooty Shearwater: September 9, 1969 - one.

Manx Shearwater: October 7, 1972 - two.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: October 26, 1970 - one; October 30, 1981 - one.

Leach's Storm-Petrel: October 17, 1971 - two; October 24, 1971 - one; October 29, 1973 - two.

Snow Goose: November 29, 1969 - one; October 23, 1980 - twelve; November 10, 1980 - fifteen.

Wood Duck: September 28, 1972 - one; October 3, 1979 - one.

American Wigeon: October 8, 1967 - thirty; September 27, 1968 - two; September 29, 1968 - three; November 8, 1969 - twenty-eight; October 9, 1970 - one; October 1, 1971 - one; October 9, 1971 - one; November 6, 1971 - three; October 9, 1973 - eight.

Canvasback: October 30, 1971 - two.

Lesser Scaup: October 10, 1968 - five.

King Eider: October 25, 1970 - one; October 27, 1970 - one; October 17, 1971 - three; October 31, 1971 - two; October 28, 1976 - one; November 19, 1984 - four; December 2, 1984 - one; December 14, 1984 - one.

Harlequin Duck: October 2, 1984 - one; November 1, 1984 - one; November 8, 1984 - three.

Hooded Merganser: October 25, 1970 - one; November 1, 1972 - three; October 30, 1977 - ten; December 6, 1984 - two.

Ruddy Duck: October 19, 1968 - one; October 21, 1971 - five; October 4, 1976 - three; October 20, 1976 - two; October 23, 1976 - two.

Red-necked Phalarope: October 24, 1971 - three.

Pomarine Jaeger: November 2, 1969 - one; September 21, 1977 - two; October 23, 1984 - one.

Little Gull: October 11, 1970 - two; October 12, 1970 - two.

Common Black-headed Gull: October 9, 1971 - one; October 24, 1974 - one; October 25, 1974 - one; November 10, 1984 - one; December 9, 1984 - one.

Iceland Gull: September 27, 1968 - one; October 26, 1976 - one; November 8, 1976 - one.

Caspian Tern: October 14, 1972 - two; October 13, 1979 - two.

Royal Tern: October 6, 1980 - three.

Roseate Tern: September 9, 1969 - five; September 10, 1969 - two; September 12, 1969 - six; October 6, 1972 - one.

Forster's Tern: September 14, 1969 - one; September 28, 1972 - two; November 11, 1976 - one; November 2, 1983 - one; November 5, 1983 - one.

Least Tern: September 12, 1969 - seven; September 18, 1969 - three; September 23, 1969 - one; September 24, 1970 - fourteen; October 23, 1976 - thirteen.

Common Murre: November 25, 1975 - two.

Thick-billed Murre: November 6, 1969 - one; November 8, 1969 - one; November 10, 1969 - eight; November 19, 1979 - five.

Black Guillemot: October 31, 1979 - one; November 25, 1984 - one; December 1, 1984 - two; December 6, 1984 - three.

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VINCENT G. YURKUNAS, who has his M.S. in Wildlife from Louisiana State, first became interested in birds in college when he took an ornithology course at the University of Massachusetts and has been an active birder ever since. He developed "an intense passion for raptors" and worked at the Raptor Information Center of the National Wildlife Federation in 1979 and at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory in Michigan in 1985. He also banded waterfowl in Alberta, Canada, for the USFWS, served as research intern at MBO, and worked as a field biologist at the Kalamazoo Nature Center, collecting data for the Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas. Most of his ten years of experience have been in the east, but since 1982, he has expanded his birding in travels through a number of western states and northern Mexico.

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"Come In And Talk Birds"

THE IPSWICH CATTLE EGRETS

by Jim Berry, Ipswich

As abundant as Cattle Egrets have become in the southeastern United States, they have not been expanding to any significant degree in Massachusetts. Here they are still a local species and not always easy to find.

One of the best places in the state to see Cattle Egrets is Ipswich and neighboring Essex. Here, they come daily from May till early October to feed in the pastures of the local cattle farms, following the cows and gobbling whatever creatures are kicked up or occasionally following a plowing tractor for the same reason, as they do down south. Although they have been seen on several Ipswich farms, such as the large one along Route 133 known as "Maplecroft," the best place to see them is the Appleton Farm, which lies on the west side of Route 1A, immediately north of the Hamilton-Ipswich town line.

Appleton Farm (officially, "Farms") is almost as old as Ipswich. The town was established in 1634, and the Appletons started their farm four years later. It has been a working cattle farm ever since and is believed to be the oldest farm in continuous operation in the United States. The current herd, which consists of Holsteins and Jerseys, was organized in 1969 when the current manager took over the operation of the farm and turned it into one of the best dairy operations in New England.

There are several pastures in this five-hundred-acre farm, which is also a wildlife preserve. (An additional 164 acres of the Appleton property, along Cutler Road in Hamilton, were donated in 1970 to the Trustees of Reservations and now constitute the "Appleton Farms Grass Rides," where many *Bird Observer* readers have seen Barred Owls, Pileated Woodpeckers, and other wooded-swamp species.) The most important of these is what I call the front pasture - the scenic fifty-acre field that is easily observable from Route 1A. It is the most important to birdwatchers, because it is the only one you can see. Like most working farms this one is not open to visitors, and under no circumstances should you attempt to view the pasture from anywhere but the main highway. Fortunately, that is easy to do because the road is wide enough to permit temporary "live" parking without danger. Observers should be careful to pull all the way over to the edge, as at any stop.

As you may have learned if you have birded Ipswich, the egrets are not always to be seen in the front pasture. That is because the cows are not always in the front pasture. So your first objective is to arrive when they are. In the summer of 1985, this was in late afternoon, after five o'clock. Before that time, the egrets were either in other parts of the farm or on other farms. But at 5:00 P.M. the herd was let into the front pasture, and the pattern will presumably not change in 1986. Thus the return trip from Newburyport to points south after an all-day Plum Island feast provides a perfect opportunity to stop off in Ipswich for dessert.

The richness of your dessert will depend on what time of year it is. Numbers of Cattle Egrets are usually sparse in May and June, begin to build up through July, then hit their peak in August when the adults are joined by more and more of their offspring and perhaps by some post-breeding wanderers dispersing from elsewhere, as herons are prone to do. The most I have seen there was a total of 61 on August 28, 1983; twice during August 1985 I counted 49 and 50. Some of them leave in September, but many stay well into the month, and a few can usually be seen into early October. My latest record was of nine along Route 133 in Ipswich on November 6, 1982, after a solid week of warm, southerly winds; two of these stayed until at least November 14.

JIM BERRY has been counting Cattle Egrets in Ipswich since 1972 when he moved north from the District of Columbia to escape the oppressive heat and humidity of that area. He runs a federal personnel training curriculum in the U.S. Office of Personnel Management in Boston, and many of his *Bird Observer* sightings are of birds seen from the train on his daily commute to and from work (see *BOEM* 4:1, January-February 1976). For five years Jim wrote a wildlife column in the weekly *Ipswich Today* until the paper folded in 1983. (He assures us that his column and the paper's demise were unrelated.) For a more complete article on Ipswich birds, see Jim's "Finding Birds in Ipswich" (*BOEM* 7:6, December 1979).



Cattle Egret
Wayland, MA
May 10, 1985
Photo by R. K. Walton

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Sooty Tern
N. Monomoy I., MA
June 21, 1985
Photo by Robert C. Humphrey

Field Records

June 1985

by George W. Gove, Robert H. Stymeist, Lee E. Taylor

June 1985 was cooler and cloudier than usual with only slightly more than the normal amount of rain despite rainfall on seven consecutive days. The average temperature was 64.8°, 3.2° below normal, tie for the seventeenth-coolest June in 115 years of record. The month's high was but 84° on June 6 and 7. The mercury reached only 58° on June 29, setting a new low record maximum for that date; the previous record was 60° set in 1888. Rainfall totaled 3.92 inches, one inch more than last June, making it the first month since last October to have higher than normal rainfall. Thunderstorms occurred on five days, one more than average.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

During a northeasterly storm in late June, several pelagic species were seen from coastal locations, notably Sandy Neck in Barnstable and Race Point in Provincetown. At Sandy Neck three Manx Shearwaters, twenty Northern Gannets as well as 50 Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen. At Provincetown six Manx Shearwaters and as many as twenty Sooty Shearwaters were seen, and at least ten Leach's Storm-Petrels were counted. More surprising were three Long-tailed Jaegers, a Sabine's Gull, and a Caspian Tern. An adult Great Cormorant was found in Osterville. Last year the first record of breeding in Massachusetts for Great Cormorant was documented in near-by Buzzards Bay.

Heron reports were ho-hum with the most interesting being at least ten different Yellow-crowned Night Herons reported from seven locations. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JUNE 1985</u>
Common Loon:				
11,22	Annisquam, P.I.	1 br. pl., 3	H.Wiggin, G.d'Entremont	
Pied-billed Grebe:				
4,18,19	S.Monomoy	1 calling	W. deRagon	
Northern Fulmar:				
2,29;30	Stellwagen, 20 mi. south of Noman's Land	10, 2, 1	BBC, T.Rumage; W.Manter#	
Greater Shearwater:				
2	Stellwagen	1	BBC	
Sooty Shearwater:				
2,28	Stellwagen, P'town	6, 20+	BBC, B.Nikula	
Manx Shearwater:				
27	Barnstable (Sandy Neck)	3	W.Petersen#	
28	P'town	6+	B.Nikula	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel:				
2	Stellwagen	400	BBC	
28	P'town	2000	W.Bailey#	
Leach's Storm-Petrel:				
27	Barnstable (Sandy Neck)	50	D.Sibley# + v.o.	
28	P'town	10+	B.Nikula# + v.o.	
Northern Gannet:				
2,14	Stellwagen	2, 5	BBC, K.Holmes	
27,28	Barnstable (S.N.),P'town	20 subad., 5	W.Petersen#, B.Nikula	
Great Cormorant:				
4	Osterville	1 ad.(details)	R.Forster	
Double-crested Cormorant:				
thr.	Everett	max. 100+ (6/17)	J.Berry	
American Bittern:				
22	Wayland	1	R.Forster	
Least Bittern:				
3,5;8	P.I.; W.Harwich	1; 1 f.	BBC; J.Hines	
9,11	Wayland, N.Monomoy	1, 1	R.Forster, B.Nikula	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1985
Great Blue Heron:				
thr.	6 locations	21 individuals	v.o.	
Great Egret:				
thr., 10	P.I., S.Dartmouth	max. 3 (6/3), 2	BBC(W.Drummond)+v.o., R.Maker	
Snowy Egret:				
thr.	Saugus/Revere	max. 11 (6/4)	J.Berry	
thr.	P.I.	max. 24 (6/30)	D.Oliver# + v.o.	
8	N.Monomoy	35	BBC	
Little Blue Heron:				
1,20	S.Dartmouth, S.Monomoy	1, 1 imm.	G.Fernandez, W.deRagon	
25,26	N.Monomoy, P.I.	1 imm., 1 pied	B.Nikula, H.Wiggin	
Tricolored Heron:				
25,28	N.Monomoy	1	B.Nikula + v.o.	
Cattle Egret:				
3,14	Essex, Gay Head	2, 1	D.Arvidson#, C.Witham	
Green-backed Heron:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 18 (6/24)	BBC(Olivers) + v.o.	
Black-crowned Night Heron:				
thr.	P.I., Watertown	max. 12 (6/3 + 6/30), max. 40	v.o., M.Hall + v.o.	
Yellow-crowned Night Heron:				
1,4	Mt.A., Brookline(Leverett Pond)	1 ad., 1 ad.	J.Barton, J.Pass	
3-24	P.I.	max. 3 (6/6)	BBC(M.Kasprzyk) + v.o.	
6,10	S.Dartmouth, Yarmouthport	2, 1 ad.	G.Fernandez, R.Scott	
20-21,21	Annisquam, S.Monomoy	1, 1 ad.	J.French, W.deRagon + v.o.	
Glossy Ibis:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 7 (6/23)	W.Petersen# + v.o.	
thr.	Chatham/Monomoy	max. 14	v.o.	
1+10, 4	Ipswich, Revere	11+12, 11	J.Berry	

WATERFOWL THROUGH WILD TURKEY

Lingering Brant were found in Plymouth and on Monomoy early in the month. The Garganey, first found on May 11, was still present at Plum Island on June 24. The plumage had changed somewhat from the first sightings, according to P. W. Smith who had seen the bird in May, the "head was still ruddy-colored with very indistinct white area behind eye (June 8). On June 15 the ruddy head color was gone, the stripe in face was more prominent and the bird was nearly in full eclipse plumage but had retained display feathers on scapulars. In flight, white-bordered green speculum very prominent. Forward part of mid-wing gray, not blue as in Blue-winged Teal." Other observers commented on the increased amount of white in the face.

Other interesting reports included a well-described immature male King Eider off Provincetown on June 28. There are few summer records for this species. There were several reports of many young Wood Ducks, especially at Great Meadows, and three fledged Hooded Mergansers were found at Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge.

At least three immature Bald Eagles were present on outer Cape Cod and on the islands most of the month. All three were seen together at Monomoy on June 21, and another (or same) immature eagle was observed feeding on a dead gull on Nantucket. A nearly adult-plumaged Golden Eagle was found at West Tisbury, and an immature was reported from Nantucket.

Other raptor highlights included three nests of Northern Harrier located on South Monomoy. Five adult Red-shouldered Hawks were reported in Eastham, and a nest of this species with two young was found in Medfield. A territorial Northern Goshawk was located in Carlisle, and another pair continued in Norfolk.

A female Wild Turkey was found in Middleboro. This is near the site where the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife have released some birds in hopes that they will again establish themselves; after all, it is Plymouth! R.H.S.

Brant:				
1,8	Plymouth, N.Monomoy	3, 4	BBC(G.d'Entremont), R.McHale	
Canada Goose:				
3	P.I.	180	BBC(W.Drummond)	
Wood Duck:				
22	GMNWR	20+	(many ducklings) BBC(B.Howell)	
Green-winged Teal:				
23	P.I.	20	W.Petersen#	
Northern Pintail:				
6	P.I.	3	M.Kasprzyk	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>JUNE 1985</u>
Garganey:				
1-24	P.I. (from May 11)	1 m.	R.Stymeist + v.o.	
Blue-winged Teal:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 35 (6/21)	R.Forster + v.o.	
Gadwall:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 16 (6/30)	D.Oliver# + v.o.	
King Eider:				
28	P'town	1 imm. m.	R.Heil	
Black Scoter:				
17	Osterville	1 m.	R.Forster	
Hooded Merganser:				
23	Oxbow NWR	3 juv.	R.Stymeist, J.Gordon#	
Red-breasted Merganser:				
22	P.I.	1 f.	G.d'Entremont, R.Campbell	
Turkey Vulture:				
1	Plymouth, S.Dartmouth	1, 1	W.Petersen, G.Fernandez	
16	Bolton, Clinton	1, 1	J.Gordon#	
Osprey:				
6,19	P.I.	1, 1	BBC(M.Kasprzyk), M.Hall	
Bald Eagle:				
thr.	Outer Cape Cod	3 imm.	v.o.	
w/of 6/13	M.V.	1 imm.	M.Scott	
21	S.Monomoy	3 imm. seen together	W.deRagon	
27	Nantucket	1 imm. (feeding on dead gull)	J.Fitch	
Northern Harrier:				
thr.	S.Monomoy	3 nests	W.deRagon	
Sharp-shinned Hawk:				
2	Plymouth	1	G.d'Entremont	
Northern Goshawk:				
1-12,30	Norfolk, Carlisle	2, 1 ad.	B.Cassie# + v.o., R.Crisman	
		"territorial"		
Red-shouldered Hawk:				
thr.,2	E.Middleboro, Eastham	pr., 5 ad.	K.Anderson, J.Aylward	
2	Milford, Plymouth(Myles Standish)	2,1	R.Hildreth, G.d'Entremont#	
9,12	Boxford, Medfield	1, nest + 2 yg.	M.Hall, B.Cassie	
Broad-winged Hawk:				
15	S.Middleboro (Rocky Gutter)	10	SSBC(K.Anderson)	
Red-tailed Hawk:				
2	Milford	2 nests (4 ad., 5 imm.)	R.Hildreth	
Golden Eagle:				
11	W.Tisbury	1 "close to ad. pl."	V.Laux	
25	Nantucket	1 imm.	P.Burehill + v.o.	
American Kestrel:				
17	Lakeville	1 f. + 3 yg (b)	K.Anderson	
23	P.I.	1 f. + 2 yg.	W.Petersen#	
Wild Turkey:				
15	Middleboro	1 f.	W.Petersen#	

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

Six Virginia Rail chicks were noted on Plum Island. An alternate-plumaged Lesser Golden-Plover was seen on North Monomoy for two days, June 10 and 11. Young Piping Plover were noted at two locations and included a nest with three eggs at Duxbury Beach. Willets are increasing in number of birds and in number of locations where they are seen. Upland Sandpipers seem to be doing well at military airports with nine to eleven at Hanscom and ten or so pair at Otis Air Force Base. The occurrence at twenty-five White-rumped Sandpipers is a high count for June. There are only three other June reports of Pectoral Sandpipers. The Ruff at Plymouth Beach continued into this month, and the one on Martha's Vineyard was, for that location, the first record of a breeding-plumaged Ruff, the only June record for that species, and the first recorded Ruff in over 25 years there.

A number of pelagic species were reported around the time of the nor'easter on June 27 and included Long-tailed, Pomarine, and Parasitic jaegers, Sabine's Gull, and Caspian and Royal terns. An adult Franklin's Gull, in breeding plumage, was seen on the beach at Plum Island (PRNWR), standing in a group of Ring-billed Gulls. The gull was seen for two days there immediately after the storm. One or two Gull-billed Terns spent a week at Plum Island and were seen by many. As many as 400 Arctic Terns were seen at North Monomoy on June 2 with half of these being "portlandica" birds (see BOEM 8:91, June 1980, for a discussion of the portlandica designation). This is an almost unprecedented number of adult Arctic Terns and they were probably blown in from their northward migration route by a storm. A Sooty Tern was photographed at North Monomoy

on June 21. A Black Skimmer nest with three eggs was found on New Island, Orleans, and up to six Black Skimmer were present on Monomoy although there was no evidence of nesting there. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JUNE 1985</u>
Clapper Rail: 16	Yarmouthport	1	R.Scott	
Virginia Rail: 3,3-21	P.I., S.Monomoy	8 (6 chicks), 1	BBC, W.deRagon	
8,15	W.Harwich, S.Dartmouth	1, 1	J.Hines, G.Fernandez	
22	GMNWR	1	BBC	
Common Moorhen: 15,22;18-19	GMNWR; S.Monomoy	1, 1; 1	A.Williams, BBC; W.deRagon	
Black-bellied Plover: 2,21,28	N.Monomoy	500, 200, 400	B.Nikula	
5-30	P.I.	max. 20	v.o.	
Lesser Golden-Plover: 10-11	N.Monomoy	1 ad. plum.	B.Nikula	
Semipalmated Plover: thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 16 (6/28)	v.o.	
2;6,23	Marblehead; P.I.	2; 2, 3	R.Forster; BBC, W.Petersen#	
Piping Plover: 1,20	Plymouth	5+, 4 ad.+4 yg.	BBC, D.Clapp	
1,17	N.Monomoy, Osterville	2,10	SSBC, R.Forster	
25	Duxbury	6 ad.+ 4yg. + 3 eggs	D.Clapp	
Killdeer: thr.	P.I.	max. 6	v.o.	
American Oystercatcher: thr.	N.Monomoy, S.Monomoy	10 pr., 5-6 pr.	R.Humphrey#	
1,4	Plymouth, Quincy	1, 2	BBC, G.Reams	
8	Chatham	3	J.Hines	
Greater Yellowlegs: thr.	P.I.	max. 4 (6/22)	v.o.	
2,27	Duxbury, Scituate	1, 1	D.Clapp	
Lesser Yellowlegs: 21,25	S.Darmouth, N.Monomoy	1, 2	G.Fernandez, B.Nikula	
23-30	P.I.	max. 4 (6/30)	v.o.	
Willet: thr.	N.Monomoy, P.I.	20+ pr., max. 7	R.Humphrey#, v.o.	
5,22	S.Dartmouth, Barnstable	3, 3+	G.Fernandez, W.Petersen	
25	Duxbury	5	D.Clapp	
Spotted Sandpiper: thr.	P.I.	max. 2 (6/6)	v.o.	
17	Osterville	5 pr.	R.Forster	
Upland Sandpiper: thr.	Lincoln, Bourne	max. 9ad. + 2chicks, 10+pr.	J.Carter, R.White	
thr.	Newburyport	max. 2	v.o.	
30	Halifax	5	K.Anderson	
Whimbrel: 2-9	N.Monomoy	max. 7 (6/2)	R.Humphrey# + v.o.	
Ruddy Turnstone: 1-21	N.Monomoy	max. 200 (6/24)	R.Humphrey# + v.o.	
1,4	Plymouth, Nantucket	125, 18	BBC, E.Andrews	
Red Knot: 1-21	N.Monomoy	max. 150 (6/2)	B.Nikula + v.o.	
Sanderling: 1-16	N.Monomoy	max. 700 (6/2)	B.Nikula + v.o.	
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1-9, 5	N.Monomoy, P.I.	max 200 (6/2), 50	N.Nikula, BBC	
14	Plymouth	8	R.Forster	
Least Sandpiper: 1,28	N.Monomoy	25, 3	SSBC, B.Nikula	
3,24	P.I.	12, 1	BBC	
White-rumped Sandpiper: 1-21, thr.	N.Monomoy, P.I.	max. 25 (6/2), max. 3	v.o.	
14,17	Plymouth, Osterville	7, 1	R.Forster	
Pectoral Sandpiper: 20,24-25	Plymouth, N.Monomoy	1, 1	D.Clapp, R.Humphrey#	
Dunlin: 1,5	N.Monomoy, P.I.	1, 2	SSBC, BBC	
Ruff: 1-2	Plymouth	1 m. (from May)	v.o.	
22-25,30	M.V., P.I.	1 m., 1	fide V.Laux, R.Kirker	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JUNE 1985</u>
Short-billed Dowitcher:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 12 (6/2)	v.o.	
21-30	P.I.	max. 12 (6/30)	v.o.	
American Woodcock:				
23,30	ONWR, Canton	1, 1	J.Gordon#, G.d'Entremont	
Wilson's Phalarope:				
thr., 1	P.I., Ipswich	max 9 (6/1), 1 f.	v.o., J.Berry	
Pomarine Jaeger:				
27	Barnstable	1	L.Robinson#	
Parasitic Jaeger:				
8,28	N.Monomoy, P'town	1, 6+	BBC, B.Nikula	
27	Barnstable	8	W.Petersen#	
jaeger sp:				
27	Barnstable	1	W.Petersen#	
<u>Long-tailed Jaeger (details):</u>				
28	P'town	1 ad. + 1 subad. + 1 imm.	D.Sibley	
Laughing Gull:				
1,8	N.Monomoy	400, 500	SSBC, BBC	
<u>Franklin's Gull:</u>				
28,30	P.I.	1 ad. (details)	R.Secatore + PRNWR staff	
Little Gull:				
1	Newburyport, P.I.	max. 2 (subad.)	v.o.	
7	Orleans (New Island)	1, (1S)	B.Nikula	
Common Black-headed Gull:				
1-24	N.Monomoy	1 ad.	SSBC + B.Nikula	
15,22	Newburyport, P.I.	1, 1 ad.	R.Fox#, G.d'Entremont#	
Bonaparte's Gull:				
thr.	Newburyport	max. 235 (6/24)	(mostly subad.) v.o.	
Ring-billed Gull:				
10,30	Ipswich, P.I.	50, 24	BBC	
Lesser Black-backed Gull:				
2,27	Stellwagen, Eastham	1 (1S), 1 (2S)	W.Petersen#, D.Sibley	
Black-legged Kittiwake:				
7	Orleans	21 imm.	B.Nikula	
Sabine's Gull (details):				
28	P'town	1 (1S)	D.Sibley#	
Gull-billed Tern:				
17-23	P.I.	2-1	BBC (H.Weissberg) + v.o.	
Caspian Tern (details):				
28	P'town	1	D.Sibley	
Royal Tern:				
19,23	Marion, P.I.	1, 1	R.Trull, W.Petersen	
25	P'town	1	D.Sibley	
Roseate Tern:				
1,8	Plymouth	5, 8	BBC, SSBC	
1,8	N.Monomoy	2,22	SSBC, BBC	
Common Tern:				
thr.	Plymouth, N.Monomoy	max. 500, max. 100	v.o.	
thr., 10	P.I., Ipswich	max. 18, 25	v.o., BBC	
Arctic Tern:				
1-8, 1	N.Monomoy, Plymouth	max. 400 (6/2), 4	B.Nikula + v.o., BBC	
5	Orleans	16	fide R.Forster	
Least Tern:				
thr.	Plymouth, N.Monomoy	max. 35, max. 100	v.o.	
5,10	S.Dartmouth, Ipswich	40, 50	G.Fernandez, BBC	
<u>Sooty Tern:</u>				
21	N.Monomoy	1 ad. (ph.)	R.Humphrey + L.MacIvor	
Black Tern:				
11,27	N.Monomoy, Barnstable	1, 1	R.Humphrey, W.Petersen	
Black Skimmer:				
thr.	N.Monomoy, Orleans	max. 6, max. 3	P.Trull#, v.o.	
17-22	P.I.	max. 2	v.o.	

CUCKOO THROUGH WOODPECKER

Both Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos were reported from various locations but in less than normal numbers, especially Yellow-billed. At least eight Barred Owls were noted on June 12 and up to eleven Short-eared Owls were counted on Monomoy. Two Northern Saw-whet Owls were heard calling in Lakeville. Small numbers of Common Night-hawks were noted throughout the month. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were found in Plymouth and in Millis. G.W.G.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1985
Black-billed Cuckoo:				
1-8, 2	Holliston, Milford	max. 4, 3	R.Hildreth	
	6 individuals reported from 6 locations			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo:				
11,21	Milton, P.I.	1, 2	R.Forster, D.Arvidson	
30	Concord	1	R.Stymeist	
Eastern Screech-Owl:				
6,29	Holliston, S.Carver	1 calling, 1	R.Hildreth, B.Logan	
Barred Owl:				
3	Concord	2	A.Goldstein	
12	Sherborn, Walpole, Medfield	4, 3, 1	B.Cassie	
Short-eared Owl:				
thr.	N.Monomoy, S.Monomoy	2-3, 4 pr.	v.o., W.deRagon	
Northern Saw-whet Owl:				
29	Lakeville	2 calling	K.Holmes	
Common Nighthawk:				
2,14	Ipswich, Cambridge	1, 5	J.Berry, R.Stymeist	
21,25	Arlington, Watertown	1, 1	R.Stymeist	
20	S.Monomoy	1	W.deRagon	
Whip-poor-will:				
2,6	Milford, Holliston	4, 1	R.Hildreth	
3,21	Newbury	2, 7	BBC, R.Forster	
Chimney Swift:				
5,8	W.Newbury, N.Monomoy	11, 11	BBC	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird:				
2,6	Mt.A., P.I.	1, 1	J.Paputseanos, BBC	
15	S.Middleboro	1	SSBC	
Red-headed Woodpecker:				
2,11	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews#	
12,14	Medfield, Wrentham	1, 1 ad.	B.Cassie, M.Kauffman	
16	Stoughton	1	R.Bender	
Red-bellied Woodpecker:				
2,12	Plymouth, Millis	1, 1	G.d'Entremont, B.Cassie	
Downy Woodpecker:				
15	Watertown	6	M.Hall	
Hairy Woodpecker:				
26	E.Middleboro	2	K.Anderson	
Northern Flicker:				
15	S.Middleboro	18	SSBC	
Pileated Woodpecker:				
30	Sudbury	2	R.Forster	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Migration took its normal course, continuing into the first week of June, especially among the flycatchers and Oporornis warblers. Very late migrants or non-breeding wanderers included two other warblers on the twenty-third: a male Bay-breasted Warbler at Watertown and a male Blackpoll Warbler at Plum Island. The former report is the only one beyond June 6 in the last seven years. The latter record, though notably late, is consistent with reports of single Blackpoll individuals from coastal sites during the last week of June for three of the last five years.

Results of two breeding bird censuses were provided this year: one conducted along the Charles River in Watertown on June 13-15 by Maurice Hall and the other organized by the South Shore Bird Club at Rocky Gutter in South Middleboro on the fifteenth. Hall's efforts produced the late Bay-breasted Warbler and several other careful counts which are included in the tabulation. The Rocky Gutter data included several interesting, large counts, including 47 Black-and-white Warblers and 131 Ovenbirds. These warbler numbers are comparable to those logged by Brian Cassie during his Millis census in 1983, though his data was by one person, in a whole town, over the complete month. The 27 Hermit Thrushes at Rocky Gutter constituted the second highest single-day June count in the last seven years, exceeding only by 30 individuals in 1979. The 57 Veerys there was a seven-year high, distantly approached by a report of 39 in one day in 1980.

Eastern Bluebirds were noted on territory in small numbers at several sites, including the traditional Tyngsboro area, Miles Standish State Forest in Plymouth, and the eastern part of the Quabbin Reservation in Petersham. The five Golden-crowned Kinglets in Wareham is suggestive of another breeding location in eastern Massachusetts

More unusual species reported included a raven both seen and heard several times in Annisquam, and Jackdaw continuing on Nantucket, a Prothonotary Warbler at Lakeville, and a Cerulean Warbler on Martha's Vineyard. Prothonotaries seem to be more common during breeding season in Massachusetts, with reports in three of the last five years,

including two individuals in 1984. The Cerulean Warbler report is the only one for June in the eastern Massachusetts records during the last seven years, and constitutes the first known June record for Martha's Vineyard.

L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JUNE 1985</u>
Olive-sided Flycatcher:				
3,12	Newburyport, Wayland	1, 1	D.Arvidson#, J. Hines	
22	Rockport	1	J.MacDougall	
Eastern Wood-Pewee:				
2	Nahant, MNWS	3, 4	R. Forster	
3	Annisquam, P.I.	2, 2	H.Wiggin, BBC	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:				
2	Nahant, MNWS	1, 1	R.Forster	
2,8	Squantum, P.I.	1, 1	R.Emery#, P.W.Smith#	
Acadian Flycatcher:				
2,3	MNWS, Mt.A.	2, 1	R.Forster, J.Paputseanos	
15	Needham	1	J.Marshall	
Alder Flycatcher:				
1-11,2	Milton, Annisquam	1 max., 1	v.o., H.Wiggin	
2,15	Nahant, Lincoln	1, 1	R.Forster, A.Williams	
Willow Flycatcher:				
3-30,11	P.I., Milton	13 max. (6/22), 2	v.o., R.Forster	
22,26	GMNWR, Marshfield	2, 3	BBC, D.Clapp	
Least Flycatcher:				
2	Nahant, MNWS	1, 1	R.Forster	
8	W.Newbury	1	J.Berry	
Great Crested Flycatcher:				
2	MNWS, Mt.A.	3, 1	R.Forster, M.Hall	
6,23	P.I., ONWR	4, 5	BBC, R.Stymeist#	
Eastern Kingbird:				
3-22,13-15	P.I., Watertown	25 max., 6 pr.	J.Heywood#, M.Hall	
10,22	Ipswich, GMNWR	10, 2	BBC	
Horned Lark:				
1,22	Plymouth, P.I.	4, 1	W.Petersen#, G.d'Entremont	
Purple Martin:				
2,3-23	Stellwagen Bank, P.I.	1 m., 75 max.	W.Petersen#, v.o.	
7	M.V.	2	V.Laux	
Tree Swallow:				
3,8	P.I., N.Monomoy	100, 50+	BBC	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow:				
1,6	Plymouth Beach, P.I.	10, 7	BBC, M.Kasprzyk	
13-15, 26	Watertown, Ipswich	3 pr., 5	M.Hall, J.Berry	
Bank Swallow:				
thr., 8	P.I., Plymouth	8 max., 12	v.o., SSBC	
10,23	Ipswich, Tyngsboro	50, 150	BBC	
Cliff Swallow:				
thr., 24	Marshfield, Newbury	23 nests, 25	D.Clapp, R. Forster	
Barn Swallow:				
8,15	N.Monomoy, Needham	50+, 25	BBC, J.Marshall	
Fish Crow:				
1,8	Scituate, Plymouth	1, 1	W.Petersen, SSBC	
Common Raven:				
15	Annisquam	1 (details)	H.Wiggin#	
Jackdaw:				
thr.	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch:				
2,15	Ipswich, S.Middleboro	1, 1	J.Berry, SSBC	
20,22	Hamilton, Annisquam	2, 2	J.Berry, H.Wiggin	
22	Falmouth, Mashpee	2+, 2+	CCBC	
Brown Creeper:				
thr., 10	E.Middlesboro, Mashpee	1 m., 1	K.Anderson, W.Petersen	
10,15	S.Dartmouth, S.Middleboro	2, 14	R.Maker, SSBC	
Carolina Wren:				
1,9	Holliston, Westport	2+, 6 pr.	R.Hildreth, G.Gove#	
13-18,21	S.Dartmouth, Marshfield	2, 1	R.Maker, W.Petersen	
House Wren:				
5,15	S.Dartmouth, Plymouth	5, 5	R.Maker, G.d'Entremont	
Marsh Wren:				
thr., 8	P.I., Needham	18 max., 6	v.o., J.Marshall	
22	GMNWS	4	BBC	
Golden-crowned Kinglet:				
30	Wareham	5	L.Robinson	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:				
thr., 7	Wayland, Wellesley	2 pr., 1 pr.	R.Forster, C.Quinlan	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JUNE 1985</u>
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (cont.):				
16,20	Petersham, S.Dartmouth	6, 2	BBC, R.Maker	
Eastern Bluebird:				
thr., 15	Plymouth, S.Middleboro	3pr., 1	v.o., SSBC	
16,23	Petersham, Tyngsboro	8, 4	BBC	
Veery:				
2,15	Nahant, S.Middleboro	1, <u>57</u>	R.Forster, SSBC	
Swainson's Thrush:				
2	Nahant	2	R.Forster	
Hermit Thrush:				
15	Plymouth, S.Middleboro	3, 27	G.d'Entremont, SSBC	
25,30	Wareham, Sudbury	7 m., 1	L.Robinson, R.Forster	
Wood Thrush:				
15,18	S.Middleboro, Lakeville	5, 3	SSBC, K.Holmes	
Gray Catbird:				
thr.	P.I., Annisquam	35 max., 20	v.o., H.Wiggin	
13, 15	Watertown, S.Middleboro	12 pr., 42	M.Hall, SSBC	
Brown Thrasher:				
thr., 8	P.I., Plymouth	10 max., 3	v.o., SSBC	
Cedar Waxwing:				
2,6	Annisquam, P.I.,	18, 30+	H.Wiggin, BBC	
White-eyed Vireo:				
thr., 9	Milton, Westport	2, 5	R.Forster#, G.Gove#	
Yellow-throated Vireo:				
8,22	Holliston, Dudley	1, 1 m.	R.Hildreth, B.Sorrie	
23	Tyngsboro	1	BBC	
Warbling Vireo:				
15	Watertown, Needham	9, 5	R.Stymeist, J.Marshall	
Blue-winged Warbler:				
2,5-15	Hamilton, W.Newbury	1 m., 5 max.	J.Berry, v.o.	
3,23	S.Dartmouth, ONWR	1, 9	R.Maker, R.Stymeist#	
Golden-winged Warbler:				
7,2	Milford, Topsfield	1 pr., 1 f. on nest	C.Quinlan, D.Lange#	
Nashville Warbler:				
1	Annisquam, Plymouth	1 m., 1 m.	H.Wiggin, W.Petersen#	
5	W.Newbury	1	BBC	
Northern Parula:				
8,20	W.Harwich, S.Dartmouth	5, 1	J.Hines, R.Maker	
Yellow Warbler:				
thr., 13	P.I., Watertown	30 max., 18	v.o., M.Hall	
Chestnut-sided Warbler:				
5,15	W.Newbury, S.Middlesboro	1, 3	BBC, SSBC	
23	ONWR	6	R.Stymeist#	
Black-throated Green Warbler:				
thr., 2	E.Middleboro, Ipswich	1 pr., 2 m.	K.Anderson, J.Berry	
15,22	S.Middleboro, Sandwich	9, 2 m.	SSBC, J.Aylward#	
Blackburnian Warbler:				
2	Nahant, Mt.A.	1, 1	L.Pivacek, J.Paputseanos	
7,8	Boxford, P.I.	1 m., 1 m.	M.Hall, P.W.Smith	
Pine Warbler:				
thr.	Framingham, E.Middleboro	2 m., 2 m.	R.Forster, K.Anderson	
15,25	S.Middleboro, Wareham	28, 11 m.	SSBC, L.Robinson	
Prairie Warbler:				
2,25	Milford, Wareham	12, 17 m.	R.Hildreth, L.Robinson	
Bay-breasted Warbler:				
<u>23</u>	Watertown	1 m.	M.Hall	
Blackpoll Warbler:				
3,23	Mt.A., P.I.	1, 1 m.	J.Paputseanos, W.Petersen	
Cerulean Warbler:				
7	M.V.	1 m.	fide V.Laux	
Black-and-white Warbler:				
15,23	S.Middleboro, ONWR	47, 7	SSBC, R.Stymeist#	
American Redstart:				
23,30	ONWR, P.I.	8, 6	R.Stymeist#, BBC	
Prothonotary Warbler:				
22	Lakeville	1	M.Kasprzyk	
Overbird:				
2,15	MNWS, S.Middleboro	2, 131	R.Forster, SSBC	
Northern Waterthrush:				
15	S.Middleboro	12	SSBC	
Kentucky Warbler:				
from May-11,9	Milton, Westport	1 m.(ph.), 1	R.Forster, G.Gove#	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1985
Mourning Warbler:				
2	Nahant, MNWS	4, 2	R.Forster	
8	Brookline	1	H.Coolidge	
Common Yellowthroat:				
6,15	P.I., S.Middleboro	20, 44	BBC, SSBC	
23	ONWR	13	R.Stymeist#	
Canada Warbler:				
2	Nahant, MNWS	20, 10	R.Forster	
15	S.Middleboro	13	SSBC	

TANAGERS THROUGH GOLDFINCH

A female Summer Tanager was well observed deep in a maple swamp in Middleboro on June 15. The observer who was able to watch this bird from a distance of twenty feet noted "large pinkish bill, the uniform yellow-olive color and the absence of dusky wings." Possibly the bird was an unmated wanderer that simply lingered after the spring migration was over.

At Hanscom Air Force Base in the Bedford-Lincoln area a count of 193 Savannah Sparrows was reported on June 30. Both adults and some recently fledged young were tallied during an early morning survey of the grassy areas between the runways of the facility. Also three singing Grasshopper Sparrows were located as well as a female bird flushed from a nest containing two eggs. At the Crane Wildlife Area in Falmouth six Grasshopper Sparrows were located. Seaside Sparrows were reported from three locations with a maximum of five individuals noted from Plum Island.

At Hanscom Air Force Base about one hundred Eastern Meadowlarks (both adults and fledged young) were tallied on June 30. Orchard Orioles were reported from eight locations, and as many as eighteen Northern Orioles were found along the Charles River in Watertown.

Fourteen Red Crossbills at Gate 40 in East Quabbin was a very interesting report and suggests that possible nesting occurred. A Pine Siskin was noted in West Barnstable on June 21. R.H.S.

Summer Tanager:

15	Middleboro	1 f.	W.Petersen
Scarlet Tanager:			
15	S.Middleboro	16	SSBC (K.Anderson)
Indigo Bunting:			
June	Millis	39 singing m.	B.Cassie
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
15	S.Middleboro	90	SSBC (K.Anderson)
Field Sparrow:			
8	Plymouth	8	SSBC (G.Cross)
Vesper Sparrow:			
1	Plymouth (Myles Standish)	3+	W.Petersen#
Savannah Sparrow:			
30	Hanscom AFB	193+ incl. yg.	R.Stymeist+J.Carter+M.Kasprzyk
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
22	Falmouth (Crane area)	6+	CCBC
30	Hanscom AFB	3 singing m., 1 f.on nest w/ 2 eggs	M.Kasprzyk, E.Landre#
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
1,6	N.Monomoy, P.I.	10, 20+	SSBC, BBC
9,21	Tisbury, Marshfield	1, 1	O.Kerr#, W.Petersen
Seaside Sparrow:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 5 singing m. (6/21)	R.Forster + v.o.
1,11	Plymouth, N.Monomoy	1, 2	G.d'Entremont, B.Nikula
Song Sparrow:			
4,13	Squantum, Watertown	12 singing m., 16 m.	R.Emery#, M.Hall
Dark-eyed Junco:			
2,30	Sharon (Moose Hill)	1, 2	E.Taylor
Bobolink:			
7, 15	Concord, Falmouth	5 m., 5	J.Carter, G.d'Entremont#
23,30	Rowley, Sharon	50, 15	W.Petersen#, E.Taylor
Eastern Meadowlark:			
1, 8	Medfield, Hanscom AFB	6, nest w/ 5 eggs	R.Forster, J.Carter
30	Hanscom AFB	99+	R.Stymeist, M.Kasprzyk, J.Carter
Orchard Oriole:			
9,12	Sudbury, Ipswich	1, 1 imm.	J.Carter, J.Berry
15,17	Wayland, Marston Mills	4, 1 imm.	R.Forster

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>JUNE 1985</u>
Orchard Oriole (cont.):				
21,22	Woburn, E.Sandwich	1 imm., 1	M.Hall, W.Petersen	
24,29	Newbury, Wayland	1 ad. m., 1 imm.	R.Forster, D.Arvidson#	
Northern Oriole:				
13	Watertown	18 m.	M.Hall	
Purple Finch:				
23	P.I.	6	W.Petersen	
House Finch:				
thr., 13	Annisquam, Watertown	29-35, 10 m.	H.Wiggin, M.Hall	
Red Crossbill:				
16	Quabbin (Gate 40)	14	M.Lynch, S.Carroll#	
Pine Siskin:				
21	W.Barnstable	1	B.Nikula	
American Goldfinch:				
6,13	Hamilton, Watertown	15+, 5 m.	J.Berry, M.Hall	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad.	adult	F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham
alt.	alternate (plumage)	F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham
b.	banded	F.M.	Fowl Meadow, Milton
br.	breeding	gr.	greater as in Gr. Boston area
dk.	dark (phase)	I.	Island
f.	female	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
fl.	fledge	Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
imm.	immature	Nant.	Nantucket
ind.	individuals	Newbypt	Newburyport
loc.	locations	P.I.	Plum Island
lt.	light (phase)	P'town	Provincetown
m.	male	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
max.	maximum	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
migr.	migrating	Stellw.	Stellwagen (Bank)
N.S.E.W.	direction	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
ph.	photographed	BOEM	Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts
pl.	plumage	CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
pr.	pair	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
thr.	throughout	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
v.o.	various observers	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
W	winter (2W = second winter)	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
w/	with	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
yg.	young	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
#	additional observers	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	PRNWR	Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
Buzz.	Buzzards (Bay)	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
C.	Cape as in C.Cod or C.Ann	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester		

CORRIGENDUM TO MAY 1985 FIELD RECORDS

Lesser Black-backed Gull:			
14	Newbypt.	1	J.Grugan
	should read		
14	Newbypt.	1 (1S)	J.Grugan

BIRD OBSERVER NEEDS TYPISTS

BIRD OBSERVER NEEDS TYPISTS to produce camera-ready copy for this journal. (Such typing must be done on an IBM Correcting Selectric 12-pitch typewriter; so if you own or have access to such a machine, that would be a distinct plus.) If you are a GOOD OR EXPERT TYPIST - with or without a typewriter - and would like to join the BIRD OBSERVER staff, please call the editor at 641-2205 (anytime).



Immature Bald Eagle
Chatham, MA
July 1985
Photo by Roger Everett

Field Records

July 1985

by George W. Gove, Robert H. Stymeist, Lee E. Taylor

The temperature for July averaged 73.5°. The high was 92° on July 20, the only 90° reading during the month and the least in July since 1967. This was also the first 90° day of the year, a full forty days later than the average date. The low reading was 52° on July 1. Rain totaled 3.51 inches, 0.83 inch more than normal. Measurable rain fell on nine days, just the average number. The tropical storm Bob on July 26 produced several thunderstorms during the day and evening, with highly variable rains over the greater Boston area.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

The Garganey, first found on May 10, was still present on July 1 at Plum Island. This was the last date that this bird was reported. The count of over eighty Wood Ducks at Great Meadows NWR undoubtedly included many young.
R.H.S.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1985
Common Loon:				
3,5	Plymouth, P.I.	3, 3	R.Forster, P.Yaukey	
15	Duxbury	1	D.Clapp	
Pied-billed Grebe:				
8	GMNWR	1	J.Carter	
Cory's Shearwater:				
9	5-6 m. E. of Chatham	2	R.Humphrey, P.Trull	
28	Stellwagen	2	M.Lynch + S.Carroll	
Greater Shearwater:				
23,28	off P'town, Stellwagen	5, 1000+	J.Nove#, M.Lynch#	
Sooty Shearwater:				
9	5-6 m. E. of Chatham	50	R.Humphrey, P.Trull	
28	Stellwagen	150+	M.Lynch + S.Carroll	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel:				
21,23	Stellwagen, off P'town	1000-1200, 10	G.Gove#, J.Nove#	
28	Stellwagen	1000+	M.Lynch + S. Carroll	
Northern Gannet:				
27,28	Eastham (F.E.), Stellw.	3,10	B.Nikula#, M.Lynch#	
Double-crested Cormorant:				
thr.,27	Everett, Halibut Pt.	max. 40+ (7/31), 100+	J.Berry	
American Bittern:				
1,20	GMNWR, Lancaster	1, 1	L.Robinson, S.Carroll#	
Least Bittern:				
14	GMNWR	1	M.Lynch + S.Carroll	
Great Blue Heron:				
thr.,14	P.I., GMNWR	max.10 (7/29), 9	R.Hamburger# + v.o., BBC	
Great Egret:				
thr.,23	P.I., S.Dartmouth	max.5 (7/14), 24	C.Floyd + v.o.,G.Fernandez	
28,30	N.Monomoy, Duxbury	1, 1	B.Nikula#, W.Petersen	
Snowy Egret:				
thr.	P.I., Saugus	max.165 (7/27), max.40 (7/19+25)	P.Yaukey#+v.o., J.Berry	
thr.,14	N.Monomoy, Peddocks I.	max. 50 (7/20), 70+	J.Barton + v.o.,P.Stevens	
23,27	S.Dartmouth, Scituate	47, 50	G.Fernandez, J.Berry	
Little Blue Heron:				
4+29,7	S.Dartmouth, N.Monomoy	1 ad., 1 ad.	G.Fernandez, R.Humphrey	
27	Newbypt-P.I.	3 imm.	BBC (G.d'Entremont)	
Tricolored Heron:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 2 (7/31)	v.o.	
Cattle Egret:				
19	Ipswich	7	J.Berry	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1985
Green-backed Heron: thr.	P.I.	max. 8 (7/3)	M.Lynch# + v.o.	
Black-crowned Night-Heron: thr.	P.I., GMNWR	max. 15 (7/8), max. 12 (7/14)	BBC + v.o.	
22	Eastham (Hemenway Landing)	94	B.Nikula	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 20,22	P.I., Eastham	1 ad., 2	G.Gove, B.Nikula	
Glossy Ibis: thr.	P.I.	max. 28 (7/27)	evening roost	P.Yaukey + v.o.
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 11	v.o.	
15,29	S.Dartmouth, Revere	6, 3	G.Fernandez, J.Berry	
Wood Duck: thr.	GMNWR	max. 80+ (7/14)	BBC (M.Lynch)	
Green-winged Teal: 17	S.Monomoy	48	R.Humphrey	
Garganey: 1	P.I. (South Pool)	from 5/10/85	1	B.Cassie
Gadwall: 17	S.Monomoy	14	R.Humphrey	
Surf Scoter: 3	Plymouth	2 m.	R.Forster	
White-winged Scoter: 3,27	Plymouth, N.Monomoy	1, 15	R.Forster, R.Humphrey	

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS

A total of seventy-three young Ospreys were banded in the Westport-Dartmouth area this year, certainly encouraging news. At least two immature Bald Eagles continued throughout the month on the Outer Cape, reported mostly from the Chatham Dump. Northern Goshawks were reported from two locations, and one immature was picked up dead after it struck a window in Eastham. A Northern Bobwhite was seen and heard calling in Worcester on July 1. R.H.S.

Turkey Vulture: 1,15	Millis, Medway	1, 1	R.Forster, D.Singer	
20,22	S.Dartmouth, Randolph	3, 1	G.Fernandez, G.d'Entremont	
28	Dover	2	E.Taylor	
Osprey: thr.	Westport/Dartmouth	100+ (inc. 73 yg b.)	G.Fernandez	
Bald Eagle: thr.	Chatham (Dump)	2 imm.	v.o.	
	Several other reports of immatures from various places on Cape Cod.			
Northern Harrier: 27,29-30	Bedford, Marshfield	1, 1-2	J.Carter, D.Clapp	
Northern Goshawk: 9,31	Millis, Halifax	pr. nesting, 1 ad.	C.Quinlan, K.Anderson	
late July	N.Eastham	1 imm. (dead) struck window	fide. D.Reynolds	
Red-shouldered Hawk: thr.,24	E.Middleboro, S.Dartmouth	1-2, 1	K.Anderson, G.Fernandez	
American Kestrel: thr.	Lynn-Everett	max. 8 (7/26)	J.Berry	
25	Marshfield (Dwyer Farm)	12	D.Clapp	
Peregrine Falcon: 24,27	P.I.	1, 1	C.Floyd, R.Heil	
Northern Bobwhite: 1,21	Worcester, Millis	1, 2	M.Lynch#, R.Forster	
Virginia Rail: 14	GMNWR	11	BBC (M.Lynch#)	
Common Moorhen: 24	GMNWR	pr. w/5 yg.	R.Forster	

SHOREBIRDS

Fifty Killdeer were seen in a field in Halifax where there were 25 Solitary Sandpiper. At Otis Air Force Base on the Cape up to 100 Upland Sandpiper were seen; there had been 14 nesting pairs noted there also.

Western Willets started appearing on Monomoy on July 9 and up to 352 Whimbrels were seen going to roost there. This is considerably more than the impressive numbers reported last year. The flock of Hudsonian Godwit on Monomoy built up to 90. A Baird's Sandpiper appeared at Plum Island at month's end and a Curlew Sandpiper in breeding plumage was noted at Squantum for at least four days. The high count of

Stilt Sandpiper at Plum Island reached 68 and Long-billed Dowitchers started appearing on July 20.

A Little Stint was seen at Third Cliff, Scituate. The description of this bird appears elsewhere in this issue. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JULY 1985</u>
Black-bellied Plover:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 400 (7/28)	B.Nikula#	
1-8,15	P.I., Duxbury	max. 11 (7/8), 15	v.o., D.Clapp	
Semipalmated Sandpiper:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 200 (7/22)	v.o.	
15,27	Duxbury, Scituate	25, 300	D.Clapp, W.Petersen#	
Piping Plover:				
15,18-27	Duxbury, Scituate	9, max. 10 (7/27)	D.Clapp, v.o.	
20;28	P.I., N.Monomoy;M.V.	2, 6; 18	G.Gove#, BBC; V.Laux	
Killdeer:				
thr.	P.I., Halifax	max. 20 (7/6), max. 50+ (7/25)	v.o., K.Anderson	
American Oystercatcher:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	16 nesting pr.	R.Humphrey	
13	Peddocks I.	2	P.Stevens	
Greater Yellowlegs:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 25 (7/27)	v.o.	
20,31	N.Monomoy, Halifax	6, 1	BBC, K.Anderson	
Lesser Yellowlegs:				
thr.	Newbypt-P.I.	max. 350 (7/27)	v.o.	
22-31, 28	Halifax, M.V.	max. 18 (7/25), 85	K.Anderson, V.Laux#	
Solitary Sandpiper:				
14,20-31	GMNWR, Halifax	5, max. 26 (7/30)	BBC, K.Anderson + W.Petersen	
25,27	Concord, Wayland	1, 1	R.Forster	
Willet:				
thr.	N.Monomoy (eastern race)	max. 65+	B.Nikula# + v.o.	
1-22	Newbypt-P.I.	max. 10 (7/22)	v.o.	
9-31	N.Monomoy (western race)	max. 12+ (7/28)	B.Nikula# + v.o.	
15,18	Duxbury, S.Dartmouth	3, 4	D.Clapp, G.Fernandez	
Spotted Sandpiper:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 3 (7/29)	v.o.	
25,29	Halifax	1, 1	K.Anderson	
Upland Sandpiper:				
thr.	Otis A.F.B.	14 nesting pr., max. 100+	(late July) fide S.Melvin	
14,31	Hanscom A.F.B.	12, 15	J.Carter	
3,24	Halifax, Newbury	9, 3	K.Anderson#, R.Forster#	
Whimbrel:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 352 (7/27)	W.Bailey + v.o.	
	One at each of 3 locations.			
Hudsonian Godwit:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 90 (7/27)	v.o.	
14-27	Newbypt-P.I.	max. 13 (7/27)	v.o.	
Ruddy Turnstone:				
15-30,27	P.I., Scituate	max. 41 (7/27), 50+	v.o., J.Berry	
15,20	Duxbury, N.Monomoy	2, 4	D.Clapp, BBC	
22,25	Halifax	2, 2	K.Anderson	
Red Knot:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 400 (7/25)	B.Nikula + v.o.	
14-22	P.I.	max. 7 (7/15)	v.o.	
19-30	Scituate	max. 2000 (7/30)	W.Petersen + v.o.	
Sanderling:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 1000 (7/25)	B.Nikula + v.o.	
15,27	Duxbury, Scituate	35, 100	D.Clapp, J.Berry#	
Semipalmated Sandpiper:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 1300 (7/25)	B.Nikula + v.o.	
thr.	Newbypt-P.I.	max. 3500 (7/27)	R.Heil + v.o.	
27,22-26	Scituate, Halifax	1700, 32+	W.Petersen#, K.Anderson	
Western Sandpiper:				
26	Scituate	1	W.Petersen	
<u>Little Stint:</u>				
25	Scituate	1 ad.	W.Petersen	
Least Sandpiper:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 700 (7/20)	B.Nikula + v.o.	
22,20-31	P.I., Halifax	50, max. 125 (7/26)	J.Berry, K.Anderson	
White-rumped Sandpiper:				
27	P.I.	5	W.Petersen#	
Baird's Sandpiper:				
31	P.I.	1	H.Wiggin	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JULY 1985</u>
<u>Pectoral Sandpiper:</u>				
20-30	Halifax	max. 9 (7/30)	K.Anderson#	
15,28	P.I., M.V.	2, 6	BBC, V.Laux#	
<u>Curlew Sandpiper:</u>				
27-30	Squantum	1 (br. pl.)	R.Abrams# + v.o.	
<u>Stilt Sandpiper:</u>				
5-29,4-11	P.I., N.Monomoy	max. 68 (7/27), 4	v.o.	
26,27	Halifax, Rowley	4, 10	K.Anderson, R.Heil	
28,28	M.V., Squantum	12, 1	V.Laux, R.Forster#	
<u>Short-billed Dowitcher:</u>				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 1200 (7/25)	B.Nikula	
thr.	Newbypt-P.I.	max. 350 (7/27)	v.o.	
<u>Long-billed Dowitcher:</u>				
20,27;30	P.I.; Squantum	2, 5; 2	G.Gove, R.Heil; R.Forster	
<u>Common Snipe:</u>				
25-30, 27	Halifax, P.I.	1-2, 1	K.Anderson, P.Yaukey	
<u>Wilson's Phalarope:</u>				
5	P.I.	2	P.Yaukey	
24,31	M.V., N.Monomoy	1, 2	T.Chase, v.o.	

GULLS THROUGH SKIMMER

A hybrid Herring x Great Black-backed Gull was noted at Monomoy. It was described as being structurally like a Herring Gull with pinkish-neutral legs, slate gray mantle, and lack of contrast between mantle and primaries. It was said to be not at all like a Lesser Black-backed Gull in proportions and so forth but the mantle color was said to be virtually identical and was noted as a reminder to those seeking Lesser Black-backed that these hybrids do exist. The Iceland Gull reported from North Monomoy Island on the sixth represents one of about ten summer records for that species. A Caspian Tern was reported from Scituate and Royal Terns were noted at three locations. Up to 500 Arctic Terns were present at North Monomoy where up to 4 Forster's Terns were counted, including a juvenile food-begging from an adult. A maximum of 15 Black Skimmers, all adults, was noted from N. Monomoy and a pair with three chicks were observed at Orleans. G.W.G.

<u>Parasitic Jaeger:</u>				
20,23	N.Monomoy, off P'town	2, 1	BBC, J.Nove	
<u>Laughing Gull:</u>				
20	N.Monomoy	25	BBC	
<u>Little Gull:</u>				
1	P.I.	1	B.Cassie	
<u>Common Black-headed Gull:</u>				
22,24	P.I.	1 (1S)	J.Berry, R.Forster	
<u>Bonaparte's Gull:</u>				
27	Newbypt-P.I.	60	BBC	
<u>Ring-billed Gull:</u>				
22	P.I.	200	J.Berry	
<u>Herring x Great Black-backed Gull:</u>				
31	N.Monomoy	1 ad.	W.Petersen + v.o.	
<u>Iceland Gull (details submitted):</u>				
6	N.Monomoy	1	L.Taylor	
<u>Caspian Tern:</u>				
31	Scituate (Third Cliff)	1	J.Hassett	
<u>Royal Tern:</u>				
14-15,17	P.I., S.Monomoy	1-2, 5	C.Floyd# + v.o., R.Humphrey	
23	Orleans (New I.)	1	B.Nikula	
<u>Roseate Tern:</u>				
27	Scituate	20 ad.	J.Berry#	
<u>Common Tern:</u>				
20,27	N.Monomoy, Scituate	2000+, 100+	BBC, J.Berry	
<u>Arctic Tern:</u>				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 500+ (7/20)	B.Nikula + v.o.	
<u>Forster's Tern:</u>				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 4 (7/28)	B.Nikula# + v.o.	
30	Squantum	1 imm.	J.Bertrand#	
<u>Least Tern:</u>				
thr.	P.I.	max. 62 (7/20)	G.Gove# + v.o.	
15,27	Duxbury, Scituate	14, 50+	D.Clapp, J.Berry	
<u>Black Tern:</u>				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max.2-3 (7/31)	W.Petersen + v.o.	
22	P.I.	1	C.Corley# + v.o.	
thr.	Orleans (New I.)	1 pr. + 3 yg.	P.Trull	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JULY 1985</u>
Black Skimmer: thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 15+ ads.	B.Nikula + v.o.	

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Both species of cuckoos were reported in far fewer numbers than in previous years, at a time when, not coincidentally, gypsy moths in eastern Massachusetts were at a low ebb. Two Barred Owls were found in South Dartmouth, an unusual record for Bristol County. R.H.S.

Mourning Dove: 20	Marshfield (Dwyer Farm)	100+	D.Clapp	
Black-billed Cuckoo: thr.	4 locations	4 singles	v.o.	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 9,23	S.Dartmouth	1, 2	G.Fernandez, R.Maker	
23	Annisquam	1	H.Wiggin	
Great Horned Owl: thr.	Annisquam	1	H.Wiggin	
Barred Owl: 23	S.Dartmouth	2	R.Maker	
Short-eared Owl: thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 3	R.Humphrey + v.o.	
13	S.Dartmouth	1	G.Fernandez	
Whip-poor-will: 4,5	Dover, Lakeville	1, 1	E.Taylor, K.Holmes	
Chimney Swift: 27	P.I., Newbypt.	25	BBC	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 7,10 on	S.Carver, S.Dartmouth	1, 1	K.Anderson, G.Fernandez	
16	Lakeville, Middleboro	1, 1	K.Holmes	
Northern Flicker: 17	Annisquam	2 ad.+4 yg.	H.Wiggin	
Pileated Woodpecker: 18	Lunenburg	1 pr.	T.Moore	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PURPLE FINCH

Passerine reports were even sparser than usual for July. From them, there was very little indication of migratory/wandering movement in either direction, with the possible exception of swallows toward month's end. The Nantucket Jackdaw continued at its now-traditional stations. Three singing Sedge Wrens in a field near Oxbow National Refuge were seen carrying food and/or nesting material, indicative of possible breeding. A male Magnolia Warbler banded on the fifth constituted the only July record for this species in eight years. An immature male Cerulean Warbler reported on Martha's Vineyard July 28 was also quite unusual for that month. Orchard Oriole reports normally run through the end of July, but this year the latest was on the fourth. L.E.T.

Alder Flycatcher: 21	ONWR	1	C.Floyd	
Willow Flycatcher: 6,7	P.I., GMNWR	1, 2	BBC	
Eastern Kingbird: thr.	P.I.	20 max. (7/22)	BBC	
Horned Lark: 19	Scituate	pr. + 2 yg.	W.Petersen	
Purple Martin: thr.,16	P.I., Easton	30 max., 8	BBC, K.Holmes	
Tree Swallow: thr., 29	P.I., E.Middleboro	400 max., 20	BBC, K.Anderson	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 31	N. Monomoy	1	R.Forster	
Bank Swallow: 27	Scituate, P.I.	100, 10	J.Berry#, BBC	
Barn Swallow: 15	Duxbury	50	D.Clapp	
Fish Crow: thr., 24	S.Dartmouth, Whitman	2, 2	G.Fernandez, W.Petersen#	
Jackdaw: thr.	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch: thr., 2	E.Middleboro, Lincoln	1, 1	K.Anderson, R.Forster	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JULY 1985</u>
Red-breasted Nuthatch (continued):				
5-30,6	Annisquam, Milton	1, 1	H.Wiggin, G.d'Entremont	
14-21,23	Ipswich, Millis	2, 3	J.Berry, R.Forster	
Brown Creeper:				
4,5	E.Middleboro, Sandwich	1, 2	K.Anderson, J.Aylward	
Carolina Wren:				
thr.,14	S.Dartmouth, Marshfield	2, 1	G.Fernandez, R.Emery#	
28,31	Peabody, E.Middleboro	1, 1	R.Heil, K.Anderson	
Winter Wren:				
1	Weston	1 singing	L.Robinson	
Sedge Wren:				
13-24	Still River Depot Road	3 singing	S.Carroll + M.Lynch #	
Marsh Wren:				
14,27	GMNWR, P.I.	12, 7	BBC	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:				
21,27	ONWR, Wayland	3, 2	B.Hallett#, R.Forster	
Eastern Bluebird:				
7,9	Sherborn, Bellingham	6, 2 ad. + 3 yg.	E.Taylor, C.Quinlan	
19	Lincoln	1 m.	J.Carter	
Veery:				
4,14,21	Natick, Ipswich, ONWR	3, 4, 4	BBC, J.Berry, C.Floyd	
Hermit Thrush:				
thr., 6,14	Dover, Milton, Ipswich	10, 2, 3	E.Taylor, G.d'Entremont, J.Berry	
Gray Catbird:				
8	P.I.	42	BBC	
Brown Thrasher:				
20,27	Annisquam, P.I.	5, 8	H.Wiggin, BBC	
White-eyed Vireo:				
3-8,20	Lincoln, Marshfield	1, 1	C.Floyd, G.d'Entremont	
Yellow-throated Vireo:				
21	ONWR	3	M.Vaughan#	
Blue-winged Warbler:				
24	Whitman	1	W.Petersen	
Yellow Warbler:				
7,27	GMNWR, P.I.	12, 10	BBC	
Chestnut-sided Warbler:				
21	OMWR	2	C.Floyd	
Magnolia Warbler:				
5	Rockport	1 m. b.	R.Norris	
Black-throated Green Warbler:				
5,14	E.Middleboro, Ipswich	1 m., 7 m.	K.Anderson, J.Berry	
Pine Warbler:				
thr.,6	E.Middleboro, Milton	2+ m., 3	K.Anderson, G.d'Entremont	
14,18	Ipswich, Lexington	1 m., 1	J.Berry, J.Carter	
Cerulean Warbler:				
28	M.V.	1 imm.	R.Shriber	
American Redstart:				
15,21	S.Dartmouth, ONWR	2, 2	R.Maker, C.Floyd	
Ovenbird:				
21	ONWR	2	C.Floyd	
Black-and-white Warbler:				
12	S.Dartmouth	1	R.Maker	
Savannah Sparrow:				
1,18	P.I., Newbypt.	12, 6	BBC, J.Berry	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:				
thr.,6	P.I., S.Dartmouth	max. 21, 6	BBC, G.Fernandez	
27,31	Newbury, N.Monomoy	17, 45	P.Yawkey, R.Forster#	
Seaside Sparrow:				
6,27	P.I., Newbury	5, 3	BBC, P.Yawkey	
30	S.Dartmouth	2	G.Fernandez	
White-throated Sparrow:				
14	Ipswich	2 m.	J.Berry	
Bobolink:				
2,27	Concord, Newbypt.	4 m., 15+	J.Carter, BBC	
Eastern Meadowlark:				
18,30	Newbury, Marshfield	10, 9	J.Berry, D.Clapp	
Common Grackle:				
12-18	Hopkinton	250	G.Gove	
Orchard Oriole:				
4	Weston	1 m.	R.Forster	
Purple Finch:				
22	P.I.	1	BBC	



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A SECOND RECORD OF LITTLE STINT (*Calidris minuta*)
IN MASSACHUSETTS

Date. First discovered on 25 July 1985; rediscovered on 1 August and then seen more or less continuously by a number of observers through the following week (exact date of departure unknown to the writer).

Location. Beach at Third Cliff, Scituate, Massachusetts. This is the precise location where a Rufous-necked Stint (*C. ruficollis*) occurred in July of 1980.

Observer. Discovered by Wayne R. Petersen on 25 July; rediscovered by the writer on 1 August, at which time it was shown to P. William Smith. From 2 August on, the bird was seen by numbers of people from Massachusetts and elsewhere.

Description from 25 July notes. I went to count shorebirds on the evening tide, which was full at 1800. Viewing conditions were excellent: clear sky and soft evening light; 10-12 mph SW wind. At approximately 1830 I noticed in a large group of Semipalmated Sandpipers a sleeping peep that impressed me by its richly colored back and the sandy-cinnamon coloration of its nape and head. The bird was resting on the dry sand adjacent to the salt marsh. Suspecting that the bird was an adult stint in alternate plumage, I carefully stalked the bird, finally getting within about 80' of it. Several times the bird woke briefly, allowing me quick looks at its bill, which was thin and black and more pointed (less blunt) than the bills of nearby Semipalmated Sandpipers. Finally, something alarmed the flock, and it flew to a nearby, flooded washout on the beach, where most of the birds began to feed. After several minutes, I again located the bird, which now was actively running and probing, stopping for several minutes to doze near a tuft of beach grass, and then resuming its feeding. During these two periods, the following notes were made.

1. Head. Rich cinnamon with a definite sandy or yellowish cast to the color. Color most rich on the sides of the head and face, and extending around to include the nape. Top of head and crown dark, finely streaked (lightly spotted) with dusky and buffy streaks. Lores dusky (faint), but a light superciliary visible behind the eye. No white V extending from base of bill toward the eyes.

2. Back. Mantle and scapulars bright rusty, margined with pale buff, which produced a pronounced V on the midback, particularly noticeable as the bird walked away, and seemingly less visible some times than other times. Certain postures of the bird actually gave the impression of a second, less distinct V on the mantle. The scapulars had rather long, tear-shaped, black centers, which were prominently rusty and buff-fringed. No obvious contrast existed between the wing coverts and the scapular-mantle area. The tertials had dark centers; however,



Little Stint (Calidris minuta)

*Third Cliff, Scituate, MA
August 9, 1985
Photo by Rick Morus*

margin color simply was not observable, despite efforts to do so. The overall effect dorsally was much warmer and more richly colored than that of the adjacent gray-backed Semipalmated Sandpipers or the dark brown backs of the Least Sandpipers.

3. Underparts. The chin and throat were white. The rich color of the head and nape extended slightly onto the sides of the upper breast but clearly was not present on the throat, nor did this intense color occur even across the midbreast. There was at most a blush of rusty in the center of the breast. There were dusky streaks (spots) at the sides of the upper breast, and these extended toward the center of the breast but were barely discernible on the midbreast. Both the rusty coloration and the spotting were most conspicuous at the sides of the upper breast, not in the middle. The rest of the underparts were strikingly white.

4. Legs. The legs were black with no other color tone discernible, and they seemed particularly fine and slender. Careful scrutiny with a 20X telescope, when the bird was standing on hard-packed sand, showed no indication of toe webbing at a distance of about 50'. At no time was the clubfooted appearance of the Semipalmated Sandpipers apparent on the Little Stint.

5. Size and behavior. Overall size was close to but slightly smaller and more compact than nearby Semipalmated Sandpipers. The stint was dramatically smaller than an adjacent Sanderling, but was not as crouched or diminutive as the Least Sandpipers feeding in the same beach wash. When feeding, the bird darted and probed like the Semipalmated Sandpipers, and several times it was bumped and chased by nearby birds. It made several short flights, each time exhibiting a white wing stripe. However, detailed impressions of the flight pattern could not be obtained. At no time did the writer hear it call.

Observations were made at about 60'-80' for nearly an hour before the bird finally flew. Despite efforts to locate and observe it further, the stint could not be found again that evening.

Further observations were made on 1 August, when I had the chance to view the bird in Smith's Questar. This only enhanced impressions obtained at the time of the original observation. On this occasion, the broad, rufous margins of the tertials were more apparent than on the first encounter with the bird, due to the superior quality of the Questar image.

This record marks the second for Massachusetts, the first occurring at Monomoy Island, 19-25 June 1980.

Wayne R. Petersen

A QUESTION FOR BIRDERS

Have you bought your Duck Stamp this year? Any year? Ever?

On October 21, the first duck hunters loomed on the Massachusetts birdwatchers' horizon, marking the start of the forty-day (never on Sunday) 1985-86 duck-hunting season. If you find shotgun pellets falling around you as you search for a Harris' Sparrow on Bolton Flats this fall, control your indignation and fury. The people firing the guns may have contributed more than you to the wildlife refuge land you value so highly for birdwatching! How so? Read on.

The 1920s witnessed extensive draining of wetlands for farming and development, and the 1930s brought a prolonged drought that carried a double whammy. Drought eliminates wetlands in two ways: by drying them up directly and, indirectly, as a result of the practice of putting farm wetlands into cultivation once they become sufficiently dry and then "improving" the drainage. Federal studies have shown that less than half remains of 215 million acres of wetlands existing in colonial America and that 87 percent of this loss resulted from agricultural development.

Fifty years ago, the combined effects of cultivation, drainage, and drought on wildlife habitat so alarmed a group of hunters and conservationists led by Jay ("Ding") Darling, a political cartoonist for the *Des Moines Register*, that they petitioned Congress to act. The upshot was the passage of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act of 1934, requiring every waterfowl hunter sixteen or older to buy (for one dollar then, \$7.50 now) a Duck Stamp to be attached to the hunting license. Jay Darling was the artist for that first stamp, and in the half-century since, 89 million stamps have produced \$285 million in revenues used to acquire 3.5 million acres of wetland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Today the artwork for the stamp is chosen in a Duck Stamp Contest, the only art competition regularly sponsored by the federal govern-

ment, and the proceeds are used to preserve wintering and breeding areas of endangered duck species, e.g., American Black, Canvasback, and Redhead. The Duck Stamps are purchased not only by hunters but by conservationists and philatelists and have become such a hot collector's item (both for beauty and for appreciation value) that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's November auction of fifteen sheets of the 1984 Golden Anniversary Duck Stamp (American Wigeon by William Morris) required a minimum bid of \$2000 and limited bids to one per person.

So the hunter who loves and uses the same marshland as the bird-watcher pays for the acquisition of that land but continues to lose ground. In 1985 the federal regulations of the duck-hunting season have been made more restrictive in an effort to reduce the "duck harvest" by 25 percent and thus help restore or maintain the breeding populations of waterfowl, fallen this year to the lowest level in 31 years, a decrease of 19 percent from last year and 24 percent lower than the average for the last 30 years. The species affected are Mallard, pintail, shoveler, Gadwall, scaup, Canvasback, Redhead, and wigeon, and only teal seem to be maintaining their breeding numbers.

And what of the birder - proudly proclaiming affiliation in this honorable avocation by bumper stickers, window decals, T-shirts, badges, and insignia? What contribution does the birder make, tramping along the wetlands added to the National Wildlife Refuge System by the stamp-buying hunter? Someone, somewhere, soon will surely generate the idea of a "Birdwatcher Stamp." In the meantime, why not stop at the post office and invest in the 1985 Duck Stamp that was issued in July? It features Cinnamon Teal by artist Gerald Mobley of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and it is beautiful!

Dorothy R. Arvidson

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At a Glance . . .

August 1985

August's "At a Glance" bird is a species that is a typical Massachusetts migrant during the last days of that month. Initial impressions of the photograph may mislead one, in that the bird perhaps appears larger than it really is - one of the illusions sometimes created by photographs. Close examination of the bill should dispel concerns in this area, because the bill is obviously too short and thin to belong to any of the orioles or tanagers - species that can show the same conspicuous wing bars present in the photograph. Likewise, the lack of a tiny hook on the bill tip removes the possibility of the bird being a vireo. Therefore, this bird is a parulid (wood warbler) and clearly belongs in the category of species with wing bars. Assuming there are no photo artifacts, the bird pictured appears to be unstreaked beneath. This, when combined with the wing bars, narrows the field considerably, for relatively few parulids exhibit this combination of characters. Also noteworthy is the faint yet obvious dusky patch on the bird's flanks. Coupled with the clear underparts and the suggestion of dusky streaks on the back, the field marks point to a fall-plumaged Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*). The suggestion of pale legs in the photograph (which are dark in reality) is misleading in terms of confusion with the similar Blackpoll Warbler; however, the cleaner, less streaked underparts and the presence of a flank patch (which is actually buffy) should eliminate confusion. The only other viable candidate is the Pine Warbler, whose larger and longer bill, unmarked back, dusky cheek patch, and usually more streaked underparts serve to distinguish and eliminate that species. This immature Bay-breasted Warbler was photographed in September at Monomoy Island.

W.R.P.



Bay-breasted Warbler

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen

At a Glance . . .

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



Can you identify this bird?
Identification will be discussed in the next issue's At a Glance. Bird Observer will award a prize to the reader who submits the most correct answers in 1985. Please send your entry on a postcard to Bird Observer, 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02178 before the answer is published.

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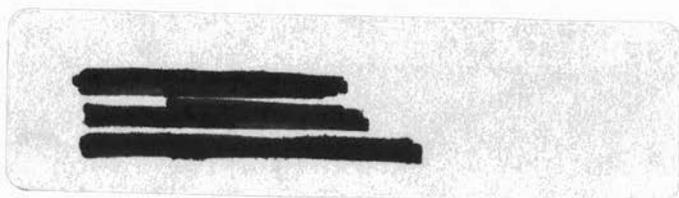
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