

Bird Observer

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 3

JUNE 2007



HOT BIRDS



This **Swainson's Warbler** (left) was captured and banded at the Joppa Flats Bird Banding Station on the Parker River NWR on May 24, 2007. Photograph by Lee Brown. The bird skulked around near the refuge road on Plum Island for another week.

This **Gull-billed Tern** (right) was spotted and photographed by Rick Heil at Kettle Cove in Manchester on June 5, 2007. Rick used his cell phone and telescope to get this shot.



Wayne Petersen was leading a Mass Audubon program when he identified this alternate-plumaged **Franklin's Gull** (left, behind the Laughing Gull) at Sandy Point SR on June 9, 2007. This photograph was taken by Dana Duxbury-Fox.

Charlie Wade spotted and photographed this **Swallow-tailed Kite** (left) in his yard on June 9, 2007. What a yard bird!



Look for more **HOT BIRDS** on the inside back cover!

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BALD EAGLE CHICK ON BANDING DAY BY DAVID LARSON

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Summer Birding on Boy Scout Road and the Kennebago River in Rangeley, Maine

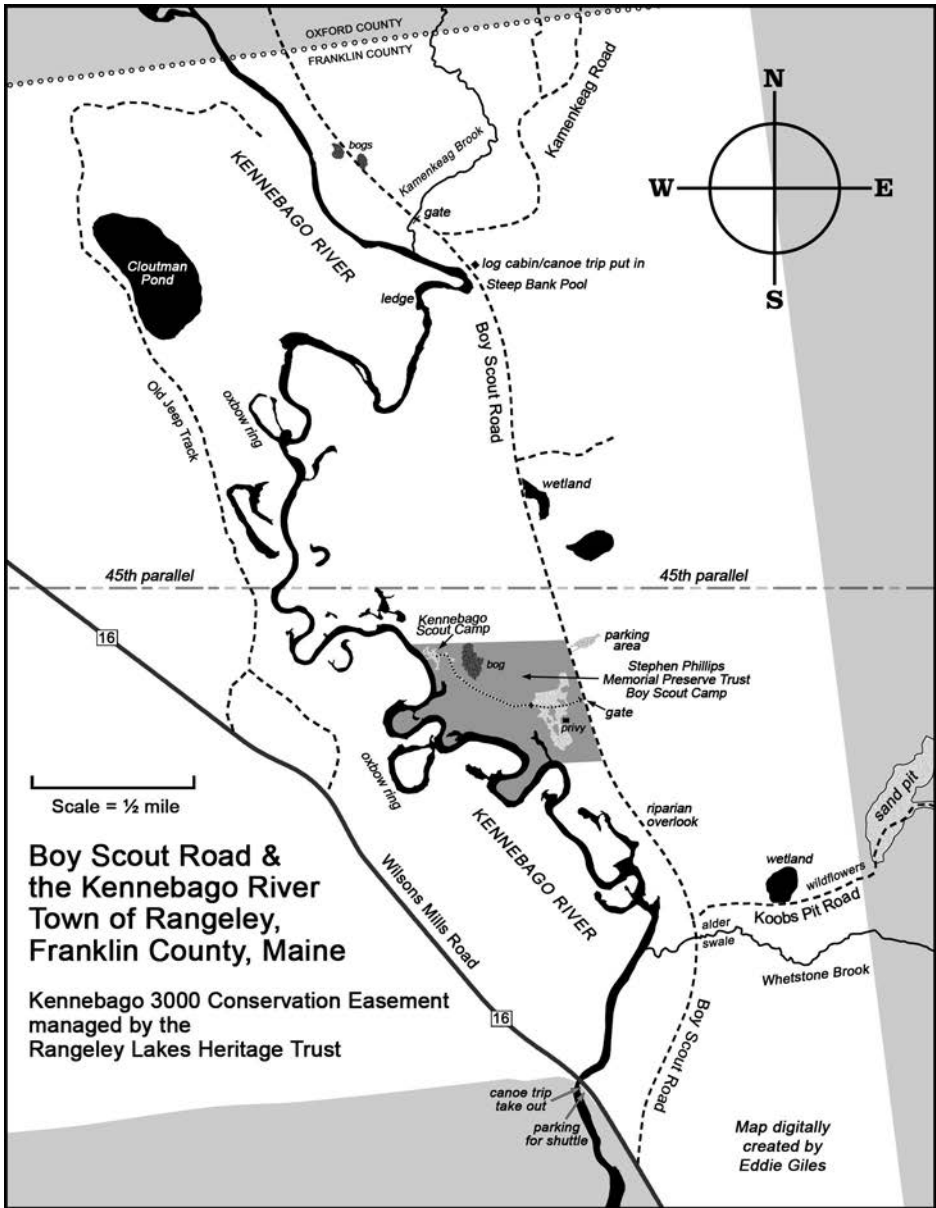
Eddie Giles

Introduction

Rangeley, Maine, is located in the heart of the western lakes and mountains of Franklin County, not far from the borders of New Hampshire and Quebec. The Rangeley Lakes Region lies some 230 miles north of Boston, exactly halfway between the Equator and the North Pole. Comprising 111 lakes and ponds, dozens of rivers and streams, and hundreds of square miles of mixed deciduous/boreal forest, it is truly a land of awe-inspiring beauty. Lying like hidden jewels in this vast wilderness are Boy Scout Road and the Kennebago River. If you had only one day to spend birding in Rangeley, this should be your destination. I have been birding and exploring this area every July since I first visited the town back in 1988 and have been leading a weekend birding trip to Rangeley for the Brookline Bird Club (BBC) since 1998. Over the last twenty years, I have found a majority of the area's boreal specialties along this road at one time or another, including Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided flycatchers, Common Raven, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Tennessee and Cape May warblers, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, and both Red and White-winged crossbills.

Boy Scout Road and the Kennebago River are part of an area known as the Kennebago 3000, which is owned by the Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve Trust (SPMPT). The property is managed under a conservation easement held by the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust (RLHT). Founded in 1991, the RLHT is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving natural areas, scenic beauty, critical wildlife habitat, and the cultural heritage that makes Rangeley so special (Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust (RLHT) Home Page. 2007. <<http://www.rlht.org/index.shtml>>. Accessed March 24.). RLHT works in partnership with the SPMPT to also manage an additional 3000 acres in the area. As its name implies, the Kennebago 3000 includes 3092 acres with four miles on both banks of the Kennebago River and over two miles of frontage on Cupsuptic Lake, located approximately one mile SSW of Boy Scout Road and the Kennebago River. The landscape is a rich patchwork of deciduous hardwoods (aspen, beech, birch, maple), softwoods (balsam fir, spruce, tamarack, white cedar, white pine), alder thickets, bogs, and small wetlands. Shrubs, ferns, bunchberry, blue-bead lily, and mosses dominate the undergrowth, while wildflowers and grasses dominate the herbaceous layer along the roadsides and disturbed areas. Boy Scout Road runs in a NNW orientation off Route 16 (Wilson's Mills Road) with the Kennebago River flowing to its west, and at its halfway point the road crosses the forty-fifth parallel. Elevation is approximately 1500 feet above sea level, and July high temperatures can range from 55° to over 90°F.

To fully appreciate the rich flora and fauna the Kennebago 3000 has to offer, you should be prepared to bird this area on two consecutive mornings. On the first day,



- | | |
|--|--|
|  Kennebago 3000 Property |  Paved Road |
|  River / Streams / Ponds / Wetlands |  Dirt Road |
|  Boy Scout Camp Property |  Road To Scout Camp |
|  Private Property |  County Line |
|  Bog |  45th Parallel |

arrive shortly after sunrise and explore Boy Scout Road on foot. To complete the experience from an entirely different perspective, return the next morning at the same time, and navigate the Kennebago River by canoe or kayak.

Birding Boy Scout Road

To get to Boy Scout Road and the Kennebago River, take Route 4 from the center of Rangeley and drive west about 6.5 miles toward the Village of Oquossoc. Shortly before reaching the village, turn right at the information pavilion onto Route 16 (Wilson's Mills Road), and proceed 1.3 miles to Boy Scout Road on the right. This smooth dirt road is marked with a street sign, but in some years the sign has been absent. If you cross the bridge over the Kennebago River, you have gone too far; turn around, and take your first left after crossing the bridge. You can park your car at the beginning of Boy Scout Road, just off the main road, and bird the road entirely on foot if you like. I prefer to work my way in by car for the first mile and then park near the Kennebago Scout Camp, covering the remainder of the road on foot. Keep in mind that fly fishermen and canoeists/kayakers traveling to and from the river also use this road, and vehicle use can be moderately heavy (by Rangeley standards) on weekends. *When stopping on this road, please make sure to pull well off to the side so as not to impede the flow of traffic.* The grade is flat, the road straight, and the walking easy. Boy Scout Road is actually an old narrow-gauge railroad bed, a remnant of the Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad that brought guests up to the great sporting camps on Kennebago Lake in the early to mid-twentieth century.

As you work your way in along Boy Scout Road, the songs and calls of the area's most common residents will break the morning quiet — Blue-headed and Red-eyed vireos, Winter Wrens, Magnolia Warblers, and White-throated Sparrows for starters. Where the trees and alders are densest, small birds may crisscross the road before you, most likely Veerys, American Redstarts, or Nashville Warblers. One-half mile in, you will notice the trees opening up on the right where a small stream crosses under the road. Ten to fifteen years ago, American beavers dammed this stream, and the resulting beaver pond killed all the trees within its boundaries. Several years later the dam was removed, the pond drained, and over time the area has been transformed into an alder swale, dotted with standing deadwood. Last year we were treated to a beautiful male Chestnut-sided Warbler singing from an open perch on top one of the snags. Whitetail deer are often seen crossing the road.

Shortly past this stream on the right you will see a road that may or may not be marked with a sign reading Koobs Pit Road. Park your vehicle safely off of Boy Scout Road, and head up Koobs Pit Road on foot. The first 0.2 mile of Koobs Pit Road is thick with alders and leads to a small dead forested wetland on the left side of the road. Pileated Woodpeckers are regularly found along this stretch between Boy Scout Road and the wetland. Take time to search among the standing snags and fallen trees of the wetland, and you may find a Hooded Merganser and her young. A careful scan of the trees along its edges may reward you with passerines such as Golden-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and other surprises; in 2006, a Northern Goshawk passed overhead with mammalian prey in its talons. Continue past the

wetland, and you will come to a small patch of wildflowers that includes spreading dogbane, black-eyed Susan, common milkweed, Canada hawkweed, and devil's paintbrush. As the day progresses, this small plot can attract an impressive array of butterflies including great-spangled, Aphrodite, and Atlantis fritillaries, pearly and northern crescents, white and red admirals, eastern commas, question marks, and a variety of skippers.

A tenth of a mile past the wildflower patch you will encounter a metal gate marking the entrance to Koobs Pit, an abandoned sand and gravel pit. As you pass through the gate, you may notice a large puddle (present most years) at the edge of the pit on your left. If you approach this puddle slowly, you may find a Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, or Common Snipe feeding along the edge. Other possible sightings near this sand pit are Gray Jays, Broad-winged Hawks, and Red-tailed Hawks (a surprisingly uncommon bird in this area). In addition to the wildflowers and butterflies listed previously, Koobs Pit also provides habitat for wildflowers such as pearly everlasting and St. Johnswort and butterfly species such as monarch and silvery blue. After you have birded Koobs Pit, head back to Boy Scout Road to continue your journey.

As you resume your way along Boy Scout Road (0.3 mile), you will soon come to an elevated stretch of road that overlooks a large scrub-shrub wetland and the Kennebago River. This riparian zone, on your left, deserves a few moments of your time. If you're driving, turn off the engine, get out, and just listen. You will be rewarded with the songs of Alder Flycatchers, Common Yellowthroats, and Swamp



Boy Scout Road. All photographs by the author.

Sparrows at the river's edge below you, while Boreal Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches may call from the spruces and firs behind you. Take out your binoculars or set up your scope and scan along the river and its far bank. Common Ravens and raptors such as Ospreys can sometimes be seen soaring over the river, while Cedar Waxwings, Olive-sided Flycatchers, and Evening Grosbeaks are often perched at the tops of the spruce trees that line the opposite bank. Turn your attention to the plants growing along the left edge of the road, and you will find evening primrose. A closer inspection of the flowers may turn up one or more primrose moths, little pink and yellow moths that rest, feed, and lay eggs on the flowers of evening primrose, their host plant.

Continue 0.4 of a mile until you see a metal gate on your left. If you are driving, proceed 0.1 mile past this gate to a small sandy clearing on your right. Pull into the clearing and secure your vehicle. Walk back toward the gate, and continue about 150 feet beyond it to a small boggy area on what will now be the left (eastern) side of Boy Scout Road. Tennessee Warblers have been regularly found in this area during the last few years. After taking time to listen for them, turn around, and walk back to the metal gate. On the right side of the gate you will see a large boulder bearing the inscription "Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve Trust Boy Scout Camp." Stephen Phillips, a member of the famous Pingree family of Maine and a local philanthropist, had a lifelong dream to preserve and protect land around Rangeley for future generations. To that end, he purchased thousands of acres of land in the Rangeley Lakes area. Upon his passing, his widow Bessie carried out his wishes. The land that makes up the Boy Scout Camp and the Kennebago 3000 were donated by Mrs. Phillips and the SPMPT to RLHT in 1995, and the camp has been named in his honor. The gate is locked, but the camp is open to public access. However, since Boy Scouts do still use the facilities, there is a chance that the camp may be occupied. *If this is the case, please respect the campers' privacy, and consider visiting the Boy Scout Camp at another time when it is unoccupied.* Otherwise, you may walk around the gate and enter the area.

Immediately upon entering the camp, you will see a few large tamarack trees and conifers on your left. Blackburnian Warblers have been regular breeders here for as long as I can recall, and you are likely to find fledglings being fed somewhere among these trees. As you walk farther, you will enter a large, sandy clearing sparsely vegetated with scattered trees, saplings, and shrubs. Lowbush blueberry grows here, and, if you are lucky, you may find a purple fringed orchid or two in bloom as you search for the sweet, ripe berries. In past years, Chipping Sparrows have nested in the spruces. As many as three or four Northern Flickers at a time are regularly found here feeding on ants. The ground will no doubt be interlaced with the tracks of moose, which are abundant in the Rangeley Lakes Region, and chances are high that you will encounter moose at some point during your morning. Take the time to walk and bird the edges of the clearing. To the left, you will find a privy — old, but still serviceable. To the right, the clearing ends at a wall of dense conifers, broken only by the entrance to a road. This is marked by a large sign about fifteen feet high with wooden letters spelling out KENNEBAGO SCOUT CAMP. This line of trees marks the beginning of



2004 Brookline Bird Club group at the Kennebago Scout Camp.

an extensive tract of boreal forest that extends north for a mile or more. It is a wonderful spot to stop and scan for birds. At times it can be alive with Black-capped and Boreal chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and a variety of warblers. At this point you begin the walk into the Kennebago Scout Camp.

As you pass beneath the sign, you will immediately feel the forest close in. The scent of balsam will hang thick in the air, and Black-throated Green Warblers will be singing from the canopy above. Boreal Chickadees are regularly encountered along this stretch of road through the forest. About halfway to the actual camping area (0.1 mile), barely visible through the trees on the right side of the road, is a sphagnum bog. In good flight years White-winged Crossbills can be heard singing in and around this bog, sometimes observed at the tops of spruces or tamaracks. As you walk along, keep your eyes open for the fluttering of butterfly wings, as eastern commas, question marks, and pink-edged sulphurs have all been recorded in this area. A short distance beyond the sphagnum bog the road will take a sharp turn to the left and descend into the Scout camp proper. Set on a high bank overlooking the Kennebago River, the camp is made up of a series of small tent sites, picnic benches, fire pits, and two dilapidated outhouses. The road ends at a canoe landing on the riverbank.

The camp is a wonderful place to sit and eat breakfast or to pause for a midmorning snack. In the early 1990s small flocks of Gray Jays frequented the camp. For a number of years the birds would fly in to investigate as you approached. At times we would sit at the picnic benches and feed the Gray Jays granola from our

outstretched hands. In the center of the camp are several towering spruce trees; check the tops and you may find an Olive-sided Flycatcher. The trunks of these trees bear the scars of Pileated Woodpeckers foraging. Stand on the riverbank above the canoe landing and scan along the river below for Alder Flycatchers, Veerys, Yellow Warblers, and Wilson's Warblers. Other species you might encounter around the Camp are Ruffed Grouse, Merlin, Northern Goshawk, and warblers such as Nashville, Northern Parula, Magnolia, Canada, Cape May, and Yellow-rumped. Though it may be difficult to tear yourself away from this place, retrace your steps back up the road, and bird your way to the metal gate.

Upon reaching the gate, turn left onto Boy Scout Road and start walking north again. As you pass the entrance to the parking area, you will once again enter the large tract of boreal forest. In little over 0.1 mile you will cross the forty-fifth parallel. In terms of the area's boreal specialties, this tract (approximately a mile in length) may be your most productive section of Boy Scout Road. Boreal Chickadees are almost guaranteed here, and Gray Jays are regular as well. Just past the parking area, but on the left, is the area where in July 2000 the BBC group found a female Spruce Grouse and seven chicks. After enjoying repeated encounters with them over the four-day weekend, we also found a male Spruce Grouse in a black spruce grove about 0.4 mile farther down the road (1.45 miles from Route 16). In previous years Black-backed Woodpeckers nested in this same black spruce grove. Just past that grove, on the right side of the road, you will come upon a second dead forested wetland. Keep an eye open for Gray Jays and Belted Kingfishers. An American beaver can sometimes be seen swimming among the tree stumps that occur over most of this wetland. In another tenth of a mile, on the opposite side from the wetland, you will



Female Spruce Grouse with chicks

find a small grove of white cedars where Yellow-bellied Flycatchers have been regular breeders. Other species closely associated with this boreal tract are Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, Evening Grosbeak, and both White-winged and Red crossbills.

Half a mile beyond the wetland (2.0 miles from Route 16) you will come to a stretch where the road widens and there is an overlook to the Kennebago River on your left. This is the famous Steep Bank Pool, widely known among fly fishermen as one of the best trout pools on the river. It is also the launch site for canoe and kayak trips down the river and will be your starting point the following morning. On the left side of the road immediately before the overlook is a series of trails that will lead you into a beautiful spruce grove. Fly fishermen use these trails to get access to the river, and they will lead you to the water's edge at a ledge in the river. You may be able to hear the songs of an Olive-sided Flycatcher from this spot, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have bred at the edges of the grove. An old log cabin on the opposite side of the road from the river is worth investigating. Some of the big spruces to the left (north) of the cabin display large areas of peeled bark, indicating the presence of foraging Black-backed Woodpeckers. A few years ago we found a Dark-eyed Junco nest with four young on the ground next to the cabin itself. Growing around the cabin are patches of bunchberry, partridgeberry, wintergreen, and twinflower; behind it is a patch of trillium (past blooming at this time of year).

Back on the road, a short walk past the cabin will bring you to a road on the right, which may or may not be marked with a sign reading Kamenkeag Road. In past years you could walk this road and find an Olive-sided Flycatcher, but in 2006 we found the road blocked by so many downed trees that it was virtually impassable. A tenth of a mile past Kamenkeag Road you will come to a metal gate and a wooden bridge crossing a small stream and its associated emergent wetland. Walk around the gate, and cross the bridge. Keep an eye and ear open for Gray Jays and Boreal Chickadees along the next quarter-mile stretch of road. At the end of that quarter-mile you should find the forest on the right to be dominated by black spruce, tamarack, and white cedar. This is another spot on Boy Scout Road where Yellow-bellied Flycatchers have consistently bred; last year the BBC group watched in awe as a pair of birds fed three fledglings within twenty feet of us. The bright orange gape of the babies' mouths was particularly striking at close range.

Boy Scout Road continues for about another quarter-mile, at which point it crosses into Oxford County and becomes Sportsmans Road. The Oxford County line marks the northern boundary of the Kennebago 3000. At this point, turn around, and begin the walk back to your vehicle, a distance of 1.5 miles, more if you parked at the beginning of Boy Scout Road.

The morning will not be complete without a visit to the Carry Road Country Store in Oquossoc. Drive back to the main road, and take a left on Route 16. Take a right at the information pavilion onto Route 4, and drive into the village of Oquossoc (0.3 mile). The Carry Road Country Store will be on your right. In addition to a well-deserved cold drink, be sure to indulge yourself with one of their wicked whoopie pies — official snack of the BBC Rangeley Lakes Trip since 1998.

Birding the Kennebago River

Birding the Kennebago River by canoe or kayak offers an entirely different perspective on the Kennebago 3000. The river provides access to a greater portion of the area as well as habitats generally inaccessible by foot. This has always been a very popular part of the BBC trip because it offers a great opportunity to see moose and other wildlife and a closer inspection of the river's riparian habitat. The trip is approximately 3.5 miles in length and will take you from two to six hours, depending upon how much time you take to observe, explore, and savor the experience.

Running the Kennebago requires a shuttle, since it begins at the Steep Bank Pool, two miles up Boy Scout Road, and ends at the Route 16 Bridge. To best accommodate a shuttle, go with a group and have at least two vehicles to avoid a two-mile walk either before or after your paddle. After dropping the canoes at the put-in, leave one car at the Route 16 bridge, in an obvious pullout on the far side facing south, and the other at the put-in place. An easy alternative is to arrange a rental through River's Edge Sports in the Village of Oquossoc and take advantage of their shuttle service. For a reasonable fee they will provide you with a canoe or kayak, life jackets, and paddles. Shuttle service with the River's Edge allows you to leave your vehicle(s) at the Route 16 bridge since they will provide you with transportation to the launch site and put the canoe or kayak in the water for you. At the end of the trip all you need to do is pull your craft out of the water and leave it at the bridge; River's Edge will come pick it up at their convenience. *Whether you rent your canoe or use your own, Maine law requires that canoes or kayaks of any length must have a wearable Type I, II, or III Personal Flotation Device (PFD) for each person on board. Penalties for noncompliance with the law can range from a written warning to fines of up to \$1100 for each violation.* Game wardens of the Maine Division of Fish & Wildlife periodically patrol the Kennebago River and will check to see that everyone has a PFD on board.

Once you are ready with the vessels at the launch site, go down a steep path with a flight of stairs to the river's edge. Before you launch your boat, survey a ledge around the first bend of the river to determine whether to paddle this stretch on the left or right side. Fly-fishing trails through the spruce grove will take you to a point where you can survey this ledge from land. You may have to portage your watercraft over this stretch of river under low water conditions, depending on your paddling skills. In the twenty years that I have been canoeing and kayaking this river, I have never seen the water so low that I couldn't navigate past this ledge, and it has always been best to run it on the left side, hugging the riverbank. *Bypassing this ledge is the only difficult part of the trip, and probably sounds a lot worse than it actually is.* After this stretch, you will encounter flat water all the way to the Route 16 bridge. Steep Bank Pool is one of the most popular trout-fishing spots on the Kennebago, and you will undoubtedly encounter fly fishermen working this spot in the early morning hours. *Please show courtesy by passing as quickly and quietly as possible. Speak in hushed tones, take care to avoid bumping your paddles on the sides of the canoe, and avoid sliding your feet around on the bottom of the boat.*

Once past the ledge, the Kennebago River is an easy canoe trip by most standards. The river's current is slow and gentle, allowing you to drift with the flow and let the river's energy propel you along. Most of your paddling will consist of steering or stopping your canoe. It won't be long before you find yourself surrounded by birds. Some of the more common species in the alder thickets are Veery, Alder Flycatcher, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow. Great Blue Herons are often seen flying overhead or feeding along the riverbanks, and will sometimes allow you to approach closely. Waterfowl encountered may include Common Loon, Canada Goose, Mallard, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, and Common Merganser. About twelve years ago I photographed a female Common Merganser on this river with twenty-four ducklings in tow; a fine example of communal egg dumping by adult birds. Ospreys nested for a number of years in an enormous dead snag on the river until heavy winter snows toppled the tree. They are still often seen soaring over the river, as are Broad-winged Hawks and sometimes Common Ravens. Spotted Sandpipers frequent the banks, and, if you are lucky, you may observe a parent bird feeding its young as the BBC group did in 2004. Other possible shorebirds include Solitary Sandpipers and Common Snipe along the edges of some of the large, quiet pools.

Pay very close attention to the trees that line the riverbanks, especially the spruces. One-third of all the Black-backed Woodpeckers I have had the pleasure of finding in Rangeley have been seen while sitting in a canoe on this river. More than likely you will hear them before you see them — a faint, soft tapping as the bird forages on the trunks of the trees. Key in on that tapping sound, follow it to its source, and you may well be rewarded for your efforts. The spruces along the banks are also a great place to find passerines warming themselves in the early morning sunshine — small, mixed flocks of warblers, kinglets, nuthatches, and chickadees. Cedar Waxwings are common along the river, too, and Evening Grosbeaks can be irregular visitors as well. A Pileated Woodpecker can be a welcome surprise in any large snag along the banks. Olive-sided Flycatchers may be found singing or calling anywhere in this riparian habitat.

Oxbows and meanders are characteristic of this last half of the lower Kennebago River. Over the course of time these oxbows close off, forming oxbow lakes (<<http://www.mbgnet.net/fresh/lakes/oxbow.htm>>. Accessed March 30, 2007). There are two oxbows on the river that have not completely closed off yet, forming oxbow rings that are still connected to the river. These rings (or doughnuts, as I used to call them) may hold a few surprises and are worth your exploration. The only Green Herons I have ever recorded here were found stalking the edges of these rings. The first ring is about a mile from the Steep Bank Pool. Spike rush has grown all the way across the bottom of half of this ring, and chances are you may not be able to completely circumnavigate it. Of course, this situation may also lead to chance encounters. Several years ago, after running aground in the shallow, vegetation-choked water, I looked down at the bank to find myself an arms length away from an American Woodcock. Oddly enough, the bird never flushed; it simply walked slowly away into the undergrowth.

As you drift along the main channel of the river, be sure to take notice of all the flora and fauna around you. Three very special wildflowers grow in the thick vegetation along the banks waiting to be discovered. They are blue flag iris (with its deep blue-violet flowers), purple fringed orchid, and my personal favorite, the Canada lily. Growing up to five feet tall, these plants bear clusters of yellow-orange flowers that hang downward like bells on long stalks. Somewhere along this river stands a beautiful specimen of an American elm that has managed to escape the ravages of Dutch elm disease. Keep an open eye tuned to the river's edge, and you may find a wood turtle sunning itself on the bank or any downed tree.

Mammals are frequent visitors to the river, and the mammal foremost on everyone's mind would undoubtedly be the moose. Paddling around a bend in the river and coming face to face with one is an experience you are not likely to forget! They are the undisputed monarchs of the Kennebago and a living symbol of the Maine wilderness. Your best chances of seeing one on the river are early in the morning when they enter the river to eat the wild celery that grows on the river bottom. They can also be found here in the deeper stretches of the river on very hot days, when they attempt to escape the heat and insects. Though moose are not aggressive at this time of year, *please treat them with respect by observing them discreetly from a safe distance. Give cows with calves a wide berth.* In addition to moose, whitetail deer can often be seen in the early morning coming to the river's edge to drink. Other mammals you are likely to encounter along this river system are mink, red fox, red squirrel, eastern chipmunk, muskrat, American beaver, and snowshoe hare.



Bull moose on the Kennebago River

Approximately 2.25 miles down river you will come to the canoe landing at the Kennebago Scout Camp, the unofficial halfway point of the trip. The landing is on the left side, on the eastern bank of the river. This is a great place to stop, get out, stretch your legs, and do a little more birding while you're at it. If the need arises, the aforesaid privy at the southern end of the large, sandy clearing is only a short walk (0.25 mile) down the road that runs SE from the Boy Scout Camp.

After a well-deserved rest, relaunch your canoe and start drifting with the current again. About 0.4 mile past the Boy Scout Camp you will come to the second oxbow ring. The water in this one is still reasonably deep, and you should be able to navigate your way completely around it. Paddle slowly and quietly, since there is a good chance you will encounter a moose on the far side of the island in the center. Wild celery grows vigorously here, and moose are frequently found here grazing upon it.

At this point you may notice that the water has been gradually getting deeper and wider as the river draws near to its mouth on Cupsuptic Lake. About a mile past the second oxbow ring you will come to a long, broad stretch of water. It was here on the 1999 BBC trip that we recorded our one and only sighting of a Black-crowned Night-Heron in the Rangeley Lakes Region in nine years. You will surely find a pair of Belted Kingfishers here as I have on every trip I have ever made down this river over the past twenty years — giving rise to the phrase, “The canoe trip’s not over ‘til the kingfisher rattles!” When that kingfisher calls, you’ll be less than 0.3 mile from the end of the trip. The river will curve sharply to the right, and around that bend will be the Route 16 bridge. As you pass under the bridge you should see Barn Swallows. Take out on the east (left) bank immediately after the bridge. You will see a well-worn path leading up the side of the embankment toward the highway above. Load all your gear (and any trash you might have) into your canoe or kayak and portage it up this slope. If you are renting from River’s Edge Sports, you can leave the canoe, paddles, and life jackets on the grass here at the top of the hill, and they will pick them up later. (*It would be appreciated if you could drop the paddles and life jackets directly off at River’s Edge.*) Otherwise, pack up your vehicle and, after picking up any other vehicles parked at the put-in place on Boy Scout Road, drive east on Route 16, back toward Rangeley. But first take a right at the information pavilion onto Route 4, and drive back into the village of Oquossoc (0.3 mile). The Carry Road Country Store will once again be on your right — where your whoopie pie reward awaits you!!

The BBC weekend trip to the Rangeley Lakes Region celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, 2007. The trip runs from Thursday, July 12, through Sunday, July 15. To mark this special occasion, there will be a trip “annex” on Wednesday, July 11, to hike Saddleback Mountain for Bicknell’s Thrush. Contact the author at emgiles@verizon.net for details.

Directions and Access

To Rangeley: From the Boston area, the easiest way is to take Interstate 95 north into Maine. Take Exit 75 off the Maine Turnpike onto Route 4 North. Route 4 will take you all the way to the center of Rangeley.

To Boy Scout Road: Take Route 4 from the center of Rangeley, and drive west for about 6.5 miles toward the Village of Oquossoc. Turn right at the information pavilion onto Route 16 (Wilson's Mills Road), and proceed 1.3 miles to Boy Scout Road on the right. 🐦

Contacts

Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust

Nancy Perlson, Executive Director

Phone: 207-864-7311

P.O. Box 249, Oquossoc, Maine 04964

<<http://www.rlht.org/index.shtml>>

RLHT manages over 12,000 acres in the Rangeley Lakes Region, including forty miles of lake and river frontage, and thirteen islands.

Canoe/Kayak Rentals and Kennebec River Shuttle Service:

River's Edge Sports

Gerry White, Proprietor

Phone: 207-864-5582 • Fax: 207-864-3356

Route 4, adjacent to the public boat launch

P.O. Box 347, Oquossoc, Maine 04964

<<http://www.riversedgesports.com/>>

Town and Lake Motel and Cottages

Joey and Sheryl Morton, Proprietors

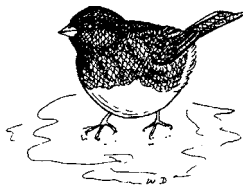
2886 Main Street

Rangeley, Maine 04970

Phone: (207) 864-3755

<<http://www.rangeleytownandlake.com/>>

Eddie Giles is an avid birder and self-proclaimed amateur naturalist. Growing up in Stoughton, Massachusetts, Eddie has been fascinated with nature and animals since he was a little boy. He first visited Rangeley upon a friend's advice in July of 1988 and became so enamored with the town that he has returned every summer for the last twenty years. He is the former Field Trip Coordinator for the Brookline Bird Club and continues to serve on the club's Board of Directors. A digital graphic designer and Photoshop wizard by trade, he currently lives in East Bridgewater with his wife and four-year-old son and often catches himself daydreaming about the Kennebec River. He would like to thank Nancy Perlson, Executive Director of the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust, for taking time out of her busy schedule to fill him in on the history of the Kennebec 3000, and Laura de la Flor for her proofreading skills, suggestions, assistance with wetland biology, and encouragement. He would also like to thank all the Brookline Bird Club Mooseheads who have shared in the Rangeley experience these past nine years.



DARK-EYED JUNCO BY WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

Species List for the Boy Scout Road/Kennebago River area of Rangeley

Species names in CAPS indicate the area's boreal specialties.

Common Loon	Northern Flicker	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Magnolia Warbler
Green Heron	OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER	CAPE MAY WARBLER
Black-crowned Night-Heron	YELLOW-BELLIED	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Canada Goose	FLYCATCHER	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Mallard	Alder Flycatcher	Black-throated Green Warbler
Common Goldeneye	Blue-headed Vireo	Blackburnian Warbler
Hooded Merganser	Red-eyed Vireo	Black-and-white Warbler
Common Merganser	GRAY JAY	American Redstart
Osprey	Blue Jay	Ovenbird
Northern Goshawk	American Crow	Northern Waterthrush
Broad-winged Hawk	COMMON RAVEN	Common Yellowthroat
Red-tailed Hawk	Tree Swallow	Wilson's Warbler
Merlin	Barn Swallow	Canada Warbler
Ruffed Grouse	Black-capped Chickadee	Chipping Sparrow
SPRUCE GROUSE	BOREAL CHICKADEE	Song Sparrow
Solitary Sandpiper	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Swamp Sparrow
Spotted Sandpiper	Brown Creeper	White-throated Sparrow
Wilson's Snipe	Winter Wren	Dark-eyed Junco
American Woodcock	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Purple Finch
Mourning Dove	Veery	RED CROSSBILL
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Swainson's Thrush	WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Hermit Thrush	PINE SISKIN
Belted Kingfisher	Wood Thrush	American Goldfinch
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Cedar Waxwing	EVENING GROSBEAK
Downy Woodpecker	TENNESSEE WARBLER	
Hairy Woodpecker	Nashville Warbler	
BLACK-BACKED	Northern Parula	
WOODPECKER	Yellow Warbler	



SPRUCE GROUSE BY GEORGE C. WEST

[Editor's note: In recognition of the formation of the Maine Bird Records Committee, Bird Observer is publishing the first report of that committee in its entirety.]

First Report of the Maine Bird Records Committee (2006)

William Sheehan, Secretary, and Peter Vickery, Chairman

The Maine Bird Records Committee (ME-BRC) was formed in September 2005 to maintain an accurate record and historical archive of the state's birdlife. The committee was established as a nine-member body, which includes a Chairman and a voting Secretary. ME-BRC members (in addition to the authors) include: Dennis Abbott, Lysle Brinker, Jody Despres, Scott Hall, Thomas Hodgman, Don Mairs, and Jan Pierson. Louis Bevier provided early guidance and encouragement to the fledgling committee.

In its first year, the committee has produced the first official state bird list, developed a voting protocol, and established a system for records circulation and retention. It began work to establish rotating terms and methods for nomination of members to the Board.

This report includes all decisions made through December 2006. With the addition of White-winged Tern in 2003, Clark's Grebe, Calliope Hummingbird and Cave Swallow in 2005, and Burrowing Owl in 2006, Maine's bird list now stands at 424 positively documented species.

The ME-BRC evaluated 16 records of 13 species in 2006. This included a variety of records, and some of the initial records were chosen to test our circulation and voting processes. Though most records reviewed were from 2005 and 2006, several historical records were circulated as well. To be accepted, all records must receive at least 7 affirmative votes. ME-BRC has designated a list of review species and will circulate and vote on records of species that have no more than five documented occurrences in the state. All documentation received and reviewed by the ME-BRC will be archived at an institution in Maine which will provide safe storage and assure public access.

Records Accepted

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*), 1 record

ME-BRC#2004-001, 30 December 2004 – 20 January 2005, Vinalhaven, Knox, K. Gentalen †. The goose was seen by various observers for several weeks at this island community. Photo allowed direct comparison with 15+ Canada Geese. This was Maine's first Cackling Goose since the species was split from Canada Goose in 2004. First Round (8-1)

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*), 1 record

ME-BRC#2005-001, 2 – 22 March 2005, Owls Head, Knox, K. Gentalen, P. Vickery*†, D. and J. Lovitch*†, v.ob. Well written description and photographs

clearly eliminated Western Grebe (see *Bird Observer* Vol. 33 No. 4). This was Maine's and New England's first record and the third East Coast record for Clark's Grebe. First Round (9-0)

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*), 1 record

ME-BRC#2006-003, 2 -6 September 2006, Sanford Sewerage District Ponds, Sanford, York, L. Brinker*†, m.ob. The first photographically documented Eared Grebe in Maine. Photos and written description provided unquestionable substantiation and eliminated more common and similar Horned Grebe. First round (9-0)

Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Diomedea chlororhynchos*), 3 Records

ME-BRC#1960-001, 21 March 1960, off Monhegan Island, Monhegan Twp, Lincoln, M. Libby.* Carefully drawn description eliminated any other possibilities. First Round (8-1)

ME-BRC#1964-001, 12 May 1964, 9 miles Southeast of Monhegan Island, Monhegan Twp., Lincoln, M. Libby*, Carefully drawn description eliminated any other possibilities. First Round (9-0)

ME-BRC#2006-005, 16-20 July 2006, Stratton Island, Old Orchard Beach, York, S. Sanborn and R. Lambert*†, P. Garrity†, m. ob., First Round (9-0). Though the observations were over 40 years old for the first two birds, detailed notes and sketches taken from Mark Libby's logbook provided conclusive documentation. The Stratton Island bird was well documented photographically and becomes Maine's sixth Yellow-nosed Albatross.



Yellow-nosed Albatross July 19, 2006, Stratton Island, Old Orchard Beach, York Co. Photograph by Paul Garrity.

Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*), 1 record

ME-BRC#2005-006, 12 July 2005, Seal Island NWR, Criehaven Twp., Knox, A. Hill*, S. Hollis*, C. Zavalaga.* Descriptions of Maine's second Red-billed Tropicbird were provided by staff of the National Audubon's Puffin Project. This was thought to be the same individual photographed the previous day at Machias Seal Island, a Canadian possession located about 92 miles to the east. First round (7-2)

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*), 1 record

ME-BRC#2006-009, 22 June 2006, Popham Beach, Phippsburg, Sagadahoc, S.N.G. Howell*†, B. Schmoker†, Eric Hynes*, v.ob, Discovered by ABA group on field trip to Popham Beach as part of 2006 conference in Maine. The tern was found in association with two Royal Terns. First Round (9-0)

White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*), 1 record

ME-BRC#2003-001, 13-14 July 2003, Laudholm Farms, Wells, York. S. Richardson, G. McElroy†, S. Mirick†, Curtis Marantz*, m.ob. Maine's first

photographically documented White-winged Tern. Identification of this alternate-plumaged bird was unambiguous. First Round (9-0)

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*), 1 record

ME-BRC#2006-001, 15 July – 25 August 2006, T19MD BPP, Washington, D. Cristol*, B. Southard†, P. Vickery.* Maine's first Burrowing Owl was well described and photographed. This individual appeared to possess characteristics of Western subspecies (*A. c. hypugaea*) rather than the Florida subspecies (*A. c. floridana*). The owl was roosting in a dry culvert in the gravelly blueberry barrens of eastern Maine for a month. First round (9-0)



Maine's first Burrowing Owl, found by Dan Cristol, in late July 2006 in T19MD BPP, Washington Co. Photograph by Barry Southard.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*), 1 record

ME-BRC#2005-003, 6 October 2005, Monhegan Island, Monhegan Twp., Lincoln, M. Iliff *†. VENT tour leader Marshall Iliff identified and recognized the significance of Maine's first Calliope Hummingbird. He was able to photograph the spread tail, revealing this species' distinctive tail pattern. The bird was never relocated after a brief, two-hour appearance on the morning of the 6th. First round (9-0)



Maine's first Calliope Hummingbird on Monhegan Island, Knox Co., October 6, 2005. Photograph by Marshall Iliff.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savanna*), 1 record

ME-BRC#2006-007, 6,7 May 2006, Stratton Island, Old Orchard Beach, York, S. Sanborn*†, R. Lambert*, C. Donhower. This first-year bird was a second spring record for Maine and 11th overall. The flycatcher was discovered and photographed by staff of the National Audubon's Puffin Project as it fed on insects along the wrack line of the island. First Round (9-0)

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*), 2 records

ME-BRC#2005-004, 12 November 2005, Perkins Cove, Ogunquit, York, D. Finch*, M. Hatfield†. Maine's first Cave Swallow was discovered by Davis Finch and members of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire and was photographed by group member Hatfield. Third Round (9-0)


ME-BRC#2005-005, 14-18 November 2005, Fort Foster, Kittery, York, D. Abbott, P. Vickery†*, D. Lovitch*. As many as 5 individuals were seen and well documented at Fort Foster in Kittery. Reports regarding seven other sight observations made during this period are pending review by the Committee. First Round (9-0)

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) 1 record

ME-BRC#2006-004, 8 September 2006, Appledore Island, Isles of Shoals, York, S. Mirick†, J. Block†, D. Holmes et al. A first record for the island and the 3rd documented for Maine. This immature/female was found by a group from the Seacoast Science Center in New Hampshire. First Round (9-0)

Records Not Accepted

Long-toed Stint (*Caladris subminuta*) 1 record

ME-BRC#2006-002, 13 August 2006, Eastport, Washington. Written description and photo were submitted as documentation. While some characteristics of Long-toed Stint were described, possibility of Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) could not be eliminated. First Round (1-8) 

(*) written description provided (†) image provided

William Sheehan, Secretary, 1125 Woodland Center Road, Woodland, Maine 04736, (email: me-brc@maine.rr.com). *Peter Vickery*, Chairman, Center for Ecological Research, P.O. Box 127 Richmond, Maine, 04357 (email: petervickery@adelphia.net).

News from The Birding Community E-Bulletin
<<http://www.refugenet.org/birding/birding5.html>>.

SCIENTISTS WORLDWIDE CALL FOR BOREAL FOREST PROTECTION

Last month, some 1500 highly respected scientists from more than 50 countries around the world called for the protection of Canada's Boreal Forest. The scientists identified the 1.4 billion-acre Canadian Boreal Forest as one of the largest intact forest and wetland ecosystems remaining on earth. Its health is vital to the survival of North America's migratory birds.

The Boreal Forest is under increasing pressure from corporate logging, mining, and oil and gas operations, and only ten percent has been protected to date, far less than what is scientifically recognized as necessary to sustain the ecosystem over time.

The scientists' letter recommends preserving a minimum of half of Canada's Boreal Forest in protected areas and only allowing carefully managed development on the rest. This plan is in accordance with the Boreal Forest Conservation Framework, a program already endorsed by Canadian conservation groups, 25 Canadian First Nations, and more than 75 major businesses having annual sales of \$30 billion or more.

Here is the link for more information (press release, the letter itself, scientist signatures by region, and more): <<http://www.borealbirds.org/scienceletter.shtml>>.

Bradbury Mountain Spring Hawkwatch - 2007 Report

Jeannette and Derek Lovitch

Introduction

In 2004, Lionel Quirion started the Bradbury Mountain Spring Hawkwatch on a limited, volunteer basis. His aim was to capture the peak migration of Broad-winged Hawks across Maine's southern coastal plain during the latter three weeks of April. He continued this effort in 2005 and 2006 and posted good numbers of hawks counted from the site. In 2007, the Wild Bird Center of Yarmouth (WBC) formalized the count by hiring an Official Counter (Lionel was the natural choice) to be stationed on Bradbury Mountain eight hours per day from March 20 through May 20. The goal of this pilot year was to see what potential the mountain has for recording a more complete spring migration of raptors through this area of Maine.

Bradbury Mountain State Park is located in Pownal and rises 485 feet above Maine's southern coastal plain, providing sweeping views to the south and east, all the way out to the Casco Bay islands. The summit gives observers a vantage point from which to spot migrating raptors utilizing thermals over the plain, passing by the mountain, or even gaining lift from updrafts created by the mountain itself. It allows not only an opportunity for counting birds, but also for sharing the experience with visitors to the park.

Methodology

This year's hawk count was conducted from March 20 through May 20, 2007. One official counter was stationed at the summit of Bradbury Mountain from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST daily. During periods of heavy rain, fog, or snow, counting was not conducted.

Data, including hourly weather conditions and species counts, were recorded on standardized sheets provided by the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). At the top of every hour, wind speed (using the Beaufort scale), wind direction, visibility (poor to excellent), percent cloud cover, temperature (Celsius), precipitation (if any), and count duration (minutes) were recorded. One official counter, qualified observers, and number of visitors were also noted.

Individuals of the following species were counted: Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon. Raptors that could not be identified to species were recorded as Unidentified Accipiter, Unidentified Buteo, Unidentified Falcon or Unidentified Raptor. Total numbers were recorded hourly for each species. Birds were only counted if they appeared to be migrating. This was subject to the counter's judgment, but generally included birds traveling in a northerly direction. An effort was made to record numbers of conspicuous non-raptor migrants as well. These were recorded on the same data sheet. Data were entered daily into HMANA's online

database <<http://www.hawkcount.org>>. The official counter also updated hourly a dry-erase board for public viewing at the summit with count totals. Numbers of visitors were recorded hourly. Visitors included anyone who participated in hawkwatching or showed genuine interest in the project.

Weather Summary

Overall, March through May of 2007 experienced below-average temperatures and above-average precipitation. Noteworthy weather events included a snowstorm on April 4–5 that dropped ten inches of snow and a powerful northeast storm on April 16 that produced damaging winds and heavy rain. South, southwest, or west winds predominated on only thirteen days during the count period. In contrast, north or northwest winds blew on nineteen days. Winds with an easterly component were measured on nine days. The remaining count days posted variable winds.

Results

This year's season total was 2123 raptors (Table 1) with 395.75 hours of coverage. Species recorded in the highest numbers were Broad-winged Hawk (805), Sharp-shinned Hawk (415), Osprey (288) and American Kestrel (175). The highest daily total occurred on May 1, with 288 raptors counted. Migration peaked between April 21 and April 25 with 918 raptors tallied. This represented 43.3% of the season total.

Table 1: 2007 Totals

	MAR 20 - 31	APR 1 - 10	APR 11 - 20	APR 21 - 30	MAY 1 - 10	MAY 11 - 20	TOTAL
Black Vulture	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Turkey Vulture	48	22	0	0	0	0	70
Osprey	2	30	51	136	59	10	288
Bald Eagle	24	6	1	1	3	3	38
Northern Harrier	2	13	7	15	8	3	48
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	49	58	212	82	8	415
Cooper's Hawk	12	8	0	2	3	0	25
Northern Goshawk	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	18	5	1	3	2	0	29
Broad-winged Hawk	0	0	5	485	295	20	805
Red-tailed Hawk	131	32	7	4	4	0	178
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
American Kestrel	3	24	5	129	14	0	175
Merlin	5	1	1	11	7	0	25
Peregrine Falcon	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Unidentified Raptor	6	2	2	3	3	2	18
	263	195	138	1001	480	46	2123
Hours	93.75	59.25	53.25	62.5	80.75	46.25	395.75
% Coverage	97.7	74.1	66.6	78.1	100.9	57.8	79.8

The first third of the season was dominated by Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, and Red-tailed Hawks. The majority of Northern Goshawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, and Rough-legged Hawks passed by during this time frame as well. The middle of the season saw increasing numbers of Ospreys, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, and American Kestrels. The latter third of the season consisted primarily of Ospreys, Sharp-shinned Hawks and Broad-winged Hawks. One Black Vulture was observed on April 1, the first ever for this count site.

Since the counts in 2004, 2005, and 2006 were only conducted from April 10–April 29, we used that time period from 2007 for annual comparisons. This year’s total of 1175 raptors was below the average of 1248.33 from 2004–2006 (Table 2). Ospreys, Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, and American Kestrels were tallied in above-average numbers. The counts of Cooper’s Hawks and Broad-winged Hawks were below the mean, while Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, Northern Goshawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks, Merlins, and Peregrine Falcons were at or near average in 2007.

Table 2: Annual

	2007	2006	2005	2004	Mean '04 - '06
Black Vulture	0	0	0	0	0.00
Turkey Vulture	1	6	2	3	3.67
Osprey	203	192	87	168	149.00
Bald Eagle	3	4	5	8	5.67
Northern Harrier	24	13	12	16	13.67
Sharp-shinned Hawk	283	172	134	364	223.33
Cooper's Hawk	2	6	7	14	9.00
Northern Goshawk	0	0	0	1	0.33
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	1	0	1	0.67
Broad-winged Hawk	490	617	734	668	673.00
Swainson's Hawk	0	1	0	0	0.33
Red-tailed Hawk	14	10	11	26	15.67
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	1	0.33
American Kestrel	134	125	78	182	128.33
Merlin	12	13	8	14	11.67
Peregrine Falcon	0	0	0	2	0.67
Unidentified Raptor	4	11	8	20	13.00
	1175	1171	1086	1488	1248.33

Eighty-five migrating non-raptor species were counted throughout the season. Canada Goose showed the highest total with 606. Two hundred forty Double-crested Cormorants, eleven Great Blue Herons, and ten Common Loons were also noteworthy. Highlights included one Sandhill Crane that was spotted on May 1 and four Snow Geese on April 1. These are both species that are not easily observed in Maine. By the end of the 2007 season, 532 people were recorded as visitors to the hawkwatch.

Discussion

Out of a possible 496 hours of count time, we covered 395.75 (79.8%). Lost hours were solely on account of inclement weather (i.e. fog, heavy rain or snow). On five occasions, the count could not be conducted for an entire day.


This year’s below-average count during the April 10–29 time period compared to previous years could primarily be accounted for by the low count of Broad-winged Hawks. This was the only species for which numbers were down by a large margin. In fact, 2007 was the lowest year out of the past four, with a decrease of 27.2% from the average. Our largest percentage loss of count hours occurred during the last ten-day period of May. This probably contributed to an overall low count as well. We

expected a push of immature Broad-winged Hawks to pass by the site in May to add to the count total, but this never materialized. A rash of northerly and easterly winds when conditions allowed for counting seemed to keep any large flights from forming in May.

Since 2007 was the first extended count for Bradbury Mountain, we were particularly interested to see what raptor species passed by the site at the beginning of the spring migration. Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Rough-legged Hawk were of special interest since there are no migration sites in the northeast that record large numbers of these species in spring. The first bird counted on March 20 was a Rough-legged Hawk. Only two more of these northern hawks were observed during the season (the majority likely pass through before our season commences). A total of four Northern Goshawks was lower than expected, but this species is notoriously cyclical. However, a count of twenty-nine Red-shouldered Hawks exceeded our expectations. Due to the early start date of the count, we were also able to tally higher numbers of Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, and Red-tailed Hawks than in prior years.

Next year, we will consider running the count from March 15 through May 15 to observe a few more early migrants, especially Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Goshawks.

This will also likely increase our count of Red-tailed Hawks and Turkey Vultures. However, we could conceivably miss a late push of immature Broad-winged Hawks, and late May is more conducive to a rarity such as Mississippi Kite. This will also have to be considered.

Furthermore, we hope to increase visitation and outreach by organizing pre-arranged “Hawk Identification Workshops” at the mountain and also work to bring more school groups out to the project. 

***Jeannette and Derek Lovitch** – two long-time “hawkheads” who have counted and banded hawks at many locations around North America – own the Wild Bird Center of Yarmouth in Yarmouth, Maine. They use the store as a vehicle for doing what they love – talking about, helping people enjoy, and protecting birds – which now includes the sponsorship of the Bradbury Mountain Raptor Research Project, created in the spring of 2007. The project was begun in honor of Alan Lovitch, Derek’s father, who used to bring Derek to local NJ hawkwatches to facilitate his developing interest in birding when he was a child. Alan passed away in February of 2006. They wish to thank Mick Rogers, manager of Bradbury Mountain State Park, for allowing them the opportunity to conduct this hawkwatch at the summit. He was very gracious in providing everything they needed to make the count a success. Thanks to Lionel Quirion, their first official counter, and Dan Nickerson who substituted on a few days. Thanks also to Ed Hess, Eric, Casey, and Amber Hynes, Al McKelvy, and others for their help with spotting and identifying birds. Thanks also go out to everyone who visited the site, and helped them spot birds.*

Monitoring Arrival of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in New England in 2003-2005

Sharon Stichter

One of our most familiar and beloved species, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird weighs from three to five grams. Yet this tiny sprite is a long-distance neo-tropical migrant, making the amazing annual flight from Central America to eastern North America and back like many larger birds. Much remains to be learned about their migration, and the New England Hummers project is an ongoing effort to learn more about Ruby-throats in our region through the reports of many volunteer observers, both at backyard feeder sites and in the field. (For a fuller description of this project, see Sharon Stichter's article in the February 2004 *Bird Observer* or visit the website, <<http://www.nehummers.com>>, where you can report your sightings.)

This article presents some results from a study of Ruby-throat spring arrivals in our region from 2003 to 2005 and also analyzes longer-term arrival data back to 1933. It identifies an "average arrival date," which is important for comparison with the timing and pattern of flower production and weather variables. The bar charts for each year illustrate the daily variations in the number of Ruby-throat arrivals. Finally, it reviews historical "first bird" sighting reports for eastern and central Massachusetts. The analysis covers the years 1933-2006 and demonstrates a trend toward earlier "first bird" reports in these areas

Unlike many small, long-distance migrants, hummingbirds rarely migrate at night (Kerlinger 1995, p. 90-94). For the 500-mile flight over the Gulf of Mexico, Ruby-throats are thought to depart at evening and fly through the night and much of the next day (Sargent 1999, p. 26). However, during the land portion of their migration, hummingbirds are strictly diurnal. The early morning hours are typically used for feeding on nectar and insects, and the majority of migrants are observed during the midday hours (Willimont et al. 1998).

Hummingbirds' diminutive size limits their flight speed and the amount of fat they can gain before migration, and consequently their endurance and maximum range between refuelings. Rufous Hummingbirds typically travel about 25 miles per hour if there are no tail winds, and stopover sites are essential (Calder 1999, p. 154). Ruby-throats similarly feed frequently as they fan out from the Gulf Coast to complete their northward migration. Some stop to breed in the southeastern United States, while others fly as far as southern Canada. They often return to sites used in previous years. Ruby-throats are usually seen traveling near ground level, but it is not yet known whether they also fly at high altitudes (Sargent 1999, p. 27; Chambers).

Arrival Dates in New England

Figures 1A, 1B and 1C show the modal, or most frequently reported, arrival date in New England in 2003, 2004, and 2005. The charts are based on reports from four sources: (1) reports to *New England Hummers*; (2) all first and early sightings

Figure 1A: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, First Sightings, all NE states, 2003

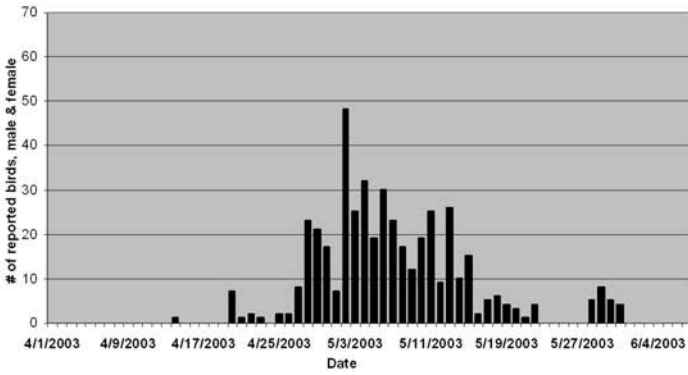


Figure 1B: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, First Sightings, all NE states, 2004

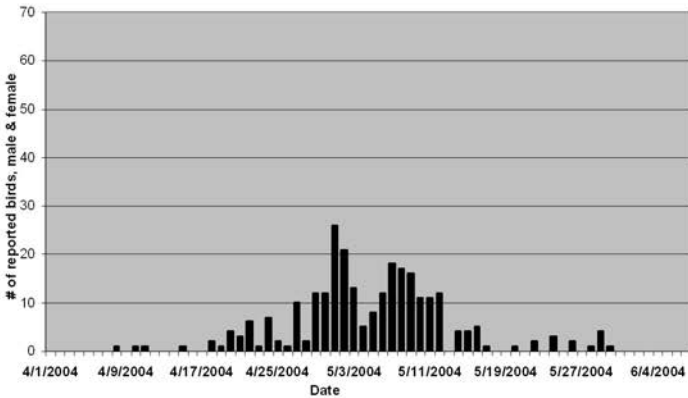
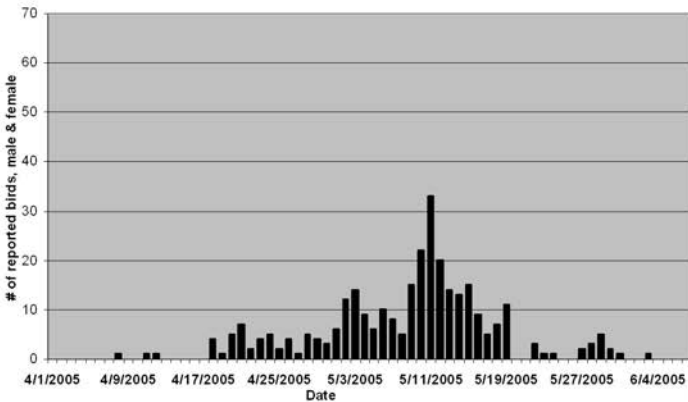


Figure 1C: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, First Sightings, all NE states, 2005



reported on the five state-wide birding listserves: RIBirds, MassBird, NH.birds, VTBird, and Maine-Birds; (3) reports mapped by Lanny Chambers on his website <http://www.hummingbirds.net>; and (4) early reports from *Field Notes of Rhode Island Birds*, *Bird Observer*, and *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

With 449 birds reported in 2003, a total of 265 in 2004, and a total of 303 in 2005, the sample sizes were large enough to attempt some meaningful statistical correlations with other variables.

The data consist of sightings at observers' yards and feeders, although first reports from some popular and well-monitored field sites, such as Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in Massachusetts, are also included. The scarcity of reports from extreme northern New England is probably due to fewer observers, rather than fewer birds. As a result, Maine may be underrepresented relative to its size, and Massachusetts may be overrepresented. Every effort was made to record only first sightings at a particular spot and sightings were eliminated if they were early, but not the first from that location.

The bar charts build up a picture of the arrival from "first bird reports." The data may not be a fully representative sample of all of the arrivals, because after reading a few early reports, some people might choose not to report their own first sighting. The New England Hummers site monitors report their first yard sighting regardless of whether there have been other reports from the area.

The site monitor reports are combined with an approximately equal number of first sightings from state-wide birding listserves, birding journals, and websites. Thus the charts give a good representation of the arrival dates of the very earliest migrants — the leading edge of the migration — but probably underestimate the numbers of later arrivals.

It is generally thought that the hummingbird migration is complete by the end of May, and our "first bird" reports end about then, although there are a few reports, usually of "first females," into June.

The figures show that the modal or peak arrival date fluctuated. The 2003 peak was on May 2, with 48 birds reported. In 2004 arrival peaked on May 1, with 26 birds reported, but in 2005 the peak did not come until May 11, with 33 birds reported. The modal arrival dates in Massachusetts of May 2, 2003, May 1, 2004, and May 10, 2005 were nearly identical to the regional figures.

Data on males and females (not shown here), show females arrive later. In 2003 the peak arrival date for females was May 13, eleven days later than the peak for males. The same was true in 2004 when the female peak was May 11 and 12. However, in 2005 it was on May 12, only a day later than the peak for males, because the males were held up by poor weather.

Figures 1A - 1C also show that all of the days with reports of ten or more birds occurred within a sixteen-to-eighteen-day period in early May. Eighty-four percent arrived between April 28 and May 15 in 2003, seventy-eight percent arrived between

April 27 and May 12 in 2004, and seventy-five percent arrived between May 2 and May 19 in 2005. Similarly, the bulk of female Ruby-throats seem to have arrived within a fifteen- to twenty-day period between May 2 and May 17, 19, or 22. For both sexes, this short arrival period mirrors the short time span of the fall departure southward and may be a long-term evolutionary adaptation to northern climate.

Despite the central bunching of arrivals, the charts for all three years show a late group arriving during the last week in May. This last wave consists mainly of females. A daily ebb and flow of arrivals is suggested in the 2003 data, while in 2004 and 2005 there seemed to be at least two surges of arrivals. The pattern in all the charts is consistent with the imagery of successive waves of arrivals from the south, with the timing of the waves probably dependent on southern, as well as local New England weather.

The broad impact of New England weather on the arrivals is evident. Spring temperatures averaged colder than normal in 2003 and a bit warmer than normal in 2004, yet the average arrival date was nearly the same in both years. Temperatures were unusually variable in 2005, with Boston recording its coldest May since 1967. The peak arrival date was ten days later, as the birds were held up by a low pressure system that stalled over the region. (For a more detailed look at weather and arrivals in these years, see Stichter 2006. For weather and arrivals in 2006, see Stichter 2007.)

A few very early sightings in 2004 and 2005 were notable. On April 8, 2004, William Townsend in Bar Harbor, Maine, reported a male coming to a red-flowered window curtain. That same year, New Hampshire Bird Records noted that sightings on April 10 in Concord and April 11 in Unity were two weeks earlier than previous state records (Hunt 2003). In 2005 on April 8 Dorothy Wonson in Newburyport, Massachusetts, saw a male hummingbird buzzing around the cherry red Icelandic poppy on her garden patio. This would have set a state record had it not been for the unusual March sightings in 1969 and 1973, discussed below. Overall, in 2003 only five percent of total first reports were prior to April 28, compared with fifteen percent and thirteen percent in 2004 and 2005 respectively.

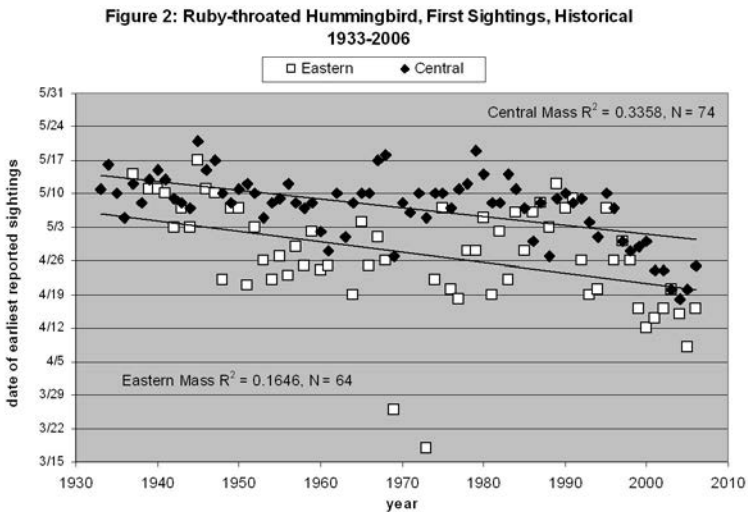
Trend toward Earlier Arrivals

Data on Ruby-throat arrivals over the past few years raise the question of a possible longer-term trend toward earlier arrivals. One recent, site-specific study found evidence for earlier arrival dates. Wayne Petersen, Kathleen Anderson, and Dr. Richard Primack of Boston University analyzed arrival dates at Anderson's farm in Middleboro, Massachusetts, and found that five of sixteen bird species tracked demonstrated a statistically significant tendency to arrive earlier during the thirty-three years between 1970 and 2002 (Petersen and Anderson 2005). One of the five was the Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Annual temperatures in the Northeast have increased by about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit since 1900. Lilacs, crabapples and grapes are blooming earlier, and the growing season—the time between the first and last frosts—has lengthened (Clean Air-Cool Planet 2005). Presumably, the time of first insect emergence has also been

coming earlier. Since temperature, winds, precipitation, and the nectar and insect supply are key factors in hummingbird arrival, it is logical to expect that our first sightings would be occurring earlier.

New England Hummers analyzed “first bird” reports for eastern and central Massachusetts over a period of seventy-four years, from 1933–2006. Eastern Massachusetts data are from *Bird Observer* and its predecessors. Central Massachusetts data are from *The Chickadee*, published by the Forbush Bird Club. For recent years, these sources are supplemented by reports from *New England Hummers* and Lanny Chambers’ website. The results are presented graphically in Figure 2, which shows a steady trend line toward earlier arrival in both regions.



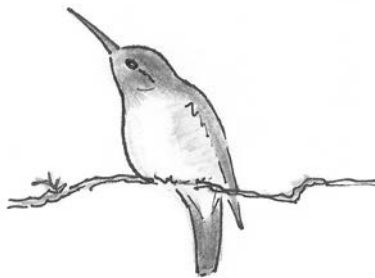
The eastern Massachusetts first-sighting dates are more erratic and variable than those reported from central Massachusetts. However, the inclusion of sightings on March 26, 1969, in Chatham and March 18, 1973, in Sudbury, cited in Veit and Petersen as our earliest known dates, is largely responsible for the disparity in the regional findings.

Undoubtedly, human social and technological factors have contributed to increased sighting and reporting of hummingbirds over time. The arrival of Droll Yankee in 1969 and Perky-Pet in 1981 brought hummingbird feeders to the mass market. Improvements in optics have increased the accuracy of sightings, and the advent of the internet has facilitated the reporting and sharing of sightings over wider areas. Determining the extent to which the apparent trend towards earlier hummingbird arrival reflects not merely better reporting but a real change in hummingbird behavior requires more extensive, long-term research. 🐦

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Sharon Stichter lives in Newbury, Massachusetts. She is Project Director of *New England Hummers*, editor of the journal *Massachusetts Butterflies*, and retired Professor of Sociology at University of Massachusetts-Boston. She can be reached at nehummers@comcast.net. She would like to thank Prof. Marta Hersek for helpful comments on a draft of this article. The charts and graphs in the article were prepared with the technical assistance of Lynette Leka, using Excel and Systat software. Lynette Leka is an avid birder and retired data manager at Tufts University. She also lives in Newbury, Massachusetts, and can be reached at lynetteleka@netscape.net.



RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD BY JIM BAIRD

Boreal Owl Records in Southern New England

Arnold Devine and Dwight G. Smith

The Boreal Owl (*Aegolis funereus*) is a circumpolar species normally residing in the northern boreal forest of North America and Eurasia. It is sometimes irruptive during severe winters, dispersing as far south of its normal winter range as southern New England. These incursions often coincide with southward movements of Northern Saw-whet, Great Gray, and Northern Hawk owls. Conditions initiating owl irruptions are incompletely known but seem to be associated with deep and/or crusted snow, population dynamics, and availability of prey species.

Early authors who summarized records all considered the Boreal Owl to be a rare and irregular or accidental winter visitor to southern New England. Sage et al. (1913), for example, categorized this owl, then known as Richardson's Owl (*Cryptoglaux funerea*), as "an extremely rare accidental visitor" to Connecticut, while Howe and Allen (1901) called it "an extremely rare winter visitant from the north" in Massachusetts. In this paper we review and summarize Boreal Owl fall and winter records into southern New England from the mid-nineteenth century through the present.

Winter Records of the Boreal Owl in Southern New England

We reviewed occurrences of Boreal Owls in the ornithological literature for Connecticut (CT), Massachusetts (MA), and Rhode Island (RI). Not all Boreal Owl records constitute an incursion event, since individuals of this species can be nomadic and may wander far after breeding or in search of a prey base (Catlin 1972; Hayward 1994). For the purpose of this paper, incursion events are denoted as major or minor. A major incursion would involve numerous records of Boreal Owls within one or more states, while a minor incursion is arbitrarily identified as more than one owl in one or more southern New England states. A single Boreal Owl found during a winter (i.e., October 2000 bird in Boston, MA) is therefore considered a non-incursion event unless associated with a major movement to the north or west of the region.

There have been at least twenty-three fall and winter Boreal Owl records in southern New England since the winter of 1859–60 (Table 1). Of these, at least twelve were Boreal Owl incursions. Major Boreal Owl flights occurred during the fall and winters of 1859–1860 (possibly), 1922–1923, 1991–1992, and 1996–1997. The remaining winter records of Boreal Owls in southern New England consisted of one or a few individuals. Most Boreal Owl records are from MA, which has recorded more than fifty individuals. Nine have been recorded in CT, and RI has five records.

1859–60 Incursion: The winter of 1859–60 apparently represented a major irruption of Boreal Owls, with a minimum of three reports from MA and one from East Windsor, CT (Bagg and Eliot 1937). This movement coincided with an unprecedented influx of crossbills, grosbeaks, goshawks (*Accipiter gentiles*), and a few Arctic Three-toed Woodpeckers (*Picoides arcticus*) to the Springfield, MA, area

Table 1. Records of Boreal Owls from southern New England.

Fall-Winter Records	State		
	Massachusetts	Connecticut	Rhode Island
1859/60 ¹	3+	1	
1862/63	2		
1865/66	1		
1979/80	1		
1880/81			2
1881/82	1		
1882/83			2 ³
1884/85	Flight reported ²		
1888-89	2+		
Prior to 1899			2 (specimens prior to 1899)
1902/03	Flight reported ²		
1906/07		1	
1919/20	1		
1922/23	30+	1	
1924/25	1		
1932/33		1	
1941/42	1		
1942/43	1	1	
1946/47		1	
1978/79	1		
1983/84	2		
1991/92	6	1	
1996/97	4	2	
2000/01	1		
Total owls	58+	9	6 ³

Notes: ¹ Bold = Incursion years

² Described in Veit and Petersen (1993) as records occurred. We were unable to quantify.

³ One specimen likely taken from Seekonk, MA.

(Bagg and Elliot 1937). These authors suggested that several additional undated records belonged to this flight year.

1922–23 Incursion: A massive incursion into southern New England occurred during the winter of 1922–23 which seems to have been a northeast to southwest flight; thirty specimens were brought to a Bangor, ME, taxidermist while a taxidermist from Jaffrey, NH, reported twenty-six owls found dead from southern NH and northern MA (Forbush 1927). Another thirty specimens were reported from MA (Forbush 1927; Bagg and Eliot 1937; Griscom and Snyder 1955; Veit and Petersen 1993). Only one owl was reported in CT (Forbush 1927; Bagg and Eliot 1937; Zeranski and Baptist 1990) and none in RI.

1991–92 Incursion: The winter of 1991–1992 witnessed the largest movement of Boreal Owls into southern New England since 1922–23. At least seven Boreal Owls were reported: six in MA and one from CT. Again, no owls were reported from RI (R. Ferren, pers. comm.). The MA owls started appearing in late October and early November, and most were in weakened or emaciated condition (Perkins 1992; Veit and Petersen 1993).

The CT owl discovered on January 12, 1992 in a Norway spruce was believed to have been there since late December due to the pellet accumulation beneath the roost tree. Between January 12 and February 24, 1992, the owl was observed at its roost location in Middlebury for at least thirty-five days (Devine and Smith 1994).

1996–97 Incursion: Another significant movement of Boreal Owls occurred during the winter of 1996–1997, when six Boreal Owls were reported from the region: four in MA and two from CT. One of the CT birds made it as far south as Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison, which borders Long Island Sound, on November 1, 1996 (Hanisek 1997a), and the other was photographed in January 1997 by a hiker on Bear Mountain in Salisbury, CT, near the state border (Hanisek 1997b). Neither of these birds was subsequently relocated.

Three of the four owls found in MA were observed on only one date. The fourth owl, found on November 20 in Boston, MA, stayed at least to February 13 and represented the longest-wintering Boreal Owl record for the region (M. Rines, pers. comm.).

Minor Incursions: Records suggest that eight minor incursions represented by two or three owls have occurred since the irruption of 1859–60 (Table 1). Apparently a small flight occurred in MA during 1862–63 (Howe and Allen 1901). During the 1880–81 winter, two Boreal Owls were shot in or around Providence, RI (Howe and Sturtevant 1899). Two years later (1882–83) two other specimens were obtained; one was found near Scituate, RI, and the second was brought to a taxidermist, but likely came from Seekonk, MA (Howe and Sturtevant 1899; Forbush 1927).

Another small flight took place in the winter of 1884–85 (Veit and Petersen 1993) followed by a flight involving at least two individuals in MA during the winter of 1888–89 (Bagg and Eliot 1937; Veit and Petersen 1993). The next movement came during 1902–03 with apparent records in MA according to Veit and Petersen (1993).

Over the next four decades, with the exception of the massive 1922–23 incursion, Boreal Owl records became more sporadic. Only five individuals were recorded from MA or CT during this period until the minor irruption of 1942–43 produced single CT and MA records (Sage et al. 1913; Bagg and Eliot 1937; Griscom and Snyder 1955; Zeranski and Baptist 1990; Veit and Petersen 1993). Griscom and Snyder (1955) concluded that the owl was becoming much rarer than formerly. Following the incursion of 1942–43, only four individual owls were recorded over the next fifty years, including two birds observed in MA during the winter of 1983–84 (Veit and Petersen 1993).

Conclusions and Summary

Our review of the historic literature revealed several noteworthy facts related to Boreal Owl irruptions into southern New England.


During recent decades, Boreal Owls generally appeared earlier in the fall than in the older records. During incursion years, owls were observed as early as late October, the earliest dates being October 30 during the 1991–92 movement, October 23 for the 1996–97 incursion, and October 21 for the 2000 Boston individual.

Many individuals arrived in the region in weakened or emaciated condition and subsequently died, or, if fortunate, were captured and rehabilitated. We can reasonably surmise from this that any undue stress placed upon such weakened individuals (i.e., by observers and photographers) further jeopardizes them.

Most owls were observed on just one day and were not relocated on subsequent searches. Of the fourteen sightings since the 1991–92 incursion, eleven birds were located on only one date, and one on two successive days. Only two birds displayed any known site fidelity, the 1996-97 Boston owl and the Middlebury individual from 1991–92.

MA has more than fifty individual Boreal Owl records followed by CT with nine. RI has only five records and none since the 1890s. Oddly, no owls were recorded in RI during the massive invasion of 1922–23, but two birds were recorded in the winter of 1880–81 when no others were recorded in southern New England.

In 1955, Griscom and Snyder suggested that incursion numbers of Boreal Owls had greatly declined over the time in which they have been recorded in New England. Boreal Owls were never common in southern New England, even during the greatest incursion years. While infrequent winter flights continue to reach southern New England, the individuals per flight have never approached the massive 1922–23 (and possibly the 1859–60) irruption. Evidence for this comes from the records reported in past incursion years plus the fact that far more field observers are now active, and, therefore, would likely note any significant Boreal Owl flights. An alternate possibility is that conditions in their normal northern range have simply not produced another massive incursion in recent years.

We also note that the landscape itself has changed dramatically in the last century. The years of the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century saw the greatest extent of deforestation in southern New England. Forest cover in Massachusetts and Connecticut greatly increased in the twentieth century. Some estimates suggest that only 15–20 percent of Connecticut and Massachusetts was forested at the time of the last massive incursion, making it far easier to spot Boreal Owls than it is today, when forests cover roughly sixty-five percent of the states. 

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Buzz Devine worked for twenty years as a Hazardous Waste Inspector with the CT-DEP and recently completed three years managing the Environmental Programs at the CT Department of Correction. He is currently employed by GeoDesign, Inc., an Environmental Consultant in Middlebury, CT, and also works as a freelance consultant on endangered bird species in Connecticut. Buzz is a member of the Connecticut Ornithological Associations' Avian Records Committee and Connecticut's Endangered Species Advisory Committee for Birds. He and Dwight Smith coauthored the Connecticut Birding Guide and numerous other scientific papers on bird ecology and behavior, especially owls. **Dwight Smith** is currently professor and chair of the biology department at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, where he has taught ecology, ornithology, and mammalogy for thirty-six years. He has studied the ecology of birds and other wildlife in Siberia, Alaska, South America, South Africa, and — of course — New England. He has authored about 500 papers and fifteen books, many of them in coauthorship with Arnold "Buzz" Devine. The authors acknowledge the assistance and effort of the following individuals who graciously provided helpful information and insight on Boreal Owl records in their respective states. Hugh Willoughby and Richard Ferren generously provided information on Rhode Island records and helped clarify some of the historic information. Jim Berry offered assistance with information and contacts for Massachusetts records, and Marj Rines was most helpful with supplying information from the Massachusetts rare records database and knowledge about roost sites she personally visited in Massachusetts.

HELP MASSWILDLIFE COUNT TURKEY FAMILIES


Sportsmen and -women, birders, landowners and other wildlife enthusiasts are encouraged to assist MassWildlife by counting turkey families this summer. MassWildlife conducts an annual wild turkey brood survey from June through August. "The brood survey serves as a long-term index on reproduction," explains Jim Cardoza, MassWildlife's Turkey Project Leader. "It helps us determine overall productivity and allows us to compare rates of reproduction over a long period of time." Cardoza also points out that citizen involvement in this survey is a cost-effective means of gathering useful data, and he encourages all interested people to participate. A turkey brood survey form <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfwpdf/dfw_turkey_brood_survey.pdf> has been posted in the "Wildlife" area of MassWildlife's website. Information needed includes date, town, number of hens seen, and number of poults (young turkeys) and their relative size compared to the hens. Multiple sightings of the same brood should also be noted. The survey period runs from June 1 - August 31. Completed forms should be mailed to the MassWildlife Westborough Field Headquarters.

[Thirty years ago, Jim Cardoza published a detailed article on "The Wild Turkey in Massachusetts" in *Bird Observer* (Vol. 5, No. 3: 76-83; 1977).]

FIELD NOTES

Beware of Titmouse!


Taylor Yeager

On a cold, Saturday morning this January, I was walking my dog Jake at Borderland State Park in Easton, Massachusetts. While we were strolling along, we were distracted by the distressed calls of two Tufted Titmice. I was surprised to find them engaged in heated battle, and Jake was wondering why he had to sit in one place so long. They were gripping each other's small, grey feet and fluttering all around, up and down, occasionally bouncing off branches in the dense, deciduous forest. I watched in awe as this occurred a mere ten feet away, with Jake whimpering at my side. I wondered if I should try to distract them and break it up, but we all know nature must take its course, so I watched closely, feeling lucky to witness such a rare and interesting event. The battle lasted for over twenty minutes, but the ending is what really amazed me. One of the titmice was clearly the winner. It had brought the other to the ground and began pecking voraciously at the other's skull, finally succeeding in killing its opponent! But wait, that's not all. The victorious titmouse next began to peck at the deceased bird's left eye, eventually extracting the eye altogether. In typical titmouse fashion it then flew off with the eye to a branch, placed it between its feet and dined on it. At this point it appeared to recognize my presence and flew off, leaving its dead opponent lying on the frosty leaves. 

Bittern Nuptial Display

Michael Onyon

At about 4 p.m. on May 5, 2007, a pair of American Bitterns flew down onto the marsh grass near the Joppa Flats Education Center in Newburyport, MA. For several minutes they remained motionless, about ten feet apart, in the typical upright I'm-a-reed bittern stance. Their camouflage act was a bit comical because the marsh grass was still short and they were easily seen. Soon they began to interact, and the male began to display for the female, exposing two tufts of white plumage on either side of his neck above the wings. For her part, the female maintained a distance of a few feet and observed passively. I was able to take many photographs while the display continued on and off for the better part of an hour. The pair gradually moved to the edge of the water, where they separated and began to hunt.

The nuptial display of the American Bittern is infrequently observed, and was described in detail by Brewster. Bitterns in general are reclusive, and most birders are unaware of the nuptial feathers possessed by the male, which normally cannot be seen. 



American Bittern displaying.
Photographs by Michael Onyon.

Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 2: The Hunt Continues

We are still in the thick of the first season of the Breeding Bird Atlas and there are plenty of un-atlased blocks out there (especially in Western Massachusetts). The Atlas can use your help!

For more information or to sign up for Breeding Bird Atlas 2 go to <http://www.massaudubon.org/birdatlas/bba2/>. If you have questions, send them to birdatlas@massaudubon.org.

Details on the first Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas are available at <http://www.massaudubon.org/birdatlas/bba1/index.php>.

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ABOUT BOOKS

The Apotheosis and Damnation of the Flightless Flocks: *March of the Penguins* and the Cultural Divide

Mark Lynch

“When the baptism of the penguins was known in Paradise, it caused neither joy nor sorrow, but an extreme surprise. The Lord himself was embarrassed.”
(p. 20 *Penguin Island* by Anatole France)

April 23, 1986 found my wife Sheila and me standing on the beach of Phillip Island off the coast of Victoria, Australia at dusk. Shy Albatrosses and Fluttering Shearwaters whizzed by far offshore while a Sooty Oystercatcher stood on the rocks nearby. We were anxiously waiting for the Little Penguins to come in from the sea and waddle to their burrows. The shore was roped off so we couldn't get away from the rowdy crowd of tourists that filled the bleachers behind us. As soon as the first penguin was spotted, the floodlights went on and the parade music began to blare from the huge speakers. People get weird when it comes to penguins.

The penguin's anthropomorphic qualities and exotic habitats have earned it a special — and ubiquitous — place in human popular culture. We've put penguins on book spines, bags of ice cubes, and computer software. We know them as Mexican junk food (Penguinos), a professional hockey team, as Batman's nemesis, and in countless animations (Chilly Willy, Tennessee Tuxedo, the waiters in *Mary Poppins*, and — my personal favorite — the evil Feathers McGraw in *Wallace and Gromit's The Wrong Trousers*). They're a symbol of Modernist art (the Angry Penguins of Australia), and they appear in countless jokes and comedy routines. (In Robert Altman's last film *A Prairie Home Companion* (2006), Garrison Keillor tells a droll penguin/tuxedo joke, and in one of Monty Python's most beloved sketches, two women puzzle over the presence of a penguin on top of their TV set.)

With their daunting, dramatic habitat and undeniable visual appeal, penguins have also been the focus of quite a number of nature documentaries and short films. One of the earliest was *Aptenodytes Forsteri*, directed by Mario Marret and filmed while he was a member of the famous Antarctic expedition led by Paul Emile Victor. It won the 1954 *Prix du Film de Nature* at Cannes and was later bought and re-released by Walt Disney as *The Emperor Penguins* in 1955.

American audiences have been inundated with images of penguins in a number of recent films; that's no surprise. What is remarkable however, is how one of these has become a lightning rod for over-heated discussions on intelligent design, evolution, abortion, gay rights, global warming, the evils of Hollywood, and the religious right.

La Marche de L'Empereur, directed by Luc Jacquet, was released worldwide in 2005 and was shown in America as *March of the Penguins*. The film was well received by mainstream critics, it became the second highest grossing documentary of all time, and in the 2006 season racked up a number of prestigious awards including an Oscar (Best Documentary Film), two BAFTAs (Best Cinematography and Best Editing) and most interestingly, a Camie (one of the Character and Morality in Entertainment Awards). Shortly after the film's widespread American release, articles in the entertainment and scientific press began to report that this popular documentary about Antarctic birds had a special resonance with religious and political conservatives. As Jonathan Miller of the *New York Times* reported on September 13, 2005:

“...conservative groups have turned its stirring depiction of the mating ordeals of emperor penguins into an unexpected battle anthem in the culture wars.”

Conservative film critic and radio host Michael Medved said in an interview: “March of the Penguins is the motion picture this summer that most passionately affirms traditional norms like monogamy, sacrifice and child rearing.” Speaking for audiences who feel that movies ignore or belittle such themes, he added: “This is the first movie they’ve enjoyed since ‘The Passion of the Christ.’ This is “The ‘Passion of the Penguins.’” (Miller 2005)

Meanwhile in Britain, David Smith in *The Observer* (2005) reported:

“Conservatives in America claim to have seen God in the emperor penguin. They have rejoiced in the way the film shows penguins as monogamous upholders of traditional family values. They presumably welcomed the screenwriters’ decision not to pursue arguments about climate change. They have even pointed to the heroically resourceful penguins — blinded by blizzards, buffeted by gales, yet winning against the odds — as proof of ‘intelligent design’, the religious belief system that aims to challenge Darwin’s theory of evolution.

Variations on this story, many with the same quotations from the same few authors, were repeated in a number of newspapers, magazines, and on-line sources. Predictably, it didn’t take long for numerous liberal blogs to pick up this story and report it with a considerably more snarky attitude, as when Thomas Riggins titled his piece “March of the Pinheads.” Other left-of-center writers even went so far as to accuse the movie’s director of deviously soft-pedaling anti-Darwinist ideas to the masses. The abstract for Jarrah Hodges’ 2007 article “*March of the Penguins: Animal Rights or Christian Right?*” includes this call to arms:

“Analyzing the role of the documentary form’s perceived objectivity, the author demonstrates how *The March of the Penguins*’ anthropomorphization of its subjects denies penguins’ subjectivity and turns them into little more than mascots for theories of intelligent design and life beginning at conception, as well as heterosexuality as natural.”

Before you could say “gay marriage,” *March of the Penguins* became yet another football in the sad game of America’s polarized politics.

But Medved’s was not the only voice of the right, although his wildly enthusiastic comments made good story fodder and were certainly the most quoted in the mainstream media. As a social conservative media figure with a very popular blog featuring carefully crafted liberal-baiting opinions, Medved is on par with folks like Rush Limbaugh, Bill O’Reilly and Laura Ingraham (Medved’s fans are called “Medheads”).

Medved aside, even a casual browsing of web-based articles will reveal a spate of conservative opinions about *March of the Penguins* in which the authors view the film not only as “anti-Darwin” but even as supporting a “Pro-Life” position.

“As I watched MOTP, I wondered how people could “ooh” and “aww” when baby penguins pecked out of their shells, or cover their eyes when a giant petrel attacked a baby penguin, yet not give a thought to the dismemberment and killing of human babies. I wondered, what would it take for people to connect? I juxtaposed the willingness of penguins to freeze and starve to death for their babies to the unwillingness of humans to forfeit any indulgence whatsoever for their babies.” (from a 2007 WorldNetDaily article by Jill Stanek. *Nota bene*: Jill Stanek is a devoted anti-abortion crusader.)

For the anti-evolution blog The ID Report, Denyse O’Leary wrote: “Having seen and read the beautifully prepared, visually stunning film and book, I think that the absence of Darwinist cant is a *huge* literary improvement. In other words, if intelligent design becomes widely accepted in science, we can reasonably hope for better documentaries. No more “survival of the fittest” (Spencer) and “continual free fight” (Huxley) voice-overs where they do not really explain the evidence.

The filmmakers had no intention of supporting any intelligent design hypothesis. They merely set out to describe what the penguins really do. Then why did they cause a controversy? Simply this; they did not impose a Darwinist narrative on the text. But, of course, once you make the aesthetic decision not to impose a Darwinist narrative on the text, well, your text stands out, in a welter of B grade documentaries that take Darwinism for granted.

Even relatively liberal religious websites found themselves swept away by the supposed spiritual message of *Penguins*. On the non-denominational BeliefNet we find this rather odd juxtaposition of film recommendations: “In the race for Best Spiritual Documentary (2006), there was no contest: BeliefNet’s community and our panel of experts voted overwhelmingly for *March of the Penguins*. The distant second-place winner for both groups was *Mad Hot Ballroom*.”

It begs to be asked if what the right sees in this documentary about flightless birds from the frozen south bears any resemblance to what the filmmaker intended, assuming he even had clear intentions.

“For me there is no doubt about evolution. I am a scientist. The intelligent design theory is a step back to the thinking of 300 years ago. My film is not

supposed to be interpreted in this way [i.e., as “evidence” for intelligent-design creationism].” (Luc Jacquet quoted in Malvern 2005)

Luc Jacquet is a relatively new film maker who started out with aspirations to be a scientist. He earned his master’s degree in animal biology and it has been reported that his emphasis was on ecology and animal behavior. In 1991, when only 24 years old and fresh out of school, he landed a position at the Dumont d’Urville French Antarctic station in Terre Adelie. There he learned to film and tag penguins and obviously found his subjects terribly intriguing. Whatever happened down there with Luc, the ice, and the penguins we can never exactly know, but this experience turned him away from a career in science and instead inspired him to become a filmmaker, ever longing to return to the Antipodes to make a film about his flightless muses. In 2000, he finished a screenplay and a few years later secured a producer, and then it was off to Antarctica. His first real film about penguins was *Des Manchots et Des Hommes* (Of Penguins and Men), which was completed in 2004 and subsequently shown on TV. It is a fascinating and solid documentary about the trials and (severe) tribulations of trying to film the penguins in such an unfriendly climate. While it resembles many other serious nature films, the narration is often *neo-Cousteau* in its Gallic intonations of “man’s determined struggle to record nature’s mysteries.” *Of Penguins and Men* at times sounds like the outtakes from *The Life Aquatic*. (This film is included on the recent DVD release of *March of the Penguins*.)

But Jacquet was not satisfied with making just another documentary and wanted to make a film with lasting emotional impact. In Jonathan Miller’s *New York Times* article, Jacquet revealed: “It’s obvious that global warming has an impact on the reproduction of the penguins, but much of public opinion appears insensitive to the dangers of global warming. We have to find other ways to communicate to people about it, not just lecture them.” Later he adds: “My intention was to tell the story in the most simple and profound way and to leave it open to any reading.”

Though *March of the Penguins* is certainly an aesthetically beautiful film, it is also a troubling “documentary” from an ethological and biological perspective. The film’s treatment of the penguins is reminiscent of the nature-inspired “stories” of Ernest Thompson Seton or the early *True-Life Adventures* of Walt Disney. Morgan Freeman’s gravely ponderous narration continually emphasizes the overtly anthropomorphic qualities of the penguins.

Describing Antarctica as a place that was warm and teeming with life in prehistoric times, Freeman offers this explanation for why we now find penguins in this frigid wasteland: “One tribe stayed behind. Perhaps they thought the change was temporary and these stalwart souls refused to leave.” Setting up the main thrust of this “story” Freeman continues: “This is a story about love and like most love stories, it begins with an act of utter foolishness.”

That wildly anthropomorphic tone continues unabated through the entire film. Words like “mother,” “father,” “couples,” “partnership,” and “love” are used continually to reinforce the semblance of the penguins to human families. The penguin pair is described as a “young couple” that is “impulsive and rushed.” The



A penguin couple “cuddles” in this still from *March of the Penguins*. Bonne Pioche films/Warner Bros.

examples are actually too numerous to list because this attitude is the *raison d' être* of the film. In fact, in the original French release, there were actually separate narrators for the “Penguin Father” (Charles Berling), the “Penguin Mother” (Romane Bohringer), and the “Penguin Baby” (Jules Sitruk). A critical viewing will reveal that the footage of the penguin’s behavior has at times been carefully edited to always emphasize tenderness and love between the adult pair. We see head bowing behavior in dramatic close-up, out of context, and it is not a stretch for the uninformed viewer to imagine them cuddling like some couple in the throes of family bliss. Every shot is geared to tug at the heart. You can get an inkling of this from the earlier *Of Penguins and Men* but in *March of the Penguins*, the penguins have become Ozzie and Harriet (and the irrepressible Ricky!) on ice. In fact, the entire film has been subjected to digital effects, to give it a more dramatic, cinematic look. The line between documentary and fairy tale is hopelessly blurred. *March of the Penguins* shows us nature edited, enhanced and packaged to tell a very human story.

This questionable venture into anthropomorphic natural history has engendered a lot of heated discussion on websites about the film. For a good example, visit the venerable Internet Movie DataBase <<http://www.imdb.com/>> and check out the Message Board for *March*. Posts about the film on this and other websites alternately represent this is a wonderful true-to-life inspiring documentary or a problematic overly long sentimental and manipulative story, depending on the viewer’s cultural, spiritual and scientific beliefs.

“Now what he had taken for men of small stature but of grave bearing were penguins whom the spring had gathered together, and who were ranged in couples on the natural steps of the rock, erect in the majesty of their large white bellies. From moment to moment they moved their winglets like arms, and uttered peaceful cries. They did not fear men, for they did not know

them, and had never received any harm from them; and there was in the monk a certain gentleness that reassured the most timid animals and that pleased these penguins extremely. With a friendly curiosity they turned towards him their little round eyes lengthened in front by a white oval spot that gave something odd and human to their appearance. Touched by their attention, the holy man taught them the Gospel.” (p. 18 Anatole France. *Penguin Island*)

The tradition of looking to the animal world for moral lessons is an ancient one. Because the Bible and other religious writings taught that humans were the “crown of creation,” religious thought concluded that God put all other creatures on earth for human use and edification. Medieval bestiaries often described animals in terms that could be used as a lesson of how people should or should not behave in society. That attitude towards the interpretation of the natural world has continued until today. In her landmark history of *Pets In America*, Katherine Grier explains how American Protestants in the late nineteenth century continued this tradition of anthropocentrism in their views of the natural world:

“Thinking back to the nineteenth century’s preoccupation with home life, increased use of metaphors comparing children and pet animals, or animal families and human ones, grew out of the particular ways that middle-class culture defined sound relationships within families. Comparing human families and animal families, and “finding” monogamy and loving care of infants in both, reinforced the cultural norms of domesticity by, paradoxically, giving the virtues of middle-class family life origins in the natural world.” (p. 162-63 Katherine C. Grier: *Pets In America: A History*)

When that legacy is brought to bear on a film like *March of the Penguins*, the resulting reactions are not surprising. It was quite shocking to me, (a leftist, rationalist, atheist, and evolutionist) when, after viewing *March of the Penguins*, I easily understood how the “religious right” and self-styled “culture warriors” could read into the film a strong affirmation of their values. The problem isn’t with that part of American society; it’s with the film.

Jacquet’s intentions may have been to rally people to the environmental cause, but this message was overrun by his desire to tell an emotionally gripping story. This is all the more troubling because he was trained in the biological sciences. Perhaps that was one of the reasons he left science: maybe, for Jacquet, the stories of science weren’t compelling enough. I suspect this will continue to be an issue with Jacquet’s films. His next project, now in post-production, is titled *Le Renard et L’Enfant*, based on a childhood experience he had with a fox. He is already describing the film as “both a nature documentary and fairy tale.” Jacquet may be dismayed that his *March of the Penguins* attracted so much positive press from religiously conservative pundits, but the fault lies with his own ill-conceived humanizing of nature. We should expect more from a film classified as a “natural history documentary” than just a good story with beautiful scenery. We should expect reality, truth and some real scientific insight into the lives of creatures that are actually extremely *unlike* us. If you still

want to see some anthropomorphic penguin romp, you can always turn to another movie that also became the target of raucous conservative and religious rants, the animated *Happy Feet*.

“I see only one solution,” said St. Augustine. “The penguins will go to hell.”
(p. 26 Anatole France: *Penguin Island*)

Postscript: February 28, 1994 found me once again standing on a beach looking at penguins. This time it was on Punta Tombo in Argentina. Because we did not want to go on any of the organized bus tours of the area, we rented a car and drove ourselves over the 120-plus kilometers of bad and dangerous “rip-rap” roads through Patagonian desert, passing numerous saltflats, life birds, Patagonian hares, and guanacos on the way. We stood on the headlands, no other people in sight, in the close company of many, many thousands of Magellanic Penguins. It was exceedingly noisy, chaotic, smelled like mounds of fish ripening in the sun, and was endlessly fascinating. Young birds were leaving their burrows waiting to be fed, others were taking their first swim (or so it seemed), and adults were returning from fishing. Flocks of Southern Giant Petrels waited just offshore to pick off the injured or dying young penguins. As we begin our drive back, a single penguin stood in the middle of the road, blocking our way. We waited and waited and the penguin simply did not budge but just sat there looking around. I got out of the car, walked up to the penguin and looked down. Now at this point, you could write all sorts of scripts for what would follow that would make a compelling cinematic story. But the penguin did not gaze up at me with a knowing look, it did not become my friend, it did not let me pet its head. It pecked at my leg and eventually moved on. I smiled and got back in the car.

THE END. 

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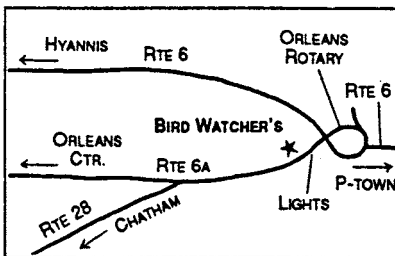
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BIRD SIGHTINGS

January/February 2007

Seth Kellogg, Marjorie W. Rines, Robert H. Stymeist, and Jeremiah R. Trimble

January continued a trend of warmer-than-average temperatures, which had started on December 1. In Boston temperatures were 50° or higher on twenty days during the two-month period. The January average temperature of 32.7° was 3.4° above normal and would have been higher had there not been a cold snap on January 25–27. On January 26 the high reached only 13°, a whopping 21° below average. The warm weather was certainly a boon for birders, who reported many more lingering birds than usual in all parts of the state. Rainfall totaled only 2.57 inches in Boston, 1.35 inches below average, with the highest rainfall on New Year's Day, when most birders are out beginning a new year of birding. Snowfall total was only one inch, 12.3 inches below average and 7.1 inches less than the previous year.

Unseasonable cold was present through February until a warm surge on February 20, when the temperature reached 49° in Boston, the month's highest reading. The low for the month was 8° on February 19. The total amount of rain during the month was 2.20 inches, 1.10 inches below average, and snowfall totaled only 4.6 inches in Boston, nearly seven inches below average. The most snow fell on Valentine's Day, 2.5 inches. *R. Stymeist*

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

Greater White-fronted Geese were reported in higher-than-normal numbers during January and February. Gaggles of four were seen in the third week of January in Amherst and Turners Falls; they may have been the same gaggle. Two more geese were found in Fairhaven, while singles were encountered in Seekonk and Provincetown. The Provincetown individual, an immature bird, is most interesting because of the rarity of this species on Cape Cod. In fact, this is probably the only record for Cape Cod in the last twenty years other than a Martha's Vineyard record from 1995. At least a few Snow Geese survived on the North Shore until late February, including two at Gloucester and two at Newbury on February 25. Four separate reports of **Cackling Geese** were received from around the state, although none of these reports were accompanied by details.

A single report of six Eurasian Wigeon in Swansea probably represents the highest count of this species at one site in over fifty years! Prior to that were accounts of at least nine together on Martha's Vineyard. Most extraordinary is a record of forty-three together on Martha's Vineyard on November 11, 1940, a report significantly higher than any count in the eastern United States. Not surprisingly, the six Eurasian Wigeon in Swansea were observed in a flock of 606 American Wigeon. This site has hosted some of the highest counts of Wigeon ever in the state (e.g., 785 American Wigeon on January 12, 2003). On January 13 two Northern Shovelers in Pittsfield were noteworthy that far west in the state during the winter. Also notable is a Eurasian Teal in Eastham. Once again, Redheads were fairly well reported around the state. Higher counts included twelve on Nantucket, a traditional site for large numbers of this species, and nine in North Truro. At least twenty-five Barrow's Goldeneye were found in the state during January and February.

Provincetown once again played host to a **Pacific Loon**. A single observer reported an impressive 421 Common Loons on Plum Island on January 18, one of the highest totals ever for the state. The **Eared Grebe** continued to be seen in Gloucester through February. A **Western**

Grebe on Plum Island was an excellent find on January 6. Notable tubenoses included a single Northern Fulmar on January 8 at Andrew's Point in Rockport and a Sooty Shearwater in Eastham on January 2. The latter record is one of only a few winter records ever for the state. Typically, this species has begun breeding in the southern Atlantic and Pacific by this time.

A number of species of herons lingered through much of the period. Most notable were Great Egrets in Worcester, North Falmouth, and Eastham (the last on February 1!), and a Snowy Egret that continued through January 15 in Gloucester. There are only a few previous February records for Great Egrets in Massachusetts (e.g., February 28, 1973, in East Orleans). Also worthy of mention is an American Bittern in South Dartmouth on February 10.

The increase in Black Vultures in the state has continued unabated. Sheffield, which has typically hosted the highest counts of Black Vultures, produced an impressive twelve on February 18. One of the most exciting birding events during the period attracted large numbers of the nonbirding public. This was the Bald Eagle show along the Merrimack River in Newburyport. These birds, up to a total of twenty-five individuals, put on amazing displays of feeding, interactions with each other, and simply spectacular up-close-and-personal views. There were roughly twice as many Cooper's Hawks as Sharp-shinned Hawks reported during January and February. Red-shouldered Hawks began to show up in February. Shortly after their arrival in the state, these birds begin courtship, establishment of territory, and nest-building. An adult **Golden Eagle** in Acoaxet was observed catching an American Black Duck, which subsequently escaped when an adult Bald Eagle chased the Golden Eagle away!

A **Common Moorhen** just barely celebrated the New Year on Nantucket. A number of shorebirds lingered through the period. A Semipalmated Plover was a great record on January 14 in Truro. There is only a handful of January records for this species in the state. An amazing four Lesser Yellowlegs were found in Newburyport on January 9. Rounding out the number of rare shorebirds reported was a Red Knot in Rockport on February 22. This species, which used to winter in some numbers at Revere Beach, has not been widely reported on the North Shore in recent years during the winter.

Pomarine Jaegers have been reported from time to time during the winter. This year two individuals, one in Rockport and another in Eastham, were found during a storm on January 15-16. Black-headed Gulls were seen at a number of coastal localities from Gloucester down to Cape Cod and over to Westport, with a high count of four in Gloucester. Most interesting was an individual that stayed in Holyoke from February 4 through 13. This is one of fewer than six winter records ever for western Massachusetts. As is typically the case, Nantucket produced the lion's share of Lesser Black-backed Gulls with seventy-four reported on January 2. In contrast, a total of only thirteen were reported for the rest of the state during the entire period. Alcids highlights included a number of Dovekies (five in Rockport on February 4) and an amazing total of 233 Common Murres in Rockport on January 15 during the same winds that produced a Pomarine Jaeger. This latter total is indicative of the dramatic increase of Common Murre in the state during the last few years.

J. Trimble

Greater White-fronted Goose				Brant			
1/19-21	Amherst	4	E. Goodwin	1/7	Boston H.	601	TASL (M. Hall)
1/19-21	Turners Falls	4	F. Bowrys	1/20	Nahant	113	P. + F. Vale
1/21-2/25	P'town	1 imm	G. Martin#	1/21	Swansea	516	M. Lynch#
1/27-28	Seekonk	1	E. Slattery	2/18	Fairhaven	140	G. d'Entremont
2/17	Fairhaven	2	M. Lynch#	2/25	Plymouth	921	M. Lynch#
Snow Goose				2/28	Duxbury B.	150	R. Bowes
1/thr	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	Cackling Goose (no details)			
1/thr	Reports of 1-2 indiv	from 14	locations	1/2-12	Rockland	1	I. Davies + v.o.
2/23	Newbypt H.	2	S. Grinley	1/9	Plymouth	1	T. Lloyd-Evans
2/25	Danvers	1 ad	R. Heil	1/14	Turners Falls	1	J. Smith
2/25	Gloucester	2	R. Bowes#	1/14-21	Swansea	1	M. Lynch#
2/25	Newbury	2	R. Bowes#				

Mute Swan				1/3	W. Newbury	2	J. Nelson
1/21	Swansea	200	M. Lynch#	1/21-2/24	Falmouth	34 max	M. Malin
1/27	Framingham	60	E. Taylor	2/10	Eastham	4	B. Nikula#
2/2	Turners Falls	14	H. Allen	2/18	Mashpee	2	CCBC (M. Keleher)
2/10	Westport	102	M. Lynch#	2/25	Westport	23	E. Nielsen
2/10	New Bedford	68	R. Stymeist#	Redhead			
2/17	Swansea	125	G. d'Entremont	1/1-13	W. Newbury	2	v.o.
Wood Duck				1/1	Shrewsbury	3	M. Lynch#
1/19	Wakefield	7	D. + I. Jewell	1/1	Nantucket	12	G. d'Entremont#
2/6	Newton	14	M. Barber	1/1	Groveland	2 m	S. + J. Mirick
2/11	Brookline	6	B. Mayer	1/1	P'town	2	J. Hoye#
2/12	Waltham	5	J. Forbes	1/9	P.I.	1 m	S. Grinley
2/18	Winchester	9	R. LaFontaine	1/11	Scituate	1 f	C. Nims
2/23	Millbury	3	D. Berard	1/12	Millbury	2	D. Berard
2/28	Wayland	3	B. Harris	1/14	N. Truro	9	J. Young
Gadwall				2/5	Eastham	1	J. Galluzzo#
thr	Plymouth	66 max	v.o.	2/17	Swansea	pr	G. d'Entremont
1/thr	Woburn (HP)	10 max	M. Rines	2/18-28	Gloucester	1 m	L. Pivacek#
1/thr	P.I.	38 max	v.o.	Ring-necked Duck			
1/2	Ipswich	18	J. Berry	1/thr	Medford	132 max	M. Rines
1/12	Barnstable	20	M. Keleher	1/1	Nantucket	63	G. d'Entremont#
1/19	Duxbury	25	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	1/1	Groveland	200+	D. Chickering
1/21	Swansea	78	M. Lynch#	1/6, 2/16	Springfield	8, 8A.+	L. Richardson
2/17	Fairhaven	12	M. Lynch#	1/7	Gloucester	44	R. Heil
2/24	Falmouth	14	M. Malin	1/12, 2/16	Barnstable	85, 30	M. Keleher
Eurasian Wigeon				1/13	W. Newbury	465	D. Chickering
1/thr	Plymouth	1	v.o.	2/10	Eastham	70	B. Nikula#
1/21	Swansea	4 m+2 f	M. Lynch#	2/23	Millbury	53	D. Berard
American Wigeon				Greater Scaup			
1/1	Nantucket	64	G. d'Entremont#	1/1	Nantucket	75	G. d'Entremont#
1/12, 2/16	Barnstable	58, 13	M. Keleher	1/5, 2/9	Mattapoisett	400, 380	D. Furbish
1/13	Woburn (HP)	11	M. Rines	1/7	Boston H.	1514	TASL (M. Hall)
1/19	W. Barnstable	19	M. Keleher	1/14	Fairhaven	158	SSBC (Anderson)
1/21	Swansea	606	M. Lynch#	1/18, 2/22	P.I.	23, 40	R. Heil
2/16	Westport	12	L. Thoerle#	1/21	Swansea	153	M. Lynch#
2/24	Falmouth	37	M. Malin	1/29	Acoaxet	80	B. Volkle
2/27	Belchertown	4	L. Therrien	2/24	Falmouth	435	M. Malin
American Black Duck				2/25	Westport	74	E. Nielsen
1/6	P.I.	1120	R. Heil	Lesser Scaup			
1/7	Boston H.	488	TASL (M. Hall)	1/1	Nantucket	14	G. d'Entremont#
1/21	Swansea	702	M. Lynch#	1/5	Lakeville	11	K. Anderson
2/25	Plymouth	5587	M. Lynch#	1/13	Lynn	15	T. Pirro#
Northern Shoveler				1/24, 2/25	Nahant	150, 68	R. Heil#
1/1-5	Arlington Res.	3	M. Rines	2/18	Newbypt	40	R. Heil
1/2	GMNWR	5	D. Berard#	2/22	P.I.	25+	R. Heil
1/6	P.I.	3	R. Heil	2/24	Falmouth	22	M. Malin
1/12	Barnstable	1 m imm	M. Keleher	2/25	Westport	21	E. Nielsen
1/13	Pittsfield (Onota)	2	N. Mole	King Eider			
1/19	Medford	1 m	R. LaFontaine	thr	Gloucester (B.R.)	1 m	v.o.
1/28-31	Boston (F.Pk)	1 m	A. Joslin + v.o.	1/6	Orleans	1 f	SSBC (Petersen)
2/5	Turners Falls	1	F. Bowrys	2/28	Rockport	1 m ad	R. Heil
2/6	Boston (BNC)	1 m	A. Birch	Common Eider			
2/thr	Brookline	1 f	A. Morgan	1/2	Ipswich	350+	J. Berry
Northern Pintail				1/7	Boston H.	3913	TASL (M. Hall)
thr	P.I.	155 max	1/6 v.o.	1/18, 2/22	P.I.	650, 500	R. Heil
1/1	Worcester	5	M. Lynch#	1/28	Orleans	750	D. Silverstein#
1/6	Westport	68	BBC (R. Stymeist)	2/2	Ipswich	550	J. Berry
1/7	Charlton	4	M. Lynch#	2/16	Barnstable	225	M. Keleher
1/12	Barnstable	9	M. Keleher	2/25	Fairhaven	750	G. d'Entremont
1/13	Pittsfield (Onota)	5	N. Mole	2/25	Plymouth	3951	M. Lynch#
2/10	Yarmouth	6	M. Keleher	2/28	Cape Ann	1530	R. Heil
2/25	Plymouth	19	G. d'Entremont	Harlequin Duck			
Green-winged Teal				thr	Rockport	76 max	v.o.
1/1	Worcester	3	M. Lynch#	thr	Gloucester	6 max	v.o.
1/6	Marstons Mills	4	M. Keleher	1/4-21	P.I.	1 f	T. Wetmore
1/13	Woburn	13	D. + I. Jewell	1/6	Orleans	10	SSBC (Petersen)
1/13	P.I.	6	T. Wetmore	1/11-2/17	Scituate	12 max	v.o.
1/26	Jamaica Plain	3	A. Joslin	1/24	Nahant	1 m 1W	R. Heil#
2/10	Yarmouth	6	M. Keleher	2/10	Sandwich	1 m, 1 f	K. Doyon
2/12	Taunton	15	G. Valade	2/25	Marblehead	1 m	R. Heil
2/18	Mashpee	5	CCBC (M. Keleher)	Surf Scoter			
2/20	Mattapan	6	A. Birch	1/1	Nantucket Sd	1000	G. d'Entremont#
Eurasian Teal				1/24	Nahant	300+	R. Heil#
1/21	Eastham	1	C. + S. Thompson	2/25	Plymouth	297	M. Lynch#
Canvasback				2/28	Cape Ann	76	R. Heil
1/1	Cambr. (F.P.)	44	F. Bouchard	White-winged Scoter			
1/1	Groveland	2 m	S. + J. Mirick	1/1	Nantucket Sd	250	G. d'Entremont#
1/1	Nantucket	150	G. d'Entremont#	1/7	Boston H.	658	TASL (M. Hall)

White-winged Scoter (continued)				2/25	Mashpee	42	M. Keleher
1/14	N. Truro	135	B. Nikula	Red-breasted Merganser	P.I.		
1/22, 2/22	P.I.	520, 410	R. Heil	thr		80 max	R. Heil
1/24	Nahant	200+	R. Heil#	thr	Gloucester	230 max	R. Heil
2/25	Plymouth	116	M. Lynch#	1/7	Boston H.	614	TASL (M. Hall)
2/28	Cape Ann	185	R. Heil	1/7, 2/18	P'town	1700, 800	B. Nikula
Black Scoter				1/28	N. Truro	800	B. Nikula
1/1	Nantucket Sd	150	G. d'Entremont#	2/25	Plymouth	150	M. Lynch#
1/6	Orleans	50	SSBC (Petersen)	Ruddy Duck			
1/9, 2/22	P.I.	500, 380	R. Heil	1/1-2/28	Medford	75 max	M. Rines
1/15	Rockport (A.P.)	10	R. Heil	1/1-17	Melrose	58 max	D. + I. Jewell
2/17	Fairhaven	13	M. Lynch#	1/4	Ludlow	45	L. Therrien
Long-tailed Duck				1/6	Framingham	50	E. Taylor
1/1	Nantucket Sd	125	G. d'Entremont#	1/7	Millbury	34	M. Lynch#
1/7	Boston H.	112	TASL (M. Hall)	1/14	W. Newbury	82+	P. + F. Vale
1/18, 2/22	P.I.	130, 50	R. Heil	1/14	N. Truro	80	B. Nikula
2/23	Rockport (A.P.)	13	R. Heil	1/16	Braintree	114	D. Furbish
2/25	Plymouth	46	M. Lynch#	1/26	Jamaica Plain	356	A. Joslin
Bufflehead				Ruffed Grouse			
1/7	Boston H.	1325	TASL (M. Hall)	2/17	Templeton	1	T. Pirro
1/7	Gloucester	115	R. Heil	2/28	E. Sandwich	1	D. Manchester
1/12, 2/16	Barnstable	135, 235	M. Keleher	Wild Turkey			
2/2	P.I.	125	R. Heil	1/3	W. Gloucester	20	J. Nelson
2/6	Falmouth	225+	M. Malin	1/23	Lenox	27	N. Mole
2/17	Fairhaven	372	M. Lynch#	1/26	Plymouth	98	D. Furbish
2/24	Westport	189	S. Grinley#	1/27	W. Brookfield	28	M. Lynch#
2/25	Plymouth	792	M. Lynch#	2/17	Templeton	88	T. Pirro
Common Goldeneye				2/17	Stoughton	24	G. d'Entremont
thr	Newbypt	350 max	v.o.	2/22	Northampton	55	K. Conway
thr	P.I.	305 max	R. Heil	Red-throated Loon			
1/7	Boston H.	320	TASL (M. Hall)	thr	P.I.	9 max	v.o.
1/12, 2/16	Barnstable	85, 150	M. Keleher	1/7	Boston H.	20	TASL (M. Hall)
1/21	Swansea	316	M. Lynch#	1/7, 14	P'town	20+	B. Nikula
1/31	Turners Falls	120	J. Smith	1/15	Rockport (A.P.)	9	R. Heil
2/4	Chicopee	50	S. Kellogg	2/18	N. Truro	20	B. Nikula
2/17	Fairhaven	219	M. Lynch#	Pacific Loon *			
2/20	Holyoke	52	L. Therrien	1/14	P'town	1	B. Nikula
2/25	Plymouth	116	M. Lynch#	Common Loon			
Barrow's Goldeneye				1/1	Nantucket Sd	22	G. d'Entremont#
thr	Gloucester	1-3	v.o.	1/7	Boston H.	25	TASL (M. Hall)
1/thr	Wellfleet H.	1 m	v.o.	1/18	P.I.	421	R. Heil
1/1-2/6	Newbypt	1	v.o.	1/24	Nahant	12	R. Heil#
1/1	W. Newbury	1 m	S. McGrath	2/18	P'town	20	B. Nikula
1/2	Eastham	1 m	I. Davies#	2/25	Plymouth	34	M. Lynch#
1/3	Bourne	1 m	C. Dalton	2/28	Cape Ann	74	R. Heil
1/5	Plymouth	1 MAS (J. Galluzzo)		2/28	Duxbury B.	11	R. Bowes
1/7	S. Boston	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	Pied-billed Grebe			
1/7-2/28	Turners Falls	1	v.o.	thr	Reports of indiv. from 12 locations		
1/12	Cotuit	1	M. Keleher	1/1	Nantucket	9	G. d'Entremont#
1/18	P.I.	1 m	R. Heil	1/6	Eastham	5	SSBC (Petersen)
1/21	Swansea	2 m	M. Lynch#	1/10	Plymouth	2	K. Doyon
2/2	Cotuit	1 m	M. Tuttle	1/12, 2/16	Barnstable	13, 2	M. Keleher
2/6	Winthrop	1 f	A. Birch	2/17	GMNWR	2	J. Forbes
2/9	Harwich	1 m	D. Clapp	2/25	Plymouth	2	M. Lynch#
2/11	Essex	1	D. Brown#	Horned Grebe			
2/11	Barnstable (S.N.)	1 m	MAS (J. Liller)	thr	P.I.	33 max	v.o.
2/11-28	N. Truro	1 imm	M. Malin#	1/5	Plymouth	18	MAS (J. Galluzzo)
2/16	Westport	1 m	L. Thoerle#	1/5	Quabbin	5	S. Perkins#
2/17	Fairhaven	2	M. Lynch#	1/7	Boston H.	183	TASL (M. Hall)
2/25	Barnstable	1	J. Young	1/21	Swansea	88	M. Lynch#
2/25	Plymouth	1 m	M. Lynch#	1/24	Nahant	14	R. Heil#
Hooded Merganser				2/25	Manomet	17	G. d'Entremont
1/1	Wakefield	68	D. Williams	2/28	Duxbury B.	16	R. Bowes
1/7	Boston H.	28	TASL (M. Hall)	2/28	Cape Ann	81	R. Heil
1/12	Barnstable	37	M. Keleher	Red-necked Grebe			
1/13	Lynn	40	T. Pirro#	thr	P.I.	26 max	v.o.
1/16	Braintree	82	D. Furbish	1/7	Boston H.	153	TASL (M. Hall)
1/21	Swansea	186	M. Lynch#	2/2	W. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien
2/6, 24	Falmouth	132, 84	M. Malin	2/7	Rockport (A.P.)	2	BBC (B. VolkE)
2/12, 27	Belchertown	11, 71	L. Therrien	2/11	N. Scituate	9	SSBC (Gd'E)
Common Merganser				2/28	Cape Ann	38	R. Heil
thr	Medford	80 max	M. Rines	Eared Grebe *			
1/1	Wakefield	53	D. Williams	thr	Gloucester	1	v.o.
1/7	Quabog IBA	128	M. Lynch#	Western Grebe (details submitted)*			
1/13	Southwick	120	S. Kellogg	1/6	P.I.	1	P. Roberts
1/13	W. Newbury	105	D. Williams	Northern Fulmar			
1/29	Turners Falls	45	J. Smith	1/8	Rockport (A.P.)	1 lt	R. Heil
2/23	Millbury	74	D. Berard				

Sooty Shearwater				2/26	W. Bridgewater	2	K. Ryan
1/2	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula	Sharp-shinned Hawk			
Northern Gannet				thr	Reports of indiv. from 25 locations		
1/1, 28	P'town	425, 300	B. Nikula#	1/3	N. Falmouth	2	I. Nisbet
1/1	Wellfleet	200	J. Hoyer#	1/18	Amesbury	2	B. Harris
1/2, 16	Eastham (F.E.)	950, 400	B. Nikula	1/18	P.I.	2	R. Heil
1/8, 15	Rockport (A.P.)	208, 224	R. Heil	2/25	Plymouth	1	M. Lynch#
1/12	P.I.	175+	R. Heil	Cooper's Hawk			
1/20, 27	N. Truro	800, 470	B. Nikula	thr	Reports of indiv. from 56 locations		
Double-crested Cormorant				1/7	Boston	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)
1/4	Medford	2	R. LaFontaine	2/19	Ipswich	2	ad J. Berry#
1/6	Duxbury B.	4	D. Furbish	2/25	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	E. Nielsen
1/7	Boston H.	4	TASL (M. Hall)	Northern Goshawk			
1/24	Gloucester	10	MAS (D. Larson)	1/2	Boxford	1	T. Martin
1/26	Jamaica Plain	2	A. Joslin	2/5	Medfield	1	J. O'Connell
1/26	Rockport	4	D. Radovsky	2/10	Cambridge	1	ad K. Hartel
Great Cormorant				2/13	Hardwick	1	C. Buelow
1/7	Boston H.	15	TASL (M. Hall)	2/20	Cummington	1	B. Spencer
1/24	Nahant	33	R. Heil#	2/23	Worcester	1	imm M. Lynch#
2/10	Acoaxet	34	M. Lynch#	Red-shouldered Hawk			
2/11	N. Scituate	35	SSBC (Gd'E)	thr	E. Middleboro	pr	K. Anderson
2/24	W. Newbury	20+	P. + F. Vale	2/10	Westport	4	M. Lynch#
2/28	Duxbury B.	31	R. Bowes	2/11	N. Marshfield	2	ad SSBC (Gd'E)
2/28	Cape Ann	136	R. Heil	2/17	Becket	1	K. Conway
American Bittern				2/18	Bradford	1	ad J. + S. Mirick
1/1-2/6	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	2/21	Lakeville	2	K. Ryan
1/24	Salisbury	1	S. McGrath	2/23	E. Bridgewater	pr	M. Giles
1/28	Peabody	1	D. Bates#	2/24	Plympton	pr	M. Fioretti
2/10	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	M. Lynch#	2/26	Warwick	1	ad T. Wansleben
Great Blue Heron				2/28	Easton	2	K. Ryan
1/10	Saugus	11	P. Peterson	Red-tailed Hawk			
1/12	Barnstable	6	M. Keleher	1/28	Sheffield	12	M. Lynch#
1/23	Medford	6	M. Rines	2/18	Worcester	24	M. Lynch#
2/25	Mashpee	7	M. Keleher	2/23	Millbury	15	D. Berard
Great Egret				Rough-legged Hawk			
1/7	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#	1/20-2/28	P.I.	5	max v.o.
1/14	N. Falmouth	1	I. Nisbet	2/5-28	Hadley	1	v.o.
2/1	Eastham	1	fide WBWS	2/9-28	DWWS	3	max v.o.
Snowy Egret				2/11-28	Cumb. Farms	5	max v.o.
1/1-15	Gloucester	1	v.o.	2/15-24	Boston (Logan)	1	dk N. Smith
Black-crowned Night-Heron				2/16	Pittsfield	2	G. Shampang
1/4	Brookline	1	G. Valenzuela	2/17-23	Millbury	1	lt v.o.
1/7	Winthrop	4	imm P. + F. Vale#	2/17-20	Bolton Flats	1	lt S. Sutton
1/9	Cambridge	1	R. Stymeist	2/18	Sheffield	2	D. St James
1/14	Belmont	1	R. Stymeist#	2/18	Wakefield	1	dk D. + I. Jewell
Black Vulture				Golden Eagle			
1/28	S. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher	2/10-11	Acoaxet	1	ad M. Lynch#
2/18	Sheffield	12	D. St James	American Kestrel			
2/21	Plymouth	3	C. Nims#	thr	Reports of indiv. from 19 locations		
2/24	M.V.	1	K. Doyon#	thr	Cumb. Farms	3	max v.o.
Turkey Vulture				thr	Dorchester	2	P. Peterson
thr	Wayland	5	max B. Harris	1/23	P.I.	2	D. Berard#
1/thr	Ipswich	15+	J. Thomas	2/4	P.I.	2	D. Furbish
2/10	Westport	7	M. Lynch#	2/13	Cumb. Farms	3	D. Furbish
2/12	Fall River	6	K. Anderson	Merlin			
2/18	Worcester	5	M. Lynch#	thr	Reports of indiv. from 20 locations		
2/19	Ipswich	4	J. Berry#	Peregrine Falcon			
2/23	Millbury	14	D. Berard	thr	Reports of indiv. from 17 locations		
2/25	Pepperell	9	E. Stromsted#	thr	Boston (Logan)	2	ad N. Smith
Bald Eagle				thr	Gloucester	pr	v.o.
thr	Merrimack R.	25	max v.o.	1/18	P.I.	2	R. Heil
thr	Lakeville	7	max v.o.	2/14	Holyoke	3	J. Smith
1/28	Wachusett Res.	2	W. Miller	2/25	Worcester	2	ad M. Lynch#
1/28	Sheffield	2	ad M. Lynch#	2/27	Deerfield	2	H. Allen
2/2	Plymouth H.	2	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	Virginia Rail			
2/11	Westport	2	M. Maurer	1/1	Nantucket	3	G. d'Entremont
2/18	Sheffield	2	D. St. James	1/7	Quabog IBA	1	M. Lynch#
2/21	S. Quabbin	9	L. Therrien	1/24	Peabody	4	R. Heil#
Northern Harrier				1/28	Swansea	2	M. Lynch#
thr	DWWS	5	max v.o.	2/9	Marshfield	1	MAS (J. Galluzzo)
thr	Cumb. Farms	7	max v.o.	2/10	S. Peabody	2	R. Heil
thr	P.I.	10	max v.o.	Common Moorhen			
2/4-17	Hadley	2	v.o.	1/1	Nantucket	1	G. d'Entremont#
2/9, 24	Boston (Logan)	2, 2	N. Smith	American Coot			
2/9	Hatfield	2	H. Allen	thr	Arlington	20	max M. Rines
2/10	Westport	3	M. Lynch#	thr	Plymouth	15	max v.o.
2/10	Barnstable	3	M. Keleher	thr	Woburn (HP)	33	max M. Rines
2/23	Falmouth	2	C. Buelow	1/thr	Boston	76	max v.o.
				1/1	Nantucket	40	G. d'Entremont#

American Coot (continued)				2/4-13	Holyoke	1		J. Smith
1/2	GMNWR	158	D. Berard#	2/11	Plymouth B.	1 ad		E. Richards
1/16	Braintree	59	D. Furbish	2/16	Barnstable	1		M. Keleher
1/24	Lynn	42	R. Heil#	2/16	Westport	1		L. Thoeerl#
Black-bellied Plover				Bonaparte's Gull				
1/3	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	1/9	Lynn Beach	100		J. Quigley
1/5	Ipswich	1	S. McGrath	1/14	Wellfleet H.	19		B. Nikula
1/14, 2/27	Truro	10, 9	J. Young	1/14	E. Orleans	180+		B. Nikula
2/18	S. Harwich	1	B. Nikula	1/15	Rockport (A.P.)	69		R. Heil
Semipalmated Plover				1/16	Eastham (F.E.)	45		B. Nikula
1/14	Truro	1	J. Young	2/4	Chatham	2		B. Nikula
Killdeer				Iceland Gull				
1/6	P'town (R.P.)	1	D. Demers	thr	Gloucester	8 max		v.o.
2/5	Eastham	1	J. Galluzzo#	1/6-2/21	Turners Falls	3 max		v.o.
2/12	Fairhaven	2	M. Maurer	1/14	P'town	11		B. Nikula
Greater Yellowlegs				1/14, 28	N. Truro	2, 3		B. Nikula
1/7	N. Falmouth	2	I. Nisbet	1/17-2/18	Newybt	3 max		v.o.
1/7	Wellfleet	5	B. Nikula	1/18-2/22	P.I.	4 max		v.o.
2/17	Swansea	1	G. d'Entremont	1/21	Greenfield	2		H. Allen
Lesser Yellowlegs				2/4-14	Holyoke	2		J. Smith
1/9	Newbypt	4	R. Heil	2/18	P'town	12		B. Nikula
1/12	P.I.	1	R. Heil	Lesser Black-backed Gull				
1/13	Newbypt	1	S. McGrath	thr	Boston	1 ad		v.o.
Ruddy Turnstone				1/2	Nantucket	74		E. Ray#
1/1	Nantucket	9	G. d'Entremont#	1/3	Bourne	1 2W		C. Dalton
1/12	Osterville	7	M. Keleher	1/6	Gloucester (E.P.)	2		M. Lynch#
1/14	Truro	3	J. Young	1/6-2/28	Turners Falls	1-4		J. Smith+ v.o.
2/16	Scituate	3	MAS (D. Ludlow)	2/2-25	Plymouth	1		v.o.
2/16	Barnstable	6	M. Keleher	2/5-18	Holyoke	1-2		B. Kane
2/18	P'town H.	4	B. Nikula	2/10	Dartmouth	1 ad		R. Stymeist#
2/24	Gloucester (B.R.)	2	L. Seitz	2/23	Worcester	1 ad		M. Lynch#
Red Knot				Glaucous Gull				
2/22	Rockport (H.P.)	1 ph	C. Petrak#	thr	Gloucester	1-4		v.o.
Sanderling				1/1	Nantucket	1 1WG		d'Entremont#
1/7	Boston H.	104	TASL (M. Hall)	1/4	P'town (R.P.)	1		E. Embody#
1/12-2/17	P.I.	80 max	T. Wetmore	1/28	Pittsfield (Onota)	1		D. St James
1/13	Nahant	25	T. Pirro#	1/28	N. Truro	1 1W		B. Nikula
1/21	Plymouth	46	SSBC (J. Sweeney)	1/29	Lawrence	1 2W		R. Heil#
1/27	P'town H.	200	B. Nikula	1/29-2/22	Turners Falls	1-2		J. Smith+ v.o.
2/24	Westport	95	S. Grinley#	2/5-10	Holyoke	1-2		B. Kane+ v.o.
2/25	Barnstable	80	J. Young	Nelson's Gull				
Purple Sandpiper				1/6-2/13	Turners Falls	1		J. Smith
thr	Rockport (A.P.)	34 max		2/4-2/13	Holyoke	1-4		J. Smith
thr	Gloucester	40 max		Black-legged Kittiwake				
1/7	Boston H.	14	TASL (M. Hall)	thr	Rockport (A.P.)	486 max		v.o.
1/28	P'town H.	15	B. Nikula	1/thr	P'town	155 max		B. Nikula#
2/2	P.I.	30+	R. Heil	1/7, 16	Eastham (F.E.)	50, 320		B. Nikula
2/10	Sandwich	18	K. Doyon	1/20, 2/3	N. Truro	200, 60		B. Nikula
2/17	Westport	20	A. + D. Morgan	Dovekie				
2/25	Swampscott	25+	R. Heil	1/1, 2/4	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 5		Boone, Zajda
Dunlin				1/1	Gloucester	1		C. Dalton
1/13	Nahant	30	T. Pirro#	1/2	P.I.	1		E. Embody#
1/14	P'town	125	B. Nikula	1/2	Eastham (F.E.)	1		B. Nikula
1/21	Plymouth	129	SSBC (J. Sweeney)	2/18	P'town	2		J. Hoye#
1/29	Dennis	30	M. Tuttle	2/27	Salisbury	1 grounded		fide T. French
2/6	Essex	150	D. Brown	Common Murre				
2/24	Westport	120	S. Grinley#	1/4	P'town (R.P.)	15		E. Embody#
2/25	P.I.	300	R. Bowes#	1/15	Rockport (A.P.)	233		R. Heil
2/28	Duxbury B.	600	R. Bowes	1/28	Gloucester (B.R.)	1		D. Bates#
Wilson's Snipe				2/18	P'town (R.P.)	1		J. Hoye#
1/2	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	Thick-billed Murre				
1/14	Wareham	6	SSBC (Anderson)	1/3, 25	Gloucester	1, 1		J. Frontierro
1/24	Peabody	2	R. Heil#	1/3	P.I.	1		S. Haydock
1/24	Northampton	2	F. Bowrys	1/4	P'town (R.P.)	2		E. Embody#
2/11	N. Marshfield	3	SSBC (Gd'E)	1/15, 2/17	Rockport (A.P.)	11, 1		Heil, Tripp
American Woodcock				Razorbill				
1/7	Medford	1	D. + I. Jewell	1/thr	P.I.	6 max		v.o.
2/2	Williamstown	1	L. Reed-Evans	1/1	P'town	900		B. Nikula#
2/9	E. Sandwich	1	D. Manchester	1/3	Manomet	15		C. Dalton
2/10-13	E. Middleboro	2	K. Anderson	1/3	Sandwich	45		C. Dalton
2/28	Falmouth	4	M. Keleher#	1/7	Boston H.	11		TASL (M. Hall)
Pomarine Jaeger				1/15, 2/23	Rockport (A.P.)	289, 125		R. Heil
1/15	Rockport (A.P.)	2 lt	R. Heil	2/4	Duxbury B.	14		R. Bowes
1/16	Eastham (F.E.)	1 dk	B. Nikula	2/10, 18	N. Truro	20, 35		B. Nikula
Black-headed Gull				Black Guillemot				
thr	Gloucester	4		thr	Gloucester	78 max		v.o.
1/12	Osterville	1	M. Keleher	thr	Rockport (A.P.)	1-2		v.o.
2/4	Lynn	1 ad	J. Young	1/3	Plymouth	6		C. Dalton

1/13, 2/4	Duxbury B.	1, 1	R. Bowes	Large acid species			
1/27	Boston H.	8	S. Zende#	1/1, 2/18	P'town	600, 75	B. Nikula#
2/11	N. Scituate	2	SSBC (Gd'E)	1/1, 27	N. Truro	75, 3250	B. Nikula#
2/25	Marblehead	13	R. Heil	1/2, 7	Eastham (F.E.)	1400, 670	B. Nikula#
Atlantic Puffin				1/15, 2/23	Rockport (A.P.)	108, 1900	R. Heil
1/15	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil				

PARAKEETS THROUGH FINCHES

The only reports of Monk Parakeets during the period were of two birds in Millbury. This nonnative species is not expanding its range into Massachusetts as it has in New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, where the birds create havoc for utility companies with their giant stick nests. Seven Snowy Owls were caught and banded at Logan Airport during the period, and at least two were present on Plum Island during both months. As many as five Long-eared Owls were noted at Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary in Marshfield, and two birds were seen hunting over the East Meadows in Northampton.

The very mild winter was certainly responsible for the extended stay of both **Calliope Hummingbirds**, which continued in South Dartmouth through January 26. The first state record of Calliope Hummingbird was only in 2002, and three were noted in 2006. The female **Rufous Hummingbird** that was present since October 2006 in Cataumet survived a period at a feeder that was maintained with heating lamps and constant attention from the homeowners. Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in Hatfield and Sutton, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted in nine locations.

The mild weather and lack of snow contributed to an increased number of our typical early winter lingerers. There were eight reports of Eastern Phoebes, twenty-five reports of Winter Wrens, nine Ruby-crowned Kinglets, fifty-seven reports of Hermit Thrushes, six Orange-crowned Warblers, six Common Yellowthroats, ten chats, eleven towhees, and seven Baltimore Orioles. The lack of snow on our fields resulted in an unprecedented number of American Pipits, with nearly 200 in Westport. In western Massachusetts pipits are particularly rare in winter with only a handful of previous records, so reports from Northampton and Hatfield were impressive. Similarly, Horned Larks and Snow Buntings were well represented. Then there were the birds seldom found after December that again benefited from the unusual weather: House Wren, Wood Thrush, Black-throated Blue and Wilson's warblers. A Wilson's Warbler in Nahant from early January through the Valentine's Day storm was identified as the coastal Pacific subspecies *chryseola* (British Columbia to California), a remarkable record of long-distance vagrancy for this subspecies.

Many rarities were found during this period, again probably a result of the exceptionally warm period from December well into January. A **Cape May Warbler** was present at a feeder throughout the period in Orleans. The only other report of a Cape May to overwinter was from Edgartown in 1997. An **Audubon's Warbler** was photographed at a feeder in Eastham. This rare western subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler was last noted in Massachusetts on February 13, 2000, in Orleans. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was reported from Nantucket, and a **Townsend's Warbler** found a busy little street in Cambridge to spend the winter delighting hundreds of birders. A **Harris's Sparrow** was kind enough to find a feeder belonging to a birder who shared this rare western vagrant for all the Super Bowl of Birding teams. The last report of Harris's Sparrow was in October 2003 at Great Meadows in Concord.

The weather was too nice for winter finches; outside of a small flock of eleven Purple Finches in Savoy, only two other individuals were noted. There were no reports of siskins or redpolls and just two Evening Grosbeaks in Royalston. R. Stymeist

Monk Parakeet				2/15-20	Vineyard Haven	2		C. Collins#
1/24	Millbury	2	D. Berard	2/16	Springfield	1	A.+ L. Richardson	
Barn Owl				2/17	Hatfield	1		B. Vokle
2/24	M.V.	1	K. Doyon#	Hairy Woodpecker				
Eastern Screech-Owl				1/28	Templeton	3		T. Pirro
thr	Reports of indiv. from 25 locations			2/11	Monroe	3		M. Lynch#
2/2	Arlington	2	D. Bean	2/18	New Braintree	3		C. Buelow
2/10	DWWS	6	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	Northern Flicker				
2/10	Westport	3	M. Lynch#	1/28	Newbypt	7		P. + F. Vale
2/28	Waltham	2	J. Forbes	2/12	Northampton	4		J. Smith
2/thr	Easton	2	K. Ryan	2/17	Fairhaven	6		M. Lynch#
Great Horned Owl				2/18	Canton	4		M. Ross
1/4	Agawam	3	J. Wojtanowski	2/19	Ipswich	4		J. Berry#
1/27	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#	Pileated Woodpecker				
2/thr	Lexington	pr	M. Rines#	thr	Pepperell	1-2		K. Nevard
2/8	Bradford	pr	S. Carlson#	1/22	Acton	pr		P. + N. Schaub
2/18	Williamsburg	2	R. Packard	1/28	Royalston	2		T. Pirro
2/21	Medford	pr	M. Rines#	1/28	Tyringham	2		M. Lynch#
2/25	DWWS	2	G. d'Entremont	1/28	Montague	2		J. Hoye#
2/28	Wayland	2	B. Harris	1/28	Swansea	3		M. Lynch#
Snowy Owl				2/22	Gloucester	2		D. + D. Marchant
thr	P.I.	2	v.o.	Eastern Phoebe				
thr	Boston (Logan)	7	max N. Smith	1/1-23	Cotuit	1		Janet Leigh
1/14	Nahant	1	L. Ferraresso	1/12	Amherst	1		M. A. Wilson
2/15	Newbury	1	S. Grinley	1/23	Mashpee	1		P. Trimble
Barred Owl				1/24	Scituate	1		D. Furbish
1/13	Amherst	1	M. A. Wilson	1/26	Pepperell	1		M. Resch
1/24	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	1/27	Hyannis	1		D. Silverstein
1/27	Nahant	1	A. Birch#	2/10	Hamilton	1		P. Brown
1/27	Newbypt	1	S. McGrath	2/26	Uxbridge	1		B. Milke#
1/27	Boston	1	ph J. Taylor#	Northern Shrike				
2/4	Hingham	1	C. Jackson	thr	P.I.	1-2		v.o.
2/27	Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted#	thr	DWWS	1		v.o.
Long-eared Owl				thr	Reports of indiv. from 18 locations			
1/1-13	Lexington	1	v.o.	American Crow				
2/5	DWWS	5	C. + P. Moloney	1/15	Framingham	3000		E. Taylor
2/11	P.I.	1	P. Roberts#	1/28	Lawrence	7500		E. Taylor
2/20-25	Northampton	1-2	J. Smith	2/11	W. Fitchburg	3500		T. Pirro
Short-eared Owl				Fish Crow				
thr	P.I.	5	max v.o.	1/2	Watertown	2		L. Ferraresso
2/8	Northampton	1	F. Bowrys	1/7	Boston	4		BBC (R. Stymeist)
2/17	DWWS	1	CCBC (D. Furbish)	2/17	Fairhaven	1		M. Lynch#
2/18	Essex	1	M. Daley#	2/18	Lawrence	25+		R. Heil
2/24	Boston (Logan)	6	N. Smith	2/25	Rehoboth	30+		M. Lynch#
2/24	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore	2/27	Lenox	2		T. Collins
Northern Saw-whet Owl				Common Raven				
1/6	Lexington	1	M. Rines	1/27	Beket	13		R. Laubach
1/16	Gill	2	M. Taylor	1/28	Swansea	1		M. Lynch#
1/27	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#	1/28	Royalston	5		T. Pirro
1/28	Williamsburg	1	F. Bowrys	2/1	Sutton	3		D. Berard
2/7	Gloucester	1	dead R. Heil	2/11	Florida	5		M. Lynch#
2/24	Marlboro	1	J. Dunbar	2/18	Worcester	2		M. Lynch#
Calliope Hummingbird (details submitted) *				2/18	Athol	8		P. + F. Vale
1/1-20	S. Dartmouth	1	m T. Reid#	2/23	Millbury	4		D. Berard
1/1-26	S. Dartmouth	1	f S. Shwartz,#	Horned Lark				
Rufous Hummingbird *				thr	P.I.	50	max	v.o.
thr	Cataumet	1	f b ph W. Grant#	1/5, 2/19	Ipswich	120, 110		J. Berry
Belted Kingfisher				1/6	Eastham	40		SSBC (Petersen)
1/13	Amherst	2	H. Allen	1/9-2/22	Hadley	30-250		v.o.
1/28	Orleans	6	D. Silverstein#	2/3	Sunderland	200		D. Minear
2/18	Mashpee	7	CCBC (M. Keleher)	2/4-22	Northampton	30-400		v.o.
2/24	Falmouth	2	M. Malin	2/13	Cumb. Farms	150		D. Furbish
Red-headed Woodpecker				2/20	Northfield	60		A. Merritt
thr	Sutton	1	imm M. Bowden#	Tree Swallow				
1/24-2/25	Hatfield	1	F. Bowrys + v.o.	1/7	Falmouth	1		G. Hirth
Red-bellied Woodpecker				Red-breasted Nuthatch				
1/6	Westport	6	BBC (R. Stymeist)	1/7	Holyoke	8		S. Moore
2/11	Marshfield	6	SSBC (Gd'E)	1/21	Pittsfield	4		T. Collins
2/11	Wayland	5	G. Long	1/27	Quabbin Pk	11		M. Lynch#
2/18	Westport	3	G. d'Entremont	2/2	W. Quabbin	6		L. Therrien
2/25	IRWS	4	T. + N. Bronson	2/11	Windsor	3		M. Lynch#
2/25	Mashpee	3	M. Keleher	2/25	Mashpee	11		M. Keleher
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				Brown Creeper				
thr	Gloucester	1	D. Sandee#	1/2	GMNWR	3		D. Berard#
1/1-20	Mt.A.	1-3	v.o.	1/7	Holyoke	12		S. Moore
1/7	Quabog IBA	1	M. Lynch#	1/14	Marion	3		SSBC (Anderson)
1/26	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell	1/27	Quabbin Pk	6		M. Lynch#
2/4	Marshfield	2	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	2/11	Wayland	3		G. Long

Brown Creeper (continued)				2/4	Northampton	40	B. Bieda
2/25	Mashpee	3	M. Keleher	2/9	Hatfield	5	H. Allen
Carolina Wren				2/10	Westport	194	M. Lynch#
1/1	Nantucket	9	G. d'Entremont#	2/11	Newbury	13	BBC (S. Grinley)
1/1	Sheffield	3	R. Packard	Bohemian Waxwing			
1/6	Westport	21	BBC (R. Stymeist)	1/12	Littleton	1	G. Marley
1/7	Boston	12	BBC (R. Stymeist)	2/22	Turners Falls	3	B. Zajda
2/18	Worcester	7	M. Lynch#	Cedar Waxwing			
2/25	Mashpee	5	M. Keleher	1/1	Sheffield	239	R. Packard
2/25	Plymouth	6	M. Lynch#	1/1	Townsend	40	E. Stromsted#
House Wren				1/4	Winchester	25	R. LaFontaine
1/6	Westport	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	1/14	Rowley	37	P. + F. Vale
Winter Wren				1/30	Westford	41	S. Sutton
thr	Reports of indiv. from 20 locations			2/18	Haverhill	55	R. Heil
1/7	Quabog IBA	2	M. Lynch#	2/22	Turners Falls	90	B. Zajda
1/13	Nahant	3	G. d'Entremont	Orange-crowned Warbler			
Marsh Wren				thr	Brewster	1	S. Finnegan
1/1-2/11	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore	1/7	Boston (BNC)	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
1/1	Nantucket	1	G. d'Entremont	1/14	Wellfleet	2	J. Young
1/2	GMNWR	1	D. Berard#	2/5-11	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher
1/6	Westport	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	2/5-14	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine
1/7	Quabog IBA	3	M. Lynch#	Cape May Warbler			
2/9	Ipswich	1	S. McGrath	thr	Orleans	1 ph	fide J. Trimble
2/23	Harwich Port	1	B. Nikula	Black-throated Blue Warbler			
Golden-crowned Kinglet				thr	Boxford	1 m ph	C. Fitch
1/6	Westport	34	BBC (R. Stymeist)	Yellow-rumped Warbler			
1/7	Medford	7	A. Ankers#	1/1	Nantucket	25	G. d'Entremont#
1/27	Quabbin Pk	21	M. Lynch#	1/4	Wellfleet	8	E. Embody#
2/4	Pepperell	9	E. Stromsted	1/9	Eastham	25	D. Demers
2/5	Jamaica Plain	14	M. Kanaracus	1/12	Barnstable	4	M. Keleher
2/25	Plymouth	13	M. Lynch#	1/14	Rowley	1	P. + F. Vale
2/25	Mashpee	13	M. Keleher	1/14	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				1/14	Scusset B.	30	SSBC (Anderson)
1/6	Westport	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)	1/18	P.I.	1	B. Harris
1/14	Wellfleet	2	J. Young	1/24	Scituate	12	D. Furbish
2/20	Gloucester	2	S. Hedman#	1/26	Marshfield	4	MAS (J. Galluzzo)
2/22	Mt.A.	3	R. Stymeist	1/31	Newbury	6-7	J. Berry#
Eastern Bluebird				2/6	Revere	4	A. Birch
1/1	Townsend	50	E. Stromsted#	2/10	Westport	12	M. Lynch#
1/2	Sherborn	20	E. Taylor	2/10	Yarmouth	5	M. Keleher
1/4	Ipswich	10	J. Nelson	2/10	Acoaxet	5	M. Lynch#
1/12	Hadley	12	J. Smith	2/11	Marshfield	9	SSBC (Gd'E)
1/13	Southwick	14	S. Kellogg	2/17	Rockport (H.P.)	1	D. Tripp#
1/27	S. Wellfleet	13	C. Franklin	2/17	Fairhaven	5	M. Lynch#
1/28	Swansea	17	M. Lynch#	2/18	Westport	15	G. d'Entremont
2/4	E. Sandwich	11	D. Manchester	2/18	W. Newbury	3	R. Heil
2/10	Acoaxet	23	M. Lynch#	2/25	Mashpee	3	M. Keleher
Hermit Thrush				2/25	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	6	E. Nielsen
thr	Reports of indiv. from 34 locations			2/25	Westport	2	E. Nielsen
1/6	Westport	8	BBC (R. Stymeist)	Audubon's Warbler (details submitted)			
1/7	Squantum	3	G. d'Entremont	thr	Eastham	1 ph	J. Hanson
1/17	P.I.	2	N. Famous#	Black-throated Gray Warbler (details submitted) *			
1/24	Peabody	3	R. Heil#	2/4	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews
1/30	Medford	2	R. LaFontaine	Townsend's Warbler *			
2/10	Fairhaven	3	R. Stymeist#	1/22-2/28	Cambridge	1 ph	J. Orr, L. Cohen#
2/18	S. Dartmouth	2	G. d'Entremont	Pine Warbler			
Wood Thrush				1/1-12	Winchester	1	R. LaFontaine
1/28	Rockport (H.P.)	1	M. Burns#	1/6	P'town (R.P.)	2	D. Demers
American Robin				1/7	Quabog IBA	1 m	M. Lynch#
thr	P.I.	250 max	v.o.	1/14	Wellfleet	1	J. Young
1/4	Hatfield	1140	R. Packard	1/19	Amherst	1	V. Miller
1/4	S. Quabbin	290	L. Therrien	Palm Warbler			
1/6	Westport	900	BBC (R. Stymeist)	1/7	Wellfleet	3	B. Nikula
1/14	Norwell	1500	C. Nims	1/21	P.I.	1	S. McGrath
1/14	Marion	350	SSBC (Anderson)	Common Yellowthroat			
2/14	Amherst	300	J. Smith	1/6	Falmouth	1 m ad	D. Demers
2/17	Boston (A.A.)	200	S. Williams	1/13	Amherst	1	H. Allen
2/23	Hadley	300	M. Taylor	1/24	Peabody	2	R. Heil#
Gray Catbird				1/28	Swansea	1 f	M. Lynch#
1/1	Nantucket	5	G. d'Entremont#	2/3	GMNWR	1	C. Johnson
1/3	Falmouth	4	C. Dalton	Wilson's Warbler			
1/6	Westport	6	BBC (R. Stymeist)	1/3-2/14	Nahant	1	<i>chryseola</i> L. Pivacek + v.o.
2/18	S. Dartmouth	2	G. d'Entremont	Yellow-breasted Chat			
Brown Thrasher				1/5	Osterville	1	M. Keleher
2/11-13	Worcester	1	B. Bronstein	1/6	Westport	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
2/18	S. Dartmouth	1	G. d'Entremont	1/7	Lynnfield	1	D. + I. Jewell
American Pipit				1/7	Falmouth	3	D. Demers
1/12	Hadley	2	J. Smith	1/20-2/2	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher

Yellow-breasted Chat (continued)			1/14	Bolton Flats	2	M. Lynch#	
1/23	Harwich Port	1	B. Nikula	1/16	W. Roxbury	6	P. Peterson
1/24	Swampscott	1	R. Heil#	1/24	Peabody	2	R. Heil#
2/1	Rockport (H.P.)	1	R. Frechette	2/22	Ipswich	4	J. Berry
Eastern Towhee			2/25	Plymouth	5	M. Lynch#	
1/12	Osterville	1	M. Keleher	White-throated Sparrow			
1/28	Mattapoisett	1 m	K. Langevin	1/7	Boston	110	BBC (R. Stymeist)
2/9	Marshfield	2	D. Furbish	1/12	Mt.A.	78	R. Stymeist
2/10	Dartmouth	3	R. Stymeist#	1/13	Lynnfield	100+	P. + F. Vale
2/11	Brookline	1 m	B. Mayer	2/10	Westport	71	M. Lynch#
2/11	N. Marshfield	3	SSBC (Gd'E)	Harris's Sparrow (details submitted) *			
American Tree Sparrow			thr	Georgetown	1 ph	A. O'Hare	
1/14, 2/8	Cumb. Farms	65, 45	D. Furbish	White-crowned Sparrow			
1/15, 2/19	Bolton Flats	157, 205	S. Sutton	thr	Cumb. Farms	5 max	v.o.
1/26	Hatfield	350	J. Smith	thr	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
1/28	Sheffield	86	M. Lynch#	2/13	Danvers	1 1W	R. Heil
2/11	Wayland	100	G. Long	2/18	S. Dartmouth	4	G. d'Entremont
2/26	W. Bridgewater	70	K. Ryan	2/19	Salisbury	2	D. Chickering
Chipping Sparrow				Dark-eyed Junco			
1/7	Wellfleet	1	B. Nikula	1/12	Mt.A.	66	R. Stymeist
1/7	Medford	2	A. Ankers#	1/17	Melrose	60	D. + I. Jewell
1/12	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist	2/3	Royalston	126	M. Lynch#
1/17	Melrose	4	D. + I. Jewell	2/8	Wakefield	130+	F. Vale
1/thr	Malden	7 max	D. + I. Jewell	2/18	S. Dartmouth	68	G. d'Entremont
2/16	Hadley	1	H. Allen	Lapland Longspur			
Field Sparrow				1/3-21	P.I.	1-3	v.o.
1/1	Sheffield	1	R. Packard	1/5, 2/19	Ipswich	2, 1	J. Berry
1/2	Upton	5	N. Paulson	2/3	Sunderland	1	D. Minear
1/3	Falmouth	3	C. Dalton	2/15	Newbury	2	S. Grinley
1/13-31	Bradford	1	S. Carlson	2/17	Salisbury	38	D. Chickering
1/14	Cumb. Farms	3	D. Furbish	2/17	Northampton	2	S. Surner
1/14	Wellfleet	1	J. Young	Snow Bunting			
1/14	Bourne	12	SSBC (Anderson)	thr	P.I.	80 max	v.o.
1/21	Bolton Flats	1	T. Murray	1/2	Ipswich	27	J. Berry
1/24	Peabody	3	R. Heil#	1/12	W. Gloucester	32	J. Nelson
2/1-20	Bradford	1	S. Carlson	1/27	Deerfield	20	R. Ranney
2/2	Rockport (H.P.)	1	R. Frechette	1/28	Orange	40	SSBC (E. LeBlanc)
2/8	Cumb. Farms	1	D. Furbish	2/3	Sunderland	40	D. Minear
2/9	Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	2/4-24	Northampton	30 max	v.o.
2/10	DWWS	2	S. Grinley#	2/10	Williamstown	20	K. Wienke
2/18	N. Truro	5	C. Skowron	2/16-27	Hadley	90 max	v.o.
2/21	Bourne	12	K. Ryan	2/18	Pepperell	60	E. Stromsted#
2/25	Wellfleet	1	J. Young	2/18	Templeton	62	T. Pirro
2/25	Eastham	1	J. Young	2/19	Athol	62	T. Pirro
Lark Sparrow				2/23	Windsor	60	M. A. Wilson
1/1-2/21	Bourne	1	v.o.	2/27	W. Roxbury	16	P. Peterson
Savannah Sparrow				Northern Cardinal			
1/5	Ipswich	10	J. Berry	1/6	Westport	36	BBC (R. Stymeist)
1/16	W. Roxbury	10	P. Peterson	1/6	Gloucester (E.P.)	14	M. Lynch#
2/10	Westport	6	M. Lynch#	1/12	Mt.A.	27	R. Stymeist
2/20	Northampton	4	L. Therrien	1/21	Swansea	38	M. Lynch#
2/25	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	100	M. Sylvia#	1/27	Quabbin Pk	17	M. Lynch#
2/27	Hadley	12	H. Allen	1/27	W. Brookfield	17	M. Lynch#
Ipswich Sparrow				1/28	Swansea	14	M. Lynch#
1/6	Eastham	1	SSBC (Petersen)	1/28	Sheffield	38	M. Lynch#
2/4	Duxbury B.	2	R. Bowes	2/3	Royalston	12	M. Lynch#
2/21	Plymouth B.	1	C. Nims#	2/10	Acoaxet	13	M. Lynch#
2/24	M.V.	1	K. Doyon#	2/10	Westport	72	M. Lynch#
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				2/17	Fairhaven	17	M. Lynch#
1/4	Eastham (F.H.)	7	E. Enbody#	2/18	Worcester	22	M. Lynch#
Fox Sparrow				2/19	Ipswich	19	J. Berry#
thr	Lexington	5	M. Rines#	Dickcissel			
1/16	W. Roxbury	2	P. Peterson	1/20-2/19	Gloucester	1	v.o.
2/7	E. Orleans	5	K. McGinley	1/20	Bradford	1	S. Carlson
2/10	Westport	3	M. Lynch#	Red-winged Blackbird			
2/13	Foxboro	6	G. Valade	1/1	Sheffield	171	R. Packard
2/18	Marlboro	2	T. Spahr	1/4	Southwick	100	S. Kellogg
2/24	Dedham	3	A. Joslin	1/14	Marion	100	SSBC (Anderson)
2/25	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	E. Nielsen	1/28	Northfield	100	H. Galbraith
Lincoln's Sparrow				2/2	Dover	1000	J. Hollowell
1/1	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#	2/11	DWWS	150	SSBC (Gd'E)
1/3	Falmouth	1	C. Dalton	2/17	Cumb. Farms	850	CCBC (D. Furbish)
2/2	Rockport (H.P.)	1	R. Frechette	2/18	Salisbury	160+	R. Heil
2/7	Salisbury	1	B. Harris	Eastern Meadowlark			
Swamp Sparrow				1/4	Ipswich	1	J. Nelson
1/1	Nantucket	5	G. d'Entremont	1/12	DWWS	30	A. + D. Morgan
1/3	P.I.	3	T. Wetmore	1/24	Scituate	4+	D. Furbish
1/6	Lexington	2	M. Rines	2/16	Barnstable	4	M. Keleher

Eastern Meadowlark (continued)			1/3	Williamsburg	82	R. Packard	
2/17	Hatfield	3	B. Vokle	1/24	Southwick	120	S. Kellogg
2/25	Eastham	5	J. Young	2/17	Fairhaven	150+	M. Lynch#
2/25	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	37	E. Nielsen	2/25	Cumb. Farms	23	M. Lynch#
2/27	Brewster	10	S. Finnegan	2/25	IRWS	10	T. + N. Bronson
Rusty Blackbird				Baltimore Oriole			
1/7	Northfield	32	M. Taylor	1/thr	Cambridge	1-2	R. Seidel + v.o.
1/9	Wayland	5	B. Harris	1/2	Malden	2	D. + I. Jewell
2/3	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#	1/3	Lexington	1	M. L. Kaufman
2/16	S. Quabbin	20	B. Zajda	1/5	Westwood	1	E. Nielsen
2/20	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine	1/12-2/4	Nahant	1 imm	D. Wilkinson
2/22	Harwich Port	1	B. Nikula	Purple Finch			
Common Grackle				1/1	Northboro	1 f	S. Moore
thr	Arlington	250	R. LaFontaine#	1/28	Savoy	11	T. Gagnon
1/4	Southwick	50	S. Kellogg	2/14	Millbury	1 f	D. Berard
1/18	Northboro	22	B. Volkle	American Goldfinch			
1/19	Springfield	75	E. Rutman	1/15	S. Lancaster	65+	S. Sutton
1/21	S. Lancaster	750	S. Sutton	2/11	Charlemont	75	M. Lynch#
2/1	Sutton	12	D. Berard	2/11	Wayland	75	G. Long
2/18	Worcester	111	M. Lynch#	2/11	Monroe	150	M. Lynch#
Brown-headed Cowbird				Evening Grosbeak			
thr	Arlington	150	R. LaFontaine	1/28	Royalston	2	T. Pirro
1/2	Upton	155	N. Paulson				

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

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

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO BIRD OBSERVER

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

ABOUT THE COVER

Blackburnian Warbler

The Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) is one of the most spectacularly plumaged wood warblers. The male is distinguished from other North American warblers by his bright orange face, throat, and breast; the orange face contrasts sharply with a black ear patch. Females are duller in coloration, but the orange is still distinctive. First-winter birds resemble females except that the orange is replaced by yellow. The species is monotypic with little geographic variation.

The breeding range stretches from central Alberta to Newfoundland, and in the United States extends across the Great Lakes, New England, and the Appalachians south to Georgia. In Massachusetts the species breeds from Worcester County west and locally in the east. Blackburnian Warblers winter from southern Central America and northern South America to Peru, usually in highland areas. They are nocturnal migrants that are fairly common in Massachusetts in spring, but uncommon in fall. Resident birds arrive in Massachusetts in early May and leave by mid-August.

Blackburnian Warblers are birds of mature coniferous forests, especially spruce and hemlock, but some breed in mixed coniferous-deciduous forests. They are territorial, and males have two types of song. One can be described as *zips* followed by *tittiti tseeeee* and is usually given from a perch high in a conifer. The second is described as a repeated *teetsa*. Males chase other males from their territory and perform a moth-like display flight with slow, exaggerated wing beats. Their courtship and breeding biology are, however, poorly known.

Blackburnian Warblers nest in conifers, usually on small branches far from the trunk. The female builds the cup-shaped nest alone, using twigs, bark strips, and spiderweb. She lines the nest with lichens or fine plant fibers. Only the female develops a brood patch, and she alone broods the usual clutch of four greenish-white eggs, which hatch in about twelve days. The female also broods the chicks, but both parents feed the young. The number of days until fledging is not known. The fledglings often join mixed-species foraging flocks, especially those with a nucleus of chickadees, kinglets, and nuthatches.

In conifers, Blackburnian Warblers glean insects from small branches and twigs, principally in the canopy, but they also hover-glean and hawk prey. In spruce forests, but not in deciduous forests, the males tend to forage higher in the tree than females. During breeding season they tend to prey heavily on lepidopteran larvae and may help control spruce budworm outbreaks. They also take spiders, beetles, and other available insects. On their wintering grounds they may include some fruit in their diet.

Blackburnian Warblers are subject to nest predation by avian and mammalian predators such as Blue Jays and red squirrels, and in their northern breeding range late snow, cold, or persistent rain can be damaging. The factors regulating their population numbers are poorly known, but despite extensive habitat destruction of their wintering grounds, and some deforestation of their breeding grounds, population numbers have

apparently remained stable. Continued deforestation of their wintering grounds is, however, a potential threat to the population stability of this beautiful neotropical migrant bird. 🐦

William E. Davis, Jr.

About the Cover Artist: Barry Van Dusen

Barry Van Dusen's drawings are well known to *Bird Observer* readers. His work has appeared on its cover more often than that of any artist. Barry has also provided illustrations for several nature books and pocket guides, including publications by the American Birding Association, HarperCollins, and Princeton University Press. His articles and paintings have been featured in *Birder's World* and *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Barry was trained as an artist but became drawn to nature subjects through the Massachusetts Audubon Society, an association which began in 1982. Shortly thereafter, he discovered the work of European wildlife artists and adopted their methodology of direct field sketching. His skill as a field artist has enabled Barry to participate abroad in projects sponsored by the Netherlands-based Artists for Nature Foundation. Working with other ANF artists to raise money for conservation of threatened habitats, he has traveled to India, Peru, Ireland, and Spain. Barry was elected a full member of London's Society of Wildlife Artists and is a frequent contributor to its exhibitions. His work has also been shown in Ireland, Scotland, France, and Holland. In the U.S. Barry frequently exhibits in New England, and at prestigious national shows such as Birds in Art in Wausau, Wisconsin, and Art of the Animal Kingdom in Bennington, Vermont. Barry resides in the central Massachusetts town of Princeton. His website is <<http://www.barryvandusen.com>>. 🐦



BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER BY SANDY SELESKY

AT A GLANCE

April 2007



DAVID LARSON


Waterfowl “At a Glance” is often critical for duck hunters. A correct identification of a flying duck before pulling the trigger can mean the difference between legally shooting a regulated game species or illegally killing a protected species. As a consequence, many sportsmen are highly skilled at recognizing waterfowl on the wing, often long before a flying bird reaches shotgun range.

Identifying waterfowl on the wing may require a combination of factors; typically these include date, location, and flight behavior in addition to head and wing pattern and the pattern of the underparts. Notice that coloration was not mentioned. Because waterfowl are often observed at considerable distance or in poor light, coloration is usually of little value, much as in seabird identification. Many experienced duck hunters are able to identify most waterfowl just by their flight characteristics, as experienced birders do with a variety of species.

In the April “At a Glance” photo the reader is spared viewing the mystery waterfowl at a great distance, and the exposure of the photograph allows one to readily determine the pattern of the ducks in flight. Consequently, the identification is straightforward. The first obvious thing is that the birds appear uniformly dark or dusky. There is no hint of patterning on the wings, such as a colored speculum on the trailing edge, nor is there a stripe or wing patch of any sort. Likewise, there is no contrast in the coloration of the underparts, such as a dark chest and a pale belly. Even

their tails are dark. The only markings that show up in the picture are two pale patches on the head, one at the base of the bill and the other on the side of the head.

Given this information, the identity of the mystery ducks is at once narrowed to two possibilities, female Harlequin Ducks or female Surf Scoters. A look at the wedge-shaped heads, created by their deep-based bills, and their overall chunky appearance should at once point to scoters rather than to Harlequin Ducks. Harlequins would appear rounder-bodied and more compact, with tiny bills, rounder pale spots on the side of the head, and relatively longer tails. The pictured ducks are adult female Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*). We know they are adults because they are dusky below. In addition, one or two of them appear to be in wing molt. If the pictured scoters displayed distinctly pale or whitish bellies, they would be in immature plumage.

Surf Scoters are abundant coastal fall migrants, and many thousands may winter in the waters off Nantucket or south of Cape Cod. Their winter departure and spring migration are less dramatic than the great southward flights in October and November, and their appearance inland is always decidedly uncommon. David Larson photographed these Surf Scoters off Plum Island in November. 

Wayne R. Petersen

Like to Bird at National Wildlife Refuges? Think Duck Stamps are only for hunters?

Check the percentages of land acquired for some of the refuges in the eastern U.S. using dollars from the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp:

Edwin B. Forsythe NWR	85.0%
Parker River NWR	99.3%
Monomoy NWR	97.8%
Bombay Hook NWR	95.1%
Blackwater NWR	75.8%
Great Swamp NWR	36.7%
Rhode Island NWRs	0%
Wallkill River NWR	20.8%
Forsythe NWR	85%
Petite Manan NWR	25.1%
Assabet River NWR	0%
Prime Hook NWR	81.8%
Great Dismal Swamp NWR	3.4%
Chincoteague NWR	69.9%
Silvio Conte NWR	56.3%
Moosehorn NWR	68.5%
Rachel Carson NWR	53.9%
Montezuma NWR	87.7%

(Data courtesy of Desiree Sorenson-Groves, National Wildlife Refuge Association, and Paul J. Baicich.)

AT A GLANCE



DAVID LARSON

Can you identify this bird?

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

MORE HOT BIRDS



Rick Heil's cell phone strikes again, this time with a great shot of a **Wilson's Plover** (left) taken at Sandy Point SR on Plum Island on June 17, 2007.

On June 18, 2007, Susan Hedman discovered a **Northern Wheatear** (right) at Coolidge Point Reservation in Manchester. Rick Heil took this photograph using his cell phone and telescope later that day.



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