

# Bird Observer

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VOLUME 36, NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 2008



# HOT BIRDS

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On November 20, 2007, Joe Poggi and Marilyn McLean discovered an **American Avocet** (left) at Black's Creek in Quincy. The next day Bruce deGraaf captured some digital photos including this stunning portrait (© Bruce deGraaf, 2007).

A Carlisle couple noticed an unusual bird hanging around their yard, and it turned out to be an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** (right). Marshall Iliff took this great flight shot, showing the diagnostic pattern on the retricies, on November 20, 2007.



On December 2, 2007, Hal Caswell saw an unusual-looking bird at his Falmouth feeder and correctly identified it as a female **Painted Bunting** (left). On December 3, Peter Trimble took this photograph of the wandering bunting.

Three different **Slaty-backed Gulls** (right) were found within an hour of each other on December 23, 2007 — two by David Sibley in Gloucester and one by Wayne Petersen and David Larson in Eastham. Phil Brown took this portrait of one of the Gloucester gulls on December 25, 2007. A first state record with three individuals on the same day — remarkable!



Michael Duffy discovered a **Townsend's Solitaire** (left) at the Rockport Golf Club on December 24, 2007. On Christmas Day, Bruce deGraaf took this lovely flight shot (© Bruce deGraaf, 2007). Subsequent access to the golf course was restricted, but the bird was still being seen from adjacent properties through January.

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PINE GROSBEAK BY DAVID LARSON

On behalf of *Bird Observer* and its readers, I am pleased to welcome Houghton Mifflin as the new sponsor of our “At-a-Glance” bird quiz. Houghton Mifflin is a leading publisher of books on the natural sciences, including the familiar Peterson field guides. We are grateful for their support and association with *Bird Observer*.

*Paul Fitzgerald, Editor*

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# Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal — to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds  
**VOL. 36, NO. 1 FEBRUARY 2008**

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**CHANGES OF ADDRESS** and subscription inquiries should be sent to: Bird Observer Subscriptions, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003, or e-mail to John Marsh at <[jmarsh@jocama.com](mailto:jmarsh@jocama.com)>.

**ADVERTISING:** full page, \$100; half page, \$55; quarter page, \$35. Send camera-ready copy to Bird Observer Advertising, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003.

**MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION:** BIRD OBSERVER welcomes submissions of original articles, photographs, art work, field notes, and field studies. Scientific articles will be peer-reviewed. Please send submissions to the Editor by e-mail: Paul Fitzgerald <[paulf-1@comcast.net](mailto:paulf-1@comcast.net)>. Please **DO NOT** embed graphics in word processing documents. Include author's or artist's name, address, and telephone number and information from which a brief biography can be prepared.

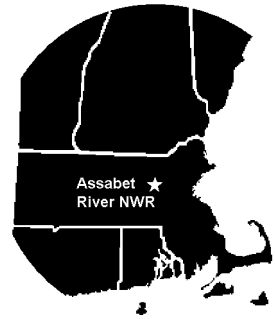
**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to BIRD OBSERVER, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003. **PERIODICALS CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, MA.**

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# Birding at the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge

*Ron Lockwood*

The Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge is one of the newest refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge system, having been established September 28, 2000. It is 2230 acres or about 3.5 square miles in size, with approximately 70 percent upland forest dominated by either white pine or hardwoods. The remaining area has a diverse variety of habitats, including extensive wetlands, a white cedar swamp, eight bogs, historical cranberry bogs, grasslands, and shrublands. The one habitat that is absent from the point of view of bird diversity is wet meadowland or mud flats that would attract shorebirds. Contiguous to the refuge on the south side are the Sudbury State Forest, the Town of Sudbury's Hop Brook Marsh, the City of Marlborough's Desert Conservation Land, and the Sudbury Valley Trustees' Memorial Forest, which collectively contribute an additional 700 or so acres of protected land.



This entire area, with its rich ensemble of habitats, is reflected in an impressive variety of birds and makes up the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge Important Bird Area. Since 1999, I have observed 155 species on the refuge proper, and the refuge list stands at 173. David Lange and I share this area for the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 2 project and would welcome reports of bird behavior indicative of breeding.

The refuge is located in Stow, Maynard, Sudbury, and Hudson and was previously the Fort Devens Sudbury Training Annex. The Annex was established in 1942, when the U. S. Army acquired various farms and homesteads through eminent domain. During World War II it was used as an ammunition storage facility, and fifty large bunkers connected by an extensive rail system were constructed. Ammunition was shipped by rail from Boston Harbor for storage and then returned to the harbor to be shipped overseas. Following the war the property was used by the Army as a training and laboratory test facility until its transfer to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As a result, the area has remained largely undeveloped.

The refuge can be accessed from both the north and the south sides. The main gate is on the south side of the refuge on Hudson Road in Sudbury. Look for the parking area on the north side of Hudson Road about three miles west of the Sudbury Town Hall, which stands at the intersection of Route 27 and Concord Road. Head west from the Town Hall on Route 27 for about 0.3 mile and continue straight on Hudson Road when Route 27 veers off to the right. The north entrance and parking area can be accessed from Route 62-117 in Stow. Driving east from the intersection where Route 62 (Gleasondale Road) joins Route 117 (Great Road) in Stow center, look for White Pond Road on the right after about 1.2 miles. Or, heading west from Maynard on Route 62-117, look for White Pond Road on the left about 0.8 mile after



REDRAWN BY D. LARSON FROM USFWS MAP

Route 62 joins 117. Take White Pond Road southeast for about 0.7 miles to the refuge entrance. You will cross the Assabet River immediately before you reach the refuge boundary. The parking area is reached via a road running just west of pine-covered Tuttle Hill and uphill from the river on the right. Maps of the extensive system of trails that pass through most of the refuge habitats are available at kiosks at both parking areas. Please stay on the trails when you bird the refuge. Dogs are not allowed. All the refuge restrictions are listed on the back of the map.

My own preferred entrance is the north one, so we'll start from there. It's worth a stop at the Assabet River to check for ducks. There is usually open water, except in the coldest weather, and quite often Common Goldeneyes and both Common and Hooded mergansers will be present. In spring and fall, a variety of ducks can be found by walking the road that follows the Assabet River. The road is immediately on the right after you cross the bridge and just outside and adjacent to the refuge boundary. People tend to park on the side of the road just west of the river here, but take care to park well to the side. If you decide to walk this road do not enter Crow Island, which

is the private property on the right about a mile from White Pond Road. At this point the road turns into a trail that continues on to Sudbury Road. This last section has had Broad-winged Hawks during the summer. This entire walk can be quite good for songbirds during migration, and a Yellow-throated Vireo, a local species in this part of Massachusetts, sang here during the late spring of 2003.

Once you've finished birding along the river, park in the parking area and pick up a map at the kiosk. The parking lot itself can be quite good for owls, with Great Horned, Barred, and Long-eared owls having been recorded. You will almost certainly hear Eastern Towhees in the parking area during the spring and summer. The refuge is a stronghold for this species, with typical counts on the order of thirty to forty individuals during a morning of birding. Look for family groups with fledglings throughout the refuge during the summer. As shown on the refuge map, the trail intersections are signed with numbered markers making it easy to explore the refuge's sixteen miles of trails and roads. None of the trails are strenuous. White Pond Road continues on the refuge with markers 8 through 4 (in the direction we're going) marking the trail intersections.

Start at marker 8 and bird the road. You will almost immediately pass the remnants of an Army facility on the left that has been dismantled by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The stretch of road from the gate (marker 8) to the point where this open area ends is good for sparrows during spring and fall migration. Dark-eyed Juncos and Savannah, Fox, Song, Swamp, Lincoln's, White-crowned, White-throated, Field, American Tree, and Chipping sparrows are expected or possible. Field Sparrows are often present even into the winter and frequently sing here in the spring and summer. This area is also excellent for other songbirds during migration. During the summer of 2007 an Indigo Bunting was on territory, and a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers nested here in one of the trees on the left. Black-billed Cuckoos have also occurred along the road. This is the one spot on the refuge where Northern Mockingbirds are almost guaranteed, and Baltimore Orioles are particularly obvious here. Other birds to look for during the breeding season are Red-bellied and Downy woodpeckers (year-round), Northern Flickers, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbirds, House Wrens, Eastern Bluebirds, Wood Thrushes, Gray Catbirds, Blue-winged Warblers, Black-and-white Warblers, American Redstarts, and Common Yellowthroats. Northern Shrikes have also occurred in this area during the winter.



A wetland on the east side of the refuge by Marijke Holtrop

Continue along the road as it enters a pine forest on the right, while the left side has the beginning of one of the major wetland complexes on the refuge. Expect to see Red-winged Blackbirds here in the appropriate season. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Scarlet Tanagers can usually be found in this area during the breeding season. After

about 0.2 mile White Pond Road makes a fairly sharp left turn. The area up the hill to the right at this corner has had wintering Northern Saw-whet Owls, and I heard an Eastern Screech-Owl here during the 2007 Concord Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Listen for Eastern Wood-Pewees during the breeding season. The road continues southeast from this corner, crossing the previously mentioned wetland that now dominates the right-hand side of the road. This wetland complex is a shrub swamp and extends almost all the way to marker 4. Listen from here to about marker 5 for Northern Waterthrushes from early May through June. You'll probably hear three or four, but they require x-ray vision to actually see unless you're much luckier than I've ever been!

Not far from where White Pond Road makes the sharp left turn you'll come to about ten acres of open grassland on the left that was called the Taylor Drop Zone by the Army. It was previously planted in Bermuda grass, but the Service has reseeded it with native grasses that now flourish. In spring Wild Turkeys display toward the back of the field in the early morning. This is also a good spot to see Red-tailed Hawks almost any time of the day, and I have seen a Bald Eagle a couple of times flying around the hill at the back in the fall. Bobolinks and Savannah Sparrows are occasionally recorded during migration, and large numbers of American Robins sometimes feed here with a few Northern Flickers mixed in, particularly in the fall. I'm still looking for an Eastern Meadowlark. This is a good spot to listen for American Woodcocks in the early spring, and you should hear Whip-poor-wills about a half hour after dusk during the summer (note that the refuge closes about then, so you'll want to skedaddle right after they start singing). Whip-poor-will surveys have tallied as many as sixteen individuals singing on the refuge in mid-June. During the spring and summer listen for a Blue-winged Warbler singing from the southeast corner of the grassland as you continue down White Pond Road.

From the grassland the road continues roughly south with the shrub swamp on the right and mixed forest dominated by white pine on the left. Listen for Scarlet Tanagers, Veeries, Hermit Thrushs, and Wood Thrushs here. Blue-headed Vireos have occurred on this stretch of the road through the summer and may breed on the refuge in small numbers, although that remains to be confirmed. Yellow-billed Cuckoos have also been found in this area, and you'll have no trouble hearing Ovenbirds. I have also heard Northern Saw-whet Owls in the forest to the left during fall migration. You can go all the way to marker 4 at the Patrol Road junction, where you are guaranteed an Eastern Phoebe during the summer. However, let's take Trail A instead, and go left at marker 5.

Trail A cuts through mature upland forest dominated by white pine. Look for Yellow-rumped Warblers during the spring and summer. They remain to be confirmed as breeders. Black-throated Green Warblers have also been present on territory along this trail during the breeding season. This is another area where Northern Saw-whet Owls have been heard in early spring. Other birds to be expected are Red-breasted Nuthatches, which can be quite common in an invasion year. Twenty-eight individuals were tallied on this trail and Trails U and W on the Concord CBC in 2003. They have also been present during the summers of 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2007, but breeding is



still unconfirmed. Golden-crowned Kinglets are present in reasonable numbers during a typical winter, so you shouldn't have any trouble finding a half-dozen or so. Ruffed Grouse were once fairly common and relatively easy to see here and at other locations within the refuge, but their numbers have dropped so alarmingly that they are almost never encountered anymore. It is hoped the population will rebound. Past marker 17 several vernal pools are visible from the trail, particularly on the right side, where egg masses can be seen in the early spring. Great Horned Owls are frequently heard and occasionally seen near the end of Trail A and from the parking area on Hudson Road.

At marker 16 take a left onto Trail H and after a short distance another left from Trail H onto Trail W. Follow Trail W, then stay left at the fork onto Trail U. These two trails pass between a wetland area on the left and a small, forested hill on the right. At the north end of the trail you will come across some of the World War II-era bunkers on the right that have had the doors welded shut. Winter Wrens have been present and vocal along this trail in the past, but not for the last couple of years. Perhaps they will return in the future. Expect to hear and sometimes see Hermit Thrushes, Veeries, Wood Thrushes, Scarlet Tanagers, and Brown Creepers during the breeding season, with the latter often present through the winter. This is a good area to look for Swainson's Thrushes on migration. During the summer of 2000 a Black-throated Blue Warbler sang on territory here.

Trail U tees into Trail C at marker 21; go right on C. Follow Trail C until Trail Y branches off to the left. Trail Y goes down to Puffer Pond, which is the only large body of open water on the refuge. As you walk down to the pond, listen off to the left for Willow Flycatchers and Yellow Warblers singing from the wetland north of Puffer Pond. In late fall and early spring Ring-necked Ducks are often present on the pond. Additional ducks that have occurred on the pond are Common and Hooded mergansers, Green-winged Teal, Mallards, American Black Ducks, Common Goldeneyes, and, rarely, Ruddy Ducks. Mute Swans are also occasionally present. This low species diversity of ducks may be partially a function of birding coverage. Belted Kingfishers are often present in the area, and two Common Ravens were found here on the 2006 Concord CBC. Common Raven is a species that has occurred several times on the refuge and can be expected anywhere.

Puffer Pond freezes over in the winter, and as I write this (January 2008) there is a Bald Eagle feeding on a deer carcass there. Return to Trail C, and continue to the left until you reach marker 24. During the 2000 Concord CBC our party watched ten flying squirrels glide across this trail in the falling snow. It was a truly magical moment! Take a left onto Trail X, and continue on it until you reach Craven Lane. The trail follows a contour across a small hill. This stretch of trail has breeding species similar to the forested areas described above. It has proven to be an excellent area during migration with the birds moving across the top of the hill. The only refuge record for Cape May Warbler was in this area.

Once you reach Craven Lane, go left or northeast back toward Puffer Pond. Watch for a small lane that goes off to the left up to one of the old residences. The lane is closed so please don't enter it, but there is usually a Chestnut-sided Warbler

here that can often be seen from the road. The Service has proposed building a new Eastern Massachusetts Refuge Complex Visitor Center near marker 13 that would have exhibits and provide environmental education programs. Continue toward Puffer Pond, and keep a lookout for a trail that goes off to the right. This area is part of the Sudbury State Forest, and you can walk a short distance up it until you reach the refuge boundary. This has proven to be a good area for Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in late May. There is also a wetland on the right that is worth checking.

Once you've finished here, return to Craven Lane, turn right, and take a left at marker 12 onto Trail Z. This will take you to a vantage point overlooking Puffer Pond and a wetland just north of the pond. This area has also been productive in migration. Trail Z loops back to Craven Lane where you will turn left and continue to the northeast. Here the trail passes through a wetland area on both sides. Look for Wood Ducks and Mallards. Swamp Sparrows are present in summer and during migration, with some occasionally staying to be recorded on the Concord CBC. An Osprey pair raised two young in an old Great Blue Heron nest to the west of the road in 2004 for a rare inland breeding record. This is a likely spot to look for Olive-sided Flycatchers during migration. The trail continues uphill from the wetland into a wooded area that often has Hairy Woodpeckers and where the only Orchard Oriole for the refuge was recorded.

Craven Lane meets Patrol Road at a closed gate where you must go left. Eastern Bluebirds occur year-round in this area. Continue northwest along Patrol Road past marker 9 until you reach a wetland extending along both sides of the road. Look here for Swamp Sparrows throughout the year; they are common during the breeding season and often present through early winter. Yellow Warblers and Common Yellowthroats are common in summer as well. It is also a good stretch to bird during



Taylor Brook by Marijke Holtrop

migration. If you continue along Patrol Road, it will take you across Taylor Brook, which is always worth a stop, and back to the parking area on the north side. The area just beyond Taylor Brook has Barred Owls that can occasionally be seen during the day, and Pileated Woodpeckers have been seen in the woods to the left of the trail. Instead, we will backtrack to marker 9 and take Trail G.

Trail G goes back toward Puffer Pond and bisects the wetland complex that extends from the northern edge of Puffer Pond all the way to where Taylor Brook intersects with Patrol Road and beyond. This is a particularly good section to bird in all seasons. Warbling Vireos are present along this trail, and Willow Flycatchers can often be heard singing from the left. Tree Swallows and Great Blue Herons breed in the dead trees to the left, and Common Grackles

and Red-winged Blackbirds are abundant. The stand of phragmites to the east has been used as a blackbird roost in spring and fall by those two icterids as well as Brown-headed Cowbirds and Rusty Blackbirds. Eastern Bluebirds frequent the area during the breeding season. Green Herons occur here, and Virginia Rails can be heard calling, particularly early in the morning. Least Bitterns had been annual in the wetland to the left toward Puffer Pond but have been absent for the last couple of years. This has corresponded to an increase in beaver activity that has raised the water level considerably. In winter there is usually a little open water adjacent to the trail so that Song and Swamp sparrows are often present in the wetland on the right, and a Winter Wren was here in December 2006. An Eastern Phoebe was in this area during the 2007 Concord CBC and is still there as of this writing. This is a good area during migration as well and is another likely spot for Olive-sided Flycatchers.

Go right on Trail C when Trail G tees into it not far from Puffer Pond. This trail has been good for Fox Sparrows during migration. The trail goes through a sandy area with short pines where Yellow-rumped Warblers are present in the breeding season. A short distance later you will come to a bridge that crosses Honey Brook just after marker 20. Purple Finches are frequently found year-round in the vicinity of marker 20 and also across the bridge. I suspect they breed close by but have been unable to confirm it. A stop at the bridge for a few minutes is always productive. Swamp Sparrows sing from the area to the northeast, Mallards and Wood Ducks are frequently present, Gray Catbirds and Eastern Towhees are ubiquitous, and there is often a Great Crested Flycatcher, especially during migration. Blue-winged and Chestnut-sided warblers are to be expected, and this is another spot to listen for Whip-poor-wills. Nice flocks of songbirds are often found here as well as farther to the west during migration. Trail C continues on to intersect White Pond Road at marker 7, where you can turn right to the parking area where we started.



A wetland on the east side of the refuge by  
Marijke Holtrop

That pretty well covers the north side of the refuge, but there are some interesting spots to bird in the section south of Hudson Road. To reach the southern section, park at the parking area on the north side of Hudson Road and walk back along the road toward the east for a short distance to Trail S. Be careful crossing to the south side of Hudson Road, since traffic can be fairly heavy for a country road. This section of the refuge can be birded rather thoroughly in three or four hours via Trail S, which is a loop with one bisecting trail. The soils here are very sandy, having been deposited as the glaciers retreated northward. The resulting habitat in both the refuge and adjacent conservation land is partially scrub oak and pitch pine forest. The species of forest birds are similar to those observed north of the road. The main additions to the list are

Brown Thrashers and Prairie Warblers. This is another good spot for Field Sparrows, and Veerys are particularly common. The conservation lands to the south of the refuge also have extensive trail systems, but currently there is no connecting trail from the refuge.

The diversity of bird life at the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge is remarkable given that it is a relatively small area of unspoiled habitat within a largely developed suburban setting. It is fortunate that this rich biological diversity is under the stewardship of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will be protected perpetually. The refuge is supported by the Friends of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge, who have been instrumental in helping to clean up the debris and structures that remained after the transfer of the property from the Army, making it possible for the refuge to be opened to the public. Much work still remains to be done. If you are interested in helping, please contact the refuge staff (see <<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/assabetriver>> or call 978-443-4661) or the Friends <<http://www.farnwr.org>>. The Friends will be sponsoring a contest in the near future to rename the trails on the refuge, but the marker numbers should remain unchanged. The Friends also lead trips to the refuge and conduct monthly meetings that include a variety of refuge-related programs. See their website for a schedule of events.

I'd like to acknowledge the support I've received from the refuge staff. Tim Prior, now retired from the Service but still to be found working on the refuge, allowed me access prior to the official opening and has on occasion accompanied me during surveys. We remain friends despite my dumping him out of our canoe during a marsh-bird survey! Stephanie Koch, the Refuge Complex Biologist, has been tireless in conducting an inventory of the biological diversity on this refuge and across the complex, in addition to her other duties. It has been my privilege to work with them both. Libby Herland, the Refuge Complex Manager, has also encouraged and supported this work. 🐦

*Ron Lockwood has been birding since he was a teenager in West Texas. Since 1998 he has studied the breeding biology of the Grasshopper Sparrow at the Devens Reserve Forces Training Area. He has also assisted the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service with breeding bird surveys throughout the Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex and is currently working on both the Assabet River and the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuges for the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 2 project. He can be reached at [ron.lockwood@comcast.net](mailto:ron.lockwood@comcast.net).*



BROWN THRASHER BY DAVID LARSON

## Fish and Wildlife Service Goes High-Tech to Combat Invasive Plants

*Online training helps volunteers lend a hand.*

As any home gardener knows all too well, invasive plants can quickly overwhelm an area if left unchecked. Compound that problem by millions of acres, and you get some idea of the challenge facing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — the agency responsible for protecting habitat across the 97-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System.

Luckily there is help: volunteers.

In collaboration with the Center for Invasive Plant Management, the National Wildlife Refuge System has designed an online training course for volunteers and others interested in joining the army to help fight invasive plant species — one of the single greatest threats to the Refuge System.

The Refuge System has worked aggressively to combat invasive species, targeting more than 280,000 acres of refuge lands. Yet an estimated 1.72 million acres remain untreated. That's where the training and volunteers come in.

“We want volunteers to be able to engage their communities on the issue of invasives,” said Jenny Ericson, national invasives volunteer coordinator for the Refuge System. “The online training provides practical tools on how to prevent and control invasive plants. Volunteers can be our greatest advocates in the fight against this major nationwide threat to wildlife and habitat.”

The new invasive species website, <http://www.fws.gov/invasives/volunteersTrainingModule>, includes video, text, and photos that provide background on the Refuge System and information about the science and management of invasive plants. The site also includes links to government and private websites dealing with the issue.

In 2003, the Refuge System joined The Nature Conservancy, the National Wildlife Refuge Association, and the U.S. Geological Survey in training volunteers to use hand-held GPS devices to map invasive species on national wildlife refuges.

For more information, please contact Jenny Ericson, 703-358-2063.



BALD EAGLE AND CANADA GOOSE BY DAVID LARSON

# A New Nesting Species for Essex County in 2006-07 and Several Other Landmark Nesting Events

*Jim Berry*

During the last two years, American Oystercatcher nests were found in Essex County, Massachusetts, for the first and second time. A Fish Crow nest was found for the first time in 2006, though nesting had been confirmed several times before. A nest of another species, Acadian Flycatcher, was found for the second time; details of the little-known first nesting attempt are also summarized. Rarely found nests of two other species, Blue-headed Vireo and Hermit Thrush, were also discovered. Very late nestings of one of the county's newest colonizers, the Carolina Wren, were observed and are documented here, while Sharp-shinned Hawks continued their astonishing comeback as a nesting species with no fewer than three nests found in 2007 alone.

## **AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER, *Haematopus palliatus***

The written history of the American Oystercatcher in the Northeast goes back to Audubon, who described these birds nesting as far north as Labrador during his voyage there in 1833, thus establishing what is now the Lower North Shore of Quebec as the putative northern extent of the birds' historical range (Audubon 1835). He stated that he took a specimen from Labrador to compare with oystercatchers from the Southeast to be sure they were the same species.

Despite Audubon's detailed descriptions, some late nineteenth century ornithologists doubted that oystercatchers had ever nested that far north because the species had rarely been seen in the Northeast, and some authors had not even listed it. There are also very few New England specimens dating from before the 1950s (Sager 1994). Forbush, however, supported Audubon, quoting him extensively and stating that despite a lack of corroboration,

No doubt the Oyster-catcher once inhabited the entire eastern coast-line from the Gulf of Mexico to Labrador, and bred upon the coast of Massachusetts . . . [It] was one of those beach-loving species that practically was extirpated as a breeding bird along the Massachusetts coast before ornithological records were made in America. The colonists, and later the market hunters and eggers of our coast, probably destroyed or drove off this bird. . . (Forbush 1912).

The result was that by the early twentieth century the birds no longer nested north of Virginia (Forbush 1925).

In recent decades, with protection, the species has shown a remarkable recovery. Nesting birds worked their way back up the coast and first bred in Massachusetts (on Martha's Vineyard) in 1969 (Veit and Petersen 1993). Progress in Massachusetts has been impressive, with the birds gradually filling many niches on Cape Cod and the Islands. Their nesting was confirmed in eleven atlas blocks in the late seventies and had increased to an estimated forty-two pairs by 1984 (Petersen and Meservey 2003,

often referred to as “Atlas 1” now that the field work for Atlas 2 is underway). Their nesting range expanded to Boston Harbor in 1988, when adults with young were seen on Sheep Island (Polly Stevens, *Bird Observer* [hereafter *BO*] 16: 336), and a nest was found at the edge of Logan Airport in 1990 (Norman Smith, personal communication). In 1993 at least four pairs nested in those two areas (Sager 1994). By 2001, American Oystercatchers were nesting on Snake Island in Winthrop, at the northern end of Boston Harbor, and have done so since. In 2002, with an estimated population of only 7500 birds in all of North America, there were no fewer than 150 pairs nesting in forty-eight Massachusetts sites (Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife as reported in *BO* 30: 322).



American Oystercatcher nest with three eggs, Coney Island, Salem Harbor, Massachusetts, May 25, 2006. All photographs by the author.

Oystercatchers have thus been approaching Essex County from the south as they recolonize their former breeding grounds in New England and the Maritime Provinces. But lately the northern expansion has accelerated, almost as if the birds had read Audubon’s account and sensed a mission to get back to the Maritimes. In 1994 they began nesting at Stratton Island in southern Maine, first succeeding in 1995, and in southern Nova Scotia, where the first modern Canadian nest record was documented in 1997 on Cape Sable Island (*Field Notes* 51: 967). Audubon’s report from Labrador looks more credible with every new advance.

But what of Essex County? Although the birds have been seen migrating up the North Shore coast annually since the early 1990s, breeding birds are harder to confirm. On boat expeditions in 2004 and 2005, I did not find any oystercatchers on the county’s islands, although Joe McLaughlin (pers. comm.) suspected nesting on Tinkers Island off Marblehead in 2004, based on his observations from a kayak of as many as five birds there on multiple dates. None, however, were obviously chicks. Families of four, each comprising a pair with two grown young, showed up on Marblehead Neck during the summers of 2004 and 2005, indicating nearby breeding, probably by the same pair (Massbird and personal observation). Finally, on May 25, 2006, I found a nest with three eggs on Coney Island in Salem Sound while conducting a colonial bird survey with MassWildlife. We had spotted the pair from the boat, and finding the nest took mere seconds once we landed. It was on bare sand at one end of the small sandy beach, fortunately in the shadow of a large rock. Unlike many oystercatcher nests farther south, this one was not decorated with stones or shell fragments. We did not revisit the nest, and I did not learn the outcome. In 2007 the pair repeated at Coney Island, where they were observed in June with two less-than-full-grown chicks by Essex County Ornithological Club members Dawn Paul and Marilyn McCrory from their kayaks.

Given their advance to Maine and Nova Scotia a decade earlier, it is likely that American Oystercatchers were nesting in Essex County well before the 2006 nest was found. Because the county's islands are generally some distance from shore and are seldom birded, the birds have been easy to miss, as flashy as they are. It will be instructive to see if they move inshore to nest on gravel bars, salt-marsh islands, or beaches as their population continues (we hope) to recover.

### ACADIAN FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax virescens*

Like the previous species, the Acadian Flycatcher has been expanding northward. In this case, the bird is not recovering its earlier breeding range but pioneering new territory in New England. Although there is an 1888 nest record from Boston, the birds were not subsequently recorded in Massachusetts until the early 1960s, after which they began to be found more regularly. The first modern Massachusetts nests were discovered south of Boston in Middleboro and Scituate in 1977 and 1979, respectively (Veit and Petersen 1993). Since then, nesting birds have been found regularly in southeastern Massachusetts, at Quabbin Reservoir, in the southern Connecticut River valley, and in Berkshire County (*ibid.*). In 2007 Mary Keleher of Mashpee discovered the first nest on Cape Cod (Keleher 2007).

Acadians are often associated with steep hillsides or ravines, with nests often built near or over streams (Petersen and Meserve 2003). Seth Kellogg, writing the species account for Atlas 1, emphasized something I have noticed, that some of the birds build in eastern hemlocks in hemlock-dominated forests, while others prefer deciduous woods such as red maple swamps. These are two very different habitats. Although the sample so far is small, all the nests found in western Massachusetts before the Atlas 1 publication date were in hemlocks, while the nests in the eastern part of the state were in deciduous woods (*ibid.*). There is, however, one significant exception not included in that book.

That occurred in early June 1995, when an Acadian Flycatcher was reported singing near Crooked Pond in Boxford. Dennis Oliver (pers. comm.) went there on



Female Acadian Flycatcher on nest (center of photograph), Salem, Massachusetts, July 25, 2007

June 11 and heard it singing in a hemlock-dominated area just uphill from the east end of the pond. "I located the bird and followed it to a nest. The nest was unfinished and towards the end of a branch at eye level. I believe it was a hemlock. It left and collected some plant material which it added to the nest . . . I did not see another bird while I was there. That was my only sighting." The event was reported in *Bird Observer* 23: 306–7 as "pair nesting," though in Bob Stymeist's summary for the month the nesting was termed "probable" (*ibid.*, p. 306), perhaps because only a single bird



had been reported. But the discovery of a nest under construction argues for the county's first nesting confirmation, whether successful or not, and the report of an Acadian Flycatcher in the same location a month later on July 11 (Tom Aversa, *ibid.*, p. 353) indicates that the nesting might have succeeded.

The next nesting Acadians in the area were discovered three years later in Pawtuckaway State Park in Rockingham County, New Hampshire, twenty miles over the state line from Amesbury. In 1998 I saw two nests that had been found there by Davis Finch and Denny Abbott, both in hemlocks between twenty and twenty-five feet up, built sequentially by the same pair. The first apparently had never been completed; the second had been raided by a predator in late July or early August, when it presumably contained either eggs or young. The hemlock-dominated habitat at Pawtuckaway (and at Crooked Pond) was similar to that used by the birds in western Massachusetts. Birds have been found there since, but no further proof of nesting has appeared in the pages of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

There was no more evidence of nesting in Essex County until late June 2007, when Laura de la Flor and Mark Burns of Salem, working their local area for Atlas 2, found *two* singing male Acadians in a section of the Salem Woods along the Forest River. They took me to the site on July 1, where there was one singing male and an apparent mate who seemed to be looking for a nest site. I returned on July 18, hoping that the birds might be feeding young. They weren't. The female was still incubating, and it took me almost two hours to find the nest—not just from the absence of food deliveries, but because of where it had been built. Other Acadian nests I have seen, especially in Ohio, have been in areas with open understory and were rather easy to see. This one was about thirteen feet up in a thick grove of crabapples, which constituted a dense understory. I had been keying in on clusters of dead leaves because Acadian nests tend to be sloppy and composed of such materials. The cluster that turned out to be the nest, however, was so un-nest-like that I almost passed over it until I noticed a tail extending from one side. Then I saw the bird's head as she incubated (see photo).

This was a very difficult nest to find, but as the second ever for the county, was worth every minute of effort. Alas, it was not successful. The bird was still incubating on July 25, or perhaps brooding small young, but by the 28th, when I was finally able to show Mark and Laura the nest, it had been depredated and virtually destroyed. The site is now known, however, and we hope the birds will repeat in this area.

The habitat here was nothing like that used by Acadians in western Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire, or Boxford. It was entirely deciduous, and, though there were small hills close to the site, the nest was in flat terrain near the Forest River. In this regard it seemed similar to the habitat used by the nesting Acadians in southeastern Massachusetts. I have long been aware of this dichotomy in nest-site selection and have wondered whether Acadian Flycatchers using such disparate habitats constitute separate populations within the species. So I went to the *Birds of North America* (hereafter *BNA*) for a reality check. The authors of the account, Whitehead and Taylor (2002), list a broad mix of deciduous and coniferous

trees in all parts of the range and end the discussion with this observation: “In general, there seems to be an interesting shift from conifer-dominated forests in the extreme South (bald cypress) to deciduous habitats in the center of range and then, in the Northeast, a shift back to conifers.” The gist of it is that Acadians are adaptable and versatile in their selection and use of nesting habitats. If the birds’ northward advance continues and more New England nests are found, I hope observers will take careful note of the habitat and report it through appropriate listserves and bird journals.

### **BLUE-HEADED VIREO, *Vireo solitarius***

In two previous articles in this journal (Berry 2001, 2003), I documented nests of Blue-headed Vireos in the western section of Willowdale State Forest in Ipswich and East Boxford in 2000 and 2002, respectively. In the last two years I found two more nests, also in Willowdale, for a total of four in eight years in the same forest, an indication that the birds are a bit more common as nesters in the county than the paucity of nesting reports would suggest. Hearing one of these birds sing in mixed-forest habitat in June or July is a good clue that a nest may be nearby. Atlas 2 volunteers should be listening carefully for them and tracking down any vireos whose songs sound slower and sweeter than those of the common Red-eyed Vireo.

The third of the four nests was found on July 4, 2006, in Ipswich in the eastern section of the forest (east of U.S. 1) beside the large beaver marsh where I have found the nests of many species over the years. The forest here is mixed, with many hemlocks and beeches in addition to white pine, red oak, and red maple. The nest was typically suspended in a twig fork, five and a half feet up in a beech sapling overshadowed by a larger beech. The nest held four young vireos (no cowbirds) with eyes open. The parents scolded me ceaselessly with their oriole-like chatter and would not go to the nest with food while I was there, so I left. Three days later I returned to be scolded again, but the nest was empty, which meant that the parents were feeding fledglings out of the nest. The presence of nestlings more than a week old on July 4 (they fledge at twelve to thirteen days) indicated that this was probably a first nesting, even though some, like the next one to be described, are completed much earlier.



Blue-headed Vireo nest in beech sapling,  
Ipswich, Massachusetts, July 7, 2006

On June 18, 2007, I was walking the same trail in the western section of Willowdale along which I had discovered the first nest in 2000, when I again heard a singing male Blue-headed Vireo. The habitat here was also mixed forest, this time in upland with the usual predominance of white pine and red oak. I looked around at eye level and quickly spotted the nest six feet up in a beech sapling, perhaps fifty feet from the trail and clearly visible in the very open understory. By this time, the female vireo was scolding me vociferously with food

in her mouth, but the nest was empty. That meant fledglings were nearby, so I backed off fifty yards or so and waited. She soon took the food to a tiny fledgling low in a white pine sapling. That baby was not even half the size of the adults—so many songbirds fledge before they are nearly full-grown. I left then rather than bother them further trying to find other fledglings.

The two most recent nests were six feet high or less in beech saplings; the two earlier ones, twelve and twenty-three feet in red maple saplings. These heights are within the parameters given by Baicich and Harrison (1997) of six to fifteen feet, “exceptionally as low as three feet and as high as forty feet,” and those in Atlas 1 of “3.5 to 20 feet.” (The first nest I found of this species, in western Maine in 1982, was only three and a half feet up in a witch hazel.) Two of the local nests were in upland habitat and two at the edge of red maple swamps, all in mixed pine-hardwood forest. James (1998) summarizes published nest data to the effect that northern nests are more often in coniferous settings while southern nests (in the mountains south to northern Georgia) are more often in deciduous habitat. The mixed-forest settings for these Essex County nests are probably typical for this latitude and are in line with the habitat descriptions for Massachusetts in Atlas 1: “coniferous or mixed woods with mature stands of white pine or eastern hemlock invariably present . . . sometimes found in beech-hemlock woods.”

### **FISH CROW, *Corvus ossifragus***

The Fish Crow, a nest-robber like other corvids, is probably the least welcome of the southern species to colonize southern New England over the last few decades. Unknown in Essex County in mid-century (Griscom and Snyder 1955), Fish Crows were first noticed when Ken Harte found one in Salisbury in March 1959 (*Records of New England Birds* [hereafter *RNEB*] and pers. comm.). Six sightings of one or two birds each were reported between 1964 and 1967 from as many county locations, two of them inland (*RNEB*). The first two Massachusetts nests were found in 1973 in the Hyde Park section of Boston (Petersen and Meservey 2003). Rick Heil first found Fish Crows in Peabody in 1974, and a year later a nest was found just west of the county in Stoneham (*BO*). Jerry Soucy monitored a pair in Beverly in July of the same year (*BO*) but apparently found no nesting evidence. In 1978 Fish Crows first nested at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, where they have been fairly regular since (*BO*).

Nesting was first confirmed in Essex County around the same time, when Rick Heil (pers. comm.) confirmed Fish Crows breeding in West Peabody and Lynnfield in conjunction with Atlas 1. They are still regular summer residents there, and Rick believes that they are probably nesting annually in the Peabody-Lynnfield area. Fish Crows have also nested in Topsfield. Jim MacDougall (pers. comm.) watched a pair defend territory on his property against American Crows in both 1997 and 1998; each year they returned daily to the same grove of white pines, where they almost certainly were nesting. For many years Fish Crows have been observed in downtown Gloucester and other Cape Ann sites, where the probability of nesting is high (personal observation). The same goes for Lawrence along the Merrimack River,

where the greatest numbers of these birds have been found (Heil, *BO* and pers. comm.).

Another recent locus for the birds has been Newburyport, where I began seeing them in the downtown area in May 2005. A year later I got a tip from Brian Krisler that Fish Crows were calling frequently, chasing away American Crows, and probably nesting in his densely settled neighborhood a few blocks west of downtown. On June 11, 2006, we joined forces with Tom Wetmore to walk the area and soon found a pair taking food to young in a nest near the top of a Norway spruce surrounded by houses. One of the pair appeared to brood the young after one food delivery. We did not ascertain a fledging date, but nesting had been established for Newburyport. With effort and patience, birders should be able to find more nests, since Fish Crows seem firmly ensconced as county residents. Atlas 2 should stimulate greater interest in these secretive birds.

### **HERMIT THRUSH, *Catharus guttatus***

Hermit Thrushes have long been regular in Essex County in extensive mixed woodland, and there has been no shortage of nesting allegations. The annual list of sightings in the 1926 *Bulletin of the Essex County Ornithological Club (BECOC)* contains the statement, “Bred in favorable localities all over the County.” At mid-century the Hermit Thrush was labeled a “common summer resident” at the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary (Griscom 1951). Statements like these are often based on the assumption of nesting and are far too often unaccompanied by annotations of nesting evidence actually found. But when birds are seen and heard enough to be thought common, the conclusion of nesting is logical. For example, during a twelve-day period in June 1951, Oscar Root (1957–58) counted no fewer than *fifty-one* singing males in an area of forty square miles around Andover and North Andover, many in Harold Parker State Forest. I have never heard anywhere near that many, but I hear them regularly in the larger forests. My highest total was nine singing males in the Manchester Woods on June 27, 2003. I sometimes hear four or five singing males in the eastern section of Willowdale State Forest in Ipswich, with a maximum of six in July 2006.



Hermit Thrush nest with 3 eggs, Ipswich, Massachusetts, July 1, 2006

Hermit Thrushes sing well into mid-summer and can be heard singing in this area into at least early August. And not just at dawn and dusk, which is what they are famous for. Many songbirds sing occasionally during the day well into summer, and thrushes are no exception. I have often heard Hermits sing for long periods at midday, probably because the species is double-brooded (Erlich et al. 1988; Baicich and Harrison 1997). There are quite a few published records of August broods in New England and

several from September in Worcester County, e.g., fledglings from two broods in Hardwick September 6, 2006 (Chris Buelow, pers. comm.); three young in a nest in Harvard September 17, 1947 (*RNEB*); and a recently fledged young, still downy about the head, in Petersham September 29, 2007 (Massbird listserve). It is no stretch in terms of the calendar to suspect that these late nests were *third* attempts. It has also been demonstrated that hermits will re-use the same nest, which Jenny Michaels witnessed with a nest beside her house in Boxborough, Middlesex County, in the summer of 2001 (Massbird and pers. comm.).

Eastern Hermit Thrushes almost always nest on the ground. This means the nests are well hidden in vegetation lest they be found by chipmunks, squirrels, snakes, or other predators. It also means they are hidden from inquiring birders, including me. As of this writing I have found only four, one each in New Hampshire and Maine and two in Massachusetts, in over thirty-five years of active nest-searching. As for Essex County, where Hermits have been reported as “nesting” on occasion, I have found only *three* actual nests in all the published records prior to 2006. One was collected in Beverly in June 1868 (Maynard 1870). The other two were in the Baldpate Pond area of Boxford-Georgetown in June 1926 (*BECOC* 1927) and in Boxford in late May 1975 (Bruce Sorrie, *BO*). No more than nine nests were described for the entire state in Atlas 1, with only four indicated as “recent.”

My own searching was finally rewarded on July 1, 2006, in Willowdale State Forest in Ipswich, when I flushed a bird off a nest two feet from the trail simply by walking by it. The habitat, typical of Essex County, was mixed second-growth forest. The nest was on the ground in sparse low-bush blueberry and contained three eggs. I returned the next day and again on July 7, when the eggs were still in place, and on July 11, when the nest was prematurely empty. A chipmunk I had seen in the area was the prime suspect.

Six weeks later, on August 13, I found another Hermit nest along the same trail, 250 yards to the northwest. This one also contained three eggs and was also two feet from the trail. The habitat was almost identical to the first site, but this time a few oak seedlings were sprouting nearby. Because I had heard at least six singing males in the area that first week of July, I assumed that the second nest, quite a distance from the first, was probably by a different pair. In any event, the nest contained three newborn young on August 17, and on the 23rd their eyes were slightly open. The nest was empty on the 28th, about the time the young should have fledged. The typical nestling period is about twelve days, although Stanwood (1910) monitored a nest in Maine from which young fledged on the eleventh day, when they were ten days old. Since I did not see activity near the nest, the outcome was unknown.



Hermit Thrush nest with 3 young, Ipswich, Massachusetts, August 23, 2006

The lateness of this nest deserves comment. It was not as late as the September examples cited above, but eggs on August 13 were four days later than the previously known late date for Massachusetts given by Blair Nikula in the Atlas 1 account. This was easily a second nesting and may have been a third, with or without a failure somewhere along the way. If one figures in the building, incubation, and nestling periods given in the various sources, there was time for two complete nesting cycles before these eggs were laid. Forbush (1929) thought the birds had “probably two or three broods yearly,” an assumption based in part on Stanwood’s (1910) finding of a nest with eggs in Ellsworth, Maine, on August 22, 1909, from which the eggs hatched on August 27 and the young fledged on September 8. Blair’s comment in the Atlas was that the “breeding season is protracted . . . Many pairs raise two broods, and the birds will usually renest if an attempt fails; and, although three broods have been suggested, this has not been well documented for Massachusetts.” That statement is still true, though I hope one of us might one day be able to confirm triple brooding in New England.

### **CAROLINA WREN, *Thryothorus ludovicianus***

The Carolina Wren is a species in the process of expanding its range steadily northward and finally, in recent years, adapting to New England winters—perhaps because they have gotten milder! The only essentially nonmigratory eastern wren, the Carolina is now a bona fide permanent resident in southern New England. There are records of the species going back into the nineteenth century, and even a few “invasions” of the birds in various mild winters (Griscom and Snyder 1955). There are also some old nest records in Essex County going back to 1913, when a pair in Beverly was double-brooded (Townsend 1920). Dodge (1936) mentioned three nests, two in 1928 in or near the Fay Estate in Lynn along the delightfully named Seldom Good Pasture Road, and one in 1933 inside a playhouse in Marblehead. In the latter case there were five young in the nest before the end of April, a very early date. But the Carolina Wren as a common bird on the North Shore is a phenomenon of the last decade or so.

A sign of their continued uncommonness during the twentieth century is the lack of nesting confirmations anywhere north of Boston in the first Breeding Bird Atlas. In fact, I found no other published nest records from the county until 1988, when a pair was found building in a window flower box in Rockport on August 16 (*BO*). At least three young fledged from that nest on September 16, a very late date. In July 1989 a family of Carolina Wrens appeared in our yard, the first of several fledged broods I have seen here since.

Even with the recent population increase, not many nests have been published for Essex County. This may be because some birders simply do not report nests of birds they think are common even if they find them. Some nests that are reported are found by nonbirders; various homeowners have by now surely found scores of them. One such nest was called to my attention by friends in Rowley, in whose hanging geranium Carolina Wrens nested in 1997. This was another late one, in which I saw three large young on August 23; they fledged around the end of the month. On

September 6, 2003, Phil Brown showed me a nest in Hamilton with three eggs in the top of a six-foot maple stump overgrown with vines. The *BNA* account (Haggerty and Morton 1995) is based largely on southern wrens and unfortunately gives no late dates for nests, but in New England quite a few have been documented in August and September. The species is known to be triple-brooded elsewhere, including Ontario (Bent 1948). The examples just mentioned could have been third nestings because the birds would have had time to fledge two broods by July, though in some cases, of course, earlier nesting attempts fail. The *BNA* authors add that the birds build a new nest for each attempt and rarely re-use a nest.



Three just-fledged Carolina Wrens (on rungs of sled) in an Ipswich garage, August 31, 2007. Nest is at top center behind the sled and sawblade.

Such a late nesting finally came my way at the end of July 2007, when after eighteen years of apparently nesting in the woods behind our house, Carolina Wrens finally built a nest in our permanently open garage, six feet off the ground on a two-by-four on the back wall, just above an empty window that served as one of several entrances and exits. A sled and a crosscut saw hung on the wall, giving the nest front-side support but leaving the opening visible just above the blade of the saw. (The nests are generally dome-shaped with the entrance on the side.) For the first time I was able to monitor a wren nest from start to finish. The first egg was laid July 31, and three more were added the next three days. The female does all the incubation, which starts with either the penultimate or the last egg (Haggerty and Morton 1995). This bird apparently started on August 3 after the last egg was laid. Incubation takes twelve to fourteen days, and fledging takes another twelve to fourteen (Baicich and Harrison 1997). In this case incubation took fourteen, as three of the eggs hatched by noon on August 17. The fourth egg hatched the following morning.

Watching the wrens feed the young was pure fun. The newborn babies had the usual comical topknots that made them look like they had stuck their bills into an electric socket. The adults made frequent food deliveries despite our comings and goings to pull the car into or out of the garage. Not surprisingly for a species famous for nesting near human habitations, they quickly got used to my interruptions to check on the eggs or young and always returned right away to their parental duties; they even stopped scolding me as time went by. (These intrusions were always very brief, and not more often than once a day.) There were four young to start with, but by August 26 there were only three. The young were large by the 29th, and I began to watch for fledging. On the morning of August 31, with fourteen days expired and the young still in the nest, I took a seat by the back door at 8:30 and trained my scope on the nest. The parents were making more pipping calls than usual, so I knew something was up. At 9:00 one of the young hopped out and landed on a rung of the hanging sled just below the nest. The other two followed within two minutes, and I had a great photo op as all three perched on the sled. The parents kept encouraging them, and within a few minutes all three had made their exit by flying into nearby bushes.

This nest was yet another late one, probably the third by that pair for the year. I say that because I had seen four or five birds together near the house on July 26, clearly the previous brood with at least one of their parents. That brood was late enough to have been the pair's second that year. Baicich and Harrison (1997) say that the male builds most of the nest and the female lines it, so I may have seen the female tending the vocal young while the male was working on the next nest.

I don't know why it took these wrens — obviously not all the same individuals — eighteen years to finally nest in our garage, where over the years we had done everything but hang out a “welcome wrens” sign. One likely reason is that Carolina Wrens often nest in natural settings: tree or stump cavities, holes in stream banks, upturned tree roots, brush piles, vine tangles, thick conifers, and even old hornet nests, almost always close to the ground. But these birds are renowned for nesting in every conceivable kind of nook and cranny, and the literature is full of intriguing examples: stone walls, holes in fence posts, bird boxes, mailboxes, glove compartments or engines of abandoned cars, old tractors and other machinery, pockets of old coats or pants left hanging, old hats or shoes, baskets, flower pots, tin cans, messy shelves, covers of propane tanks, tool boxes, old pumps, the eaves of well-houses and other small structures, crevices in log cabins, rafters under bridges, and on and on. Bent (1948) shows a photo of a Carolina Wren entering a nest in the barrel of a cannon. Forbush (1929) offered a possible reason for this adaptation to human structures, and that was the need to find safer places, higher up than their natural nest sites, where the dogs, cats, and pigs introduced by the colonial settlers could not reach them.

Another good example of both strategic nest placement and multiple broods happened during the same summer of 2007, when Dave Rimmer (pers. comm.), stewardship manager for Essex County Greenbelt, watched a pair nest twice in the new barn at the Essex headquarters, “once up in the loft in a cardboard box and a second time on a shelf in our workshop in an old coffee can with a few nails in the bottom. In both cases the adults entered and exited under the barn doors.” Meanwhile,



one day Dave climbed on the tractor to see a Carolina Wren fly out of the dashboard and scold him from a nearby shrub! “I dismantled the dashboard and found a nest with four eggs. I needed to use the tractor, so I transplanted the nest into a spare nest box, placed it about three feet off the ground on a metal stake where the tractor had been parked, and left it. The birds reoccupied the nest and I think fledged young.” Dave did not record dates for these events but surmised that the young fledged from the first barn nest before June 15, from the relocated tractor nest in late July, and from the second barn nest in late August. He could not be sure whether the pair nesting in the tractor was the same one that nested in the barn, but if those dates were correct, it is possible that a single pair raised all three broods.

### **SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, *Accipiter striatus***

In last April’s issue of *Bird Observer* I detailed the entire nesting cycle of a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks that built a nest in a small Norway spruce near my house and fledged one of four young in late June 2006 (Berry 2007). A highlight of that article was the documentation of food-caching by the male bird. That pair repeated in 2007, but this time the nest was high and well hidden in a white pine in our neighbors’ yard, where monitoring was impossible. But because of our experience the previous year, my wife and I could tell what was going on by the calls and actions of the adult birds. This nesting was not as early as that of the previous year, due primarily to a wintry April that apparently delayed its commencement.


In summary, I saw the pair copulate on April 10 and 17 and watched the female take sticks to the nest site on April 11 and May 2. Because the nest was within about fifty yards of the previous nest, the pair gathered sticks and made food handoffs in the same patch of woods next to our backyard they had used before, where we could once again watch their activities. After a food transfer from male to female on May 29, the sitting female ate it away from the nest, an indication that the eggs had not yet hatched. The next day she did not respond to the male’s food calls, so he *cached* the prey item in the same larch tree where I had seen him cache food the year before. On June 1 the female came in response to his food calls and promptly took the food to the nest, indicating that hatching had occurred and she was feeding young. (Hatching in 2006 had occurred a week or more earlier.) The same thing happened on June 4 and 10.

Not hearing much activity over the next three weeks, I approached the nest area on June 29 to see and hear the female giving her *peep* calls to tell the male she needed food for herself and the young. (Both years the male appeared to do all the hunting.) At the same time I saw a fledgling away from the nest. On July 4 I again saw and heard a fledgling give begging calls similar to the female’s, and we heard those calls often over the next week or so. On occasion we thought we heard two begging young, but I never saw more than one fledgling at a time.

As I have stated in previous articles (e.g., Berry 2007), no Sharpshin nests had been found in Essex County between 1896 and 2000, when Linda Cook and I found a nest on Choate Island in Essex Bay. That was the first in a series of nests that included three in the same pine stand in Willowdale State Forest in Ipswich, 2001–03;

one in Saugus in 2002; three by the pair that nested near my house, 2005–07; and *two more nests on Choate Island in 2007!* I mentioned in last year’s article that our local nesting pair had also nested across the road from us in 2005. I had not learned of this nesting until that fall, when the neighbor across the road told me about seeing small hawks he had identified as Sharpshins bringing two young to bathe in puddles in their driveway. I was incredulous until the pair moved across the road the next spring and nested close to our house, at which point his report became entirely credible. This pair and the Willowdale pair, each of which nested at least three years in succession in the same general area, built a new nest each year; Sharpshins rarely use a nest more than once (Bildstein and Meyer 2000).

As for the Choate Island nests, 2007 was the first year of Atlas 2, and Derek Brown and April Manganiello of Essex were covering the block that includes most of that island. Choate Island, a glacial drumlin in Essex Bay owned by The Trustees of Reservations, is an atypical salt-marsh island because it was planted with Norway spruce in the 1930s by the Crane family. That habitat dominates the island today. (It is thus one of the few places in the county where Golden-crowned Kinglets have been found nesting.) So I was not surprised when Derek called me from the island on July 1 to tell me that he and April had found a Sharpshin nest. I was *very* surprised to hear that they had found two! The two territories were about a third of a mile apart and, as luck would have it, on either side of an atlas block line. The nests were both about sixty-five to seventy feet high in Norway spruces, comparable to the nest I had found there in 2000. The first of the 2007 nests contained four downy young on July 4, when the observers saw one adult stand guard and the other bring food to the nest. Four days later the young were seen on and around the nest, apparently having started to branch. The second had at least two young on July 4, a little older than those in the first nest. Both of these chicks were seen in or near the nest four days later.

The result of these observations is that no fewer than *ten* Sharp-shinned Hawk nests have been documented in Essex County in the last eight years. A decade ago such an outcome would have been thought impossible. During the six years of field work for Atlas 1 in the 1970s, no nests were found nor was nesting even confirmed anywhere in the state. Only seven blocks, out of almost a thousand statewide, had probable nest sites (Petersen and Meservey 2003). There was a history, of course, of deforestation and merciless gunning that had taken a tremendous toll on Sharpshins, among many other hawks. But persecution was substantially over by the 1940s, and the regrowth of Massachusetts forests has been going on for many decades. Theoretically, Sharpshin recovery should have been noticeable by the launching of Atlas 1 in the seventies, but wasn’t. Whatever the reasons for the delay, that resurgence is now underway—or finally being detected—in what might be one of the most remarkable short-term breeding-bird expansions in memory. From my own perspective it is the most exciting nesting development I have observed in over thirty-five years of living in Massachusetts. 

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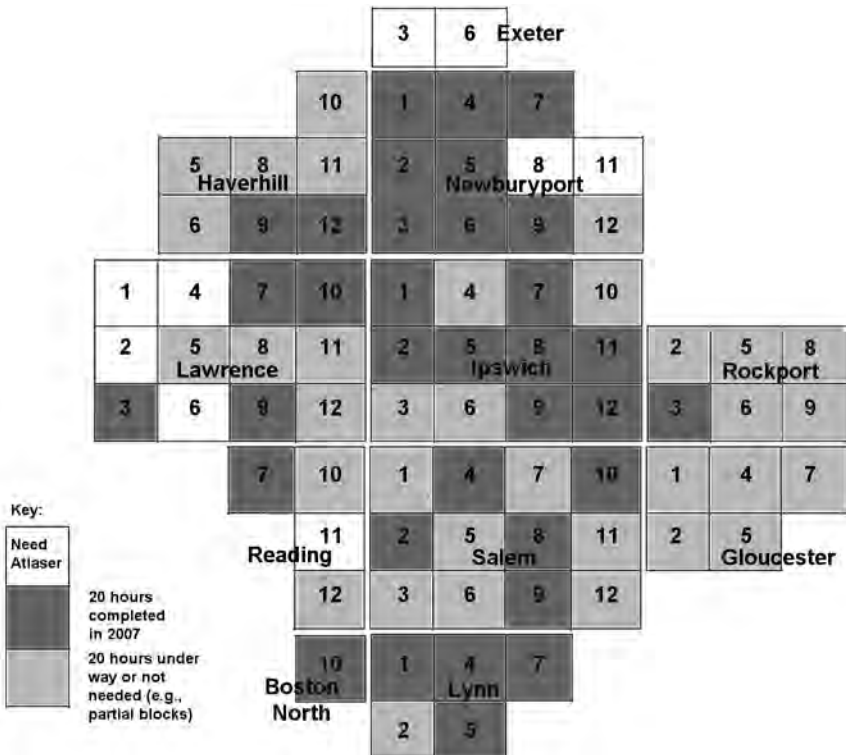
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*Jim Berry is a Regional Coordinator for the second Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas. He welcomes reports of uncommon nesting birds in Essex County, not to mention additional atlas volunteers.*

## Essex County Breeding Bird Atlas 2 Block Map



This map depicts the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas project blocks in Essex County. The map is based on the 7.5 x 15-minute USGS topographical maps (named, e.g., Ipswich, Salem, etc.), each of which is divided into twelve blocks (hence, Lawrence 11 or Gloucester 4). Each block is about three miles on a side. The object of the Atlas is to cover all habitats in each block and to obtain breeding evidence for all species possible. The blocks are shaded according to the amount of coverage to date. See <<http://www.massaudubon.org/birdatlas/bba2/>> and the following article by Joan Walsh for details.

# Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 2

*Joan Walsh*

There may be as many reasons to go birding as there are birders, but whatever their motivations, birdwatchers collectively volunteer on an impressive scale for projects that contribute to conservation sciences. The USGS's Breeding Bird Surveys, one of the largest and most rigorously curated databases of bird abundance in the world, is conducted almost exclusively by volunteer birders. The Christmas Bird Counts, which now represent more than 100 years of early winter bird abundance and distribution data, have been, from their inception, conducted and compiled almost exclusively by amateur birders.

One of the best examples of birders' dedication to conservation-based field research projects can be found in their worldwide contribution to the accurate mapping of breeding bird ranges through participation in Breeding Bird Atlases (BBAs). These atlases, from Tanzania to Alberta to Great Britain and Ireland and many countries, counties, states, provinces, and territories in between, have enhanced our understanding of one of the most basic parameters of bird ecology — their breeding ranges. As these atlases are renewed each fifteen to twenty-five years, they also give us an unparalleled understanding of breeding bird range changes over time. Mapping and quantifying these changes is one of the cornerstones of protecting and managing rare and common species — and the scale of this work is made possible only through the dedication of volunteer citizen scientists.

Massachusetts' first BBA was compiled with data collected from 1974-1979 and was the first such atlas completed in North America. During 2007 hundreds of birders from Massachusetts volunteered to begin our second Breeding Bird Atlas. (This project will be completed in 2011 and the methods are detailed at <http://www.massaudubon.org/birdatlas/bba2/>.)

The 2007 preliminary results listed below are just that — extremely preliminary. Some 2007 data has not been entered, and some has not yet been edited. These results will be revised, and if you know of any additional breeding records not listed, please report them to the BBA 2.

The scale alone of BBA projects yields impressive statistics: during 2007, the first year of Massachusetts Atlas 2, more than 430 observers combed at least 600 ten-square-mile blocks searching for evidence of breeding birds. Those observers spent more than 12,000 hours in the field and reported more than 44,000 records of breeding birds. Statewide, there are about 1000 blocks to cover, and each full block needs to be surveyed for at least twenty hours. Many of the 600 blocks surveyed in 2007 need more coverage during 2008, and many blocks are receiving more than the twenty-hour minimum coverage. It is likely we will finish surveys by 2011, but we still need more atlasers to join us.

Atlases generate critical data on all species nesting in the state, and the massive database we collected during 2007 is no exception. Volunteer atlasers identified

hundreds of new and reconfirmed locations for state-listed species, including the first likely nest record for Long-eared Owl in twenty-five years. This species, cryptic and rare, poses intense challenges to surveyors. Long-eared Owls, while regularly present in Massachusetts in low numbers at winter roost sites, disperse with each coming spring. These easily overlooked birds don't build their own nests, but usurp used crow or hawk nests. Males who intend on breeding in an area may stake out potential nest territories and perform courtship flights and calls in the late winter or early spring over those sites. Most Long-eareds will not call unless they are near a prospective breeding site. (Please let us know if you hear Long-eared Owls calling in late winter, or see any late afternoon or early evening courtship flights — even near known roost sites.)

In 2007 Massachusetts birders confirmed two new breeding records for the state — Clay-colored Sparrow and Sandhill Crane. Sandhill Cranes have been expanding eastward during the last thirty years and have recently nested fairly regularly in Maine, so their arrival as a breeding species in Massachusetts, while a welcome surprise, was not wholly unexpected. Careful observation also led to the confirmation of Clay-colored Sparrow breeding at Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod. While this species shares little in common with Sandhill Crane, it too has been slowly marching eastward. Confirmation of Clay-colored Sparrow has been expected for some time, but due to this species' rarity it is easy to overlook as a breeder.

In total, at least 208 species were reported during the 2007 BBA 2 season. Of those, six species observed during the project "safe dates" exhibited no breeding behavior: Ruddy Duck, Least Sandpiper, Black Guillemot, Merlin, Tennessee Warbler, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Ruddy Duck was a sporadic and rare breeder in Massachusetts in the 1970s but not since that time, so its absence during 2007 was no cause for alarm. Least Sandpiper, while recorded breeding during Atlas 1 in what is surely one of the more bizarre breeding records in the state's history, is not a surprising miss. It will be far more surprising is if this species ever breeds again in Massachusetts. [*Editor's note: for a complete account of this remarkable record, visit <<http://www.massaudubon.org/birdatlas/bba1/index.php?search=yes&id=60>>.*]

Black Guillemot has never been confirmed breeding in the Commonwealth but does breed along the New Hampshire coast. Merlin and Tennessee Warbler also have never bred in the state, but both were summer residents during 2007. Merlin is probably the most likely member of this trio of summer residents to breed during Atlas 2 — although any of the three would be a great record.

Some of the rarest species found breeding during 2007 were Clapper Rail, Common Moorhen and Short-eared Owl, which were each reported from a single atlas block. While this does not represent a sharp decline for Clapper Rail, both moorhen and Short-eared Owls were notably diminished in comparison with Atlas 1. Hopefully, as more blocks are surveyed, and we introduce both owl and wetland bird special surveys, we will find more locations for these rare birds.


Shockingly low too was the distribution of Golden-winged Warblers. In the nearly 600 blocks surveyed during 2007, this species was only found in two blocks

and was not confirmed as breeding. Contrast that with Atlas 1 where Golden-winged was found in sixty-seven of 969 blocks surveyed, and the scale of loss for this species becomes clear. All reports of Golden-winged Warblers from May 20 through July 30 are extremely important — and if any readers have reports from 2007 that were not sent to the BBA2, we urge them to submit them.

These are just a few of the stories beginning to unfold with BBA 2. Not surprisingly, much attention and excitement is focused on the rarest breeders in the state, but atlasing collects data on all species — rare and common. Detecting trends in common species can be difficult because they are so widespread, and numbers may change by orders of magnitude before changes are detected. Chimney Swift is one species that, while still widespread, may be greatly diminished since 1979. During Atlas 1 Chimney Swifts were found in about seventy-three percent of the blocks surveyed — during our first year of BBA 2 we only found them in about fifty-three percent of the blocks surveyed. The discrepancy in these numbers is preliminary but, as this species is widespread and easy to identify, probably accurate. The likely mechanism for the possible decline is chimney capping, which eliminates access to nest sites by swifts. Fortunately, if the decline is indeed real (and not an artifact of the early stage of our sampling), and if the decline is due to reduced nest sites, managers could begin a program of testing and building Chimney Swift towers to arrest the declines.

While the superlatives and scale of atlas projects exceed most other hobbyists' pursuits, what really gets birders out of their snug beds at 4:30 a.m. in early June is simply the birds themselves. Even so, it seems clear that once a birder is bitten by the atlas bug, there is no cure. BBAs have found converts all around the world. Atlases send tens of thousands of volunteers dashing off to their blocks to observe that elusive thrush, eagle, warbler, or woodpecker in its domestic ritual – singing, nest building, feeding young, or searching for food. Collecting the data is fun and challenging for the atlaser, and the information is fundamental to helping build conservation plans for the birds.

For those of you who have not joined us, please consider taking on a block. It only requires about twenty hours of observation during June or July, and chances are very good that you already have the skills and tools required. Be forewarned though, it is addictive: for many atlasers the hard part is not keeping going, but trying to stop.

(For complete information on the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas and how to participate, visit the MassAudubon website at <http://www.massaudubon.org/birdatlas/bba1/index.php>.) 

*Joan Walsh was born in Framingham, grew up in Connecticut, and has wandered the U.S. studying Common and Roseate terns, Wood Storks, and elephant seals and seabirds on the Farallon Islands. She was the Coordinator of the New Jersey Breeding Bird Atlas and first author of The Birds of New Jersey. She lives in Concord, Massachusetts, with her nearly-perfect husband and children.*

## ABOUT BOOKS

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### Someone to Watch Over Me: Recent Books about Ornithologists, Birders, and Other Naturalists

Mark Lynch

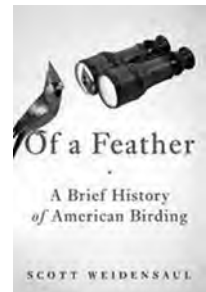
*Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding* by Scott Weidensaul. 2007. Harcourt Books. Orlando, Florida.

*Birds, Beasts and Bureaucrats: A Naturalist on a Caribbean Island* by Herbert A. Raffaele. 2007. Cold Tree Press. Nashville, Tennessee.

*Golden Wings and Hairy Toes: Encounters with New England's Most Imperiled Wildlife* by Todd McLeish. 2007. University Press of New England. Lebanon, New Hampshire.

I hate Scott Weidensaul.

Let me explain. It was my plan to retire soon from the workaday concerns of the employed and finally write the “great book” that each of us has lurking inside. No, it wasn’t going to be a novel, but a history of American ornithology. It was to begin even before the coming of Europeans and continue right through to today, including the biggest — as well as some lesser-known — names in contemporary American birding. My book was going to tie together regional histories, uniting east and west coast birding factions. It would have been informative, chatty, funny, and even a bit autobiographical: a “must read” for anyone with binoculars.



Then *Of a Feather* was published . . . damn that Weidensaul!

(Note to readers: picture me railing at the heavens with a clenched fist like Captain Kirk in *The Wrath of Khan*.)

*Of a Feather* is a great and endlessly entertaining history of American ornithology and the evolution of birding. It begins with Native Americans mythologizing about ravens and ends with Scott on a cold evening in eastern Pennsylvania netting owls and musing about “citizen science.” In between, Weidensaul effortlessly weaves together the important names and places that have contributed to our knowledge of birds in this country. The result is a comprehensive and sometimes wildly colorful natural history.

For eastern birders, the chapters about the nineteenth century U.S. Army officers/ornithologists who combed the west and southwest for new specimens will be a revelation. Many of these men are remembered today in the names of western birds — Charles Bendire, Adolphus Heerman, and William Hammond. Elliott Coues was “probably the most complex and interesting character in American ornithology” (p.



117). He was a cranky, bitter, and difficult man, a genuine curmudgeon, who loathed the first birders. He called these rank amateurs “opera glass fiends.” The often uneasy and disdainful relationship between serious ornithologists and ever-growing throngs of birdwatchers in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is one of several subplots in *Of a Feather*.

The critical role of women naturalists, ornithologists, and birders is well covered in this book. While some readers may be familiar with women like Mabel Osgood Wright, an author and an important figure in the early Audubon movement, *Of a Feather* also introduces the reader to such luminaries as Martha Maxwell and Florence Merriam. Petite, gun-toting Maxwell founded the Rocky Mountain Museum in Boulder, Colorado. When in 1876 she brought a monumental installation of Rocky Mountain wildlife to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, she hung a sign in front of the mounted specimens of charging elk and pouncing cougars that read “Women’s Work.” Florence Merriam penned several volumes on birds of the west, including a regional bird guide to New Mexico. Her *Birds through an Opera Glass*, written in 1889, was “in a sense, the first field guide to American birds” (p. 133).

Weidensaul finishes his tour de force with the soul-searching chapter, “Beyond the List.” Here, in which he reflects critically on what birding has become and where it is going, he poses some tough questions. Why the lack of racial diversity in birding? Why do many birders feel so entitled that they cannot sacrifice a few tax dollars to help the environment? Is the quest for the big list what birding is ultimately all about?

Can you name a single, concrete action you’ve taken in the past week to better the world for birds? In the last month? The last year? If you had to think about it for more than a moment, then I gently suggest you rededicate yourself to doing more for the creatures on which our hobby is based. (p. 312)

*Of a Feather* gives the reader a solid understanding of where ornithologists and birders have been and raises hopes for what we can become. It is a must-read for everyone with a pair of bins and a hankering for a rarity.

Though Herbert A. Raffaele has been engaged in wildlife conservation in the Caribbean for over thirty-five years, he is probably best known in the birding world as the author of *Guide to the Birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands* and *Guide to the Birds of the West Indies*. He spent a number of those thirty-five years as the field biologist for the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources, and in *Birds, Beasts and Bureaucrats* he recounts his wonderful if sometimes frustrating experiences there.

This is not a “tell all” book, written to “rip the lid off” a government agency. *Birds, Beasts and Bureaucrats* simply offers a sobering, critical view of what a caring conservationist must endure in an agency that is understaffed, underfunded, and undersupplied. The book also describes the challenge of dealing with a woefully misinformed press and public, like the newspaper



writers who suggested importing hippos to control the water hyacinth that was choking the island's lakes. Fortunately, that plan was nipped in the bud.

Sadly, a plan by certain wrongheaded primatologists to introduce Rhesus macaques to several small offshore islands was given a "thumbs up," despite Raffaele's loud protests. These "monkeyites," as Raffaele dubbed them, insisted that *they* were the primate specialists, not Raffaele, and that they *knew* macaques would never eat seabird eggs (one of the islands was an important seabird colony), and that the monkeys could not possibly swim to the mainland. If they did make it to the mainland, the primatologists argued, they would soon return to the safety of their island. All of these assumptions proved spectacularly and disastrously incorrect, and mainland Puerto Rico is now infested with yet another alien menace to its endemic species. The reader is left wondering how allegedly well-educated research biologists could be so pigheaded and naïve.

The bulk of *Birds, Beasts and Bureaucrats* is filled with Raffaele's vivid, fond memories of exploring the wildlife of Puerto Rico: searching for avian fossils in the dangerous hidden caves of the haystack hills, looking for manatees by helicopter along the island's southern shore, and monitoring the Puerto Rican Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus noctitherus*) in the arid Guanica forest. Raffaele was visiting his friend Cam Kepler when Kepler announced the discovery of a new island species, the endemic Elfin Woods Warbler (*Dendroica angelae*). Not to be outdone, Raffaele made his own avian discoveries over the years, adding several new breeding birds to the island's list. Unfortunately, almost all are introduced species, like the Nutmeg Manikin (*Lonchura punctulata*). Along the way, the reader is treated to a wonderful tour of the contrasting habitats of Puerto Rico: the vanishing coastal mangroves, the lush mountain rain forests, the dramatic offshore islands, and the unique Pterocarpus swamp, home of the rare West Indian Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna arborea*).

Such Pterocarpus forests are fascinating places to visit. For one, they are downright lovely. Swamp bloodwood (*Pterocarpus officinalis*) distinguishes itself from practically any other tree in Puerto Rico by the form of its spectacular buttress roots. These tree supports wind out like serpents for as much as ten feet and create all kinds of interesting patterns. The trunk and branches are also typically embellished by an impressive array of ferns and orchids, much more amply adorned than most lowland forest. (p. 219)

Every chapter ends with a section Raffaele has titled "Reflections," which nicely sums up the larger lessons he learned from each experience. *Birds, Beasts and Bureaucrats* is a unique book: part memoir, part natural history, and part travelogue. Throughout, the reader is given an intimate view of the life of a government conservationist and the joys and endless battles that job entails. It's an insider's look at the people, places, and creatures of a complex and fascinating island. I defy readers to finish this book and not have an immediate desire to stop everything, pack their bags and binoculars, and head straight to the sunny island home of the Yellow-shouldered Blackbird.

*Golden Wings and Hairy Toes* by natural history writer and Rhode Island native Todd McLeish is one of the most enjoyable and informative books on New England wildlife published in some time. McLeish came up with a short list of some of New England's most endangered birds, mammals, reptiles, invertebrates, and plants. He then spent time in the field with the biologists and conservationists dedicated to preserving these plants and animals.

The efforts of these biologists have been considerable and daunting. First, they must struggle to get each plant or animal legally recognized as endangered and to learn where its populations are now and how many are left. Further, the politics of wildlife protection require that "government biologists often must speak carefully so as not to contradict the prevailing policies of each new administration" (p. xii).



MacLeish adds: "Couple these challenges with the seeming impossibility of fixing the major threats to wildlife populations such as global warming, acid rain, and mercury poisoning, and it's understandable that many biologists have a pessimistic outlook not only about the future of the species they study, but about the health of the planet in general" (p. xiii).

While the reader may already be familiar with the life histories of high-profile species such as Roseate Tern and Atlantic right whale, it is the story of the biologists who keep track of these creatures year after year that makes *Golden Wings and Hairy Toes* so compelling. There seems to be a symbiotic relationship between the species and a small cadre of dedicated people hell-bent on seeing them survive despite overwhelming odds. The book tells a moving and engaging story.

In McLeish's chapters on the smaller, less well-known species, readers are likely to find themselves marveling at the true tenacity of nature and the unswerving dedication of certain biologists.

For instance, the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) survives in a few small sections of sandplain grassland on a handful of offshore islands. To monitor the populations on Block Island, biologists bury small earthenware jars baited with rotting chicken and then check those sites day after day. It's tiresome, detailed work. A population of several hundred, not much for an insect, is now considered stable. Captive rearing at the Roger Williams Zoo and attempts to reintroduce this large, strikingly colored beetle have met with only small successes so far. These beetles used to be found throughout the United States. There is now a theory that the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon led to the beetle's rapid decline. Apparently the American burying beetle's survival in the pigeons' breeding range was dependent on a constant supply of fresh carcasses that occurred naturally wherever the vast flocks of the Passenger Pigeons lived. What a fine example of the delicate house of cards that is a habitat's ecology.

Some species appear to be barely hanging on. The most critical breeding pond of the dragonfly known as ringed boghaunter (*Williamsonia linteri*) is now adjacent to a gravel pit that is about to become a shopping mall. Other key ponds are in “private hands,” and their fate is left to the whims of the landowners.

Likewise under assault in Western Connecticut is one of the last good breeding locations in New England for Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). “Sterling Forest isn’t just special to Golden-winged Warblers, though. A private landowner in the middle of the forest is threatening to build a housing development that could affect water levels, and that certainly would result in housecats running rampant, lawn fertilizers harming the ecosystem, and the eradication of significant swaths of natural habitat” (p. 159).

Furthermore, the Golden-winged Warbler is not on the state’s endangered species list, so there is nothing “to prevent people from destroying the habitat.”

But that story pales in comparison with the tale of the tiny and delicately beautiful sandplain gerardia (*Agalinis acuta*), one of the rarest plants in North America. This plant now exists in less than a dozen sites in the country, several of them historical cemeteries in New England. Some sites have a number of the plants, but in one secluded Rhode Island cemetery there is only one small plant. The fact that no one knows why cemeteries seem so critical to this plant’s survival underscores how much there is to learn from every organism, no matter how small or rare. Seeds from the New England Wildflower Society seed bank hold out hope for this plant’s survival, and experimental populations are now being introduced carefully in certain protected locations.

*Golden Wings and Hairy Toes* is both an exhilarating and sobering book about wildlife in our sprawl-infected part of the country. McLeish’s brilliant conceit is to give the human side of the story equal time, so that this book is ultimately about our deep relationship with the natural world and the possibility that exists to heal the wounds that we have inflicted on the species around us.

Reading *Golden Wings and Hairy Toes* may even cause you to begin to re-evaluate what you do and how you behave as a birder. Sure, many of us are willing to burn gallons of gas to go and tick a Golden-winged Warbler or Bicknell’s Thrush for our year lists, but what are we actually willing to give up or actively do to help preserve those species?

Reading these three books, the reader will realize what a surprising number of people have eschewed goals such as listing in favor of rolling up their sleeves and getting down to the hard work of conservation and education. 🦋

## Results of the 2008 Massachusetts Feeding Waterfowl Survey

This past January MassWildlife completed a survey of sites where people feed waterfowl across the state, something the agency has done every five years since 1973. Biologists from each of MassWildlife's offices fanned out through their districts to survey sites where people fed waterfowl, and reports from the public were received as well. The survey is important because most of the waterfowl associated with these sites are mallards.

While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) conducts an annual midwinter waterfowl inventory, that survey is restricted to the coast and includes few freshwater sites where mallards typically overwinter. As a result, only a fraction of the wintering mallards in Massachusetts are counted on that survey. Wintering mallard populations on what was dubbed the "Park Mallard Survey" increased during the 1970s and '80s, peaking at over 20,000 mallards on the 1993 survey. In contrast, less than 2100 mallards were counted on the "official" Midwinter Waterfowl Inventory for the USFWS that year.

However, Canada geese, which were so few in number at feeding sites when the surveys began that they were not even counted until the 1983 survey, began to increase, and by 1993 over 5000 Canada geese were recorded at feeding sites.

This created a problem for the mallards. Because geese spend more time on land than mallards do, visitors to parks and other sites where people were feeding waterfowl encountered increased amounts of goose droppings and towns began posting "No feeding" signs at some spots and discontinued official feeding programs. The larger geese also competed directly with the mallards for handouts, with each goose consuming as much food as several mallards.

We first noted a decline in the numbers of mallards wintering at feeding spots on the 1998 survey, while the number of Canada geese increased. That decline continued on the 2003 survey, though by then, goose numbers were also declining as less feeding was being done.

This year only 12,681 mallards, 422 black ducks, and 1768 Canada geese were counted on 160 sites, down from 15,244 mallards, 1583 black ducks, and 3361 Canada geese on 193 sites in 2003, the last time the survey was conducted, and well below the 20,659 mallards, 2504 black ducks and 5110 Canada geese at 224 sites in 1993.

What is uncertain is if Massachusetts' mallard population is decreasing or just being redistributed. The numbers of mallards counted on the USFWS Midwinter Waterfowl Inventory has gradually increased from a few hundred birds in the 1970s to over 5000 last year, suggesting that some mallards are learning to winter on more natural coastal areas. Spring breeding surveys also show little evidence of a decline in breeding mallards in Massachusetts. (*continued on page 38*)

(continued from page 37)

During banding studies done on park mallards during 1971-1976, we discovered that a third of winter-banded Massachusetts park ducks were migrants from western and northern areas. It could be that these birds are no longer finding Massachusetts parks an inviting place to overwinter.

In addition to official bans on feeding waterfowl, sometimes backed up by fines, it appears to be less socially acceptable to feed waterfowl. Concerns about Bird Flu, skyrocketing grain prices, and children of the Baby Boomers having pretty much grown up and moved on may also be involved in the cessation of artificial feeding — perhaps to the chagrin of those greenheaded ducks, descendants of birds once kept as live decoys, done in by those black and white geese, also descendants of birds kept as live decoys.

*Mass Wildlife*

## Massbird.org

The Massbird.org website is sponsored by *Bird Observer*. It mostly consists of links to other websites of interest to Massachusetts birders. In addition, Massbird.org hosts the websites of a number of Massachusetts bird clubs and other organizations, including: the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, the Allen Bird Club, the Athol Bird and Nature Club, the Brookline Bird Club, the Eastern Mass Hawk Watch, the Forbush Bird Club, the Medford Bird Club, and the Northampton Bird Watcher's Club. If your organization is interested in setting up a web presence, Massbird.org can help with hosting services and even page design and construction assistance. Check us out at <<http://www.Massbird.org>>.



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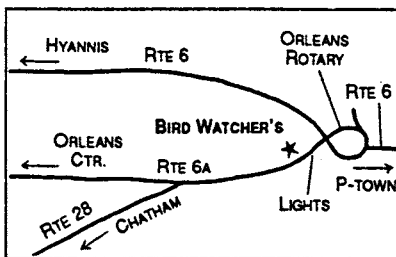
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# BIRD SIGHTINGS

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## September/October 2007

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

September was warm, with relatively little rain and lots of sunshine. Two temperature records were set, and two others tied previous records. The high of 95<sup>o</sup> on September 8 tied the 1872 record. The high minimum of 71<sup>o</sup> on September 26 beat the 70<sup>o</sup> set in 1881 and became a new record for so late in the year. The 68<sup>o</sup> low on the September 27 topped the 66<sup>o</sup> set in 1953. With an average of 67.6<sup>o</sup> for the month in Boston, this September ranks as the sixth warmest in 135 years of record keeping. A high of 93<sup>o</sup> on September 26 came within two degrees of the record set in 1881 for the highest temperature so late in the year. The low for the month was 47<sup>o</sup> on September 18. Rainfall totaled 1.81 inches, 1.66 inches below average for Boston; measurable amounts fell on just five days. The longest period without measurable rain was an eleven-day stretch from September 16 to 26. Sunshine recorded from the Blue Hill Weather Station in Milton was at 74 percent of possible, tying the record for the sunniest September on record.

October was also very mild, averaging 59.2<sup>o</sup> in Boston, 5.1<sup>o</sup> above normal. October 2007 ranked as the fifth warmest in 136 years of records. A high of 86<sup>o</sup> on October 4 beat the previous high set in 1983. The temperature hit 81<sup>o</sup> on October 22, unseasonably hot for so late in the month. In October, there was no killing frost in Boston. On October 29 there was a low of 37<sup>o</sup>, although frost hit many suburbs that day, about three weeks later than average. Rain totaled 2.08 inches, 1.63 inches below average for Boston, with measurable amounts falling on twelve days. Heavy fog was noted on three days, and there was thunder on two days. *R. Stymeist*

## WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

Goose highlights were plentiful during the reporting period. The lion's share of the excitement was concentrated in the Concord area. Following the sighting of a Barnacle Goose on the coast of New Hampshire, an observer discovered a beautiful adult **Barnacle Goose** at Great Meadows NWR on October 11. The bird hung around the area for nearly two weeks and was enjoyed by many birders. This species is increasing in regularity throughout northeastern North America, and Massachusetts birders should be on the lookout for this species in the fall and winter in areas such as the Sudbury River and Connecticut River valleys. The Barnacle Goose was joined by two **Greater White-fronted Geese**, one **Cackling Goose**, and an apparent "**Giant**" **Canada Goose** (*Branta canadensis maxima*). This is an aptly named large subspecies of Canada Goose, which had been nearly extirpated during the early 1900s but which, through reintroduction programs, is now abundant in the Midwest. These birds have also been introduced into many parks around the country and hybridize regularly with other forms, making identification of this larger subspecies of Canada Goose tenuous. Most exciting was the report of a probable **Taverner's Cackling Goose** at Amherst from October 13 to 22. This subspecies, which breeds in Alaska and winters in Washington and Oregon, is extremely rare in the East, not to mention difficult to identify! In fact, it seems to have been documented fewer than five times east of Colorado and Texas. An individual of this subspecies was well documented in Ireland and Scotland, where it presumably lingered for much of 2000–2002. Well-documented records from the eastern half of the United States included one from Wisconsin and another from New York. Other goose records of note during September and



October 2007 included **Greater White-fronted Geese** at West Newbury, Amherst, and Turners Falls and another **Cackling Goose** at Turners Falls.

The first Eurasian Wigeon of the fall appeared on October 4 at the Mill Pond in Marstons Mills, where it remained through the month. Others were noted at traditional sites in the northeastern part of the state during the latter half of the month. Only a single Canvasback report was sent in, a male in West Newbury on October 25. This species is generally uncommon before November. Redheads showed up early, with a single bird in Pittsfield from October 8 on and up to three individuals on Plum Island starting on October 10. Another individual was discovered in West Roxbury on October 29. A male **Tufted Duck** was an exciting find in West Newbury on October 28. Unfortunately, the bird did not linger and was not seen again. Harlequin Ducks were first noted in the state on October 25. Favorable winds produced a nice movement of sea ducks on October 7, including 2890 Surf Scoters, 1720 White-winged Scoters, and 5660 Black Scoters.

Red-throated Loons are generally rare in the state before October. The first of this species was noted on September 30 in Plymouth. The **Eared Grebe** in Gloucester continues to set records, returning for its twelfth year in a row! This year it arrived on October 5. Although heron reports were lackluster for the fall period, highlights included a juvenile Least Bittern at Plum Island on September 3, a Tricolored Heron on September 10 at North Monomoy, and three Cattle Egrets at Manchester on September 16. Because Glossy Ibis are extremely rare in the state after early September, a report of a bird well seen in Gloucester on October 6 is newsworthy.

A **Mississippi Kite** was reported from a hawkwatching site in Granville. This species has proved to be a regular visitor to the state in the spring but has remained extremely rare in the fall. If accepted by the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, this would represent only the fourth fall record for Massachusetts. The discovery of a juvenile dark morph **Swainson's Hawk** was very exciting. This bird was first found and photographed on September 26 at Cumberland Farms in Halifax/Middleboro. It remained in the area for a few weeks and was enjoyed by many observers. A **Golden Eagle** at Mount Watatic on September 12 was somewhat early, although four individuals observed on separate days in October at the Granville hawkwatch were more on schedule.

A few lucky observers were able to enjoy a view of the elusive **Yellow Rail** during this reporting period. Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary has produced many of the records for this rare species in the state. It is typically seen while the fields are being mowed in the fall. This year was no exception as a single bird was reported there on October 2, and two birds were seen a week later. North Monomoy and Longmeadow also produced sightings during the month. **Common Moorhen** put in appearances at Plum Island and Pepperell. The Pepperell individual, a juvenile, was seen on October 11 and 24 and may have lingered throughout the period. On September 30, we received two separate reports of flocks of three **Sandhill Cranes** in Dorchester and Middleboro. Although these may have represented the same flock, circumstance would suggest that at least six Sandhill Cranes were present in Massachusetts on that date. At the end of October, three Sandhill Cranes were found in Carver, where they lingered for at least a few days.

Because Piping Plovers are quite rare after the first week of October, the individuals that persisted at Duxbury Beach and South Monomoy until October 26 were noteworthy. On September 15, an **American Avocet** was discovered at Belle Isle in East Boston. Another, or perhaps the same individual, was later detected at Newburyport Harbor on October 2. Only a week later another report of single American Avocet was received from Nantucket. This time the bird decided to stay put, and it lingered there at least through October 26.

As many as eight Baird's Sandpipers were recorded during the period at Plum Island, with a smattering of reports from other localities. This year's first Purple Sandpipers put in an appearance at Rockport on October 28, just about on schedule. A **Ruff** was reported from Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Concord from September 11 to 12. This species is quite rare inland in Massachusetts with only a handful of records, although at least three have come from this location. This season, a few **Long-tailed Jaegers** were found on Stellwagen Bank, where two juveniles were seen on September 9 following the sighting of a single bird there a few days earlier. The most exciting larid discovery of the reporting period was a **Black-tailed Gull** at Nahant on October 18. Despite a concerted effort by many observers, this bird was not refund. If accepted by the MARC, it would represent only the second state record! A count of forty-five Lesser Black-backed Gulls on South Monomoy was noteworthy, although this species has become more regular in the past few years. The same trips to Stellwagen Bank that produced the Long-tailed Jaegers also uncovered a single adult **Sabine's Gull** on September 7 and two adult Sabine's Gulls on September 9. Late October found a large concentration of seabirds off outer Cape Cod from Chatham to Provincetown. On October 22, one observer counted 2400 Black-legged Kittiwakes there. Although regular in the state, **Caspian Terns** are most often observed as individuals or small groups of two or three except during tropical disturbances when larger groups can be seen. It was surprising, therefore, to hear of an occurrence of twenty Caspian Terns together at Newburyport Harbor on September 25. During September, we received four separate reports, possibly the same individual, of a single **Sandwich Tern** at various locations on Cape Cod. A late Black Skimmer put in a one-day appearance at Lynn Beach on October 14. The first alcids to be recorded this fall were two Razorbills at Plum Island on September 22. Three more were seen during October. One Black Guillemot was found during the period at the end of October on Plum Island. Single Atlantic Puffins were recorded at three different locations during October, the earliest of which was on October 7 at Andrew's Point in Rockport.

*J. Trimble*

<b>Greenland Greater White-fronted Goose</b>				Wood Duck			
10/5-9	W. Newbury	1		thr	GMNWR	74 max	v.o.
10/12-30	Concord	2	R. Furrow + v.o.	9/14	Groveland	82	D. Larson
<b>Greater White-fronted Goose</b>				9/27	Northampton	110	T. Gagnon
10/16-17	Amherst	1	J. Smith	10/20	Winchester	35+	R. LaFontaine
10/26	Turners Falls	1	A. Merritt	10/22	Mashpee	42	M. Keleher
<b>Snow Goose</b>				10/26	Plymouth	47+	K. Doyon
10/7	Groton	40	B. Hill	Gadwall			
10/8	P.I.	21	R. Heil#	thr	P.I.	92 max	v.o.
10/9	P'town (R.P.)	14	J. Young	9/14	S. Monomoy	20+	W. Petersen#
10/9	Sheffield	75	R. Laubach	9/18	W. Newbury	10	R. Heil#
10/17	S. Quabbin	14	L. Therrien	10/6	Randolph	4	G. d'Entremont#
10/25	Russell	60	T. Swochak	10/8-9	Pittsfield (Onota)	2	G. Hurley
10/29	Granville	140	J. Weeks	10/12-31	Ipswich	157 max	J. Berry
<b>Brant</b>				10/27	Springfield	1	T. Alicea
9/9	Plymouth B.	1	MAS (Petersen)	Eurasian Wigeon			
10/7	Rockport (A.P.)	5	R. Heil	10/4-31	Marstons Mills	1	M. Keleher
10/13-19	Longmeadow	1	A. Miller	10/21	GMNWR	1 m	M. Lynch#
10/17	WBWS	450	M. Faherty	10/23	Ipswich	1	R. Heil
10/24	Gloucester	75+	J. + M. Nelson	10/27-31	P.I.	1 m	v.o.
10/26	Barre Falls	3	B. Kamp	American Wigeon			
10/30-31	Woburn	1	J. Brown	9/2	Chatham	1	A. Curtis
<b>Barnacle Goose</b> (details submitted) *				9/9-10/31	Arlington Res.	53 max	v.o.
10/11-23	Concord	1	W. Hutchinson + v.o.	9/11-10/31	P.I.	115 max	v.o.
<b>Cackling Goose</b>				9/18-31	Marstons Mills	64 max	M. Keleher
10/13-27	Concord	1		10/12, 22	Ipswich	66, 242	J. Berry
10/16-29	Turners Falls	1	H. Allen	10/24	Pittsfield (Pont.)	8	G. Hurley
<b>Taverner's Cackling Goose</b>				10/26	Longmeadow	7	T. Alicea
10/13-22	Amherst	1	J. Smith	American Black Duck			
<b>Giant Canada Goose</b>				thr	P.I.	1122 max	v.o.
10/24	GMNWR	1	M. Iliff	9/14	S. Monomoy	150+	W. Petersen#
<b>Mute Swan</b>				10/6	Eastham	150	M. Faherty
9/22	Randolph	27	G. d'Entremont#	10/23	Ipswich	230	J. Berry
10/1	Acoaxet	153	M. Lynch#	Blue-winged Teal			
10/27	Turners Falls	32	H. Allen	thr	P.I.	7 max	v.o.
10/29	Falmouth	27	M. Keleher	thr	GMNWR	29 max	v.o.

Blue-winged Teal (continued)				10/25	Quabbin Pk	14	J. P. Smith
9/10	Halifax	13	J. Sweeney	10/26	Dennis	1500	M. Tuttle#
9/14	S. Monomoy	65	W. Petersen#	White-winged			
9/17	P'town	28	E. Masterson	10/7	Rockport (A.P.)	1720	R. Heil
9/18-10/31	Marstons Mills	14 max	M. Keleher	10/8	P.I.	300	R. Heil#
9/18	W. Newbury	17	R. Heil#	10/12, 25	S. Quabbin	5, 41	L. Therrien
10/4	Agawam	2	S. Kellogg	10/20	Lynn B.	1400	M. Iliff#
Northern Shoveler				10/24	Pittsfield (Pont.)	9	G. Hurley
9/2-10/31	Arlington Res.	7 max	v.o.	10/25	WBWS	800+	D. Berard
9/8	Lexington	3	M. Rines#	10/26	Dennis	200	M. Tuttle#
9/14	S. Monomoy	30	W. Petersen#	Black Scoter			
9/15-10/31	P.I.	6 max	v.o.	10/7	Rockport (A.P.)	5660	R. Heil
10/4-31	GMNWR	1-2	v.o.	10/16	S. Quabbin	6	L. Therrien
10/16-20	Turners Falls	2	H. Allen	10/25	Rockport	275	J. Berry
10/20	W. Newbury	4	J. Sutherland	10/26	Dennis	100	M. Tuttle#
Northern Pintail				10/26	Turners Falls	72	F. Bowrys
thr	P.I.	380 max	v.o.	Long-tailed Duck			
9/8	Woburn	1	M. Rines	10/25	P.I.	26	I. Davies#
9/12-10/31	GMNWR	18 max	v.o.	10/25	Rockport	50	J. Berry
9/14	S. Monomoy	100	W. Petersen#	10/25	Quabbin Pk	36	J. P. Smith
9/27, 10/23	Arlington Res.	1, 4	I. Davies	10/26	Dennis	20	M. Tuttle#
10/1	Acoaxet	31	M. Lynch#	Bufflehead			
10/26	Longmeadow	2	S. Kellogg	10/16	Manomet	1 m	I. Davies
10/27	E. Boston (B.I.)	3	M. Garvey	10/18	Nahant	4	L. Ferraresso
Green-winged Teal				10/20, 29	Falmouth	14, 36	M. Keleher
thr	P.I.	890 max	R. Heil	10/25	S. Quabbin	28	L. Therrien
9/1	Revere B.	6	P. + F. Vale	10/26	Pembroke	30 MAS	(D. Ludlow)
9/9	Turners Falls	10	M. Lynch#	10/28	Hanson	22 SSBC	(J. Sweeney)
9/9-10/31	Arlington Res.	224 max	M. Rines	10/31	Haverhill	15	S. Mirick
9/11-10/31	GMNWR	408 max	v.o.	Common Goldeneye			
9/14	S. Monomoy	275+	W. Petersen#	9/22	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien
9/25	Newbypt H.	370	R. Heil	10/27	Hadley	1	C. Gentes
10/10	Randolph	300	G. d'Entremont	10/27	Marlboro	1	T. Spahr
10/28	Mashpee	120 CCBC	(M. Keleher)	Hooded Merganser			
Canvasback				9/4	Belchertown	1	L. Therrien
10/25	W. Newbury	1 m	I. Davies#	9/9	Barre	1 imm	M. Lynch#
Redhead				10/26	Ipswich	26	J. Berry
10/8-27	Pittsfield (Onota)	1	G. Hurley	10/29	P.I.	18	J. Berry
10/10-29	P.I.	1-3	v.o.	10/29	Pittsfield (Pont.)	56	T. Gagnon
10/29	W. Roxbury	1	M. Iliff	10/30	Arlington Res.	30	I. Davies
Ring-necked Duck				Common Merganser			
9/14	S. Monomoy	12	W. Petersen#	9/2	S. Quabbin	4	L. Therrien
9/18-10/31	W. Newbury	525 max	v.o.	9/3	Northampton	6	T. Gagnon
9/21	Cambr. (F.P.)	21	J. Trimble	10/17	Agawam	35	S. Kellogg
9/26, 10/27	Randolph	30, 156	G. d'Entremont	10/20	Turners Falls	25	T. Pirro
10/23	Ipswich	35	J. Berry	10/29	Pittsfield (Pont.)	92	H. Allen
10/27	Marlboro	60	T. Spahr	10/31	Haverhill	8	S. Mirick
10/27	Pittsfield	350	C. Blagdon#	Red-breasted Merganser			
Tufted Duck (details submitted) *				9/22	Duxbury B.	2	R. Bowes
10/28	W. Newbury	1 m	B. Zajda	9/23, 10/7	Rockport	1, 58	R. Heil
Greater Scaup				10/6-31	P.I.	52 max	v.o.
9/14	S. Monomoy	6	W. Petersen#	10/16	Manomet	75+	I. Davies
9/18-10/31	P.I.	30 max	v.o.	10/16-17	S. Quabbin	3	L. Therrien
10/6	Randolph	15	G. d'Entremont#	10/25	WBWS	100+	D. Berard
10/15	Lakeville	223	J. Sweeney	10/27	P'town	650	B. Nikula
10/17	Pittsfield (Pont.)	2	H. Allen	Ruddy Duck			
10/20	Falmouth	258	M. Keleher	9/14	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#
10/31	Haverhill	12	S. Mirick	9/28	Waltham	1	J. Forbes
Lesser Scaup				9/29-10/31	W. Newbury	241 max	v.o.
9/28	Randolph	1	M. Iliff	10/26	Pembroke	500 MAS	(D. Ludlow)
9/29	S. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien	10/27	Marlboro	220	T. Spahr
10/7	Wachusett Res.	3	M. Lynch#	10/27	Pittsfield	25	C. Blagdon#
10/23	P.I.	3	R. Heil	10/28	Pembroke	325 SSBC	(J. Sweeney)
10/28	Pembroke	70 SSBC	(J. Sweeney)	10/28	Hanson	65 SSBC	(J. Sweeney)
10/29	Falmouth	4	M. Keleher	10/31	Haverhill	116	S. Mirick
Common Eider				Ring-necked Pheasant			
thr	P.I.	110 max	v.o.	9/3	E. Longmeadow	5	R. Titus
10/22	Outer Cape	1260	R. Heil#	10/16	Saugus	2 m	J. Berry#
10/25	Rockport	270	J. Berry	10/24	Belmont	2	M. Rines#
10/26	Dennis	1000	M. Tuttle#	10/25	Barre Falls	2	B. Kamp
Harlequin Duck				Ruffed Grouse			
10/25	Rockport	9	J. Berry	9/4	Granville	2	S. Kellogg
Surf Scoter				9/23	W. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien
9/27	Nahant	180	L. Pivacek	9/30	Quabbin	3	T. Gagnon#
10/7	Rockport (A.P.)	2890	R. Heil	10/10	Conway	2	F. Bowrys
10/8	P.I.	400	R. Heil#	Wild Turkey			
10/24	Pittsfield (Pont.)	6	G. Hurley	9/thr	E. Middleboro	24	K. Anderson
10/25	WBWS	200+	D. Berard	9/3	Lincoln	12+	F. Bouchard

Wild Turkey (continued)			9/9	Stellwagen	12	MAS (Petersen)
9/23	Granville	20	S. Kellogg	9/16	Duxbury B.	1 R. Bowes
9/28	Eastham	30+	MAS (M. Faherty)	Leach's Storm-Petrel		
10/5	Amherst	12	H. Allen	9/18	P.I.	1 I Davies#
10/6	Tyringham	68	M. Lynch#	Northern Gannet		
Northern Bobwhite				thr	P.I.	700 max v.o.
9/12	Haverhill	5	N. Landry	thr	Rockport	560 max v.o.
9/16	N. Truro	2	R. Heil	10/14, 27	P'town	200, 1200 B. Nikula
9/23	Gloucester	pr + 4 juv	R. Heil	10/16	Manomet	65+ I. Davies
10/22	Eastham	9	R. Heil#	10/22	Outer Cape	1350 R. Heil#
10/25	WBWS	14	D. Berard	10/28	Eastham (F.E.)	4800+ B. Nikula
Red-throated Loon				10/31	Ipswich (C.B.)	70+ J. Berry
9/30	Plymouth	5	D. Cabral	Double-crested Cormorant		
10/7	Rockport (A.P.)	3 ad	R. Heil	9/18, 10/8	P.I.	880, 4300 R. Heil#
10/17	Duxbury B.	20	R. Bowes	9/29, 10/22	Chatham	5000, 7500 D. Manchester
10/27	P.I.	60	I. Davies#	10/8	Squantum	4000 G. d'Entremont
Common Loon				10/24	Gloucester	600+ J. + M. Nelson
thr	P.I.	50 max	v.o.	10/25	Boston	425 M. Garvey#
10/7	Wachusett Res.	19	M. Lynch#	10/26	S. Quabbin	34 L. Therrien
10/7	Rockport (A.P.)	169	R. Heil	10/28	Hanson	1000 SSBC (J. Sweeney)
10/9	S. Quabbin	18	L. Therrien	Great Cormorant		
10/17	Duxbury B.	20	R. Bowes	9/8	Newbypt.	2 BBC (I. Giriunas)
10/25	WBWS	31	D. Berard	10/2	P.I.	4 R. Heil#
10/27	Wachusett Res.	23	M. Lynch#	10/7	Wachusett Res.	2 M. Lynch#
Pied-billed Grebe				10/8	P'town	12 J. Young
thr	P.I.	6 max	v.o.	10/25	WBWS	8 D. Berard
10/7	Merrimac	8	S. McGrath#	American Bittern		
10/10	Randolph	13	G. d'Entremont	thr	P.I.	1-2 v.o.
10/17	W. Newbury	5	MAS (B. Gette)	9/9	Amherst	1 H. Allen
10/19	Turners Falls	7	H. Allen	9/15	E. Boston (B.I.)	1 M. Iliff#
10/27	Cheshire	9	C. Blagdon#	9/18	Haverhill	2 J. Fenton
Horned Grebe				9/27	Bolton Flats	1 S. Sutton
10/6	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore	10/12	GMNWR	1 J. Forbes
10/21	S. Quabbin	9	L. Therrien	10/16	Saugus	1 J. Berry#
10/28	Plymouth	4	K. Doyon	10/17	Duxbury B.	1 R. Bowes
Red-necked Grebe				10/17	WBWS	1 M. Faherty
10/15	Manomet	4	I. Davies	10/21	N. Monomoy	1 B. Nikula
10/23	P.I.	6	R. Heil	10/29	Salisbury	1 S. Grinley
10/25	S. Quabbin	7	L. Therrien	Least Bittern		
10/26	Dennis	4	M. Tuttle#	9/3	P.I.	1 juv R. Heil
10/28	Duxbury B.	8	R. Bowes	Great Blue Heron		
10/28	Rockport	7	M. Lynch#	thr	P.I.	38 max v.o.
Eared Grebe *				9/2	Hadley	29 C. Gentes
10/5-31	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	v.o.	10/1	Scituate	26 S. Maguire
Northern Fulmar				10/13	Eastham	34 SSBC (Gd'E)
9/30	Eastham	1 lt	R. Heil	10/21	N. Monomoy	20 B. Nikula
10/7	Rockport (A.P.)	6	R. Heil	Great Egret		
10/7	P'town	1	B. Nikula	thr	P.I.	250 max 9/2 v.o.
10/7	Stellwagen	8	J. Young	9/2	Eastham	21 D. Clapp
10/28	Eastham (F.E.)	8+	B. Nikula	9/6	Longmeadow	12 J. Cavanaugh
Greater Shearwater				9/12	GMNWR	6 USEFWS (EM)
9/9	Jeffries L.	7	MAS (S. Mirick)	9/23	E. Boston (B.I.)	10 BBC (S. Zende#)
9/9, 28	Rockport (A.P.)	4, 413	R. Heil	10/1	Scituate	19 S. Maguire
10/1	Stellwagen	41	O. Spalding	10/1	Acoaxet	64 M. Lynch#
10/7, 14	P'town	12, 65	B. Nikula	10/16	Ipswich	11 R. Heil
10/20, 27	P'town	31, 1200	B. Nikula	10/29	S. Dartmouth	9 J. Sweeney
10/27	N. Truro	60	B. Nikula	Snowy Egret		
10/27	Gloucester (E.P.)	5	M. Swift	thr	P.I.	550 max 9/2 v.o.
10/28	Eastham (F.E.)	350	B. Nikula	9/3	N. Falmouth	35 I. Nisbet
Sooty Shearwater				9/14	S. Monomoy	35 W. Petersen#
9/9	Stellwagen	1	MAS (Petersen)	9/16	E. Boston	38 BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/9	Jeffries L.	2	MAS (S. Mirick)	9/23	Cape Ann	55 R. Heil
10/1	Stellwagen	2	O. Spalding	10/12	Ipswich	6 J. Berry
10/7	Stellwagen	1	J. Young	10/13	Eastham	9 SSBC (Gd'E)
10/22	P'town	1	R. Heil#	Little Blue Heron		
10/22	Eastham	1	R. Heil#	9/1	N. Monomoy	2 juv. B. Harris
10/27	P'town	4	B. Nikula	9/1-14	P.I.	5 max v.o.
Manx Shearwater				9/1-10/6	W. Gloucester	6 max v.o.
9/3	35 m E of Nant.	11	B. Perkins#	Tricolored Heron		
9/9	Stellwagen	1	MAS (Petersen)	9/10	N. Monomoy	1 B. Harris
9/9, 28	Rockport (A.P.)	4, 3	R. Heil	Cattle Egret		
9/14	Jeffries L.	1	J. Sutherland	9/16	Manchester	3 S. Hedman
10/22	Eastham	1	R. Heil#	Green Heron		
10/27	P.I.	1	I. Davies#	9/1	Amherst	3 L. Therrien
10/27	P'town	1	B. Nikula	9/2	Lexington	4 C. Cook
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				9/3	Bradford	4 S. Carlson
9/9	Jeffries L.	2	MAS (S. Mirick)	9/5	Longmeadow	11 J. Hutchison
9/9	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil	9/18	Cambr. (F.P.)	3 R. Stymeist

Green Heron (continued)				Cooper's Hawk			
10/8	MNWS	3	J. Hoye#	9/thr	Chatham (MI)	35	USFWS (DM)
10/14	Concord	2	S. Perkins#	9/8-23	Mt. Watatic	32	Hawkcount (TP)
Black-crowned Night-Heron				9/12-30	Mt. Wachusett	44	Hawkcount (SO)
9/2, 10/3	Eastham	37, 34	D. Clapp	9/13	Mt. Tom	6	L. Therrien
9/18	P.I.	18	R. Heil#	9/23	Barre Falls	7	Hawkcount (BK)
9/19	Longmeadow	1	G. Kingston	9/23-25	Chatham (MI)	20	USFWS (DM)
10/16	Ipswich	26	R. Heil	10/thr	Chatham (MI)	96	USFWS (DM)
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				10/7-29	Barre Falls	36	Hawkcount (BK)
9/1	MNWS	1	J. Hoye#	10/25	Granville	8	Hawkcount (JW)
9/1-2	Duxbury	1	R. Bowes	10/25	WBWS	5	D. Berard
9/2-10/3	Eastham	1-3	D. Clapp	Northern Goshawk			
9/11	Chappaquiddick	1	P. McFarland	thr	Reports of indiv. from	26	locations
9/18	P.I.	1	R. Heil#	10/7	Barre Falls	3	Hawkcount (BK)
Glossy Ibis				10/17	Barre Falls	3	B. Kamp
9/14	Woburn (HP)	1	L. Thompson	10/22	Granville	2	Hawkcount (JW)
10/6	Gloucester	1	J. Trimble#	Red-shouldered Hawk			
Black Vulture				9/thr	E. Middleboro	pr	K. Anderson
9/12, 10/12	Granville	4, 1	Hawkcount (JW)	9/1	DWWS	3	SSBC (Avery)
10/12	Sheffield	3	R. Laubach	9/12	Cumb. Farms	3	D. Furbish
10/20	Russell	2	Hawkcount (TS)	9/24	Mashpee	2	M. Keleher
10/28	Williamsburg	1	M.A. Wilson	10/thr	Chatham (MI)	3	USFWS (DM)
Turkey Vulture				10/25	Russell	10	Hawkcount (TS)
9/13	Mt. Wachusett	21	S. Olson	10/25	Barre Falls	5	Hawkcount (BK)
9/22	Braintree	16	G. d'Entremont#	10/29	Barre Falls	4	Hawkcount (BK)
9/30	P.I.	21	D. Brown#	Broad-winged Hawk			
10/1-29	Barre Falls	287	Hawkcount (BK)	9/thr	Granville	4534	Hawkcount (JW)
10/thr	Granville	233	Hawkcount (JW)	9/thr	Russell	2345	Hawkcount (TS)
10/thr	Chatham (MI)	21	USFWS (DM)	9/thr	Barre Falls	3633	Hawkcount (BK)
10/2	Quabbin Pk	17	M. Lynch#	9/5-23	Mt. Watatic	9059	Hawkcount (TP)
10/2	Chicopee	50	R. Laubach	9/12-30	Mt. Wachusett	2861	Hawkcount (SO)
10/18	Taunton	20	J. Sweeney	10/1	Mt. Wachusett	2	Hawkcount (SO)
10/20	Russell	56	Hawkcount (TS)	10/2, 13	Granville	49, 1	Hawkcount (JW)
Osprey				10/2	Russell	52	Hawkcount (TS)
9/thr	Granville	134	Hawkcount (JW)	10/2, 13	Barre Falls	2, 6	Hawkcount (BK)
9/thr	Chatham (MI)	12	USFWS (DM)	Swainson's Hawk (details submitted)*			
9/thr	Barre Falls	99	Hawkcount (BK)	9/26-10/15	Cumb. Farms	1	juv dk ph C. Nims#
9/5-23	Mt. Watatic	110	Hawkcount (TP)	Red-tailed Hawk			
9/12-30	Mt. Wachusett	137	Hawkcount (SO)	9/12-30	Mt. Wachusett	31	Hawkcount (SO)
9/29	Medford	20	C. Jackson#	9/13-30	Barre Falls	7	Hawkcount (BK)
10/1-25	Barre Falls	56	Hawkcount (BK)	9/12	Cumb. Farms	11	D. Furbish
10/9, 25	Barre Falls	24, 2	Hawkcount (BK)	9/16	Brookfields	11	M. Lynch#
Mississippi Kite (details submitted)*				10/thr	Chatham (MI)	30	USFWS (DM)
9/1	Granville	1	Hawkcount (JW)	10/2-29	Barre Falls	102	Hawkcount (BK)
Bald Eagle				10/25	Granville	23	Hawkcount (JW)
9/thr	Barre Falls	34	Hawkcount (BK)	10/27	Russell	25	Hawkcount (TS)
9/5-23	Mt. Watatic	38	Hawkcount (TP)	Rough-legged Hawk			
9/12	Cumb. Farms	2 imm	D. Furbish	10/26	Northampton	1	P. Carrier
9/16	Mt. Tom	6	BBC (T. Gagnon)	Golden Eagle			
9/18	Plymouth	2 imm	D. Furbish	9/12	Mt. Watatic	1	ad Hawkcount (TP)
10/13	W. Newbury	2	D. Chickering	10/9, 21	Granville	1, 1	Hawkcount (JW)
10/14	Quabbin Pk	8 ad	M. Lynch#	10/30, 31	Granville	1, 1	Hawkcount (JW)
Northern Harrier				American Kestrel			
thr	P.I.	14 max	v.o.	9/thr	Barre Falls	78	Hawkcount (BK)
thr	GMNWR	4 max	v.o.	9/thr	Russell	78	Hawkcount (TS)
9/thr	Chatham (MI)	9	USFWS (DM)	9/thr	Granville	232	Hawkcount (JW)
9/5-23	Mt. Watatic	17	Hawkcount (TP)	9/2	Leicester	5	M. Lynch#
9/12-30	Barre Falls	12	Hawkcount (BK)	9/5-23	Mt. Watatic	114	Hawkcount (TP)
9/13-30	Mt. Wachusett	16	Hawkcount (SO)	9/8	Worcester	9	M. Lynch#
9/25	Newbypt H.	9	R. Heil	9/12	Mt. Tom	19	L. Therrien
9/29	Bolton Flats	4	S. Sutton	9/12-30	Mt. Wachusett	58	Hawkcount (SO)
10/thr	Chatham (MI)	6	USFWS (DM)	9/23-25	Chatham (MI)	8	USFWS (DM)
10/8	Granville	10	Hawkcount (JW)	10/thr	Granville	157	Hawkcount (JW)
10/15	Cumb. Farms	4	J. Berry#	10/1-21	Barre Falls	48	Hawkcount (BK)
Sharp-shinned Hawk				Merlin			
9/thr	Chatham (MI)	310	USFWS (DM)	thr	P.I.	8 max	v.o.
9/thr	Granville	474	Hawkcount (JW)	9/thr	Chatham (MI)	10	USFWS (DM)
9/thr	Russell	379	Hawkcount (TS)	9/8-23	Mt. Watatic	17	Hawkcount (TP)
9/thr	Barre Falls	514	Hawkcount (BK)	9/9	Truro	6	BBC (R.Stymeist)
9/5-23	Mt. Watatic	426	Hawkcount (TP)	9/12-23	Barre Falls	24	Hawkcount (BK)
9/16	Brookfields	4	M. Lynch#	9/12-30	Mt. Wachusett	13	Hawkcount (SO)
9/23-25	Chatham (MI)	240	USFWS (DM)	9/27	Nantucket	6	V. Laux
9/27	Lexington	4	M. Rines	10/thr	Chatham (MI)	14	USFWS (DM)
10/thr	Granville	531	Hawkcount (JW)	10/1-25	Barre Falls	60	Hawkcount (BK)
10/thr	Russell	603	Hawkcount (TS)	Peregrine Falcon			
10/thr	Chatham (MI)	407	USFWS (DM)	thr	P.I.	6 max	v.o.
10/14	Quabbin Pk	6	M. Lynch#	9/thr	Chatham (MI)	10	USFWS (DM)
10/25	Groton	4	T. Pirro	9/5	Newbypt H.	4	MAS (B. Gette)

<b>Peregrine Falcon (continued)</b>							
9/12-30	Mt. Wachusett	5	Hawkcount (SO)	9/18	Newbury	105	R. Heil#
9/16-24	Barre Falls	5	Hawkcount (BK)	9/26	Cumb. Farms	150	C. Nims
10/thr	Chatham (MI)	49	USFWS (DM)	9/29	Hatfield	60	C. Gentes
10/6	Eastham	8 imm	M. Faherty	10/6	Hadley	162	C. Gentes
10/7	Rockport (A.P.)	7	R. Heil	10/7	Easton	35	N. Bonomo
<b>Yellow Rail</b>				10/7, 27	Wachusett Res.	64, 33	M. Lynch#
10/1	N. Monomoy	1	B. Harris	10/11, 30	Arlington Res.	30, 14	I. Davies
10/2, 9	DWWS	1, 2	D. Ludlow	<b>American Oystercatcher</b>			
10/24	Longmeadow	1	B. Scherer	9/1, 10/6	Chatham (S.B.)	128, 70	B. Nikula
<b>Virginia Rail</b>				9/15	Thompson I.	4	R. Stymeist#
9/16, 10/22	Mashpee	3, 1	M. Keleher#	9/16	Winthrop B.	4	S. Zende#
9/18	W. Newbury	3	R. Heil#	9/16	Eastham	6	R. Heil
9/30	P'town	1	R. Heil	9/22	Squantum	5	G. d'Entremont#
10/4	Westboro WMA	2	M. Lynch#	10/24	S. Monomoy	46	B. Harris
10/15	Eastham (F.H.)	3	M. Faherty#	<b>American Avocet</b>			
10/17	WBWS	3	M. Faherty	9/15	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	W. Hutcheson + v.o.
10/21	GMNWR	2	M. Lynch#	10/2	Newbypt H.	1	R. Heil#
10/28	Newbury	1	B. Cassie	10/10-26	Nantucket	1	V. Laux + v.o.
<b>Sora</b>				<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>			
thr	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	9/2	Squantum	4	G. d'Entremont
9/6	W. Roxbury	1	M. Iliff	9/15	Quabbin Pk	3	M. Lynch#
9/11-21	GMNWR	1-3	v.o.	9/18	W. Newbury	3	R. Heil#
9/24-10/5	Cambridge	1	M. Rosenstein	9/22	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont#
10/6	Arlington	1	M. Rines	10/7	Merrimac	2	S. McGrath#
10/9	DWWS	4	D. Ludlow	10/25	Northampton	2	D. McLain
10/27	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	M. Garvey	<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>			
10/31	Brewster	1	S. Finnegan	9/8	S. Peabody	14 juv	R. Heil
<b>Common Moorhen</b>				9/13	Lexington	5	R. LaFontaine
9/9	P.I.	1	J. Hoye#	9/13	Arlington Res.	8	M. Rines
10/11, 24	Pepperell	1 juv	T. Pirro	9/17, 10/14	Mashpee	4, 2	M. Keleher#
<b>American Coot</b>				10/7	Easton	4	N. Bonomo
9/14	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#	10/22	P'town	2	R. Heil#
9/22-10/31	Woburn (HP)	14 max	M. Rines	<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>			
10/20	Falmouth	19	M. Keleher	thr	P.I.	145 max	9/2 R. Heil
10/23	Newbypt H.	44	M. deGive	9/1, 10/10	Chatham	110, 140	B. Nikula
10/26	Wakefield	38	D. + I. Jewell	9/2	Grafton	6	M. Lynch#
10/27	Pittsfield (Pont.)	20	C. Blagdon#	9/11	Longmeadow	2	T. Gagnon
10/28	W. Newbury	36	B. Zajda	10/8	Squantum	34	G. d'Entremont
10/29	GMNWR	71	USFWS (EM)	10/13	Eastham (F. E.)	60	SSBC (Gd'E)
10/31	Haverhill	65	S. Mirick	10/16	Ipswich	337	R. Heil
<b>Sandhill Crane</b>				10/20	Eastham	125	G. d'Entremont#
9/30	Dorchester	3 ad	M. Hall	10/27	E. Boston (B.I.)	32	M. Garvey
9/30	Middleboro	3	R. Finch#	<b>Willet</b>			
10/28-29	Carver	3	M. Jones	9/1	Chatham (S.B.)	38	B. Nikula
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>				9/1	Revere B.	4	P. + F. Vale
thr	P.I.	225 max	R. Heil	9/1-18	P.I.	5 max	R. Heil
9/1, 10/6	Chatham (S.B.)	3400, 850	B. Nikula	9/9, 22	Duxbury B.	7, 1	R. Bowes
9/3	Essex	230	D. Brown#	9/16	Eastham	4	R. Heil
9/16	Winthrop B.	100	S. Zende#	10/11	Chatham	9	B. Harris
9/22, 10/28	Duxbury B.	70, 130	R. Bowes	<b>Western Willet</b>			
10/8	Hadley	2	C. Gentes	10/7	Oaks Bluff	2	SSBC (D. Clapp)
10/22	Nauset	300	R. Heil#	10/10, 17	Chatham	4, 2	B. Nikula
<b>American Golden-Plover</b>				<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>			
thr	P.I.	12 max	v.o.	9/1-10/23	Newbypt	165 max	v.o.
9/1, 10/6	Chatham (S.B.)	2, 1	B. Nikula	9/1-10/24	P.I.	23 max	v.o.
9/9	P'town H.	3	E. Masterson	9/3	Eastham (CGB)	30	B. Nikula#
9/15	S. Boston	3	M. Iliff#	9/6-10/21	GMNWR	12 max	USFWS (EM)
9/17	P'town	4	E. Masterson	9/8	S. Peabody	28	R. Heil
9/19	Northampton	2	M. Taylor	9/9	N. Amherst	3	M. Lynch#
9/24	S. Monomoy	9 juv.	B. Harris	9/13	Arlington Res.	9	M. Rines
10/8	Hadley	2	C. Gentes	10/22	P'town	12	R. Heil#
10/18	Cumb. Farms	6	A. + D. Morgan	10/25	WBWS	2	D. Berard
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>				<b>Whimbrel</b>			
thr	P.I.	860 max	9/2 R. Heil	9/1-10/23	P.I.	18 max	R. Heil
9/1, 10/6	Chatham (S.B.)	1100, 200	B. Nikula	9/2	Westport	6	J. Sweeney#
9/2	Longmeadow	3	C. Gentes	9/3	Eastham (CGB)	10+	B. Nikula#
9/3	Eastham (CGB)	600	B. Nikula#	9/8	Wellfleet	38	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/3	Essex	196	D. Brown#	9/9-10/14	Duxbury B.	1-3	R. Bowes
9/9, 10/28	Duxbury B.	221, 34	R. Bowes	9/16, 10/6	Chatham (S.B.)	30, 3	B. Nikula
9/26	Scituate	45	S. Maguire	9/17	P'town	9	E. Masterson
10/22	Orleans	84	R. Heil#	10/22	Eastham	1	R. Heil#
<b>Piping Plover</b>				<b>Hudsonian Godwit</b>			
9/1-22	P.I.	1-4	v.o.	9/1, 26	N. Monomoy	7, 1	B. Harris
9/1, 10/6	Chatham (S.B.)	30, 1	B. Nikula	9/1	Revere B.	1	P. + F. Vale
9/2-10/26	Duxbury B.	1-5	R. Bowes	9/7-10/26	Chatham (S.B.)	12 max	v.o.
10/26	S. Monomoy	1	B. Harris	10/9	P'town (R.P.)	1	J. Young

<b>Marbled Godwit</b>			9/11-10/30	GMNWR	12 max	v.o.
9/1-10/24	N. Monomoy	7 max	9/20	S. Monomoy	17 juv	B. Harris
9/2, 16	Duxbury B.	1, 1	10/6	Randolph	6	G. d'Entremont#
9/3	Marshfield	1 juv	10/15	Chelmsford	6	MAS (Brownrigg)
9/8, 16	Chatham (S.B.)	6, 6	10/26	P'town	3	D. Berard
9/8	P.I.	1	<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>			
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>			10/28	Rockport	2	M. Lynch#
9/1	Chatham (S.B.)	50	Dunlin	P.I.		
9/2	Westport	26	thr			
9/9, 10/14	Duxbury B.	12, 3	9/16, 10/6	Chatham (S.B.)	225, 2500	B. Nikula
9/9	P.I.	10	9/29, 10/14	Duxbury B.	107, 4047	R. Bowes
9/16	Winthrop B.	4	10/6	Eastham	200	M. Faherty
10/7	Brewster	10	10/8-9	Hadley	1	C. Gentes
10/16	S. Monomoy	11	10/16	Nahant	180	L. Pivacek
10/28	Plymouth	2	10/22	Nauset	1800+	R. Heil#
<b>Red Knot</b>			<b>Stilt Sandpiper</b>			
thr	P.I.	38 max	9/1-11	P.I.	9 max	R. Heil
9/2, 29	Duxbury B.	7, 5	9/2-5	Lexington	1	M. Rines
9/3	Eastham (CGB)	70	9/8	Revere B.	1	P. + F. Vale
9/8	Revere B.	10	9/8	Chatham (S.B.)	3	B. Nikula#
9/16	Eastham	65	9/9	Truro	1	K. Hartell#
9/16, 10/6	Chatham (S.B.)	680, 50	9/20	S. Monomoy	1 juv.	B. Harris
10/thr	Minimoy	436 max	9/25, 10/2	Newbypt H.	2 juv	R. Heil
10/28	Plymouth	84	<b>Buff-breasted Sandpiper</b>			
<b>Sanderling</b>			9/1-18	P.I.	8 max	v.o.
thr	P.I.	260 max	9/1, 16	Chatham (S.B.)	3, 1	B. Nikula
9/1	Revere B.	223	9/13-15	Hatfield	4	B. Bieda
9/1, 10/6	Chatham (S.B.)	1700, 1200	9/14	S. Monomoy	3	W. Petersen#
9/11	Longmeadow	7	9/14	N. Monomoy	2	B. Harris
9/13	Deerfield	1	9/15	S. Boston	5	M. Iliff#
9/22, 10/14	Duxbury B.	653, 4086	9/22	Hadley	2	C. Gentes
10/16	Nahant	720	9/23	Northampton	2	S. Sumner
10/22	P'town	350	<b>Ruff</b>			
<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>			9/11-12	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins#
thr	Duxbury B.	131 max 9/22	<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>			
thr	P.I.	1350 max 9/2	9/1-10/8	P.I.	60 max	R. Heil
9/1, 10/6	Chatham (S.B.)	800, 35	9/1, 10/26	Chatham (S.B.)	150, 7	Nikula, Harris
9/3	Eastham (CGB)	1100	9/1	Revere B.	93	P. + F. Vale
9/8	S. Peabody	110 juv	9/1	Scituate	10	G. d'Entremont#
9/12	W. Roxbury	40	9/3	Eastham (CGB)	100	B. Nikula#
9/25, 10/23	Newbypt H.	1500, 45	9/16, 10/11	Duxbury B.	56, 2	R. Bowes
10/2, 10/7	S. Monomoy	150 juv; 50 juv	10/16, 22	Ipswich	5 juv, 2 juv	J. Berry
10/22	Nauset	200	10/22	Nauset	2 juv	R. Heil#
<b>Western Sandpiper</b>			10/22	Orleans	1 juv	R. Heil#
9/1-10/21	P.I.	21 max 9/1	<b>Long-billed Dowitcher</b>			
9/2	Lexington	1	thr	P.I.	26 max	v.o.
9/9-10	W. Roxbury	1 juv	9/2	Minimoy	2	B. Harris
9/16, 10/6	Chatham (S.B.)	10, 5	9/3	Scituate	3	G. d'Entremont#
9/18, 10/23	S. Monomoy	9, 6	9/19, 10/23	S. Monomoy	5, 2	B. Harris
10/13	Eastham	1	10/11, 28	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes
<b>Least Sandpiper</b>			10/13	Eastham	1	SSBC (Gd'E)
9/1-10/6	P.I.	235 max 9/1	10/22	P'town	2 juv	R. Heil#
9/2	Lexington	31	10/22	Ipswich	2 juv	J. Berry
9/2	Grafton	48	<b>Wilson's Snipe</b>			
9/3, 10/2	Hadley	40, 3	9/1-10/2	GMNWR	4 max	v.o.
9/8	W. Roxbury	79	10/3	Cumb. Farms	3	C. Nims#
9/8	S. Peabody	80 juv	10/4	Westboro WMA	6	M. Lynch#
9/26	Scituate	110	10/7	Easton	7	N. Bonomo
10/17	Minimoy	4 juv	10/9	P'town (R.P.)	12	J. Young
<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>			10/10	Amherst	3	D. Minear
9/1	Newbypt	58	10/27	E. Boston (B.I.)	7	M. Garvey
9/1-10/28	P.I.	195 max 9/2	10/29	P.I.	4	T. Wetmore
9/1, 10/6	Chatham (S.B.)	160, 3	<b>American Woodcock</b>			
9/3	Eastham (CGB)	200+	thr	Reports of indiv. from 11 locations		
9/8	Revere B.	17	<b>Wilson's Phalarope</b>			
9/10	Halifax	3	9/1	P.I.	2	H. Miller
10/22	Nauset	28	9/1	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula
10/22	Ipswich	4	9/20	S. Monomoy	1 juv.	B. Harris
<b>Baird's Sandpiper</b>			<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>			
9/1-10/14	P.I.	8 max	9/3	35 m E of Nantucket	13	B. Perkins#
9/3	Scituate	1 juv	9/9	Jeffries L.	2	MAS (S. Mirick)
9/3	Essex	1	9/9	Stellwagen	30	MAS (Peteresen)
9/3, 12	Hadley	1, 2	9/28	P.I.	1 juv	J. Berry
9/7-12	W. Roxbury	1-2	10/7	P'town	2	B. Nikula
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b>			<b>Red Phalarope</b>			
thr	P.I.	15 max	9/18	P.I.	1	R. Heil#
9/1-10/15	N. Monomoy	11 max	<b>Pomarine Jaeger</b>			
9/3-10/8	Hadley	5 max	10/9	P'town (R.P.)	1	J. Young

Pomarine Jaeger (continued)				9/26, 10/6	Randolph	3, 2	G. d'Entremont#
10/28	Eastham (F.E.)	1 ad	B. Nikula	9/26	Braintree	3	SSBC (Gd'E)
Parasitic Jaeger				9/30	P.I.	3	ABC (S. Kellogg)
9/9	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil	10/2	Lynn	2	J. Quigley
9/9	Jeffries L.	4	MAS (S. Mirick)	Black Tern			
9/14	N. Monomoy	2 imm	B. Harris	9/1-10/6	Chatham (S.B.)	40 max	B. Nikula
9/16	Chatham	3	R. Heil	9/2	Minimoy	125	B. Harris
9/17	S. Monomoy	3	B. Harris	9/9	Duxbury B.	5	R. Bowes
9/19, 10/2	P'town	7, 16	B. Nikula	9/9	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil
10/6	Eastham	3	M. Faherty	9/11	P.I.	1	R. Heil
10/7, 27	P'town	29, 23	B. Nikula	9/14	S. Monomoy	75+	W. Petersen#
10/20	N. Truro	3	B. Nikula	9/17, 10/22	P'town	3, 1	Masterson, Harris
10/23	P.I.	1 juv	R. Heil	Roseate Tern			
Long-tailed Jaeger				9/2	Minimoy	175	B. Harris
9/7, 9	Stellwagen	1 juv, 2 juv	W. Petersen#	9/9	Rockport (A.P.)	6	R. Heil
Laughing Gull				9/9	Duxbury B.	11	R. Bowes
9/1-10/23	P.I.	8 max	v.o.	9/16, 10/6	Chatham (S.B.)	300, 1	B. Nikula
9/9, 10/7	Rockport (A.P.)	26, 136	R. Heil	9/19, 10/2	P'town	115, 6	B. Nikula
9/16	Chatham	550+	R. Heil	10/2	N. Monomoy	2	B. Harris
9/22	Squantum	52	G. d'Entremont#	Common Tern			
10/1	Acoaxet	182	M. Lynch#	9/1, 24	Chatham (S.B.)	6000, 1550	Nikula, Harris
10/2, 27	P'town	400, 2300	B. Nikula	9/1	Revere B.	230	P. + F. Vale
10/12	Barnstable	200	M. Keleher	9/2	Minimoy	2,500	B. Harris
10/28	Eastham (F.E.)	725	B. Nikula	9/9	Rockport (A.P.)	520	R. Heil
Little Gull				9/10	P.I.	50+	I. Davies#
9/1	Newbypt	1 2W	M. Lynch#	10/2, 27	P'town	5000, 1200	B. Nikula
9/2, 6	Minimoy	1 ad, 1 juv	B. Harris	Roseate/Common Tern			
10/2	Newbypt H.	1 ad, 1 2W	R. Heil#	9/9	Plymouth B.	15,000 +	MAS (Petersen)
Black-headed Gull				Forster's Tern			
9/18-10/21	Newbypt H.	1-2	R. Heil#	9/2	Revere B.	3	S. Zende#
10/15	N. Monomoy	1	B. Harris	9/7	Chatham (S.B.)	10	BBC (R. Stymeist)
10/17	WBWS	1	D. Berard	9/8	Chatham (S.B.)	36	E. Masterson
Bonaparte's Gull				9/9	S. Monomoy	12	B. Harris
thr	Newbypt	970 max	v.o.	9/9	Newbypt H.	2	MAS (S. Mirick)
10/7	P'town	17	B. Nikula	9/14	S. Monomoy	3	W. Petersen#
10/7	Rockport (A.P.)	25	R. Heil	9/16	Chatham	5	R. Heil
10/20	Lynn B.	1950	M. Iliff#	9/17	P'town (R.P.)	1	E. Masterson
10/27	P'town	125	B. Nikula	9/23	Chatham (S.B.)	31+	C. Dalton
10/28	Eastham (F.E.)	85	B. Nikula	9/29	Chatham (MI)	21	B. Harris
<b>Black-tailed Gull</b> (details submitted) *				9/30	P'town	4	R. Heil
10/18	Nahant	1 ad	L. Pivacek	9/30	Chatham	1	R. Heil
Lesser Black-backed Gull				10/6	Chatham (S.B.)	45+	B. Nikula
9/1, 16	Chatham (S.B.)	8, 10	B. Nikula	10/12	S. Monomoy	21	B. Harris
9/2	Minimoy	5	B. Harris	10/21	P.I.	1	BBC (J. Center)
9/9	P.I.	1 ad	D. Ely#	10/22	P'town	6	R. Heil#
9/14	S. Monomoy	45+	W. Petersen#	10/25	WBWS	1	D. Berard
9/17	P'town	2	E. Masterson	10/27	P.I.	3	I. Davies#
9/25-10/23	Newbypt H.	1 ad	R. Heil	10/28	Eastham (F.E.)	7	B. Nikula
9/27	Nantucket	18	V. Laux	<b>Sandwich Tern</b> (no details) *			
10/1	N. Monomoy	18	B. Harris	9/1	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher
10/3	Plymouth	1	K. Doyon	9/6	Minimoy	1 ph	B. Harris
10/6	Gloucester	2 1W	J. Trimble#	9/8	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Niklua#
10/12	Westminster	1 ad	T. Pirro	9/24	Chatham (S.B.)	1	MAS (R. Harris)
10/12	Gardner	1 1W	T. Pirro	<i>Sterna</i> species			
10/18	Boston	1	J. Baur	9/16	Monomoy	35,000	R. Heil
10/19	Revere B.	1	M. Garvey	Tern species			
10/20	Lynn B.	1	M. Iliff#	9/10	P.I.	150+	I. Davies#
10/22	Wellfleet	1 3W	R. Heil#	10/26	P'town (R.P.)	200	D. Berard
10/27	Wachusett Res.	1 1W	M. Lynch#	Black Skimmer			
10/28	Brewster	3	B. Nikula	9/9	S. Monomoy	1 ad.	B. Harris
<b>Sabine's Gull</b>				9/14	N. Monomoy	1 juv.	B. Harris
9/7, 9	Stellwagen	1 ad, 2 ad	W. Petersen#	9/25	Kingston	2	D. Ludlow
Black-legged Kittiwake				10/14	Lynn Beach	1	J. Quigley
9/2	Minimoy	1 juv.	B. Harris	Razorbill			
9/9	P.I.	1 imm	D. Ely#	9/22	P.I.	2	D. Chickering#
9/16	Chatham	1 1W	R. Heil	10/7	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil
10/7	Stellwagen	2	J. Young	10/28	P.I.	2	R. Heil#
10/7	Rockport (H.P.)	4 ad	J. Berry	Black Guillemot			
10/22	Outer Cape	2400	R. Heil#	10/26	P.I.	1	M. Reeve
10/27	P'town	325	B. Nikula	Atlantic Puffin			
10/28	Eastham (F.E.)	180	B. Nikula	10/7	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil
Least Tern				10/26	P.I.	1	M. Reeve
9/4	P.I.	22	R. Heil	10/28	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula
9/9	S. Monomoy	27	B. Harris				
9/9	Duxbury B.	23+	R. Bowes				
<b>Caspian Tern</b>							
9/5, 25	Newbypt H.	1, 20	Gette, Floyd				
9/14, 25	P.I.	1, 5	Hunneman, Heil				



## OWLS THROUGH FINCHES

The movement of Northern Saw-whet Owls continues to be a highlight of the fall migration. After a relatively poor migration last year, the banding stations at Lookout Rock in Northbridge and in Lincoln experienced a record number of captures. During October, a total of **222** were banded at the Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary in Marshfield, and another **106** were banded at Chicatawbut Hill in the Blue Hills. Strickland Wheelock and his team reported that the owls were on the move earlier than in previous years; in the three weeks before October 24, 161 owls were captured at Lookout Rock. The total for the month was **216** new birds, with six birds captured that had been banded at other locations, and the team recaptured two birds banded in prior years. The sex breakdown was very similar to previous years with 78 percent female banded versus just 5 percent males and 17 percent unknown. In Lincoln during one night the team headed by Kathy Clayton-Seymour netted and banded sixty-two owls. In September a total of **210** were banded. Overall, the weather was great for banding, with light winds from the northwest and very few windy or rainy evenings.

A late surge of migrating Common Nighthawks was noted during the first half of September, making up for a lackluster August movement. Whip-poor-wills were still calling on Plum Island, with two individuals as late as September 18. As in recent years, unusual hummingbirds were recorded during the period. A **Black-chinned Hummingbird**, only the third Massachusetts record, was photographed and banded at West Tisbury in October. A Rufous Hummingbird was banded in Pittsfield in late September and remained there throughout the period. An unidentified hummingbird was observed on Nantucket on October 14, and there was one report of a Ruby-throat in Westport on October 1. There were three late October reports of Yellow-billed Cuckoos and a single Black-billed Cuckoo all noted after the second week of October.

On September 9 several birders reported a huge nocturnal thrush migration. The wind had changed from a warm southwesterly to a northeast wind, and low clouds and some fog appeared to have affected the altitude at which birds were moving. Mark Lynch, hearing flight calls over the sound of the television, went outside and reported an average of thirty to forty calls per minute with Veery and Bobolink calls dominating. On the same night Steven Sutton estimated over 300 Veery calling overhead in a period of forty-five minutes. That same night birders in Vermont also reported a good nocturnal flight of thrushes.

We are fortunate in Massachusetts during fall migration since vagrants will often travel until they reach the coast and become "road blocked" and are discovered by our army of birders. This year the more unusual birds included a **Say's Phoebe** for just one day on Plum Island, a **Townsend's Solitaire** on Martha's Vineyard, and a **MacGillivray's Warbler** banded in Brewster. The "regular" strays included a Western Kingbird on Nantucket, three Lark Sparrows, and three Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Fall migration is the time to play catch-up with many species that are much more regular during this season: Orange-crowned and Connecticut warblers, Yellow-breasted Chats, Clay-colored and White-crowned sparrows, Blue Grosbeaks, and Dickcissels. A **Henslow's Sparrow** in Tyringham in early October was carefully described. This species has become increasingly rare in the state.

The winter finch migration is hit or miss. These birds are very erratic. Some years we are blessed with a good flight, while other years there are virtually none. This year is proving to be one of the best, with early indications of good numbers. Some of the real indicators are the numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches being reported from widespread locations. Common Redpolls were noted in small numbers but much earlier than usual, and Pine Grosbeaks were reported from two very different locations. Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins, and good numbers of Evening Grosbeaks rounded out the list. Perhaps even more noteworthy

were the reports of some boreal species this fall: three **Boreal Chickadees** and a very obliging **Gray Jay** found on the summit of Mount Watatic. There were also two reports of **Northern Wheatear**, and **Bohemian Waxwings** from four varied locations. Stay tuned! *R. Stymeist*

Yellow-billed Cuckoo	9/16	Brookfields	2	M. Lynch#		
9/1-10/18 Reports of indiv. from 17 locations	9/16	Eastham	2	R. Heil		
9/23 Lexington	2	I. Davies	9/24	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher
10/23 P.I.	1	R. Heil	9/24	Russell	1	S. Kellogg
10/23 GMNWR	1	M. Rines	10/1	Westport	1 imm	M. Lynch#
10/24 Nahant	1	T. Martin#	<b>Black-chinned Hummingbird</b> (details submitted) *			
Black-billed Cuckoo	10/22-29	W. Tisbury	1 imm m ph b L.	McDowell		
9/1-10/9 Reports of indiv. from 7 locations	<b>Rufous Hummingbird</b> (details submitted) *					
10/9 P'town (R.P.)	1	J. Young	9/28-1-/31	Pittsfield	1 imm m ph b D. + S. Decker	
10/16 Nahant	1	G. Jones	Hummingbird species			
10/21 Groveland	1	S. McGrath#	10/14	Nantucket	1	S. Daniels
Eastern Screech-Owl	Belted Kingfisher					
thr Reports of indiv. from 27 locations	9/17	Mashpee	4	M. Keleher		
9/14 Bradford	2	S. Carlson	9/22	Squantum	4	G. d'Entremont#
9/15 Quabbin Pk	2	M. Lynch#	9/23	Woburn	3	BBC (Fruguglietti)
9/16 Boston	3	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9/25	P.I.	3	R. Heil
9/22 Blackstone	4	M. Lynch#	10/6	Gloucester	4	J. Trimble#
9/28 Essex	2	J. Berry#	10/7	Wachusett Res.	3	M. Lynch#
Great Horned Owl	10/22	Mashpee	3	M. Keleher		
thr Reports of indiv. from 8 locations	Red-bellied Woodpecker					
thr Chatham (MI)	2	B. Harris	9/2	Lexington	3	M. Rines#
9/20 Bradford	pr	S. Carlson	9/17	Amherst	5	H. Allen
9/20 S. Monomoy	2	B. Harris	9/22	Braintree	6	G. d'Entremont#
9/22 Braintree	2	G. d'Entremont	9/30	Ipswich	4	BBC (T. Young)
10/13 Newbury	pr	L. Leka	10/3	Assabet NWR	4	BBC (B. Volkle)
10/13 GMNWR	5	D. Bates	10/14	Mashpee	3	M. Keleher#
10/15 Newton	pr	P. Gilmore	10/25	WBWS	7	D. Berard
10/21 Westfield	2	J. Hutchison	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
10/25 Northampton	4	D. McLain	9/3	Monroe	3	M. Lynch#
Barred Owl	9/22 Nahant					
thr Reports of indiv. from 10 locations	9/25	N. Quabbin	6	L. Therrien		
9/8 Douglas	3	M. Lynch#	9/30	Brewster	3	D. Clapp
10/7 Groton	2	B. Hill	9/30	Gloucester (E.P.)	3	S. Hedman
Short-eared Owl	10/7	M.V.	5	SSBC (D. Clapp)		
10/12 DWWS	1	N. Smith	10/8	P.I.	29	R. Heil#
10/21 P.I.	1	D. Williams#	10/8	Chatham (MI)	4	B. Harris
Northern Saw-whet Owl	10/21	Amherst	3	J. Smith		
9/8 Douglas	2	M. Lynch#	Hairy Woodpecker			
10/thr Lincoln	210 b	MAS (Clayton)	9/2	Mashpee	9	CCBC (M. Keleher)
10/thr Northbridge	216 b	MAS (Wheelock)	9/3	Monroe	3	M. Lynch#
10/thr DWWS	222 b	MAS (N. Smith)	9/14	Bolton Flats	6	S. Sutton
10/thr Blue Hills	106 b	MAS (N. Smith)	9/16	Sudbury	3	T. Spahr
Common Nighthawk	9/30	Westboro	3	T. Spahr		
9/2 Leicester	217	M. Lynch#	10/2	Quabbin Pk	10	M. Lynch#
9/4, 5 Northampton	135, 113	T. Gagnon	10/13	Harwich	3	CCBC (A. Curtis)
9/6, 8 Northampton	111, 349	T. Gagnon	10/18	P.I.	4	T. Wetmore
9/8, 19 Worcester	73, 52	M. Lynch#	10/20	Lexington	3	M. Rines#
9/8 W. Roxbury	100+	M. Iliff	Northern Flicker			
9/13 Newton	50+	P. Perry	9/16	Brookfields	24	M. Lynch#
9/13 Roslindale	200	H. Raymond	9/24, 10/13	Chatham (MI)	22, 16	D. Manchester
9/22 Newton	1	P. Perry	9/25	W. Roxbury	15	M. Iliff#
9/28 Natick	1	D. Gibson	9/29	Belmont	13	P. + F. Vale#
10/2 Springfield	3	S. McGrath	10/4	Westboro WMA	10	M. Lynch#
Whip-poor-will	10/6	Tyringham	11	M. Lynch#		
9/4, 18 P.I.	5, 2	R. Heil	10/8	P.I.	38+	R. Heil#
Chimney Swift	Pileated Woodpecker					
9/2 P.I.	5	R. Heil	9/25	N. Quabbin	4	H. Allen
9/2 Leicester	2	M. Lynch#	10/6	Tyringham	4	M. Lynch#
9/7 Woburn	2	M. Rines	10/19	IRWS	2	J. Berry#
9/10 Lexington	2	M. Rines	Olive-sided Flycatcher			
9/11 GMNWR	3	S. Perkins#	9/3	E. Longmeadow	1	R. Titus
9/14 Bolton Flats	2	S. Sutton	9/3	Lexington	1	J. Forbes
9/22 Cumb. Farms	3	BBC (L. de la Flor)	9/4	Lenox	1	F. Bouchard
9/27 Mt. Wachusett	3	S. Olson	9/16	Russell	1	Hawkcount (TS)
10/3 Granville	1	Hawkcount (JW)	Eastern Wood-Pewee			
10/5 Cambridge	1	R. Furrow	9/2	P.I.	2	R. Heil
10/28 Pembroke	1	SSBC (J. Sweeney)	9/2	Mashpee	2	CCBC (M. Keleher)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	9/14	Woburn (HP)	2	M. Rines#		
9/1 DWWS	3	SSBC (Avery)	9/16, 30	Eastham	2, 1	R. Heil
9/2, 20 Lexington	3, 1	M. Rines#	9/21	Lexington	1	M. Rines
9/2 Pittsfield	6	T. Collins	9/21	Beverly	1 m	J. Berry
9/12 Granville	8	Hawkcount (JW)	9/23	W. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien

Eastern Wood-Pewee (continued)				9/2, 14	Lexington	2, 1	M. Rines#
9/23	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller#	9/3	Wayland	3	B. Harris
10/5	Lexington	1	C. Cook	9/6	W. Roxbury	6	M. Iliff
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				9/19	Cambr. (F.P.)	3	R. Stymeist#
9/2	Chatham	1	A. Curtis	9/22	Hadley	2	S. Surner
9/11	Manomet	4 imm b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	10/5	Fairhaven	1	A. + D. Morgan
9/11	P.I.	1	R. Heil	10/20	Williamsburg	1	R. Packard
Alder Flycatcher				Philadelphia Vireo			
9/4	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	9/1-10/8	Reports of indiv. from 15 locations		
9/12	Manomet	1 imm b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	9/1-10/4	P.I.	8 max	v.o.
Willow Flycatcher				9/7	Chatham (MI)	2	B. Harris
9/5	Longmeadow	1	J. Hutchison	9/13	Pittsfield	2	T. Collins
9/10	Manomet	1 imm b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	9/14	Nahant	2	L. Pivacek
9/16	Brookfields	1	M. Lynch#	9/30	Truro	4	R. Heil
Traill's Flycatcher				10/9	P'town (R.P.)	2	J. Young
9/11	P.I.	2	R. Heil	Red-eyed Vireo			
Least Flycatcher				9/1-10/18	P.I.	15 max 10/8	v.o.
9/1-16	Reports of indiv. from 7 locations			9/1-10/13	Lexington	1-3	M. Rines#
9/10	Lexington	3	M. Rines	9/3	Monroe	7	M. Lynch#
9/11	P.I.	3	R. Heil	9/16	Brookfields	6	M. Lynch#
9/13	Pittsfield	2	T. Collins	9/16	Sudbury	5	T. Spahr
9/17	P'town	2	E. Masterson	9/22	Nahant	8	L. Ferraresso#
9/20	S. Monomoy	1	B. Harris	10/24	Manomet	1 imm b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
Eastern Phoebe				<b>Gray Jay</b> *			
9/1	Amherst	14	L. Therrien	10/28-31	Mt. Watic	1 ph	S. Blanchard + v.o.
9/1	DWWS	16	SSBC (Avery)	Blue Jay			
9/23	Bolton Flats	27	M. Lynch#	9/16	Brookfields	87	M. Lynch#
9/23	Worc. (BMB)	14	J. Liller#	9/22	Blackstone	38	M. Lynch#
9/25, 10/28	P.I.	22, 1	R. Heil	9/22	Ipswich	30+	J. Berry
9/27, 10/22	Lexington	11, 5	M. Rines	9/23	Bolton Flats	71	M. Lynch#
9/29	Belmont	18	P. + F. Vale#	9/23	Cape Ann	83	R. Heil
<b>Say's Phoebe</b> *				9/25	P.I.	23	R. Heil
9/6	P.I.	1 ph	D. Logan + v.o.	9/29	Petersham	60	M. Lynch#
Great Crested Flycatcher				10/1	Chatham (MI)	104	D. Manchester
9/9	Melrose	2	D. + I. Jewell	10/3	Colrain	56	M. Lynch#
9/10	P.I.	1	I. Davies#	10/3	Assabet NWR	45	BBC (B. Volkle)
9/12	W. Roxbury	1	M. Iliff	10/4	Westboro WMA	41	M. Lynch#
9/16	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher#	10/5	Orange	20+	M. Lynch#
9/22	W. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	10/7	Wachusett Res.	33	M. Lynch#
9/29	W. Newbury	1	S. McGrath	10/14	Quabbin Pk	114	M. Lynch#
<b>Western Kingbird</b>				10/21	GMNWR	20+	M. Lynch#
10/29	Nantucket	1	V. Laux	Fish Crow			
Eastern Kingbird				9/10	Westford	1	S. Sutton
9/2, 16	P.I.	19, 5	Heil, Wetmore	9/30	Stoughton	1	G. d'Entremont
9/14	Bolton Flats	1	S. Sutton	10/7	Merrimac	1	S. McGrath#
9/16	Truro	3	J. Young	10/15	Barnstable	1	M. Keleher
9/16	Chatham (MI)	2 juv.	B. Harris	10/17	WBWS	15	M. Faherty
Northern Shrike				10/22	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher
10/18-31	P.I.	1 imm	v.o.	10/28	Hanson	24	SSBC (J. Sweeney)
10/21-31	Reports of indiv. from 15 locations			10/30	Millbury	1	S. McGrath
White-eyed Vireo				Common Raven			
9/14	Barnstable	1	M. Keleher#	9/3	Savoy	2	M. Lynch#
9/18-10/23	P.I.	1	R. Heil#	9/8	Rowley	2	B. Cassie
9/22	Nahant	1	J. Hoye#	9/13-10/1	Mt. Wachusett	4-10	v.o.
9/27-10/11	Manomet	2 imm	T. Lloyd-Evans#	9/16	Brookfields	3	M. Lynch#
9/30	Truro	1 imm	R. Heil	9/22	Blackstone	2	M. Lynch#
10/1	Chatham (MI)	1 imm.	B. Harris	9/29	New Salem	3	M. Lynch#
10/15	WBWS	1	D. Berard	9/30	Bradford	1	S. Carlson
10/20	MNWS	1 ad	M. Iliff#	10/4	Quabbin	11	R. Laubach
10/25	Rockport	1 juv	J. Berry	10/6	Tyringham	3	M. Lynch#
Yellow-throated Vireo				10/9	Barre Falls	20	B. Kamp
9/1	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	10/19	Lincoln	2	E. McBride#
9/2, 13	S. Quabbin	3, 1	L. Therrien	10/19	N. Acton	2	T. + D. Brownrigg
9/16	Brewster	1 b	S. Finnegan	10/21	Haverhill	2	D. + S. Larson
9/18	P.I.	1	R. Heil#	10/22	Gloucester	2	P. Cooney
9/21	Newton	1	M. Kaufman	10/24	Lowell	3	S. Fulmer
10/1	Springfield	1	R. Titus	10/28	Quabbin Pk	3	S. Ricker
Blue-headed Vireo				10/30	Mt. Watic	7	D. Berard#
9/3	Monroe	12	M. Lynch#	Horned Lark			
9/29	Petersham	5	M. Lynch#	9/16-10/31	P.I.	18 max	v.o.
10/8	P.I.	8	R. Heil#	10/7	Northampton	17	C. Blagdon
10/8	Quabbin	14	R. Titus	10/9	P'town (R.P.)	12	J. Young
10/13	Salem	6 BBC	(L. de la Flor)	10/13	Orange	17	I. Davies#
10/21	Ludlow	2	H. Allen	10/14	Duxbury B.	12	R. Bowes
10/21	Pittsfield	2	N. Mole	10/20	Eastham	15	G. d'Entremont#
10/28	Cambridge	1	R. LaFontaine#	10/31	Ipswich (C.B.)	4	J. Berry
Warbling Vireo				Purple Martin			
9/1-16	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	9/1	DWWS	2	SSBC (Avery)

Purple Martin (continued)				9/24-10/25	Cambr. (Danehy)	1	R. Furrow#
9/9	Chatham (MI)	1	B. Harris	10/1	Acoaxet	2	M. Lynch#
Tree Swallow				10/21	Burlington	1	M. Rines
9/1-10/18	Cumb. Farms	3000 max	10/6 v.o.	10/22	W. Roxbury	1	M. Iliiff#
9/1-10/15	P.I.	620 max	9/30 v.o.	Golden-crowned Kinglet			
9/1-10/6	Chatham (MI)	8000 max	9/12 DM	9/3	Monroe	17	M. Lynch#
9/15	Brookfield	40+	M. Lynch#	9/24	Wakefield	1	F. Vale
9/15	Wakefield	2000+	P. + F. Vale	9/24	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
9/26	Duxbury B.	10,000+	R. Bowes	9/25-10/31	P.I.	148 max	R. Heil
10/20	Truro	1000	G. d'Entremont#	10/8	Quabbin	16	R. Titus
10/28	Burrage Pd	6	SSBC (J. Sweeney)	10/9	P'town (R.P.)	12	J. Young
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				10/16	Manomet	15+	I. Davies
9/15	Wakefield	200+	P. + F. Vale	10/21	Gloucester (E.P.)	17	J. Nelson
9/24	W. Roxbury	370	M. Iliiff#	10/30	Mt. Watatic	15+	D. Berard#
10/5	Wayland	12	B. Harris	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
10/15	Concord (NAC)	3	S. Perkins#	9/10-10/22	Lexington	15 max	M. Rines
10/16	GMNWR	85	J. Trimble	9/18-10/25	P.I.	115 max	R. Heil#
Bank Swallow				10/6	Gr Barrington	20	M. Lynch#
9/2, 18	P.I.	80, 1	R. Heil	10/8	Quabbin	17	R. Titus
Cliff Swallow				10/9	P'town (R.P.)	20	J. Young
9/11, 10/16	GMNWR	2, 2	Perkins, Trimble	10/16	Manomet	15+	I. Davies
9/12	Brookline	1	B. Cassie#	10/16	Cambridge	15	R. Furrow
9/16	P.I.	1	BBC (S. Moore)	10/25	Boston	20	M. Garvey#
Barn Swallow				Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
9/thr	P.I.	32 max	v.o.	9/1	Amherst	2	L. Therrien
9/1	Chatham (MI)	68	D. Manchester	9/2	S. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien
9/2	Leicester	24	M. Lynch#	9/23	Arlington	1	R. Stymeist
9/15	Brookfield	60+	M. Lynch#	9/29	Rockport	1	S. Hedman
9/15	Wakefield	20+	P. + F. Vale	10/2	P.I.	1	R. Heil#
9/26	Scituate	5	S. Maguire	10/3	Nahant	1	J. Berry#
10/7	Merrimac	2	S. McGrath#	Northern Wheatear *			
Boreal Chickadee				10/5-12	Orange	1	M. Polana + v.o.
10/21	Russell	1	Hawkcount (TS)	10/17	Chicopee	1	S. Stuart#
10/26	Windsor	2	P. Carrier	Eastern Bluebird			
Red-breasted Nuthatch				9/17	Easthampton	22	L. Therrien
thr	P.I.	25 max	10/8 R. Heil	9/27	Bolton Flats	28	S. Sutton
thr	Mashpee	28 max	M. Keleher	9/30	Brewster	27	D. Clapp
9/30, 10/22	Outer Cape	63, 31	R. Heil	10/1	Amherst	16	H. Allen
9/30, 10/31	Ipswich (C.B.)	13, 12	J. Berry	10/3	Colrain	32	M. Lynch#
10/5	WBWS	23	MAS (M. Faherty)	10/8	Bradford	20	S. Carlson
10/7	M.V.	12	SSBC (D. Clapp)	10/22	Granville	17	Hawkcount (JW)
10/9	P'town (R.P.)	23	J. Young	Townsend's Solitaire *			
Brown Creeper				10/24	M.V.	1 ph	L. McDowell#
9/3	Monroe	1	M. Lynch#	Veery			
9/16	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher#	9/1	Amherst	3	L. Therrien
9/30	Eastham-Truro	8	R. Heil	9/2	P.I.	3	R. Heil
10/3	Colrain	6	M. Lynch#	9/9	Worcester	500 migr	M. Lynch#
10/6	Newbury	5	L. Leka	9/9	S. Lancaster	312 migr	S. Sutton
10/8	Quabbin	16	R. Titus	9/9	Medford	3	A. Ankers#
10/9	Manomet	10 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	9/16	Boston (P.G.)	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
10/25	P.I.	5	I. Davies#	10/5	WBWS	1	MAS (M. Faherty)
10/30	Mt. Watatic	4	D. Berard#	Gray-checked/Bicknell's Thrush			
Carolina Wren				9/9	Worcester	2	M. Lynch#
9/22	Blackstone	8	M. Lynch#	9/24	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien
9/24	Mashpee	10	M. Keleher	9/30	Medford	1	M. Rines#
9/30	Ipswich	9	BBC (T. Young)	9/30	Auburn	1 b	M. Blazis
10/1	Westport	10	M. Lynch#	9/30	Westboro	1	T. Spahr
10/3	Nahant	10	J. Berry#	10/2	S. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien
10/12	Barnstable	11	M. Keleher	Swainson's Thrush			
10/15	Cumb. Farms	7	J. Berry#	9/5-10/18	P.I.	3 max	10/8 v.o.
10/21	Burlington	8	M. Rines	9/9	Worcester	5+	M. Lynch#
10/27	Stoughton	7	G. d'Entremont	9/13-10/9	Reports of indiv. from 10 locations		
House Wren				9/30	Quabbin	3	T. Gagnon#
9/1-10/20	Lexington	32 max	M. Rines#	10/21	Pittsfield	1	N. Mole
9/1-10/21	Burlington	12 max	M. Rines	Hermit Thrush			
9/25	Belmont	6	M. Rines	9/9	Worcester	10+	M. Lynch#
Winter Wren				10/7	Wachusett Res.	12	M. Lynch#
thr	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 15 locations			10/8	Quabbin	9	R. Titus
10/3	Colrain	12	M. Lynch#	10/8	P.I.	30	R. Heil#
10/19	Lenox	3	R. Laubach	10/16	Springfield	8 A. + R.	Richardson
10/21	S. Quabbin	3	L. Therrien	10/21	Pittsfield	7	N. Mole
10/22	W. Roxbury	3	M. Iliiff#	10/21	Burlington	7	M. Rines
Marsh Wren				10/22	Medford	8	R. LaFontaine
thr	P.I.	7 max	v.o.	10/24	Belmont	12	M. Rines#
9/1-10/21	GMNWR	6 max	v.o.	10/24	Manomet	17 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
9/2	Mashpee	4	CCBC (M. Keleher)	Wood Thrush			
9/16, 10/6	Mashpee	11, 2	M. Keleher#	9/4	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon
9/23	Worc. (BMB)	3	J. Liller#	9/9	Medford	1	A. Ankers#

Wood Thrush (continued)			9/23	MNWS	2	BBC (L. Pivacek)
9/19	W. Quabbin	1	L. Hoffmann	10/9, 25	Cambr. (Danehy)	2, 1 J. Trimble
9/21	Amherst	1	S. Surner	10/9	P'town (R.P.)	5 J. Young
9/22	Wayland	1	B. Harris	10/25	Boston	1 M. Garvey#
9/27	Lexington	1	J. Forbes	Northern Parula		
10/13-25	Boston	1	M. Garvey	9/10	Lexington	4 M. Rines
American Robin				9/14	Woburn (HP)	4 M. Rines#
9/27	Bolton Flats	1374	S. Sutton	9/16	Sudbury	8 T. Spahr
10/7	Wachusett Res.	654	M. Lynch#	9/16	Brookfields	5 M. Lynch#
10/13	Leicester	493	M. Lynch#	9/22	S. Quabbin	6 L. Therrien
10/21	Amherst	2138	S. Surner	10/8	Quabbin	4 R. Titus
Gray Catbird				10/22	Mashpee	1 M. Keleher
thr	P.I.	65 max	v.o.	10/25	Manomet	1 imm b T. Lloyd-Evans#
thr	Lexington	45 max	M. Rines	Yellow Warbler		
9/15, 10/21	Burlington	49, 6	M. Rines	9/1-25	P.I.	8 max 9/2 R. Heil
9/16	Brookfields	102	M. Lynch#	9/9	Cumb. Farms	3 M. Maurer
9/23	Bolton Flats	43	M. Lynch#	9/14	Bolton Flats	3 S. Sutton
10/5	Fairhaven	40	A. + D. Morgan	9/20	Cambr. (Alewife)	6 R. Stymeist#
10/10	E. Longmeadow	16	R. Titus	9/22	Hadley	2 S. Surner
Brown Thrasher				9/26	Lexington	2 M. Rines
9/1-10/25	P.I.	16 max	R. Heil	10/24	Cambridge	1 R. Furrow#
9/9	MNWS	3	L. Ferraresso	Chestnut-sided Warbler		
9/14	Melrose	3	D. + I. Jewell	9/2	P.I.	2 juv R. Heil
9/15	Thompson I.	5	R. Stymeist#	9/13	Pittsfield	4 T. Collins
9/15	Burlington	5	M. Rines	9/16	Sudbury	2 T. Spahr
9/26	Wilbraham	2	R. Titus	9/21	Nahant	2 L. Pivacek
9/30	Truro	2	R. Heil	9/30	MNWS	2 J. Hoye#
10/12	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine	10/2	S. Quabbin	1 L. Therrien
American Pipit				Magnolia Warbler		
9/18-10/31	P.I.	62 max	R. Heil#	9/2, 10/8	P.I.	3, 5 R. Heil
9/29	S. Quabbin	64	L. Therrien	9/16	Brookfields	7 M. Lynch#
10/7, 28	Hadley	85, 70	C. Gentes	10/9	P'town (R.P.)	5 J. Young
10/9	P'town (R.P.)	80	J. Young	10/17	Ludlow	1 L. Therrien
10/13	Northampton	65	S. Surner	10/18	Boston	1 F. Bouchard
10/19	Lincoln	125	M. Rines	Cape May Warbler		
10/21	Cumb. Fams	92	M. Maurer	9/4	S. Natick	1 J. Gordon#
10/23	Ipswich	120	J. Berry	9/9, 30	Truro	1 Stymeist, Heil
10/24	Concord (NAC)	200	S. Perkins	9/30	P.I.	1 ABC (S. Kellogg)
<b>Bohemian Waxwing</b>				Black-throated Blue Warbler		
10/18	P'town	3	D. Berard	9/8	Lexington	3 M. Rines#
10/29	Granville	1	Hawkcount (JW)	9/16	Sudbury	7 T. Spahr
10/30	Mt. Watatic	2	M. Iliff	9/22	MNWS	3 L. Ferraresso#
10/31	Royalston	3	L. Pivacek#	9/30	Gloucester (E.P.)	3 S. Hedman
Cedar Waxwing				10/8	Quabbin	4 R. Titus
9/2	P.I.	110	R. Heil	10/8	Chatham (MI)	2 B. Harris
9/12	Mt. Watatic	200+	T. Pirro	10/9-31	Manomet	1 imm f T. Lloyd-Evans#
9/30	Lexington	43	P. + F. Vale	10/19	Melrose	1 D. + I. Jewell
10/5	Orange	50+	M. Lynch#	Yellow-rumped Warbler		
10/11	Ware	100	M. Martin	thr	P.I.	325 max 10/8 v.o.
10/20	P'town	30	G. d'Entremont#	9/7, 10/6	Woburn	1, 44 M. Rines
10/28	Burrage Pd	30	SSBC (J. Sweeney)	9/27-10/30	Lexington	63 max M. Rines
Blue-winged Warbler				9/30, 10/22	Outer Cape	58, 115 R. Heil
9/1	Woburn	1	M. Rines	10/2	Springfield	72 R. Titus
9/10	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon	10/4	Westboro WMA	65 M. Lynch#
9/13	P.I.	1 b	MAS (B. Flemer)	10/8	Cumb. Farms	151 J. Sweeney#
9/16	Brookfields	1	M. Lynch#	10/9	P'town (R.P.)	500 J. Young
9/30	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	S. Hedman	10/16	Ipswich	105 R. Heil
Tennessee Warbler				10/17	Chatham (MI)	300 D. Manchester
9/16	Sudbury	3	T. Spahr	Black-throated Green Warbler		
9/16	Brookfields	1	M. Lynch#	9/1-10/18	P.I.	9 max v.o.
9/16	P.I.	1 b	MAS (B. Flemer)	9/3	Monroe	22 M. Lynch#
9/16	Russell	1	Hawkcount (TS)	9/15	Quabbin Pk	7 M. Lynch#
9/17	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	9/30	Gloucester (E.P.)	4 S. Hedman
9/30	Eastham	1	R. Heil	10/8	Quabbin	4 R. Titus
10/1	E. Harwich	1	D. Clapp	10/9	P'town (R.P.)	8 J. Young
10/14	Concord	1	M. Rines	10/10	E. Longmeadow	3 R. Titus
Orange-crowned Warbler				10/22	Medford	1 R. LaFontaine
9/5	Newton	1	M. Kaufman	Blackburnian Warbler		
9/22-10/31	Reports of indiv. from 17 locations			9/3	Monroe	6 M. Lynch#
10/8	P.I.	2	R. Heil#	9/11	S. Quabbin	3 L. Therrien
10/22	Eastham (F.H.)	2	B. Harris	9/14	Lexington	1 M. Rines
10/25	Boston	2	M. Garvey#	9/16	P.I.	1 T. Wetmore
Nashville Warbler				9/25	N. Quabbin	1 L. Therrien
9/1-30	Lexington	1-2	M. Rines#	Pine Warbler		
9/1-10/8	P.I.	6 max 10/8	v.o.	9/16	Truro/Wellfleet	36 R. Heil
9/14	Nahant	2	L. Pivacek	9/17	Mashpee	12 M. Keleher
9/16	Sudbury	2	T. Spahr	9/20	Belchertown	9 L. Therrien
9/23	Gloucester	2	R. Heil	10/5	WBWS	17 MAS (M. Faherty)

Prairie Warbler				10/8	P.I.		1 imm	R. Heil#
9/1	DWWS	2	SSBC (Avery)			<b>MacGillivray's Warbler</b> (details submitted) *		
9/13	S. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien	10/22	Brewster		1 b ph	S. Finnegan
9/13	Chatham (MI)	7	B. Harris		<i>Oporornis</i> species			
9/16	N. Truro	2	R. Heil	9/3	P.I.		1	S. Walker
9/16	Brookfields	2	M. Lynch#	9/14	Nahant		2	L. Pivacek
9/20	S. Monomoy	3	B. Harris		Common Yellowthroat			
10/15	Barnstable	1	M. Keleher	9/9	Cumb. Farms		23	M. Maurer
10/22	Eastham	1	R. Heil#	9/10, 10/11	Lexington		26, 3	M. Rines
10/30	Cambr. (Danehy)	1	R. Furrow	9/11	P.I.		24	R. Heil
				9/29	Bolton Flats		18	S. Sutton
Palm Warbler				10/6	Gr Barrington		12	M. Lynch#
9/10-10/20	Lexington	20 max	M. Rines	10/9	P'town (R.P.)		4	J. Young
9/13-10/25	Cambr. (Danehy)	31 max	v.o.	10/19	S. Quabbin		2	L. Therrien
9/21-10/29	P.I.	46 max	v.o.	10/25	Boston		3	M. Garvey#
9/29	N. Monomoy	18	B. Harris		Hooded Warbler			
9/30	Quabbin	21	T. Gagnon#	9/20	Manomet	1 imm f b		T. Lloyd-Evans#
10/7	Wachusett Res.	26	M. Lynch#	10/5	Manomet	1 imm m b		T. Lloyd-Evans#
10/9	P'town (R.P.)	90	J. Young	10/12	P.I.		1 m b	B. Flemer#
Bay-breasted Warbler					Wilson's Warbler			
9/1-10/8	P.I.	6 max	v.o.	9/2	P.I.		5	R. Heil
9/5	Savoy	1	T. Gagnon	9/19	Cambr. (Danehy)		3	MBC (R. Stymeist)
9/16	Russell	1	Hawkcount (TS)	9/22	Nahant		3	L. Ferraresso#
9/16	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula	9/30	Outer Cape		4	R. Heil
9/21	Manomet	1 imm m b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	10/11	Northampton		1	L. Therrien
10/2	Springfield	1	R. Titus	10/25	Boston		1 m	M. Garvey#
10/8	Nahant	1	J. Hoye#		Canada Warbler			
Blackpoll Warbler				9/2	E. Boston		1	D. + I. Jewell
9/1-10/5	Lexington	12 max	M. Rines	9/2	Pittsfield		1	T. Collins
9/22	S. Quabbin	10	L. Therrien	9/10	Northampton		1	T. Gagnon
9/22	Squantum	13	G. d'Entremont#	9/11	W. Roxbury		1	M. Iliff
9/22	Blackstone	128	M. Lynch#	9/13	Belchertown		1	L. Therrien
9/23	Gloucester	16	R. Heil	9/16	P.I.		1 b	MAS (B. Flemer)
9/23	W. Quabbin	10	L. Therrien		Yellow-breasted Chat			
9/29	Petersham	25	M. Lynch#	thr	Reports of indiv. from 17 locations			
10/6	Tyringham	7	M. Lynch#	9/4	Manomet	3 imm b		T. Lloyd-Evans#
10/7, 25	Boston	6, 1	M. Garvey	9/16	Eastham		2	R. Heil
10/24	Manomet	1 imm f b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	10/15	P.I.		2 b	MAS (B. Flemer)
Black-and-white Warbler					Scarlet Tanager			
9/1-10/9	P.I.	6 max	R. Heil	9/1	Waltham		3	J. Forbes
9/2	Mashpee	3	CCBC (M. Keleher)	9/3	Monroe		4	M. Lynch#
9/3	Monroe	4	M. Lynch#	9/25	W. Roxbury		2	M. Iliff#
9/16	Sudbury	5	T. Spahr	9/30	Quabbin		2	T. Gagnon#
9/22	Lexington	3	P. + F. Vale	9/30	Medford		2	M. Rines#
10/8	Quabbin	3	R. Titus	10/8	Lexington		1	M. Rines
10/9	P'town (R.P.)	2	J. Young	10/9	P.I.		1	P. Gilmore#
10/25	Cambridge	1	J. Trimble	10/9	P'town (R.P.)		1	J. Young
American Redstart				10/9	S. Monomoy		1	B. Harris
9/1-10/8	P.I.	7 max	v.o.		Eastern Towhee			
9/1-27	Lexington	15 max	9/10 M. Rines#	9/1-10/23	P.I.		36 max	10/2 R. Heil
9/13	Woburn (HP)	4	M. Rines	9/16	Sudbury		12	T. Spahr
9/16	Sudbury	6	T. Spahr	9/16	Brookfields		17	M. Lynch#
9/18	Waltham	6	J. Forbes	10/2	Quabbin Pk		33	M. Lynch#
10/14	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher#	10/6, 28	Mashpee		19, 1	M. Keleher
10/20	Harwich	1	G. d'Entremont	10/12	Lincoln		5	M. Rines
Worm-eating Warbler				10/13	Truro		4	SSBC (Gd'E)
9/2	P.I.	1	W. Webb	10/21	Ludlow		1	H. Allen
Ovenbird				10/24	Belmont		1	M. Rines#
9/4-10/8	Reports of indiv. from 11 locations				American Tree Sparrow			
10/25	Boston	1	M. Garvey#	10/20	Newbypt		1	S. McGrath
10/31	MBWMA	1	S. McGrath	10/22, 29	W. Roxbury		1, 8	M. Iliff#
Northern Waterthrush				10/22	Cumb. Farms		1	J. Sweeney
9/2-10/8	Reports of indiv. from 15 locations			10/25	Cambridge		1	J. Trimble
9/4	Arlington	2	M. Rines#	10/26	S. Quabbin		1	L. Therrien
Connecticut Warbler					Chipping Sparrow			
9/10, 18/8	P.I.	1, 1	Wetmore, Wilson	9/thr	E. Middleboro		100	K. Anderson
9/12-10/2	Manomet	4 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	9/16, 10/22	Eastham		270, 70	R. Heil
9/12	Lexington	1	L. Ferraresso	9/27	Nantucket		50	V. Laux
9/16	Brookfields	2 imm	M. Lynch#	9/30	Eastham		127	R. Heil
9/16	Easthampton	1	T. Gagnon	10/3	Colrain		76	M. Lynch#
9/17	Cumb. Farms	3	J. Sweeney	10/5	WBWS		75	MAS (M. Faherty)
9/21	Brewster	1 b	S. Finnegan	10/7	Wachusett Res.		72	M. Lynch#
9/23	MBWMA	1	J. Sutherland	10/12	Barnstable		45	M. Keleher
9/25	Northampton	1	B. Volkle		Clay-colored Sparrow			
Mourning Warbler				9/13-10/25	Reports of indiv. from 16 locations			
9/6	Pittsfield	1	G. Hurley	9/17-10/25	P.I.		1-2	v.o.
9/12	Manomet	1 imm b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	10/5	Wayland		2	B. Harris
9/16	Northampton	1	BBC (T. Gagnon)	10/5	Nahant		2	J. Hully
9/30	Eastham	1	R. Heil					

Clay-colored Sparrow (continued)					Lincoln's Sparrow			
10/8	Cumb. Farms	4	J. Sweeney#		9/1	Amherst	1	H. Allen
Field Sparrow					9/5	Savoy	1	T. Gagnon
thr	P.I.	10 max	T. Wetmore		9/27	Lexington	14	M. Rines
9/16	Eastham	10	R. Heil		9/30	Westboro	16	T. Spahr
9/18	Sterling	7	K. Bourinot		10/5	Wayland	13	B. Harris
9/23	MBWMA	6	J. Sutherland		10/6	Tyringham	16	M. Lynch#
10/4	Agawam	6	S. Kellogg		10/8	Cumb. Farms	10	J. Sweeney#
10/20	Halifax	20	J. Sweeney		10/11	Northampton	13	L. Therrien
10/22	Eastham	9	R. Heil#		10/16	Ipswich	4	R. Heil
10/28	Burrage Pd	20	SSBC (J. Sweeney)		10/21	Pittsfield	3	N. Mole
Vesper Sparrow					10/30	Boston	1	M. Pelikan
9/17	P'town	1	E. Masterson		Swamp Sparrow			
9/20, 10/11	Northampton	1, 2	Bowrys, Therrien		9/23	Bolton Flats	116	M. Lynch#
10/5-7	Orange	1	I. Giriunas#		10/6	Tyringham	72	M. Lynch#
10/8	P.I.	2	R. Heil#		10/8	Bolton Flats	63	L. Ferrarasso
10/13	Wayland	1	T. Spahr		10/9	Rowley	42	J. MacDougall
10/14-15	Cumb. Farms	1	SSBC (J. Sweeney)		10/16	Ipswich	56	R. Heil
10/25	Groton	1	T. Piro		10/17	Cumb. Farms	140	J. Sweeney
10/26	Burrage Pd	1	MAS (D. Ludlow)		10/22	W. Roxbury	80	M. Iliff#
<b>Lark Sparrow</b>					White-throated Sparrow			
9/9, 10/6	P.I.	1	Grinley, O'Hare		9/3	Lexington	1	J. Forbes
9/19-10/3	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek + v.o.		9/9	Salisbury	3	S. Grinley#
10/9	Cambridge	1 ad	J. Trimble		9/9	MNWS	2	L. Ferrarasso
Savannah Sparrow					9/9-10/31	P.I.	205 max	v.o.
thr	P.I.	70 max	R. Heil		9/30	Quabbin	220	T. Gagnon#
9/19	Northampton	150	M. Taylor		9/30	Amherst	125	D. Minear
10/2	Newbury	100	R. Heil#		10/3	Colrain	173	M. Lynch#
10/6	Tyringham	76	M. Lynch#		10/4	Westboro WMA	137	M. Lynch#
10/8	Cumb. Farms	130	J. Sweeney#		10/16	Ipswich	122	R. Heil
10/9	Wayland	50+	M. Daley		White-crowned Sparrow			
10/10	Arlington Res.	81	M. Rines		9/23	Bolton Flats	1 imm	M. Lynch#
10/18	Bridgewater	70	J. Sweeney		9/26-10/31	P.I.	29 max	v.o.
Ipswich Sparrow					10/8	Lexington	19	M. Rines
10/16	S. Monomoy	1	B. Harris		10/9	P'town (R.P.)	20	J. Young
10/21	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula		10/11	Northampton	56	L. Therrien
10/28	P.I.	2	R. Heil#		10/16	Ipswich	63	R. Heil
Grasshopper Sparrow					10/17	Cumb. Farms	32	J. Sweeney
10/16	Ipswich	1	R. Heil		10/25	WBWS	6	D. Berard
10/19	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien		10/31	Cambridge	4 imm	J. Trimble
10/22	Cumb. Farms	1	J. Sweeney		Gambell's White-crowned Sparrow			
10/23	Nahant	1	T. Martin		10/31	Brewster	1 b	S. Finnegan
10/25	Northampton	1	D. McLain		Dark-eyed Junco			
<b>Henslow's Sparrow</b> (details submitted) *					9/1	Mt. Wachusett	3	E. Taylor
10/6	Tyringham	1 ad	M. Lynch#		9/3	Monroe	4	M. Lynch#
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow					9/9	Salisbury	1	S. Grinley#
9/23	Bolton Flats	2 ad	M. Lynch#		9/9	P.I.	1	N. Landry
10/2-14	P.I.	1	v.o.		9/21	Nahant	3	L. Pivacek
10/5	Cambridge	1	R. Furrow		9/27	Nantucket	18	V. Laux
10/20	Eastham (F.H.)	1	A. Curtis		9/30	MBWMA	100+	S. McGrath
10/21	Bolton Flats	1	B. Zajda#		10/8	P.I.	51	R. Heil#
10/27	E. Boston (B.I.)	16	M. Garvey		10/14	Quabbin Pk	76	M. Lynch#
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow					Lapland Longspur			
thr	P.I.	17 max	v.o.		9/23	Gloucester	1	R. Heil
9/8	N. Monomoy	8	B. Harris		10/2-31	P.I.	30 max	T. Wetmore
10/6	Duxbury B.	2	R. Bowes		10/6	Northampton	1	B. Zajda#
10/12	Barnstable	1	M. Keleher		10/9	P'town (R.P.)	3	J. Young
10/13	Eastham	2	SSBC (Gd'E)		10/17	Minimoy	2	B. Harris
10/27	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	M. Garvey		10/17	WBWS	2	M. Faherty
Seaside Sparrow					10/18	GMNWR	3	H. Galbraith
9/16-10/8	P.I.	1-3	R. Heil#		Snow Bunting			
10/15	Eastham (F.H.)	10	M. Faherty#		9/30	Ipswich	3	BBC (T. Young)
Fox Sparrow					10/29	Pittsfield	12	H. Allen
10/20	W. Newbury	1	J. Sutherland		10/29	P.I.	149+	M. Daley
10/22	Eastham	1	R. Heil#		10/29	Salisbury	100	P. Brown#
10/27, 29	Lexington	1, 5	M. Rines#		10/29	Hancock	7	T. Gagnon
10/29	Hancock	26	T. Gagnon		10/29	Fairhaven	51	J. Sweeney
10/29	Pittsfield	12	H. Allen		10/31	Ipswich (C.B.)	250	J. Berry
10/30	IRWS	1	J. Berry#		10/31	Granville	5	Hawkcount (JW)
Song Sparrow					Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
10/4	Westboro WMA	111	M. Lynch#		9/2, 22	Lexington	10, 2	Rines, Vale
10/15	Barnstable	85	M. Keleher		9/5	Longmeadow	9	J. Hutchison
10/16	Ipswich	174	R. Heil		9/9	Worcester	20+	M. Lynch#
10/17	Cumb. Farms	70	J. Sweeney		9/16	Brookfields	7	M. Lynch#
10/21	Bolton Flats	150	B. Zajda#		10/4	Groveland	1	D. Chickering
10/22	W. Roxbury	120	M. Iliff#		10/7	Boston	1	M. Garvey
10/25	Boston	60	M. Garvey#		Blue Grosbeak			
					9/14-15	W. Roxbury	1	M. Iliff

Blue Grosbeak (continued)			10/15	Chelmsford	20	MAS (Brownrigg)
9/16, 10/22	Eastham	1, 2	R. Heil	10/25	WBWS	11 D. Berard
9/18-21	Cambr. (F.P.)	1	R. Stymeister#	10/26	Lincoln	9 M. Rines
9/21-10/22	Cumb. Farms	1-2	J. Sweeney	10/29	W. Roxbury	3 M. Iliff
9/22	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes	Common Grackle		
9/23	Gloucester	1 juv	R. Heil	9/3	Wayland	800 mig. B. Harris
9/24-10/6	Nahant	1-3	L. Pivacek	9/30	Mattapoisett	2500 M. LaBossiere
9/27	Nantucket	3	V. Laux	10/15	Cumb. Farms	10,000 J. Berry#
9/30-10/15	E. Harwich	1-2	D. Clapp	10/29	W. Roxbury	1500 M. Iliff
10/1	Acoaxet	1 imm	M. Lynch#	Brown-headed Cowbird		
10/8	Newton	1 imm	D. + I. Jewell	9/16	N. Truro	150 B. Nikula
10/8	P.I.	1	R. Heil#	10/22	W. Roxbury	80 M. Iliff#
10/10	Arlington Res.	1	M. Rines	10/23	P.I.	90 R. Heil
10/15	Orleans	1	D. Clapp#	10/30	Hadley	200 C. Allen
Indigo Bunting				Orchard Oriole		
9/1-10/8	Lexington	11 max	M. Rines#	9/19	Cambr. (Daneyh)	1 J. Trimble
9/1-10/15	Cumb. Farms	13 max	v.o.	Baltimore Oriole		
9/1-10/9	Bolton Flats	13 max	S. Sutton	9/3	DWWS	6 G. d'Entremont
9/10	Groton	28	T. Pirro	9/11, 10/8	P.I.	5, 1 R. Heil
9/17	Nahant	15	M. Iliff	10/20	Newbypt	1 S. McGrath
10/15	Barnstable	4	M. Keleher	10/21	Ipswich	1 f J. Berry
10/25	Cambridge	3	J. Trimble	10/22	Truro	1 R. Heil#
Dickcissel				10/31	Cambridge	1 K. Hartel#
9/1-10/4	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	Pine Grosbeak		
9/7	Carlisle	1 f T. + D.	Brownrigg	10/30	P.I.	1 m J. Standley
9/12	Bedford	1	M. Rines	10/30	Mt. Watatic	1 m M. Iliff
9/16	Brookfields	1	M. Lynch#	Purple Finch		
9/17-22	Nahant	1	M. Iliff	thr	Reports of indiv. from 37 locations	
10/4	Ipswich	1 ad m	J. Berry	thr	P.I.	26 max v.o.
10/12	WBWS	1	M. Faherty	9/3-10/31	Wayland	31 max B. Harris
10/20	Eastham (F.H.)	1	A. Curtis	9/7-10/31	Lexington	18 max M. Rines
10/21	Cumb. Fams	1 m	M. Maurer	9/26	Wilbraham	56 R. Titus
10/26	Chatham (MI)	1	B. Harris	9/30	Outer Cape	33 R. Heil
10/30-31	Cambr. (Daneyh)	1 f ad	R. Furrow#	10/9	Pittsfield	25 N. Mole
Bobolink				10/14	Springfield	34 R. Titus
thr	P.I.	49 max	9/2 v.o.	10/16	Ipswich	34 R. Heil
9/1	Woburn	42	M. Rines	10/20	Belchertown	34 L. Therrien
9/8, 10/14	Northampton	613, 5	Gagnon, Allen	Red Crossbill		
9/9	Worcester	300+	M. Lynch#	10/29	Salisbury	1 m P. Brown#
9/30	Cumb. Farms	30	G. d'Entremont	10/30	Mt. Watatic	2 D. Berard#
9/30	Bolton Flats	37	BBC (J. Center)	10/30	P.I.	1 J. Trimble
10/16	Ipswich	6	R. Heil	Common Redpoll		
10/20	Harwich	1	G. d'Entremont#	10/28	P.I.	1 R. Heil#
Red-winged Blackbird				10/29	W. Roxbury	1 M. Iliff
9/11	GMNWR	300	S. Perkins#	10/29	Turners Falls	1 J. Smith
9/29	Bolton Flats	1848	S. Sutton	10/30	GMNWR	1 W. Hutcheson
10/3	Carlisle	300	T. Brownrigg	Pine Siskin		
10/4	Ipswich	700+	J. Berry	9/19	Granville	1 J. Weeks
10/22	Mashpee	500	M. Keleher	9/25-10/31	P.I.	1-3 v.o.
10/22	W. Roxbury	100	M. Iliff#	9/29-31	Reports of 1-5 indiv. from 22 locations	
10/25	Groton	100	T. Pirro	10/20	Douglas	12 M. Landon
Eastern Meadowlark				10/22	N. Truro	6 C. Skowron
thr	P.I.	1-4	v.o.	10/23	Norwell	6 C. Nims
9/19	Leicester	6	M. Lynch#	10/25	WBWS	7 D. Berard
9/28	Newbypt/PI	4	J. Berry	10/29	Amherst	6 J. Marcum
10/13	Northampton	3	S. Sumner	American Goldfinch		
10/13	Amherst	6	H. Allen	9/2	P.I.	57 R. Heil
10/20	Cumb. Farms	5	J. Sweeney	9/6	W. Roxbury	60 M. Iliff
10/21	GMNWR	2	J. Liller#	9/23	Bolton Flats	52 M. Lynch#
Yellow-headed Blackbird				10/15	Cumb. Farms	150+ J. Berry#
9/5	DWWS	1 m imm	D. Furbish	10/20	Harwich	50 G. d'Entremont#
9/26	WBWS	1 m imm	MAS (Faherty)	Evening Grosbeak		
10/28	Wayland	1 ad m.	B. Harris	9/3	Monroe	2 M. Lynch#
Rusty Blackbird				Reports of 1-9 indiv. from 14 locations		
9/30	Northfield	65	H. Galbraith	10/15-31	Pittsfield	24 G. Shampang
10/3	Colrain	20	M. Lynch#	10/20	Lenox	20 R. Laubach
10/4	Westboro WMA	23	M. Lynch#	10/21	Falmouth	12 B. Good
10/4	Sudbury	24+	G. Gove	10/29	Tyringham	12 R. Laubach
10/13	P'town	30	SSBC (Gd'E)	10/31	Royalston	10 L. Pivacek





## ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, and 48th Supplements, as published in *The Auk* 117: 847-58 (2000); 119:897-906 (2002); 120:923-32 (2003); 121:985-95 (2004); 122:1026-31 (2005); 123:926-936 (2006); 124(3):1109-1115, 2007 (see <<http://www.aou.org/checklist/index.php3>>).

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, Barre, Rutland	Pont.	Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	Res.	Reservoir
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester	S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
CGB	Coast Guard Beach, Eastham	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
Cambr.	Cambridge	TASL	Take A Second Look
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club	WBWS	Boston Harbor Census
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms, Middleboro	WMWS	Wellfleet Bay WS
DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary	Wompatuck SP	Wachusett Meadow WS
DWMA	Delaney WMA	Worc.	Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate, and Norwell Worcester
DWWS	Stow, Bolton, Harvard Daniel Webster WS	<b>Other Abbreviations</b>	
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
M.V.	Martha's Vineyard	n	nesting
MAS	Mass. Audubon Society	ph	photographed
MBWMA	Martin Burns WMA, Newbury	pl	plumage
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/>>.

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



# ABOUT THE COVER

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## Sharp-shinned Hawk


The Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), or “Sharpie,” is a common sight at winter bird feeders as it darts in and scatters birds in an attempt to gather a meal. It is the ultimate “bird feeder,” with a diet that is more than ninety percent small birds. The Sharpie is the smallest North American accipiter and the most sexually dimorphic of all North American raptors; the male averages only fifty-seven percent of the weight of the female. Small males are nearly the size of a robin while large females are nearly the size of a male Cooper’s Hawk. Adults are dark bluish-slate above and heavily barred rufous below. The tail is barred gray and black and appears square when the bird is perched. In contrast to the Cooper’s Hawk, the Sharpie appears small-headed and has a proportionally shorter and squarer tail. Juveniles are brown above and heavily streaked brown or reddish-gray below. The Sharp-shinned Hawk is polytypic, with ten subspecies recognized by some authorities. These subspecies are grouped into three clusters: the sharp-shinned, rufous-thighed, and white-breasted hawk groups. The latter two are Central and South American subspecies groups and are considered separate species by some experts. The taxonomy of the Sharpie is unsettled and requires further study.

The breeding range of the Sharp-shinned Hawk is vast. In North America it stretches from Alaska across Canada to Newfoundland and south through the Appalachians in the East and through mountainous areas to Central America in the West. In South America Sharpies are found from Colombia to Bolivia and from Brazil to Argentina. In Massachusetts, they are considered scarce and local breeders. In North America, Sharp-shinned Hawks are partial migrants, with northern populations migrating south as far as Central America. Some, however, routinely winter along the Canadian west coast into southern Alaska and in the East into Nova Scotia. During migration, Sharp-shinned Hawks regularly travel along the coast or follow mountain ranges, where they take advantage of the updrafts along the slopes. They use thermals to soar during much of the year. In Massachusetts, Sharp-shinned Hawks are considered common to very common migrants. At Bay State hawk migration lookouts more than 100 have been reported per day during April and May and more than 1000 per day during September and October. They are considered uncommon winter residents, but occasionally more than a dozen have been reported from single Christmas Bird Counts.

Sharp-shinned Hawks are monogamous and produce a single brood per year. Females may nest at one year of age. They nest in most forest types but prefer stands where at least some conifers are present. Sharpies are silent for most of the year, although they produce *kek-kek-kek* or *ki-ki-ki* alarm calls, and their repertoire may include *kip* notes and various high-pitched squeaks given by the male when returning to the nest. The calls of males are higher pitched than those of females. They are highly territorial and commonly chase or grapple with intruders. Aerial courtship flights include circling above the nest; diving, sometimes with closed wings; and calling.

Sharpies usually nest in dense stands of trees. They show some preference for conifers but will nest in a broad spectrum of trees. Nest heights have been reported as low as eight feet and as high as sixty feet. Nest materials are collected mostly by the male, but the female does most of the construction. The nest is a platform of sticks lined with bark. These birds rarely reuse nests but may return to nesting territories. The usual clutch is four or five eggs, which are typically dull white and spotted or blotched with a variety of colors. Incubation is mostly or completely done by the female and lasts about a month until hatching. Newly hatched chicks have their eyes open and are covered with down. The female broods the young until fledging, approximately one month. During the incubation and initial brooding phases, the male brings all the food for the female and chicks, but the female tears it into pieces and feeds the young. After the young fledge, both parents feed them for about a month.


Sharp-shinned Hawks rely on surprise to capture prey; they often dart from concealed perches and pursue prey through the trees, even into shrubs. As with other Accipiters, their short, broad wings and long tail are effective in maneuvering through the forest, and their long legs, toes, and claws are ideal for plucking small birds from vegetation tangles. They perch and pluck their prey before dismembering and eating it and, like most raptors and shrikes, regurgitate indigestible materials in the form of pellets. Although their diet consists mostly of birds ranging in size from hummingbirds to Ruffed Grouse, they also take a few small mammals, lizards, frogs, and large insects. During breeding season, Sharpies prey heavily on nestling and fledgling birds.

Sharp-shinned Hawks are frequent victims of collisions with towers, windows, and cars, and many are still illegally shot. Their dependence on forest for breeding has produced local population changes as forests have been cleared or agricultural areas have become reforested. In Massachusetts there was a significant decline in the breeding population, which probably resulted largely from deforestation during the late nineteenth century. For unknown reasons, the population has not rebounded with the reforestation of much of the western part of the state, especially in comparison to that of the larger Cooper's Hawk. Populations across North America experienced dramatic declines from the late 1940s through the 1970s as the result of DDT and its metabolites, but the Sharpie has made a significant recovery since the banning of persistent pesticides. The substantial increase in the number of Sharpies overwintering in our area may reflect a shift in hunting habitat to include suburban bird feeders. This increase in numbers is good news for birdwatchers but not good news for small songbirds. 

*William E. Davis, Jr.*

## About the Cover Artist: Barry Van Dusen

Once again, *Bird Observer* is happy to offer a cover by Barry Van Dusen, a wildlife artist whose work is well known to our readers and throughout the birding world. Not only has Barry illustrated several nature books and pocket guides, but his articles and paintings have been featured in *Birder's World*, *Birding*, and *Bird*

*Watcher's Digest*. Barry frequently exhibits in New England, elsewhere in the United States, and abroad. His work has appeared in Ireland, Scotland, France, and Holland. In 1994 he was elected a full member of London's Society of Wildlife Artists and is a frequent contributor to its exhibitions. Most recently, during the summer of 2007, Barry exhibited at the Slimbridge Wetland Centre in Gloucestershire, England. He became drawn to nature subjects through an association with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, which began in 1982, and has been influenced by the work of European wildlife artists. Barry uses the methodology of direct field sketching employed by these artists. His skill as a field artist has enabled Barry to participate in projects abroad sponsored by the Netherlands-based Artists for Nature Foundation. With this organization he has traveled to India, Peru, Ireland, and Spain to raise funds for conservation of threatened habitats. In 2007 he became the first U.S. artist to be commissioned by the Wildlife Habitat Trust of Wexham, England, to design the 2007 UK Habitat Conservation Stamp, which is modeled after the U.S Duck Stamp program. Barry resides in the central Massachusetts town of Princeton. His website is <<http://www.barryvandusen.com>>. 

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# AT A GLANCE

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December 2007



WAYNE R. PETERSEN

This issue's mystery species is obviously a tiny bird, a fact demonstrated by its fine pointed bill, slender legs, and its size compared to the black cherry leaves in the picture. These features suggest that the bird is probably a wood-warbler, especially since few other tiny birds are as prominently streaked on the breast. Viable alternatives might include petite species such as wrens, kinglets, and gnatcatchers; all of these birds, however, are plain-breasted.

Once we identify the mystery bird as a wood-warbler, we have narrowed the field. As to the species, the presence of conspicuous streaks on the bird's sides, not on its breast, is an important clue. When combined with the distinct dark spot on the side of the bird's lower neck and the noticeable stripe over its eye, the identification is clinched as a Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*). Although some other wood-warblers are streaked below (e.g., Magnolia, Cape May, and Palm), the breast streaks in these species extend across the mid-breast and are not as prominent as those exhibited by the mystery bird. In addition, these other birds lack the dark neck spot typical of the Prairie Warbler.

Prairie Warblers are locally common summer residents in early successional habitats throughout Massachusetts, where their greatest abundance lies in the pine barrens of southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod. They also frequent power line corridors where habitat conditions are appropriate. Although locally common as breeders, they tend to be less widespread as spring and fall migrants than many other wood-warbler species. Rarely, Prairie Warblers will linger in Massachusetts until early winter, most often on Cape Cod. Wayne Petersen photographed this Prairie Warbler during fall migration at Pochet Island in East Orleans. 

*Wayne R. Petersen*

## Exciting Gull Recovery

Thanks to Dr. Tom French of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife for news of a Herring Gull from Newfoundland captured in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is beginning a study of the gulls associated with the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs. According to Ken MacKenzie, DCR Senior Wildlife Biologist, among the first 12 gulls captured at Westminster/Fitchburg land fill was a Herring Gull wearing a numbered band. This made it possible to identify the bird as one banded in Newfoundland in July 2002, hence already 5 1/2 years old and presumably wintering near Wachusett Reservoir before returning each spring to Newfoundland to breed.

Gulls captured during this study will be banded, and some will also be given wing tags, radio transmitters, and/or GPS satellite transmitters. The wing tag is viewable from loafing positions as well as while the bird is flying. Wing tags have specific colors and alpha-numeric combinations to help track where the gulls roost (and bathe and defecate while on the reservoirs) before flying off to feed during the day.

Hence the interest of those responsible for our water supplies!

Birders who see Ring-billed, Herring, or Great Black-backed gulls with colored wing tags are asked to report the color to Ken (508-792-7423, ext. 313) or electronically to Ken.MacKenzie@state.ma.us. Wing-tag color tells biologists what species it is and where it was caught. The letter-number combinations on the tag (which can be hard to see) give more exact data on when it was caught. Resight data are a most important part of the study, and this is an opportunity for birders to participate in research with public health ramifications. Ken assures me they will be sharing news of gull movements as results come in. So thanks to all birders who are willing to look more closely at gulls. This winter's gull show in Gloucester has sensitized us all to the importance of what Ludlow Griscom once called "that second look."

*Kathleen S. Anderson*

# AT A GLANCE

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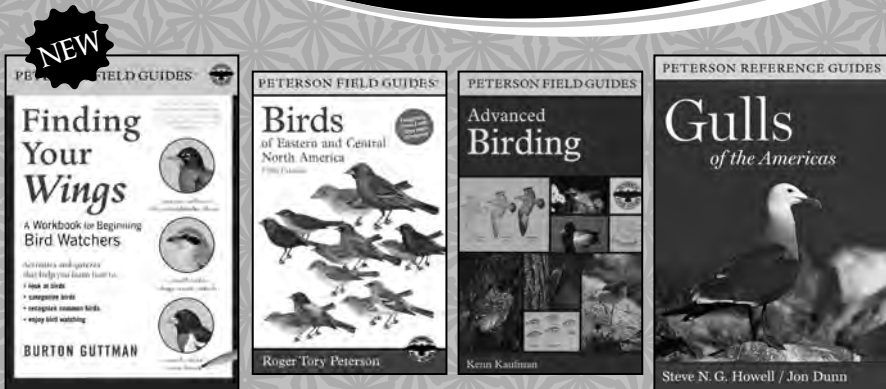
WAYNE R. PETERSEN

Can you identify this bird?

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

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**VOL. 36, NO. 1, FEBRUARY 2008**

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